

Conservation, development and livelihoods for thriving people and nature

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID
11448
Countries
South Africa
Project Name
Conservation, development and livelihoods for thriving people and nature
Agencies
UNDP
Date received by PM
6/19/2025
Review completed by PM
10/17/2025
Program Manager
Tasila Banda
Focal Area
Biodiversity
Project Type
FSP

PIF
CEO

Part I - General Project Information

1. a) Is the Project Information table correctly filled, including specifying adequate executing partners?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

The last field in the Project information table ?Project Sector (for CCM Only)? exclusively applies to Climate Change Mitigation projects. We request the Agency to remove the text that was filled in.

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION			
Project Information			
Project Title:	Conservation, development and livelihoods for thriving people and nature		
Region:	Africa	GEF Project ID:	11440
Country(ies):	South Africa	Type of Project:	FSP
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	9745
Project Executing Entity(ies):	South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)	Project Executing Type:	Government
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Submission Date :	6/19/2025
Type of Trust Fund:	GET	Project Duration (Months):	60
GEF Project Grant: (a)	4,414,308.00	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)	0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	419,549.00	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant: (d)	0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	4,833,748.00	Total Co-financing:	13,109,398.00
PPS Amount: (e)	190,000.00	PPS Agency Fee(s): (f)	14,290.00
Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)	4,999,998.00		
Project Type @:	CBT: No NDI: No SDP: No Competitive Window: No Innovation: No		
Project Sector (CCM Only):	Mixed & Others		

10/17/2025 TMB

We request the Agency to correct the project IDs on **both** the CER and the ProDoc.

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

+			
Project Title:	Conservation, development and livelihoods for thriving people and nature		
Region:	Southern Africa	GEF Project ID:	9745
Country(ies):	South Africa	Type of Project	FULL SIZED PROJECT
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	9745

UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Category: Substantial	UNDP Gender Marker: GEN2
Quantum Award ID:	Quantum Project ID:
UNDP PIMS ID number: 9745	GEF Project ID number: 11151

11/01/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

UNDP Response, 31 Oct 2025

Project IDs have been corrected in both the CER and the ProDoc.

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UNDP Response, 17 Oct 2025

The text was included in error and has been removed from the portal.

b) Are the Rio Markers for CCM, CCA, BD and LD correctly selected, if applicable?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

2. Project Summary.

a) Does the project summary concisely describe the problem to be addressed, the project objective and the strategies to deliver the GEBs or adaptation benefits and other key expected outcomes?

b) Does the summary capture the essence of the project and is it within the max. of 250 words?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

Cleared.

10/17/2025 TMB

While the Agency was reviewing the initial feedback, another project GEF ID 12028 was submitted which is planned to be implemented in the same regions. We request the Agency to include a statement of complementarity/value add/incremental reasoning in light of the other project which states:

The project will be implemented in targeted rural districts that have high levels of poverty and unemployment as well as substantial potential for conserving native biodiversity **in the Limpopo, Northwest, Northern Cape and Eastern Cape provinces** of South Africa. Although geographically widespread, these project areas have been strategically and objectively selected on the basis of information generated through systematic conservation planning processes at both the provincial and national levels. These areas have also been identified in the National Biodiversity Economy Strategy (DEA, 2016) as biodiversity economy transformation nodes.

While this one stated that:

Indicators 1.1, 4.1, 5.4, 6 and 11. To achieve this, the project will enhance collaboration, strengthen capacity and scale up the biodiversity stewardship programme **in the Limpopo and Northern Cape Provinces**; strengthen the enabling environment for mainstreaming biodiversity in key sectors at the national level; enhance the flow of biodiversity benefits for communities and local economic development; and strengthen the evidence base of benefits through natural capital accounting and knowledge management to strengthen the case for more investment in biodiversity conservation and protected area expansion. New and emerging approaches to optimizing the wildlife-based economy will be applied and broadened with GEBs of the conservation and sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity with fair and equitable benefit sharing.

11/01/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

UNDP Response, 31 Oct 2025

Text has been added under the Project Description on page 11.

3. Project Description Overview

- a) Is the project objective statement concise, clear and measurable?
- b) Are the components, outcomes, and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change?
- c) Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and M&E included within the project components and budgeted for?
- d) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?
- e) Is the PMC equal to or below 10% (for MSP) or 5% (for FSP)? If above, is the justification acceptable?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

The Agency may consider distinguishing SANBI Indicators from the GEF Core Indicators whenever referred to within the entire CER and ProDoc.

The M&E component can also be labeled as a component of its own.

10/17/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

UNDP Response, 17 Oct 2025

The GEF CIs have been clearly identified as such so as to distinguish them from the SANBI indicators and a note has been included above the Results Framework to explain this and identify the relevant indicators and being either GEF CIs or SANBI indicators. This has been captured in the Results Framework in Annex C on page 31 of the CEO ER and in the Project Description Overview on page 4 of the CEO ER. The same has been done in the ProDoc's Results Framework, Section V on page 20.

Regarding M&E as a separate component, this has been left unaltered as it is in line with other GEF projects that have been designed and submitted by the UNDP.

4. Project Outline

A. Project Rationale

- a) Is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective and adequately addressed by the project design?
- b) Have the role of stakeholders, incl. the private sector and local actors in the system been described and how they will contribute to GEBs and/or adaptation benefits and other project outcomes? Is the private sector seen mainly as a stakeholder or as financier?
- c) If this is an NGI project, is there a description of how the project and its financial structure are addressing financial barriers?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

During the first three years, stakeholder engagement will focus on implementation for Protected Area Expansion Strategies (PAESs) through three-day workshops held every second month in the priority areas.

This sounds like a lot of workshop covering multiple years. Is there a way that the Agency can consolidate some of the workshops to cover the earlier year(s) to allow for actual conservation interventions enough time to take root?

10/17/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

UNDP Response, 17 Oct 2025

Text has been added to Section A Project Rationale to provide an explanation as to the role these workshops will play in successful project implementation ? see page 12 of the CEO ER and page 15 of the ProDoc. Please note that these workshops will initially support the participatory planning of activities, but as the project progresses, will also play a key role in obtaining feedback from stakeholders and the adaptive management of the project. Also to be considered is the large and disperse number of stakeholders in the project which also requires substantial and ongoing effort in stakeholder engagement.

5 B. Project Description

5.1 a) Is there a concise theory of change (narrative and an optional schematic) that describes the project logic, including how the project design elements are contributing to the objective, the identified causal pathways, the focus and basis (including scientific) of the proposed solutions, how they provide a robust approach? Are underlying key assumptions listed?

b) Is there a description of how the GEF alternative will build on ongoing/previous investments (GEF and non-GEF), lessons and experiences in the country/region?

c) Are the project components (interventions and activities) described and proposed solutions and critical assumptions and risks properly justified? Is there an indication of why the project approach has been selected over other potential options?

d) Incremental/additional cost reasoning: Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12? Has the baseline scenario and/or associated baseline projects been described? Is the project incremental reasoning provisioned (including the role of the GEF)? Are the global environmental benefits and/or adaptation benefits identified?

e) Other Benefits: Are the socioeconomic benefits resulting from the project at the national and local levels sufficiently described?

f) Is the financing presented in the annexed financing table adequate and demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives? Are items charged to the PMC reasonable according to the GEF guidelines?

g) How does the project design ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers and adaptive management needs and options (as applicable for this FSP/MSP)?

h) Are the relevant stakeholders (including women, private sector, CSO, e.g.) and their roles adequately described within the components?

i) Gender: Does the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities and have these been taken up in component design and description/s?

j) Are the proposed elements to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning outputs and strategic communication adequately described?

k) Policy Coherence: Have any policies, regulations or subsidies been identified that could counteract the intended project outcomes and how will that be addressed?

l) Transformation and/or innovation: Is the project going to be transformative or innovative? Does it explain scaling up opportunities?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

The project is well described, however, it needs to fall within 5 pages max as guided.

10/17/2025 TMB

1. The Theory of Change diagram is presenting the results framework as opposed to the logical pathways for change/transformation. We request the Agency to describe the project logic, including how the project design elements are contributing to the objective, the identified causal pathways, the focus and basis (including scientific) of the proposed solutions, how they provide a robust approach? Also list the key assumptions.

2. We request that an explanation of is provided with regards to avoidance of co-mingling of funds due to the co-location of project staff working on this project and the GEF ID 12028.

11/01/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

UNDP Response, 31 Oct 2025

1. The ToC has been amended and has been inserted as an embedded file in Annex I.

2. See response to 2 above

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UNDP Response, 17 Oct 2025

Theory of Change diagram, Institutional aspects, rationale for GEF CIs and Risk Table have been moved to Annexures. Otherwise the has been text kept as is and now it is within the 5 page limit. This change has only been made to the CEO ER and not the ProDoc where there are no strict length restrictions.

5.2 Institutional Arrangements and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project

- a) Are the institutional arrangements, including potential executing partners, outlined on regional, national/local levels and a rationale provided? Has an organogram and/or funds flow diagram been included?**
- b) Comment on proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception). Is GEF in support of the request?**
- c) Is there a description of coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF and non-GEF financed projects/programs (such as government and/or other bilateral/multilateral supported initiatives in the project area, e.g.).**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

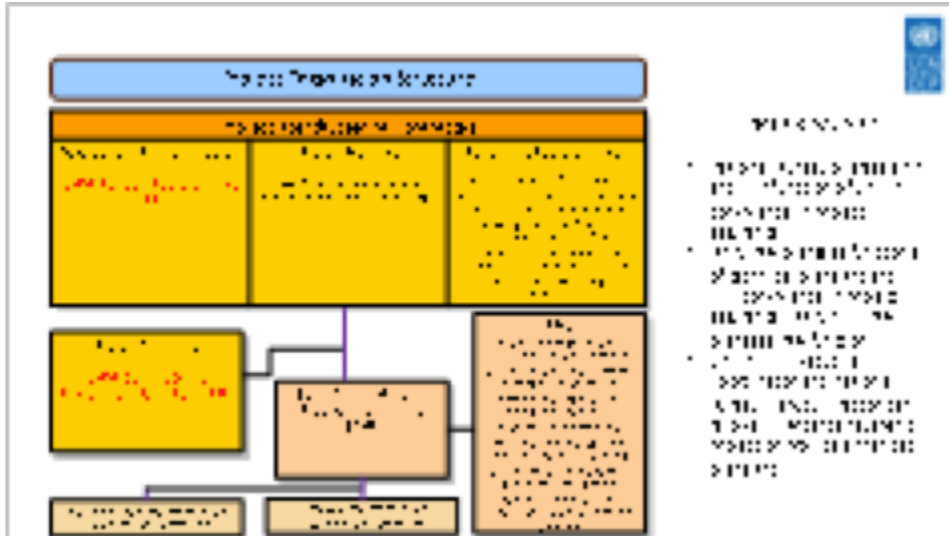
08/30/2025 TMB

Project Governance Structure:

1. The Organizational chart is blurry. Kindly provide a high definition version.
2. It is not clear what the "Option 1" in the Full NIM with Government means in this case.
3. While "second line of defense" is a fully understandable term, we suggest that the Agency finds a more appropriate term, for the role that the Regional Bureau, RTA and Executive Coordinators will be playing in this project.

10/17/2025 TMB

Cleared. However, remember to remove the deleted graphic from the final word version of the CER document.



11/01/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

UNDP Response, 31 Oct 2025

The graphic has been deleted

UNDP Response, 17 Oct 2025

The text in the graphic has been revised to avoid terms that could be misunderstood. It should now clearly represent the governance structure of the project.

5.3 Core indicators

- a) Are the identified core indicators calculated using the methodology and adhering to the overarching principles included in the corresponding Guidelines (GEF/C.62/Inf.12/Rev.01)?
- b) Are the project's targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through core indicators and additional

listed outcome indicators) /adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable?
Are the GEF Climate Change adaptation indicators and sub-indicators for LDCF and SCCF properly documented?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

5.4 Risks

- a) Is there a well-articulated assessment of risk to outcomes and identification of mitigation measures under each relevant risk category? Are mitigation measures clearly identified and realistic? Is there any omission?
- b) Is the rating provided reflecting the residual risk to the likely achievement of intended outcomes after accounting for the expected implementation of mitigation measures?
- c) Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately assessed and rated and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

Can the Agency explain why the opportunity being capitalized under financial and business model for the project excluded any other potential risks.

10/31/2025 TMB

This question was raised because the key innovation could also potentially come with risks that may be overlooked if not well thought through for long-term sustainability of the project interventions. Of particular interest are activities under outcome 2.2 which relate to alternative livelihoods, has the Agency thought about the risks of insufficient and unstable revenue streams to sustain the livelihood activities, revenue leakage and or mismanagement, inflation, benefit sharing risks, partnership risks, etc to name a few.

11/01/2025 TMB

We were not able to find Annex L. However, this was cleared on the basis of the revisions within the risk table of the PIF.pdf which goes to Council for review.

Agency Response

UNDP Response, 31 Oct 2025

Text has been added to the Risk table in Annex L.

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UNDP Response, 17 Oct 2025

The financial and business risk rating has been assessed as moderate, and explanatory text has been added to the risk table in Annex L outlining the rationale and proposed mitigation measures.

5.5 For NGI Only: Is there a justification of the financial structure and of the use of financial instrument with concessionality levels?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

6 C. Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies and Country/Regional Priorities

6.1 a) Is the project adequately aligned with Focal Area objectives, and/or the LDCF/SCCF strategy?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

6.2 Is the project alignment/coherent with country and regional priorities, policies, strategies and plans (including those related to the MEAs and to relevant sectors).

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

6.3 For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), does the project clearly identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and how it contributes to the identified target(s)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

7 D. Policy Requirements

7.1 Are the Policy Requirement sections completed?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

7.2 Is the Gender Action Plan uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

1. Project outcomes and outputs mention gender-responsiveness as one of the key elements to be considered. We request the Agency to demonstrate what gender-responsive means (e.g., through the Gender Action Plan, which is missing/not uploaded, through the Project Results Framework, and through budgets).

2. On Monitoring and Evaluation, please ensure that lessons learned, best practices and challenges in achieving the project's gender equality objectives/results are included in PIRs, MTR, TE. Please ensure that knowledge products developed also capture best practices and lessons learned in implementing the project's gender-specific actions, and that these are widely disseminated.

10/17/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

UNDP Response, 17 Oct 2025

1. GAP was uploaded and does explain in detail the gender-responsive approach of the project.

Changes have been made in the Project Description Overview, starting on page 4, as well as in the Results Framework in Annex C of the CEO ER, as follows:

Indicator 5 has been amended to include reference to designated gender focal points attending each meeting and gender integrated as a standing agenda item.

Indicator 7 has been amended to include reference to the specific needs and different roles of women, men, and gender-diverse groups.

Indicator 10 has been amended to require a disaggregation of livelihoods data showing equitable participation and benefits for women, men, and gender-diverse groups.

Indicator 11 has been amended to include reference to gender being integrated as a standing agenda item and the forums including representation of designated gender focal points and ensure balanced participation of women and men in decision-making processes.

Indicator 12 amended to include reference to having mechanisms in place to systematically collect, disaggregate, and report gender-sensitive data on access, benefits, and participation of women, men, and gender-diverse groups in these areas.

2. The M&E Outcomes and Outputs already refer to gender responsiveness.

The GAAP has been inserted into the CEO ER as an imbedded file on page 26.

7.3 Is the stakeholder engagement plan uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

1. Stakeholder Engagement: Noting that the risk rating for stakeholder is low. The project description does include some information that may indicate a higher risk rating. We request the agency to further elaborate on identified risk in the risk table on stakeholders and the specific project means to address these including, ensuring meaningful engagement with local communities, small-scale farmers, CSOs and CBOs and IPs.

2. In the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), civil society organizations, youth and women groups are mentioned but please specify the specific groups and organizations that were already identified.

10/17/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

UNDP Response, 17 Oct 2025

1. The stakeholder risk rating has been increased from moderate to substantial reflecting related to the engagement with a large number of diverse and dispersed stakeholders. The following text has been added: ?While the project includes various activities that ensure engagement of a broad range of stakeholders who may be affected by the project, including women, youth groups, marginalized groups and indigenous peoples, some stakeholders may still be excluded during consultations or their opinions not sufficiently taken into consideration during project implementation. Therefore, identification of stakeholders at the national, regional and local levels should continue throughout project implementation such that the Stakeholder Engagement Plan is periodically updated to ensure continuous and meaningful consultations with all identified groups.?

2. A separate table (see Annexure A on page 29 of the SEP) has been created to include and specify the specific groups and organizations that were already identified during the PPG.

7.4 Have the required applicable safeguards documents been uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

8 Annexes

Annex A: Financing Tables

**8.1 GEF Financing Table and Focal Area Elements: Is the proposed GEF financing (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):
STAR allocation?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

SCCF A (SIDS)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

SCCF B (Tech Transfer, Innovation, Private Sector)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

8.2 Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

a) Is the use of PPG attached in Annex: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG) properly itemized according to the guidelines?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

8.3 Source of Funds

Does the sources of funds table match with the amounts in the OFP's LOE?

Note: the table only captures sources of funds from the country's STAR allocation

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

8.4 Confirmed co-financing for the project, by name and type: Are the amounts, sources, and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

e.g. Have letters of co-finance been submitted, correctly classified as investment mobilized or in-kind/recurring expenditures? If investment mobilized: is there an explanation below the table to describe the nature of co-finance? If letters are not in English, is a translation provided?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

Annex B: Endorsements

8.5 a) If ? and only if - this is a global or regional project for which not all country-based interventions were known at PIF stage and, therefore, not all LOEs provided:

Has the project been endorsed by the GEF OFP/s of all GEF eligible participating countries and has the OFP name and position been checked against the GEF database at the time of submission?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

b) Are the OFP endorsement letters uploaded to the GEF Portal (compiled as a single document, if applicable)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

c) Do the letters follow the correct format and are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in the Portal?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Annex C: Project Results Framework

8.6 a) Have the GEF core indicators been included?

b) Have SMART indicators been used; are means of verification well thought out; do the targets correspond/are appropriate in view of total project financing (too high? Too low?)

c) Are all relevant indicators sex disaggregated?

d) Is the Project Results Framework included in the Project Document pasted in the Template?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

Annex E: Project map and coordinates

8.7 Have geographic coordinates of project locations been entered in the dedicated table? Are relevant illustrative maps included?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

Kindly provide better quality map.

10/17/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

UNDP Response, 17 Oct 2025

A better-quality map has been provided, replacing the earlier version in Annex E.

Annex G: GEF Budget template

8.8 a) Is the GEF budget template attached and appropriately filled out incl. items such as the executing partner for each budget line?

b) Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)?

c) Are TORs for key project staff funded by GEF grant and/or co-finance attached?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08/30/2025 TMB

a. Please separate the Project Manager and Biodiversity Stewardship Legal Officer into two different line items with associated budget allocation to components, M&E and PMC as appropriate.

b. Please separate the positions / consultants that are presented in one single budget line (see example below). Each position/consultant must be presented individually. While there is a rough description of the consultants, one needs to better understand through TORs the deliverables / contribution of them to the project's components (see comment f. below regarding the excessive cost of project staff).

1. Regarding the vehicle running costs, the Agency indicated that these are not for purchase of new vehicles, therefore, these costs are to be categorized as either Operating costs or Travel but not as Equipment. Please revise the budget as appropriate.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Compos	Compos	Compos	Compos	M&E	PMAC	Total	Executing Entity
		nt 1	nt 2	nt 3	nt 4			(USD)	receiving funds from
Equipment	Brush cutters, chain saws, sprayers, slashers, PPE, etc. for restoration work as per the OECM management plans at US\$24 582 per year from Y1 2 and US\$126 675 in Y1 5. Sub-total US\$151 257								
	Vehicle running costs for the Biodiversity Stewardship Facilitators and Ecologists at US\$ 34 400 in Y1 2, US\$ 33 400 in Y1 3, US\$ 38 400 in Y1 4 and US\$ 43 200 in Y1 5. Sub-total US\$ 139 600 Total US\$ 630 047							630,047	SANBI

2. Please

confirm that travel allowance and DSA for project personnel are to be reimbursed based on actual travel with receipts as supporting documentation and not as fixed amount in cash in addition to salary/consultant pay rate i.e. in form of emoluments or benefits.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Compos	Compos	Compos	Compos	M&E	PMAC	Total	Executing Entity
		nt 1	nt 2	nt 3	nt 4			(USD)	receiving funds from
Travel	A travel allowance for the PM for 2000km/month for 10 months/year starting at US\$0.25/km and escalating by US\$0.20/annum. DSA for the PM at US\$150/night for 5 nights a month for 10 months/year. Total US\$ 79,500.						79,500	79,500	SANBI
Travel	Three domestic return flights for the Biodiversity Stewardship Legal Officer at US\$350/flight and DSAs at US\$150.00 per night for two week per PM's workshops. Sub-total US\$3,150. Travel allowance for the two Ecologists and two Biodiversity Stewardship Facilitators at a rate of US\$0.25/km for 2000km each per month for the life span of the project and DSAs at US\$150/night for 10 nights every second month in Y1 1,2 and 3. Sub-total US\$212,400. Travel allowance for the Safeguards Specialist at US\$0.25/km for 2000km/month and DSAs at US\$150/night for 10 nights per month. Sub-total US\$48,300. Five domestic return flights for the Biodiversity Stewardship Facilitators and Ecologists. Sub-total US\$25,600. Domestic return flights at US\$400.00 per flight for 18 key landowner representatives to attend two learning exchanges in Y1 3, 4 and 5, including travel for the Biodiversity Stewardship Facilitator and Ecologist and DSAs at US\$300/person/day. Sub-total US\$48,000. Total: US\$467,850.			367,350				367,350	SANBI
Travel	Travel allowance and DSA for the resource economist. Total US\$3,720			83,720				83,720	SANBI
Travel	Travel allowance for the Biodiversity Stewardship Legal Officer starting at US\$0.25/km for 1000km/month for Y12, escalating at US\$0.05 per annum. Total US\$21,600		11,600					11,600	SANBI
Travel	Travel costs for 5 sector representatives for biodiversity stewardship mainstreaming workshops. Sub-total US\$27,300. Travel costs for national consultant for marine systematic conservation planning workshops. Sub-total US\$3,300 Total: 31,300							31,300	SANBI
Travel	Two domestic return flights each for five reps from each of the two provinces and three from SANParks to attend the above workshops at US\$300/flight. Sub-total US\$9,000. DSAs for five reps from each of the two provinces and three from SANParks to attend the above workshops at US\$150/person/day. Sub-total US\$13,500. Total: US\$22,500				22,500			22,500	SANBI

11/11/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency Response

UNDP Response, 06 Nov 2025

1. 1.Apologies for this oversight - the budget category/code has been changed.

2. 2. The following sentence has been added to the corresponding budget note: ?Travel allowance and DSA for project personnel are to be reimbursed based on actual travel with receipts as supporting documentation.?

UNDP Response, 31 Oct 2025

1. Vehicles have been deleted from the TBWP and replaced with vehicle running expenses for government owned vehicles ? see BN13.

2. Personnel costs have been reduced to 30% by merging functions and also staggering timing of certain positions based on project implementation time frames.

UNDP Response, 17 Oct 2025

- a. The budgets for the different staff positions have been separated into separate budget [lines](#)
- b. Positions have been separated in the budget and are cross referenced with the ToRs and deliverables in Annexes 7 and 16 [respectively](#)
- c. A separate budget line has been allocated for [vehicles](#)
- d. This change has been [made](#)
- e. Charges for office furniture have been removed from the components
- f. Personnel costs have been reduced to 37% of the grant amount by converting most of the consultancies to full time salaried officials and integrating consulting work into the ToR of full-time officials. Most full-time officials will begin work in Yr 2 given the time it takes for procurements of these services and therefore, the costs allocated to Yr 1 have been deleted. These changes are reflected in the TBWP and in Annex 7 and 16 of the ProDoc.
- g. BNs in the TBWP have been reviewed to ensure that only specific information necessary to justify the amounts has been included. BNs 10, 11 and 20 were considered to be too long and have been shortened.

Annex H: NGI Relevant Annexes

- 8.9 a) Does the project provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) to assess the following criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments.**
- b) Does the project provide a detailed reflow table to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments.**
- c) Is the Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response
Additional Annexes
9. GEFSEC DECISION

9.1.GEFSEC Recommendation
Is the project recommended for approval

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

9.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency during the inception and implementation phase

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

9.3 Review Dates

	CEO Approval	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	8/30/2025	
Additional Review (as necessary)	10/17/2025	
Additional Review (as necessary)	10/21/2025	
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/5/2025	

Additional Review (as necessary)

**CEO Approval Response to Secretariat comments
11/11/2025**