GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title

Conservation, development and livelihoods for thriving people and nature

Region	GEF Project ID
South Africa	11448

Country(ies)	Type of Project
South Africa	FSP

GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency ID
UNDP	9745

Executing Partner	Executing Partner Type
South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)	Government

GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Biodiversity	10/18/2023

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Mixed & Others

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Species, Wildlife for Sustainable Development, Biomes, Grasslands, Desert, Wetlands, Rivers, Mainstreaming, Tourism, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Financial and Accounting, Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting, Conservation Finance, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Terrestrial Protected Areas, International Waters, Learning, Coastal, Large Marine Ecosystems, Mangrove, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Ecosystem Approach, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Livelihoods, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Climate Change Mitigation, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Nationally Determined Contribution, Influencing models, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Demonstrate innovative approache, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Stakeholders, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Community Based Organization, Local Communities, Type of Engagement, Participation, Consultation, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Private Sector, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Communications, Awareness Raising, Behavior change, Strategic Communications, Public Campaigns, Indigenous Peoples, Beneficiaries, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access to benefits and services, Access and control over natural resources, Capacity Development, Participation and leadership, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Innovation, Knowledge Exchange, Indicators to measure change, Theory of change, Adaptive management

Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
GET	60

GEF Project Grant: (a)	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)
4,416,208.00	0.00

Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)
419,540.00	0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
4,835,748.00	35,265,699.00
PPG Amount: (e)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)
150,000.00	14,250.00
PPG total amount: (e+f)	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)
164,250.00	4,999,998.00
Project Tags	
CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No	

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. The explanation and justification of the project should be in section B "project description".(max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

South Africa is a megadiverse country with severe socio-economic developmental challenges. Human-induced activities have led to pressures on biodiversity and its benefits. Due to the legacy of apartheid and colonialism, conservation is not always seen as part of 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 cover 30% of its area by 2030. In line with GEF8 strategy, the project goal is to expand conservation areas through integrated approaches that promote protection and sustainable use for thriving people and nature. It aims to directly contribute 360,000 ha to the conservation estate; benefit 65,466 (51.8% women) people; and contribute to GEF Core Indicators 1.1, 4.1, 5.4 and 11. To achieve this goal, the project will scale up the biodiversity stewardship programme which is established as a cost-effective mechanism for conserving privately or communally owned areas as protected areas or OECMs. This will include strengthening the enabling environment for mainstreaming biodiversity in key sectors and integration of OECM requirements in the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme; enhancing capacity of provincial institutions and collaboration between public sector, private sector, NGOs and communities for sustainable management of landscapes and seascapes in Limpopo and Northern Cape provinces; enhance flow of biodiversity benefits for communities and local economic development; and strengthen evidence base of benefits of biodiversity for people and economy through natural capital accounting and modernised information management systems to make the case for more investment in biodiversity.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

To develop a transformative enabling environment for indigenous people and local communities, non-governmental organization's, 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

1. Enabling 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 ($)	Co-financing ($)
1,100,900.00	7,706,300.00

Outcome:

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

Indicators and targets:

National multi-sectoral inter-government authorities' coordination platform in place and functional (IAC) (has met five times by end-term

1.2. Relevant policy frameworks, regulatory instruments, and planning tools support the mainstreaming and implementation of mechanisms for biodiversity conservation across key economic sectors.

Indicators and targets:

a) *Biodiversity mainstreamed into relevant policies or guidelines of key sectors (Agriculture, Tourism) to support transformative outcomes through conservation (2 policies by end-term)*

b) *Biodiversity Stewardship Guidelines revised to include OECMs (by mid-term)*

C) *Marine spatial 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. Marine spatial 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 ($)	Co-financing ($)
1,806,797.00	16,945,677.00

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

Indicators and targets:

a) *Area of new terrestrial protected areas created (40,000h [GEF Core Indicator 1.1]).*

b) *Area of landscapes and seascapes under improved practices through OECMs (310,000ha-terrestrial [GEF Core Indicator 4.1]; 10,000ha-marine habitat; [GEF Core Indicator 5.4])*

C) *Capacity of selected institutions in the two provinces to manage biodiversity (Target: TBD during PPG)*

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

Indicators and targets:

a) *Number of people benefiting from GEF-financed investments to boost the transformation of the biodiversity sector, including through greater participation by rural communities (65,466 by end term, 50% women; GEF Core Indicator 11)*

b) *Number of people benefiting from alternative livelihood options and economic activities supported by the project (TBD during PPG)*

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

Indicators and targets:

Functional multi stakeholder collaboration forums at national and landscape levels in place and regularly convened (i) Biannual National Biodiversity Stewardship Conference; ii) annual landscape platform; iii) two learning exchanges in provinces per year).

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.

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.

2.2.1. 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 supporting biodiversity conservation for transformative outcomes are regularly convened.

2.3.2. ==Gender inclusive and responsive== national learning exchanges, conferences and capacity building events targeting practitioners held.

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 ($)	Co-financing ($)
1,111,166.00	7,482,853.00

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.

Indicators and targets:

a) *Integrated relational databases for all protected areas and conservation areas in South Africa developed and functional.*

b) *System for measurement of investment in biodiversity and ecosystems developed and functional (framework with standardized 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.

Indicators and targets:

a) *Number of natural capital accounts developed (four)*

b) *Number of knowledge and communication products (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[1], 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

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[1] Knowledge resources include knowledge products and communication materials such as science-policy briefs, newspaper articles, factsheets, videos and information resources for sharing with key sectoral partners.

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
187,049.00	1,407,472.00

Outcome:

4.1. Monitoring that is responsive to gender, youth, IPLCs and people with disabilities[1] is conducted for project interventions and supports evaluation of project impact.

Indicators and targets:

a)   *Annual PIR, MTR and TE delivered on time and according to expected quality standards (targets: MTR, TE and PIR independent quality ratings Highly Satisfactory or Satisfactory)*

b)   *Gender action plan fully implemented and reported (annually in PIRs, at MTR and TE)*

C) *Social and environmental safeguards requirements fully implemented and reported (annually in PIRs, MTR and TE)*

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[1] Promoting participation and influence of designated groups in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use is a cross-cutting element in the identified project. Designated groups are gender-responsive, youth, people with disabilities, indigenous people and local communities (IPLCs) (more commonly referred to in South Africa as previously disadvantaged individuals (PDIs)), in line with the White paper on conservation and sustainable use of South Africa's biodiversity. Perspectives of nature from these designated groups is important to social cohesion and society and will be sought across all elements of the project. All people related data will be disaggregated by these designated groups wherever possible, including all monitoring of project activities and evaluation of impact.

Output:

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

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

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1. Enabling environment strengthened to conserve landscapes and seascapes with benefits to biodiversity, development and rural livelihoods	1,100,900.00	7,706,300.00
2. Biodiversity conserved in a manner that benefits communities and local economies for transformative outcomes in two provinces	1,806,797.00	16,945,677.00
3. Knowledge management enables biodiversity benefits, dependencies, risks and opportunities to be better known and communicated to support making the case for biodiversity conservation.	1,111,166.00	7,482,853.00
M&E	187,049.00	1,407,472.00
Subtotal	**4,205,912.00**	**33,542,302.00**
Project Management Cost	210,296.00	1,723,397.00
Total Project Cost ($)	**4,416,208.00**	**35,265,699.00**

Please provide justification

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Briefly 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's biodiversity: A national asset to be conserved.

In South Africa, a wide range of climate and geographical settings generate exceptional biodiversity and endemism. South Africa is counted among the 17 megadiverse countries of the world, which together are custodians of more than two-thirds of Earth's species. The country also hosts three of the 36 recognised biodiversity hotspots worldwide – regions of the globe that are biologically rich but severely threatened. South Africa has an estimated 67 000 animal species and over 20 400 plant species, more than half of which are endemic (SANBI, 2019).

Biodiversity is in decline at a global level. The rate of loss is more than 1 000 times faster than previous baselines (IPBES, 2019). The global levels of biodiversity loss are echoed in South Africa. The latest National Biodiversity Assessment of 2018 (SANBI, 2019) shows that almost half of all the ecosystem types in the country are threatened. The current protected area network in South Africa covers 9.8% of the country's terrestrial mainland and 5.4% of the mainland marine territory, but still fails to protect almost a third of ecosystem types in the country. Nearly a quarter of the endemic taxa assessed (23,312 taxa from 11 groups) are threatened with extinction. The largest pressure on terrestrial and coastal biodiversity in South Africa is habitat loss to agriculture, plantation forestry, urban development, and mining, which had affected 15.7% of the land area by 2014 (Stats SA, 2020). In addition, freshwater flow modification, over-abstraction of water, overuse of some species, pollution, biological invasions, and climate change are pressures that affect most ecosystems. Human activities are often concentrated in highly productive or accessible areas, which also generally coincide with areas of high biodiversity (DFFE, 2023). This leads to an accumulation of pressures that put ecosystems, species, and ecosystem services at risk. The result is that natural resources and the benefits they provide to people are broadly and acutely under pressure, which is impacting human well-being.

South Africa is also a developing nation that faces significant socio-economic challenges. The most pressing concerns are known as the triple challenges – poverty, inequality, and unemployment (NDP, 2012). In 2015, 49,2% of South African adults (aged 18 years and older) were living below the upper-bound poverty line (R992 per person per month, which is less than USD 2 a day), of which 52% were women (Stats SA 2018). South Africa is also one of the most unequal societies in the world, with the highest reported Gini co-efficient (World Bank, 2023). It is estimated that 10% of the population controls 85.7% of the wealth (Chancel et al., 2022). At the core of both these issues is an extremely high unemployment rate, affecting as many as one in three people of working age. At the end of June 2023, of the population working age, 34.2% of youth aged 15-24 were not in employment, education or training, and 50% of women of working age (compared to 39.8% of men of working age) were not in employment, education or training (Stats SA, 2023).

While there is a growing realization that prosperous economic and social systems depend on healthy natural systems, decision-makers in government, business and finance sector generally lack the know-how to integrate biodiversity considerations, thereby ignoring nature in their strategy, planning and capital allocation. In reality, save for isolated but important cases, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are generally seen as being in competition with development rather than underpinning it.

South Africa has large areas that remain natural or semi-natural (83.2% of land area in 2014; Stats SA, 2020), where improved management through integration of biodiversity objectives into finance, business, and production practices through the integration of activities related to restoration, sustainable use, and conservation will help to arrest the decline in the country's biodiversity. Intact ecosystems and biodiversity are essential for agricultural production, to supply clean water, and to attenuate floods and regulate water flow. They are also a source of edible and medicinal species, and as a basis for a biodiversity-based economy that includes ecotourism, hunting, fishing, harvesting and their associated value chains. Building a better understanding of these dependencies can help address equitable sharing of benefits from biodiversity and support transformation in the biodiversity sector.

South Africa promotes sustainable use of biodiversity and recognises that biodiversity-based economic activities increase livelihood opportunities and enhance the resilience of communities, especially in rural landscapes, as articulated in the recently gazetted White Paper on the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in South Africa, (White Paper, 2023). South Africa is fortunate to have a large biodiversity economy, centred around ecotourism, wildlife farming or ranching activities, biopharmaceuticals and horticulture, and all the services and goods required to support this value chain. Biodiversity-related jobs contribute directly to the employment of more than 400 000 people (Driver et al. 2019), and the biodiversity-based tourism industry is worth over R30 billion per year (Bac & Tlholoe, 2018).

Biodiversity already does contribute and has the potential to contribute more towards many of the goals of the National Development Plan (NDP 2030) aimed at reducing poverty and inequality in South Africa, but several challenges must also be addressed. Limited biodiversity-based value chains in communal areas, as well as limited access to land by previously disadvantage individuals (youth, women, and people with disabilities) constrain participation in and benefit from the biodiversity economy[1][3]. Addressing these challenges is important and the future of South Africa requires that we grow and transform the biodiversity sector. The aim is for people to live in harmony with nature by 2050 (CBD, 2018), and for nature and people to thrive (DFFE, 2023).

A bold effort is needed to scale up conservation to meet global targets.

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. Meeting the call to conserve 30% of land and marine area by 2030 (known as 30x30), will be challenging as the conservation estate[2][4] on the terrestrial mainland of South Africa is just under 17% (9.8% of the terrestrial mainland area formally protected, a further 6.8% conservation areas (DFFE 2023)), 5% of South Africa's oceans protected and 30% of South Africa's territory in the Southern Ocean is protected. To meet the 30% target for land area alone will require an additional 16 million hectares to be added to the conservation estate. A whole-of-society approach is needed to achieve the GBF targets.

South Africa's commitment to the 30x30 target is recognised at the highest levels and there is an increased level of ambition amongst a broad base of role players towards a collaborative vision. A major collaborative planning process involving government, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), private sector and civil

society, including indigenous people and community leaders, is underway to develop a suitable country implementation plan towards achieving the 30x30 target.

The barriers to implementation are generally not information based. South Africa has good spatial data and analysis to identify where efforts should be focused towards the 30x30 target through ecologically representative, well-connected, and equitably governed conservation estate recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, ensuring sustainable use where appropriate in such areas, and recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs). This is illustrated by the well-developed and relatively well mainstreamed biodiversity planning products and environmental management tools in South Africa. Including the recently completed Essential Life Support Action Areas (ELSAA) that integrated the country's top 10 policy commitments related to biodiversity, climate change and human well-being to identify where to take nature-based actions to best achieve the national commitments (Figure 1). Biodiversity-related spatial information and spatially explicit products are still needed in certain areas: in the marine realm, related to OECMs[3][5], and related to monitoring of ecosystem condition, protection, rehabilitation and sustainable use.

The barriers lie in the lack of sufficient capacity and resources to process declarations of protected areas and develop, service and monitor biodiversity management agreements, and lack of sufficient capacity and resources required to support a whole-of-society approach to unlock and scale up conservation and improved management to achieve biodiversity conservation goals. A key challenge is that decision-makers generally still do not recognise or appreciate biodiversity and conservation as part of thriving people and economy (perceptions held are influenced by the reality of historical approaches to conservation and access to benefits derived from biodiversity-based economic activity), which today impacts on a number of administrative and bureaucratic hurdles to achieving the Goal 3 of the GBF (30x30 target).
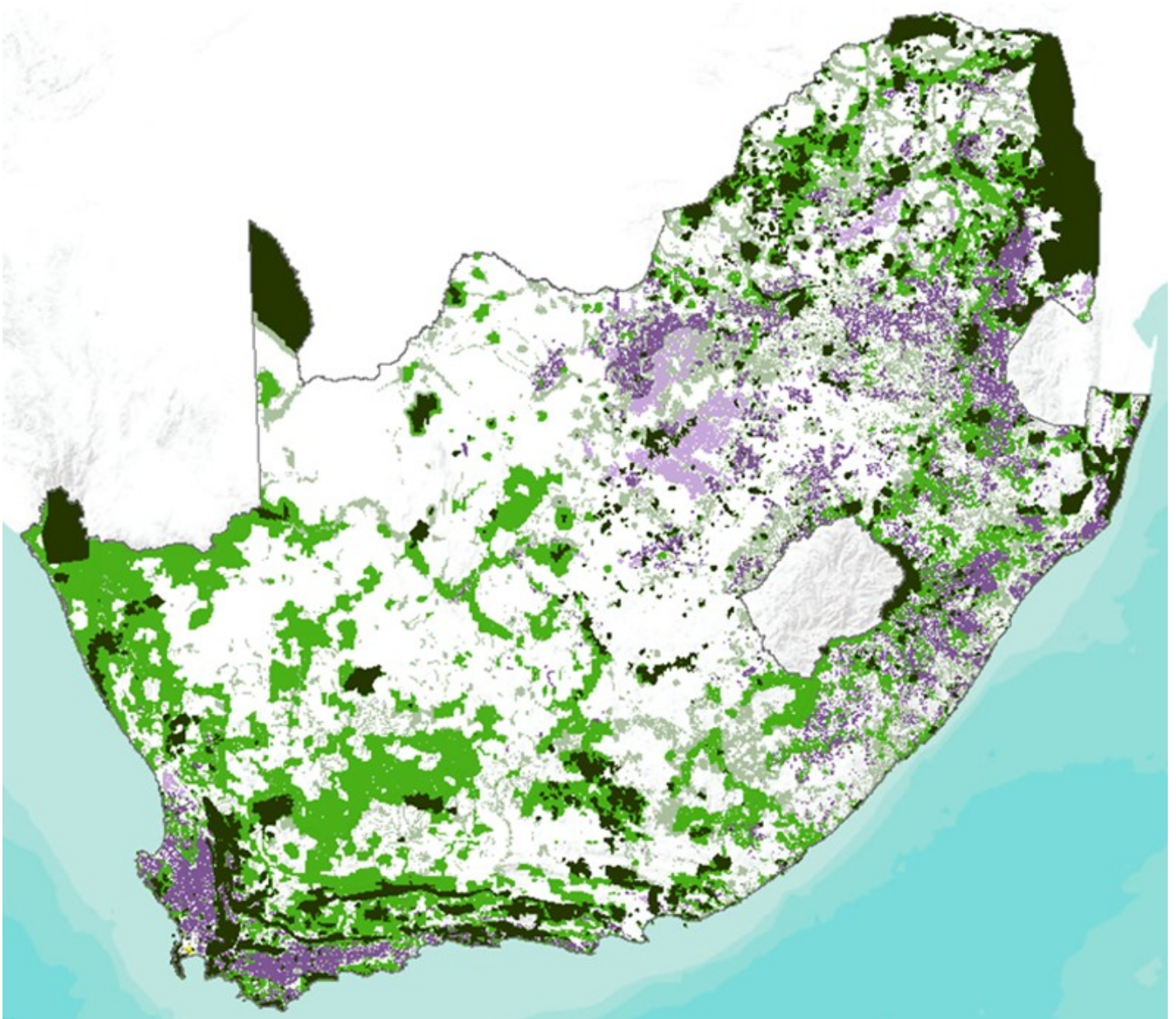
Figure 1. ELSAA Results for 30% protection target with a high level of clumping shows areas to target protection (green) that takes into account critical biodiversity areas, key biodiversity areas, under protected ecosystems and species.

Baseline situation

South Africa is fortunate to have a Biodiversity Stewardship Programme is a more inclusive approach. that supports a more inclusive approach to conservation that actively seeks a range of benefits to people in their establishment and management (DFFE, 2023). Biodiversity stewardship is an approach to securing land in biodiversity priority areas through entering into agreements with private or communal landowners, led by conservation authorities and supported by conservation NGOs (SANBI, 2018). It is therefore applicable to privately or communally owned areas, which make up 82% of the country (DRDLR, 2017), and results in both declaration of protected areas (under the Protected Areas Act) and conservation areas with improved land management practices that can be recognised as OECMs. There is also a Land Reform and Biodiversity Stewardship programme focused on socio-economic benefits and improvement of rural livelihoods through conservation.

A review of the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme ahead of its 20th year of implementation and the Third National Biodiversity Stewardship Conference in 2023 showed that biodiversity stewardship has: become the primary mechanism for protected area expansion (73%), far surpassing declarations of traditional state-owned protected areas (27%); added a total of 1.75 million hectares to the protected area estate; has proven to be more resource efficient as biodiversity stewardship sites are 70 – 400 times cheaper to establish, and 4 – 17 times cheaper to manage than state-owned protected areas (SANBI, 2017).

Institutional mechanisms have been established that support these efforts, primarily an active national Biodiversity Stewardship Technical Working Group (BDS TWG), National Biodiversity Stewardship Legal Reference Group, and a BDS TWG sub-group focussed on OECMs, and the Land Reform and Biodiversity Stewardship Reference Group. A National Biodiversity Stewardship Conference has been held three times and seven National Land Reform and Biodiversity Stewardship Learning Exchanges have been convened in the past ten years. These have been essential institutional mechanisms for building the biodiversity stewardship approach with stakeholders including government, NGOs and the private sector. But meeting larger conservation and development targets will require that representatives of other sectors are involved in these platforms (UNDP 2022a, b).

Building from strong foundations and awareness of barriers to conservation

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 Global Environmental Facility projects, such as in: GEF 4 *Grasslands Programme*, which pioneered the first time a Protected Environment[1] was declared in South Africa; 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; GEF 7 project, which focuses on biodiversity stewardship linked to the wildlife economy.

Biodiversity stewardship was also identified as an enabling mechanism under the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) in South Africa, which recognised its ability to achieve multiple goals while reducing costs and identified key recommendations to guide the mainstreaming of Biodiversity Stewardship going forward. The associated BIOFIN Biodiversity Stewardship Finance Solution Advocacy Plan recognised that high-level decision-makers and political principals are yet to understand the full potential of biodiversity stewardship. This is a specific barrier, also mentioned above, and necessitates ongoing mainstreaming efforts, development of compelling communication messages, a robust evidence basis, and co-ordination platforms that support co-operative governance (UNDP, 2022b). Sustainable finance of biodiversity conservation and sustainable business models in the biodiversity sector is needed and can be supported by another BIOFIN Finance Solution for the Biodiversity Economy, viz., the Biodiversity Sector Investment Portal (launched in 2022[2]). It has already been used to promote nine existing land reform and biodiversity stewardship projects, and is intended to serve as a catalyst to introduce and match investment opportunities to appropriate investors and intermediaries. The Portal is part of the baseline to be built on to support conservation and biodiversity-based economic activities in areas of implementation.

Among the resolutions from the Third National Biodiversity Stewardship Conference (involving government officials, practitioners, community representatives, supporters and partners who are involved in biodiversity stewardship) were the following: (1) development of a partnership structure to drive the action as a matter of urgency to address the 30x30 target by strengthening and, where appropriate, formalising partnerships between all partners involved in biodiversity stewardship, including government, non-governmental and private sector partners; and (2) make the case for biodiversity stewardship by simplifying the language and providing science-based evidence to strengthen the formal knowledge base of how biodiversity stewardship contributes to social, economic and ecological objectives (NBSC, 2023). These were presented to the intergovernmental meetings of the Ministers and Members of Executive Councils Meeting (MINMEC) and the Working Group 1 meeting in June 2023, and inform what this PIF responds to.

Many government departments run programmes that be strengthened through and could support biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Examples include (drawn from National Treasury, 2023): (1) the Expanded Public Works Programme of the DFFE which has set aside R10.2 billion over the medium term to create opportunities and jobs through restoring and rehabilitating degraded ecosystems; (2) the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform (DALRRD) draft model of Protected Agricultural Areas that will have benefits for both biodiversity and agricultural resources (Draft Preservation and Development of Agricultural Land bill); (3) programmes within DALRRD to accelerate land restitution and land reform and provide post settlement support to communities that have received land, and that involve the agricultural use of products derived from biodiversity, such as cut flowers, medicinal products, and game meat; (4) Department of Tourism (DoT) (DEAT, 1996) efforts to support and develop capacity of small businesses to engage in tourism that is kind to the environment and allows for protection of biodiversity; (5) the Socio-economic Innovation Partnerships programme of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) seeks scientific innovations that help to create sustainable jobs and human settlements; and (6) the Water Resources Programme of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) that aims to protect and conserve South Africa's ecological infrastructure and water ecosystems to sustain water resources.

While our scientific understanding of biodiversity and ecosystems as providers of goods and services that make significant contributions to advance economic development and human well-being has grown more nuanced and comprehensive, mainstreaming this into management of natural capital, relevant government programmes, including for youth and women, and of relevant production sectors takes time and needs more attention. To align with broader government programmes, it remains necessary to make the case for biodiversity conservation in relation to social and economic development. A robust, accessible, and well-recognised evidence base of the benefits that arise from biodiversity-based economic activities and biodiversity conservation is necessary to continue to improve perceptions among political principals and high-level decision makers, as well as communities.

South Africa has a strong foundation for such evidence, from many case studies and stories of change across the country, to strong spatial biodiversity data that is the basis for regular National Biodiversity Assessments (the latest in 2018; SANBI, 2019) and the development of natural capital accounts (Stats SA, 2021c). South Africa has established a strong basis in NCA, which uses an internationally agreed accounting system to measure a country's natural assets and resources, such as ecosystems, land and water, and track their state over time. Progress in NCA in the country has been supported through GEF-6 project funding, and the Evaluation of GEF's support to mainstreaming biodiversity, noted that NCA is crucial for making a strong business case for biodiversity and a focus on NCA is important for advancing the biodiversity mainstreaming agenda (GEF 2018). South Africa's work in NCA is cited by GEF (2018) as an exemplar case of the transition from mainstreaming towards "normalisation". Implementation of NCA in South Africa is supported by a ten-year National Strategy for Advancing Natural Capital Accounting in South Africa (Stats SA, 2021), with supporting institutional arrangements involving multiple sectors. South Africa is an active member of key regional and international NCA communities of practice[3].

A number of initiatives are underway to identify and showcase indicators required for national and international reporting obligations, in particular those linked to the State of Environment Report (SoER) (nationally) and the various Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) (internationally), and to work out how we need to manage the data. These include through a UNDP Readiness Grant, and with funding from Joint Research Centre, UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).

More is needed to scale up from case studies, individual accounts, and indicator efforts to a nationally coherent, integrated information management and monitoring system that tracks the different types of investment made in biodiversity and ecosystems, their effectiveness, and the benefits to people and the economy. Such a robust national evidence base is needed to further support mainstreaming into public and private sector policy, plans and programmes. This involves ongoing investment in data foundations, such as in relation to ecosystem conditions and protected areas and conservation areas (including OECMS), to support regular revisions of the NBA and to support compilation and revision of natural capital accounts with policy relevance to conservation and sustainable use. More investment in data infrastructure and data management is needed to deal with what are complex relational datasets and big data. Specialist expertise such as in data analytics, spatial database management, coding, and even artificial intelligence is needed to take best advantage of digital solutions to information management, verification, visualisation and serving information on interactive and accessible portals. More is needed to build and manage the necessary information architecture and build capacity in its use and management. Currently, there are no standardised indicators and approaches for gathering data on biodiversity benefits, and no standardised tools to collecting such data, or solutions to verification and validation of data that could be captured by many different sources. To make this possible, investments are needed in the form of human and financial resources, data ecosystems and institutional arrangements to undertake and sustain this work.

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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 PIF guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

As described in the rationale, the entry point for the identified project to address the expansion of conservation estate is through biodiversity stewardship, which has been proven to be an effective approach for expanding both the protected area network and the conservation area network (part of which is a formalised system of OECMs resulting in improved practices on landscapes and in seascapes). It was identified that increasing capacity of provincial government is an important pathway to achieving expansion of PA, as is increasing technical and legal support to partners in the provinces to help remove barriers for declaration. This will be further supported by key interventions in relevant policy and guidelines that help unblock and/or clarify legislation, norms and standards, especially in relation to recognition of OECMs, which is another important pathway for expansion of the conservation estate.

To address slow transformation of the biodiversity sector and unlock meaningful benefits for IPLCs (especially designated groups[1][6]) through biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, a whole-of-society approach involving communities, NGOs, the private sector, and government actors across sectors (such as agriculture, environment, tourism, science and innovation) and at all levels is needed. This requires considerable coordination efforts (capacity and convening spaces for social learning that supports building trust and collaboration) with a focus on strengthening benefits to people. Being able to provide credible evidence that biodiversity conservation and sustainable use result in sustainable livelihoods, employment and

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contribute to economic empowerment of groups economically displaced for conservation, as well as analysing and translating that into knowledge resources that are shared through influential channels, will support making the case for further investment and collaboration. Collectively this will lead to more biodiversity conservation, more benefits through nature-based enterprises and conservation-aligned livelihoods and practices and support transformation of the biodiversity sector. This will help to address the barrier that many decision-makers (private and public sector) still do not recognise or appreciate biodiversity and conservation as part of thriving people and economy. The theory of change posits that positioning biodiversity as a central element of economic development will support integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, across all levels of government and across sectors.

The design phase of this project will be strengthened by development of an implementation plan for the 30x30 target and revision of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which will be used to seek strong alignment of objectives, partnerships and co-finance.

The goal is therefore that conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity strengthens local economies and contributes to thriving and resilient people and nature in landscapes and seascapes.

The project objective is to develop 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 of Northern Cape and Limpopo.

The identified project, comprised of four components, 8 outcomes and 19 outputs, is depicted in the theory of change Figure 2 and described in this section. By the end of the project, the conservation estate will be expanded through 40,000 ha of newly declared protected areas (GEF CI 1), 310,000 ha newly established terrestrial conservation areas (OECMs) (GEF CI 4), and 10,000 ha newly established marine conservation areas (GEF CI 5) and more than 65,000 direct beneficiaries (GEF CI 11).

Figure 2. Theory of change for identified project

GOAL: Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity strengthens local economies and contributes to thriving and resilient people and nature in landscapes and seascapes			
OBJECTIVE: To develop 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.			

Components

1. Enabling environment strengthened to conserve landscapes and seascapes with benefits to biodiversity, development and rural livelihoods	2. Biodiversity conserved in a manner that benefits communities and local economies for transformative outcomes in two provinces	3. Knowledge management enables biodiversity benefits, dependencies, risks and opportunities to be better known and communicated to support making the case for biodiversity conservation.	4. Effective project monitoring and evaluation, reporting and learning (MERL) ensured and supports adaptive management

Outcomes

1.1. Strengthened institutional arrangements and specialist expertise support effective functioning of biodiversity stewardship and related programmes. 1.2. Relevant policy frameworks, regulatory instruments, and planning tools support the mainstreaming and implementation of mechanisms for biodiversity conservation across key economic sectors.	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 2.2. Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use result in benefits for communities and local economic development and support transformation of the biodiversity sector 2.3. Connected communities of practice strengthen biodiversity conservation and transformative outcomes.	3.1. Data ecosystem (people, systems, and data) related to biodiversity and ecosystems is strengthened to improve data offering on biodiversity benefits, risks and dependencies and support reporting 3.2. Biodiversity-related analysis, accounts and indicators are produced and support integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes	4.1. Monitoring that is responsive to gender, youth, IPLCs and people with disabilities is conducted for project interventions and supports evaluation of project impact.

Outputs

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. Marine spatial plan for expansion of conservation estate in marine and coastal ecosystems developed with equal participation of men and women.	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. 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. 2.2.1. 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 supporting biodiversity conservation for transformative outcomes are regularly convened. 2.3.2. Gender inclusive and responsive national learning exchanges, conferences and capacity building events targeting practitioners held.	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 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. 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.	4.1.1. 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. 4.1.2. Project-level safeguards and risk management measures, including gender action plan and stakeholder engagement plan developed and implemented

PROBLEM STATEMENT: Biodiversity and ecosystems in South Africa need more conservation (including through OECMs). The current rate of expansion of the conservation estate is not going to achieve the GBF 30x30 Target so there is a need to scale up interventions. SA has adequate environmental policy and legislation, approaches and tools it needs, but faces two key challenges: (1) decision-makers generally still do not recognise or appreciate biodiversity and conservation as part of thriving people and economy (perceptions held are influenced by the reality of historical approaches to conservation and access to benefits), which today impacts on a number of administrative and bureaucratic hurdles to achieving the Goal 3 of the GBF (30x30 target); and (2) lack of sufficient capacity and resources to coordinate efforts and available resources to achieve and maintain biodiversity conservation goals.

Component 1. Enabling environment strengthened to conserve landscapes and seascapes with benefits to biodiversity, development and rural livelihoods: This component responds to recommendations of the BIOFIN Finance Solution on Biodiversity Stewardship Value Proposition, the four pillars of the White Paper on the Sustainable Utilisation of Biodiversity in South Africa & Implementation Plan of the GBF, the Transformation Strategy and Implementation Plan, resolutions from the third National Biodiversity Stewardship Conference and barriers that can be influenced at a national level. The project aims to support 'transformative' socio-economic benefits through working to align, layer, and amplify efforts of government, traditional leaders, communities, NGOs, and business in areas of high biodiversity and ecosystem services value to reduce poverty, increase employment, and increase access to benefits and sustainable use of limited natural resources. This will involve biodiversity economy activities (in line with the National Biodiversity Economy Strategy), rural development, land reform, biodiversity-based tourism, youth empowerment and involvement of women. There are three outcomes.

Outcome 1.1. Strengthened institutional arrangements and specialist expertise support effective functioning of biodiversity stewardship and related programmes: The project will address barriers related to the lack of capacity at the enabling environment level by putting in place/established centralised policy and legal support unit. This unit will provide advice to biodiversity stewardship programmes in provinces, work to speed up the processing of declarations or recognition of OECMs and provide advice on legal issues related to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity or other sectoral policies where relevant. This outcome will also support existing institutional mechanisms, as well as the establishment and regular convening by DFFE of an Inter-governmental Authorities Committee (IAC) for conservation with transformative outcomes involving government departments and agencies. The IAC will provide a high-level platform to align priorities, agree on areas of collaboration and coordination of government-led programmes, and discuss and address concerns or competing interests with the intention of unlocking blockages and amplifying

transformative and sustainable socio-economic benefits in landscapes and seascapes for thriving people and nature.

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

Output 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 programmes..

Outcome 1.2. Relevant policy frameworks, regulatory instruments and planning tools support the mainstreaming and implementation of mechanisms for biodiversity conservation across key economic sectors: The above-mentioned centralised capacity will also support policy work to develop, streamline and/or revise relevant policy frameworks, regulatory instruments and planning tools to support conservation through a range of implementation mechanisms. This will include revision of biodiversity stewardship guideline to include OECMS; development of relevant norms and standards to address barriers to declarations; mainstreaming conservation objectives in relevant strategies of related sectors (such as agriculture and tourism); development of marine spatial plan for expansion of protected area and OECMs in marine and coastal realm, including process for stakeholder engagement and inclusion of culturally-significant areas.

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, energy and agriculture).
Output 1.2.3. Marine spatial plan for expansion of conservation estate in marine and coastal ecosystems developed ==with equal participation of men and women.==

Component 2. Biodiversity conserved in a manner that benefits communities and local economies for transformative outcomes in two provinces, holds the heart of implementation on the ground. The two provinces selected, Limpopo and Northern Cape, are provinces that have the highest proportion or area of critical biodiversity areas (refer to Annex C). Poverty, unemployment, and inequality statistics are high in these provinces, and with the provinces having strong potential for expanded conservation in terms of the extent of natural and semi-natural land, there is scope contribute to sustainable livelihoods, employment and economic empowerment through conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. They are also provinces with the potential for significant infrastructure development programmes, including authorised renewable energy developments, electricity grid infrastructure and expansion, and gas pipelines. These important projects will put pressure on already threatened biodiversity and ecosystems. South Africa has the spatial data and information need to identify areas where loss of biodiversity for development objectives can open opportunities for biodiversity conservation and help de-risk those developments, potentially with proactive offsets.

Outcome 2.1. Strengthened capacity in provinces 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: In the two provinces, four indicative areas of implementation have been identified in which project efforts will be focused to expand the conservation estate through (1) declaration of new terrestrial protected areas (under the Protected Areas Act) and (2) establish new conservation areas in landscapes and seascapes with improved practices (established through biodiversity stewardship agreements and/or recognised as OECMs). The indicative areas of implementation associated with each province are provided in Table 1, which indicates the extent of hectares to be added to the conservation estate through the above two approaches. The Augrabies to

Namaqua indicative area of implementation is the only one that includes ecosystems across all realms (terrestrial, freshwater, estuarine, coastal and marine), and the areas to be added to the conservation estate are disaggregated to landscape and seascape portions to better align with the GEF Core Indicator framework.

Refinement of indicative areas of implementation will take place during the project preparation phase in consultation with stakeholders (see Table 2). Efforts in both provinces will be to expand the conservation estate through both protected area declarations and roll out of OECMs in relation to protected areas to create connected ecosystems capable of supporting biodiversity and ecosystem processes that deliver benefits to people. GEF funds will directly address the barrier of capacity and resources to scale up biodiversity stewardship programmes in the provincial conservation authorities. A biodiversity stewardship coordinator and ecologist will be appointed in each province to support engagements with communal and private landowners, site assessments, coordinating with partners to maximise socio-economic benefits and other development support, capacity development and training, and extension support. Involvement of women and youth will be sought in all engagements and will be tracked. Provincial capacity will draw on the expert capacity in Component 1 and bring inputs to the Biodiversity Stewardship Technical Working Group, which SANBI will continue to convene, and to the IAC when needed.

> **Output 2.1.1.** Four new protected areas are created in landscapes of Limpopo and Northern Cape provinces with equal participation of men and women.

> **Output 2.1.2.** Gender responsive 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.

Table 1. **Extent of hectares to be added to the conservation estate through two approaches to expansion in each of the indicative areas of implementation.**

Provinces and indicative areas of implementation	Newly protected areas (indicative at PIF) (GEF Core Indicator 1.1)	Newly established conservation areas with improved practices (indicative at PIF) (GEF Core Indicator 4.1 and 5.4)
Northern Cape		
Augrabies to Namaqua: Landscape (1)	15,000 ha	85,000 ha
Augrabies to Namaqua: Seascape	NA	10,000 ha
Kimberley to Kuruman: Landscape (2)	5,000 ha	85,000 ha
Limpopo		
Mapungubwe to Makuleke: Landscape (3)	3,000 ha	50,000 ha
Kruger to Lephalale-Kalahari: Landscape (4)	17,000 ha	90,000 ha
TOTAL	**40,000 ha**	**320,000 ha**

Outcome 2.2. Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use result in benefits for designated groups and local economic development, and support transformation of the biodiversity sector: focused on addressing slow transformation of the biodiversity sector and unlocking meaningful benefits for IPLCs (especially designated groups) through biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Requires building on a deep understanding of stakeholder livelihoods and involvement of designated groups in biodiversity economy, to identify and support alternative livelihood opportunities and/or new economic activities from biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and associated value chains. This requires a whole-of-society approach and will draw from work in the enabling environment across sectors seeking alignment of supportive government programmes. It will involve local partners with existing expertise in development and sustainable livelihoods.

It will also be supported by the coordination efforts in both Outcome 1.1 and 2.3 focused on strengthening benefits to people, and empowering people supported to adopt sustainable livelihood strategies/activities from biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and/or alternative livelihoods to reduce dependence on biodiversity degrading practices. In the Northern Cape, this will help address succulent poaching[1] (a major threat to biodiversity in the province), working with NGOs working with local communities to assist with developing alternative livelihoods to poaching, including a youth and woman focused internship and enterprises. In Limpopo, the focus will be on the wildlife economy.

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 supported from biodiversity conservation and sustainable use (e.g. community based tourism, community horticulture initiatives or conservation agriculture) are created for designated groups in the areas of implementation leading to transformation of the biodiversity sector.

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.

Outcome 2.3. Connected communities of practice strengthen biodiversity conservation and transformative outcomes: Multi-sectoral integration forums will be convened and strengthened to support collaboration and coordination among landscape-level initiatives to promote conservation, ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change, economic transformation, sustainable use, equitable access and benefit sharing, tackling poverty and creation of sustainable jobs. These will be convened at the level of the areas of implementation in both provinces and bring together communities, businesses, private sector, traditional leaders, government and NGOs. Additionally, a biannual National Forum will be convened to share and benefit from biodiversity stewardship in other parts of the country. Capacity building events and learning exchanges will be held between key stakeholders and actors in different landscapes or provinces, and with stakeholders from other parts of the country to support scaling up and replication beyond the boundaries of this GEF Project. Thus, practitioners of biodiversity stewardship and OECMs (from government, NGOs or private sector) will be targeted.

Output 2.3.1. Gender inclusive and responsive communities of practice at national (whole country) and more localised (in provinces) supporting biodiversity conservation for transformative outcomes are regularly convened to share learning and experiences.

Output 2.3.2. Gender inclusive and responsive national learning exchanges, conferences and capacity building events targeting practitioners held.

Component 3. Knowledge management enables biodiversity benefits, dependencies, risks and opportunities to be better known and support making the case for biodiversity conservation. While South Africa has made some good progress in measuring the extent to which people benefit from biodiversity, for example by quantifying biodiversity employment (Driver et al. 2019) and the contribution of biodiversity to the tourism economy (Bac & Tlholoe, 2018), the ways in which these benefits are measured is haphazard and not standardised. Through this component, the project will strengthen the evidence base to reveal and demonstrate the connections and contribution of biodiversity conservation to the economy, in terms of jobs and livelihoods and in relation to national and international targets. This component will work collaboratively with the other components to ensure that knowledge management through a robust data ecosystem and supportive analysis of information enhances knowledge production that supports project outcomes, national assessments and international reporting. This component will work closely with Component 4 to ensure monitoring also complements making the case.

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: South Africa has solid foundations, but these need to be maintained and updated to both meet the growing demands for up-to-date information (e.g., from business and finance sector) and to take advantage of digital innovations and advancements. The data ecosystem requires an information architecture that enables multidirectional flow of information from many different types of data providers into robust datasets and feeding back to users of information at different levels. The use of artificial intelligence, machine learning and remote sensing will be explored to bring to bear the digital revolution on data monitoring and validation. The project will address this with necessary expert capacity and capacity development to facilitate and coordinate data curation and to be the data broker to support various users. This will support a robust national evidence base that integrates with national and global indicator requirements. This outcome will increase capacity to support both the information architecture (developing scarce skills in information technology, database management, and software and web design[2][7]) and use of biodiversity and ecosystem information. These interventions will support reporting at national, provincial, municipal, and global levels. Partners in this will include Stats SA, Department of Science and Innovation, UNEP-WCMC and others. This investment would not be possible without support from the GEF.

> **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.

> **Output 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.

Outcome 3.2. Biodiversity-related analysis, accounts and indicators are produced and support integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes: Outcome 3.1 provides the necessary data ecosystem for an expanded suite of natural capital accounts and the basis for other types of assessment, from which indicators with biodiversity policy relevance will be produced and will support making the case. Robust, up-to-date foundational datasets on ecosystem extent and condition (augmented by additional investment in assessment of condition in landscapes and seascapes recently impacted by development) is part of this along with translation of the contribution of biodiversity conservation benefits to various audiences and for different purposes. Knowledge resources to support integration, awareness, and uptake of the wealth of information for decision-making will be developed. This will provide robust, accessible, and well-recognised evidence base of the benefits that arise from biodiversity-based economic activities and biodiversity conservation necessary to continue to improve perceptions among political principals and high-level decision makers, as well as communities. Stats SA and SANBI will partner with data providers and users to produce outputs in line with the ten-year National Strategy for NCA (Stats SA, 2021c):

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

> **Output 3.2.2.** Gender responsive biodiversity Economy Satellite Accounts and Environmental Protection Expenditure Accounts developed with data flows to enable regular production.

Output 3.2.3. <mark>Gender responsive</mark> 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.

Component 4. Effective project monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning (MERL) ensured, and supports adaptive management creates not only a monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning (MERL) for the project, but also a long-term impact evaluation framework for SANBI on impacts of biodiversity economy interventions in the conservation estate and benefits to people. Annual reflection workshops, between main stakeholders, and quarterly planning are part of adaptive management.

Outcome 4.1. Monitoring that is responsive to gender, youth, IPLCs and people with disabilities is conducted for project interventions and supports evaluation of project impact: A MERL system will include indicators and targets that are responsive to and considerate of gender, youth, race and ethnic identity and diversity to enable the effectiveness of mainstreaming social and environmental safeguards and inclusion into the project. A MERL and Safeguards officer will be appointed and will support quarterly and annual reporting, including to the IAC for Conservation with Transformative Outcomes, GEF, UNDP and Project Steering Committee. Further, a framework for the evaluation of impacts to ensure the project meets biodiversity and ecosystem objectives in terms of condition and species conservation (thriving nature) and socio-economic objectives (thriving people).

Output 4.1.1. Gender responsive project MERL system set-up and supports quarterly and annual reporting, as well as mid-term and terminal evaluation.

Output 4.1.2 Project-level safeguards and risk management measures, including gender action plan and stakeholder engagement plan developed and implemented.

Stakeholders

The project preparation phase will include: deeper engagement with stakeholders and project partners nationally and provincially; refinement of areas for implementation through further engagement with stakeholders in those areas (aligned with the national process to identify spatial priorities for expansion of the conservation estate to meet 30x30 target and taking advantage of wealth of spatial information available); development of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the project implementation that actively promotes participation and influence of different genders, youth, people with disabilities, and indigenous people and local communities (IPLCs)[2]; and development of a framework for impact evaluation in consultation with stakeholders and communities.

Table 2 provides an indicative list of partners across the project. This list will be expanded upon in PPG to include other relevant sectors and stakeholders to maximize benefits to people, women, and youth in particular, and to support transformation of the biodiversity sector.

Potential executing partners

SANBI will lead execution of the project. SANBI has sufficient experience in managing GEF financed projects and has required fiduciary and institutional capacity as a National GEF Agency. The Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (DAEL) and Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) will be sub-executing partners in the identified provinces. They are responsible for biodiversity conservation and economic development and a biodiversity stewardship coordinator and ecologist in each province appointed through the project will be hosted locally by these partners. Sub-executing NGO and CSO partners that are locally based or have locally based operations important to the success of the project will be identified during the PPG phase. This is recognized as important for broad acceptance by IPLCs to mitigate risks such as social resistance and fear of potential exclusion. A stakeholder analysis will be conducted, FPIC applied where relevant, and an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework will be prepared during the PPG, and a transparent process will be run during the PPG phase to determine the role of these sub-executing partners, local communities and IPLCs.

Table 2. Indicative list of partners in the project (this list will be further expanded on during PPG) (also see paragraph 64)

Indicative partners	Comp 1	Comp 2	Comp 3
Government entities (national, provincial and municipal)			
Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA)			
Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements & Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA-Limpopo)	-	-	-
Department Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)			
Department Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)			
Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT)	-		-
Department of Mineral Resources (DMR)			
Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME)			
Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI)			
Department of Science and Innovation (DSI)			
Department of Tourism (DoT)			
Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)			
Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)			

Entity			
Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET)			
National Treasury			
Northern Cape Department: Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (DAELR)			
South African National Parks (SANParks)			
South African Reserve Bank			
Statistics South Africa			
Other entities			
African Safari Foundation (ASF)	-	-	-
BirdLife South Africa	-	-	-
Business industry bodies, such as Business Unity South Africa (BUSA), National Business Initiative (NBI)			
Relevant Community Property Associations (CPA)	-		-
Conservation Outcomes (NGO)			
Conservation South Africa (CSA)			
Development Bank of Southern Africa			
Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)			
Environmental Monitoring Group			
Indigo development and Change (NGO)			
Kruger to Canyons (NGO)			
Scientific Authority			
SocioTech (NGO)			
Tertiary institutions			
Traditional leadership bodies, such as The House of Traditional Leaders, Contralessa			
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)			
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)			
United Nations Statistical Division			
Water Research Commission (WRC)			
Wilderness Foundation Africa (WFA)			
World Wildlife Fund-South Africa (WWF-SA)			

Global Environmental Benefits: South Africa is one of the most biodiverse countries in the world, with exceptional levels of endemism, expanded conservation will make a significant contribution towards protecting the world's biodiversity. The project will support expansion of the conservation estate and benefits to landowners through extension support by providing advice and support, assessment of the landscapes and ecosystems, supporting development of management plans and other assistance with aspects of land management that lead to better managed landscapes and seascapes. This will contribute to the following global environmental benefits: *Conserving and sustainably using biodiversity* through 40,000 ha of Terrestrial protected areas created (CI 1.), 310,000 ha of Area of landscape under improved practices (Cl 3.) through terrestrial OECMs, and 10,000 ha Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (CL 4.) through marine OECMs.

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[1] A National Response Strategy and Action Plan to address the illegal trade in South African succulent flora (SANBI & DFFE 2022) has been developed but needs funding to support implementation.

[2] The Biodiversity Human Capital Development Strategy 2010 - 2030 (SANBI & The Lewis Foundation, 2010)

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[1] Previously disadvantaged individuals, youth, women and people with disabilities (White Paper 2023)

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here. 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

No agency execution role is envisaged at this stage. If there's any specific execution support identified during PPG phase based on capacity assessment of the executing agencies, this will be discussed with the GEF SEC prior to submission of CEO Endorsement Request.

DFFE and SANBI are involved in structures that enable coordination and cooperation across a wide range of ongoing initiatives and projects. Key ones are listed below with some capacity already assigned to these: Cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects is enabled by DFFE and SANBI's active role in:

- Biodiversity conservation planning: SANBI leads national biodiversity planning and reporting, driving research into ecological conditions and integrity across land and seascapes. Existing platforms and projects that support this (e.g., two annual biodiversity planning workshops, NBA working groups) **foster participatory, integrated and biodiversity inclusive spatial planning information sharing between identified partners**.

- Biodiversity stewardship and protected areas: SANBI convenes the BDS TWG, National Biodiversity Stewardship Legal Reference Group, and a BDS TWG sub-group focussed on OECMs, the Biodiversity Offsets TWG, and the Land Reform and Biodiversity Stewardship Reference Group, which **coordinate activities across all provinces, and includes public and private sector stakeholders, local and indigenous people and civil society**. DFFE convenes the Protected Areas Technical Task Team (PATT), on which SANBI sits. These report to the DFFE intergovernmental structures (Working Groups, MinTech and MinMec).

- Development planning and coordination: through structures to support the implementation of the National Spatial Development Framework (NSDF), engaging directly with municipalities through DFFE's Local Government Support and SANBI's Municipal Support Programme.

- Biodiversity economy: DFFE and SANBI are actively involved in the Operation Phakisa Biodiversity Economy Laboratory, the National Biodiversity Economy Strategy, Biodiversity Economy Investment Platform, BIOFIN programme in SA and associated working groups, all of which drive decision making and guide implementation of finance solutions and will support co-finance and sustainability of the identified project.

- Landscape coordination: SANBI convenes, in partnership with many national and local, public and private stakeholders, landscape platforms in several areas across the country including Limpopo. **Local partner organisations might offer facilities for co-location of staff in the project**.

- Human Capital Development (HCD): DFFE and SANBI sit on the IPBES Capacity Building Task Force, and lead implementation of the Biodiversity HCD Strategy, including the Groen Sebenza graduate programme **which will support capacity in the identified project**. SANBI works with UNICEF and other partners on digital platforms to support capacity development of youth.

- Climate change: SANBI is a National Implementing Entity and accredited Direct Access Entity of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which supports projects in line with South Africa's Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation ambitions. Cross-functional steering committees ensure coordination between donor-funded projects, current and future.

- Regional and global coordination: through the Multi-Environmental Agreements Forum, the African Group of Negotiators and African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). DFFE and SANBI provide expert input and convene relevant stakeholders to participate in CBD processes and coordinate implementation and review of the NBSAP.

- Sustainable utilisation of species: coordination through the existing SANBI hosted Scientific Authority (supporting CITES decision-making processes), a Southern African working group on sustainable management of utilized plant species across borders, GEF-funded project on developing the South African Wildlife

Core Indicators

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	0	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	0	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			
Doornkloof expansion		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	3,000.00			
Eastern Soutpansberg PA		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	3,000.00			
Marakele expansion PE		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	7,000.00			
Mopane (DM) Savanna PA		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	3,000.00			
Namaqua Goegap corridor PE		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	5,000.00			
Richtersveld expansion NR		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	5,000.00			
Rockwood expansion PE		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	2,000.00			
Wolkberg PE		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	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	WDPA 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	0	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			

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			

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			
Male	31,552			
Total	**65,465**	**0**	**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.

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 spatial 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

recognized 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 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 catalysed by GEF investment.

Risks to Project Preparation and Implementation

Summarize risks that might affect the project preparation and implementation phases and what are the mitigation strategies the project preparation process will undertake to address these (e.g. what alternatives may be considered during project preparation-such as in terms of consultations, role and choice of counterparts, delivery mechanisms, locations in country, flexible design elements, etc.). Identify any of the risks listed below that would call in question the viability of the project during its implementation. Please describe any possible mitigation measures needed. (The risks associated with project design and Theory of Change should be described in the "Project description" section above). The risk rating should reflect the overall risk to project outcomes considering the country setting and ambition of the project. The rating scale is: High, Substantial, Moderate, Low.

Risk Categories	Rating	Comments
Climate	Low	Increases of greenhouse gas emissions, black carbon emissions or other drivers of climate change due to project activities will need to be assessed. However, the project interventions will assist mitigation of this as climate resilience of ecosystems is taken into account in the identification of implementation areas to be conserved and project interventions should support climate resilience and more diverse livelihood strategies. A climate risk and vulnerability assessment will be carried out during PPG. (SESP Risk 8)
Environment and Social	Substantial	The establishment of new Protected Areas (PA) and OECMs as ecological corridors could lead to restrictions on access to land or resources, with impacts on

		livelihoods of local and indigenous communities, leading to economic displacement and erosion of their civil, economic and/or social rights. Land tenure arrangements and property rights could also be impacted. Social resistance to participating in biodiversity stewardship, OECMs or attending multi-sectoral integration forums is possible. Fear of potential exclusion from the economic benefits of conservation is possible, which could lead to unintended shifts in power dynamics and risk of gender-based violence and other forms of marginalisation and exclusion. The project sets out to generate livelihood and employment opportunities associated with conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and to conserve biodiversity only through voluntary conservation agreements. To mitigate the risks mentioned here, it will include at PPG a: (1) Baseline assessment of land-tenure arrangements, property rights/ownership and applicable regulations/legislation; (2) Process Framework – and a Livelihoods Action Framework; (3) an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) (or Social Inclusion Plan, meeting requirements under Standard 6) for each of the landscapes/affected community groupings (see also Risk 6.3), as part of developing the (4) Stakeholder engagement plan. There will be flexibility in terms of where the project implementation occurs. (SESP Risk 1, 4, 7, 10)
Political and Governance	Low	Government elections in 2024 might influence national priorities during project preparation, but the country's obligations under the GBF targets are

		highly unlikely to change. This will be adaptively managed during project preparation with low risk to implementation. Conflicts as a result or real or perceived power shifts that come from change in livelihoods / changes in new employment or business opportunities is possible. During PPG a Stakeholder Analysis, and Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework will be undertaken. Additionally, inadequate integration of gender equity and women's empowerment actions could potentially reproduce existing discriminations against women with political and governance implications. A Gender Action Plan will be developed during PPG and submitted with the ProDoc. During implementation the project will engage local communities and traditional leaders thoroughly and enable local communities to participate in opportunities and be transparent. (SESP Risk 3, 9)
Macro-economic	Low	The project is identified in an economically constrained period and takes this into account in its design.
Strategies and Policies	Low	South Africa has a strong policy environment that is being strengthened to support project outcomes. Impact on policy may present unintended consequences which will be assessed during implementation.
Technical design of project or program	Low	Relevant stakeholders have been consulted and will be further consulted in PPG and throughout implementation, in line with GEF and UNDP guidance. The project will establish a steering committee and project management unit to ensure strong technical design of project. SANBI also has an excellent

		track-record in project design, stakeholder engagement in technical design of project, management, and implementation. PPG will require further scoping of areas of implementation, which will include scoping of indigenous people and local communities who will be impacted, and activities and interventions that might require environmental impact assessment through which mitigation of impacts will be agreed. (SESP Risk 5, 10)
Institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability		Reliance on capacity in government and NGOs is necessary and important to mainstreaming. Partners might not have the capacity to fully support implementation of the project. The project aims to address capacity constraints and build capacity to reduce pressure on existing capacity. Procurement of capacity and services to implement the project is sometimes delayed by institutional and legislative processes in government. These are required for good governance but can take time to get recruitment of candidates and service providers underway. An institutional capacity assessment to identify gaps and design interventions to address them will be incorporated into the design of the technical outputs of the project. (SESP Risk 2)
Fiduciary: Financial Management and Procurement	Low	Little procurement, or uncomplicated procurement efforts are involved in the project.
Stakeholder Engagement	Moderate	Stakeholder engagement is critical to the project's success. High expectations as to what the Protected Areas can deliver may lead to frustration with project results, including from actors involved in land claims, a sensitive political

		issue. Simultaneously, local stakeholders in many instances demonstrate negative perceptions about protected areas. The project aims to address this through continuous stakeholder engagements and consultations. During PPG a Stakeholder Analysis, a Gender Analysis, and a Free Prior Informed Consent process will be undertaken as part of the stakeholder engagement process. During implementation the project will engage local communities and traditional leaders thoroughly and enable locals to participate in opportunities and be transparent. A Grievance Redress Mechanisms will be developed and in place within two months of the project inception. (SESP Risk 5)
Other	Low	Risks to labour in development of infrastructure related to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity has been identified. These will be further scoped in PPG and labour laws and OHS requirements maintained during implementation (SESP Risk 6)
Financial Risks for NGI projects		
Overall Risk Rating	Substantial	Substantial risk considering that some areas that are proposed for upgrading into protected areas and OECMs are utilized by San and Khoekhoe indigenous communities which triggers standard 5 and 6 of UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. The Social and Environmental Safeguards Screening (Annex D) identifies 10 risks, 3 of which are low, 3 of which are moderate, 3 of which are substantial, and 1 needs to be assessed. The overall risk rating is therefore Substantial, and related to the

following risks: a. Risk 1: The establishment of new Protected Areas (PA) and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in the targeted landscapes will have impacts (positive or negative) on access to land or natural resources, with impacts on livelihoods and traditions of indigenous peoples and local communities, potentially leading to economic displacement and erosion of their civil, economic and/or social rights (Principles 4 and 6). i. The project intentionally aims to increase conservation of critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including adjacent to legally protected areas, areas proposed for protection, or recognised by authoritative sources and/or indigenous peoples or local communities. (SESP 1.2) ii. Two world cultural heritage areas occur within the indicative implementation areas, namely: Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape and Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape (SESP 4.1) iii. The San and Khoekhoe indigenous peoples are present in both the Augrabies to Namaqua and the Kimberly to Kuruman indicative area of implementation. The former is home to the Nama (Khoekhoe) people of the Richtersveld, who claimed title to their traditional land, and set aside conservation areas for continuation of their transhumant lifestyle, research and tourism. Within the Mapungubwe to Makuleke landscape, the Venda people also claim indigeneity because of their adherence to their landscape and traditional culture (SESP 6.1 and 6.2). iv. The project aims to

		strengthen livelihoods through sustainable use and commercialisation of natural resources claimed by indigenous peoples, with their voluntary involvement and agreement (SESP 6.5). b. Risk 5: Inadequate consultations, or potential exclusion of marginalized and vulnerable groups may lead to stakeholder unwillingness and potential grievances (SESP Principles 5, 13 and 14) c. Risk 9: Conflicts as a result of real or perceived power shifts that come with access to new employment or business opportunities (SESP Principles 7 and 12).

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

Describe 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.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

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. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The project aligns with the following **GEF-8 Biodiversity Focal Area objectives**: Objective 1 "To improve conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems" through implementation in two provinces, strengthening the enabling environment, and integrating biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, planning and decision-making; and Objective 3 "To increase mobilization of domestic resources for biodiversity" through mainstreaming and alignment of government programmes in identified landscapes and through measuring environmental protection expenditure and making the case for more investment.

The project supports achievement of the UN **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** as biodiversity and ecosystems underpins social and economic development. In particular, the project contributes to achievement of SDG 15 (life on land) and supports SDG 1 (poverty eradication) and 13 (Climate action). In line with the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)**, the project contributes to several GBF targets, mainly Target 3. Protection (30x30), Target 2. Restoration, Target 14. Mainstreaming in government (including accounting), Target 19. Resource mobilisation (measuring environmental protection expenditure and making the case for more investment), Target 20. Capacity building and technology transfer, and Target 21. Data, information and knowledge. The project also supports achievement of the **UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** and the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** through restoration and conservation efforts in dryland ecosystems with climate resilience values; the **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands** and **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** through Component 2; the **UN's System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)** used as the measurement framework for NCA in South Africa.

The project will support regional priorities including Agenda 2063 through the Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa (GDSA). In both cases through contributing to incorporating the value of Africa's unique natural capital in policies and decision-making, indicators of sustainable development including natural capital accounting, mainstreaming biodiversity and building capacity.

The project is fully aligned with the White paper on the conservation and sustainable use of South Africa's biodiversity, which provides a clear vision and objectives on South Africa's approach to conservation and sustainable use of the country's biodiversity. It has four goals: enhanced biodiversity conservation; sustainable use; equitable access and benefit sharing; and transformed biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. The identified project responds to all four goals in line with the draft implementation plan for biodiversity and conservation transformation.

Other national priorities the project supports include: the National Development Plan, Vision 2030 through collaboration of public and private sector to expand biodiversity economy; the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan; the National and Provincial Protected Area Expansion Strategies; the objectives of the National Biodiversity Economy Strategy (NBES) through seeking to optimize total economic benefits to local communities and economy of wildlife and bioprospecting industries through sustainable use; the National Natural Capital Accounting Strategy through Component 3; National Strategy for Plant Conservation and National Response Strategy and Action Plan to address the illegal trade in South African Succulent Flora through Component 2 focus on Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS).

There are no country policies that contradict with the intended outcomes of the project identified. However, there are infrastructure development programmes, including authorized renewable energy developments, electricity grid infrastructure and expansion, and gas pipelines, within the areas of implementation which can potentially affect biodiversity conservation goals. Engagements with these initiatives will be undertaken during the PPG stage and implementation to proactively address potential negative impacts.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

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

Yes

The project outcomes will ensure that gender concerns are taken into account. Women have an intimate relationship with biodiversity and interact with what nature has to offer on a daily basis, as they tend to be primary caregivers, land managers, and resource users (Census 2011 statistics show more women are unemployed and there are more in rural provinces like Northern Cape and Limpopo). Furthermore, women face disproportionate impacts both from biodiversity loss and gender-blind conservation measures. The project will aim to achieve at least 50% gender parity and women beneficiaries. The project description highlights how women and youth will be actively engaged in on-the-ground implementation and planning, and highlights gender-sensitive monitoring.

Stakeholder Engagement

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

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: Yes

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector: Yes

Provide a brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during PIF development as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes and plan to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan before CEO endorsement has been clearly articulated in the Project Description

Stakeholder engagement during the PIF development was informed through several engagements, making use of existing platforms for identifying barriers and interventions, and more targeted bilaterals. Stakeholder consultations will be conducted, and an engagement plan will be developed before CEO endorsement. This will be informed by the biodiversity stewardship value proposition (which identified a list of stakeholders to engage with) and drawing from the NCA stakeholder list. Engagements that informed the project identified in relation to biodiversity stewardship were:

Stakeholder	Dates
Biodiversity Stewardship Technical Working Group during which barriers to declarations were discussed. Included DFFE, SANBI, SANParks, Conservation Outcomes, WWF, GDARD, ECPTA, NW-DEDECT, LEDET, DAELR, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and Conservation strategy, Development and Impact	9-11 Nov 2022
Biodiversity Stewardship Legal Reference Group during which barriers to declarations were discussed. Included DFFE, MPTA, SANBI, SANParks, KZN Wildlife, EWT, WWF, ECPTA, Conservation Outcomes, Cape Nature, WFA and Conservation strategy, Development and Impact	14-15 Feb 2023
Third National Biodiversity Stewardship Conference during which the third National Biodiversity Stewardship Conference Resolutions were developed. Included DFFE, SANBI, UNDP, LEDET, Conservation Outcomes, CapeNature, SANParks, ECPTA and the ECPTA Board Member, People & Parks Youth, People & Parks EC, iSimangaliso, eThekwini Municipality, EWT, DALRRD, various Community Property Associations, various Traditional Leaders, MPTA, BirdLife SA, DEDEAT, Elandsberg Nature Reserve, NW-DEDECT, EDTEA-KZN, COGHSTA-Limpopo, CSA, ASF, ERS, MNDT, COLCRA and Conservation strategy, Development and Impact These resolutions were presented to Working Group 1 1. And to the MinTech Working Group.	6-10 Mar 2023 19 May 2023 26 May 2023
Workshop on the Implementation of the 30x30 Protected Areas Target: *Protection. For our Land. For our Ocean. For our People*. Convened by DFFE, in partnership with Wilderness Foundation Africa, Sustainable Finance Coalition, The Nature Conservancy, Campaign for Nature, IUCN, WildTrust, Oceans 5, and involving SANBI, SANParks, provincial conservation authorities, other NGOs the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa.	6-8 June 2023
Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) discussion (involving DFFE, SANBI, SANParks, Conservation Outcomes, Wilderness Foundation Africa: Sustainable Finance Coalition, Conservation South Africa and independent consultants	23 June 2023
SANBI and DFFE GEF 8 Bilateral Meeting	29 May 2023
Bilateral between SANBI and DFFE Biodiversity	20 Jan 2023
Bilateral between SANBI and Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (DAERL)	4 July 2023
Bilateral between SANBI and Limpopo Economic Development Environment and Tourism (LEDET)	06 July 2023
Engagements that informed the project identified in relation to NCA were:	
Bilateral between DFFE and SANBI	13 Sept 2022

Stakeholder	Dates
	15 Mar 2023
NCA Strategic Advisory Group convened by Statistics SA and involving National Treasury, Department of Water and Sanitation, DFFE, Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Department of Science and Innovation, Water Research Commission and SANBI	20 Feb 2023
NCA Coordination Unit meeting discussions involving Stats SA, DFFE and SANBI	8 Dec 2022
	30 Jan 2023
	13 Apr 2023
	23 May 2023
	3 July 2023
Bilateral between Stats SA and SANBI	5 June 2023

(Please upload to the portal documents tab any stakeholder engagement plan or assessments that have been done during the PIF development phase.)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

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

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program and any measures to address such risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex D).

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
High or Substantial			

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B)

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

Indicative 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)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount ($)

150000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

14250

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

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
BD-1-1	GET	4,416,208.00	35265699
Total Project Cost		**4,416,208.00**	**35,265,699.00**

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	Other government departments: Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Department of Tourism, and Department of Science and Innovation, Statistics South Africa	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5388237
Recipient Country Government	South African National Biodiversity Institute	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3781135
Recipient Country Government	Provincial conservation authorities	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1066667
Civil Society Organization	Non-governmental organizations	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3413333
Private Sector	Landowners entering into agreements to conserve	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	426667
Recipient Country Government	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	20189660
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1000000
Total Co-financing				**35,265,699.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

NA

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Pradeep Kurukulasuriya				pradeep.kurukulasuriya@undp.org
Project Coordinator	Charles Mutai				charles.mutai@undp.org

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

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Ms Shahkira Parker	Senior Policy Advisor, International Governance Management	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	11/22/2023

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place
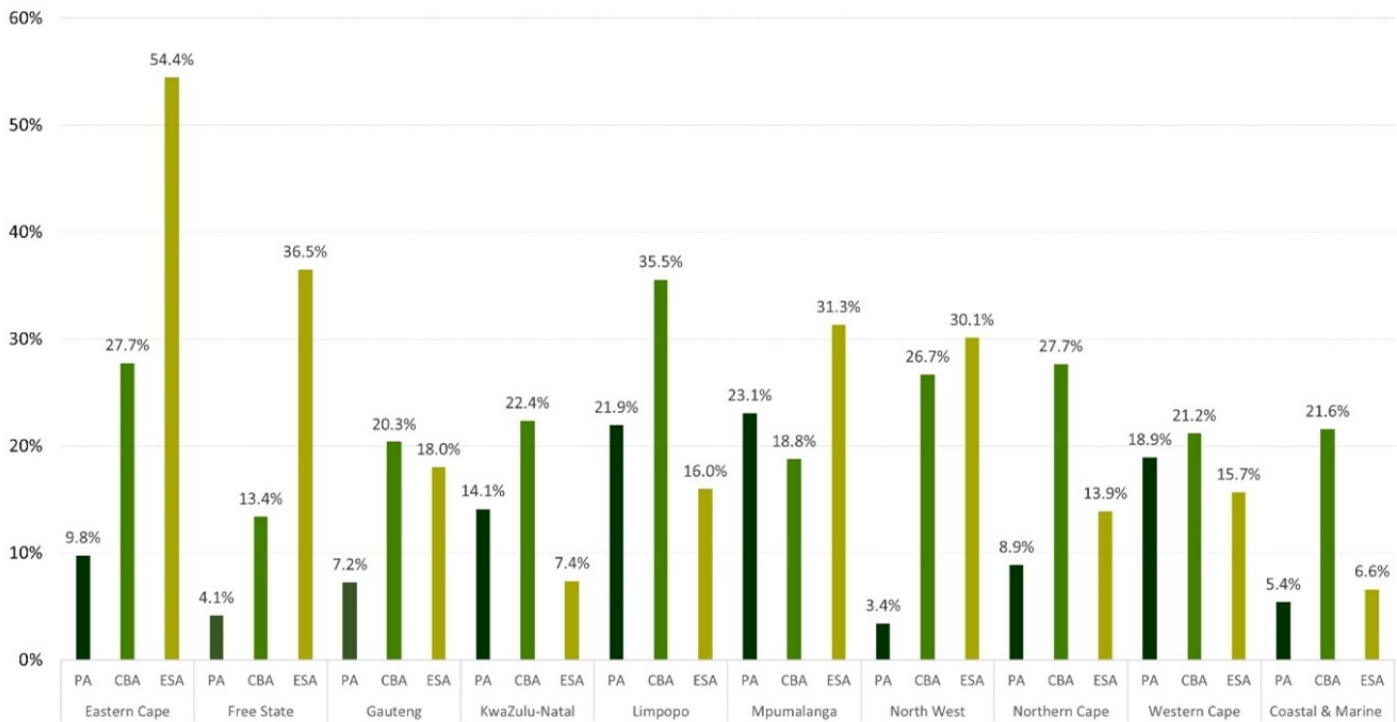
The location for project implementation has been identified in two provinces of South Africa, namely Limpopo and Northern Cape. These provinces have the highest proportion of Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA), with Northern Cape having the largest extent covered by CBAs of all provinces. CBAs are areas that must be maintained in, or restored to, natural or near-natural ecological condition in order to conserve a viable representative sample of all ecosystem types and species and maintain ecologically functional landscapes or seascapes. CBAs are identified using systematic biodiversity planning in a configuration that is complementary, efficient and avoids conflict with other uses where possible.

Table 3. Extent of province, protected areas, CBAs and ESAs in 2023

Provinces	Total Surface Area (ha)	Protected Areas (ha)	CBA Categories	CBA & ESA (ha)	PA surface (%) - Provincial	CBA & ESA surface (%)
Eastern Cape	16 890 800	1 648 248	Critical Biodiversity Areas	4 686 535	9.8%	27.7%
			Ecological Support Areas	9 192 741		54.4%
Free State	12 982 500	537 230	Critical Biodiversity Areas	1 738 118	4.1%	13.4%
			Ecological Support Areas	4 736 993		36.5%
Gauteng	1 817 830	131 749	Critical Biodiversity Areas	369 700	7.2%	20.3%

			Ecological Support Areas	327 593		18.0%
KwaZulu-Natal	9 330 760	1 316 799	Critical Biodiversity Areas	2 085 888	14.1%	22.4%
			Ecological Support Areas	687 182		7.4%
Limpopo	12 575 400	2 759 028	**Critical Biodiversity Areas**	4 469 753	21.9%	**35.5%**
			Ecological Support Areas	2 007 860		16.0%
Mpumalanga	7 649 470	1 764 052	Critical Biodiversity Areas	1 435 695	23.1%	18.8%
			Ecological Support Areas	2 396 299		31.3%
North West	10 488 200	356 753	Critical Biodiversity Areas	2 797 822	3.4%	26.7%
			Ecological Support Areas	3 158 337		30.1%
Northern Cape	37 290 100	3 307 956	**Critical Biodiversity Areas**	**10 312 118**	8.9%	**27.7%**
			Ecological Support Areas	5 178 245		13.9%
Western Cape	12 949 200	2 449 902	Critical Biodiversity Areas	2 741 519	18.9%	21.2%
			Ecological Support Areas	2 028 876		15.7%
Coastal & Marine	107 251 000	5 781 020	Critical Biodiversity Areas	23 132 458	5.4%	21.6%
			Ecological Support Areas	7 075 616		6.6%

Figure 3. Graph showing the proportion of each province, and coastal and marine region that is protected area, CBA or ESA.

60%

54.4%

50%

40%

36.5%   35.5%

31.3%   30.1%

30%   27.7%   27.7%   26.7%

23.1%

22.4%   21.9%   21.2%   21.6%

20.3%   18.8%   18.9%

20%   18.0%   16.0%   15.7%

14.1%   13.9%

13.4%

10%   9.8%   8.9%

7.2%   7.4%   6.6%

4.1%   3.4%   5.4%

0%

PA CBA ESA | PA CBA ESA | PA CBA ESA | PA CBA ESA | PA CBA ESA | PA CBA ESA | PA CBA ESA | PA CBA ESA | PA CBA ESA | PA CBA ESA

Eastern Cape | Free State | Gauteng | KwaZulu-Natal | Limpopo | Mpumalanga | North West | Northern Cape | Western Cape | Coastal & Marine

two provinces within SA, and a more detailed map for each area.

The maps show the Essential Life Support Action Areas (ELSAA) categories. The ELSAA analysis was based on a process that was finalised and presented to project partners and stakeholders in March 2022. The protection target was adjusted to 30% in line with GBF Target 3. The ELSAA categories on the map are described in the Table 2. Expansion of conservation area will be focused in the areas identified for 'Protect' action first. Interventions to establish OECMs, improve management and restore will focus also in other action categories.

Table 4. Description of Essential Life Support Action Areas (ELSAA) action categories

Legend	ELSAA Actions	
	Protected areas	Currently protected areas in South Africa
	Protect	Areas that should be formally protected by law and managed mainly for biodiversity conservation. A management authority and a management plan focused on maintaining or improving the state of biodiversity and ecological functions must be in place, supporting the benefits and opportunities people derive from nature. This will entail restrictions on certain land uses.
	Avoid loss	Areas where the loss of natural or semi-natural ecosystems, and their associated species, must be avoided in order to retain priority biodiversity assets and ecological infrastructure.
	Reduce pressures	Areas where the cumulative or historic loss of natural ecosystems must be mitigated; areas where intensity of use or natural resources must be reduced and managed for sustainable use, and unsustainable practices and/or degradation must be remedied.
	Restore	Areas where passive or active restoration is required and where the loss of natural ecosystem functioning (damage to an ecosystem) must be reversed. This may require an improvement in the structure of the habitat and increase or decrease of vegetative cover as ecologically appropriate. Areas where ecosystems must be rehabilitated (at least) to the degree to which they function sufficiently well to deliver ecosystem services. This may involve for example: the removal of biomass, for example from invasive plant species, or structural/engineering intervention in aquatic (freshwater/wetland) ecosystems; for degraded wetland ecosystems, active structural/engineering interventions may be required; change in land use from intensive/commercial land uses to lower impact land uses.
	Urban adapt	Areas where ecosystem-based adaptation should be undertaken in urban environments, or the ecological infrastructure in adjacent or upstream areas on which they rely, to reduce vulnerability to disasters associated with climate change, including wildfires, flooding and drought.

Also shown on the maps are the biodiversity economy nodes (BEN), which were identified in line with NBES, to serve as strategic vehicles to achieve economic, social, and environmental objectives through an integrated land-use planning process. It is the intention that within the BENs, the economic development potential of wildlife and cultural heritage is used to create vibrant wildlife-based economic development nodes in rural dry-land ecosystems where other land-uses may not be viable. These nodes link core conservation areas to other wildlife areas that are managed by the private sector and communities (often successful land claimants).

Figure 4. Map of South Africa showing the indicative areas for implementation overlaid on the Essential Life Support Action Areas[1][8] (ELSAAs), Biodiversity Economy Nodes, SWSAs, provinces.
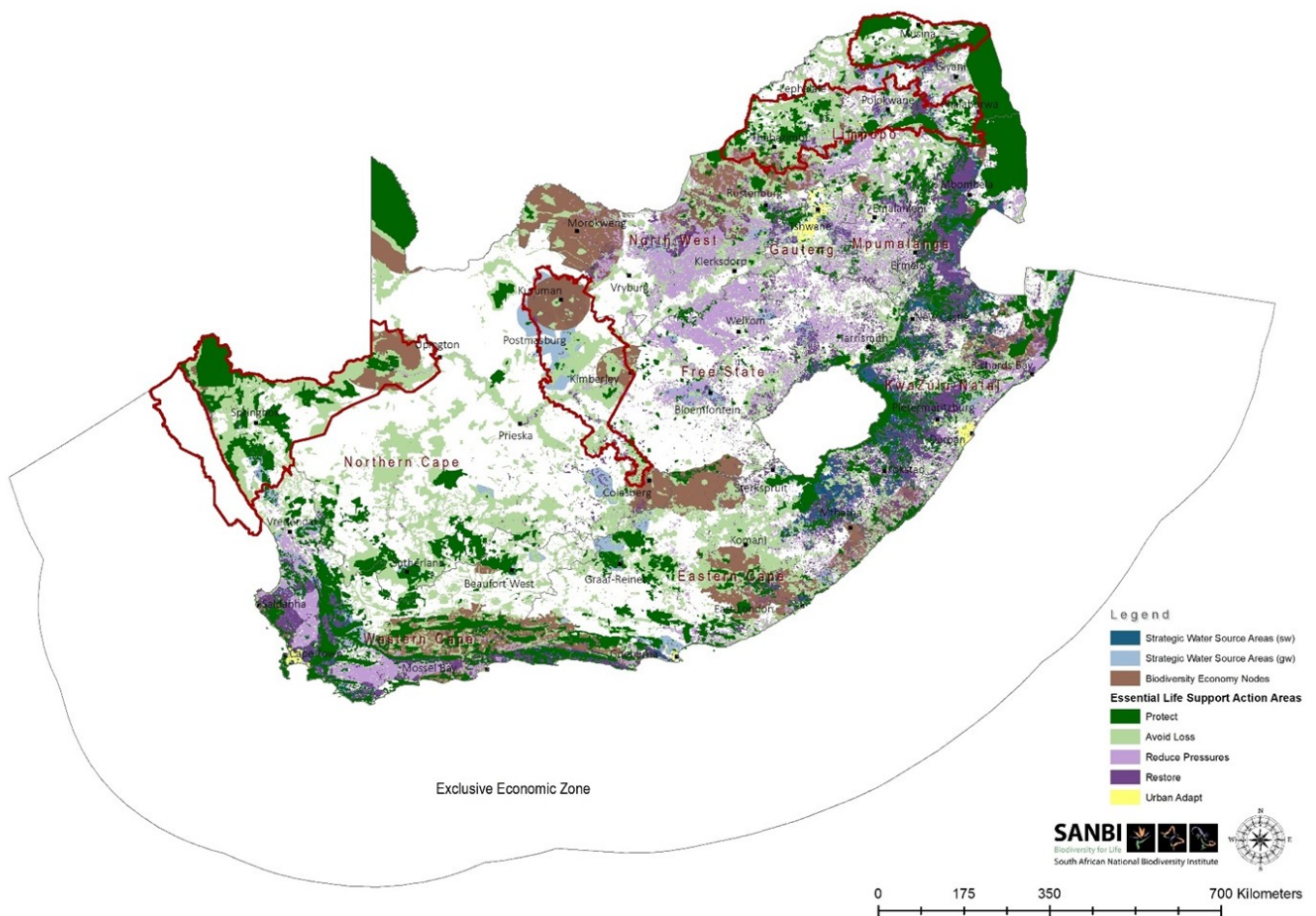
[1]

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Figure 5. Map of South Africa showing the indicative areas for implementation overlaid on the threatened ecosystems
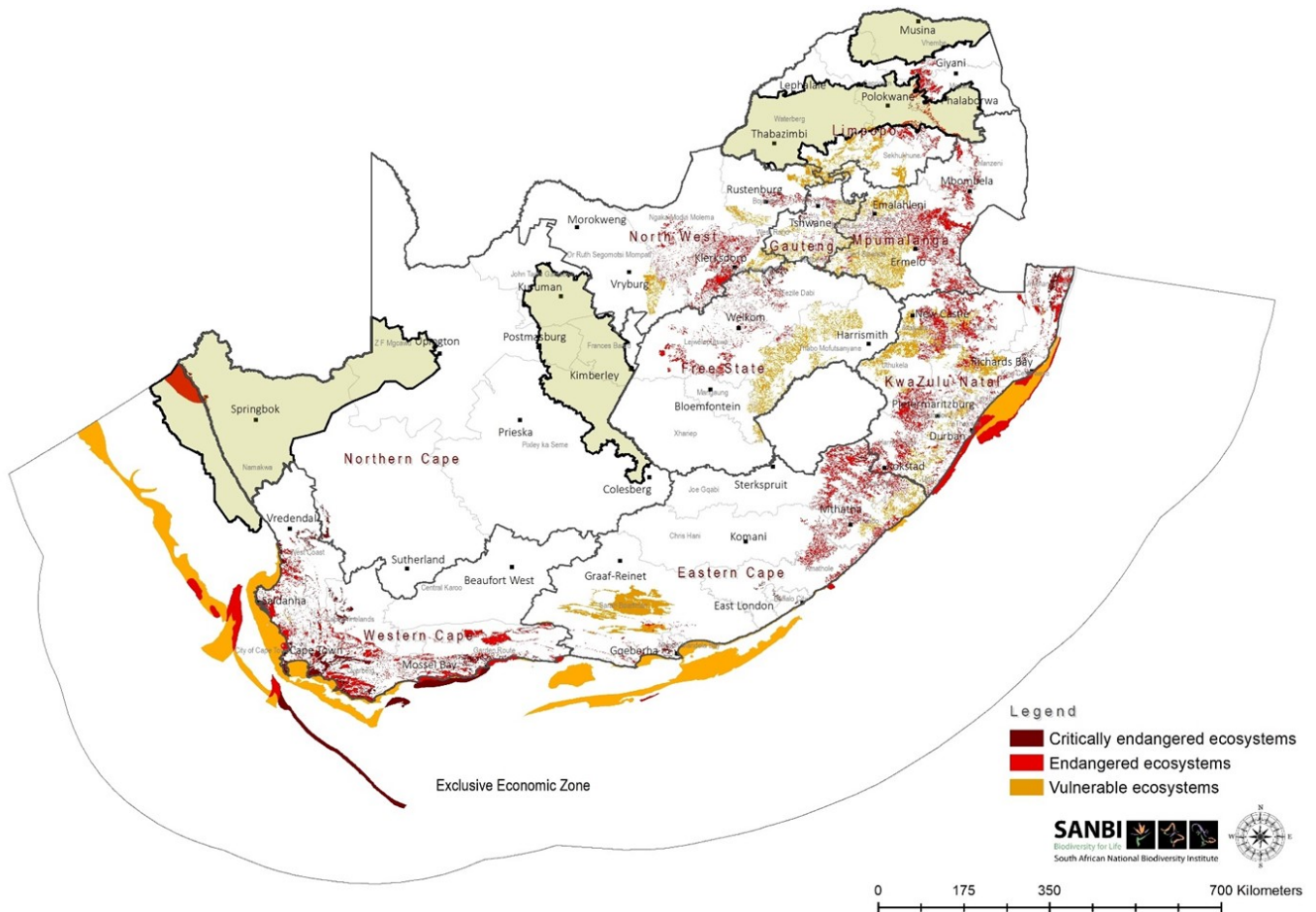
Figure 6. Extent of areas of implementation per province, and within each area of implementation the table provides area of current protected areas, ELSAA action category to protect, avoid loss, reduce pressure, restore and urban adapt (hectares).

		Northern Cape		Limpopo		
Measures		**Landscape 1**	**Seascape 1**	**Landscape 2**	**Landscape 3**	**Landscape 4**
		Augrabies to Namaqua landscape	**Augrabies to Namaqua seascape**	**Kimberly to Kuruman landscape**	**Mapungubwe to Makuleke landscape**	**Kruger to Lephalale-Kalahari landscape**
Total Area (ha)		6 331 142	1 930 124	4 362 604	1 952 487	4 876 550
Protected areas (ha)		837 444	104 363	59 931	720 029	914 381
Provincial protected area expansion (ha)		2 061 666	NA	661 148	614 421	785 314
ELSAA categories	Protect (ha) (30% target; minus any irreversible changed land)	1 788 086	NA	78 548	776 435	1 186 169
	Avoid loss (ha) (minus any irreversible changed land)	2 299 520	NA	1 389 860	520 572	1 827 913
	Reduce pressures (ha) (minus any irreversible changed land)	33 966	NA	54170	28 159	418 404
	Restore (ha) (minus any irreversible changed land)	50 035	NA	108 925	78 868	307 189
	Urban adapt (ha)	0	0	0	597	12 980
Population estimate (no)		156 808	NA	545 294	457 104	1 792 538

Number of women (no) based on Stats SA SAL from Mookho	76 576	NA	278 506	242 597	928 511
RAMSAR wetlands (ha)	2 290			10 831	
Targets for PA	15 000		5000	3000	17000
Target for OECM	85 000	10 000	85 000	50 000	90 000
Target for beneficiaries	2 477		11 249	12 408	39 331
Target for women beneficiaries	1 210		5 746	6 585	20 373

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Figure 7. Map of indicative area of implementation in Northern Cape: Augrabies to Namaqua. Map shows district municipalities, towns, main rivers, ELSAA categories, critical biodiversity areas, biodiversity economy nodes…

Figure 7 could not be uploaded; please refer to the word PIF p. 39.

Figure 8. Map of indicative area of implementation in Northern Cape: Kimberley to Kuruman. Map shows district municipalities, towns, main rivers, ELSAA categories, critical biodiversity areas, biodiversity economy nodes…

Figure 8 could not be uploaded; please refer to the word PIF p. 40.

Figure 9. Map of indicative area of implementation in Limpopo: Kruger to Lephalale-Kalahari. Map shows district municipalities, towns, main rivers, ELSAA categories, critical biodiversity areas, biodiversity economy nodes…

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Figure 10. Map of indicative area of implementation in Limpopo: Mapungubwe to Makuleke. Map shows district municipalities, towns, main rivers, ELSAA categories, critical biodiversity areas, biodiversity economy nodes…

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ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

(PIF level) Attach agency safeguard screen form including rating of risk types and overall risk rating.

Title

PIMS 9745-PRE-SESP_Thriving people and nature 20230914

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

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

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Influencing models			
	Transform policy and regulatory environments		
	Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making		
	Convene multi-stakeholder alliances		
	Demonstrate innovative approaches		
Stakeholders			
	Indigenous Peoples		
	Private Sector		
		SMEs	
		Individuals/Entrepreneurs	
	Beneficiaries		
	Local Communities		
	Civil Society		
		Community Based Organization	
		Non-Governmental Organization	
	Type of Engagement		
		Information Dissemination	
		Partnership	
		Consultation	
		Participation	
	Communications		
		Awareness Raising	
		Public Campaigns	
		Behaviour Change	
Capacity, Knowledge and Research			
	Capacity Development		
	Knowledge Generation and Exchange		
	Learning		
		Theory of Change	
		Adaptive Management	
		Indicators to Measure Change	
	Innovation		
	Knowledge and Learning		
		Knowledge Management	
		Innovation	
		Capacity Development	
		Learning	
	Stakeholder Engagement Plan		
Gender Equality			
	Gender Mainstreaming		
		Beneficiaries	
		Women groups	
		Sex-disaggregated indicators	
		Gender-sensitive indicators	
	Gender results areas		
		Access and control over natural resources	
		Participation and leadership	
		Access to benefits and services	
		Capacity development	
		Awareness raising	
		Knowledge generation	
Focal Areas/Theme			
	Biodiversity		
		Protected Areas and Landscapes	
			Terrestrial Protected Areas
			Community Based Natural Resource Management
		Mainstreaming	
			Tourism
			Agriculture & agrobiodiversity
		Species	

			Wildlife for Sustainable Development
		Biomes	
			Wetlands
			Rivers
			Grasslands
			Desert
		Financial and Accounting	
			Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting
			Conservation Finance
	Land Degradation		
		Sustainable Land Management	
			Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands
			Ecosystem Approach
			Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach
			Community-Based NRM
			Sustainable Livelihoods
			Income Generating Activities
	International Waters		
		Coastal	
		Learning	
		Large Marine Ecosystems	
			Mangrove
	Climate Change		
		Climate Change Adaptation	
			Ecosystem-based Adaptation
		Climate Change Mitigation	
			Agriculture, Forestry, and other Land Use
		United Nations Framework on Climate Change	Nationally Determined Contribution
	Rio Markers		
		Paris Agreement	
		Sustainable Development Goals	
		Climate Change Adaptation 1	