

**PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT**  
**The Regional Coral Reef Monitoring Network Project**  
**GEF - MSP Grant No. TF 024961**

**I BASIC DATA**

**Date of completion Report:**

**Project Title: Regional Coral reef Monitoring Network in member states of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), within the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)**

**GEF Allocation: USD 737,240**

**Grant Recipient: Indian Ocean Commission**

**World Bank Manager/ Task Manager: Mr. Bienvenue Rajaonson**

**Goals and Objectives:** Assist in the conservation of the high biodiversity of

**Goal:** To coral reefs and their socio –economic value, and in the sustainable management of their resources through a monitoring network

**Overall objective:** The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of the coral reefs in the Western Ocean by providing decision makers in the region with reliable data on reefs’ dynamics and evolution over a period of time.

**Specific Objective:** The project purpose is to establish a reliable and viable system of coral reef monitoring in the Western Indian Ocean. This will be achieved by strengthening and building capabilities of the existing Regional Reef Network (Réseau Récif Océan Indien)

**Other objectives:** to link, in a coral reef network, stakeholders of the Indian Ocean islands;

To provide, in the form of decision making tools for the integrated management of coastal zones, information and

data on status and trends of coral reefs for their conservation and sustainable management,

To participate in the global coral reef Monitoring (GCRMN) and help to achieve its objectives

To bring to the attention of the international community COI activities in the environment sector

**Financial Information:**

Table 1 Budget Allocation and Expenditures

<b>Category</b>	<b>Original budget amount in project brief approved by GEF (US Dollar)</b>	<b>Revised Budgeted Amount approved by GEF (US Dollar)*</b>	<b>Total Expenditure Incurred (US Dollar)</b>
<b>Goods</b>	250,000	105,000	98,550
<b>Consultants' services and training</b>	302,000	525,000	520,625
<b>Operating Costs</b>	185,240	107,240	102,580
<b>Total</b>	<b>737,240</b>	<b>737,240</b>	<b>721,755</b>

*\*The revised budget was effected in March 2004*

Table 2. Co- Financing

<b>Co Financing Type and Source</b>	<b>IA own Financing</b>		<b>Government</b>		<b>Others</b>		<b>Total</b>		<b>Total Disbursed</b>	
	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Grant										
Loans/ concessional/mark et rate										
Credits										
Equity Investment					490,000**	490,000	490,000	490,000	490,000	476,234
Committed in- kind support	102,000	143,000	71,700	161,124	-	-	275,170	304,124	275,170	304,124
Other					180,174*	180,174	180,174	180,174	180,174	180,174
<b>Totals</b>	<b>102,000</b>	<b>143,000</b>	<b>71,700</b>	<b>161,124</b>	<b>670,174</b>	<b>670,174</b>	<b>945,344</b>	<b>974,298</b>	<b>945,344</b>	<b>960,532</b>

*\*Equipment transferred from the PRE/ COI-UE*

*\*\*Contribution of the European Union*

## **b. Leveraged Resources**

Equipments and resources acquired under the PRE COI/ EU project has been transferred to the project at an estimated value of Euro 180,174. EU contribution was estimated at USD490, 000.

The beneficiary countries have contributed in kind at a value of USD 161,124 through the government contribution.

The participation of NGO's, local communities shall also be considered as co funding for the project, either through assistance provided in terms of borrowing of equipments, subsidisation of activities.

## II PROJECT IMPACT ANALYSIS

### 1.0 Impact analysis of the project objectives, activities and indicators

#### 1.1. Impact on project rationale and objective

Table 1: Analysis on impact on project rational and objective

Original project rationale and objectives	Original project indicators	Achievements
<p>To link, in a coral reef network, stakeholders of the Indian Ocean islands;</p> <p>To provide, in the form of decision making tools for the integrated management of coastal zones, information and data on status and trends of coral reefs for their conservation and sustainable management.</p> <p>To participate in the global coral reef Monitoring (GCRMN) and help to achieve its objectives</p> <p>To bring to the attention of the international community COI activities in the environment sector</p>	<p>Annual questionnaire monitoring performance and results</p>	<p><b>Achieved fully</b></p> <p>a) Establishment of National networks completed</p> <p>b) Regional network established and fully operational.</p> <p>The COREMO tools developed under the PRE COI/EU project have been upgraded. The database developed under the project has been proven to be a very successful tool that is widely used by the network. The COREMO data tool allows data of various parameters to be analysed.</p> <p>The GCRMN has worked in partnership with the network. The guideline for coral monitoring has been developed based on model used by GCRMN. The network has produced regional reports to the publications made by the GCRMN</p> <p>The web site established under the PRE COI/EU project has been used for dissemination of information</p> <p>The network participated into a number of international events, such as symposiums. It has established links with other regional organizations and has produced reports which have been published by regional and international organizations. The network has participated in Steering Committees of a few regional organisations.</p>

**1.2: Analysis on impact of project outcome**

Table 4 Analysis of project outcome

<b>Original project Outcomes</b>	<b>Original project indicators</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
<p>Setting up a durable regional coral reef network including a regional database on the state of coral reefs</p> <p>Enhancing or building national capacity for monitoring of coral reefs and data analysis</p> <p>Contribute actively through data transfer to the GCRMN international database (Reef Base in ICLARM)</p> <p>Diffusion to international networks of information on the Indian Ocean regional network and on the Regional Coral reef Plan</p>	<p>Number of sites being monitored</p> <p>Statistics on data production and distribution</p> <p>Statistics on data dissemination (number of publications, number of hits on the Web site)</p>	<p>Number of sites increased from 55 to 88.</p> <p>One harmonized regional database has been produced, COREMO 11.</p> <p>Trainings on Coral Monitoring and data analysis have been successfully undertaken for the countries both on national and regional level. Diving courses have been organised</p> <p>5 people trained as Dive Masters</p> <p>1 person trained as PADI</p> <p>5 person trained on the utilisation of the database COREMO II</p> <p>15 people trained in Reef check Monitoring Method</p> <p>100 people trained in PADI open water.</p> <p>7 publications has been made as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 for the Status of Coral reef of the World (GCRMN)</li> <li>- Coral Reef degradation in the Indian Ocean</li> <li>- I for the International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Symposium 2002</li> <li>- 4 Regional Annual Report</li> </ul> <p>The web site has been established and the number of visits to the web site has not been monitored fully. Participation of the network in the international symposiums and conferences and being the Steering Committees of regional programmes have helped towards the dissemination of the networks activities both on the regional level and the International level.</p>

### 1.3 Analysis of impact on Project activities

Table 5: Analysis of project activities

Project activities to achieve original outcomes	Original project Indicators	Achievements
1. Procure equipments for national focal points and regional server for monitoring and data analysis, processing and dissemination	<p>a) Achievement rate of planned activities</p> <p>b) Availability of good quality data series on coral reef status and trends</p> <p>c) State of environment reports, with good data quality and interpretation</p> <p>d) Formalized national networks</p> <p>e) Level of participation in GCRMN</p> <p>f) Level of international diffusion of</p>	<p><b>Activity Completed.</b> All countries have been equipped with computer software and hardware, digital cameras, GPS, thermometer and refractometer, sets of scientific documentation, such as Atlas, diving materials. The database software COREMO II has been provided to all countries.</p> <p>The data collected from the field are entered into the database COREMO II for processing and analysis. Data inputs and analysis have been done on national level and transferred to the ARVAM in Reunion for compilation of the regional report .</p> <p>All countries produced reports on the statues of the coral reef, data on the quality and the temperature of the water was only produced by the Republic of Mauritius, notable Rodrigues. The improvement on the COREMO II, have allowed for a wider range of data to be interpreted especially on water quality. The quality of the data has been considered as of good quality.</p> <p>National networks have been formed in all the countries. The set up in each country has its own specificity.</p> <p>Personal and institutional contacts have been established and yearly reporting has been undertaken. Reports of the regional network has been produced and published within the publication of the GCRMN.</p> <p>The network has contributed articles to a number of publications and has participated in international symposiums. Amongst the</p>

	network activities	<p>publications are :</p> <p><b>1. Status of Coral Reef of the World</b>  A chapter on Status of the Coral Reef in the South West Indian Ocean Island States. This publication has been revised twice during the duration of the project by the GCRMN. The contribution of the network is featured in Edition 2002 and 2004 of the above publications.</p> <p><b>2. Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean</b>  Articles have been produced for the publication.</p> <p><b>3.Regional Reports:</b>  Regional Annual Reports for the years 2002,2003,2004,2005</p> <p>Through the project, various contacts have been established with other regional organizations, either as collaborating partners or as members of the various steering Committees. Amongst the organizations are: ICRI,CORDIO, WIOMSA, Coral Reef Task Force of the Nairobi Convention, UNDP, IUCN, WWF, Shoals Japan and University of Bangor UK.</p>
<p>2. Monitoring and data analysis at national level each year, during three years, analysis and consolidation at regional level; regular data transfer to the international database of GCRMN (Reef Base)</p>		<p><b>Activities Completed</b>  Monitoring and data analysis on National level has been successful, produced, presented in the right format and timely. The data collection is done through the methodology and guidelines for Coral Reef Monitoring adapted by GCRMN and the method Reef Check. The data collected has been processed and analysed using the COREMOII database and national reports have been produced. The reports are discussed yearly at the meeting of the focal points. The regional report is further consolidated and transfer to GCRMN.</p>

<p>3. Public awareness and dissemination</p> <p>3.1 Annual reporting for current status and trends of coral reefs and diffusion of an annual report on national and regional level</p> <p>3.2 Updating of the COI coral reef website (established under the PRE COI/EU) and diffusion on the international networks of information on the Indian Ocean regional network and on the regional coral Reef Plan</p>		<p><b>Activities completed</b></p> <p>Public awareness campaigns has been undertaken in all the countries and in each country, the awareness has taken different forms targeting schools, NGOs, Private sector. The Annual data and reports have been produced on national basis which has been integrated into the regional report. The network has produced leaflets, articles at national level, participated in symposiums on international and regional level, participated in conferences and has contributed to the publication of international reports on the status of Coral Reefs.</p> <p>Updating of the website established under the PRE COI/ EU has not been regularly updated the outcome has not been fully achieved. National media has been used as a means of information dissemination for the local public. Articles in national newspaper, radio and television programmes were also produced.</p>
<p>4. Training</p> <p>4.1 regular working and information workshops</p> <p>4.2 Capacity building: training in coral reef monitoring methodology and data analysis</p>		<p><b>Activities Completed</b></p> <p>Training and capacity building has been undertaken and training in various domains has been provided and information exchange has been regular.</p> <p>The network met on an annual basis to discuss their findings and reports. Regional workshops were organised in Reef Check and exchange program between Seychelles and Rodrigues. Workshops were organised to work on the Mapping of Coral Reef for Foulpointe of Madagascar, Mahébourg Mauritius and Northern Coast of Comoros.</p> <p>Training on database management, specifically COREMO II and Reef check. Diving courses at different levels have been provided. Training has been provided in the in management of network. Training in the form of exchanges has also been organized. Local training in coral reef monitoring has also been provided. The countries have</p>

		<p>been provided with small equipments for monitoring of the reefs.</p> <p>Each country has its national team of experts on Coral Reef Monitoring. Basis equipments required for diving, methodology for monitoring, computer hardware and software has been provided to enable data monitoring and processing.</p>
5 Participation to international reef symposium, under water image festival, school programs		<p><b>Activities completed</b></p> <p>International Symposiums :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Symposium (ITMEMS) 2002 in Manila Philippines A report was produced for the proceedings of the symposium</li> <li>2. Regional WIOMSA symposium, 2003 in Maputo Mozambique</li> <li>3. International Symposium on Coral Reef, 2004 in Okinawa Japan.</li> </ol> <p>In the Seychelles, special completions for school children were introduced and the network participated in the SUBIOS underwater festival. A film was produced by Shoals of Rodrigues. The filed has been presented in the member states.</p>
6.Introduce monitoring of marine eco-toxicology related activities into the network; updating of methodology and tools		<p><b>Activity not undertaken</b></p> <p>The project did not have any activities in relation to ecotoxicology. The activity was undertaken within the context of the PRE/COI-EU programme. Funds for that activity were not allocated.</p>
7. Program monitoring and evaluation		<p>Yearly activity reports were compiled by the implementing agency. Yearly financial audit was conducted. Several supervisory missions were conducted by the GEF team Leader. A mid term review was undertaken in 2004, by IUCN and the report has been produced. The program was found to be relevant, efficient and effective.</p>
8.Regional coordination 8.1project management by Secretariat general		<p>The administrative and financial management of the project has been noted as satisfactory. A few delays in procurement of equipments and transfer of funds were noted at the beginning of the project but</p>

<p>COI</p> <p>8.2 Hiring of a regional administrator and financial management assistant who will assist COI secretariat general for the management of the project</p> <p>8.3 Establishment and operation of steering committee</p> <p>8.4 Setting up the regional server within a regional institution</p> <p>8.5 Sub contracting of consultant to assist in carrying out scientific and technical tasks of the regional server, including data collection, analysis, dissemination, animation and technical assistance</p>		<p>corrective measures have been undertaken. A project coordinator was based at IOC until the end of 2004 and following the extension of the project, the project was supervised by IOC. The project accounts have been managed by IOC and the management of funds has been satisfactory.</p> <p>The Steering Committee has been successfully set up and the annual meeting has been organised as scheduled.</p> <p>The regional server has been set up at IOC and it has been functional for the first 3 years after which the countries organised themselves to coordinate the server. ARVAM has been subcontracted at the beginning of the project to carry out scientific and technical task, updating of the database and the preparation of the regional report to be disseminated to GCMN.</p>
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## 2.0 Comments on achievements of expected outcomes

### 2.1 Result 1. *Reliable and viable regional network is established.*

The regional network has been established and it has been functional throughout the duration of the project. The steering Committee had been setup comprising of the member from the parent Ministry, notable the Ministry responsible for Environment or Fisheries and the national Focal person mainly from the public service except for Comoros whereby the NFP was from an NGO. The members of the network met on an annual basis to share information and agreed on the annual work plan. The technical assistance contract was awarded to ARVAM. The inventory on needs for training, methodological tools and equipments has been successfully carried out and all the equipments has been purchased as per requirements. Institutional support at National Level has been provided, national networks have been established in all the countries and the NFP has been equipped with laptop computer and the database for the collection and analysis of data. At regional level, the regional center for the data collection and analysis for the reproduction of the regional report has been place attributed to ARVAM on Reunion Island. It can be concluded that result 1 has been fully achieved.

***2.2 Result 2 Monitoring and database analysis are achieved each year, during 3 years and the consolidated regional data are transferred to the international database GCRMN***

The inventory of the reef flora and fauna has been undertaken in all the countries and the data are available both on national and regional level. The monitoring has been conducted throughout the 3 years. The Republic of Mauritius, through Shoals Rodrigues has gone further with the data in collecting and analysis of data on water quality. The database has been inputted into the COREMO II database, a tool available at both national and regional level which has facilitated the analysis at local level. The regional report has been prepared on time based on the guideline provided and has been successfully transferred to GCRMN. The report has been published in the GCRMN publications for the year 2002, 2004. The result has been achieved although there is still room for improvement on the quality of data collection.

***2.3 Result 3: Regional and national Capacity is build up in the field of Coral reef Monitoring, a pool of qualified resource person is constituted within the region.***

An inventory of the training need was conducted and the training requirement has been undertaken based on budget availability. Capacity building in the various countries differed but it was clear that training in scuba diving and monitoring tools was essential. Training of trainers has been undertaken, 15 people received training in Reef check Method, one (1) person trained as PADI Instructor and 100 people have received training in scuba diving at national level, ranging from open PADI to advance Open PADI. Seychelles had organised special training for rescue divers at national level and has also offered on the spot training through exchange programme for Rodrigues. A pool of regional experts has been established with members from all the member states including the Island of Reunion. The raining component has been well implemented and the results have been achieved.

***2.4 Result 4: Regional and national know how build is up in the field of coral reef monitoring methodological tools are developed, tested and disseminated.***

Steady progress has been made in the field of reef monitoring. The project has upgraded the database COREMO1 developed under the PRE: COI/EU programme to include more parameters for better data analysis and to be more users friendly. The improved version, COREMO II has been installed on all the NFP's laptops and training has been provided for the users. The field monitoring method has also been improved, two monitoring methods have been used both the method provided by the GCRMN and the Reef Check Method. The COREMO is more widely used and the methodology has been recognised at International Level by other organisations such as the Reef-Base, Fish-Base and GCRMN.

The IOC Website has also been used as a website to disseminate information on the activities of the Coral Reef but the website has not been regularly updated. It can be agreed that generally the results have been achieved.

### ***2.5 Result 5 Linkages are developed or strengthen with other institutions and programmes at national, regional and international level.***

The network has established very strong links with GCRMN to which the regional reports of the activities of the network is being produced. Good personal contact exists between the network and the IRCI. The protocol of collaboration with CORDIO has not been established through the regional network as foreseen by the project but rather, Seychelles being a member of the network has established the protocol on a bilateral basis but has agreed to exchange information with CORDIO. With regards to other regional and international organisation, it is to be noted that some members of the network are on the Steering Committee of the WIOMSA and the network is active in the Coral Reef Task Force of the Nairobi Convention the network.

The regional Round table has been organised yearly after the Steering Committee Meeting to allow the members of the Network to exchange information and where feasible, other organisations have been invited. The result has been achieved.

### ***2.6 Result 6: Improved Communication is achieved***

Communication activities have been carried out in all the countries, on a regional level and international level. Various forms of communication tools have been used ranging from awareness lectures to website development. There was no formal Communication mechanism set up, the countries were free to choose their own form of communication method to raise awareness on local level. However, regional dissemination of information was more structured through the compilation of regional reports for GCRMN and the use of the communication tools of the implementing agency, IOC.

At national level, a lot of efforts have been put in awareness raising. It is to be noted that a number of activities have been targeted towards the children and the youth. In Comoros the sensitisation of the young ones have taken the form of meetings whereas in Seychelles, special poster competition and lecture sessions has been organised, and in Mauritius including Rodrigues, production of films, games, leaflets and pamphlets and education materials has also been developed for the children. The network has participated in major national events which attracted the wider public, such as conferences, seminars and exhibitions. In Madagascar, 1 conference were organised on entitled “Coral Reef, Living and Fragile Fortress and 1 exhibition at the University of Madagascar and in Seychelles, an exhibition at the Annual Regatta festival was also held. The website which was foreseen as powerful tool for dissemination of information has not played the role that was expected. The website was insufficiently updated but Comoros had utilised a local website, “Conscience Comorienne” to sensitize the public. The local media has also been widely used to raise awareness, in Comoros, publications in the local newspapers such as, le Matin des Comores and news bulletins developed by the Moheli Marine Park. Sensitization has also been undertaken through radio and

television programs. Meetings with local Fishing Communities and association have been successful in Maurice and Comoros and effective working session with NGOs and private sectors have been a success in Seychelles and Maurice. At regional and international level, members of the network have participated in various symposia, Conference and Exhibitions. Although there was no formal structure sensitisation campaigned programme, the countries based on there level of development has chosen, the most appropriate form of communication tool to disseminate information and sensitise the public generally on the activities of the network. On the international and regional for a, the work undertaken by the network has been well appreciated.

### **3.0 *Project sustainability***

After the end date of the project, it is clear that the project has managed to undertake a large range of activities and produced results that can be used as baseline information for other programs in the region. The network has been dynamic and the team has expressed the desire to continue working together and to continue meeting on a yearly basis for the exchange of information and to produce the regional report. A regional pool of experts has been formed and they can be called upon to undertake some activities in other programs. The countries have been equipped with the methodology and tool to unable some activities to be continued on national level. However, the sustainability of the dynamic is challenged due to lack of funding. After the end of the project, it is expected that each country through national budget will be able to undertake some activities of monitoring until a reliable fund is secured. It is clear for most countries that monitoring activities on all the sites shall be possible, there will be the need for prioritisation of sites which needs to be protected and monitored and funding should be sought for the sustainability of the regional database, support to the monitoring activities and to facilitate the annual meeting of the experts for information exchange and the production of the regional report. A budget for the proposed activities needs to be established so as to facilitate the request for funding.

### **4.0 *Replicability***

The informal approach adopted by the technical assistance team and the focal point has proven to be very effective and this has contributed enormously towards the successful implementation of the project.

The direct involvement and the flexibility of the implementing agency has helped to ease the bureaucratic administrative procedures hence has contributed to the advancement of the activities.

The participation of the parent Ministry in the Steering Committee of the project has been effective in decision making and involvement of the Government bodies in the planned activities.

## **5.0 Stakeholders' involvement**

The project has had the involvement of various stakeholders such as national, regional and international NGOs involve in marine conservation, private sector such as diving clubs and other government institutions such as, the national coastguards, research centres and schools.

In Comoros for instance the activities of the project have been implemented by an NGO, AIDE. Nonetheless, this approach has not been well appreciated by the Ministry concerned due to the fact that the participation of the civil servants was limited. The concerned was addressed and the involvement of the government technicians were more involved and more training were provided to these technicians.

The Seychelles on the other hand, other than the participation of the government bodies, it has involved a number of private, NGO and Para-statal organisations in the activities of the project through informal arrangement. This has created a conducive environment and hence strengthens the national network, eg; some monitoring exercise has been done jointly with the National Coast Guards, the private diving centres and the Marine Park Authority. Special activities for the schools were organised to raise awareness of the young children towards the protection of the marine habitat. The local network participated in the annual Seychelles Under Water festival through the delivery of lectures on the topic of coral reef conservation and Marine protected areas for the secondary school.

The private sector and NGO's supported the activities of the project through prize donations for competitions, subsidising the training provided in diving the local network whereas the Coastguards have made available their boats to facilitate the monitoring team.

In Mauritius the activities have been mainly undertaken by the Albion Research centre and the Mauritius Marine Conservation Society, an NGO. Shoals Rodrigues has been remarkable and have produced quality scientific data for Rodrigues useful for Mauritius. These organisations have also benefited from training provided by the project so as to enable the insertion of their data on to the COREMO database. Mauritius has to a large extent incorporated the activities of the Coral Reef Project with their national programmes for more effective use of resources. The annual activity report of the project has been incorporated into the annual report of the Ministry responsible for fisheries.

On Rodrigues, shoals an NGO have played the leading role in the activities of the project. It has also associated itself with a few private diving clubs, the local schools and the Fishing Community present on the island for reef monitoring and sensitization. Shoals Rodrigues has produced, a film entitled *The Reef Beneath*, games and pedagogical tools for school children so as to raise their awareness towards the protection of the Marine Environment. Mauritius has also been able to produce a computerised datalogger entitled "Field guide to Common Corals", a tool essential for the monitoring of Coral Reef.

In Madagascar, the involvements of other stakeholders have been difficult, but the project has been able to produce data and reports based on the commitment of the Focal Person. The Focal person has worked mainly with other on going projects so as to achieve the results. Despite the difficulties for Madagascar, the project has been able to undertake sensitisation campaign in a few regions such as Nosy Be, Tulear and Foulpointe and organised Conferences and Seminars at National Level.

## **6.0 Monitoring and Evaluation**

Considering the vastness of the region and the disparity in the economy and culture that exist between the island states, it has been appreciated the project has been successfully implemented and the objectives have been achieved. The driving force behind the successful implementation of the project is liked to the following:

- a) The good cooperation between the implementing agency COI, the Technical assistance and the focal point has created an informal and efficient management structure. The light, flexible informal structure established which has motivated the participants to be dedicated and enthusiastic.
- b) The choice of the technical assistance team. The technical assistance team of ARVAM is dedicated and competent and has good knowledge and experience of the region. The fact that the TA team is also based in the region has been an advantage in resolving specific problems and needs.
- c) The yearly workshop of the national focal point. These workshops have been important as it compels the participants to submit their national yearly report on time and to address any problem that may exist during the course of the report preparation. It has provided a forum for information exchange amongst the countries and it helps to build synergy and social coherence amongst the team members.
- d) The fact that the national Focal point have very good knowledge in marine Environment or are themselves specialist in the domain, have contributed to the successful implementation of the activities at National level. This has helped to build ownership and brought about dedication to the project.

## **III SUMMARY OF MAIN LESSONS LEARNED**

- a) Light informal structures have been successful for the implementation of the projects;
- b) Having the technical assistance team within the region helps to resolves technical difficulties
- c) The regular yearly meeting of the focal points compels the participants to prepare their annual reports.
- d) The National focal point being subject matter specialist and being directly involve in the day to day activity.
- e) Developed the sense of ownership at country level.

## IV FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT STATUS

In the general the financial management of the project has been satisfactory. Despite the delays incurred for the transfer of funds to the participating countries and in the procurement of goods and equipment at the beginning of the project, all funds has been committed. Financial audit on the account of the project undertaken by an external company was undertaken on a yearly basis.

The reallocation of budget was effected in 2004 was necessary firstly based on the expenditures incurred by the project up to March 2004 and secondly as the project had been extended for six months to end by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2005 funds was required to ensure the successful completion of the activities. The funds available for goods, Category 1, and for Operating Cost, Category 3 had been reallocated to the Category 2 that is Consultants, training and Audit. (Ref. Table 1).

### 1.0 Final Statement of Account and external audit

The table below shows the budgetary situation by financier till the end of the project at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2005. A total of USD 1,697,491 was committed and paid.

Table 6: Final Statement of Accounts

Financier	Budget	Budget Reallocation	Final Expenditure Funds Committed (\$)	Balance on budget	% Committed Funds  Exp/Budget
	\$	\$	\$		
<b>Global Environment Facility (GEF)</b>					
- Goods/Equipment	250,000	105,000	112,788	-7,788	107.04%
- Consultants Services, training & Audit	302,000	525,000	562,294	-37,294	107.10%
- Operating Costs	185,240	107,240	61,877	45,363	57.70%
	<b>737,240</b>	<b>737,240</b>	<b>736,959</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>99.96%</b>
<b>Indian Ocean Commission</b>	<b>102,000</b>	<b>102,000</b>	<b>143,000</b>	<b>-41,000</b>	<b>140,19%</b>
<b>Participating Countries</b>					
- Comoros	9,000	9,000	21,867	-12,867	242.96%
- Madagascar	16,400	16,400	69,321	-52,921	397.56%
- Mauritius	28,200	28,200	37,623	-9,423	133.41%
- Seychelles	18,100	18,100	32,313	-14,213	178.52%
	<b>71,700</b>	<b>71,700</b>	<b>161,124</b>	<b>-89,424</b>	<b>224,72%</b>
Equipment transferred from PRE/COI-EU	<b>180,174</b>	<b>180,174</b>	<b>180,174</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
European Union contribution	<b>490,000</b>	<b>490,000</b>	<b>476,234</b>	<b>13,766</b>	<b>97,19%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,581,114</b>	<b>1,581,114</b>	<b>1,697,491</b>	<b>-116,376</b>	<b>107,36%</b>

## ***2.0 Summary of audit Report***

A financial audit of the project has been carried out on a yearly basis. The final audit was conducted in November 2005 by HLB Appavoo & Associates. The audit undertaken examined the expenses made under the Special Account, GEF-MSP grant No TF 024961, the internal control system governing replenishments to and disbursement from the Special account. (Ref fig 1)

The report revealed that as at the closing date of the project being 31<sup>st</sup> July 2005, the amount of expenses under category 1 and category 3 have been underutilised, whereas that of category 2 has been over utilised. It indicated that for the period of execution of the project, 99.9% of the GEF grant disbursed has been committed, an amount reflecting USD 736,959. It is to be noted however that at the closing date the report reflected that only 99% of the committed amount have been utilised. The audit report revealed that the withdrawal of funds from the special account shows a true and fair view of expenditure incurred by the project and that the expenditures and that the expenses paid out under the Special account have been made in accordance with the terms and condition of the grant.