

GEF - PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

2025-08-29 09:46:36

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UNEP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2025
Reporting from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

1 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Project Details

GEF ID: 9525	Umoja WBS: M99-32GFL-11207-14AC0003-SB-011413
SMA IPMR ID: 39225	Grant ID: M99-32GFL-11207-14AC0003-SB-011413
Project Short Title: South Africa Illegal Wildlife Trade	
Project Title: Strengthening Institutions, Information Management and Monitoring to Reduce the Rate of Illegal Wildlife Trade in South Africa	
Duration months planned:	60
Duration months age:	85
Project Type:	Full Sized Project (FSP)
Parent Programme if child project:	GWP
Project Scope:	National
Region:	Africa
Countries:	South Africa
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity
GEF financing amount:	\$ 4,886,009.00
Co-financing amount:	\$ 7,420,000.00
Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:	2018-05-08
UNEP Project Approval Date:	2019-02-07
Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force):	2019-02-26
Date of Inception Workshop, if available:	2019-10-25
Date of First Disbursement:	2019-11-20
Total disbursement as of 30 June 2025:	\$ 3,627,614.00
Total expenditure as of 30 June:	\$ 3,012,131.00

Midterm undertaken?:	Yes
Actual Mid-Term Date, if taken:	2024-10-30
Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken:	
Completion Date Planned - Original PCA:	2024-08-31
Completion Date Revised - Current PCA:	2026-12-31
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	2026-10-01
Expected Financial Closure Date:	2026-12-31

1.2 Project Description

This Project aims to strengthen institutions and targeted communities to improve decision-making and reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade in South Africa. It will specifically carry out activities to improve monitoring and management of iconic CITES-listed species threatened by illegal and unsustainable levels of international trade and develop appropriate community governance mechanisms and management tools that will ultimately lead to improved wildlife monitoring and a reduction in illegal wildlife trade from South Africa. Component 1: Strengthening capacity and information systems for effective management of wildlife trade monitoring by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), aiming at developing a centralized system for improved wildlife trade monitoring through development of training modules and providing skills training to Scientific Authority of South Africa on effective wildlife trade monitoring and assessment, as well as through the creation of a national wildlife monitoring system. Component 2: Development of a ready-to-use electronic permitting system for CITES-listed species by DFFE to provide an electronic system for CITES permitting that will ultimately communicate with other CITES permitting systems, including that already created by UNEP-WCMC. In this regard, ensuring that international wildlife trade is legal, sustainable and verifiable is a fundamental consideration for DFFE. Component 3 by SANPARKS and PPF on Strengthening community capacity to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade. It focuses on community-level socio-economic development support through implementation of novel community governance guidelines specifically targeting community-based natural resource management, as well support for livelihood options seeking to reduce illegal wildlife trade.

1.3 Project Contacts

Division(s) Implementing the project	Ecosystems Division
Name of co-implementing Agency	
Executing Agency (ies)	Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)
names of Other Project Partners	South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)South African National Parks (SANParks) and Peace Parks Foundation (PPF)
UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)	Johan Robinson

UNEP Task Manager(s)	Jane Nimpamya
UNEP Budget/Finance Officer	George Saddimbah
UNEP Support Assistants	Ruth Igamba & Evelyn Machasio
Manager/Representative	Mercedes Marele
Project Manager	Somin Maletе
Finance Manager	Sipho Mabunda
Communications Lead, if relevant	Mercedes Marele

2 Overview of Project Status

2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

UNEP Current Subprogramme(s):	Thematic: Nature action subprogramme
UNEP previous Subprogramme(s):	Ecosystems Sub programme
PoW Indicator(s):	Nature: (iii) Number of countries and national, regional and subnational authorities and entities that incorporate, with UNEP support, biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches into development and sectoral plans, policies and processes for the sustainable management and/or restoration of terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas
UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages	UNSDCF Strategic objectives: 3.1: By 2025, state institutions deliver effective public services to all and oversight bodies are strengthened. 3.2: By 2025, women and marginalized groups are able to participate meaningfully in decision making processes and access justice, 4.2: By 2025, natural resources are managed and utilized sustainably for improved livelihoods and well-being of vulnerable communities;
Link to relevant SDG Goals	- Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere - Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all - Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls - Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Link to relevant SDG Targets:	1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day 4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship 4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life 15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities

2.2. GEF Core and Sub Indicators

GEF core or sub indicators targeted by the project as defined at CEO Endorsement/Approval, as well as results

	Targets - Expected Value	
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Indicators	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	Materialized to date
11.1- Male	50	1750	1800	
11.2- Female	50	1750	1800	

Implementation Status 2025: 6th PIR

2.3. Implementation Status and Risks

	PIR#	Rating towards outcomes (section 3.1)	Rating towards outputs (section 3.2)	Risk rating (section 4.2)
FY 2025	6th PIR	S	S	L
FY 2024	5th PIR	S	S	L
FY 2023	4th PIR	S	S	L
FY 2022	3rd PIR	S	S	L
FY 2021	2nd PIR	S	S	L
FY 2020	1st PIR	S	S	L
FY 2019				
FY 2018				
FY 2017				
FY 2016				
FY 2015				

Progress: Information on progress outcomes of project implementation activities

Project Management Unit (PMU)The PMU received resignation letter from the Administration Officer, Mr Sipho Mabunda who went on to join SANBI. The plan is to advertise for the positions of Project Coordinator and Administrative Officers who will man the PMU for the remainder of the project term.PCA2019/1014 GEFID9525 Amendment No1Addendum Number 2 to PCA 2019/1014 was initiated. The addendum's aim is to request the DG to countersign to countersign the addendum that indicates that the total project budget as originally signed will be reduced by \$200 000 to an amount of US\$ 4 686 009 (four million, six hundred and eighty-six thousand and nine US Dollars). This is to allow for the sub-allotment to UNEP- World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) of project funds to the amount of US \$200 000 (two hundred thousand US Dollars) to assist with supplementing the recently launched E-permitting system. The legal instrument was signed by DG in August 2024.Request for the project extension till the end of 2027 was initiated. The submission to request signature of Director General (DG) on the letter of request to UNEP was initiated.Appointment of Independent Auditor to conduct an external audit of the GEF6 project fundsThe Terms of Reference for the appointment of an external service provider were drafted and shared with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) Supply Chain Unit to initiate the convening of the Bid

Specification Committee. The service provider to be appointed, will begin by auditing the 2023 and 2024 financial expenditures, which are already due for submission to UNEP.

Mid-Term ReviewThe Project Management Unit (PMU) participated in and accompanied Ms. Doreen Mnyulwa (Reviewer) on the mission for the Mid-Term Review, which took place from 26 September to 4 October 2024. The mission included interviews with partners and site visits. These site visits covered all communities within the three clusters of the Kruger National Park: North, Central, and South. A draft Mid-Term Review report was circulated to partners for their input in October 2024. The final MTR report was submitted in January 2025. Inputs on management plan for the implementation of the MTR recommendations was coordinated with Partners.

Fund Draw down and Requisition for project partners: South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Peace Parks Foundation (PPF) and South African National Parks (SANParks) UNEP approved the tranche transfer of \$ 2,319,131.00 on 28 May 2024. The funds were then drawn down to the DFFE and payments made to partners viz SANBI, PPF and SANParks. Invoices of \$403 587 (SANBI), \$174 090 (PPF) and \$232 918 (SANParks) were paid out during the reporting period. UNEP-WCMC Meetings between DFFE and UNEP-WCMC were held to discuss the sub-allotment of \$200 000 of project funds to UNEP-WCMC to assist with implementing the recently launched E-permitting system under Component 2 of the GEF 6 project. A letter addressed to UNEP authorizing the sub-allotment was prepared and submitted to DG for approval. A collaboration agreement will be entered into between DFFE and UNEP- WCMC on delivering activities worth US\$200,000 for the South Africa GEF6 project. The amount will be paid directly from UNEP to UNEP-WCMC after an agreement has been signed between DFFE and UNEP-WCMC. The SMALL-SCALE FUNDING AGREEMENT (SSFA) between UNEP and UNEP- WCMC was signed in April 2025.

Project Steering Committee (PSC)The Project Steering Committee (PSC) was held on 19 to 21 November at Awelani Resort 2024. Minutes of the meeting were approved. Another PSC meeting was held on the 10th to the 11th of June 2025 in Skukuza, Kruger National Park. The minutes of the meeting are still being compiled. Financial reporting PMU facilitated the submission of expenditure reports from partners for Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 of 2024 and Q1 in 2025.

Half Yearly ReportsPMU facilitated the submissions of 2024 July-Dec Half Yearly Reports from Partners. Global Wildlife Programme (GWP)PMU attended the following webinars as invited by the GWP:

- 30 October: GWP Legacy Webinar-Lessons from landscape management and community engagement in Malawi and Zambia
- 13 November: Behavioral Approaches to Engage Communities
- 10 December: GWP Knowledge Exchange: Lessons in combating poaching
- 17 December: GWP Pre-Annual Conference Information Call
- 20 to 24 January 2025: Attendance of the GWP Annual Conference in Panama
- 19 June 2025: GWP Regional Connect Calls, formerly known as coordination calls, to bring together GEF-6, GEF-7, and GEF-8 GWP projects across Africa for networking, peer learning, and exchange.

Communication and Awareness:The project received an invitation from GEF Secretariat to attend and present and showcase the South Africa Wildlife Project at GEF South Africa Regional Workshop Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECW) in Johannesburg in January 20 to 23, 2025. A presentation on the project and its achievements thus far.

Component 1: SANBI (Component 1)For Output 1.1 Output 1.1. SAoSA members are trained in effective wildlife trade monitoring and assessment

The Groen Sebenza Programme has officially concluded, with the contracts of the 147 young professionals having ended in December 2024. Of those hired, 55% were female. Before the conclusion of the programme, a skills mapping spreadsheet was developed to identify the specific capacity needs and skills of the young professionals, prioritised according to their provincial work programmes. This information was integrated by the African Wildlife Economy Institute (AWEI) into the project's Capacity Development Strategy to support long-term institutional strengthening across provinces. Of the 147 young professionals, 20 were assigned to support SAoSA's work and were paired with mentors during the internship period.

- During their placement, the young professionals played a vital role in data management, particularly in supporting the population and quality assurance of data within the South African Wildlife Population System (SAWPS). Under the mentorship of SANBI and their provincial supervisors, they developed technical competencies in data cleaning, uploading, and visualisation. Additionally, SANBI co-designed data management guidelines for SAWPS and worked closely with the interns through a structured tracking system to identify and troubleshoot data-related challenges, thereby enhancing the accuracy and usability of wildlife population data.
- Another group of six young professionals will be recruited to take over and continue the work carried out by the previous group,

who exited the project in December 2024. Their salaries will be covered by the GEF-6 project.

- The final version of the Capacity Development Strategy (CDS) has been completed by AWEI, which incorporated feedback from SANBI and the Scientific Authority workshop. The final “Introduction to CITES” course has also been developed and is now available on AWEI’s e-learning platform.
- For Output 1.2. A centralized system for monitoring wildlife in trade is established
- The design stage is completed. The system has now been developed and piloted. It is now awaiting migration to the Azure cloud server at SANBI. The bid evaluation for the Azure services took place around April 22nd to 23rd, and we expect the process to move forward to the BAC, which is likely scheduled to meet around July 2025
- The first training workshop was held at the Garden court hotel on 8-9 May 2024 with provincial management authorities, attended by 52 participants from all management authorities. The training covered all aspects of the system, including registering and setting up organisations, uploading data, and using the reporting functions. All participants were highly motivated to use SAWPS, and a list of feedback to be integrated into the system was compiled. Training workshops will continue once the system is live.

Component 2: The Electronic permitting system for CITES-listed species has been developed and went live on 01 April 2023. Since its implementation, the system has demonstrated significant adoption and utilization, with a total of 29,122 permit applications lodged and processed to date. The system process applications for international trade in CITES listed species, registrations for breeders and traders of CITES listed species, and registrations for scientific institutions who exchange scientific specimens of CITES listed species. The deployment of the system has yielded substantial improvements in permit processing efficiency, completely eliminating human error when processing CITES permit applications while streamlining the application process to ensure optimal efficiency. Additionally, the system has significantly reduced reporting fatigue experienced by issuing authorities, representing a major administrative improvement in the CITES permitting workflow. Training sessions have been conducted with both issuing authorities and industry stakeholders to ensure effective utilization of the system. The system features an integrated online help manual that provides guidance to applicants on how to navigate and use the e-permitting system effectively. Currently, internal IT support capacity within the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) is not available. Technical support for the system is presently provided by the State Information Technology Agency (SITA), which serves as both the system developer and maintainer. Internal DFFE staff have been allocated to the project and assigned system administrator roles, with these officials responsible for addressing operational challenges such as system downtime, processing system change requests, and managing day-to-day system administration tasks.

World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) activities commenced in January 2025, marking significant progress in international system integration. The annual reporting comparative analysis has been completed, and draft country profiles for the SADC CITES trade analysis report have been developed. A workshop to discuss the draft report is scheduled for September 2025, with logistical arrangements currently underway. The integration of the CITES permitting system with the UNEP-WCMC Species+/CITES Checklist API represents a key milestone and forms part of the new Service Level Agreement with SITA for Enhancement, Support and Maintenance of the CITES e-permitting module. This integration will enhance the system's connectivity with international CITES databases and improve data sharing capabilities with relevant global monitoring systems.

Component 3: South African National Parks: Activity 3.2.1 & 3.2.2: Carry out a review of existing community conservation programmes and identify scope of Environmental Monitor Programme per target site & Select, recruit and train additional Environmental Monitors with existing ones - The GEF 6 project supports 74 EMs (36 females and 38 males) appointed by SANParks as co-finance. The number of EMs is reduced to 67 because of resignation of 6 EMs who moved to better positions and a loss of 1 EM due to illness. The vacant positions have not been filled due to financial challenges faced by the Biodiversity Social Project (BSP). The EM 3-year term ended on 31 March 2025 and the EMs are currently on a year contract which started on 01 April 2025 and will end on 31 March 2026.

Activity 3.2.3: Identify and recruit additional capacity to strengthen Environmental Monitors programme - The GEF 6 project has 4 project team (Coordinator and 3 Stewardship Supervisors) members who support the strengthening of the environmental monitors programme in the Kruger National Park. The project Coordinator resigned last year in January, and the new GEF 6 project coordinator (Lazaro Sibiya) was appointed in August 2024. He was promoted from a Stewardship Supervisor position (central cluster). The new Stewardship Supervisor for the Central cluster

(Bridget Masina) was appointed in January 2025. She was working as a Groen Sebenza Intern under GEF 6 project when she got a promotion into a supervisor position. • 3 Stewardship Supervisors provide daily oversight and support to EMs, capture weekly incident reports from EM WhatsApp groups, compile monthly reports and submit them to the project coordinator. • The monthly reports are consolidated to compile quarterly reports that are submitted to the GM-Regional Integration and Planning. • The quarterly reports are shared with Ranger Services and State Veterinary Services.

Activity 3.2.4: Procure uniforms and equipment for community rangers/environmental monitors - Procurements of 20 new bicycles & spare parts (20 rear and 20 front rims, 80 tyres and 100 tubes), safety gloves, and fence equipment (40 pliers, 40 side-cutters and 32 wire stretchers) were successfully concluded. Bicycles and fence equipment were distributed to the environmental monitors. The EM uniform will be procured by the Biodiversity Social Project.

Activity 3.3.1 & 3.3.2: Create and implement a communications strategy to raise awareness, share lessons and strengthen knowledge transfer between the target sites & Produce, publish, and disseminate examples of community 'programmes' to all relevant engagement platforms, including for CITES Community Working Group purposes – The PSC rejected the communications strategy that was developed by WWF SA Khetha. SANParks has appointed someone who is currently busy with the draft strategy. The initial workshop with all GEF 6 stakeholders was held on 14 May 2025. The draft will be shared with all stakeholders as soon as completed.

Peace Parks Foundation (PPF): Engagements and Key Developments- Service Level Agreement (SLA) Extensions: The existing SLA between SAWC and PPF expired at the end of August 2024. The SLA has been extended through a no-cost extension, ensuring the continued delivery of activities under the GEF6 project until November 2026. - Second Tranche of Funding Received - In November, PPF received the second tranche of funding, to the value of R 3,288,003, which is crucial for the continuation of project activities. The receipt of these funds allows for the resumption of planned activities without further delay. The Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the Projects Oversight and Support Officer (POSO) consultant was extended at an additional cost to ensure continued implementation support for the livelihood's projects in the new year. This extension will enable the consultant to provide ongoing guidance and assistance, ensuring that the projects remain on track and aligned with the overall goals of the GEF6 project. - Budget Reallocation and Contract Finalisation: In early Q1 of 2024, project budgets were reviewed and reprioritised to ensure the delivery of essential activities within the remaining implementation timeframe. A meeting was held with Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) to discuss the budget review, this process enabled the strategic contracting of Conservation Synergies for the development of Governance Guidelines and the contract extension of Biovista for livelihoods project support. As a result, procurement processes have been realigned to a revised implementation plan with a stronger focus on long-term sustainability and impact. In addition to this PPF also conducted a budget review with SAWC to realign budget support requirements to enable the effective delivery of the Governance guidelines operational support and livelihoods projects procurement and further support.

Mid-Term Review Process – Developments and Findings- Commencement of the Mid-Term Review Process (August – September 2024) - The mid-term review for the GEF6 project officially began in August 2024. A consultant was appointed to facilitate the process, and an initial virtual meeting with project leads, DFFE, and the consultant was held to outline the review framework. A field visit to project sites was conducted in late September, which included interviews with key personnel and follow-up surveys. The review team conducted interviews with key project personnel and gathered feedback on the progress and challenges of the project. The team made valuable recommendations, especially regarding the livelihood's projects and governance guidelines. These recommendations are being incorporated into the revised work plans and strategies for the next phase of the project. - Mid-Term Review Report and Action Plan (October – December 2024) - The mid-term review process concluded in October 2024 with a comprehensive assessment of the project's alignment with its objectives and expected outcomes. A final report was circulated to all stakeholders in December, and the project team is now focusing on addressing the recommendations outlined in the report to ensure the successful completion of the project's remaining phases. - Following the conclusion of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) in November, which provided key recommendations to guide the remainder of the implementation phase, the GEF6 team—together with DFFE and implementing partners—began aligning outstanding activities with the MTR findings. This process includes budget reallocation, the development of updated

concept notes for livelihood projects, and a renewed focus on sustainability and effective results delivery.

Governance Guidelines Co-Development- Request for Proposals (RFQ) – Governance Guidelines (July 2024): In July, PPF issued a Request for Proposals (RFQ) for the co-development of governance guidelines. However, no proposals were received by the deadline. A follow-up meeting with key stakeholders in the Kruger landscape was scheduled to reassess the approach and develop a clear path forward for the development of the governance guidelines.

Governance Guidelines – Next Steps (August – December 2024): Despite the lack of responses to the RFQ, discussions regarding the governance guidelines continued through various meetings with stakeholders. These engagements will inform the revised strategy for moving forward with the co-development process. The team plans to schedule a follow-up meeting in early 2025 to refine the approach and ensure successful completion of this key project component.

Conservation Synergies was formally appointed in February to lead the development of Governance Guidelines over a 20-month period. An inception meeting was held on 24 March at SAWC with representation from DFFE, SANParks, GKEPF, PPF, SAWC, and others. An Advisory Group has been established, and the Appreciative Inquiry approach has been adopted as the methodology to be used for this process going forward. This deliverable supports improved co-development practices and stakeholder inclusion across the landscape.

Livelihoods Projects – Development & Support- Swikoxeni Cleaning and Greening Project (July 2024) - During the PMT meeting in July, the Swikoxeni Cleaning and Greening project was visited. The project made significant progress with the construction of a shelter, funded through the GEF6 initiative. Additionally, the project has successfully attracted further support from corporate donors, leveraging GEF6 funding to enhance its sustainability.

Nthakeni Livelihoods Creche Support (August 2024) - Procurement for the Nthakeni creche rooftop, part of the Nkowatsi early childhood development center initiative, is nearing completion. The revised concept note for this project has been followed, and the procurement process has advanced. However, further procurement for livelihoods projects is on hold pending the release of the next tranche of funds.

Hoedspruit Hub Permaculture training for the Bende Mutale Women's group - Plans are in place to provide permaculture gardening practices training for the Bende Mutale Women's Group, with quotes for this training already obtained. However, following the mid-term review, the project team was advised to reassess the effectiveness of the support provided to this group, as concerns were raised regarding their motivation. As a result, the team intends to conduct a revisioning exercise with the group following the receipt of funds, facilitated by the Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC). This exercise will help determine the group's readiness and the long-term sustainability of continued investment in their development.

Site Visits and Recommendations for Livelihoods Projects (September 2024) - As part of the mid-term review, site visits to all three project clusters were conducted. Key recommendations were made regarding the livelihood's projects, particularly in terms of strengthening their governance structures and enhancing community involvement. These recommendations will be addressed in the next phase of project implementation.

Stakeholder Engagement – Project Sensitization- Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement (July – December 2024) - Stakeholder engagement continued throughout the reporting period, guided by the co-developed Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (SES) and the Greater Kruger Strategic Development Programme (GKSDP 2020). Engagements at the cluster level focused on supporting livelihoods projects and strengthening community-based conservation efforts. The Third Iteration of the Situation Analysis (SA) will be reviewed, with updates provided on key project activities and the challenges faced. While project funds were limited during this half of the year, prioritized activities for the Q3 and Q4 reporting periods included targeted support for livelihoods projects. Key engagements took place with communities, ensuring the continued alignment of project activities with local needs and enhancing awareness of the project's objectives. This ongoing engagement helped inform decisions about future project priorities and adaptation.

Between 5–8 May, the GEF6 core team visited all three livelihood clusters. These visits provided valuable insights into project progress and challenges and helped reset relationships and expectations with beneficiaries. Updates were shared on the MTR outcomes, governance guidelines process which include workshops in October (to which livelihood project reps would be invited), and upcoming support interventions. These engagements were critical in reaffirming project alignment with GEF6 objectives and re-establishing trust with partners, particularly the Matsulu THO, Bende Women's agricultural group and Benji co-op.

Training and Capacity Building- Training Sessions for Environmental Monitor on Safety (July – November 2024) - Under the

GEF6 project, the Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC) organised safety training for 74 Environmental Monitors working on the western boundary fence of Kruger National Park. This training was initiated in response to a request from SANParks and aimed at building capacity in safety management, thereby enhancing on-site protection for field staff and contributing to overall project success.- Awelani Environmental Monitors Training - Kirsty Redman, a specialist environmental educator from the Letaba Elephant Hall Education Facility in KNP, has kindly agreed to provide environmental education presentation training to the Awelani Environmental Monitors (EMs). This generous contribution is part of her role with SANParks, enabling the provision of additional training to the EM group and enhancing their capacity within the project. The training is scheduled to take place early in January following the receipt of project funds.- Enhancing Environmental Stewardship Through Youth Engagement and EM Capacity Building at Awelani: Awelani Environmental Monitors - In January, 20 participants—11 males and nine females, the majority of whom were youth, with one participant over the age of 35—attended a 7-day foundational conservation training held at Awelani Lodge. The training covered key topics including water systems, food chains, climate change, and permaculture. It was well received, with several young participants identified as potential conservation champions. Planned follow-up actions include mentorship support and their involvement in awareness-raising initiatives aligned with the broader GEF6 environmental education (linked to using the Nthakeni creche as a center for environmental education) and governance components.- The 2024 Training Report (Pending) - Due to financial limitations, only one training session (EM Safety training) took place during the reporting period. The draft 2024 Training Report will be finalized. Communication, Awareness and events- WWF Khetha Community Engagement Practitioners Annual Conference (October 2024) - The GEF6 project leads attended the 2024 WWF Khetha Community Engagement Practitioners Annual Conference at Wits Rural. This event provided an invaluable opportunity to engage with key stakeholders and community practitioners involved in the project's implementation. Discussions focused on the mid-term review findings and strategies for advancing the project's next phase.

Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

Just a few but strong challenges as below: It takes long for money to come from the national treasury to DFFE It took long for the SSFA between UNEP and WCMC to be signed. As a result, the project may have to be extended again to allow WCMC complete its work.

2.4 Co Finance

Planned Co-finance:	\$ 7,420,000
Actual to date:	4,796,308
Progress	Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges: Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges: • DFFE: Expected total amount: \$5 000 000 (Cash \$2 500 000,) (In-kind 2 500 000) Total realized: 2 903 069 In-kind/ 116% (Cash: \$0), • PPF: Expected total amount: \$600, 000, (Cash \$ 300, 000) (In-kind \$300, 000) Total realized: \$ 175,398 in kind / 58%; (\$0 cash / 0%) The cash co-finance contribution was unrealized PPF. A schedule of various other cash contributions made by PPF in the landscape will be submitted. Due

	to circumstances beyond the control of the executing partner who relies on donor funding, the envisioned cash co-financing contribution could not be realized; the in-kind co-financing contribution continues as committed and on track with 58% midway through project implementation. PPF's eligibility request for alternative cash contributions was successfully approved at the PSC meeting in November 2024. The updated cash co-finance contribution will be included in the next co-finance report due in July 2025. • SANParks: Expected total amount: \$ 500, 000. (Cash \$ 480, 00) (In-kind \$20, 000) Total realized: In-kind: \$744 461 / 148% (Cash \$0) • SANBI: Expected total amount \$838 753, (in-kind \$420 000) (Cash \$200 000). Total realized: In-kind \$712,148 (169%); (Cash \$126 625 (63 %). • UNEP-WCMC: Expected total \$200, 000 (\$200, 000 in-kind,) Realized is \$134 607 (Cash \$0), • WWF: \$500, 000 (In-kind \$0) (Cash \$500, 000): Total realized: \$ 360 948 / 72%. and on track with 58% midway through project implementation. • PPF's eligibility request for alternative cash contributions was successfully approved at the PSC meeting in November 2024. The updated cash co-finance contribution will be included in the next co-finance report due in July 2025. • SANParks: Expected total amount: \$ 500, 000. (Cash \$ 480, 00) (In-kind \$20, 000) Total realized: In-kind: \$744 461 / 148% (Cash \$0) • SANBI: Expected total amount \$838 753, (in-kind \$420 000) (Cash \$200 000). Total realized: In-kind \$712,148 (169%); (Cash \$126 625 (63 %). • UNEP-WCMC: Expected total \$200, 000 (\$200, 000 in-kind,) Realized is \$134 607 (Cash \$0), • WWF: \$500, 000 (In-kind \$0) (Cash \$500, 000): Total realized: \$ 360 948 / 72%.
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2.5. Stakeholder

Date of project steering committee meeting	2025-06-11
Stakeholder engagement (will be uploaded to GEF Portal)	PMU: The PMU works with partners viz, SANBI, SANParks and PPF in implementing the project. Recently it has been noted that the project has connection with Transboundary unit in the DFFE. The Unit was invited to the recent Project Steering Committee meeting hosted in June 2025 to present on its collaboration and connection to the GEF 6 project. SANBI: The System Build Committee (SBC) for the development of the South African Wildlife Population System (Component 1) has been established, and its terms of reference have been finalized. SBC comprises two sub-committees: an Advisory Sub-Committee, which assists in problem-solving, unblocking high-level issues, and providing strategic guidance; and a Technical Task Team, responsible for testing system functionality and providing feedback. The SBC is multi-institutional and operates at a high level, contributing to sound

	governance, reporting structures, and potential future investment in the system. SBC members have actively participated in the system build sprints and have provided feedback on features and other aspects of SAWPS. PPF • Project Management Team (PMT) Meeting (July 17-18, 2024) - PPF participated in the PMT meeting held at the SANParks offices in Skukuza, providing a progress update on activities for the quarter. The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) reported that the cash advance is currently with National Treasury, and no updates were provided on when the next tranche of funding would be released. As a result, some project activities may be delayed until the funds are received. • WWF Khetha Community Engagement Practitioners Annual Conference (October 2024) - The GEF6 project leads attended the 2024 WWF Khetha Community Engagement Practitioners Annual Conference at Wits Rural. This event provided an invaluable opportunity to engage with key stakeholders and community practitioners involved in the project's implementation. Discussions focused on the mid-term review findings and strategies for advancing the project's next phase. • GEF 6 Strategic Planning Meeting (12 November) –The GEF 6 Strategic Planning Meeting was held at Letaba Camp in Kruger National Park (KNP) and primarily attended by KNP team members, including GEF 6 Supervisors, the GEF 6 Coordinator, and some members of the Socio-Economic Transformation (SET) team. Mercedes from DFFE also participated in the meeting, and Louise Swemmer facilitated the session. PPF was represented by the Project Oversight Support Officer (POSO). The main purpose of the meeting was to assess the status of all aspects of GEF 6 Component 3 and to prepare for the upcoming Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting. • PPF's Participation in the 8th GEF6 Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting - from November 19-22, 2024, the 8th GEF6 Project Steering Committee meeting, hosted by PPF, was held at Awelani Lodge in the Northern Cluster. PPF presented the project's progress and led PSC delegates on site visits to the livelihoods project locations in the north, where in-depth discussions took place on how support for these initiatives can be strengthened to align with the project objectives. Additionally, PPF presented the project's cash co-finance eligibility request, which included support for SANParks' KNP Postcode Meerkat Wide Area Surveillance System, the Greater Kruger Environmental Protection Fund, and the GLTFCA Coordinator position. The PSC reviewed and approved these requests, confirming eligibility for PPF's cash co-finance contribution toward the GEF6 project. • GKSDP – K2C Network Meeting – The annual K2C Network Meeting, part of the Greater Kruger Strategic Development Programme (GKSDP), was held at the Radisson Hotel in Hoedspruit on 25 November 2024. The event included presentations and a networking session where participants visited a stall showcasing GEF6-related initiatives. Attendees were encouraged to
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	identify collaboration opportunities and complete a brief Google Form. This event contributed to the GEF6 project by fostering stakeholder engagement, promoting collaboration, and aligning local initiatives with the project’s conservation and livelihoods objectives. • An inception meeting was held on 24 March at SAWC with representatives from DFFE, SANParks, GKEPF, PPF, SAWC, and others. An Advisory Group has been established, and the Appreciative Inquiry approach has been adopted as the methodology to be used for this process going forward. This deliverable supports improved co-development practices and stakeholder inclusion across the landscape. • A GEF6 communications workshop was held in May, led by SANParks, following internal challenges with WWF’s strategy rollout. Partners contributed to the development of a new framework that will guide content creation and dissemination for the remainder of 2025. At least two to three stories or articles are planned by Q3, focusing on transboundary waste efforts; community-led recycling and transboundary work supported by the GEF project at Makulele Contractual National Park that will be disseminated in line with the communications strategy framework. • Stakeholder Relationships Rebuilt and Strategic Re-engagement Initiated: The GEF6 team, SANParks KNP, and Luis Schwemmer held a strategic meeting to determine the best approach to re-establish collaboration with the Matsulu Traditionl Healers Organisation (THO). Recognising the THO community as key stakeholders in the Kruger landscape, concerns were raised about expectations previously created and the reputational risk to KNP if these are unmet. It was agreed that GEF6 will lead direct engagements with the THO, with KNP participating as observers to support relationship building and signal long-term partnership. A recent meeting on 27 May 2025 at Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust marked the first re-engagement, ending positively despite the long gap in engagements. Key next steps include co-developing tailored training on IWT, HWC, and responsible resource use, with a focus on identifying community champions for a ‘train-the-trainer’ model, supported by WWF and SAWC. As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen community-based livelihoods and build sustainable partnerships, the GEF6 and SANParks KNP teams have successfully re-engaged with the Bende Muthale Women’s Agricultural Group (BMWAG). A desktop stakeholder analysis was completed to build on previous mapping efforts. This exercise identified the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve as a strategic partner, with strong potential for alignment with Coca-Cola’s support and broader regional sustainability initiatives. A courtesy outreach was conducted to reconnect with BMWAG to reaffirm their interest and gather updated group membership information following the passing of some members. A preliminary in-person meeting was held on 5 May 2025. The meeting was conducted in Venda to ensure accessibility and cultural appropriateness. BMWAG members were highly receptive to the proposed re-visioning process and expressed their commitment to participating in the co-creation of a refreshed group vision and business model. Next steps will include the co-development of a participatory visioning session, identification of training needs in governance and responsible resource use, and coordinated stakeholder support from partners such as Vhembe Biosphere, WWF, SAWC, and the Coca-Cola Foundation to foster long-term group sustainability.
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	• GEF6 9th Project Steering Committee Meeting The 9th GEF6 Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting took place from 10–11 June 2025 in Skukuza, with participation from key partners including DFFE, SANBI, SANParks, PPF, and the GEF6 coordination team. The first part of the programme included field visits to an Environmental Monitors (EM) site and the Timele Livelihood Project, allowing PSC members to engage directly with beneficiaries and observe implementation progress. During the visit, DFFE raised concerns about a collapsed structure that previously housed a waste baling machine and now presents a safety risk to the Timele team. In response, PPF agreed to investigate the matter with supporting the refurbishment of the structure as a priority. SANBI also pledged support for alien invasive plant clearing in the area by offering training, providing advice on the correct protective gear, and contributing to long-term sustainability planning, strengthening inter-agency cooperation at the site level. The second part of the meeting focused on project progress reporting and financial oversight. While positive strides were acknowledged, PSC members raised concerns about the lack of consolidated reporting on cumulative results and expenditure across the project years. In response, the GEF6 coordination team committed to preparing a dedicated report to address these concerns, ensure transparency, and strengthen alignment between results and financial reporting.
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2.6. Gender

Does the project have a gender action plan?	No
Gender mainstreaming (will be uploaded to GEF Portal):	The project does not have a gender mainstreaming strategy in place. Process is underway to appoint a consultant to develop the gender mainstreaming strategy. The process followed in reporting is more on indicating statistics (ie the number of females and males involved in the implementation of the project). This is in line with the requirements set by government that require that gender statistics should be mentioned in any project that is being implemented.

2.7. ESSM

Moderate/High risk projects (in terms of Environmental and social safeguards)	Was the project classified as moderate/high risk CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage? No If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN?
New social and/or environmental risks	Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period? No If yes, describe the new risks or changes?
Complaints and grievances related to social and/or environmental impacts	Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period? No If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail, including the status, significance, who was involved and what actions were taken?
Environmental and social safeguards management	There are no any Environmental and social safeguards management issues

2.8. KM/Learning

Knowledge activities and products	For Output 1.1, the Scientific Authority induction course is now available as an e-learning module on the African Wildlife Economy Institute e-learning environment AWEI (Introduction to CITES African Wildlife Economy Institute (sun.ac.za))
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	Induction course https://wildlifeconomy.info/study/learn/cites Capacity Development strategy is attached For Output 1.2, A centralised system for monitoring wildlife in trade is established the minimum viable product of SAWPS, along with the national elephant database, is available at sawps.sta.do.kartoza.com/The user guides and manuals for the system can be found both within the system and on YouTube, which include:1) for data consumers – from registering to viewing data, trends and reports SAWPS Testing video for Data consumers - YouTube ; 2) for organisation members – from registering to digitising properties and uploading data – SAWPS Testing video for Organisational members - YouTube; and for organisation managers – from registering to digitising properties and uploading data (same video as above) plus manager features SAWPS Testing video for Organisational managers (youtube.com). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqXLAju0zoA https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRSbhtwlaXw https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Y9WLEpkJcw The project will develop knowledge management material in the form of the SADC trade analysis report, which will serve as a repository of critical information on scale and trade trends of CITES listed species across the region
Main learning during the period	Integrated Snaring Mitigation action plan which guides on how snaring is dealt with in the Kruger National Park. The CITES e-permitting system implementation revealed key lessons which includes that comprehensive user training for authorities and stakeholders is essential for successful deployment of the system; external technical support must be combined with internal system administrators; automation successfully eliminates human error and reduces reporting burden.

Reflows

Reflows (for NGIs only)	
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2.9. Stories

Stories to be shared	For the Publications please see the attached annex For Output 1.1, the Scientific Authority induction course is now available as an e-learning module on the African Wildlife Economy Institute e-learning environment AWEI (Introduction to CITES African Wildlife Economy Institute (sun.ac.za) Induction course https://wildlifeeconomy.info/study/learn/cites Capacity Development strategy is attached For Output 1.2, A centralised system for monitoring wildlife in trade is established the minimum viable product of SAWPS, along with the national elephant database, is available at sawps.sta.do.kartoza.com/The user guides and manuals for the system can be found both within the system and on YouTube, which include:1) for data consumers – from registering to viewing data, trends and reports SAWPS Testing video for Data consumers - YouTube ; 2) for organisation members – from registering to digitising properties and uploading data – SAWPS Testing video for Organisational members - YouTube; and for organisation managers – from registering to digitising properties and uploading data (same video as above) plus manager features SAWPS Testing video for Organisational managers (youtube.com). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqXLAju0zoA
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	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRSbhtwlaXw https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Y9WLEpkJcw The project will develop knowledge management material in the form of the SADC trade analysis report, which will serve as a repository of critical information on scale and trade trends of CITES listed species across the region
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3 Performance

3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
Objective: To reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade through strengthened institutions, improved data collection, management and analysis, and targeted community participation.	Indicator 1: Number of seizures of IWT of target species in calendar year	Illegal trade in Rhino 2017 seizure data – baseline =7 cases Illegal trade in Elephant 2017 seizure data – baseline data = 36 cases Illegal trade in Lion 2017 seizure data – baseline data = 4 cases Illegal trade in Cheetah 2017 seizure data – baseline data = 1 case Illegal trade in Leopard 2017 seizure data – baseline data = 2 cases	Illegal trade in Rhino 2016 seizure data – increase compared to baseline Illegal trade in Elephant 2016 seizure data – increase compared to baseline Illegal trade in Lion 2016 seizure data – increase compared to baseline Illegal trade in Cheetah 2016 seizure data – increase compared to baseline Illegal trade in Leopard 2016 seizure data – increase compared to baseline	Illegal trade in Rhino 2016 seizure data – decrease compared to baseline Illegal trade in Elephant 2016 seizure data – decrease compared to baseline Illegal trade in Lion 2016 seizure data – decrease compared to baseline Illegal trade in Cheetah 2016 seizure data – decrease compared to baseline Illegal trade in Leopard 2016 seizure data – decrease compared to baseline	50	3 poachers were arrested in 2024 (June-Dec period).9 poachers were arrested in 2025 (January-June period).4 weapons were seized in 2024 (June- Dec period)9 weapons were seized in 2025 (January-June period).These poachers were targeting both rhino and elephant as per poaching statistics for the period June 2024 to June 2025.Illegal trade in Rhino and Elephant seizure data for June to December 2024 – decreased compared to baseline.Illegal trade in Rhino and Elephant seizure data for January to June 2025 – decreased compared to baseline.There was no statistics on illegal trade in Lion, Cheetah and Leopard seizure data for the period June 2024 to June 2025	MS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
			data – increase compared to baseline	trade in Leopard 2016 seizure data – decrease compared to baseline			
Objective: To reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade through strengthened institutions, improved data collection, management and analysis, and targeted community participation.	Indicator 2: Number of fraudulent documents on wildlife exports out of South Africa identified at international ports	In 2017 (number to be determined) wildlife exports were identified having fraudulent documents – baseline data will be collected in 2017	E-permitting system for CITES-listed species has been designed	Zero as all export documentation is electronic	100	The system went live on the 01 April 2023. Therefore, there is high confidence as documentation are all electronic leaving little chance for errors and human intervention.	HS
Objective: To reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade through strengthened institutions, improved data collection, management and analysis, and targeted community participation.	Indicator 3: Rhino poaching rates in KNP attenuate as a result of more positive community attitudes to wildlife	Number of rhino poached in 2016 in KNP: 1054 Number of rhino poached in 2016 in KNP:662 Number of rhino poached in 2017 in KNP: 504 Number of rhino poached	Number of rhino poached in June 2020 in KNP: equal or less than 1054 Number of rhino poached in 2020 in KNP: 245 Number of rhino poached in 2021 in KNP: 209	Number of rhino poached in June 2022 in KNP: equal or less than 1054 Number of rhino poached in 2023 in KNP: 78 Number of rhino poached in 2024 in KNP:	80	Number of rhino poached in 2016 in KNP:662.Number of rhino poached in 2017 in KNP:504.Number of rhino poached in 2018 in KNP:421.Number of rhino poached in 2019 in KNP:327.Number of rhino poached in 2020 in KNP:245.Number of rhino poached in 2021 in KNP:209.Number of rhino poached in 2022 in KNP:124. Number of rhino poached in 2023 in KNP:78.Number of rhino poached in 2024 in KNP:88.Number of	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
		in 2018 in KNP: 421 Number of rhino poached in 2019 in KNP: 327		44		rhino poached in June 2025 in KNP:108 Rhino poaching rates in KNP attenuated since 2016 to date. However, the current statistics show an increase again from 2024 – though relatively low compared to the baseline.In response to rhino poaching the KNP rangers managed to arrest 9 poachers this year (2025). 3 rhino poachers arrested in 2024 (June-Dec period)9 rhino poachers arrested in 2025 (January-June period)4 weapons seized in 2024 (June- Dec period)9 weapons seized in 2025 (January-June period)	
Outcome 1: Increased capacity within SAoSA for legal and sustainable wildlife trade	Number of young professionals being trained for potential deployment to the SAoSA and provincial authorities	No young professionals are currently being trained	At least 4 young professionals in place and being trained for potential deployment to the SAoSA and Provincial authorities	At least 5 Young wildlife professionals deployed into the SaoSA Provincial authorities of resources are available for continued employment	60	A total of 147 young professionals were recruited through the Groen Sebenza Programme. The internship programme has now ended. Of the 147, a total of 20 were identified for SAoSA work and were paired with mentors during the internship period.The target has already been achieved as of December 2024.Another group of six young professionals will be recruited to take over and continue the work carried out by the previous group, who exited the project in December 2024. Their salaries will be covered by the GEF-6	MS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						project.	
Outcome 1: Increased capacity within SAoSA for legal and sustainable wildlife trade	Non-Detriment Finding (NDFs) and CITES negotiations are informed by reliable and readily available information on the priority species (rhino (two species), lion, leopard, cheetah and elephant) = 6 species	No standard monitoring system on wildlife in place at provincial and national level	National monitoring system on wildlife in place and being tested by SANBI and provincial authorities (e.g. pilot for black rhino	NDFs and CITES negotiations are informed by the information available from the national standard wildlife monitoring system	60	The minimum viable product of the National monitoring system on wildlife has been developed with feedback from the System Build Committee and the user training workshop for the provincial management authorities has been executed.	MS
Outcome 1: Increased capacity within SAoSA for legal and sustainable wildlife trade	% Increase Score in Capacity Scorecard)	Capacity Scorecard score: 26.3%93	Capacity Scorecard scores increased by 5% over baseline	Capacity Scorecard scores increased by 15% over baseline	70	Currently the capacity scorecard is at 32,3%.Feedback from the Scientific Authority workshop has been integrated into the final CITES induction course and is now available online on the e-learning platform at AWEI, and the capacity development strategy has been finalized.	S
Outcome 1: Increased capacity within SAoSA for legal and sustainable wildlife trade	# of monitoring systems in place and in use at national and provincial levels	No standard monitoring system on wildlife in place at provincial and national level	National monitoring systems on wildlife in place and used by SANBI and 2 Provincial authorities	National Monitoring systems on wildlife in place and providing accurate information	80	The design stage is completed. The system has now been developed and piloted. It is now awaiting migration to the Azure cloud server at SANBI. The bid evaluation for the Azure services took place around April 22nd to 23rd, and we expect the process to move forward to the BAC, which is likely scheduled to	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						meet around July 2025	
2. Outcome 2: National Web-based CITES electronic permitting application used by CITES Authorities as a national permitting system	Customs officials at National export points have confidence that wildlife exports are based on authentic documentation	Low confidence that paper-based, export documentation is error free	E-permitting system has been designed and is in testing phase	High confidence as documentation all electronic leaving little chance for errors	100	The system went live on the 01 April 2023. Therefore, there is high confidence as documentation are all electronic leaving little chance for errors and human intervention.	HS
2. Outcome 2: National Web-based CITES electronic permitting application used by CITES Authorities as a national permitting system	Capacity of DFFE's software developers and IT support personnel to provide technical management and troubleshooting of the electronic permitting system	Capacity scorecard for DEA for the E-permitting for CITES species: 8.5%	Capacity Scorecard scores increased by 25% over baseline	Capacity Scorecard score: 80%	60	Capacity Scorecard scores: 22% Currently, there is no IT support within the DFFE. The IT support is provided by SITA as the developer and maintainer of the system. The system is housed at SITA and not DFFE servers. Hence, the support provided by SITA personnel. There is internal staff at DFFE allocated to the project and are allocated the roles of system administrator. The officials are responsible for dealing with the challenges, e.g., when the system is down, system change requests etc. New Service Level Agreement with SITA is being drafted for Enhancement, Support and Maintenance of the CITES e-permitting module. The SLA includes a skills transfer clause to empower and capacitate the DFFE IT support personnel to provide technical management and	MS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						troubleshooting of the e-permitting system	
2. Outcome 2: National Web-based CITES electronic permitting application used by CITES Authorities as a national permitting system	South Africa's e-permitting system for CITES-listed species interfaces with international biodiversity databases	No e-permitting system for CITES-listed species in place	Data sharing agreement with one international biodiversity database operator	SA e-permitting system shares and collects data from other international biodiversity databases	52	Project with WCMC commenced in January 2025. Annual reporting comparative analysis: • The draft country profiles chapter was developed and submitted on 06 June 2025 for review. Trade analysis report and workshop: • Workshop dates confirmed for End September, Beginning of October. • Letters informing other SADC Countries drafted and disseminated. Species list via Species+/CITES Checklist API Part of the new Service Level Agreement with SITA for Enhancement, Support and Maintenance of the CITES e-permitting module. • The new SLA is been drafted by SITA (02 June 2025)	MS
Outcome 3: Functional community governance for sustainable livelihoods and reduced rate of illegal wildlife trade	Number of governance guidelines and % of projects developed in consultation with stakeholders and community	Development projects use a top-down approach with little consultation between stakeholders and input from community	Co-developed Governance guidelines are designed and tested in two target sites. 50% of projects developed in consultation with	Co-developed Governance guidelines are designed and tested in all target sites	40	Governance Guidelines Development (Status: In Progress):- &nb sp; &nbsp; The initial contract with Sustento was terminated, and funds were reallocated to facilitate the implementation of community-based livelihood projects.- &nbs	MU

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
			stakeholders and community.			p; &n bsp; Revised Terms of Reference for the governance guidelines were developed and advertised. Four applications were received, and a new service provider has been appointed to lead the co-development process.- &nbsp; &nbsp; ; &nb sp; A multi-stakeholder Advisory Working Group was established to guide the process. Its Terms of Reference were developed and endorsed by the group to ensure transparent leadership and inclusive consultation.- &nbs p; The development of the governance guidelines is currently ongoing and not yet completeActivities to date include:A detailed Situational Analysis Report prepared by SAWC, which is a living document continuously informed by community engagements.- & nbsp; &nbsp; &nbsp; ;	

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						Integration of inputs from SAWC governance training material and landscape-level engagements.- Ongoing alignment of the guidelines with feedback from traditional leaders, project beneficiaries, and implementing partners across the three clusters.- &nbs p; &n bsp; The appointed service provider is currently working on a revised situational analysis and literature review report, with a draft expected in Q3.Stakeholder Engagement:- All governance guideline-related activities conducted to date have involved structured consultation with stakeholders, including:Local communities and traditional leadership structures-Project Steering Committee and Advisory Working Group members- Livelihood project representatives and implementing partners (e.g., SANParks, SAWC, PPF) To date 10 of the selected projects are being supportedAlthough in progress, the co-development process	

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						remains rooted in participatory engagement, and feedback loops will be incorporated at each stage	
Outcome 3: Functional community governance for sustainable livelihoods and reduced rate of illegal wildlife trade	Improved Community knowledge and attitude towards wildlife at the three target clusters	Results of Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) survey to be undertaken in year 1 of the project	Environmental Monitors trained and communicate issues of environmental importance to community members and represent the community's views on environmental issues	Knowledge and attitude of community towards wildlife improved (based on the end of project KAP survey) as a result of clear understanding of the economic benefits from wildlife as well as tangible benefits of development projects linked to wildlife e.g. WWF-SA Khetha project investment.	60	The first trial of the perception surveys has been completed and the analysis and report underway. The next survey will be improved and made to be shorter. The focus on target group will be the EM and direct community members who are not employed by the Park. Next rollout will be conducted at end of project at the end of 2026 just before terminal review. Training and capacitationTotal No. persons trained for the period = 514 (target is 180 units p/year): training themes and modules include: Leadership, Governance, Dangerous Game Awareness; First Aid, Responsible Resource Use (Training delivered to community champions, leadership structures and EMs)- &nb sp; & nbsp; Environmental Monitors have been taken through training and awareness in various courses and topics namely, Poisoning Awareness, Braveheart Ranger Leadership, Restorative Justice Awareness, Danger Causing Animals and	MS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						Man Tracking, Leading Heart, Veld Condition Assessment and Fire Awareness.- &nb sp; & nbsp; Capacity development support to Awelani EM's: foundational conservation course training covering five main objectives: Biodiversity Conservation, Water Resource Management, Waste Management, Pollution Control, and Sustainable Land Use.- &nb sp; & nbsp; Follow-up training course planned for the Awelani EMs on environmental education = this can be linked to the EE support through	
Outcome 3: Functional community governance for sustainable livelihoods and reduced rate of illegal wildlife trade	Number of governance guidelines and % of projects developed in consultation with stakeholders and community	Development projects use a top-down approach with little consultation between stakeholders and input from community	50% of projects developed in consultation with stakeholders and community	100% of projects developed in consultation with stakeholders and community	80	Livelihood Project Integration:- & nbsp; nbsp; 12 livelihood projects were selected through a transparent process informed by the Situational Analysis and consultations with implementing partners.- Of these, 8 projects have received support, and concept notes developed following stakeholder engagements- &n	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						bsp; The integration of governance principles into these projects will be further strengthened during the governance guidelines process.Implementation and Oversight:- &nb sp; & nbsp; Phase 1 implementation support and equipment handovers for the supported livelihood projects are nearly complete, phase 2 of implementation is underway and an implementation roll-out plan developed- &nbs p; &n bsp; Site visits to the three clusters have been conducted to assess project readiness and inform next steps.- & nbsp; nbspnbsp; ; A dedicated Project Oversight Support Officer (POSO) is coordinating follow-up support, profiling training needs, and facilitating alignment with the evolving governance framework.	
Outcome 3: Functional	Nr of functional community	Zero	3 cluster	3 cluster	40	As per Midterm Review findings and	MU

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
community governance for sustainable livelihoods and reduced rate of illegal wildlife trade	structures within 3 spatial areas		Community structures	Community structures		recommendations, PPF has appointed a consultant to carry out the process. An inception meeting has taken place. The inception report from consultant has been shared. Process is meant to roll out over 18 months to finish at the end of November 2026	
Outcome 3: Functional community governance for sustainable livelihoods and reduced rate of illegal wildlife trade	Existence of co-developed governance guidelines for stakeholder engagement and project implementation	Not yet in existence	Governance guidelines co-developed, outlining standards and processes, and tested in at least two focal areas by Year 3 (4th quarter - Oct to Dec 2021/2022) of project implementation.	Governance guidelines co-developed, outlining standards and processes in all 3 communities by Year 5 (4th quarter Oct to Dec 2023/2024)	40	As per Midterm Review findings and recommendations, PPF has appointed a consultant to carry out the process. An inception meeting has taken place. The inception report from consultant has been shared. Process is meant to roll out over 18 months to finish at the end of November 2026.	MU
Outcome 3: Functional community governance for sustainable livelihoods and reduced rate of illegal wildlife trade	Nr of existing projects supported to the benefit of community members and wildlife in the three focal areas	zero	One project per site	Two projects per site	100	The project supports 10 livelihoods project more then two project supported in some of the cluster exceeding the minimum support indicator of ttwo projects per cluster	HS

3.2 Rating of progress implementation towards delivery of outputs (Implementation Progress)

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
-3 COMPONENT 3: Strengthened community capacity to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade	Output 3.1: Key guiding principles and project activities co-developed with target communities	2026-11-30	80%	80	Significant progress has been made across all key outputs of the GEF6 project implementation under component 3. Under the SAWC-led capacity development deliverable, a situational analysis report (updated annually) was completed across all three pilot clusters, eight training modules were delivered, and a total of 514 individuals were capacitated including Environmental Monitors, community representatives, and frontline personnel. Stakeholder engagements with CPAs, Traditional Authorities, and Environmental Monitors have been consistently maintained on an ongoing basis to support inclusive participation and ownership. Under the livelihoods component implemented by Biovista, nine community projects have received direct support across the three clusters. This includes the provision of essential equipment such as boreholes, fencing, shelters, and irrigation systems, alongside a series of targeted training and facilitation workshops aimed at strengthening implementation capacity and sustainability. For the governance guidelines deliverable, the inception phase has been completed, including	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					stakeholder profiling and the adoption of a Terms of Reference for the advisory group. A comprehensive implementation framework and work plan has been developed, and the process is being supported through ongoing stakeholder engagement and the coordination of a multi-stakeholder advisory group.	
-3 COMPONENT 3: Strengthened community capacity to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade	Activity 3.1.1 Appoint a Task Team to coordinate efforts	2020-12-31	100	100	The appointment of the task team was completed December 2020 and will continue to function until the end of the term in December 2026. Greater Kruger Steering Committee constituted, meeting twice a year. Last meeting took place virtually on 10 August 2023. Since then, the meetings were not held due to staff turnover. The meetings to be resumed before December 2025.	HS
-3 COMPONENT 3: Strengthened community capacity to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade	Activity 3.1.2: Engage in a project sensitization process with community leaders and relevant stakeholders at 3 pilot sites	2022-12-31	100	100	This activity is complete - Target area communities sensitized, engaged, capacitated (ongoing); Sensitization is an on-going, iterative activity Profiling complete in all three Clusters.Sensitization and engagement remain ongoing, iterative processes across all three clusters to support inclusive, locally relevant implementation. During the Situational Analysis development phase, 12 livelihoodsprojects were identified	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					from existing community-linked initiatives, guided by stakeholder consultation and profiling. The third iteration of the Situational Analysis Report and Stakeholder Synthesis Report were completed to inform alignment of resources. Eight project concept notes have been developed, based on needs identified during the scoping process, and ongoing quarterly project site visits, ensuring responsible and targeted use of funds. Key stakeholder engagements and forward planning took place in Q1 and Q2 Livelihoods Project collaboration: - Visioning session with Bende Mutale Women's Agricultural Group with SANParks SET team. - Strategy planning session with Matsulu Traditional Healers Organization (THO). Working together towards a sustainability plan with Luis Schwemmer.	
-3 COMPONENT 3: Strengthened community capacity to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade	Activity 3.1.3: Stakeholder engagement, for identification of community projects and livelihood options, undertaken at 3 target sites	2025-12-31	60	80	12 livelihood projects profiled, following the project sensitization and situational analysis report informed by community engagements. Two projects linked to the existing SANParks SET team were removed after engagement. A total of 10 community-linked livelihoods projects were identified, with support activities initiated or planned for 9 of	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					them (1 (Youth enviro programme - has been removed and funds to be redistributed). More than two projects supported per cluster. A dedicated livelihoods Project Oversight Support Officer was appointed and contract extended to enable continued dedicated support to the livelihoods project. The preliminary total budget across projects is approximately R620,000, with R328,468 spent to date. Community Profiling and Planning:- Concept note development and needs scoping for all supported initiatives- Projects were identified through participatory Situational Analysis- Cluster-based workshops informed project prioritization and resourcing Key Activities Undertaken:- Infrastructure and Equipment Support - Roof repair and learning materials for a crèche (Nthakeni – Makuya)- Boom gates and signage for tourism support (MCNP)- Pump installation and drip irrigation (Bende Mutale Women's Agric)- PPE, and work tools procured to support recycling (Timele Recycling) Training and Capacity Building:- Environmental education	

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					training (Mutele Eco-Tourism)- Agro-ecology and eco-tourism exchange sessions planned (MCNP, Benji Co-op)- Planning for agro-ecology and school-linked educational programmes (Bende womens group, Nthakeni, Awelani EM's)Environmental and Waste Economy Focus:- Waste economy pilot support (Swikoxeni & Uta)- Green economy items such as bulk bags and shelter (Swikoxeni)- Donation Documents are documents that have been developed as an acknowledgement of receipt of any equipment supplied by GEF 6 (PPF) to projects. These have been updated to reflect all equipment / supplies provided to the project to date. o MCNP signboard completed and installed on site.	
-3 COMPONENT 3: Strengthened community capacity to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade	Activity 3.1.4: Co-develop, with communities, key governance guidelines for stakeholder engagement	2026-11-30	30	40	PPF: appointment, administration of an appropriately qualified and experienced external expert for facilitation and product co- development: (1st service provider contract terminated after Governance Guidelines Situational Analysis developed)Engagement and governance strengthening activities and training Through SAWC and the Livelihoods project activities have	MU

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					continued in the interim.RFP was updated and advertised on the PPF website.A Service provider has been appointed for this deliverable on Service level agreement that will run from March 2025-November 2026.- Advisory Group Established: Multistakeholder team formed, including SANParks, PPF, DFFE, WWF, SAWC, and community reps.- Inception Workshop (March 2025): Launched participatory governance process; themes included landscape-level security, co-ownership, and inclusivity.- Appreciative Inquiry Adopted: As the core methodology guiding the co-development of governance guidelines. - Inception Report & Implementation Framework Finalized: Documented phased roadmap for guideline development.- Situation Analysis & Literature Review Underway: Desktop study of governance models and IWT-related risks in target areas.- Stakeholder Mapping in Progress: Identifying engagement strategies, especially for youth and women, to ensure community representation.No training was conducted by SAWC for this reporting period.	

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
-3 COMPONENT 3: Strengthened community capacity to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade	Activity 3.1.5: Identify and provide capacity building to community champions to support governance guidelines	2025-12-31	90	95	To date 514 out of 540 people have been capacitated in Leadership, Governance, Dangerous Game Awareness; Responsible resource use, First aid and safety trainings, poisoning awareness. Groups trained to date include: Environmental Monitors (linked to Activity 3.2.3), Community Leaders, SANParks Tradesman's Aides (fence maintenance staff), Communities (leadership, structures, livelihoods projects, champions); Frontline staff (liaison / engagement officers, implementing partners personnel Training manuals on community governance prepared. Strengthening of community leaders in governance practices	HS
-3 COMPONENT 3: Strengthened community capacity to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade	Output 3.2: Environmental Monitors Programme strengthened	2025-12-31	100%	100	74 environmental monitors (36 females and 38 males) have been appointed in the three clusters (South, Central and North) from neighbouring villages along the western boundary fence of the Kruger National Park. 3 Stewardship Supervisors were appointed to provide daily oversight and support to the EMs. The term for the Environmental Monitors (EMs) officially ended on the 31st of March 2025. Following this, a new contract was signed, which includes an extension of one additional year,	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					allowing for the continuation of services from the 1st of April 2025 until the 31st of March 2026. Currently, there are a total of 7 vacant positions for Environmental Monitors. These vacancies have arisen because of resignations where EMs have chosen to pursue better career opportunities either within the KNP or outside of it. Additionally, there has been a sad development, as one EM has unfortunately passed away. The Biodiversity Social Project (BSP) is facing challenges in filling these open positions.	
-3 COMPONENT 3: Strengthened community capacity to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade	Activity 3.2.1: Carry out a review of existing community conservation programmes and identify scope of Environmental Monitor Programme per target site (SAWC supported by PPF and SANParks)	2023-12-31	90	100	74 EMs have been appointed for the EM programme, inducted on the Fence Integrity programme and have undergone Dangerous Game Awareness and Man Tracking training. Other trainings done are outlined in the training report of the PPF.	HS
-3 COMPONENT 3: Strengthened community capacity to	Activity 3.2.2: Select, recruit and train additional Environmental Monitors with existing ones (SANParks, SAWC)	2024-12-31	100	100	74 Environmental Monitors appointed on new contract from 1 August 2022 on the KNP Integrated Fence programme. Orientation meeting conducted in 3 clusters. All environmental monitors received training as per PPF's	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade					training report. Additional trainings were provided to the environmental monitors through the support of WWF SA Khetha programme. These trainings included Braveheart Ranger Leadership by all environmental monitors, Basic Field Ranger (unarmed) by 10 environmental monitors (8 males and 2 females) and Responsible Resource Use by 9 environmental monitors (7 males and 2 females).	
-3 COMPONENT 3: Strengthened community capacity to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade	Activity 3.2.3: Identify and recruit additional capacity to strengthen Environmental Monitors programme (Coordinator and 3 Stewardship Supervisors)	2021-07-31	100	100	GEF 6 Coordinator and 3 Stewardship Supervisors have been appointed and are fully functional in implementing the workplans. They support the strengthening of the environmental monitors programme in the Kruger National Park. The first project Coordinator resigned last year in January, and the new GEF 6 project coordinator was appointed in August 2024. He was promoted from a Stewardship Supervisor position (central cluster). The new Stewardship Supervisor for the Central cluster was appointed in January 2025. She was working as a Groen Sebenza Intern under GEF 6 project when she got a promotion into a supervisor position. The 3 Stewardship Supervisors provide daily oversight and support to EMs,	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					capture weekly incident reports from EM WhatsApp groups, compile monthly reports and submit them to the project coordinator. The monthly reports are consolidated to compile quarterly reports that are submitted to the GM-Regional Integration and Planning. The quarterly reports are shared with Ranger Services and State Veterinary Services.	
-3 COMPONENT 3: Strengthened community capacity to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade	Activity 3.2.4: Procure uniforms and equipment for community rangers/environmental monitors.	2026-13-31	60	100	In the current one-year extension contract (01 April 2025 to 31 March 2026) for the EMs, the BSP will undertake the procurement of EM uniforms. It has been decided that the budget originally earmarked for the acquisition of extra uniforms will now be reallocated towards covering the overtime costs of the EMs. Procurement and distribution of bicycles and fence equipment for the EMs was concluded. The procurement included 20 new bicycles, 40 bicycle rims, 80 bicycle tyres, 150 bicycle tubes, 34 pliers, 34 side cutters and 32 wire stretchers. These bicycles and fence equipment support the EMs to conduct fence patrols effectively and repair the KNP western boundary fence.	HS
-3	Activity 3.2.5: Community engagement for conception, planning and	2026-12-31	20	70	Perception surveys developed in 2022 and	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
COMPONENT 3: Strengthened community capacity to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade	development of community incentive awareness programmes (DEFF, supported by SANParks and PPF).				rolled out to Ranger Services, environmental monitors and community members. Analysis has been done and the report on perception surveys will be submitted separately. The GEF 6 supported the development of the Integrated snare response plan which informs the implementation of community awareness engagement events. The snaring awareness events were conducted in the three clusters whereby the traditional authorities, livestock and crop farmers were engaged. During the events, the GEF 6 team presented the EM programme progress (illustrating trends of different incidents reported by the EMs), the KNP Socio-Economic Transformation (SET) department presented the Damage Causing Animals (DCA) compensation protocols, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) and LEDET presented DCA control, KNP State Veterinary Services presented animal diseases and control measures. The events were aimed at raising awareness on the negative impact of fence incursions resulting in illegal wildlife trade and human-wildlife conflict. Poisoning awareness events were conducted around Phalaborwa area in	

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					3 villages that are adjacent to the KNP western boundary fence. The awareness events were done in response to vulture poisoning in Mahlangeni ranger section inside the KNP. Wildlife poisoning is common in the northern part of the KNP where it is suspected that poachers target vultures and lions for traditional medicine purposes. The GEF 6's main objective about the events was to raise awareness about the consequences of wildlife poisoning in trying to reduce IWT	
-3 COMPONENT 3: Strengthened community capacity to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade	Output 3.3: Co-ordination and communications strategy developed to share lessons in landscape and beyond	2026-12-31	20%	60	The PSC rejected the communications strategy that was developed by WWF SA Khetha. SANParks appointed a consultant to assist with the development of the Communication strategy. The GEF6 communications strategy workshop organised by SANParks was held on 14 May 2025 to inform future GEF6 communications. Future GEF6 communications to be informed by the communications framework that will be developed. The draft strategy will be shared with all stakeholders as soon as completed. Plans are in place for the development of GEF6 livelihoods project articles to be published on the GEF6 portal and internal platforms.	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
-3 COMPONENT 3: Strengthened community capacity to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade	Activity 3.3.1: Create and implement a communications strategy to raise awareness, share lessons and strengthen knowledge transfer between the target sites (DFFE supported by SANParks and PPF)	2026-06-31	60	70	The communication strategy plan has been developed and finalized. Plans for the development of GEF6 livelihoods project articles to be published on the GEF6 portal and internal platforms are ongoing	S
-3 COMPONENT 3: Strengthened community capacity to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade	Activity 3.3.2 Produce, publish and disseminate examples of community 'programmes' to all relevant engagement platforms, including for CITES Community Work	2026-12-31	30	30	PPF contribution to Global Wildlife Program (GWP) learning events and exchanges attended by GEF 6 project partners with specific contribution to Lessons Learning series was published through GWP international platform in 2023. No further updates for this reporting period. The governance guidelines development process is envisaged to assist with the development of publishable material based on key learnings and knowledge products developed through this process, including the development and testing of governance training manuals and material as informed by community needs.	MU
-2 COMPONENT 2: Development of a ready-to-	Output 2.1 Electronic permitting system for CITES-listed species is in place, adopted and used as the national CITES permitting system	2023-04-30	100%	100	The system has been developed and went live on the 01 April 2023. The system is completely online where all applications for Appendix I, II and III and supporting documents are submitted and	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
use e-permitting system for CITES-listed species application used by CITES Authorities as a national permitting system					assessed online and the permits are issued online.	
-2 COMPONENT 2: Development of a ready-to-use e-permitting system for CITES-listed species application used by CITES Authorities as a national permitting system	Activity 2.1.1: Carry out a review and analysis of current national permitting system for CITES-listed species through consultations with Provincial permitting authorities	2023-12-31	100	100	The Service Provider to undertake the Provincial infrastructure analysis (computers, servers) to assess the Provincial Conservation departments' s ability to deploy and implement the electronic permitting system was appointed in September 2023. The Service Provider concluded the assessment with status of infrastructure and connectivity in their offices and recommendations on the 12 April 2024.	HS
-2 COMPONENT 2:	Activity 2.1.2: Develop the e-permitting system for CITES-listed species	2023-03-31	100	100	The system went live on the 01 April 2023. The system is completely online where all applications for Appendix I,	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
Development of a ready-to-use e-permitting system for CITES-listed species application used by CITES Authorities as a national permitting system					II and III and supporting documents are submitted and assessed online.	
-2 COMPONENT 2: Development of a ready-to-use e-permitting system for CITES-listed species application used by CITES Authorities as a national permitting system	Activity 2.1.3: Migrate compatible and relevant historic data into the new e-permitting system	2026-12-31	0	0	The system was launched in April 2023, therefore the data has not been migrated. The CITES e-permitting system is a live system that does not keep historic information on permits that were issued before the system went live. Due to the nature of the system, this activity will not be undertaken. Historic data on permits issued is stored and managed by DFFE (permits issued to public institutions) and the provincial CITES Management Authorities (permits issued to private institutions/ individuals). Furthermore, the National Annual Reports contains such historic information and when the need to consult such data, it can be retrieved from the	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					above-mentioned areas.	
-2 COMPONENT 2: Development of a ready-to-use e-permitting system for CITES-listed species application used by CITES Authorities as a national permitting system	Activity 2.1.4: Develop internal capacity to implement the new e-permitting system	2026-12-31	35	60	As the system is housed at SITA (the developer). SITA is responsible for developing and maintaining various government-related IT systems. In this regard, SITA has allocated their internal officials for the maintenance of the system. The officials are responsible for dealing with the challenges, e.g., when the system is down, system change requests etc. Furthermore, a WhatsApp group has been created between the DFFE, SITA and Provincial Management Authorities to ensure that the provinces are able to report system issues and SITA to provide feedback in terms of attending to the reported issues.	MS
-2 COMPONENT 2: Development of a ready-to-use e-permitting system for CITES-listed species application used by CITES	Activity 2.1.5: Roll-out new national e-permitting system	2023-03-31	100	100	The system went live on the 01 April 2023. The system is completely online where all applications for Appendix I, II and III and supporting documents are submitted and assessed online.	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
Authorities as a national permitting system						
-2 COMPONENT 2: Development of a ready-to-use e-permitting system for CITES-listed species application used by CITES Authorities as a national permitting system	Output 2.2: Internal software developers provide skilled technical support to national CITES e-permitting system	2026-03-30	70%	70	Currently, there is no DFFE IT internal support for the system as the system is housed at SITA (the developer). SITA is responsible for developing and maintaining various government-related IT systems. In this regard, SITA has allocated their internal officials for the maintenance of the system. The officials are responsible for dealing with the challenges, e.g., when the system is down, system change requests etc.	MS
-2 COMPONENT 2: Development of a ready-to-use e-permitting system for CITES-listed species	Activity 2.2.1: Develop training module and carry out capacity building on e-permitting system	2026-03-30	45	70	The system has an online help manual which guides applicants on how to use the e-permitting system. The activity is dependent on Activity 2.3. The activity that has emanated from the partnership between WCMC and DFFE will potentially lead to the changes in the system functionality. In this regard, the manual will have to be updated to capture such changes.	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
application used by CITES Authorities as a national permitting system						
-2 COMPONENT 2: Development of a ready-to-use e-permitting system for CITES-listed species application used by CITES Authorities as a national permitting system	Output 2.3 The national CITES e-permitting system is linked with relevant national and international permitting systems	2026-03-31	25%	60	Regional and international partnerships established, and data shared. World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) activities commenced in January 2025. The annual reporting comparative analysis has been completed, and draft country profiles for the SADC CITES trade analysis report have been developed. A workshop to discuss the draft report is scheduled for September 2025, with logistical arrangements currently underway. The integration of the CITES permitting system with the UNEP-WCMC Species+/CITES Checklist API represents a key milestone and forms part of the new Service Level Agreement with SITA for Enhancement, Support and Maintenance of the CITES e-permitting module. This integration will enhance the system's connectivity with international CITES databases and improve data sharing capabilities with relevant global monitoring systems.	MS
-2	Activity 2.3.1: Formalise collaboration with national, regional and	2026-12-31	25	60	World Conservation Monitoring Centre	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
COMPONENT 2: Development of a ready-to-use e-permitting system for CITES-listed species application used by CITES Authorities as a national permitting system	international partners and secure agreement to share data				(WCMC) activities commenced in January 2025. The annual reporting comparative analysis has been completed, and draft country profiles for the SADC CITES trade analysis report have been developed. A workshop to discuss the draft report is scheduled for September 2025, with logistical arrangements currently underway. The integration of the CITES permitting system with the UNEP-WCMC Species+/CITES Checklist API represents a key milestone and forms part of the new Service Level Agreement with SITA for Enhancement, Support and Maintenance of the CITES e-permitting module. This integration will enhance the system's connectivity with international CITES databases and improve data sharing capabilities with relevant global monitoring systems.	
-1 COMPONENT 1: Strengthening Capacity and information systems for effective management of wildlife	output 1.1: SAoSA members are trained in effective wildlife trade monitoring and assessment	2025-12-31	60%	88%	The Capacity Development Strategy has been finalized. The strategy is integrated with the SAoSA induction course. A total of 52 participants were trained in effective wildlife trade monitoring and assessment. Once the South African Wildlife Population System (SAWPS) has been fully migrated to the South African National Biodiversity Institute's (SANBI) Azure	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
trade monitoring					infrastructure, new SAoSA members will also be trained	
-1 COMPONENT 1: Strengthening Capacity and information systems for effective management of wildlife trade monitoring	Activity 1.1.1: Develop a capacity and skills development strategy for the SAoSA secretariat and provincial scientific services to monitor and report wildlife trade	2025-04-30	20	100	The service provider has conducted several interviews with management authorities to gather the necessary information for completing the document. Materials from the Scientific Authority Technical Support Unit have been provided to the service provider for integration into the induction course for new Scientific Authority members.	HS
-1 COMPONENT 1: Strengthening Capacity and information systems for effective management of wildlife trade monitoring	Activity 1.1.2: Develop the capacity of the SAoSA Secretariat to monitor and report wildlife trade	2025-12-31	10	90	A workshop with provincial management authorities on effective wildlife trade monitoring and assessment was conducted, with 52 participants in attendance from all management authorities. The training covered all aspects of the system, including registering and setting up organisations, uploading data, and using the reporting functions. All participants were highly motivated to use SAWPS, and a list of feedback to be integrated into the system was compiled. Training workshops will continue once the system is live.	HS
-1 COMPONENT	Activity 1.1.3: Develop the capacity of the provincial scientific services to monitor and report wildlife trade	2025-12-31	15	80	Young professionals from SANParks, DESTEA (Free State), CapeNature, and	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
1: Strengthening Capacity and information systems for effective management of wildlife trade monitoring					GDARDE successfully uploaded data to SAWPS using the user guidelines and feedback form developed by the SANBI Project Coordinator before the end of their contracts in December 2024. Plans are in place to roll out this process to other management authorities..	
-1 COMPONENT 1: Strengthening Capacity and information systems for effective management of wildlife trade monitoring	Activity 1.1.4: Establish a cohort of 6-9 young wildlife professionals or interns	2024-12-31	50	100	A total of 147 young professionals were recruited through the Groen Sebenza Programme. The internship programme has now ended. Of the 147, a total of 20 were identified for SAoSA work and were paired with mentors during the internship period. Another group of six young professionals will be recruited to take over and continue the work carried out by the previous group, who exited the project in December 2024. Their salaries will be covered by the GEF-6 project	S
-1 COMPONENT 1: Strengthening Capacity and information systems for	Activity 1.1.5: Regional collaboration and outreach developed to address illegal wildlife trade in the region	2025-12-31	15	70	The South African Wildlife Population System was presented at the African Wildlife Consultative Forum in Windhoek, Namibia, where a community of practice was established to share monitoring and evaluation systems for wildlife trade across the region. The Scientific	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
effective management of wildlife trade monitoring					Authority CITES induction course is now available on the AWEI website, making it accessible across the region	
-1 COMPONENT 1: Strengthening Capacity and information systems for effective management of wildlife trade monitoring	Output 1.2: A centralised system for monitoring wildlife in trade is established	2025-12-31	58%	69	The design stage of the system has been completed. The system has since been developed and piloted. The South African Wildlife Population System SWAPS is now awaiting migration to the Azure cloud server at South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). The bid evaluation for the Azure services took place between April 22nd and 23rd, 2025 and the process is expected to move forward to the Bid Adjudication Committee (BAC), which is likely scheduled to meet around July 2025.	MS
-1 COMPONENT 1: Strengthening Capacity and information systems for effective management of wildlife trade monitoring	Activity 1.2.1: Review and analysis of current wildlife monitoring systems in place (for biodiversity and for wildlife trade) and the databases that are available in country for the key species in trade	2022-12-31	100	100	Letsema Consulting and Advisory Pty Ltd concluded their work at the end of March 2022 and all deliverables have been handed over to SANBI. The system specifications document formed a key input into the system build phase	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
-1 COMPONENT 1: Strengthening Capacity and information systems for effective management of wildlife trade monitoring	Activity 1.2.2: Design a national monitoring system for use across the SAoSA membership	2025-12-31	30	80	The design stage is completed. The system has now been developed and piloted. It is now awaiting migration to the Azure cloud server at SANBI. The bid evaluation for the Azure services took place around April 22nd to 23rd, and we expect the process to move forward to the BAC, which is likely scheduled to meet around July 2025	S
-1 COMPONENT 1: Strengthening Capacity and information systems for effective management of wildlife trade monitoring	Activity 1.2.3: Hold training workshop on how to input data to the system and their subsequent analyses	2025-12-31	0	75	User guidelines developed and updated during pilot phase. First training workshop held in May 2024 with provincial management authorities (attended by 52 participants from all management authorities) Training workshops will continue once the system is live	S
-1 COMPONENT 1: Strengthening Capacity and information	Activity 1.2.4: Produce and disseminate communication materials on new working model	2025-12-31	0	40	To be completed once the system has gone live on SANBI servers.	MU

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
systems for effective management of wildlife trade monitoring						
-1 COMPONENT 1: Strengthening Capacity and information systems for effective management of wildlife trade monitoring	Activity 1.2.5: Develop and roll-out a national monitoring and reporting system	2025-12-31	10	65	User guides and video tutorials are now available for SAWPS. The pilot phase was done before the system went down and will be rolled out more fully, including with the private sector ones the system goes live. Management authorities engaged on how to use and input data into system. SANBI presented SAWPS to the Lion Management Forum on to demonstrate its capabilities and request lion data to be integrated into the system. It was well-received, and the Lion data has been received from DFFE and the Lion Management Forum.	MS
-1 COMPONENT 1: Strengthening Capacity and information systems for effective management of wildlife	Activity 1.2.6: Case studies are carried out for key species subject to illegal wildlife trade	2025-12-31	15	55	Elephant case study is in draft form and rhino database is being sourced from DFFE along with in situ data from provincial management authorities. Elephant case study almost ready to be submitted to a journal	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
trade monitoring						

The Task Manager will decide on the relevant level of disaggregation (i.e. either at the output or activity level).

4 Risks

4.1 Table A. Project management Risk

Please refer to the Risk Help Sheet for more details on rating

Risk Factor	EA Rating	TM Rating
1 Management structure - Roles and responsibilities	Low	Low
2 Governance structure - Oversight	Low	Low
3 Implementation schedule	Moderate	Low
4 Budget	Low	Low
5 Financial Management	Moderate	Low
6 Reporting	Substantial	Low
7 Capacity to deliver	Low	Low

If any of the risk factors is rated a Moderate or higher, please include it in Table B below

4.2 Table B. Risk-log

Implementation Status (Current PIR)

Insert ALL the risks identified either at CEO endorsement (inc. safeguards screening), previous/current PIRs, and MTRs. Use the last line to propose a suggested consolidated rating.

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
Inability of government to meet its financial and co-financial commitments	Outcomes 1-3	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	=	
Weak institutional capacity	All outcomes and outputs	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	=	
Lack of capacity to mentor young	Outcome 1	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	=	

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
professionals and interns										
Inability to absorb young professionals and interns into participating organizations	Outcome 1	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	=	
Lack of participation by scientific services	Outcome 1	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	=	
Limited internet infrastructure in the provinces	Outcome 1 and 2	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	=	
Lack of participation of the private sector in the monitoring system	Outcomes 1 and 2	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	=	
Reduced commitment to CBNRM aspect of project objective and outcomes due to change in Government	All outcomes	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	=	
Security concerns related to data and information sharing for key species of concern	Outcome 1	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	=	
Incorrect profiling and selection of Community Environmental Monitors	Outcome 3	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	=	
								L	=	

4.3 Table C. Outstanding Moderate, Significant, and High risks

Additional mitigation measures for the next periods

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom

High Risk (H): There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks. Significant Risk (S): There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks. Moderate Risk (M): There is a probability of

between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks. Low Risk (L): There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.

5 Amendment - GeoSpatial

Project Minor Amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines. Please tick each category for which a change occurred in the fiscal year of reporting and provide a description of the change that occurred in the textbox. You may attach supporting document as appropriate

5.1 Table A: Listing of all Minor Amendment (TM)

Minor Amendments	Changes
Results Framework:	No
Components and Cost:	No
Institutional and implementation arrangements:	No
Financial Management:	No
Implementation Schedule:	
Executing Entity:	No
Executing Entity Category:	No
Minor project objective change:	No
Safeguards:	No
Risk analysis:	No
Increase of GEF financing up to 5%:	No
Location of project activity:	No
Other:	No

Minor amendments

5.2 Table B: History of project revisions and/or extensions (TM)

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP	Entry Into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP	Entry Into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision
Amendment 1 to Original PCA	Extension	2023-06-23	2024-02-14	2026-12-31	No cost extension
Amendment 2	Revision	2024-05-20	2024-08-23	2026-03-31	Allow UNEP Ecosystems Division to transfer funds to the UNEP- World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) (USD200.000) for delivery of Component 2 activities

GEO Location Information:

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as OpenStreetMap or GeoNames use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking here

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
Northern Cluster	30.97	-22.50		Makuya	Environmental monitor fence monitoring and area integrity reportingMakuleke Contractual National Park area integrity managementMutele livelihood projects (agriculture. greening. Awelani Management

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
					Plan)HWC management Environmental monitor fence monitoring and area integrity reportingHWC management Livelihood project support and environmental awareness – waste economy. livestock - wildlife interface
Central Cluster	31.45	-24.98		Sabie river @ Lisbon	Environmental monitor fence monitoring and area integrity reportingHWC management Livelihood project support and environmental awareness – waste economy. livestock - wildlife interface
Sothern Cluster	31.35	-25.52		Matsulu	Environmental monitor fence monitoring and area integrity reportingHWC management Livelihood project support and environmental awareness – waste economy. Traditional Healers. Youth Environmental Forum

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions is taking place as appropriate. *

[Annex any linked geospatial file]