RÉSILIENCE DES ÉCOSYSTÈMES CÔTIERS DU SUD-OUEST DE L'OCÉAN INDIEN (RECOS)

Projet CZZ 2264

COI/RECOS/CT/2021/001

THE EXHANGE OF EXPERIENCES PROGRAMME ON COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

NOTE TO APPLICANT

1.The context of the exchange of experiences programme

A. The Indian Ocean Commission and the RECOS project

The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) is an intergovernmental organization which brings together five member states: the Union of the Comoros, France in respect of Reunion, Madagascar, the Republic of Mauritius, and the Republic of Seychelles.

The only regional organization in Africa composed exclusively of islands, it defends the specificities of its member states on the continental and international scenes. Benefiting from the active support of a dozen international partners, the IOC gives substance to regional solidarity around 4 strategic axes and 5 areas of intervention through cooperation projects covering a wide range of sectors (see figure below).



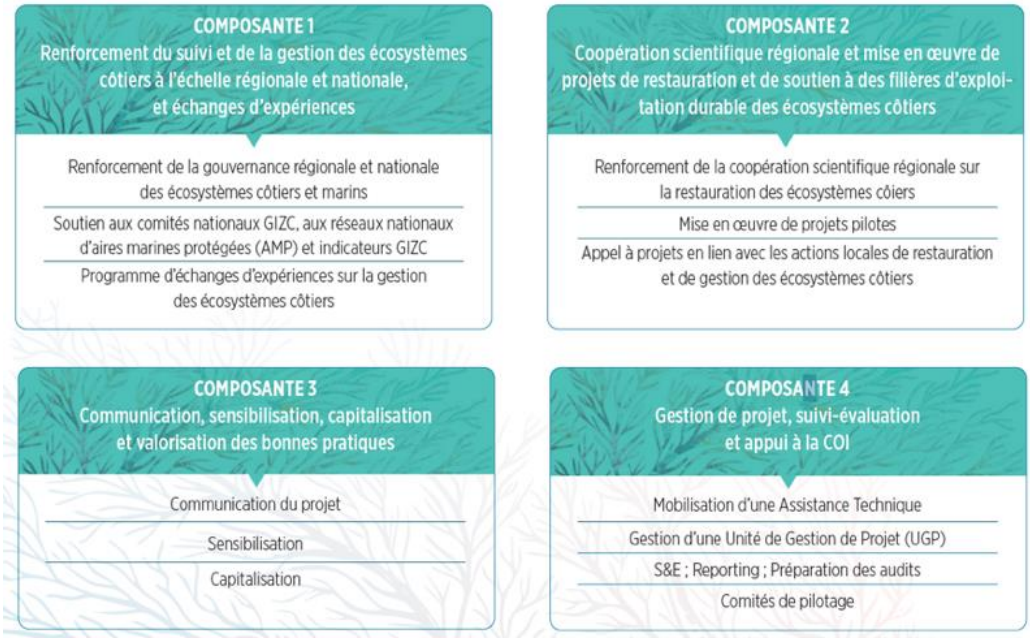
This "Resilience of Coastal Ecosystems of the South-West Indian Ocean" (RECOS) project co-financed. by the French Development Agency (AFD) and the French Fund for the Global Environment (FFEM), participates in the diversified action of the IOC in favour of a sustainable and resilient environment.

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the resilience of coastal populations to the effects of climate change by restoring the services provided by coastal ecosystems.

The specific objectives to achieve this are:

- Strengthen regional and national governance of coastal and marine ecosystems in the Indian Ocean.
- Implement innovative, varied, and replicable projects for the restoration and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems by relying on scientific working groups.

To achieve its objectives, the RECOS project is structured around 4 components which are implemented using an integrated approach. These are shown in the figure below.



As part of the 1st component of the RECOS project, the "exchange of experiences" programme contributes toward **capacity building for IOC countries stakeholders** working in the field of coastal and marine zone management, by the **dissemination of best practices**.

To meet this objective, exchanges of experiences are encouraged between the coastal zone management actors of the IOC Member States, on a partnership basis. The programme allows eligible stakeholders to benefit from the experience of a peer in the region through funded fieldwork sessions.

2. Key features of the programme

1. **Exchanges of experiences is part of a general framework of capacity building for coastal and marine actors in IOC Member States**. Contrary to traditional training, the programme is more oriented towards the field, the transfer and concrete application of knowledge that has already shown its benefits on the environmental, social-economic and cultural levels. In this context, the actors travel to the field, or studied sites are visited, thus making it possible to use the exemplary nature of bests practices as a driving force for exchanges of skills.

2. **Exchanges are carried out at the request of stakeholders and implemented on a voluntary and partnership basis.** Only beneficiary travel costs will be covered (plane tickets, accommodation, car/boat/motorcycle rental, fuel...). The programme will not fund salaries or other remuneration for the applicant or expert.

Who can apply ?

Any stakeholder involved in the management of coastal zones (community association, cooperative, individual actor, NGO, public authority...) from an IOC members countries and beneficiaries states of RECOS project (Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles). The applicant will have to indicate

that the desired exchange is relevant to RECOS eligible themes, as well as the logistics (duration, theme of expertise, budget, number of people to travel ...)

What are the eligible themes?

Exchanges of experience will focus on the RECOS project's work themes and will strengthen the activities implemented in all the 4 project's components. The following will therefore be eligible:

- Exchanges contributing to the reinforcement of the scientific component of the RECOS project: participation of national scientific actors in the workshops of the thematic groups, field visits to demonstration sites, participation in training courses...

- Within the framework of the scientific component, the themes concerned by the exchanges are:
  1. **MPA/LMMA management:** implementation of management plans, methods for monitoring and protecting marine and coastal ecosystems, management practices and governance methods, monitoring techniques, legal aspects, social and economic studies, sustainable fishing practices, evaluation of the effectiveness of management measures, setting up income-generating activities, socio-economic support for coastal communities, sharing tools, capacity building, etc.

  2. **Management and restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems (mangroves, seagrass beds, coral reefs)**: monitoring, mapping, and restoration methodologies. Ecological engineering techniques, integrated management measures for these ecosystems, expertise and methodologies related to the quantification and valorisation of blue carbon...

  3. **Topics related to the land-sea continuum**: coastline monitoring techniques, erosion measurement, GIS techniques, satellite image processing techniques, sharing of erosion reduction and coastal restoration solutions, dune cordon restoration, study of pressures and watershed dynamics. But also, topics related to coastal zone governance: application of local ICZM (or equivalent), implementation of ICZM action plans or equivalent, governance and management tools for coastal zones (Marine Spatial Planning, etc...).

  4. **Topics related to education of coastal and marine environment:** exchanges on sharing tools, methodologies and experiences in the field of environmental education. This programme will in particular support the deployment of the Sandwatch programme in the IOC Member States, but also promote other regional educational initiatives such as the Eco School programme, the PAREO project, and exchanges on Marine Education Areas....

- Exchanges contributing to the reinforcement of pilot projects and projects identified in the framework of the RECOS call for projects: the search for the peer actor could be identified at the beginning or during the project to prepare the implementation of certain activities and reinforce the capacities of the project team. The promoters of pilot projects and projects that will be subsidised under the RECOS call for projects (activities 2.2 and 2.3) will be encouraged to benefit from this programme.

How to apply ?

It is up to the applicant to get in touch with the peer actor who is willing to share his experience and to negotiate the exchange on a partnership basis.

1) After agreement between the applicant and the peer actor that is keen to share his experience, the applicant sends a request by email to the IOC recos@coi-ioc.org together with the completed request form (annex 1).

1) Validation of the request: the request is examined by the PMU of the RECOS project and then transmitted to the national focal points of the countries concerned before validation.

2) After validation: a stakeholder commitment note is sent to the applicant and the actor sharing his experience, who must return a signed copy to the same email address (recos@coi-ioc.org).

3) After receipt of the commitment note signed by the beneficiary and the actor sharing his experience, the IOC starts the organisation of the trip with the support of the RECOS project which will directly cover the expenses related to the trip.

4) After the operation: the applicant undertakes to return within 15 days of his/her return, by email (recos@coi-ioc.org) AND by post to the following address

RECOS Project
Indian Ocean Commission
4th floor, Blue Tower
Ebène, Mauritius

- The report of the operation (report format in attachment 3) including visual elements and the cost breakdown of the operation.

- Original supporting documents: boarding pass stubs, transport receipts, certificates signed by the beneficiaries of daily allowances (certificates in attachment 4) and any other justification of expenditure.

5) After validation of the report and the supporting documents for the payments, the IOC will initiate the payment of the remaining expenses, if any, in accordance with the validated provisional budget.