Wildlife Conservation Bond Operation (P174097)

EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA | South Africa | IBRD/IDA | Investment Project Financing (IPF) | FY 2022 | Seq No: 10 | Archived on 04-Jun-2026 | ISR07789

Implementing Agencies: South African National Parks (SANParks), The Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA)

1. OBJECTIVE

1.1 Development Objective

Original Development Objective (Approved as part of Approval package on 10-Sep-2021)

To increase black rhino populations in target protected areas in South Africa.

Has the Development Objective been changed since Board Approval of the Project Objective?

No

2. COMPONENTS

Name
Improved Rhino Conservation Management:(Cost 8,000,000.00)
National/Regional Enabling Conditions to coordinate share security and research opportunities:(Cost 500,000.00)
Project management and monitoring:(Cost 500,000.00)

3. OVERALL RATINGS

Name	Previous	Current
Progress towards achievement of PDO	Highly Satisfactory	Highly Satisfactory
Overall Implementation Progress (IP)	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	Substantial	Substantial

4. KEY ISSUES & STATUS

4.1 Implementation Status and Key Decisions

The South Africa Wildlife Conservation Bond (WCB) was issued on March 31, 2022, and the project was declared effective on March 28, 2022. To date, 92 percent of the total project funds have been deposited into SANParks and Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA) accounts in nine separate payments. Key project staff have been appointed in both the project areas and received the necessary training; Environmental and Social Framework instruments developed for the project are being used to guide project activities and also monitored on a periodic basis; procurement packages were successfully processed, and monitoring effectiveness continues to be a priority. Procurement, financial management, and environmental and social performance ratings remain satisfactory. The T0-T4 estimations were completed and the Rhino Population Growth Rate (CAGR) stands at nearly 8% at T4.

5. SYSTEMATIC OPERATIONS RISK-RATING TOOL

Risk Category	Rating at Approval Approval Package - 10 Sep 2021	Last Approved Rating ISR Seq. 09 - 28 Nov 2025	Proposed Rating
Political and Governance	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Macroeconomic	Substantial	Substantial	Substantial
Sector Strategies and Policies	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Technical Design of Project or Program	Substantial	Substantial	Substantial
Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Fiduciary	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Environment and Social	Substantial	Substantial	Substantial
Stakeholders	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Overall	Substantial	Substantial	Substantial

6. RESULTS

6.1 PDO Indicators by PDO Outcomes

To increase black rhino population in target sites								
Indicator Name	Baseline		Actual (Previous)		Actual (Current)		Closing Period	
	Value	Month/Year	Value	Date	Value	Date	Value	Month/Year
Percent increase of black rhino population in target sites (RPGR) (Number)	-3.70	Dec/2021	8.00	31-Dec-2024	7.83	31-Dec-2025	4.00	Dec/2026
	Comments on achieving targets							

6.2 Intermediate Results Indicators by Components

Improved Rhino Conservation Management								
Indicator Name	Baseline		Actual (Previous)		Actual (Current)		Closing Period	
	Value	Month/Year	Value	Date	Value	Date	Value	Month/Year
Area under improved management (Hectare (Ha))	0.00	Dec/2021	154,826	31-Oct-2025	154,826	31-Oct-2025	153,141.00	Dec/2026
	Comments on achieving targets		SanParks and EPTCA staff will undertake various actions to improve the management of target protected areas (PAs): including habitat management, range availability (AENP), rhino population management, containment and counter-poaching, monitoring, community engagement, and enabling conditions. Improvements to the management of PAs will be					

			assessed using the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT). The METT is commonly used to assess the management of PAs through assessing different dimensions of management including legal and regulatory framework, law enforcement capacity, planning, management plans, budget and resources, and staff capacity. The METT comprises 42 indicators, from which a maximum score of 99 is derived. This indicator measures the PAs in hectares, for which management has been improved. PA management is considered to be improved when there is an increase compared to a PA's baseline METT score. The total area of PAs whose management has been improved will be measured through this indicator.					
Great Fish River Nature Reserve (Hectare (Ha))	0.00	Dec/2021	42,877	31-Oct-2025	42,877	31-Oct-2025	42,877.00	Dec/2026
	Comments on achieving targets		Same as indicator.					
Addo Elephant National Park (Hectare (Ha))	0.00	Dec/2021	111,949	31-Oct-2025	111,949	31-Oct-2025	110,264.00	Dec/2026
	Comments on achieving targets		Same as indicator.					
Beneficiaries of project interventions (Number)	629.00	Dec/2021	2,657	31-Oct-2025	2,657	31-Oct-2025	2,306.00	Dec/2026
	Comments on achieving targets		The baseline number of beneficiaries compromise of the staff currently employed on a permanent basis. Other beneficiaries currently include project staff on the following programs: Working for water, Working on Fire, Working on ecosystems and Environmental monitors (All funded by DFFE but implemented by SANParks). SANParks further employs temporary staff that works on an ad hoc basis. The Department of Tourism also fund 2 teams that fulfil maintenance functions. Through the project SANParks will appoint staff as per budget in the following categories: Rangers, Monitors, Gate guards, JOC staff and a project manager. Furthermore there will be employment opportunities during construction phase of new infrastructure as well as maintaining current infrastructure.					
Gender Equity in Conservation Services (female/%) (Percentage)	22.00	Dec/2021	28.00	31-Oct-2025	28.00	31-Oct-2025	27.00	Dec/2026
	Comments on achieving targets		This indicator will capture increases in female representation within the conservation services staff of both parks.					
	31.00	Dec/2021	33.00	31-Oct-2025	33.00	31-Oct-2025	36.00	Dec/2026

Great Fish River Nature Reserve (Percentage)	Comments on achieving targets		Same as indicator.					
Addo Elephant National Park (Percentage)	16.00	Dec/2021	23	31-Oct-2024	23	31-Oct-2024	21.00	Dec/2026
	Comments on achieving targets		Same as indicator.					
Rhino mortality rate (3-year average < 4%) (Percentage)	4.00	Dec/2021	1.70	31-Oct-2025	1.97	31-Mar-2026	4.00	Dec/2026
	Comments on achieving targets		This metric is derived from the last two years of data (2021 and 2022). Future reporting periods will include a 3-year average.					
Great Fish River Nature Reserve (Percentage)	4.00	Dec/2021	1.51	31-Oct-2025	2.01	31-Mar-2026	4.00	Dec/2026
	Comments on achieving targets		Same as indicator.					
Addo Elephant National Park (Percentage)	4.00	Dec/2021	1.91	31-Oct-2025	1.99	31-Mar-2026	4.00	Dec/2026
	Comments on achieving targets		Same as indicator.					
Number of rangers per square kilometer (Text)	0,029 ranger / square km	Dec/2021	0,083	31-Oct-202	0,083	31-Oct-202	0,059 ranger / square km	Dec/2026
	Comments on achieving targets		SANParks currently do employ rangers in the different sections of the park. For the benefit of the program only the sections that have rhino currently (Darlington, Nyathi, Main camp and Colchester) and those that will receive rhino during the course of the project (Kabouga) will be used. This would be calculated by the size of the area (section) and the number of rangers employed per section. This would be done for the baseline as well as during the project phase. Area coverage could be determined through the CMORE progra					
Great Fish River Nature Reserve (Text)	0,029 ranger / square km	Dec/2021	0,086	31-Oct-202	0,086	31-Oct-202	0,059 ranger / square km	Dec/2026
	Comments on achieving targets		Same as indicator.					

Addo Elephant National Park (Text)	0,029 ranger / square km	Dec/2021	0,082	31-Oct-202	0,082	31-Oct-202	0,059 ranger / square km	Dec/2026
	Comments on achieving targets		Same as indicator.					

7. DATA ON FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

7.1 Cumulative Disbursements



7.2 Disbursements (by loan)

Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Original	Revised	Cancelled	Disbursed	Undisbursed	Historical Disbursed	% Disbursed
TF-B6356	Effective	6.88	6.88	0.00	0.00	6.88	0.00	0%
TF-B6463	Effective	6.88	6.88	0.00	0.00	6.88	0.00	0%

7.3 Key Dates (by loan)

Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Approval	Signing	Effectiveness	Orig. Closing	Rev. Closing
TF-B6356	Effective	16-Aug-2021	24-Mar-2022	28-Mar-2022	29-Oct-2027	29-Oct-2027

TF-B6463	Effective	16-Aug-2021	17-Mar-2022	28-Mar-2022	29-Oct-2027	29-Oct-2027

8. KEY DATES

Key Events	Planned	Actual
Approval	10-Sep-2021	10-Sep-2021
Effectiveness	28-Mar-2022	28-Mar-2022
Mid-Term Review No. 01	01-Nov-2024	01-Nov-2024
Operation Closing/Cancellation	29-Oct-2027	

9. RESTRUCTURING HISTORY

10. ASSOCIATED OPERATION(S)

There are no associated operations