

GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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General Project Information

Project Title

Conservation, development and livelihoods for thriving people and nature

Region

Africa

GEF Project ID

11448

Country(ies)

South Africa

Type of Project

FSP

GEF Agency(ies):

UNDP

GEF Agency Project ID

9745

Project Executing Entity(s)

South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)

Project Executing Type

Government

GEF Focal Area (s)

Biodiversity

Submission Date

6/19/2025

Type of Trust Fund

GET

Project Duration (Months)

60

GEF Project Grant: (a)

4,416,208.00

GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)

0.00

Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)

419,540.00

Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)

0.00

Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)

4,835,748.00

Total Co-financing

13,709,398.00

PPG Amount: (e)

150,000.00

PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)

14,250.00

Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)

4,999,998.00

Project Tags

CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No Competitive Window: No

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Taxonomy

Deploy innovative financial instruments, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Civil Society, Stakeholders, Beneficiaries, Local Communities, Type of Engagement, Indigenous Peoples, Communications, Private Sector, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Community Based Organization, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Partnership, Participation, Education, Behavior change, Awareness Raising, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, Large corporations, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Innovation, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Learning, Capacity Development, Adaptive management, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access to benefits and services, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership, Biodiversity, Focal Areas, Forest, Land Degradation, Climate Change, Integrated Programs, Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa, Resilience to climate and shocks, Sustainable Production Systems, Diversified Farming, Integrated Land and Water Management, Small and Medium Enterprises, Food Value Chains, Gender Dimensions, Multi-stakeholder Platforms, Sustainable Commodities Production, Commodity Supply Chains, Smallholder Farmers, Adaptive Management, Sustainable Food Systems, Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration, Landscape Restoration, Sustainable Commodity Production, Comprehensive Land Use Planning, Deforestation-free Sourcing, Smallholder Farming, Integrated Landscapes, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Productive Seascapes, Productive Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Extractive Industries, Mainstreaming, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Tourism, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Fisheries, Illegal Wildlife Trade, Species, Threatened Species, Wildlife for Sustainable Development, Plant Genetic Resources, Livestock Wild Relatives, Invasive Alien Species, Wetlands, Biomes, Rivers, Desert, Grasslands, Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting, Financial and Accounting, Conservation Finance, Conservation Trust Funds, Payment for Ecosystem Services, Supplementary Protocol to the CBD, Access to Genetic Resources Benefit Sharing, REDD - REDD+, Forest and Landscape Restoration, Drylands, Sustainable Land Management, Sustainable Agriculture, Drought Mitigation, Sustainable Fire Management, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Sustainable Pasture Management, Income Generating Activities, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Ecosystem Approach, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Sustainable Forest, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Livelihoods, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Productivity, Land Cover and Land cover change, Carbon stocks above or below ground, Food Security, Climate Change Adaptation, Disaster risk management, Sea-level rise, Climate resilience, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Adaptation Tech Transfer, Mainstreaming adaptation, Private sector, Complementarity, Community-based adaptation, Livelihoods

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	No Contribution 0	Principal Objective 2	Significant Objective 1

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? (iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

South Africa hosts internationally significant biodiversity but faces severe socio-economic developmental challenges with human-induced activities putting pressure on biodiversity and its benefits. Due to the country's political history and the current emphasis on economic growth, conservation while technically well developed is not yet recognized as a land/sea use that can contribute to a sustainable and vibrant economy. Following the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, more than 16 million hectares must be conserved for South Africa to meet the 30x30 target. In line with the GEF-8 Strategy, the project goal is to expand conservation areas through integrated approaches that promote protection and sustainable use of biodiversity for thriving people and nature. This project aims to directly contribute 360,000 ha to the conservation estate; with benefits to 65,466 (51.8% women) people; and contribute to GEF Core Indicators 1.1, 4.1, 5.4, 6 and 11. To achieve this, the project will enhance collaboration, strengthen capacity and scale up the biodiversity stewardship programme in the Limpopo and Northern Cape Provinces;

strengthen the enabling environment for mainstreaming biodiversity in key sectors at the national level; enhance the flow of biodiversity benefits for communities and local economic development; and strengthen the evidence base of benefits through natural capital accounting and knowledge management to strengthen the case for more investment in biodiversity conservation and protected area expansion. New and emerging approaches to optimizing the wildlife-based economy will be applied and broadened with GEBs of the conservation and sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity with fair and equitable benefit sharing.

Project Description Overview

Project Objective

To strengthen a transformative enabling environment for indigenous people and local communities, non-governmental organisations, government, and private sector to play a positive role in expanding the conservation estate, sustainably using biodiversity and enhancing economic development in two provinces.

Project Components

Component 1: Enabling the environment strengthened to conserve landscapes and seascapes with benefits to biodiversity, development and rural livelihoods

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
280,511.00	3,084,615.00

Outcome:

Outcome 1.1: Strengthened institutional arrangements and specialist expertise support effective functioning of biodiversity stewardship and related programmes.

Indicator 5: National multi-sectoral inter-government authorities' coordination platform in place and functional (IAC) (has met five times by end-term) with designated gender focal points attending each meeting and gender integrated as a standing agenda item.

Indicator 6: The legal capacity in SANBI is strengthened.

Outcome 1.2: Enhanced policy frameworks, regulatory instruments, and planning tools support the on-going mainstreaming and implementation of mechanisms for biodiversity conservation across key economic sectors.

Indicator 7: Revised Biodiversity Stewardship Guidelines mainstreamed into relevant policy frameworks, regulatory instruments, and/or planning tools of key economic sectors to support transformative and gender responsive outcomes that address the specific needs and roles of different women, men, and gender-diverse groups through conservation (2 instruments/tools by end-term).

Indicator 8: National marine and coastal systematic conservation plan developed and approved for implementation (by end-term).

Output:

1.1.1. Inter-government Authorities Committee (IAC) for Conservation with Transformative Outcomes is established and functions as a multi-sectoral coordination platform to accelerate the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme.

1.1.2. A gender inclusive centralised legal support unit is established and provides technical advice to the Biodiversity Stewardship Legal Reference Group and provincial authorities involved in the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme

1.2.1. Gender responsive policy and guidelines developed/ revised to address barriers in declaration/ recognition and support expansion of conservation estate in all realms.

1.2.2. Gender responsive conservation objectives mainstreamed into policy and programmes of relevant sectors (such as tourism and agriculture).

1.2.3. National marine systematic conservation plan for expansion of conservation estate in marine and coastal ecosystems developed with equal participation of men and women.

2. Biodiversity conserved in a manner that benefits communities and local economies for transformative outcomes in two provinces

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
3,463,076.00	3,084,615.00

Outcome:

2.1. Strengthened capacity of provincial institutions and collaboration between public sector, private sector, NGOs and communities result in increased conservation status and sustainable management of landscapes and seascapes in Limpopo and Northern Cape provinces in South Africa.

Indicator 9: Capacity of selected institutions in the two provinces to manage biodiversity strengthened through addition of 2 x Biodiversity Stewardship Facilitators and 2 x Ecologists.

2.2: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use result in benefits for communities and local economic development and support transformation of the biodiversity sector.

Indicator 10: Number of alternative livelihood interventions benefiting affected communities with disaggregated data showing equitable participation and benefits for women, men, and gender-diverse groups.

2.3: Connected communities of practice strengthen biodiversity conservation and transformative outcomes.

Indicator 11: Functional multi-stakeholder collaboration forums at national and landscape levels in place and regularly convened, with gender integrated as a standing agenda item and the forums including representation of designated gender focal points and balanced participation of women and men in decision-making processes:

- i) Biennial National Biodiversity Stewardship Conference;
- ii) annual landscape platform;

- iii) two National Land Reform and Biodiversity stewardship learning exchanges.
- iv) Two peer to peer learning exchanges between Limpopo and Northern Cape are convened

Output:

- 2.1.1. Four (4) new protected areas are created in landscapes of Limpopo (Mapungubwe to Makuleke; Kruger to Lephahale-Kalahari) and Northern Cape (Augrabies to Namaqua; Kimberley to Kuruman;) provinces with equal participation of men and women.
- 2.1.2. Gender inclusive landscapes in Limpopo and Northern Cape and seascapes adjacent to Northern Cape coast are conserved and under improved management practices through terrestrial and marine OECMs.
- 2.1.3. Institutional capacity is strengthened in the two provinces
- 2.2.1. Gender responsive analysis conducted characterising stakeholder livelihoods and status of designated groups in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in the areas of implementation.
- 2.2.2. Gender responsive alternative livelihood opportunities and/or new economic activities from biodiversity conservation and sustainable use supported (e.g., community-based tourism, community horticulture initiatives or conservation agriculture) are created for designated groups in the target areas leading to transformation of the biodiversity sector.
- 2.2.3. Value created through equal participation of men and women in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and benefits to communities and local economies measured, documented and used to make the case.
- 2.3.1. Gender inclusive and responsive communities of practice at national and more localised levels supporting biodiversity conservation for transformative outcomes are regularly convened.
- 2.3.2. Gender inclusive and responsive capacity building events targeting practitioners at the local level..

3. Knowledge management enables biodiversity benefits, dependencies, risks and opportunities to be better known and communicated to support making the case for biodiversity conservation.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
124,009.00	3,084,615.00

Outcome:

Outcome 3.1: Data ecosystem (people, systems, and data) related to biodiversity and ecosystems are strengthened to improve data offering related to biodiversity benefits and support reporting and communication.

Indicator 12: Integrated relational databases for all protected areas and conservation areas in South Africa developed and functional, with mechanisms in place to systematically collect, disaggregate, and report gender-sensitive data on access, benefits, and participation of women, men, and gender-diverse groups in these areas

Indicator 13: System for measurement of investment in biodiversity and ecosystems developed and functional (framework with standardised indicators and workflow by mid-term, functional

3.2. Biodiversity-related analysis, accounts and indicators are produced to support integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes.

Indicator 14: Number of national natural capital accounts developed (four)

Indicator 15: Number of knowledge and communication products developed/generated(10 products)

Output:

3.1.1. Spatially explicit relational database of OECMS (compatible with the Protected Areas and Conservation Areas (PACA) database and linked to the biodiversity offset register) developed and functional.

3.1.2. Gender responsive framework and workflow for standardized spatially explicit measurement of investments in biodiversity and ecosystems (in terms of extent, employment and expenditure) by multiple actors to support knowledge of benefits and impact evaluation developed.

3.2.1. Ecosystem accounts for different realms (terrestrial, wetland and river) and accounts for protected areas and conservation areas developed with equal participation of men and women; and data flows to enable regular production.

3.2.2. Gender responsive Biodiversity Economy Satellite Accounts and Environmental Protection Expenditure Accounts developed with data flows to enable regular production.

3.2.3. Gender responsive knowledge resources, drawing on science-based information from accounts and other analysis, translate information for uptake in relevant sectors and levels of government to support making the case for biodiversity conservation.

4. Effective implementation of and adherence to all gender and risk management requirements

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
202,959.00	3,084,615.00

Outcome:

4.1: Implementation of and adherence to all gender and risk management requirements ensure the integrity of all project interventions.

Indicator 16: Level of compliance with all safeguards, SEP and GAP requirements.

Output:

4.1.1: Project-level safeguards and risk management measures, including gender action plan and stakeholder engagement plan developed and implemented.

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
142,600.00	685,468.00

Outcome:

Monitoring that is responsive to gender, youth, IPLCs and people with disabilities is conducted for project interventions and supports evaluation of project impact.

Output:

Gender responsive project monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning (MERL) system set-up and supports quarterly and annual reporting, as well as mid-term and terminal evaluation.

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Component 1: Enabling the environment strengthened to conserve landscapes and seascapes with benefits to biodiversity, development and rural livelihoods	280,511.00	3,084,615.00
2. Biodiversity conserved in a manner that benefits communities and local economies for transformative outcomes in two provinces	3,463,076.00	3,084,615.00
3. Knowledge management enables biodiversity benefits, dependencies, risks and opportunities to be better known and communicated to support making the case for biodiversity conservation.	124,009.00	3,084,615.00
4. Effective implementation of and adherence to all gender and risk management requirements	202,959.00	3,084,615.00
M&E	142,600.00	685,468.00
Subtotal	4,213,155.00	13,023,928.00
Project Management Cost	203,053.00	685,470.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	4,416,208.00	13,709,398.00

Please provide Justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

South Africa is internationally recognized as a country with rich and globally significant biodiversity, including 67 000 animal species and over 20 400 plant species, more than half of which are endemic (SANBI, 2019). Despite a long history of conservation effort, its colonial and apartheid past, coupled with the current political drive for economic growth; have entrenched a disconnection between

society and nature. Consequently, the country's biodiversity resources are being lost and its capacity to achieve the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework target to put 30% of its area under conservation by 2030, i.e. more than 16 million hectares, is becoming increasingly out of reach. An important manifestation of this disconnect is the dwindling financial resource base of the country's national and provincial conservation authorities whose ability to effectively manage the existing protected and conservation area (PCA) estate is becoming increasingly compromised; compounded by current limited capacities to implement their respective Protected Area Expansion Strategies (PAES). The country is thus incurring significant opportunity costs leading to an increase in its social and economic vulnerability, which is exacerbated by the impacts of climate change.

For a number of decades now the South African conservation fraternity has been effective in applying the Biodiversity Stewardship approach to securing additional land under conservation management. Coupled with this is the emergence of innovative thinking and approaches to securing sustainable conservation financing such as through the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) Wildlife-based Economy Strategy Framework (SADC, 2023), the work of the Sustainable Finance Coalition (<https://sustainablefinancecoalition.org/>) and other similar Communities of Practice. This project therefore needs to strongly influence the legal and policy enabling environment at the national, provincial and local levels to increase uptake of the Biodiversity Stewardship approach within sectors that traditionally cause negative environmental impacts (i.e., mining and agriculture), as well as within those sectors responsible for the formal recognition of areas secured under Biodiversity Stewardship agreements. In parallel to this, the project will work to strengthen the case for Biodiversity Stewardship through the expansion of the protected and conserved areas in the Northern Cape and Limpopo provinces with the application of innovative approaches that realize tangible, sustainable and transformative outcomes for the land owners and affected communities in the priority land- and seascapes. Emanating from these outcomes will be knowledge gained from the lessons learned and which will be used to positively influence the application of the Biodiversity Stewardship approach in the country as a whole.

It is assumed that if the above outcomes are achieved through this project, that the country's decision-makers will embrace the need to recognize conservation as a legitimate land/sea use that contributes to societal well-being and economic resilience. This recognition will manifest in increased and sustained financial support and investment into securing the integrity of the country's biodiversity assets in the long-term. However, the barriers that need to be overcome include the country's unemployment situation, i.e. 42%, with unemployed youth being at 60% (source: <https://tradingeconomics.com/south-africa/unemployment-rate>) and the government's focus on economic growth as being the only way to address this situation. Irreversible biodiversity loss is perpetuated through economic activities such as agriculture, plantation forestry, urban development, and mining; whose contribution is measured in the use of the limited metric of GDP (gross domestic product) which does not factor in the opportunity costs of biodiversity loss. The project will seek to influence this paradigm through improved and fully integrated Natural Capital Accounting at the national level but informed by the lessons learned from the transformative outcomes achieved in the two provinces.

If the global conservation fraternity were to take an objective introspection, it would have to admit that traditional approaches to convince decision-makers of the need to put land and sea areas aside for conservation based on the motivation that species and/or ecosystems are threatened, have not been successful. In addition to this, the way in which many PCAs are managed to the exclusion of affected communities, has also not generated the support needed. It is therefore essential that new innovative and transformative approaches are applied to fully integrate conservation as a land/sea use that produces and delivers vital life-supporting ecosystem services which are crucial to underpin the resilience of society and the economy. The Biodiversity Stewardship approach, inclusive of the IUCN's Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECM) approach, has been shown to be a more effective and efficient way to expand the conservation estate than through formal and state run PCAs. If this approach can be bolstered by demonstrations of long-term and tangible benefits from the sustainable use of the biodiversity assets, it is likely that support for the approach will be generated at the local level, and this will serve to influence the enabling environment and decision-making at the national, provincial and local levels.

The project involves a diverse range of stakeholders, including private landowners; communities under traditional leadership or municipal governance; Communal Property Associations (CPAs); NGOs and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) engaged in biodiversity conservation; and government departments at national, provincial, and local levels.

Stakeholder engagement will be conducted through community consultations and workshops aimed at supporting Protected Areas expansion and co-designing sustainable livelihood initiatives that enhance local economies over the five-year project duration.

The following stakeholder groups require specific procedures to ensure their buy-in:

- **Communities under Traditional Leadership:** Engagement will commence with the National House of Traditional Leaders, followed by provincial houses. Upon receiving their endorsement, traditional leaders will be consulted within their respective communities, following customary processes.

- Communal Property Associations (CPAs): As legally recognized land-holding entities, CPAs will be engaged through direct meetings with board representatives. This will be followed by workshops with CPA members and land claimants.
- Khoi-San Indigenous Communities: Predominantly located in the Northern Cape, these communities will be consulted through the National Khoi-San Council. Engagement will include initial presentations, followed by separate workshops with the Khoi-Khoi and San Councils, and subsequently at the community level. This approach aligns with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES) Standard 6 (Indigenous Peoples).

During the first three years, stakeholder engagement will focus on implementation for Protected Area Expansion Strategies (PAESs) through three-day workshops held every second month in the priority areas. These sessions will be critical for securing stakeholder buy-in, conducting gender sensitisation, and co-developing stakeholder-led, alternative sustainable livelihood strategies. In years four and five, capacity-building workshops will be held with Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) to promote sustainable land management practices.

It is important to note that the many workshops that will be facilitated throughout project implementation are designed to build on each other and will translate into actual conservation interventions on the ground. The focus of the workshops will evolve from having more of a planning content, to capacity building and to actual implementation. The integration of gender equity requirements into project implementation will feature in these workshops and also facilitate the gathering of relevant data required to support tracking against project indicators. Note also that given the wide geographic scope of this project, many workshops will be required to ensure that as many stakeholders as possible are engaged in project implementation.

The intended beneficiaries are community members, including women, men, and non-binary individuals. Special attention will be given to vulnerable groups such as rural women, female-headed households, persons with disabilities, LGBTQI individuals, farmworkers, and fisherwomen. Recognizing the influence of patriarchal norms, these groups will be engaged through dedicated sessions scheduled at convenient times and locations, using preferred local languages. Childcare stipends will be provided where feasible.

A gender-responsive approach will be integrated across all stakeholder engagements to challenge and transform harmful gender norms. Sensitisation workshops will be embedded within broader consultation processes. A formal grievance mechanism will be available through local, provincial, and national channels. Additionally, stakeholders will be informed about the UNDP Stakeholder Response Mechanism to ensure transparency and accountability throughout project implementation.

There will essentially be three spheres of partnerships working towards the achievement of this project's overall objective and these will be as follows:

- At the national level the DFFE and SANBI will work together to influence the decision-making processes of other government sectors and the private sector where these are in conflict with the achievement of biodiversity conservation objectives. As such it is envisaged that these sectors will embrace biodiversity conservation considerations to the extent that they become partners in the country's endeavours to meet its 30x30 target and that the enabling environment for the latter will be significantly improved.
- At the provincial level the conservation authorities, SANParks, relevant NGOs, the private sector and affected IP&LCs will work together to implement their PAESs in such a way that transformative outcomes are realized and that the livelihoods of IP&LCs are made to be more resilient and sustainable.
- At both the national and provincial levels all of the above will work together to ensure that the lessons learned from the biodiversity stewardship work in the two provinces will be tracked, measured and reported on so as to inform and enhance the way in which biodiversity conservation is perceived as a legitimate use of land- and seascapes; and that the NCA system for the country is further developed to more accurately and comprehensively reflect the value of the country's natural asset base.

The role of the private sector is of particular importance as it is within this sector that the successful mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation will manifest, particularly where conflicting and unsustainable land uses are influenced to avoid and/or successfully mitigate their negative impacts and have a positive impact on biodiversity. Additionally, there are large parcels of land that are under private tenure, and which have been identified as key contributors to the achievement of the various PAESs. Here the Biodiversity Stewardship processes will work with the land owners to facilitate and negotiate conservation agreements and the declaration of these land parcels as PCAs.

The gazetted White Paper on the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in South Africa (DFFE, 2023) promotes the sustainable use of biodiversity and recognizes that biodiversity-based economic activities increase livelihood opportunities and enhance the resilience of communities, especially in rural landscapes. South Africa is fortunate to have a large biodiversity economy and has subscribed and contributed to the development of the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) Wildlife-based Economy Strategy Framework, whose vision is "An abundant SADC wildlife-based economy is actively contributing to transformative economic growth, employment creation and generating equitable opportunities, that enhances the sustainable quality of life for all within the region" (SADC, 2023).

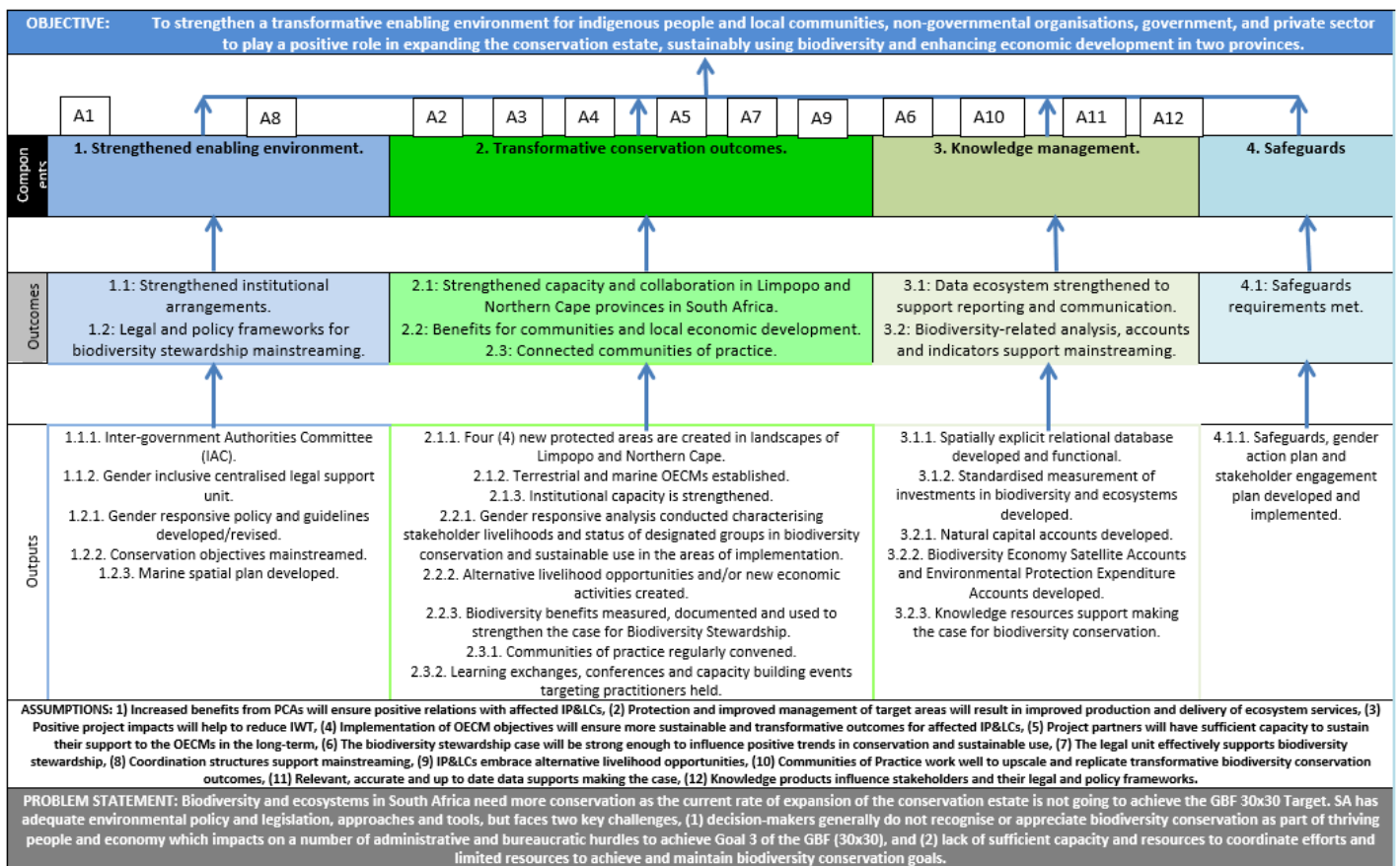
As a signatory of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), South Africa is committed to achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) goals and targets, with this project focused on contributing to the 30x30 target through up-scaling of the Biodiversity Stewardship programme. The establishment and growth of biodiversity stewardship as a mechanism for expansion of the conservation estate in South Africa has been significantly supported by previous GEF projects, such as in: GEF 4 Grasslands Programme which supported work to mainstream the conservation of the grassland biome into a number of sectors; GEF 5 Biodiversity and Land Use project, which supported the declaration of 37,000 ha as protected areas while facilitating the growing community of practice for biodiversity stewardship; and GEF 7 project, which focuses on biodiversity stewardship linked to the wildlife economy.

SANBI have submitted another proposal (GEF ID 12028) which overlaps in some areas with this project. These parallel and synergistic projects will be implemented to enhance the outcomes of each without the allocated resources being applied across the projects so as to avoid double accounting. Although there are geographic overlaps, funding and operations will be strictly managed in a way that enhances effective implementation of both projects.

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

ANNEX I: THEORY OF CHANGE



The Theory of Change (Annex I in the CEO ER) for this project has as its problem statement that biodiversity and ecosystems in South Africa need more conservation action and outcomes. The current rate of expansion of the conservation estate is not going to achieve the GBF 30x30 target, so there is an urgent need to scale up interventions. South Africa has adequate environmental policy and legislation, approaches and tools; but faces two key challenges :

1. Decision-makers still do not recognize or appreciate biodiversity and conservation as part of a thriving people and economy; and
2. There is a lack of sufficient capacity and resources to coordinate efforts to achieve and maintain biodiversity conservation goals.

Although it is well known, accepted and published by the global conservation fraternity that effectively managed natural areas produce and deliver vital life-supporting ecosystem goods and services that underpin social and economic resilience (IPBES, 2019); this project assumes that if this fact can be demonstrated and communicated more clearly to IP&LCs, key private sector players and all of government; together with the NGO sector; decision-makers will be positively influenced to integrate biodiversity conservation into their legal and policy frameworks and that this will manifest in more conservation compatible decisions related to land and sea use and management. It is also assumed that this will manifest in greater support for the country's efforts to expand the conservation estate towards achievement of the 30x30 target. The project objective is therefore:

To strengthen a transformative enabling environment that empowers Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IP&LCs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), government, and the private sector to actively contribute to the expansion of South Africa's conservation estate through sustainable biodiversity use, strengthened governance frameworks, and nature-based economic development in two provinces.

The term "strengthen" has replaced the term "develop" that was used in the objective provided in the PIF and this is because key stakeholders pointed out that the enabling environment exists, but that it needs to be strengthened.

In order to achieve this objective, the project has both a national and a provincial focus. The national focus is captured in Components 1 and 3 which speak to the strengthening of the enabling environment and knowledge management respectively; while Component 2 is aimed at the practical implementation of protected area expansion with transformative outcomes in two provinces, which will be used to inform Component 1 through Component 3. Component 4 covers implementation of the gender and risk

management requirements. For a detailed list of activities under each output see Annex 4b (Activity-based Log-frame) and brief summaries under the description of each Component.

More specifically **Component 1** is: **Enabling environment** strengthened to conserve landscapes and seascapes with benefits to biodiversity, development and rural livelihoods; and which includes two Outcomes; namely: Outcome 1.1: Strengthened institutional arrangements and specialist expertise support effective functioning of Biodiversity Stewardship and related programmes; to be achieved through: *Output 1.1.1*: Inter-government Authorities Committee (IAC) for Conservation with Transformative Outcomes is established/strengthened and functions as a multi-sectoral coordination platform to accelerate the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme; *Outputs 1.1.2*: A gender inclusive centralized legal support unit is established and provides technical advice to the Biodiversity Stewardship Legal Reference Group and provincial authorities involved in the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme; and Outcome 1.2: [Enhanced] policy frameworks, regulatory instruments, and planning tools support the on-going mainstreaming and implementation of mechanisms for biodiversity conservation across key economic sectors; to be achieved through: *Output 1.2.1*: Gender responsive policy and guidelines developed/ revised to address barriers in declaration/ recognition and support expansion of conservation estate in all realms; *Output 1.2.2*: Gender responsive conservation objectives mainstreamed into policy and programmes of relevant sectors (such as tourism and agriculture); and *Output 1.2.3*: National marine systematic conservation plan for expansion of conservation estate in marine and coastal ecosystems developed with equal participation of men and women.

Activities required to achieve these outputs and outcomes will entail the interrogation of the current enabling environment and the identification of where strategic inputs are required to provide the strengthening and mainstreaming of Biodiversity Stewardship as an effective conservation approach. Interventions will be crafted by the project partners at a national level; i.e. SANBI, DFFE, SANParks and StatsSA; who will work collaboratively to engage with the most appropriate forums and platforms to ensure effective uptake of the need for biodiversity conservation as a contribution to the country's development agenda.

Component 2 is: Biodiversity conserved in a manner that benefits communities and local economies for transformative outcomes in two provinces and which includes three Outcomes; namely: Outcome 2.1: Strengthened capacity of provincial institutions and collaboration between the public sector, private sector, NGOs and communities result in increased conservation status and sustainable management of landscapes and seascapes in Limpopo and Northern Cape provinces in South Africa; to be achieved through: *Output 2.1.1*: Four (4) new protected areas are created in landscapes of Limpopo (Mapungubwe to Makuleke; Kruger to Lephalale-Kalahari) and Northern Cape (Augrabies to Namaqua; Kimberley to Kuruman;) provinces with equal participation of men and women; *Output 2.1.2*: Gender inclusive landscapes in Limpopo and Northern Cape and seascapes adjacent to Northern Cape coast are conserved and under improved management practices through terrestrial and marine OECMs; and *Output 2.1.3*: Institutional capacity is strengthened in the two provinces; Outcome 2.2: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use result in benefits for communities and local economic development and support transformation of the biodiversity sector; to be achieved through: *Output 2.2.1*: Gender responsive analysis conducted characterising stakeholder livelihoods and status of designated groups in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in the areas of implementation; *Output 2.2.2*: Gender responsive alternative livelihood opportunities and/or new economic activities from biodiversity conservation and sustainable use supported (e.g., community-based tourism, community horticulture initiatives or conservation agriculture) leading to transformation of the biodiversity sector; and *Output 2.2.3*: Value created through equal participation of men and women in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and benefits to communities and local economies measured, documented and used to make the case; and Outcome 2.3: Connected communities of practice strengthen biodiversity conservation and transformative outcomes; to be achieved through: *Output 2.3.1*: Gender inclusive and responsive communities of practice at the national and more localised levels supporting biodiversity conservation for transformative outcomes are regularly convened; and *Output 2.3.2*: Gender inclusive and responsive capacity building events targeting practitioners at the local level.

In order to achieve the above outputs and outcomes, the project will enhance the capacity of the two provincial conservation authorities by appointing a full-time Biodiversity Stewardship Facilitator and Ecologist in each province. This additional human resource capacity will work with the two provincial Protected Area Expansion Strategies (PAESs), as well as that of SANParks, to identify the priority areas needed to achieve the targets for new protected areas and for OECMs, noting that SANParks and the two provincial authorities are well placed to achieve these targets working in close collaboration with a number of NGOs who are already actively involved in expanding the country's conservation estate. They will then spearhead engagements with the land owners and affected communities, following the guidance provided in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and Gender Action Plan (GAP) and working closely with the Environmental and Social Impact and Gender Specialists; to negotiate agreements necessary to secure Biodiversity Stewardship and OECM agreements. As part of Output 2.3.1, these processes will be supported by protected area management planning, ecosystem service and resource economic assessments, sustainable finance brokerage and biodiversity and sustainable land management business development. The project will also provide tangible support to land restoration efforts and SMME startup requirements, while using these processes to ensure gender equity is achieved. All of these interventions will be closely monitored and reported on against baseline socio-economic and gender data and will be used to feed into the work of

Component 3. The communities of practice will be used as platforms into which and from which this data will be fed and disseminated, while also serving to provide feedback mechanisms for lessons learned and adaptive planning and management, as well as capacity building.

Component 3 is: Knowledge management enables biodiversity benefits, dependencies, risks and opportunities to be better known and communicated to support making the case for biodiversity conservation, which includes two Outcomes; namely: Outcome 3.1: Data ecosystem (people, systems, and data) related to biodiversity and ecosystems is strengthened to improve data offering related to biodiversity benefits and support reporting and communication, to be achieved through: *Output 3.1.1*: Spatially explicit relational database of OECMS (compatible with the Protected Areas and Conservation Areas (PACA) database and linked to the biodiversity offset register) developed and functional; and *Output 3.1.2*: Gender responsive framework and workflow for standardised spatially explicit measurement of investments in biodiversity and ecosystems (in terms of extent, employment and expenditure) by multiple actors to support quantification and knowledge of benefits and impact evaluation developed; and Outcome 3.2: Biodiversity-related analysis, accounts and indicators are produced to support integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, to be achieved through *Output 3.2.1*: Ecosystem accounts for different realms (terrestrial and marine) and accounts for protected and conservation areas developed with equal participation of men and women; *Outputs 3.2.2*: Biodiversity Economy Satellite Accounts and Environmental Protection Expenditure Accounts developed; and *Output 3.2.3*: Gender responsive knowledge resources, drawing on science-based information from accounts and other analysis, translate information for uptake in relevant sectors and levels of government to support making the case for biodiversity conservation.

The above serves to bring the lessons learned from practical implementation in the two provinces, back up to the national level so as to better equip the Project Partners to be able to build on the case for Biodiversity Stewardship and the expansion of the country's PCA estate. The various mechanisms that have already been established, such as the Natural Capital Account, will be augmented and strengthened with the data emanating from the two provinces. Learning exchanges will facilitate the cross-pollination of ideas and experiences of land owners and affected communities, while the establishment and convening of Communities of Practice at the provincial and national levels will provide platforms for practitioners to learn from each other and to replicate the successes and avoid the mistakes.

Component 4 is: Effective implementation of and adherence to all gender and risk management requirements which, includes one Outcome; namely Outcome 4.1: Implementation of and adherence to all gender and risk management requirements ensure the integrity of all project interventions, to be achieved through *Output 4.1.1*: Project-level risk management measures, including gender action plan and stakeholder engagement plan developed and implemented. The appointment of full time Environmental and Social Impact and Gender specialists to the Project Management Unit (PMU) will ensure that all stakeholder engagement and gender mainstreaming processes will follow the guidance provided by the SEP and GAP and achieve the gender mainstreaming targets set for the project.

It is assumed that the collective impact of the above outcomes will be sufficient to embed biodiversity conservation and protected area expansion through the Biodiversity Stewardship and OECM approaches, into key legal and policy frameworks and decision-making processes on the basis of the evidence of socio-economic benefits generated through innovations implemented through this project. In addition to the contributions that this will make to the country's ability to move towards its GBF 30x30 target, the GEF focal areas of biodiversity (main impact), climate change mitigation (co-benefit) and land degradation (co-benefit) will also be addressed. As proof of concept is built and demonstrated and the value proposition inherent in the transformative outcomes becomes clearer and more convincing, this will serve to strengthen the enabling environment at all levels and generate a momentum and support for conservation as a legitimate land and sea use.

In the absence of this project and GEF-funding, it is likely that the current barriers to biodiversity conservation and the dynamics leading to further loss of biodiversity and ecosystem functionality will persist and even increase in intensity and severity. The disconnect between society, the economy and nature will perpetuate with increasing vulnerability and a loss of capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change. It is therefore critical that this project is supported as a catalyst towards the reconnection of people to nature and a demonstration of the innovative ways of achieving this.

Stakeholder engagement, participation and beneficiation are foundational to the successful application of the Biodiversity Stewardship approach which seeks to facilitate and negotiate agreements with the land owners and users that achieve both biodiversity conservation outcomes and sustainable socio-economic benefits while retaining ownership and use. The stakeholders linked to the priority land and sea areas targeted by the project will be the primary points of entry for project interventions. Livelihood opportunities linked to the sustainable use of biodiversity will be augmented by the development of alternative livelihood opportunities which, together, will serve to ensure enhanced socio-economic resilience.

Additional stakeholders at the local level will be the local and district municipalities who are responsible for land use planning at the local scale. It will be important to ensure that cognizance is taken of their planning processes and that the PAESs and priority areas are integrated into these processes and their outputs. It will also be important to ensure that these local level decision-makers are kept informed of project interventions and their outcomes. The same is true at the provincial and national levels where sectors of government and the private sector are currently responsible for land and sea use and management decisions that are contrary to the achievement of biodiversity conservation objectives. As the case for Biodiversity Stewardship is strengthened, it will be important to ensure that the message is carried across to these stakeholders in a way that influences the legal and policy frameworks they directly oversee the development and implementation of. Allies in these processes at all levels are the conservation NGOs who will work collaboratively with the project partners, primarily in the field in the two provinces, but also within the legal and policy realms.

One of the key assumptions in the success of this project is that it will generate new knowledge through the implementation of new and innovative ways of achieving transformative conservation outcomes that have both biodiversity and socio-economic benefits. The SADC region is currently experiencing a strong emergence of sustainable finance thinking as evident in the SADC Wildlife-based Economy Strategy Framework (SADC, 2023), the African Wildlife Economy Institute at the University of Stellenbosch (<https://www.ukuma.co.za/awei>), the Sustainable Finance Coalition (<https://sustainablefinancecoalition.org/>) and the School of Wildlife Conservation at the African Leadership University (<https://sowc.alueducation.com>). Resources have been allocated to ensure that the emergence of this thinking is capitalized on and that the lessons learned in the process are well captured against relevant baseline data and is used to further make the case for conservation as a legitimate land/sea use. Key project partners already have capacity to capture and manage this data and information and to translate it into knowledge products and this project will help to augment this capacity and further develop the value proposition. These lessons will be shared at all levels through stakeholder learning exchanges, Communities of Practice, national networking platforms and targeted engagements with relevant government and private sector partners; with the aim of strengthening the enabling environment and influencing associated legal and policy frameworks and strategies.

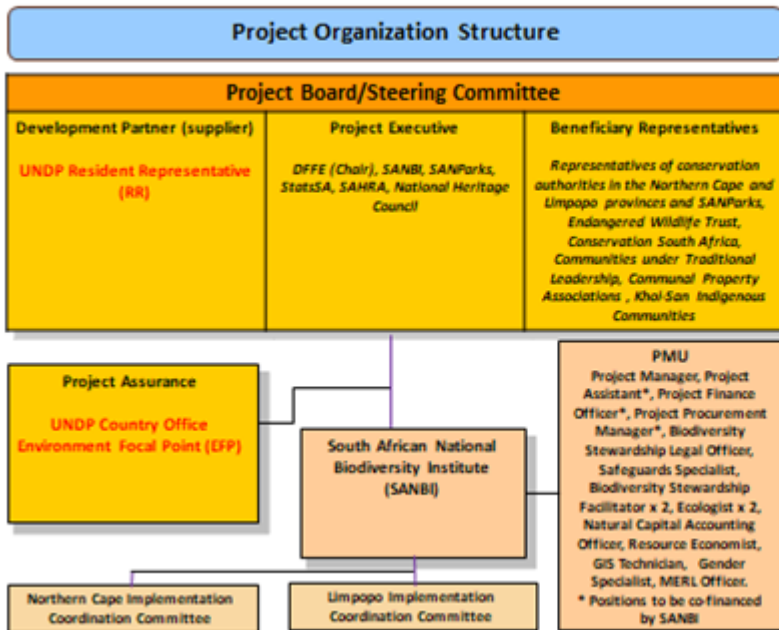
With the country being on the cusp of turning the negative biodiversity conservation trajectory around through the implementation of the new and emerging sustainable financing approaches, application of these within this project will serve to positively influence the enabling environment for Biodiversity Stewardship. The GEF funding support will thus generate increasing support that will equip the country's conservation authorities with sustainable sources of finance and human capacity needed to implement the PAESs and meet the GBF 30x30 target.

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this project, including financial management and procurement. If possible, please summarize the flow of funds (diagram), accountabilities for project management and financial reporting (organogram), including audit, and staffing plans. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The PMU will be housed within the Implementing Partner, i.e. the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) based at the National Botanical Gardens in Pretoria and the PM will report directly to and be supported by the Director of Biodiversity Mainstreaming as a co-financing contribution. Additional administrative, financial and procurement management support will be provided by existing SANBI staff, also as a co-financing contribution to the project. Other SANBI staff who will provide support to the PM and project implementation are the Director of Policy Advise, the Director of Biodiversity Information Management and the acting Director of Biodiversity Stewardship. Additional human resource capacity to be procured through the grant and who will report to the PM are a gender specialist, an environmental and social impact specialist, a resource economist, a Biodiversity Stewardship legal officer and a natural capital accounting officer; all to be based within the PMU in SANBI. Also within the PMU but based in the two provinces will be two Biodiversity Stewardship Facilitators and two ecologists. Project oversight will be managed by the Project Steering Committee or Board that will be co-chaired by the SANBI Director of Biodiversity Mainstreaming and the Deputy Resident Representative of the UNDP Country Office in South Africa, also based in Pretoria. For additional information please see Annex J.

In Figure 2 it can be seen that relevant representatives of the Dept. of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE); SANBI, South African National Parks, StatsSA, South African Heritage Resources Agency and the National Heritage Council will serve on the Project Executive; together with beneficiary representatives. In addition to this two provincial implementation coordinating committees will be established in each of the two provinces and which will report directly to SANBI. Figure 2 is provide below as an insert as well as an embedded file in case the former is not clear enough for closer scrutiny.



Oversight by UNDP

- Regional Bureau oversees RR and EFP function of UNDP compliance in project assurance
- BPPS RTA oversees functions of technical oversight and GEF compliance in project assurance. BBPS NCE PTA oversees RTA function.
- UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator and Regional Bureau Deputy Director can revoke DOA/cancel/suspend project or provide enhanced oversight

Figure 2: Project governance structure

Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

SANBI is already spearheading the mainstreaming of Biodiversity Stewardship into key legal and policy frameworks in the country as well as the convening of Communities of Practice as networks aimed at sharing lessons learned and finding new and innovative ways of expanding the country's conservation estate. The project will help to bolster these efforts and fast track them towards the achievement of the GBF 30x30 target for the country.

There are a number of other GEF-8 projects that are being implemented in the country to which this project is well aligned, i.e. The GEF 8 project 'Reimagining National Parks for People and Nature - Mega Living Landscapes Project'. The project will pioneer the establishment of three groundbreaking Mega Living Landscapes (MLLs) that will conserve two million hectares of biodiversity-rich land through innovative contractual and collaborative partnerships, foster sustainable economic opportunities for local entrepreneurs, focusing on women and youth; elevate socio-economic empowerment via enterprise and skills development, build robust conservation management institutions, and bolster the conservation capacity and skills of partner organisations; thereby demonstrating the transformative potential of the MLL concept. In these MLLs the GEF project will, within six years, bring two million hectares of land under conservation – 1 297 175 hectares being added to the Protected Area (PA) estate or under improved management within PAs, and 630 300 hectares of landscapes outside declared PAs under improved biodiversity management.

The sister project funded by the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF), 'Reimagining National Parks for People and Nature- Leveraging Durable Financing Mechanisms for Mega Living Landscapes (MLL) to achieve Target 3 in South Africa (GEF ID 11588),' will also support components of the MLL initiative, creating enabling conditions for durable financing by developing landscape-level

Investment Frameworks and securing long-term financing mechanisms in the three MLLs. Implementing this GEF-8 project will be coordinated and synergised with the sister project funded by the GBFF, forming an integrated MLL initiative.

The Northern Cape and Limpopo provincial conservation authorities selected for the practical outworking of the PCA expansion aspects of this project will house, support and oversee the two Biodiversity Stewardship facilitators and ecologists who will spearhead all the stakeholder engagement and negotiation processes on the ground and at sea.

Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Core Indicators

Indicate expected results in each relevant indicator using methodologies indicated in the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
40000	40000	0	0

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
40000	40000	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
Augrabies Orange PE		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	5,000.00	5,000.00		
Doornkloof expansion		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	3,000.00	3,000.00		
Eastern Soutpansberg PA		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	3,000.00	3,000.00		
Marakele expansion PE		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	7,000.00	7,000.00		
Mopane (DM) Savanna PA		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	3,000.00	3,000.00		
Namaqua Goegap corridor PE		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	5,000.00	5,000.00		
Richtersveld expansion NR		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	5,000.00	5,000.00		

Rockwood expansion PE		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	2,000.00	2,000.00		
Wolkberg PE		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	7,000.00	7,000.00		

Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
310000	310000	0	0

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
310,000.00	310,000.00		

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 5 Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 5.1 Fisheries under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)

Type/name of the third-party certification

Indicator 5.2 Large Marine Ecosystems with reduced pollution and hypoxia

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)

LME at PIF	LME at CEO Endorsement	LME at MTR	LME at TE

Indicator 5.3 Marine OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
Southern Benguela Coastline	TBD	10,000.00	10,000.00		

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)	0	11865039	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)		11,865,039		
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)		0		
Anticipated start year of accounting		2026		
Duration of accounting		20		

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	33,913	33,913		
Male	31,552	31,553		
Total	65,465	65,466	0	0

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Core Indicator 1.1-Terrestrial protected areas newly created (40,000 ha of terrestrial protected areas will be created in two provinces through declaration as protected areas). This will be tracked by the DFFE in the South African Protected Areas Database (SAPAD) and recorded on the World Database on Protected Areas. Expected targets at PIF in the indicative implementation areas are as follows: 15,000 ha in the Augrabies to Namaqua landscape; 5,000 ha in the Kimberly to Kuruman landscape; 3,000 ha in the Mapungubwe to Makuleke landscape; and 17,000 ha in the Kruger to Lephalale-Kalahari landscape. SANParks and the provincial authorities are well placed to achieve this, working in close collaboration with various NGOs who are already active within the focus areas; while DFFE and the relevant provincial ministries are responsible for finalizing the proclamation processes.

Core Indicator 4.1- Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (310,000 ha of terrestrial OECMs to be established). Expected at PIF in each of the indicative implementation areas are as follows: 85,000 ha in the Augrabies to Namaqua landscape; 85,000 ha in the Kimberly to Kuruman landscape; 50,000 ha in the Mapungubwe to Makuleke landscape; and 90,000 ha in the Kruger to Lephalale-Kalahari landscape. Terrestrial OECMs will be recognized by DFFE and contribute to the expansion of the conservation estate. Recognized OECMs spatial and non-spatial information will be loaded onto the DFFE's PACA database once vetted, and onto the World Database on OECMs.

Core Indicator 5-Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (10,000ha). A marine systematic conservation plan will be developed for a marine area of 1,98 million ha and expected at PIF is 10,000 ha of marine OECMs to be established (sub-indicator 5.4) in the indicative area of implementation off the coast of the Northern Cape province. This will focus on conservation of a threatened ecosystem in the Southern Benguela ecoregion along the northern most coast of South Africa.

Marine OECMs will be recognised by DFFE and contribute to the expansion of the conservation estate. Spatial data to be provided once they are established at PPG stage.

Core Indicator 6-The project is projected to reduce GHG emissions by 11,865,039 t CO₂eq over a 20-year period (5 years of project and 15 years of capitalization period). The project will affect a total of 350,000 ha (of which 40,000 ha will be included in new protected areas and 310,000 will benefit from improved management). While there is substantial heterogeneity of vegetation within this area, an estimate is that 50% (175,000 ha) are natural grassland and 50% (175,000 ha) are subtropical steppe. Both vegetation types are currently severely degraded and subject to annual burns. Through improved management, the degradation level would decrease to non-degraded or low degradation, respectively, with a reduced fire frequency of about once every 3 years. These changes would result in GHG emissions savings of 2,029,749 t CO₂eq for the grasslands and 9,705,403 t CO₂eq for the subtropical steppe.

Core Indicator 11-People benefiting from GEF-financed investments (65,466 people will directly benefit from the project, 33,913 of which are women). This is proportional to the area to be protected and conserved in the indicative target landscapes, and equivalent to approximately 2% of the total population in the target landscapes. Direct beneficiaries are those whose livelihoods will be strengthened and, includes people benefiting from ecosystem services improved through natural resource management and considering different sectors, namely wildlife sector, tourism, agriculture (small-scale or subsistence farmers). There are more direct beneficiaries in Limpopo (51,739 with 26,958 being women) than in Northern Cape (13 726 with 6,955 being women) because Limpopo has higher population density. About 3million (2.5million-Limpopo and 0.7million-Northern Cape) in the target landscape will indirectly benefit from improved conservation and biodiversity economy catalyzed by GEF investment.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Substantial	The long-term climate change projections for southern Africa are that the region will become drier and hotter with an increase in the unpredictability of weather patterns as well as the frequency and intensity of extreme events, i.e. floods and droughts. If an extended period of below average rainfall is experienced during the project lifespan, it could negate the positive impact of land restoration and biodiversity conservation and reduce the capacity of PCAs to produce and deliver ecosystem services. Mitigation will include adapting restoration and SLM efforts to the drier conditions as lessons learned will be applicable to future drought situations
Environmental and Social	Substantial	Environmental and social risks associated with the project have been identified in the SESP (Annex 5 of the Project Document) and include risks related to potential limitations placed on access to resources by affected communities, increased tension between conservation authorities and these communities, exacerbated gender-based violence and inequalities, damage to cultural resources and health and safety aspects related to implementation of on-the-ground activities. These risks will be managed through various

		environmental and social assessments that will be undertaken during project implementation as outlined in the project ESMF (Annex 9), resulting in several targeted management plans, in addition to careful adherence to the SEP and GAP (Annex 10) to ensure that the sustainable livelihood opportunities generate long-term tangible and meaningful benefits.
Political and Governance	Substantial	The country is grappling with high levels of unemployment, and every level of governance urgently needs to address this. The ensuing emphasis on economic growth excludes conservation as a viable options/alternative and decision-making is skewed towards unsustainable land and sea use practices that exacerbate current trends in biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. Additionally there is a lack of financial and human capacity in the country's conservation authorities which currently limits their ability to turn this situation around. This project has been designed specifically to address this situation and therefore effective implementation of its strategy will work to mitigate this risk and generate the support needed to bolster the capacity of the conservation authorities.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Substantial	South Africa's institutional and policy environment is highly contradictory in that its environmental management and conservation institutions and policies are strongly aligned and geared towards achieving positive conservation outcomes. However, other government sectors such as agriculture and mining seek to exploit the country's renewable and non-renewable resources with scant regard of the environmental consequences. Conservation as a land and sea use is perceived as an obstacle to economic growth. As with the Political and Governance Risk, the project has been designed specifically to address this situation and therefore effective implementation of its strategy will work to mitigate this risk and generate the support needed to bolster the capacity of the conservation authorities and influence contrary policies to adopt more biodiversity and conservation centered approaches.
Technological	Low	Data capture, storage and management capacity might not be able to provide the support needed to strengthen the case for biodiversity stewardship and therefore weaken the capacity of the project to influence the legal and policy frameworks of key sectors and related decision-making. Funding support will be channeled into specific project interventions designed to build this capacity and the associated technological requirements.
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	This is one of the key innovations that will be capitalized on by the project and is seen as a moderate risk, but also an opportunity. While it is key to the success of this project to see the financial and business models achieve what they are designed to achieve, i.e. the entrenchment of sustainable use of biodiversity, they are complex and depend on their being capacity to embrace and implement them in the long-term. If this capacity is not developed during project implementation, then there is a moderate risk of failure. Every effort will be made to ensure that this does not happen. Additionally there are risks of insufficient and unstable revenue streams to sustain the livelihood

		activities, revenue leakage and or mismanagement, inflation, benefit sharing risks, partnership risks, etc. The community engagement facilitators will work very closely and continuously with the communities and, being mindful of these risks, will work to build the capacity and business acumen necessary to ensure that the risks do not materialize.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Moderate	The country's conservation authorities are under-funded and therefore have general capacity shortages and a strong dependence on donor funding. It is possible that these limitations may impact on their ability to provide the support required to ensure effective implementation of the project interventions and to sustain the project gains in the long-term. In order to mitigate this risk the project design includes work that will explore sustainable financing options for the newly created protected areas and the OECMs, as well as business/livelihood opportunities for affected communities either directly related to the sustainable use of biodiversity or alternative livelihood opportunities. These interventions are all aimed at demonstrating the socio-economic value of biodiversity conservation as a land and sea use as a means to generate more sustainable financial support from government.
Fiduciary	Low	The Implementing Partner (SANBI) has managed a number of large donor funded projects, including GEF projects, and has a proven fiduciary track record.
Stakeholder	Substantial	The success of this project relies significantly on successful engagement with a large number and broad range of stakeholders, from IP&LCs to private land owners, government at all levels, NGOs and CBOs; and has been designed to allow for the convening of relevant stakeholder engagement processes that will follow the guidance provided in the SEP and the GAAP. However, while the project includes various activities that ensure engagement of a broad range of stakeholders who may be affected by the project, including women, youth groups, marginalized groups and indigenous peoples, some stakeholders may still be excluded during consultations or their opinions not sufficiently taken into consideration during project implementation. Therefore, identification of stakeholders at the national, regional and local levels should continue throughout project implementation such that the Stakeholder Engagement Plan is periodically updated to ensure continuous and meaningful consultations with all identified groups.
Other		
Overall Risk Rating	Substantial	The overall risk rating applied here has adopted the SESP approach in that the highest risk translates to the overall risk rating. In this instance this relates to the potential loss of access to resources and the impact on P&LC's livelihood strategies, as well as potential conflict that may arise between

IP&LCs and conservation authorities through law enforcement actions, as well as internal conflicts related to power struggles and gender-based violence. Although it may be argued that the rating is too high for a residual risk, it is important to keep it as ‘substantial’ as this denotes an importance and significance to this aspect of project implementation and management.

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Explain how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The primary focus of the project is aligned to the GEF-8 Biodiversity Focal Area and its Goal: Globally significant biodiversity conserved, sustainably used, and restored; through the aim to expand the PCA estate of the country in both the terrestrial and marine realms. The improvement of land and sea management will bring about restoration that is aligned to the GEF-8 Climate Change Focal Area and its Goal: To support developing countries to make transformational shifts towards net-zero GHG emissions and climate-resilient development pathways. The project is also aligned with the GEF-8 Land Degradation Focal Area and its Goal: To contribute to arresting and reversing current global trends in land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation. Given that the project focal areas include the shared fresh water resources of the Orange/Senqu and Limpopo Rivers, as well as a marine component, it contributes to the GEF-8 International Waters Focal Area and its Goal: To support nations in transboundary cooperation in shared marine and freshwater ecosystems, although the project will not report against the associated GEF Core Indicators under the IW Focal Area. There will also be climate adaptation benefits generated by the project through conservation and sustainable management investments that will strengthen the resilience of ecosystems and communities in the project landscape.

Regionally, the proposed project is in line with the Africa Union strategies on biodiversity and climate change and contributes to the AU Agenda 2063- “The Africa we want” which envisions a Prosperous Africa, based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development underpinned by among others Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities that prioritizes Sustainable natural resource management and Biodiversity conservation, Sustainable consumption and production patterns and Water security. In particular, the project contributes to the Africa Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (ABSAP) 2023-2030 Pillar A which aims to strengthen and catalyse synergy and coherence in policies and actions to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and build resilience of ecosystems across Africa. The project is aligned with the SADC sub-regional Biodiversity Strategy priority 5 (a) to strengthen institutional and legal frameworks for implementing biodiversity initiatives-focal area (iv)- to facilitate the development of national consensus, policies and capabilities on trans- boundary initiatives, including a policy framework on plant and animal health in Trans-frontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs). Additionally, the project focal areas fall within a number of SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCA) and successful implementation of the project’s PCA expansion interventions will add value to these transfrontier conservation initiatives as per the SADC TFCA Programme 2023 – 2033 (SADC, 2023).

In country the White Paper on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa’s Biodiversity identifies Policy Objective 1.1, which aims to expand a representative system of protected and conservation areas that are effectively and efficiently managed. This objective is supported by an expected output of establishing connected, new, or extended areas, including larger contiguous landscapes, to enhance the representation of terrestrial and marine ecosystems and to support the achievement of national and international biodiversity targets. This is consistent with the current NBSAP and its six Strategic Objectives, with which this project has very strong alignment, i.e.:

1. Management of biodiversity assets and their contribution to the economy, rural development, job creation and social wellbeing is enhanced.
2. Investments in ecological infrastructure enhance resilience and ensure benefits to society.
3. Biodiversity considerations are mainstreamed into policies, strategies and practices of a range of sectors.
4. People are mobilised to adopt practices that sustain the long-term benefits of biodiversity.

5. Conservation and management of biodiversity is improved through the development of an equitable and suitably skilled workforce.
6. Effective knowledge foundations, including indigenous knowledge and citizen science, support management, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

As a signatory of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), South Africa is committed to achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) goals and targets, with this project focused on contributing to the 30x30 target through up-scaling of the Biodiversity Stewardship programme. The establishment and growth of biodiversity stewardship as a mechanism for expansion of the conservation estate in South Africa has been significantly supported by previous GEF projects, such as in: GEF 4 Grasslands Programme which supported work to mainstream the conservation of the grassland biome into a number of sectors; GEF 5 Biodiversity and Land Use project, which supported the declaration of 37,000 ha as protected areas while facilitating the growing community of practice for biodiversity stewardship; and GEF 7 project, which focuses on biodiversity stewardship linked to the wildlife economy.

One of the challenges which this project seeks to address is the existence of conflicting policies in the country as these relate primarily to economic growth through agriculture, industry and mining; which all have substantial negative impacts on the environment and exacerbates the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem health. The project intends to actively engage with the related government and private sectors to influence their legal and policy frameworks towards becoming more sustainable and biodiversity friendly.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed during Project Preparation as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

1) Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive-measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?

Yes

If the project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;

Yes

Improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or

Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Yes

2) Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during Project Preparation as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B) and that a Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed before CEO endorsement.

Yes

Select what role civil society will play in the Project

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; **Yes**

Co-financier; **Yes**

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body ; **Yes**

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain) **Yes**

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in section B project description?

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program, including risk screenings/ assessments and, if applicable, management plans or other measures to address identified risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex E).

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
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High or Substantial	High or Substantial		
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E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described during Project Preparation in the Project Description and that these activities have been budgeted and an anticipated timeline for delivery of relevant outputs has been provided.

Yes

Socio-economic Benefits

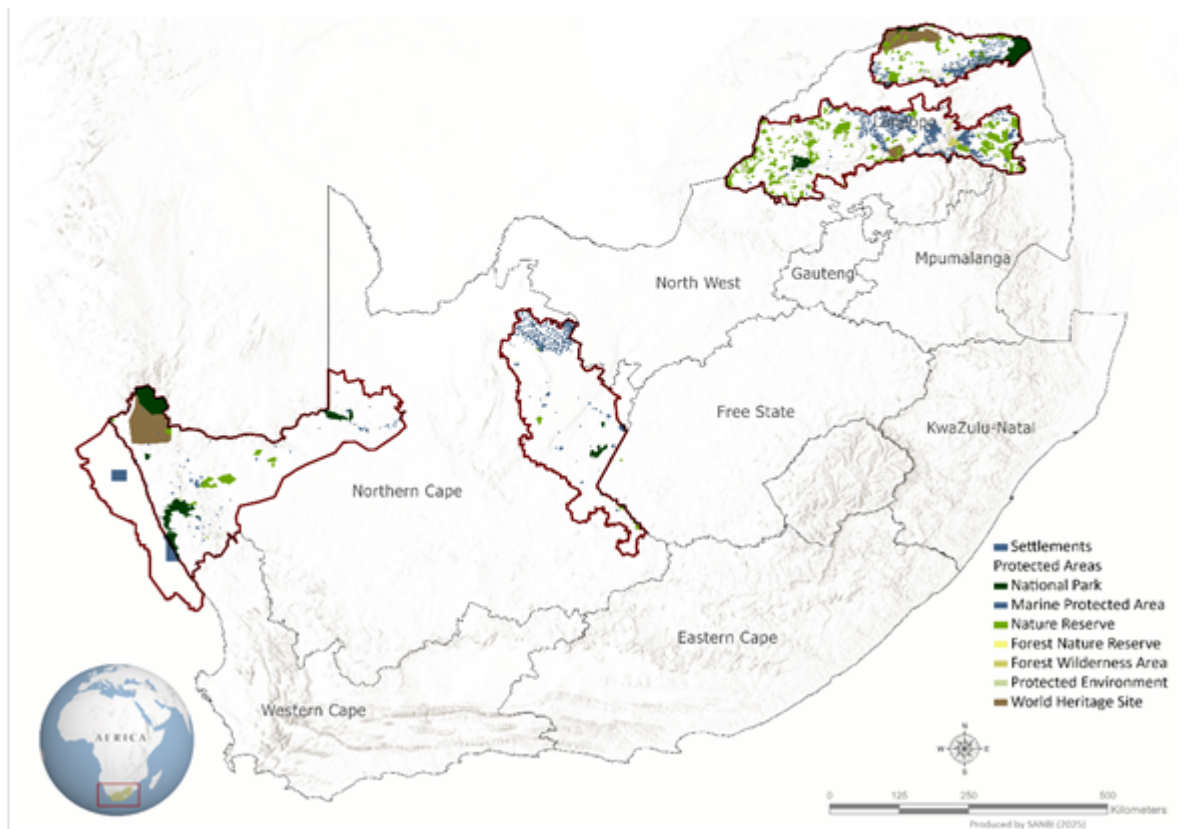
We confirm that the project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project and these have been clearly described in the Project Description and will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER).

For the Gender Analysis and Action Plan please see Annex 10 [of the Project Document or access this embedded file](#).

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during Project Preparation as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes have been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B) and that a Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed before CEO endorsement.

For the Stakeholder Engagement Plan please see Annex 8.

Annexure 8: Stakeholder Engagement Plan - GEF Thriving People and Nature Project



As the Biodiversity Stewardship approach seeks to keep people on the land and facilitate conservation agreements that allow land and sea uses to continue but within limits of sustainability, civil society will play a significant role in terms of engaging with conservation agreement negotiation processes and committing to abide by the agreements and achieve biodiversity conservation objectives. In addition to this, civil society will be engaged in the development of livelihood opportunities related to the sustainable use of biodiversity and cultural heritage features of the target land- and seascapes, as well as alternative livelihood opportunities that offset potential losses from resource use restrictions.

We confirm that the project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project and these have been clearly described in the Project Description and will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER).

F. References

- DFFE (2023). White paper on the conservation and sustainable use of South Africa's biodiversity. Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Notice no. 3537, Government Gazette No. 48785, 14 June 2023, Pretoria.
- Government of South Africa (GoSA), 2015. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, Department of Environmental Affairs, Pretoria.
- IPBES (2019): Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. S. Díaz, J. Settele, E. S. Brondízio, H. T.

Ngo, M. Guèze, J. Agard, A. Arneth, P. Balvanera, K. A. Brauman, S. H. M. Butchart, K. M. A. Chan, L. A. Garibaldi, K. Ichii, J. Liu, S. M. Subramanian, G.F. Midgley, P. Miloslavich, Z. Molnár, D. Obura, A. Pfaff, S. Polasky, A. Purvis, J. Razzaque, B. Reyers, R. Roy Chowdhury, Y. J. Shin, I.J. Visseren-Hamakers, K. J. Willis, and C. N. Zayas (eds.). IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany. 56 pages.

Southern African Development Community (SADC). (2023). Wildlife-based Economy Strategy Framework. Gaborone, Botswana.

Southern African Development Community (SADC) (2023b). SADC TFCA Programme 2023 – 2033. Compiled by Piet Theron Consulting (Pty) Ltd. for the SADC Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR), Gaborone, Botswana.

SANBI (2019). National Biodiversity Assessment 2018: The status of South Africa’s ecosystems and biodiversity. Synthesis Report. South African National Biodiversity Institute, an entity of the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Pretoria.

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
UNDP	GET	South Africa	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	4,416,208.00	419,540.00	4,835,748.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						4,416,208.00	419,540.00	4,835,748.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

150000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

14250

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
UNDP	GET	South Africa	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	150,000.00	14,250.00	164,250.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)					150,000.00	14,250.00	164,250.00

Please provide Justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	South Africa	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	4,999,998.00

Total GEF Resources	4,999,998.00
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Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
BD-1-1	GET	4,416,208.00	13709398
Total Project Cost		4,416,208.00	13,709,398.00

Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Please include evidence for each co-financing source for this project in the tab of the portal

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Civil Society Organization	Endangered Wildlife Trust	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2821221
Civil Society Organization	Universal Greening Organization	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	300000
Recipient Country Government	Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500000
Civil Society Organization	The Nature Conservancy	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1000000
Recipient Country Government	Limpopo Provincial Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1500000
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1000000
Recipient Country Government	SANBI	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5088177
Recipient Country Government	DAERL	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1500000
Total Co-financing				13,709,398.00

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

NA

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	6/19/2025	Nancy Bennet		nancy.bennet@undp.org
Project Coordinator	6/19/2025	Mr. Goetz Schroth		goetz.schroth@undp.org

Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template.

Name of GEF OFP	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Mr. Stewart Mangold	GEF Operational focal Point for South Africa	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	6/5/2025

ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Please indicate the page number in the Project Document where the project results and M&E frameworks can be found. Please also paste below the Project Results Framework from the Agency document.

The project Results Framework is included below and can be found on page 20 of the UNDP Project Document, and the M&E Framework is on page 33. It includes both GEF Core Indicators as well as country-specific indicators. The former (Indicators 1 to 4) are entitled as such while the latter (Indicators 5 – 16) stand alone.

Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goal (s): 3 – good health and well-being, 5 – gender equality, 13 – climate action, 14 – life below water, 15 – life on land.						
Intended Outcome as stated in the UNSDCF/Country Programme Results and Resource Framework: 4.1: By 2025, South Africa is on a just transition to a low-carbon society and vulnerable and marginalised communities adapt and are more resilient to adverse effects of climate change. 4.2: By 2025, natural resources are managed and utilised sustainably for improved livelihoods, health and well-being of vulnerable communities.						
Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan: 1 – Advance poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions and 2 - Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development.						
Project title and Quantum Project Number: Conservation, development and livelihoods for thriving people and nature – PIMS 9745						
Objective and Outcome Indicators	Data Source	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Data Collection Methods	Risks/Assumptions
Project Objective:	To strengthen a transformative enabling environment for indigenous people and local communities, non-governmental organisations, government, and private sector to play a positive role in expanding the conservation estate, sustainably using biodiversity and enhancing economic development in two provinces.					
	Indicator 1 (Mandatory GEF Core Indicator 11): direct	This is proportional to the area to be	0	8,500 female	33,913 female	Each project intervention needs to collect

	<p>project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)</p> <p>33,913 female</p> <p>31,553 male</p> <p>65,466 in total</p>	<p>protected and conserved in the indicative target landscapes, and equivalent to approximately 2% of the total population in the target landscapes.</p> <p>Direct beneficiaries are those whose livelihoods will be strengthened and, includes people benefiting from ecosystem services improved through natural resource management and considering different sectors, namely wildlife sector, tourism, agriculture (small-scale or subsistence farmers).</p>		<p>8,000 male</p> <p>16,500 in total</p>	<p>31,553 male</p> <p>65,466 in total</p>	<p>disaggregated data that reflects the number of IP&LC members who benefit, the term of the benefit, the type and value of the benefit. These data must be collected annually for the duration of the intervention and the project. The method used to collect data must be one-on-one interviews with the beneficiaries in line with the activities in Output 2.2.1.</p>	<p>drought may influence the capacity of the target areas to deliver on the full suite of ecosystem services, thus limiting the benefit potential.</p> <p>Institutional complexities and difficulties at the local level may prevent the establishment of structures and mechanisms necessary to realize tangible benefits.</p> <p>Capacity limitations may prevent beneficiary opportunities from being realized.</p> <p>Assumptions:</p> <p>Increased benefits from PCAs will ensure positive relations with affected IP&LCs, including improved human/wildlife co-existence.</p> <p>Protection and improved management of target areas will result in improved production and delivery of ecosystem services, despite any</p>
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							climate change impacts. Positive project impacts will help to reduce IWT related crime as well as general crime.
	<p>Indicator 2 (Mandatory GEF Core Indicator 1.1) Terrestrial protected areas newly created: 40,000 ha</p> <p>15,000 ha in the Augrabies to Namaqua landscape; 5,000 ha in the Kimberly to Kuruman landscape; 3,000 ha in the Mapungubwe to Makuleke landscape; and 17,000 ha in the Kruger to Lephhalale-Kalahari landscape</p>	National and provincial protected area expansion strategies	0 ha	10,000 ha	40,000 ha	This will be tracked by the DFFE in relation to submissions for declaration and published gazette notices.	<p>Risks:</p> <p>Competing land uses are selected by current land owners instead of conservation.</p> <p>The processes required to declare the new PCAs fail to achieve this due to a lack of capacity and/or failure of the enabling environment.</p> <p>Adjacent incompatible land uses impact on the conservation integrity of the new PCAs.</p>
	<p>Indicator 3 (Mandatory GEF Core Indicator 4.1.: Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity)</p> <p>Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas): 310,000 Ha.</p> <p>85,000 ha in the Augrabies to Namaqua landscape; 85,000 ha in the Kimberly to Kuruman</p>	National and provincial protected area expansion strategies	0 ha	80,000 ha	310,000 ha	This will be tracked by the DFFE in relation to submissions for declaration and published gazette notices.	<p>Assumptions:</p> <p>Increased area under conservation management will be effective in improving the production and delivery of ecosystem services and expand the extent of benefits and beneficiaries.</p> <p>Increased benefit opportunities will result in</p>

	landscape; 50,000 ha in the Mapungubwe to Makuleke landscape; and 90,000 ha in the Kruger to Lephalele-Kalahari landscape						increased support for the new PCAs by affected IP&LCs.
	<p>Indicator 4 (Mandatory GEF Core Indicator 5): Area of marine habitat under improved practices (excluding protected areas): 10,000 ha.</p> <p>A marine systematic conservation plan will be developed for a marine area of 1,98 million ha with 10,000 ha of marine OECMs to be established (sub-indicator 5.4 - Marine OECMs supported) in the indicative area of implementation off the coast of the Northern Cape province.</p>	National and provincial protected area expansion strategies	0 ha	2,500 ha	10,000 ha	Marine OECMs will be recognised by DFFE and contribute to the expansion of the conservation estate.	<p>Risks:</p> <p>Lack of institutional capacity to support and sustain the project gains.</p> <p>Unsustainable commercial interests overshadow the OECM objectives.</p> <p>Lack of voluntary support for the establishment of OECMs</p> <p>Assumptions:</p> <p>Implementation of OECM objectives will ensure more sustainable and transformative outcomes for affected IP&LCs.</p> <p>Northern Cape provincial conservation authority, DFFE and SANParks will have sufficient capacity to sustain their support to the OECMs in the long-term.</p>
Project component 1	Enabling environment strengthened to conserve landscapes and seascapes with benefits to biodiversity, development and rural livelihoods						

Project Outcome 1.1: Strengthened institutional arrangements and specialist expertise support effective functioning of biodiversity stewardship and related programmes .	Indicator 5: National multi-sectoral inter-government authorities' coordination platform in place and functional (IAC) with designated gender focal points attending each meeting and gender integrated as a standing agenda item. (has met five times by end-term).	DFFE	0	Platform Terms of Reference and 2 annual meetings held.	5 annual meetings held.	Platform Terms of Reference and minutes of meetings recorded in the PIRs by the Project Coordinator .	Risks: Government authorities representing competing land/sea uses will not find common ground in favour of biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization. Assumptions: The Biodiversity Stewardship case will be strong and influential enough to convince all of government of the need for long-term and sustained investment in securing the integrity of the country's natural resources.
	Indicator 6: The legal capacity in SANBI is strengthened.	SANBI	Legal capacity insufficient with many legal challenges not addressed	50% of legal challenges addressed.	100% of legal challenges addressed.	Evidence of the unit's existence and functioning captured in the PIRs by the Project Coordinator .	Risk: Difficulty in finding suitable candidates with relevant experience. Assumption: The services of the legal unit prove to be effective in support of PCA expansion and therefore are perceived as a vital asset for the country's conservation sector and receives

							appropriate support to sustain it in the long-term.
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.1.	<p>1.1.1. Inter-government Authorities Committee (IAC) for Conservation with Transformative Outcomes is established and functions as a multi-sectoral coordination platform to accelerate the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme.</p> <p>1.1.2. A gender inclusive centralised legal support unit is established and provides technical advice to the Biodiversity Stewardship Legal Reference Group and provincial authorities involved in the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme</p>						
Outcome 1.2: Relevant policy frameworks, regulatory instruments, and planning tools support the on-going mainstreaming and implementation of mechanisms for biodiversity conservation across key economic sectors.	Indicator 7: Revised Biodiversity Stewardship Guidelines mainstreamed into relevant policy frameworks, regulatory instruments, and/or planning tools of key economic sectors to support transformative and gender responsive outcomes that address the specific needs and roles of different women, men, and gender-diverse groups through conservation (2 instruments/tools by end-term).	SANBI	0	Biodiversity Stewardship Guidelines revised and mainstreamed into 1 policy framework, regulatory instrument, and/or planning tool	Biodiversity Stewardship Guidelines mainstreamed into 2 policy frameworks, regulatory instruments, and/or planning tools	Minutes of the Biodiversity Stewardship Technical Working Group captures progress and this is reflected in the PIRs by the Project Coordinator	<p>Risks:</p> <p>Key sectors may not adopt or integrate the revised Biodiversity Stewardship Guidelines into their policy frameworks, regulatory instruments, or planning tools.</p> <p>Assumptions:</p> <p>Existing coordination structures and channels such as MINMEC, MINTEC, MINTECH Working Groups, Inter-Ministerial Committees, and bilateral that exist at national departments levels will be effectively utilized to support the integration of the Revised Biodiversity Stewardship Guidelines into relevant policies, plans, or regulatory instruments, thereby enabling more</p>

							inclusive and effective conservation outcomes.
	Indicator 8: Marine and coastal systematic conservation plan developed and approved for implementation (by end-term).	DFFE and SANBI	No plan in place	Draft marine and coastal systematic conservation plan.	Approved marine and coastal systematic conservation plan.	Project Coordinator to track and record progress made in PIRs.	<p>Risks:</p> <p>The spatial extent and complexities of the country's marine and coastal realm compromise stakeholder participation and therefore, ownership of the plan.</p> <p>Lack of ownership compromises effective implementation on the project target areas.</p> <p>Assumptions:</p> <p>Relevant government authorities and agencies will have sufficient financial and human resource capacity to support achievement of this output</p>
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.2.	<p>1.2.1. Gender responsive policy and guidelines developed/ revised to address barriers in declaration/ recognition and support expansion of conservation estate in all realms.</p> <p>1.2.2. Gender responsive conservation objectives mainstreamed into policy and programmes of relevant sectors (such as tourism and agriculture).</p> <p>1.2.3. National marine systematic conservation plan for expansion of conservation estate in marine and coastal ecosystems developed with equal participation of men and women.</p>						
Project component 2	Biodiversity conserved in a manner that benefits communities and local economies for transformative outcomes in two provinces						
Outcome 2.1: Strengthened capacity of provincial	Indicator 9: Capacity of selected institutions in the two provinces to manage	Staff establishments of the Northern Cape and Limpopo	No additional staff in place in the two provinces	Biodiversity Stewardship Facilitator and Ecologist appointed	Biodiversity Stewardship Facilitator and Ecologist appointed	Project Coordinator to facilitate procurement processes for these	<p>Risks:</p> <p>Suitable candidates/service providers are not</p>

<p>institutions and collaboration between public sector, private sector, NGOs and communities result in increased conservation status and sustainable management of landscapes and seascapes in Limpopo and Northern Cape provinces in South Africa</p>	<p>biodiversity strengthened through addition of 2 x Biodiversity Stewardship Facilitators and 2 x Ecologists.</p>	<p>conservation agencies.</p>	<p>and capacity score card to be developed at inception.</p>	<p>and functional in each of the Limpopo and Northern Cape provinces and capacity score increased by 20%.</p>	<p>and functional in each of the Limpopo and Northern Cape provinces and capacity score increased by 50%.</p>	<p>technical positions and to capture progress made in PIRs.</p>	<p>available to fulfill the requirements of these positions. Assumptions: The two provincial authorities will have the financial resources to support these positions during the project and to integrate them into their staff components after project termination.</p>
<p>Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.1.</p>	<p>2.1.1. Four (4) new protected areas are created in landscapes of Limpopo (Mapungubwe to Makuleke; Kruger to Lephalele-Kalahari) and Northern Cape (Augrabies to Namaqua; Kimberley to Kuruman;) provinces with equal participation of men and women.</p> <p>2.1.2. Gender inclusive landscapes in Limpopo and Northern Cape and seascapes adjacent to Northern Cape coast are conserved and under improved management practices through terrestrial and marine OECMs.</p> <p>2.1.3. Institutional capacity is strengthened in the two provinces</p>						
<p>Outcome 2.2: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use result in benefits for communities and local economic development and support transformation of the biodiversity sector</p>	<p>Indicator 10: Number of alternative livelihood interventions benefiting affected communities with disaggregated data showing equitable participation and benefits for women, men, and gender-diverse groups.</p>		<p>0</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>Each project intervention needs to collect disaggregated data that reflects the number of IP&LC members who benefit, the term of the benefit, the type and value of the benefit. These data must be collected annually for the duration of the intervention and the</p>	<p>Risks: Community dynamics may prevent the project from facilitating the development of alternative livelihood opportunities. A lack of capacity within affected IP&LCs negatively impacts on the viability of selected alternative livelihood opportunities. Assumptions:</p>

						<p>project. The method used to collect data must be one-on-one interviews with the beneficiaries in line with the activities in Output 2.2.2.</p>	<p>IP&LCs will embrace the opportunity to engage in alternative livelihood opportunities.</p> <p>Sufficient and viable alternative livelihood opportunities will be identified for affected IP&LCs.</p> <p>The project and its partners will have the capacity to support the establishment of alternative livelihood opportunities.</p>
<p>Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.2.</p>	<p>2.2.1. Gender responsive analysis conducted characterising stakeholder livelihoods and status of designated groups in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in the areas of implementation.</p> <p>2.2.2. Gender responsive alternative livelihood opportunities and/or new economic activities from biodiversity conservation and sustainable use supported (e.g., community-based tourism, community horticulture initiatives or conservation agriculture) are created for designated groups in the target areas leading to transformation of the biodiversity sector.</p> <p>2.2.3. Value created through equal participation of men and women in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and benefits to communities and local economies measured, documented and used to make the case.</p>						
<p>Outcome 2.3: Connected communities of practice strengthen biodiversity conservation and transformative outcomes.</p>	<p>Indicator 11: Functional multi-stakeholder collaboration forums at national and landscape levels in place and regularly convened, with gender integrated as a standing agenda item and the forums including representation of designated gender focal points and balanced participation of women and men</p>	<p>SANBI Annual reports and PIF.</p>	<p>Three Biodiversity Stewardship Conferences held thus far.</p> <p>Eight National Land Reform and Biodiversity Stewardship Learning exchanges held thus far.</p>	<p>The fourth Biodiversity Stewardship Conference convened by SANBI.</p> <p>One National Land Reform and Biodiversity stewardship learning exchange convened by SANBI.</p> <p>One peer to peer learning</p>	<p>The fifth Biodiversity Stewardship Conference convened by SANBI.</p> <p>Two National Land Reform and Biodiversity stewardship learning exchange convened by SANBI.</p> <p>Two peer to peer learning</p>	<p>Conference proceedings</p>	<p>Risks:</p> <p>If multi-stakeholder forums are not regularly convened or lack meaningful engagement, communities of practice may remain fragmented, weakening shared learning and the ability to drive transformative biodiversity outcomes.</p>

	<p>in decision-making processes.:</p> <p>i) Biennial National Biodiversity Stewardship Conference;</p> <p>ii) annual landscape platform;</p> <p>iii) two National Land Reform and Biodiversity stewardship learning exchanges.</p> <p>iv) Two peer to peer learning exchanges between Limpopo and Northern Cape are convened</p>			exchanges between Limpopo and Northern Cape are convened by SANBI.	exchanges between Limpopo and Northern Cape are convened by SANBI.		<p>Assumptions:</p> <p>Functional and regularly convened forums at national and landscape/seasc ape levels will foster well-connected communities of practice, enabling shared learning, policy alignment, and more transformative biodiversity conservation outcomes</p>
<p>Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.3.</p>	<p>2.3.1. Gender inclusive and responsive communities of practice at national and more localised levels supporting biodiversity conservation for transformative outcomes are regularly convened.</p> <p>2.3.2. Gender inclusive and responsive capacity building events targeting practitioners at the local level.</p>						
<p>Project component 3:</p>	<p>Knowledge management enables biodiversity benefits, dependencies, risks and opportunities to be better known and communicated to support making the case for biodiversity conservation.</p>						
<p>Outcome 3.1:</p> <p>Data ecosystem (people, systems, and data) related to biodiversity and ecosystems are strengthened to improve data offering related to biodiversity benefits and support reporting and</p>	<p>Indicator 12: Integrated relational databases for all protected areas and conservation areas in South Africa developed and functional, with mechanisms in place to systematically collect, disaggregate, and report gender-sensitive data on access, benefits, and participation of women, men, and gender-diverse groups in these areas.</p>	<p>DFFE and SANBI records</p>	<p>South African Protected Areas Database (SAPAD)</p>	<p>SAPAD revised and upgraded to be a fully integrated relational database for all protected areas and conservation areas in South Africa.</p>	<p>SAPAD revised and upgraded to be a fully integrated relational database for all protected areas and conservation areas in South Africa.</p>	<p>Project Coordinator to track and capture progress in PIRs.</p>	<p>Risks:</p> <p>A lack of human resource capacity and expertise within the national and provincial conservation authorities and agencies to contribute to the development and maintenance of the database.</p> <p>Assumptions:</p> <p>Good collaboration</p>

<p>communicati on.</p>	<p>Indicator 13: System for measurement of investment in biodiversity and ecosystems developed and functional (framework with standardised indicators and workflow by mid- term, functional)</p>	<p>DFFE and SANBI</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>System drafted and tried.</p>	<p>System established and fully functional.</p>	<p>Project Coordinator to monitor and capture progress in PIRs.</p>	<p>will prevail between the stakeholders required to develop and maintain the database.</p> <p>Accurate and up to date data will be made available in good time.</p> <p>System will include a measure that will show return on investment.</p>
<p>Outputs to achieve Outcome 3.1.</p>	<p>3.1.1. Spatially explicit relational database of OECMS (compatible with the Protected Areas and Conservation Areas (PACA) database and linked to the biodiversity offset register) developed and functional.</p> <p>3.1.2. Gender responsive framework and workflow for standardised spatially explicit measurement of investments in biodiversity and ecosystems (in terms of extent, employment and expenditure) by multiple actors to support knowledge of benefits and impact evaluation developed.</p>						
<p>Outcome 3.2.</p> <p>Biodiversity- related analysis, accounts and indicators are produced to support integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes.</p>	<p>Indicator 14: Number of national natural capital accounts developed (four)</p>	<p>StatsSA, DFFE and SANBI NCA Coordinatio n Unit</p>	<p>Current NCA</p>	<p>Revised and updated NCA and replicated twice</p>	<p>Fully functional NCA replicated four times.</p>	<p>Project Coordinator to track and capture progress in PIRs.</p>	<p>Risk:</p> <p>Limited human and financial resources related to NCA impacts the effective integration of environmental and economic data. These constraints can affect the ability of institutions to measure, value, and incorporate natural capital into national and regional decision- making.</p> <p>Assumptions:</p> <p>The NCAs serve to help build the case for biodiversity conservation and influence</p>

							decision-making.
	Indicator 15: Number of knowledge and communication products developed/generated (10 products)	DFFE, SANBI, SANParks and provincial conservation agencies.	0	3	10	Project Coordinator to ensure that every project intervention is tracked from start to finish and comprehensive reports are produced to report on the inputs, outputs and outcomes.	Risks: Insufficient number of knowledge and communication products may limit stakeholder awareness, understanding, and engagement. Assumptions: Sufficient number of well-designed, targeted knowledge and communication products will be produced and effectively disseminated to reach key stakeholders.
Outputs to achieve Outcome 3.2:	<p>3.2.1. Ecosystem accounts for different realms (terrestrial, wetland and river) and accounts for protected areas and conservation areas developed with equal participation of men and women; and data flows to enable regular production.</p> <p>3.2.2. Biodiversity Economy Satellite Accounts and Environmental Protection Expenditure Accounts developed with data flows to enable regular production.</p> <p>3.2.3. Gender responsive knowledge resources, drawing on science-based information from accounts and other analysis, translate information for uptake in relevant sectors and levels of government to support making the case for biodiversity conservation.</p>						
Project component 4:	Effective implementation of and adherence to all gender and risk management requirements.						
Outcome 4.1: Implementation of and adherence to all gender and risk management requirements ensure the integrity of all project	Indicator 16: Level of compliance with all ISEP and GAAP requirements.	All project intervention records, reports and planning.	0	100% compliance	100% compliance	Project Coordinator to ensure all project interventions are monitored to track and report on compliance. In addition compliance will be assessed at	Risk: A turn-over of Project Coordinators will break momentum and continuity of the tracking and reporting on project interventions.

interventions						MTR and TE, as well as in PIRs.	Assumptions: All safeguard requirements will be adhered to.
Outputs to achieve Outcome 4.1:	4.1.1. Project-level risk management measures, including gender action plan and stakeholder engagement plan developed and implemented.						

ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
International Team Leader / International Project Development Specialist with a focus on pollution management responsible for quality assurance and timely preparation of all reports and documentation International Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist responsible for safeguards related inputs specifically SESP and ESMF	78,250.00	78,250.00	
National Gender and Stakeholder Engagement Expert National Biodiversity Stewardship and Livelihoods Expert Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage Knowledge Specialist	45,000.00	22,850.00	22,150.00
Travel costs associated with field missions by the PPG team	16,000.00	8,200.00	7,800.00
Stationary acquisition for workshops and consultation meetings.	1,250.00		1,250.00
Training, Workshops and Conference 1st Gauteng Province Workshop, 2nd (Validation) Workshop	9,500.00	1,864.00	7,636.00
Total	150,000.00	111,164.00	38,836.00

ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Mapungubwe to Makuleke	-22.633647	29.869097	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Kruger to Lephalale-Kalahari	-23.992697	28.811329	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Augrabies to Namaqua	-29.274889	18.571123	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Kimberly to Kuruman	-28.537294	23.860581	

Location Description:

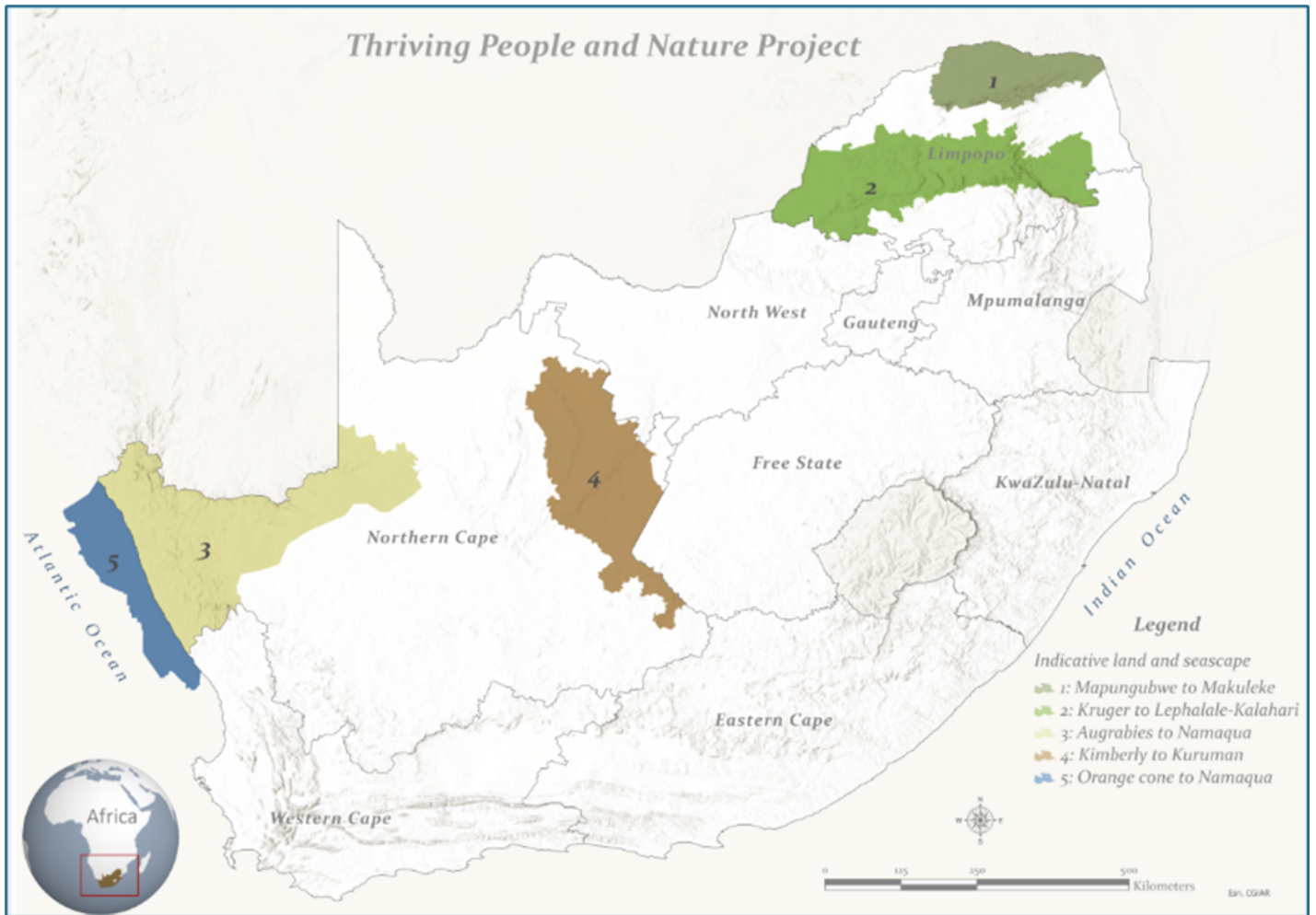
Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Orange cone – Namaqua (marine)	-29.327753	16.470850	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

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



ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

Attach agency safeguard datasheet/assessment report(s), including ratings of risk types and overall project/program risk classification as well as any management plans or measures to address identified risks and impacts (as applicable).

Title

9745 Annex 5 - SESP_10Jun2025

9745 Annex 9 - ESMF_10Jun2025

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

Annex G- GEF budget

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity
		Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	M&E	PMC		(Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
Contractual services-Individual	M&E specialist from Yr 2 to Yr 5 at US\$2 571/month in Yr 2, US\$2 699/month in Yr 3, US\$2 834 in Yr 4 and US\$2 976 in Yr 5. Total US\$132,959.				132,959			132,959	SANBI
Contractual services-Individual	Natural Capital Accounting specialist at US\$2 300/month in Yr 1, US\$2 415 in Yr 2 and US\$2 536 in Yr 3. Total US\$87,009.			87,009				87,009	SANBI
Contractual services-Individual	Project Manager to manage all administrative aspects of project implementation The total allocation for the Project Manager under PMC is US\$96,492 and under Comp 1 157,516.	157,516					96,492	254,008	SANBI
Contractual services-Individual	Safeguards Specialist for Yr 2 to Yr 5 at US\$ 20 790 in Yr 2, US\$ 21 830 in Yr 3 and US\$22 921 in Yr 4 US\$ 24 067 in Yr 5, with approximately 5% increment each year. Sub-total US\$ 89,608 Two Biodiversity Stewardship Facilitators at US\$ 57 960 Yr 2, US\$ 60 858 Yr 3, US\$ 63 901 in Yr 4 and US\$ 67 096 in Yr 5, with approximately 5% increment each year. Sub-total US\$ 249,815 Two Ecologists at US\$ 60 858 Yr 3, US\$ 63 901 in Yr 4 and US\$ 67 096 in Yr 5, with approximately 5% increment each year. Sub-total US\$ 191,855 Total: US\$ 531,278		531,278					531,278	SANBI
Equipment	Office furniture for the Biodiversity Stewardship Legal Officer. Total US\$1,300	1,300						1,300	SANBI

Equipment	Budget for routers and internet connectivity at US\$10 000,00 in Yr 2. Total US\$ 10,000.			10,000				10,000	SANBI
Equipment	Information Technology equipment for the Biodiversity Stewardship Legal Officer, i.e. laptop computer. Total US\$946	946						946	SANBI
Equipment	Information Technology equipment for the Safeguards Specialist, i.e. laptop computer. Sub-total US\$800. Information Technology equipment for the Biodiversity Stewardship Facilitators and Ecologists at US\$800 each, i.e. four laptop computers. Sub-total US\$3 200. Total US\$4,000.		4,000					4,000	SANBI
Equipment	Purchase of a laptop computer for the PM in Yr 1 at US\$1 200,00. Total US\$1,200.					1,200		1,200	SANBI
International Consultants	International Midterm Review consultant in Yr 3. Sub-total US\$40 000 International Terminal Evaluation consultant in Yr 5. Sub-total US\$55 000 Total US\$95,000.					95,000		95,000	UNDP
Local Consultants	A national consultant to develop a marine systematic conservation plan working for two weeks per month for nine months in Yr 1 at US\$2 000,00/week. Total US\$36,000	36,000						36,000	SANBI
Local Consultants	A national consultant to provide wildlife-based economy business development services after mid-term and for 12 weeks each in Years 3, 4 and 5. Total US\$102,141.		102,141					102,141	SANBI
Local Consultants	Local ESMF consultants at US\$10 000 in Yr1 and US\$ 20 000 in Yr 2; and then as and when required to carry out environmental, social and cultural heritage impact assessments of all PAE interventions at US\$20 000 for Yr 3 and US\$10 000 for Yr 4 and 5. Total US\$70,000.				70,000			70,000	SANBI

Local Consultants	Local Midterm Review and Terminal Evaluation Consultants at US\$2 200 per week for 8 weeks in Yr 3 and Yr 5. Total US\$35 200.						35,200	35,200	UNDP
Materials & Goods	Brush-cutters, chain saws, spades, slashers, PPE, etc. for restoration work as per the OECM management plans at US\$124 592 per year from Yr 2 and US\$126 671 in Yr 5. Sub-total US\$500 447.							500,447	SANBI
Other Operating Costs	Vehicle running costs for the Biodiversity Stewardship Facilitators and Ecologists at US\$ 14 400 in Yr 2, US\$ 33 600 in Yr 3, US\$ 38 400 in Yr 4 and US\$ 43 200 in Yr 5. Sub-total US\$ 129 600.							129,600	SANBI
Equipment	Materials and goods needed for the business development training and for business start up such as bee keeping equipment, sewing machines, wood working tools, etc. from Yr 2 to Yr 5. Total US\$871,472.							871,472	SANBI
Professional Services	Procurement of profession services for auditing the project on an annual basis from Yr 2 through to Yr 5 starting at US\$3 000 in Yr 2 and at an annual increment of 5%. Total US\$25,861.						25,861	25,861	UNDP
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Annual Inter-government Authorities Committee at US\$30/person/day for 30 people for 2 days each year US\$1 800 for Yr 1, US\$1 980 for Yr 2, US\$2 200 for Yr 3, US\$2 420 for Yr 4 and US\$2 700 for Yr 5. Sub-total US\$11 100 Quarterly meetings of the Biodiversity Stewardship Legal Reference Group for 20 people for one day at US\$2 400 for Yr2, US\$2 520 for Yr 3, US\$2 648 for Yr 4 and US\$2 781 for Yr 5. Sub-total US\$10 349. Total US\$21,449							21,449	SANBI

<p>Training, Workshops, Meetings</p>	<p>Bi-annual National Biodiversity Stewardship Technical Working Group at US\$6 500 per meeting for 30 participants. Sub-total US\$65 000. Bi-annual provincial Biodiversity Stewardship Technical Working Group meetings on. Sub-total US\$17,266. One national Biodiversity Stewardship Conference in Yr 3 and one national Biodiversity Stewardship Learning exchange in Yr 5, inclusive of all costs. Sub-total US\$66,000. Total US\$148,266</p>		<p>148,266</p>				<p>148,266</p>	<p>SANBI</p>
<p>Training, Workshops, Meetings</p>	<p>Biodiversity stewardship guidelines mainstreaming workshops at US\$1 200 in Yr 1, US\$1 280 in Yr 2, US\$1 360 in Yr 3, US\$1 440 in Yr 4 and US\$1 520 in Yr 5. Sub-total US\$6 800. Two two-day marine systematic conservation planning workshops in each of the four coastal provinces at US\$30/person/day for 20 people at each workshop. Sub-total US\$9 600,00. Total US\$16,400</p>	<p>16,400</p>					<p>16,400</p>	<p>SANBI</p>
<p>Training, Workshops, Meetings</p>	<p>Four four days PAES workshops at US\$30/person for twenty people per workshop. Sub-total US\$9,600. Two three day PAES Stakeholder workshops every second month per province for 20 people at US\$30/person in Yr 1, 2 and 3. Sub-total US\$64,800. Eight four day protected area management planning workshops for 30 stakeholders/workshop at US\$30/person/day and DSAs US\$100/night for 10 nights every second month in Yrs 4 and 5. Sub-total US\$208,800. SLM and OECM workshops including 20 participants per five</p>		<p>424,800</p>				<p>424,800</p>	<p>SANBI</p>

	<p>day workshop every second month in Yr 3, 4 and 5 at US\$30/person as well as DSAs at US\$40/person. Sub-total US\$126,000. Learning exchanges among the landowners on SLM practices with two learning exchanges in Yr 3, 4 and 5 for 10 key representatives per learning exchange at a rate of US\$225/person in Yr 3, US\$265/person in Yr 4 and US\$290 in Yr 5. Rate inclusive of venue, catering and DSA costs. Sub-total US\$15,600. Total US\$424,800.</p>								
Training, Workshops, Meetings	<p>Four wildlife-based economy business development capacity building workshops in each province for 15 participants for three days each in Yrs 4 and 10 participants in Yr 5 at US\$150/participant inclusive of all costs. Sub-total US\$90 000. Alternative livelihood training workshops US\$150/person for 10 people for five days for two workshops in Yr 2, three in Yr 3, four in Yr 4 and five in Yr 5, in each of the two provinces; inclusive of all costs. Sub-total US\$210 000. Total US\$300,000.</p>		300,000					300,000	SANBI
Training, Workshops, Meetings	<p>Two workshops to develop and implement a spatially explicit relational database of OECMS at US\$30/person/day. Total: US\$4,500.</p>			4,500				4,500	SANBI
Travel	<p>A travel allowance for the PM for 2000km/month for 10 months/year starting at US\$0,20/km and escalating by US\$0,05/annum. DSA for the PM at US\$150/night for 5 nights a month for 10 months/year. Total US\$ 79,500.</p>						79,500	79,500	SANBI

Travel	<p>Three domestic return flights for the Biodiversity Stewardship Legal Office at US\$350/flight and DSAs at US\$150.00 per night for two week per PAEs workshops. Sub-total US\$3,150.</p> <p>Travel allowance for the two Ecologists and two Biodiversity Stewardship Facilitators at a rate of US\$0.25/km for 2000km each per month for the life span of the project and DSAs at US\$150/night for 13 nights every second month in Yrs 1,2 and 3. Sub-total US\$212,400.</p> <p>Travel allowance for the Safeguards Specialist at US\$0.25/km for 2000km/month and DSAs at US\$150/night for 13 nights per month. Sub-total US\$88,200.</p> <p>Twelve domestic return flights for the Biodiversity Stewardship Facilitators and Ecologists. Sub-total US\$15,600.</p> <p>Domestic return flights at US\$300.00 per flight for 18 key landowner representatives to attend two learning exchanges in Yr 3, 4 and 5, including travel for the Biodiversity Stewardship Facilitator and Ecologist and DSAs at US\$100/person/day. Sub-total US\$48,000.</p> <p>Total: US\$367,350.</p> <p><i>NB: Travel allowance and DSA for project personnel are to be reimbursed based on actual travel with receipts as supporting documentation.</i></p>	15,600	367,350				367,350	SANBI
Travel	<p>Travel allowance and DSA for the resource economist. Total US\$83,723</p> <p><i>NB: Travel allowance and DSA for project personnel are to be reimbursed based on actual travel with receipts as supporting documentation</i></p>		83,723				83,723	SANBI
Travel	Travel allowance for the Biodiversity Stewardship Legal	15,600					15,600	SANBI

	<p>Officer starting at US\$0,25/km for 1000km/month for Yr2, escalating at US\$0,05 per annum. Total US\$15,600 <i>NB: Travel allowance and DSA for project personnel are to be reimbursed based on actual travel with receipts as supporting documentation</i></p>								
Travel	<p>Travel costs for 5 sector representatives for biodiversity stewardship mainstreaming workshops. Sub-total US\$27 700. Travel costs for national consultant for marine systematic conservation planning workshops. Sub-total US\$3 600. Total: 31,300 <i>NB: Travel allowance and DSA for project personnel are to be reimbursed based on actual travel with receipts as supporting documentation</i></p>	31,300						31,300	SANBI
Travel	<p>Two domestic return flights each for five reps from each of the two provinces and three from SANParks to attend the above workshops at US\$300/flight. Sub-total US\$9 000. DSAs for five reps from each of the two provinces and three from SANParks to attend the above workshops at US\$150/person/day. Sub-total US\$13 500. Total: US\$22,500 <i>NB: Travel allowance and DSA for project personnel are to be reimbursed based on actual travel with receipts as supporting documentation</i></p>			22,500				22,500	SANBI

	<p>Two international return flights for the Midterm Reviewer and the Terminal Evaluator at US\$1 000/flight. 4 flight per US\$1000 Sub-total US\$4 000.</p> <p>Two domestic return flights for the national Midterm Reviewer and the Terminal Evaluator at US\$300/flight. Sub-total US\$1 200.</p> <p>DSAs for the international Midterm Reviewer at US\$150/night for 10 nights in Yr 3 and the Terminal Evaluator at US\$150/night for 14 nights in Yr 5. Sub-total US\$3 600.</p> <p>DSAs for the national Midterm Reviewer at US\$150/night for 10 nights in Yr 3 and the Terminal Evaluator at US\$150/night for 14 nights in Yr 5. sub-total US\$3 600.</p> <p>Total: US\$ 12,400.</p> <p>NB: Travel allowance and DSA for project personnel are to be reimbursed based on actual travel with receipts as supporting documentation</p>									
Travel						12,400		12,400	UNDP	
Project Total		280,511	3,463,076	124,009	202,959	142,600	203,053	4,416,208		

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)							Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	M&E	PMC			
Contractual services- Individual	M&E specialist from Yr 2 to Yr 5 at US\$2 571/month in Yr 2, US\$2 699/month in Yr 3, US\$2 834 in Yr 4 and US\$2 976 in Yr 5. Total US\$132,959.				132,959			132,959	SANBI	
Contractual services- Individual	Natural Capital Accounting specialist at US\$2 300/month in Yr 1, US\$2 415 in Yr 2 and US\$2 536 in Yr 3. Total US\$87,009.			87,009				87,009	SANBI	

	Project Manager to manage all administrative aspects of project implementation The total allocation for the Project Manager under PMC is US\$96,492 and under Comp 1 157,516.				SANBI
Contractual services- Individual		157,516		96,492	254,008
	Safeguards Specialist for Yr 2 to Yr 5 at US\$ 20 790 in Yr 2, US\$ 21 830 in Yr 3 and US\$22 921 in Yr 4 US\$ 24 067 in Yr 5, with approximately 5% increment each year. Sub-total US\$ 89,608 Two Biodiversity Stewardship Facilitators at US\$ 57 960 Yr 2, US\$ 60 858 Yr 3, US\$ 63 901 in Yr 4 and US\$ 67 096 in Yr 5, with approximately 5% increment each year. Sub-total US\$ 249,815 Two Ecologists at US\$ 60 858 Yr 3, US\$ 63 901 in Yr 4 and US\$ 67 096 in Yr 5, with approximately 5% increment each year. Sub-total US\$ 191,855 Total: US\$ 531,278		531,278		531,278
Contractual services- Individual					
	Office furniture for the Biodiversity Stewardship Legal Officer.				SANBI
Equipment	Total US\$1,300	1,300			1,300
	Budget for routers and internet connectivity at US\$10 000,00 in Yr 2.				SANBI
Equipment	Total US\$ 10,000. Information Technology equipment for the Biodiversity Stewardship Legal Officer, i.e. laptop computer.		10,000		10,000
					SANBI
Equipment	Total US\$946 Information Technology equipment for the Safegaurds Specialist, i.e. laptop computer. Sub-total US\$800. Information Technology equipment for the Biodiversity Stewardship Facilitators and Ecologists at US\$800 each, i.e. four laptop computers. Sub-total	946			946
					SANBI
Equipment			4,000		4,000

	US\$3 200. Total US\$4,000.				
Equipment	Purchase of a laptop computer for the PM in Yr 1 at US\$1 200,00. Total US\$1,200.		1,200	1,200	SANBI
International Consultants	International Midterm Review consultant in Yr 3. Sub-total US\$40 000 International Terminal Evaluation consultant in Yr 5. Sub-total US\$55 000 Total US\$95,000.		95,000	95,000	UNDP
Local Consultants	A national consultant to develop a marine systematic conservation plan working for two weeks per month for nine months in Yr 1 at US\$2 000,00/week. Total US\$36,000	36,000		36,000	SANBI
Local Consultants	A national consultant to provide wildlife-based economy business development services after mid-term and for 12 weeks each in Years 3, 4 and 5. Total US\$102,141.		102,141	102,141	SANBI
Local Consultants	Local ESMF consultants at US\$10 000 in Yr1 and US\$ 20 000 in Yr 2; and then as and when required to carry out environmental, social and cultural heritage impact assessments of all PAE interventions at US\$20 000 for Yr 3 and US\$10 000 for Yr 4 and 5. Total US\$70,000.		70,000	70,000	SANBI
Local Consultants	Local Midterm Review and Terminal Evaluation Consultants at US\$2 200 per week for 8 weeks in Yr 3 and Yr 5. Total US\$35 200.		35,200	35,200	UNDP
Materials and Goods	Brush-cutters, chain saws, spades, slashers, PPE, etc. for restoration work as per the OECM management plans at US\$124 592 per year from Yr 2 and US\$126 671 in Yr 5. Sub-total US\$500 447.			500,447	SANBI
Other Operating Costs	Vehicle running costs for the Biodiversity Stewardship Facilitators and Ecologists at US\$ 14 400 in Yr 2, US\$ 33 600 in Yr 3, US\$ 38 400 in		129,600	129,600	SANBI

Yr 4 and US\$ 43 200 in
Yr 5.
Sub-total US\$ 129 600.

	Materials and goods needed for the business development training and for business start up such as bee keeping equipment, sewing machines, wood working tools, etc. from Yr 2 to Yr 5. Total US\$871,472.	871,472	871,472		SANBI
Equipment	Procurement of profession services for auditing the project on an annual basis from Yr 2 through to Yr 5 starting at US\$3 000 in Yr 2 and at an annual increment of 5%. Total US\$25,861.		25,861	25,861	UNDP
Professional Services	Annual Inter-government Authorities Committee at US\$30/person/day for 30 people for 2 days each year US\$1 800 for Yr 1, US\$1 980 for Yr 2, US\$2 200 for Yr 3, US\$2 420 for Yr 4 and US\$2 700 for Yr 5. Sub-total US\$11 100				SANBI
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Quarterly meetings of the Biodiversity Stewardship Legal Reference Group for 20 people for one day at US\$2 400 for Yr2, US42 520 for Yr 3, US\$2 648 for Yr 4 and US\$2 781 for Yr 5. Sub-total US\$10 349. Total US\$21,449	21,449		21,449	
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Bi-annual National Biodiversity Stewardship Technical Working Group at US\$6 500 per meeting for 30 participants. Sub-total US\$65 000. Bi-annual provincial Biodiversity Stewardship Technical Working Group meetings on. Sub-total US\$17,266.				SANBI
Training, Workshops, Meetings	One national Biodiversity Stewardship Conference in Yr 3 and one national Biodiversity Stewardship Learning exchange in Yr 5, inclusive of all costs. Sub-total US\$66,000. Total US\$148,266	148,266		148,266	

Sub-total US\$88,200.
Twelve domestic
return flights for the
Biodiversity
Stewardship
Facilitators and
Ecologists.
Sub-total US\$15,600.
Domestic return flights
at US\$300.00 per flight
for 18 key landowner
representatives to
attend two learning
exchanges in Yr 3, 4
and 5, including travel
for the Biodiversity
Stewardship Facilitator
and Ecologist and DSAs
at US\$100/person/day.
Sub-total US\$48,000.
Total: US\$367,350.

**NB: Travel allowance
and DSA for project
personnel are to be
reimbursed based on
actual travel with
receipts as supporting
documentation.**

Travel allowance and
DSA for the resource
economist.
Total US\$83,723

**NB: Travel allowance
and DSA for project
personnel are to be
reimbursed based on
actual travel with
receipts as supporting
documentation**

Travel

83,723

83,723

SANBI

Travel allowance for
the Biodiversity
Stewardship Legal
Officer starting at
US\$0,25/km for
1000km/month for Yr2,
escalating at US\$0,05
per annum.
Total US\$15,600

SANBI

**NB: Travel allowance
and DSA for project
personnel are to be
reimbursed based on
actual travel with
receipts as supporting
documentation**

Travel

15,600

15,600

Travel costs for 5
sector representatives
for biodiversity
stewardship
mainstreaming
workshops.
Sub-total US\$27 700.
Travel costs for
national consultant for
marine systematic
conservation planning
workshops.
Sub-total US\$3 600.
Total: 31,300

SANBI

Travel

31,300

31,300

NB: Travel allowance and DSA for project personnel are to be reimbursed based on actual travel with receipts as supporting documentation

Two domestic return flights each for five reps from each of the two provinces and three from SANParks to attend the above workshops at US\$300/flight. Sub-total US\$9 000. DSAs for five reps from each of the two provinces and three from SANParks to attend the above workshops at US\$150/person/day. Sub-total US\$13 500. Total: US\$22,500

SANBI

Travel	<p>NB: Travel allowance and DSA for project personnel are to be reimbursed based on actual travel with receipts as supporting documentation</p> <p>Two international return flights for the Midterm Reviewer and the Terminal Evaluator at US\$1 000/flight. 4 flight per US\$1000 Sub-total US\$4 000. Two domestic return flights for the national Midterm Reviewer and the Terminal Evaluator at US\$300/flight. Sub-total US\$1 200. DSAs for the international Midterm Reviewer at US\$150/night for 10 nights in Yr 3 and the Terminal Evaluator at US\$150/night for 14 nights in Yr 5. Sub-total US\$3 600. DSAs for the the national Midterm Reviewer at US\$150/night for 10 nights in Yr 3 and the Terminal Evaluator at US\$150/night for 14 nights in Yr 5. sub-total US\$3 600. Total: US\$ 12,400.</p>	22,500	22,500
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Travel	<p>NB: Travel allowance and DSA for project personnel are to be reimbursed based on actual travel with</p>	12,400	12,400	UNDP
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receipts as supporting
documentation

Project Total	280,511	3,463,076	124,009	202,959	142,600	203,053	4,416,208
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ANNEX I: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS

From GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF.

COMMENT	RESPONSE
<p><i>Comment by Luyi Cheng, Advisor, U.S. State Department of State, UNITED STATES, Council, made on 7/12/2024</i></p> <p>Comment: All biodiversity is important for nature conservation. There is not an internationally recognized definition for megadiversity and thus it should not be included as a rationale for receiving GEF funding.</p>	<p>The comment is well noted. The concept of megadiversity is only used as an additional element of information to highlight the high biodiversity of South Africa but has been replaced with the concept of “internationally significant biodiversity”.</p>
<p><i>Comment by Annette Windmeisser, GEF Council Member, Head of Division on Climate Finance, BMZ (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development), GERMANY, Council, made on 6/28/2024</i></p> <p>Comment: Germany welcomes the inclusion of IP&LCs in the project objectives, as well as the recognition of the significant potential social risks for these groups and the development of safeguards to mitigate these risks. Germany recommends further elaboration of the enabling environment for IP&LCs as mentioned in the project objectives. In order to increase their visibility and participation throughout the process, Germany suggests that their involvement in participatory processes be more prominently included in the outputs, especially in Output 2.</p>	<p>The Biodiversity Stewardship approach, including the establishment of OECMs, is based on the philosophy of being able to keep people on the land/sea while negotiating management and resource use approaches that remain within the limits of sustainability and bring about restoration where needed. In addition to this, the project seeks to ensure that sustainable, tangible and meaningful livelihood opportunities are realised by the IP&LCs in a way that generates an appreciation for the value of biodiversity persisting in the land and seascapes while producing and delivering benefits to IP&LCs. None of this will be achieved without IP&LC engagements that carefully follow the guidance provided by the Stakeholder Engagement and Gender Action Plans and</p>

	<p>adherence to the requirements of these plans will be supported and monitored by full-time Safeguards and Gender Specialists.</p>
<p>Comment by John Donaldson (STAP Panel Member) and Allesandro Moscuza (STAP Secretariat) dd 28 May 2024:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide a clearer description of the objectives and pathways for achieving the objective, with a consistent set of outcomes and outputs, particularly for Component 2. 2. Ensure that the list of stakeholders adequately caters for all aspects of the project, particularly groups who may be affected by land use decisions or those whose livelihoods may be impacted by the project interventions. 3. Ensure that the activities on alternative livelihood interventions follow best practice and the project is designed to overcome common pitfalls. 4. Consider how trade-offs between socio-economic and environmental benefits will be managed in situations where win-win outcomes are not guaranteed. 5. Review the section on knowledge management to ensure that more granular information on benefits to IP&LC is included. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Project Objective has been rearticulated to ensure that it provides a clear indication of the fact that practical on the ground implementation of the Biodiversity Stewardship approach to PCA expansion will happen in two provinces (Component 2), while work done to strengthen the enabling environment at the national and provincial levels (Component 1) and the use of knowledge generated to strengthen the case for Biodiversity Stewardship and PCA expansion (Component 3) will be used to support the work in the two provinces while the lessons learned from this work will feed into these two Components concurrently. The outcomes and outputs have been articulated to bring this clarity as well. 2. The Stakeholder and Gender Analyses have thoroughly interrogated the implementation environment, particularly in the two provinces, and the resultant Stakeholder Engagement and Gender Action Plans (Annexes 8 and 10) provide the guidance needed to ensure that all interested and affected stakeholder groups will be engaged at the appropriate level and methods. 3. Allowance has been made for adequate IP&LC engagement processes that follow the mitigation measures highlighted in the Environmental and

6. Further develop the risk section to provide mitigation measures and revise the section on climate risk.

Social Management Framework (ESMF, Annex 9) and the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF, included with Annex 9), while budget allocations include substantial support for SMME start-up.

4. These situations cannot be predicted at project design stage and therefore allowance has been made to manage these situations through providing support to the identification and establishment of alternative livelihood opportunities that will still be in sync with the achievement of biodiversity conservation outcomes.

5. The success of this project is based on the need to ensure more granular information on benefits to IP&LC is generated against a robust baseline, see IPPF included in Annex 9. Component 3 is dedicated to ensuring that evidence generated from the project interventions in the two provinces serves to support the strengthening of the case for Biodiversity Stewardship and PCA expansion.

6. The process of developing the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP), the ESMF including an IPPF has interrogated the risks as comprehensively as possible, including reference to projected climate change impacts. A comprehensive Risk Register is included as Annex 6 and safeguards risks are addressed in the SESP (Annex 5) and ESMF (Annex 9).

