# BAF – GCF Proposal

# Operation and Maintenance Manual

The proposed Program has an open approach and final sub-project will be selected after approval of the GCF funds. Each sub-project has to submit a specific and well-tailored sustainable operation and maintenance concept. During implementation, the projects elaborate an Operation and Maintenance Manual, which shall guide O&M after finalization of project measures funded by the GCF. Therefore, an overall O&M Manual for the whole Program is not applicable.

**BAF principles regarding Operation and Maintenance and Sustainability**

The sustainability of projects funded by the BAF has been an over-riding consideration during its design stage, especially for the definition of eligibility criteria and eligible activities. Throughout the entire BAF grant financing mechanism, long-term sustainability of projects is one of the main points to be evaluated and is key to the approval of a sub-project.

For this purpose, applicants have to provide details of the exit strategy of their proposed project i.e. how the sustainable operations of all assets created and processes initiated by/under the project will be ensured upon completion of the project; detailing how and by whom the project measures will be continued after the end of the project, and how they will be funded. Regarding MPA management, the applicant has to ensure that potential funding gaps for effective MPA management will be closed in order to ensure financing of operation and maintenance (O&M). For all projects and activities, budgets for O&M as well as the sustainability of the participating institutions have to be ensured. The question of how local capacity is built in the context of the project is an important aspect of the methodology of projects to be funded under the proposed GCF Programme.

Most of the eligible activities are specifically targeted to increase the sustainability of the EbA, such as improved management of MPAs and LMMAs, which leads to tangible benefits for the vulnerable local communities through improvement of fish resources and more value added through a reduction in post-harvest losses as well as through improved processing. These benefits contribute to the creation of an enabling environment enhancing the willingness of the local communities to continue the sustainable management of the coastal and marine areas and EbA concepts.

In addition, **knowledge exchange** as well as **best practices and lessons learned** about successful EbA and capacity building for local partners and communities to implement EbA through their own capacities in the future (Output 3) will be included in the sub-project concepts. This output will support a consistent knowledge exchange at regional level, with the greater aim to support the diffusion and use of experiences and lessons learned from implementation practice of the supported NGO sub-projects. This diffusion will be supported e.g. by periodical regional workshops, as well as capacity building for partners to overcome the capacity barriers for EbA. This knowledge exchange, which integrates the exchange between different local communities and their experiences with the EbA concepts, generally finds broad acceptance and is a proven and rich instrument to support continuity and dissemination of best practices.

The active **participation of the benefiting communities** in the design of project measures as well as the Programme’s strategy to demand tangible beneficiary contributions (in cash or in kind) within their financial means will enhance the beneficiaries’ ownership, sense of responsibility and capacities for the sustainable use and maintenance of the funded investments. Therefore, a plan for the roles and responsibilities of O&M and user right management is required as part of the project concepts.

**Private sector involvement** will be welcome as the concepts of the sub-projects require a strategy to ensure the sustainability of the project interventions. Depending on the project concept, possible options for tourism and support for small-scale private enterprises will be explored if applicable. As an option, the involvement of the private sector (such as private fisheries, processing of marine products, tourism) can be integrated into the calls for sub-projects.

On the national levels, the integration of the local adaptation measures into the **national adaptation strategies and adaptation action plans** will enhance the support of the local initiatives. The supported projects will not be one-off/ad hoc projects, as their integration into the national policies and strategies has to be clearly demonstrated in the respective proposals, through support letters by the respective authorities, and a clear explanation of how the project concepts are embedded into the national framework. In addition, NGOs have to demonstrate in their proposals if and how the project interventions will influence local land use policies and strategies as well as local investment planning and planning for MPAs and coastal management. Through close coordination between projects and national authorities, best practices and lessons learned from management of MPAs, LMMAs, and freshwater protect areas, EbA, rehabilitation of coastal ecosystems and sustainable fishery concepts will be fed back into national policy development and can be integrated into future national adaptation action plans and thereby encourage replication.

Regarding implementation of the projects and **monitoring of sustainability aspects**, starting with the last year of the investment phase the beneficiaries typically have to cover 100% of the O&M costs of the investment. To ensure proper operation of investments, the project will continue to provide management and technical support during the first year of operation (one-year consolidation phase). This phase also serves to start preparations for handing over O&M to user groups and MPA management authorities as well as public and private sector entities in charge of its management.

BAF will monitor project implementation during project funding in line with its Operational and Grant Procedures Manuals. With the planned approach of the proposed GCF Programme in combination with the BAF Grant Procedures and eligibility and evaluation criteria, financial and economic sustainability will be ensured through a rigorous selection procedure during grant-making and through capacity support to proponents for the elaboration of business plans, budgets and bankable documents. Non-objections for investment measures are only given based on a proof of concept for the technical and financial feasibility.