**Comment for**

**Draft country programme document for Madagascar (2015-2019)**

**German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development**

**November 2014**

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1) **Focus/Priorities**: *UNDP's country programme for Madagascar (MDG) covers a broad spectrum of sectors and issues. In the sustainable development component alone it stretches from capacity building of local farmers to supporting national capacities for statistics. In addition to the two main components of the draft CPD, UNDP prepares new activities to improve resilience and address the issue of "security and environment" in Madagascar. Considering the limited budget (multiannual budget of 57 million USD) we would rather support a more focused approach in order to "to maximize development impact" and ensure a critical mass of (financial) resources to allow for relevant UNDP interventions.*

​​The UNDP Madagascar country programme already opted for a more focused programmatic approach. The proposed CPD is fully aligned with the UNDP corporate strategic plan and is centered on two outcomes and four outputs compared to 13 outcomes and 24 outputs under the previous CPD which in addition included some unaligned projects in the action plan (CPAP).
​​Even though a variety of challenges were identified under the progr​amme *rationale* section, the UNDP contribution to the country’s  development priorities, in tandem with development partners and other UN agencies, will focus on the following:

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​​​1- two governance pillars  (i) local governance, peace building and national reconciliation; and (ii) rule of law and access to justice and more particularly on the penal system and political governance
​2- three sustainable development pillars, namely (i) job and employment opportunities creation and income-generating activities benefitting women, youth and vulnerable populations whose daily income is below $0.50;  (ii) resilience building and post-disaster recovery and (iii) environmental governance, reconciling natural resource management with development challenges at the regional and community levels.

​2) Further improve ***level of detail*** (concretization in annexes): The moderate level of detail provided in the CPD and relevant annexes makes is difficult to get an adequate picture/understanding of the planned interventions. We would welcome more detailed information in order to provide an informed feedback and comments on the planned interventions.

​The CPD is considered to be a strategic document and implies strict rules on word count limit and structure. Details (what, where, whom and how) on the planned interventions are provided in the programme priorities and partnerships section within the space of the word count limitation requirements. More detailed information will be provided in the CPAP and related annual work plans.

​​3) ***Partner alignment***: Since the new development strategy by MDG's new government has not yet been finalized the level of alignment of UNDP's new CPD with partner priorities is not clear. We would appreciate more information on how UNDP will ensure full alignment with MDG's development priorities for the coming years.

​​The newly elected authorities have adopted since May 2014, i.e. prior to the CPD elaboration, the declaration of the general state policy as its main vision for national development priorities. This PGE retained “Governance and rule of law, inclusive growth, employment and regional development” as its key development challenges. The Ministry of Planning recently declared that the national development plan being finalized is the operationalization of this vision. This declaration of state policy in addition to the UNDAF, which was signed last June with the Government, serve as reference frameworks for the new UNDP CPD, in alignment with partners priorities. Furthermore, during the CPD development process, all key partners in Madagascar, including the German embassy through its newly deployed Ambassador in Antananarivo, participated at the CPD review and validation processes via an inclusive and participative consultation process to ensure coherence, complementarities and synergies. These partners provided their inputs and comments on what should be the UNDP areas of focus during the upcoming programme cycle. Paragraph 12 and 13 of the CPD clarifies this full alignment with the UNDAF and the national priorities as defined in the declaration of the general state policy.

​​3) ***Donor coordination***: The CPD refers to the "Strategic Dialogue Group" co-chaired by the Prime Minister and the United Nations Resident Coordinator as "high-level coordination forum" for donors. GER welcomes and is ready to fully support an efficient donor coordination mechanism. In this regard, we would like to emphasize all partner's responsibility to fully support the leadership role of the Govt. of MDG.  Against this backdrop we would welcome a transparent consultation process on the composition of the group and respective terms of reference as well as the role of different stakeholders in this group.

​​With the end of the transition and the return to constitutional order that culminated with the formation of a democratically elected government and national institutions, all technical and financial partners on the ground agreed that the Governmental leadership, ensured by the Prime Minister, on aid coordination should be extended to the thematic groups. Open discussions on this coordination took place during the recent Strategic Dialogue Group meetings and it was agreed by all donors that the thematic coordination groups, to be led by the Government, become effective as soon as the national development plan is finalized to ensure full alignment and coherence with it. The Aid Coordination Unit at the Prime Minister’s Office will develop the required Terms of References and submit them to the Strategic Dialogue Group for comments and validation in due course.

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4) ***Sector coordination***: We would like to underline the need for close consultation with MDG/GER bilateral development cooperation at an early stage. Particularly when it comes to environmental programmes we have to closely coordinate the activities to avoid overlap with Germany's ongoing significant bilateral portfolio in this sector (around 30 Mio. EUR / year). As we will continue to support the Govt. of MDG with an additional programme regarding poverty reduction through local development, we see a need for close consultation regarding UNDP activities in this field as well.

There is a close consultation on the ground with the German bilateral cooperation on environmental and local governance issues. The environmental sector is coordinated through « Cercle de Concertation des Partenaires Techniques et Financiers du secteur Environnement -CCPTF-E », GIZ and KFW are active members and regularly participate in the monthly coordination meetings of this group.  The UNDP environmental component of the programme was presented and discussed during one of the monthly meetings of this coordination group. GIZ is also participating at the decentralization and local governance coordination group co-chaired by UNDP. A GIZ mission from Headquarters recently meet with UNDP Governance team to discuss the local governance project implemented by GIZ in Madagascar. Also, the German Ambassador to Madagascar was personally present at the UNDP 2015-2019 CPD validation workshop.

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