

GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title	
Sustainable Wildlife Management and Resilient Communities in the Greater Ruaha-Katavi Landscape of Tanzania	
Region	GEF Project ID
Africa	11967
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Tanzania	MSP
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency ID
UNDP	9788
Executing Partner	Executing Partner Type
Ministry of Natural Resources & Tourism (MNRT)	Government
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Biodiversity	7/9/2025
Project Sector (CCM Only)	
Technology Transfer/Innovative Low-Carbon Technologies	
Taxonomy	
Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Species, Illegal Wildlife Trade, Biomes, Tropical Dry Forests, Financial and Accounting, Conservation Finance, Sustainable Land Management, Land Degradation, Ecosystem Approach, Sustainable Livelihoods, Income Generating Activities, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Cover and Land cover change, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Participation and leadership, Access to benefits and services, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Exchange, Learning, Innovation, Adaptive management, Indicators to measure change, SMEs, Partnership, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Beneficiaries, Stakeholders, Private Sector, Type of Engagement, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Influencing models, Non-Governmental Organization, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Awareness Raising, Knowledge Generation and Exchange	
Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
GET	48
GEF Project Grant: (a)	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)
3,101,142.00	0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)
294,608.00	0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
3,395,750.00	10,900,000.00
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	3,560,000.00

Project Tags

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

The project will be implemented in the Greater Ruaha-Katavi Landscape (GRKL), an ecologically diverse wildlife stronghold covering over 115,000km². Wildlife corridors in the landscape face increasing pressure from habitat degradation and conversion, increased land-use and human wildlife conflicts threatening biodiversity, local livelihoods and ecosystem services. Weak landscape governance mechanisms, and insufficient community engagement coupled with limited incentives for conservation exacerbate these challenges. The project objective is to promote effective community-level natural resources management and harmonious human-wildlife co-existence towards long-term sustainability and viable wildlife populations in the landscape. The project will strengthen community-based natural resources management and habitat connectivity initiatives, landscape partnerships, governance and management capacity of Joint Village Local Forest Reserves (JVLFRs), integrated landscape planning and management; and improve community livelihoods through equitable economic benefit sharing and support to nature-positive solutions especially for women, youth and socially marginalized groups. As a result, 277,666ha will be brought under improved management interventions as “Other area based Effective Conservation Measures” (OECMs), 11.98MtCo₂E of GHG emissions mitigated and deliver socio-economic benefits to 99,246people (52% women). This will contribute to objective 1 of the GEF-8 Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy; GBF target 1,2,3; SDG 15.1; contributes to the UNFCCC Paris Agreement on climate change and NDC priorities of government towards building resilience of communities and ecosystems; and the Tanzania UNCCD Land Degradation Neutrality commitment to restore 11,011,950ha of forests; prevent and avoid decline of land productivity on 2,640,600ha by 2030.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

To promote effective community-level natural resources management and harmonious human-wildlife co-existence to ensure long-term sustainability and viable wildlife populations in the Greater Ruaha-Katavi Landscape.

Project Components

1) Coexistence of People and Wildlife in Connected Landscapes: Strengthening Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) for human-wildlife coexistence and biodiversity conservation in GR-KL

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)

526,521.00	2,588,750.00
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Outcome:

1.1. Effective and inclusive landscape partnerships in the GR-KL for a thriving human-nature relationship.

Indicators:

- a) Number of gender inclusive multi-stakeholder platforms established and functioning. Target: TBD during PPG
- b) Percentage of women, youth and indigenous people represented in landscape governance bodies (at least 50% women in each community participate in JVLFR management decision-making and activities). Target: TBD during PPG
- c) Number of formal agreements (MoUs, partnerships) between stakeholders for landscape management. Target: TBD during PPG

Output:

1.1.1. Joint integrated landscape management strategy and plan for equitable utilisation/use of natural resources and ecosystems in the GR-KL developed and endorsed by all key stakeholders/land users.

1.1.2. Gender-inclusive capacities and governance structures established at landscape level for joint management of NRs, including forests, wildlife and productive land

1.1.3. Partnerships for conservation and resilience building in the GR-KL landscape established and operational.

1) Coexistence of People and Wildlife in Connected Landscapes: Strengthening Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) for human-wildlife coexistence and biodiversity conservation in GR-KL

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
979,098.00	4,080,400.00

Outcome:

1.2. Enhanced integrated landscape approach to address HWC, habitat loss, livelihood and food security needs across 555,647 ha of the GR-KL enhanced

Indicators:

- a) Area of landscape under improved management to benefit biodiversity (Core indicator 4.1, Target 277,981ha)
- b) Area of wildlife corridors under Other effective terrestrial area-based conservation measures (OECMs) supported by the project. (Core indicator 4.5, Target: 277,666ha)
- c) Capacity of Community Wildlife Corridor Management institutions as measured by the UNDP Capacity Score Card. Target: TBD during PPG
- d) Operational effectiveness of wildlife corridors under OECM as measured through METT (target: TBD during PPG)
- e) Reduction in Human-natural resource conflicts (TBD during PPG)

Output:

1.2.1 Joint landscape strategy and action plan with short and medium-term targets and indicators (i.e., by end of project) for addressing key NR management challenges and ensuring equitable utilisation/use of natural

resources and ecosystems in the GR-KL developed and endorsed by all key stakeholders/land users developed and endorsed by the nine (9) communities and stakeholders in the GR-KL

1.2.2 CBOs in the nine (9) communities of GR-KL supported to implement interventions that address HWC, poaching, and unsustainable use and harvesting of forest resources

1.2.3 Joint monitoring and reporting system established and operational to track progress towards achievement of key indicators and targets as agreed in the Joint landscape action plan (including METT, capacity scorecards, etc.)

2 Wildlife Landscape Economy: Enhancing socio-economic benefits for sustainable natural resources management in the GR-KL

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
230,421.00	1,017,750.00

Outcome:

2.1 Increased and equitable economic benefit sharing especially for women, youth and socially marginalized groups realised.

Indicators:

- a) Number of economic benefit-sharing schemes in place between wildlife conservation sector partners and communities (Target: TBD during PPG)
- b) Proportion of revenue from tourism and wildlife utilization activities shared with communities in the landscape (Target: TBD during PPG).

Output:

2.1.1. A comprehensive assessment of economic benefits from wildlife conservation in the GR-KL landscape to determine and operationalise fair and equitable benefit sharing with the local communities completed.

2.1.2 Community-private sector partnerships to build sustainable wildlife economy, such as concessions, Joint ventures, nature positive agro-ecological production value chain investments established/supported.

2.1.3 Tourism and wildlife utilisation revenue sharing mechanisms operationalised in the landscapes

2 Wildlife Landscape Economy: Enhancing socio-economic benefits for sustainable natural resources management in the GR-KL

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
759,756.00	1,457,254.00

Outcome:

2.2 Increased incomes from wildlife compatible livelihood strategies enhanced through nature-positive production practices and natural resources utilization

Indicators:

- a) Number of women and youth-led nature-positive and regenerative businesses and enterprises supported in the two corridors (target: TBD during PPG).
- b) Number of jobs created by nature-positive enterprises supported by the project (target: TBD during PPG).
- c) Quality of rangelands (Vegetation Cover, water availability) as measured from satellite images and ground assessments (Target: TBD during PPG)

Output:

2.2.1 Gender-sensitive wildlife compatible alternative livelihood diversification and income-generating activities (such as ecotourism, beekeeping, chili growing, etc.) established, strengthened, and scaled up.

2.2.2 Holistic livestock and rangeland management practices that support agro-pastoral livelihoods and rangeland restoration supported

3. Knowledge management and gender mainstreaming

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
310,000.00	717,750.00

Outcome:

3.1 Lessons learned and gender mainstreaming are documented and shared to promote community-based management of wildlife corridors nationally and internationally

Indicators:

- a) Number of project lessons documented and shared in different platforms (Target: TBD during PPG)
- b) Number of gender inclusive (50% women) knowledge sharing events, initiatives, best practice exchanges supported.

Output:

3.1.1. Gender inclusive multi-stakeholder knowledge management platform/forum established and operational.

3.1.2 A gender sensitive outreach and training program to promote human-wildlife co-existence and improved ecosystem management approaches implemented (including on human-rights related aspects).

3.1.3 Effective participation and contribution to wildlife Conservation knowledge platforms at national and global levels such as PANORAMA and Global Wildlife Program Platform

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
147,673.00	519,048.00

Outcome:

4.1 Results and impact of interventions tracked, analyzed and documented through robust M&E tools and systems.

Indicators:

a) Satisfactory rating for Development Objective and Implementation Progress at PIR, MTR and TE in line with UNDP/GEF criteria.

Output:

4.1.1 A gender responsive project M&E plan implemented with participation of key stakeholders.

4.1.2 Digital tools and platforms incorporated to aid tracking, monitoring, and reporting on interventions in the landscape including storage of all data, reports, and publications in a central repository.

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1) Coexistence of People and Wildlife in Connected Landscapes: Strengthening Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) for human-wildlife coexistence and biodiversity conservation in GR-KL	526,521.00	2,588,750.00
1) Coexistence of People and Wildlife in Connected Landscapes: Strengthening Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) for human-wildlife coexistence and biodiversity conservation in GR-KL	979,098.00	4,080,400.00
2 Wildlife Landscape Economy: Enhancing socio-economic benefits for sustainable natural resources management in the GR-KL	230,421.00	1,017,750.00
2 Wildlife Landscape Economy: Enhancing socio-economic benefits for sustainable natural resources management in the GR-KL	759,756.00	1,457,254.00
3. Knowledge management and gender mainstreaming	310,000.00	717,750.00
M&E	147,673.00	519,048.00
Subtotal	2,953,469.00	10,380,952.00

Project Management Cost	147,673.00	519,048.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	3,101,142.00	10,900,000.00

Please provide justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

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

The Ruaha-Katavi landscape (RKL), an ecologically diverse wildlife stronghold covering over 115,000km², harbors East Africa's largest elephant population, 10-15% of the world's African lions, and one of only three sub-populations of African wild dogs of > 500 adults. Bordered by two national parks, this biodiversity stronghold is a mosaic of game reserves, forest reserves and other conservation designations (Wildlife Management Areas, Wildlife Corridors, buffer zones, dispersal areas and migratory routes). Surveys (aerial, ground, camera traps, and monthly monitoring) have identified 54 large mammal species in the corridors, including elephants and African wild dogs. At the heart of the landscape are community-managed forests connecting these vast tracts of habitat, allowing this megafauna to move between protected area complexes. Recognizing the importance of wildlife corridors, the government of Tanzania published an assessment of the nation's wildlife corridors in 2022^[1], including a thorough evaluation of wildlife corridor characteristics and challenges. The project target area was ranked second nationally in terms of its connectivity and conservation value.

Land use change is globally recognised as one of the key drivers of biodiversity loss and is expected to continue if adequate response measures are not undertaken. The Ruaha-Katavi wildlife corridor faces increasing pressure from habitat degradation as a result of increased unsustainable and conservation incompatible land-uses, deforestation, shifting cultivation and high influx of pastoral communities have changed vegetation cover affecting habitat continuity; and increased land-use and human wildlife conflicts threatening biodiversity, local livelihoods and ecosystem services. Insufficient governance mechanism, poaching and illegal wildlife trade limited incentives for conservation and insufficient community engagement exacerbate these challenges. Climate related vulnerabilities compound biodiversity loss challenges in the Greater Ruaha-Katavi landscape^[2].

Tanzania's growing population, with a projected 65% increase by 2035, places significant pressure on land and resources in biodiversity-rich areas. The Ruaha-Katavi Landscape has a high population growth rate, at 3.6%

compared with the national average of 3.2%^{[3]³} while the project districts of Itigi and Sikonge have the highest population growth rates at 3.8% and 3.9% respectively. In addition, average poverty levels of 30% in the region are higher than the national average of 26.4%^{[4]⁴}. The combination of high poverty levels, population growth and livestock increase presents challenges for balancing the needs of communities and wildlife. For example, between 2001 and 2022, Katavi region lost 139,000ha of tree cover, equivalent to a 5.6% decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 52.2 Mt of CO₂e emissions^{[5]⁵}. Further, livestock populations are on the increase due to inward migration from other parts of the country with annual average increases of 5% (cattle) 27% (goat) and 23% (sheep). Therefore, strengthening landscape partnerships, integrated and inclusive land use planning that balances community and conservation objectives; tackling poverty through increased investments and flow of economic incentives from wildlife conservation and tourism can help address these challenges, including supporting alternative energy sources to reduce reliance on limited wood supplies.

Baseline investments in the landscape aimed at addressing some of the challenges include USAID's SHARPP (ended September 2022) which focused on improving wildlife corridor management, landscape connectivity, and protection of key species in the GRKL. The USAID financed project has supported political mobilisation for the conservation of wildlife corridors and facilitated development of management plans for the nine Joint Village Land Forest Reserves, secured 433,000ha of community land for conservation connectivity and strengthened livelihood options such as beekeeping.

The World Bank (REGROW) project supports communities (Financial management i.e., COCOBA – community conservation bank, equipment, scholarships for up to 500 students, training of Village Guard Scouts up to 300) around Ruaha NP. The UNDP-GEF project on 'Combatting Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade' that supports the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism in the Ruaha-Rungwa wildlife ecosystem until it ends in December 2026, has strengthened interagency mechanisms to combat poaching and illegal wildlife trade, invested in human wildlife management measures and livelihood options that provide lessons for the proposed project. The project will also leverage and collaborate with the UNEP-GEF-8 LDCF project on Upscaling ecosystem-based adaptation to enhance ecosystem services and community adaptive capacity in Tanzania's Greater Serengeti Ecosystem.

Since 2021, nine communities have completed formal village land-use plans to manage land and resources effectively. Five villages zoned areas connecting Rungwa Game Reserve with Itulu Hills Nature Forest Reserve and Inyonga Game Reserve (the 'northern wildlife corridor'), while four villages focused on the area connecting Rungwa Game Reserve/Ruaha National Park with Lukwati-Piti Game Reserve (the 'southern wildlife corridor'). The land use planning process zoned a total of 555,647ha for settlement, agriculture, grazing, multiple-use, and wildlife connectivity. Three Joint Village Land Forest Reserves (JVLFRs) equivalent to 277,666ha have been established within the zoned wildlife corridors – Kilulu East and West in the north, and Mdabulo in the south. These JVLFRs empower communities to manage and benefit from forest resources, including potential carbon financing, under Tanzania's progressive Participatory Forest Management Regulations. Local management structures have been established and trained – including Village Forest Guards, Village Natural Resource

Committees, Joint Village Land Forest Reserve Committees, and Community-based Organizations – to implement Forest Management Plans.

The project builds directly on substantial baseline investments in Ruaha–Katavi. It takes forward USAID’s work on corridor governance (village land-use plans, JVLFR management plans, and community enterprises) by moving from planning to full operationalization: boundary demarcation, gender-responsive committees, and routine joint patrols with shared SOPs and digital tools (SMART/ODK). It connects World Bank REGROW community finance and trained scouts to corridor co-management, and leverages UNDP-GEF anti-poaching mechanisms for incident-to-prosecution follow-through. Lessons from the region indicate that enforcement alone leaks pressure; benefits and rapid HWC response are decisive if they are integrated through a coexistence package (predator-proof bomas, rapid response, behavior change) paired with benefit-sharing and nature-positive finance (PES, carbon/biodiversity credits, conservation bonds).

Institutionally, the project uses the nine VLUPs and three JVLFR/OECM corridor blocks as its backbone, linking village bodies (VNRCs/JVLFR committees) with MNRT, TANAPA, TAWA, TFS, LGAs and NGOs in a standing Corridor Forum.

This approach aligns with country priorities by advancing Tanzania’s policies on wildlife corridors, participatory forest management, HWC mitigation, and climate/NDC goals, while crowding-in private investment. The result is a scalable, finance-ready pathway that converts baseline gains into durable biodiversity, climate, and livelihood outcomes

Key Barriers

Despite these baseline investments, gaps still exist in the capacity of landscape partnerships to deliver integrated solutions for effective management of the natural resources and to improve livelihoods of indigenous people and local communities to ensure equitable flow and sharing of conservation benefits.

Barrier 1: Weak Community Governance and Management Capacity—Communities managing JVLFRs lack knowledge, skills, and resources to manage corridors effectively. Local institutions and rules for corridor stewardship are not yet robust or inclusive enough to manage forests, rangelands and water sources effectively across nine villages.

Barrier 2: Inadequate Wildlife Corridor Monitoring and Protection. Systems for monitoring wildlife movements, detecting threats, and preventing poaching/encroachment are insufficient resulting in fragmented coordination, data-sharing and monitoring. Cross-agency/community platforms and joint monitoring systems are still being set up, limiting adaptive management.

Barrier 3: Limited Human–Wildlife Co-existence Practices. Human–wildlife conflicts create negative attitudes, lead to retaliatory killings, and discourage conservation. Enforcement and community-based protection/monitoring systems need strengthening to deter IWT and other related threats.

Barrier 4: Benefit-sharing mechanisms not yet operationalized to incentivise community support for conservation efforts. Mechanisms to channel wildlife/tourism revenues and other nature-positive investments to communities are incomplete, weakening incentives for stewardship. Although government has established an enabling environment to facilitate benefit sharing from tourism and wildlife utilisation activities in the corridors and other conservation areas, mechanisms for this to have impact are yet to be operationalised. Without adequate flow of economic benefits and enhanced community-based natural resources management, the baseline investments will not be sufficient to guarantee global environmental benefits in the landscape.

The proposed project will build on these existing investments, integrating knowledge and lessons learned while addressing the gaps identified from implementation of the baseline projects. To ensure sustainable land use and minimize conflict, the project will leverage lessons and experience of the “herding for health” initiative implemented by Conservation International and Peace Parks in Southern Africa to explore options for improved resilience, and livelihoods for people, livestock, wildlife and land, through holistic management of rangelands and livestock on those lands. In this regard, the project will facilitate south to south exchange with the Southern Africa Wildlife College in building capacity of agro-pastoralists on integrated landscape management approaches. Furthermore, there is evidence of retaliatory killings of large carnivores and vultures by agro-pastoralists seeking to protect their livestock. The project will support improved husbandry practices, such as enhanced 'boma' enclosure designs, to promote coexistence and reduce conflict.

The project aims to enhance biodiversity conservation and improve the resilience of local communities in the northern and southern wildlife corridors of RKL through strengthened governance and co-management of the landscape and natural resources that includes effective and inclusive partnerships; development and implementation of integrated landscape plans; facilitate nature-positive investments and flow of economic benefits from conservation of GR-KL; and effective knowledge management to inform adaptive management, replication and scale up of best practices for harmonious human-wildlife co-existence.

The project adopts a landscape, community-anchored corridor model that involves strengthening JVLFR/OECM governance, joint protection with digital M&E, a practical coexistence package, and nature-positive finance to address the drivers of biodiversity loss (land-use change, weak incentives, HWC, fragmented coordination) and enhance sustainability mechanisms beyond the grant through benefit-sharing and blended finance.

The proposed approach is preferred due to its effectiveness in tackling drivers of biodiversity loss such as land-use pressure, weak incentives, fragmented enforcement/HWC to ensure ecological connectivity is maintained and wildlife outcomes improve; efficiency by leveraging on existing VLUPs, JVLFRs, patrol capacity and baseline programs (USAID, WB, UNDP-GEF), using shared SOPs and digital M&E to allocate effort where it matters most; strengthens equity & inclusion through community co-management, gender/youth leadership pathways, and grievance redress ensuring legitimacy and local buy-in; and ensuring sustainability and scale up through establishment of nature-finance and operationalising benefit-sharing that provide post-grant funding, while standardized practices generate replication pathways for other corridors. The proposed approach is in line with the GEF-8 focal area strategy for area based conservation by delivering integrated biodiversity

connectivity, livelihood co-benefits, and climate mitigation contributing to GEF-8 BD and climate objectives and national priorities.

The project is designed to ensure resilience as pressures evolve by strengthening institutional capacity and partnerships in the landscape. Legal recognition of the corridor forests as JVLFR/OECMs, clear by-laws, and boundary demarcations secure land-use rules beyond a single funding cycle. A standing Corridor Forum—linking MNRT/TANAPA/TAWA/TFS, LGAs, CBOs, and private actors—keeps decisions coordinated even as stakeholders change, while FPIC, a grievance mechanism, and gender-responsive governance sustain community buy-in.

Operationally, it proposes adaptive management backed by real-time evidence. Joint, digitized monitoring (SMART/ODK) tracks patrol effort, threats, and HWC incidents on shared dashboards, with thresholds that trigger rapid adjustments. Quarterly learning loops update grazing plans, patrol routes, and coexistence tactics, and scenario stress-tests prepare the system for surges in people/livestock, market shifts, or climate shocks. On the ground, spatial planning and risk-reduction measures absorb pressure where it actually occurs through integrated village land-use zoning, rangeland management, climate-smart water points, and predator-proof bomas reduce edge effects, leakage, and conflict. At the same time, diversified incentives through benefit-sharing, PES, carbon/biodiversity credits, tourism revenue, and conservation awards will ensure communities gain from conservation even if one market or policy changes.

Key project enablers

The project builds on strong foundations of Tanzania’s policy environment that recognizes wildlife corridors and community forestry; government institutions (MNRT with TANAPA/TAWA/TFS/TAWIRI) are positioned to lead; and nine villages have completed land-use plans with three Joint Village Land Forest Reserves (JVLFRs) legally established as OECMs. Local governance bodies (JVLFR committees, VNRCs, Village Forest Guards) already exist, and credible NGOs/CBOs operate in the area—creating a practical platform for inclusive, on-the-ground implementation.

The enablers the project will activate include: formal, gender-responsive corridor governance; joint, digitized monitoring and patrols to deter illegal activity and improve prosecution follow-through; and a package for human–wildlife coexistence (rapid response, predator-proof bomas, behavior change). Crucially, the project will operationalize benefit-sharing and unlock nature-positive finance (PES, carbon/biodiversity credits, conservation bonds) so communities see tangible returns from conservation. A structured knowledge and coordination forum—backed by safeguards, grievance redress, and a simple results dashboard—keeps partners aligned and enables replication.

Additionally, the community’s acceptance, existing Community Based Organizations, good cooperation between Government and Non Governmental conservation Organizations, presence of supportive nature based investment and policy environment provide a better opportunity to change the course of action.

Table 1: Project partners and their roles

Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT)	The mandate of the Ministry includes the development of appropriate policies, strategies, and guidelines for managing natural, cultural and tourism resources in mainland Tanzania. MNRT (through its various Institutions as relevant – TANAPA, TAWA, TFS, TAWIRI) will assume the role of lead Government Agency for implementation/execution of the project, providing technical input where needed and will be responsible for the application of relevant enabling policy, strategies, and regulations under its mandate in support of the project objectives, working to improve policy-practice interactions.
Local Government Authorities (LGA) – District Councils (Chunya, Manyoni, Itigi)	LGAs, including District Councils, and Ward Development Councils (WDCs) are responsible for ensuring sectoral policies, plans, and programs are integrated into locally developed programs. They will play a key role in coordinating and guiding integrated landscape use planning and other project activities in the targeted wildlife corridors and as such will provide technical support for implementation. They will support community joint patrols and special operations; strengthening wildlife corridor partner engagement and planning.
Vice President's Office (VPO)	VPO has overall responsibility for the coordination of national and international matters related to environmental management and climate policy. The Environment Division - led by a Director will play a role in the project on the coordination of biodiversity management – including forest biodiversity which falls within the mandate of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation</i> section
President's Office- Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG)	The PO-RALG is responsible for improving the coordination between Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Regional Administrations and Local Government Authorities. They are also responsible for monitoring and improving the institutional capacity and management systems of local government to deliver better quality services. The PO-RALG will facilitate improved linkages between, and alignment with the project activities and relevant local government initiatives and programmes.
The National Carbon Monitoring Centre (NCCMC)	The NCCMC will contribute to assessing carbon and climate change impacts on vulnerability of forest ecosystem services in the targeted project site
Local Communities, Village Councils/Assemblies and Natural Resource Committees	The Village Councils are responsible for planning and coordinating development activities and supporting villagers in respect of natural resources and other such activities. The Village Natural Resource Committees are responsible for overseeing the protection, conservation, and lawful utilization of natural resources. Village Forest Guards are parts of the village institutions responsible for patrols and ecological monitoring. The Village Councils will provide a democratic, institutional vehicle for the project to secure the support, involvement, and beneficiation of local communities from project-related activities. The project is focused on a core of nine local communities currently engaged in managing community lands within the two wildlife corridors, and especially the three Joint Village Land Forest Reserves Committee and nine Village Natural Resource Committees.
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	WCS is a non-profit organization and one of the largest and oldest in the conservation world. WCS has been working in Tanzania for 50 years to

	help safeguard this unique global heritage, implementing more than 140 projects encompassing training, research, monitoring, institutional support, education, and the gazettement and extension of National Parks and Nature Reserves. WCS is a leading actor in research and conservation globally. With a track-history and established program of work in the two wildlife corridors, WCS is expected to be a key partner for delivery of this project.
Private sector	Private sector partners will be crucial in supporting diversification of livelihood options that are nature positive such as tourism, and innovative financing mechanisms such as payment for ecosystem services, biodiversity credits and carbon market. The potential for harnessing carbon-based financing, conservation bonds etc., will be explored by the project, potentially with the engagement of a third party. Trophy hunting concessioners will be engaged in wildlife corridor fora and in supporting improved protection and enhanced revenue sharing mechanisms with communities in the wildlife corridors in areas where they are present. Currently, only two hunting companies are present, both in the southern wildlife corridor (Rungwa Safaris and Mwatisi Hunting Safaris).
CSOs / NGOs / Grassroots Community-based organizations	Three Wildlife Corridor CBOs and the Association for the Development of Protected Areas (ADAP) for beekeeping expansion. Ipole Wildlife Management Area will also be engaged in the wider wildlife corridor forum. Each community also has a JVLFR committee, as well as Village Natural Resource Committee and these will play the roles outlined in the narrative.

[1] Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT) 2022. Tanzania Wildlife Corridor Assessment, Prioritization, and Action Plan. Editors: Penrod, K., H. Kija, V. Kakengi, D.M. Evans, E. Pius, J. Olila and J. Keyyu. Unpublished report. Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT), Dodoma. 155 pp. + Appendices.

[2] [Climate Adaptation Country Compact Tanzania.pdf](#)

[3] The 2022 Population and Housing Census: Administrative Units Population Distribution Report

[4] Tanzania Mainland Poverty Assessment Report of 2018 – National Bureau of Statistics

[5] [Katavi, Tanzania Deforestation Rates & Statistics | GFW \(globalforestwatch.org\)](#)

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

This project aligns well with global and national conservation frameworks that seek to ensure that wildlife populations and their habitats are stable or increasing through sustainable natural resources management, for the benefit of people and planet. The theory of change (figure 1) is based on analysis of existing challenges in the GR-LK and barriers facing both Government and communities to strengthen landscape partnerships to deliver nature positive solutions through community-level governance, human-wildlife conflict and risk mitigation actions; and increased flow of economic benefits to communities to provide incentives for conservation support.

The proposed solutions are premised on the understanding that **If** effective and gender inclusive partnerships are established at landscape level through a joint integrated landscape management strategy; and a plan for equitable utilisation/use of natural resources and ecosystems in the GR-KL developed and endorsed by all key stakeholders/land users; **If** existing community-forest management institutional structures are strengthened, especially participation of women and youth in natural resources management through capacity building for effective forest management plan implementation; including monitoring of key wildlife populations and natural resources conflict; improving community beneficiation in GR-KL through establishment of gender inclusive and nature positive livelihood diversification options and investing in human wildlife conflict mitigation measures including wildlife monitoring capacity; **If** private sector investment in inclusive business models and nature based financing solutions that benefit communities is strengthened; **then**, communities will be incentivised to protect and restore degraded corridors, adopt holistic livestock management practices, thereby improving agro-pastoral co-existence with wildlife; participate in and take stewardship over resources, including monitoring environmental crime, and combating it, resulting in more resilient landscapes that support nature and people. Four key assumptions underly the theory of change, that i) Communities are willing to engage and collaborate on conservation initiatives if given clear benefits and secure tenure rights ii) Government agencies and other stakeholders will facilitate an enabling environment through policies and resources for co-management of wildlife and natural resources with communities; iii) Land use is governed through participatory planning and implementation to reduce key threats and promote adoption of sustainable practices; and iv) Investment in conservation-compatible livelihoods options and benefit-sharing mechanisms that increase the flow of wildlife conservation benefits to communities will facilitate community support for conservation.

Figure 1 summarizes the project's theory of change, illustrating overall project logic, objective, components, outcomes, outputs, the assumptions necessary for its success, the barriers the project aims to address and key challenges.

The project objective is to promote effective community-level natural resources management and harmonious human-wildlife co-existence to ensure long-term sustainability and viable wildlife populations in the Greater Ruaha-Katavi Landscape. The project will contribute to the achievement of this objective via enhanced co-management partnerships that promote sustainable management of natural resources and equitable sharing of conservation benefits for improved community livelihoods. This will be realised through three interlinked components: Component 1: Coexistence of People and Wildlife in Connected Landscapes; Component 2: Wildlife for Prosperity and Component 3: Knowledge management, learning and gender mainstreaming, supported by strong Monitoring and Evaluation.

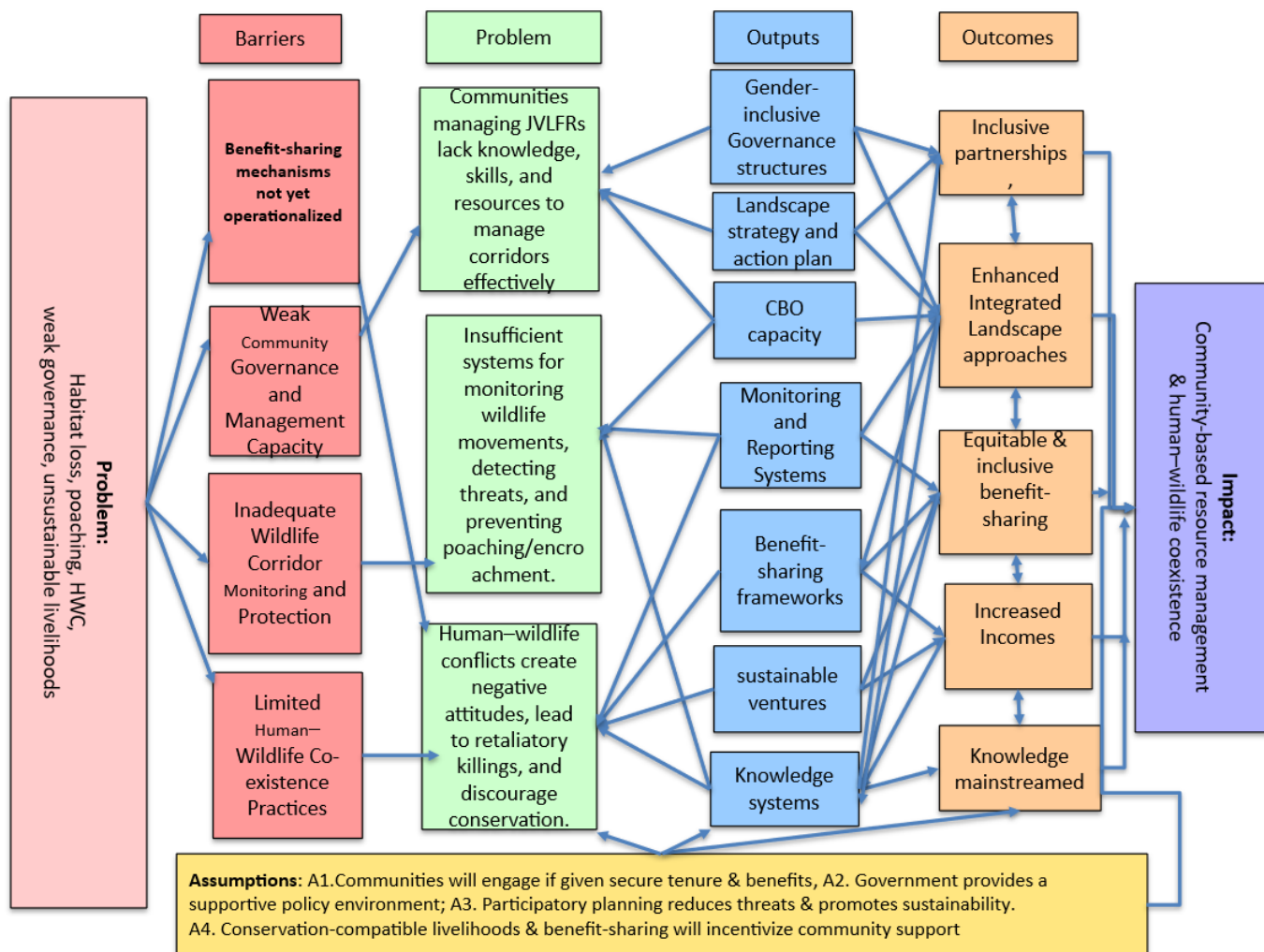


Figure 1 Theory of Change For Greater Ruaha-Katavi Landscape (Grkl) Wildlife Corridor Project

Component 1: Coexistence of People and Wildlife in Connected Landscapes: Strengthening Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) for human-wildlife coexistence and biodiversity conservation in GR-KL)

In addressing the barriers to peaceful coexistence, this component will strengthen Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) including the following key interventions: joint inclusive and integrated land-use planning to define conservation and sustainable use zones; Build capacity for local governance structures (e.g., Joint Village Land Forest Reserve Committees) to manage forests, rangelands, and water sources effectively; Support community-led monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem health using participatory tools like mobile apps and traditional knowledge; mitigate human wildlife conflict through establishment of HWC early warning systems and community-based wildlife response mechanisms to reduce human-wildlife confrontations; introduction of non-lethal deterrents (e.g., chili fences, beehive fences, predator-proof livestock enclosures) to protect crops and livestock; Support improvement of HWC compensation framework and development of insurance schemes for communities affected by wildlife conflicts; Support landscape-scale habitat restoration initiatives, including tree planting and wetland rehabilitation; Strengthen community engagement, legal land-use zoning, and conservation easements in the wildlife corridors; implement

sustainable water management strategies to protect critical water sources for both people and wildlife; and facilitate multi-stakeholder collaboration including platforms.

Outcome 1.1. Effective and inclusive landscape partnerships in the GRKL for a thriving human-nature relationship

This outcome focuses on strengthening governance and capacity for implementing Joint Village Land Forest Reserves. A collaborative conservation mechanism will be established in the Greater Ruaha–Katavi Landscape (GR-KL) to provide a structured and inclusive platform for multi-stakeholder engagement in natural resources management. The mechanism will bring together government agencies, local authorities, community representatives, civil society, private sector actors, and academia to coordinate planning, strengthen governance, and facilitate dialogue on conservation priorities. Through stakeholder mapping, joint planning workshops, and the adoption of a cooperation framework or MoU, the platform will ensure that all actors have a voice in decision-making and that their contributions are aligned toward shared landscape-level objectives. The mechanism will also serve as a hub for capacity development and knowledge exchange. An inclusive, integrated and participatory land-use planning process will be supported building on the individual joint village land forest reserves that have been developed and provide a baseline for the project. Based on the Integrated Land Use Plan (ILUP), the project will support a gender inclusive and community participatory process (including FPIC) to define, establish wildlife corridor boundaries and buffer zones as part of land use planning. Capacities of existing community-forest management institutions and governance structures will be strengthened; and inclusion of women and youth in NRM enhanced. The project will support local and national authorities to align land-use policies with conservation goals in the landscape; strengthen community based anti-poaching mechanisms and promote adoption of sustainable use practices; and enhance multi-stakeholder collaboration among local communities, conservation organizations, private sector and government agencies.

1.1.1. Gender-inclusive capacities and governance structures established at landscape level for joint management of NRs, including forests, wildlife and agricultural land.

This will include strengthening Village Natural Resource Committees (VNRCs) and Community Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) through i) training of local governance bodies in sustainable land-use planning and conservation management; ii) Facilitate community by-laws for natural resource protection and sustainable use.

1.1.2. A long-term landscape financing strategy and investment plan developed building on and coordinating with the national process for Tanzania Biodiversity Finance Plan and other strategies e.g., NDC, LDN, Agroecology etc. This will include stakeholder and community engagement and consultation; financial analysis to determine current funding sources and gaps; identification and assessing feasibility of innovative financing mechanisms, investments and partnerships to support community-based wildlife corridor management (e.g., conservation bonds; nature and carbon credits; community conservation fund, grants); and develop metrics for assessing progress on targets.

1.1.3. Partnerships for Conservation and resilience building in the landscape established and operational. This will include i) formalising co-management agreements between communities, government agencies, and private sector actors; ii) implementing joint landscape-level initiatives (e.g., anti-poaching patrols, habitat restoration projects, eco-tourism ventures) with shared responsibilities; and creating private sector engagement mechanisms to align investments with conservation and livelihood outcomes.

Outcome 1.2. Enhanced Integrated landscape approach to address HWC, habitat loss, livelihood and food security needs across 555,647 ha of the GR-KL

This outcome focuses on habitat connectivity and restoration, such as i) support to landscape habitat restoration initiatives; ii) facilitating community engagement, legal land-use zoning, and conservation easements; iii) implementing sustainable water management strategies to protect critical water sources for both people, their livestock and wildlife; iv) joint and collaborative management for effective habitat connectivity, monitoring wildlife populations and human-wildlife conflicts; v) support the process of recognising JVLFRs as OECMs.

Outputs 1.2.1 Joint landscape strategy and action plan with short and medium-term targets and indicators (i.e., by end of project) for addressing key NR management challenges and ensuring **equitable utilisation/use of natural resources and ecosystems in the GR-KL developed and endorsed by all key stakeholders/land users.** Under this output, the following key activities will be undertaken: i) Conduct ecological assessments to determine status and identify relevant response and mitigation interventions ; ii) Conduct participatory land-use mapping to identify key conservation areas, grazing zones, and agricultural lands; iii) Formalize land tenure security for communities through land-use certificates; iv) Identify relevant and sustainable agricultural practices to integrate into land-use plans to reduce habitat degradation; v) Stakeholder engagement and participatory development of performance measurement framework including target setting and defining metrics for assessing progress of implementation.

1.2.2 CBOs in the nine communities of GRKL supported to implement joint landscape action plan interventions that address HWC, poaching, and unsustainable harvesting and use of forest resources. This will include: i) establishing community-based HWC response teams and training them in conflict mitigation; ii) Developing and deploying early warning systems (e.g., SMS alerts, wildlife tracking, and community radio); iii) Building capacity of local authorities and rangers on non-lethal deterrents such as installation of chilli fences, beehive fences, predator-proof kraals, and crop protection measures; iv) Piloting holistic grazing management to minimize competition and confrontation with wildlife and to reduce pressure on rangelands; v) developing

and implementing livelihood compensation/insurance schemes for HWC incidences. Further, the project will i) support communities to implement agroforestry and reforestation programs; ii) promote community-managed buffer zones and OECMs to enhance habitat connectivity; iii) implement community-led watershed management interventions to protect rivers and wetlands; iii) support rainwater harvesting and small-scale irrigation to reduce pressure on natural water sources; and strengthen local water governance institutions for equitable water access and use.

1.2.3 Joint monitoring and reporting system established and operational to track progress towards achievement of key indicators and targets as agreed in the Joint landscape action plan (including METT, capacity scorecards, etc.) The project will i) Develop a Monitoring Framework that outlines indicators, targets, and methodologies for data collection and analysis. This will include tools like the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) and capacity scorecards; stakeholder engagement and involvement including local communities, government agencies, NGOs, and private sector partners, in the planning and implementation of the monitoring system is critical to ensure buy-in and shared responsibility; ii) Provide capacity building support such as training and resources to stakeholders to enhance their ability to collect, analyze, and report data accurately. The project will support development of standardized procedures for data collection, storage, and management;

iv) Set up a schedule for regular reporting on progress towards the agreed indicators and targets which may include quarterly or annual reports, as well as ad-hoc reports in response to specific events or milestones.

v) Organize periodic cross-sectoral and multistakeholder review meetings with all stakeholders to discuss progress, challenges, and opportunities for improvement. These meetings will be used to validate data, share experiences, and adjust strategies as needed; and vi) Implement mechanisms for stakeholders to provide feedback on the monitoring process and the progress being made. This includes surveys, focus groups, public consultations and community dialogue platforms to enhance community participation in decision-making. By undertaking these activities, communities and conservation stakeholders in Ruaha-Katavi can effectively track progress towards conservation goals and ensure that the benefits of conservation efforts are realized and shared equitably.

Component 2: Wildlife Landscape Economy: Enhancing socio-economic benefits for sustainable natural resources management in the GR-KL. Under this component, the project aims to contribute to the long-term outcome that community benefits ensure societal buy-in for wildlife conservation. The intended causal pathway here is that diversified livelihoods and increased incomes and wellbeing of communities living in proximity to wildlife areas will facilitate their support for wildlife conservation, reduce retaliatory killing of wildlife that damage property or livelihoods and strengthen community stewardship over natural resources.

Outcome 2.1 Increased and equitable benefit sharing especially for women and youth groups realised.

The project will demonstrate the value of wildlife conservation for economic development and shared rural prosperity and facilitate increased investment by the public and private sectors in wildlife landscapes. Key interventions under this outcome include development of community-private sector partnerships for nature-based enterprises such as eco-tourism, sustainable non-timber forest products utilization especially for women, youth and socially marginalized groups to increase benefits from conservation and sustainable natural resource utilization and to create economic incentives for conservation. The project will also support implementation of economic benefit sharing mechanisms; and support sustainable nature-based value chains to provide opportunities for women and youth economic empowerment and small business development.

Outputs

2.1.1. A comprehensive assessment of economic benefits from wildlife conservation in the GRK landscape to determine and operationalise fair and equitable benefit sharing with the local communities. This will include: i) undertaking economic valuation studies, ii) Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA)-to identify costs and benefits of conservation activities; quantifying these costs and benefits in monetary terms to facilitate comparison; iii) Community consultations to understand their needs, perceptions, and the benefits they derive from conservation; iv) participatory mapping of resource use and benefits distribution.

2.1.2 Community-private sector partnerships to build sustainable wildlife economy established/supported. This will include investment in development of gender responsive and inclusive nature-positive agro-ecological production value chains (sourcing agreements, recruitment from the community, community-led safari activities etc.), concessions, joint ventures. Activities will include i) Mapping out potential partners including local communities, private sector entities, NGOs, and government agencies; ii) conducting workshops to bring stakeholders together, discuss common goals, and build trust; facilitate negotiation of formal agreements through MoUs to ensure commitment and clarity on roles and responsibilities; provide training for community members in areas such as sustainable wildlife management, value chain development, business skills, and eco-tourism.

2.1.3 Tourism and wildlife utilisation revenue sharing mechanisms operationalised in the landscapes. Activities will include i) Developing and implementing a monitoring framework for assessing socio-economic impact of revenue sharing and conservation activities; ii) Providing training for local communities in sustainable resource management and alternative livelihoods; iii) Supporting local institutions to manage and distribute conservation benefits effectively and equitably.

Outcome 2.2 Increased incomes from wildlife compatible livelihood strategies enhanced through nature-positive production practices and natural resources utilization

Under this outcome, GEF finance will be used to support the creation of business opportunities and livelihoods in sectors that fall into one of the following categories: (i) they are part of a wildlife-based economy; (ii) they have a causal link to wildlife conservation; (iii) they actively and directly reduce threats/pressures on wildlife through substitution or through economic diversification that reduces rural poverty and unsustainable reliance on natural resources that is driving overexploitation. While planned forest utilization presents an opportunity for the nine communities to generate income, options such as generating finance from marketing carbon, nature credits or even development of conservation bonds (<https://treasury.worldbank.org/en/about/unit/treasury/ibrd/wildlife-conservation-bond>) will be investigated.

Outputs:

2.2.1 Gender-sensitive alternative livelihood diversification and income-generating activities (such as ecotourism, beekeeping, chili growing) established, strengthened, and scaled up. Activities will include i) Developing community-led eco-tourism initiatives, including homestays, cultural tourism, and guided safaris; ii) Promoting beekeeping, eco-certified handicrafts, and sustainable wild-harvested products iii) Establishing community-business partnerships for marketing sustainably sourced products; and iv) strengthening market access for conservation-friendly products.

2.2.2 Holistic livestock and rangeland management practices that support agro-pastoral livelihoods and rangeland restoration.

Building on existing research, this project will support implementation of a *“Herding for Health”* model - a community-driven livestock management model that supports livelihoods of rural communities living in and around conservation areas — while restoring rangelands and conserving biodiversity through herding, capacity building and collective governance. The project will i) support better livestock and rangelands management through combined herding, planned grazing and strategic kraaling (using mobile enclosures); ii) facilitate market linkages to support development of value-chains that sustain stewardship actions; iii) support the adoption of sustainable rangeland and livestock management practices iv) provide training for farmers on agroecology and regenerative agriculture; v) provide incentives for adopting wildlife-friendly agricultural practices.

Component 3: Knowledge management and gender mainstreaming.

Under this component, the project will catalyze stakeholder engagement and adaptive management to ensure successful implementation and sustainability of results. A comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan and a gender action plan will be implemented. Gender equality and women's empowerment interventions will include establishment of an operational gender inclusive landscape multi-stakeholder knowledge sharing platform/forum; and implementation of a comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan and a gender action plan.

Outcome 3.1 Lessons learned, and gender mainstreaming are documented and shared to promote community-based management of wildlife corridors nationally and internationally

3.1.1. Gender-inclusive multi-stakeholder knowledge management platform/forum established and operational. This will include i) identification and mapping of all relevant stakeholders, ensuring equitable representation from diverse groups, including women, Indigenous Peoples, and other marginalised communities; ii) Conducting workshops to engage stakeholders, discuss their needs, and build trust; iii) Providing gender-sensitive training for all participants to ensure they understand the importance of inclusivity and are equipped with the necessary skills for community based natural resources management, wildlife conservation, human-wildlife conflict management and to participate and contribute to wildlife economy value chains; iv) Encouraging and supporting women and other under-represented groups to take on leadership roles within the platform; v) Establishing governance structures that ensure equitable representation of all stakeholder groups in decision-making processes; vi) Creating accessible knowledge management platforms that cater for the needs of all stakeholders, including those with limited access to technology.

3.1.2 A gender-sensitive outreach and training program to promote human-wildlife co-existence and improved ecosystem management approaches implemented (including on human-rights related aspects). Activities will include i) Identification of key stakeholders ensuring representation from diverse groups, including women, Indigenous Peoples, and other marginalized communities; ii) Assessing needs of key stakeholders to identify gaps and areas for improvement to ensure continuous progress towards gender inclusivity; iii) Developing indicators to monitor and evaluate the inclusivity and effectiveness of the outreach and training program; iv) Providing training that addresses the specific needs and roles of women and men in wildlife conservation and ecosystem management; and v) Developing communication materials that are accessible and relevant to all community members, considering literacy levels and language preferences.

3.1.3 Effective participation and contribution to wildlife conservation knowledge platforms at national and global levels such as PANORAMA and the Global Wildlife Program. Activities will include i) data collection, analysis, synthesis and sharing on human-wildlife conflict management, habitat connectivity, and species movement patterns; livelihood options and economic benefits; ii) undertaking research in collaboration with institutions of higher learning to understand the ecological, social, and economic impacts of wildlife corridors;

iii) utilizing online platforms and databases to share information and best practices with a wider audience; iv) running gender sensitive campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of wildlife corridors and the need for supportive policies; v) facilitating gender inclusive stakeholder participation in international conferences and forums to share experiences, learn from others, and build global networks.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Under this component, A robust, participatory monitoring and evaluation systems will be developed to track conservation progress, guide adaptive management, and ensure accountability, in line with UNDP/GEF and UNDP Evaluation Policy standards. Collaboration with agencies managing adjacent protected areas (TAWA, TFS and TANAPA) and local authorities will be crucial for successful project implementation. A monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system aligned with UNDP, GEF, and VPO standards, including the National Environmental Information System (NEIS), to ensure quality data for decision-making and adaptive management. It will support technical reporting, evaluations, and project adjustments, while promoting transparency and accountability through mechanisms to address stakeholder concerns. Protected area management effectiveness will be tracked using the METT tool. The M&E framework will include a Mid-Term Review and Terminal Evaluation, assessing progress on gender-specific results and the Gender Action Plan. Project-level safeguards and risk management measures, including inter alia a gender action plan, stakeholder engagement plan (incorporating FPIC) and GRM) and a Livelihoods Action Plan developed and implemented.

GEF incremental reasoning: Under the baseline, existing efforts (VLUPs, JVLFR plans, patrol pilots, livelihood projects) remain fragmented and under-operationalized (corridor boundaries are weakly enforced; joint monitoring and prosecution follow-through are inconsistent; benefit-sharing and nature-finance are not functioning at scale; and HWC continues to erode community support. GEF financing provides the increment that converts this baseline into a coherent landscape system by: (i) institutionalizing inclusive corridor governance (by-laws, beacons, Corridor Forum, gender inclusive partnerships); (ii) community based monitoring systems deploying data-driven protection (SMART/ODK, equipment, incident-to-prosecution workflows); (iii) scaling a coexistence package (rapid response, predator-proof bomas, hotspot fire/water management); and (iv) operationalizing benefit-sharing and nature-positive finance (PES, carbon/biodiversity credits, conservation bonds) to sustain O&M post-grant. This catalytic bundle secures 277,666 ha of OECM corridors, improves management across 277,981 ha of the production mosaic, and delivers global environmental benefits (connectivity for elephants/lions/wild dogs and significant GHG mitigation), while leveraging co-finance and embedding a results/learning spine for replication benefits that the baseline alone cannot achieve.

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

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

No

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

Executing partners: The project is executed by MNRT (lead) with TANAPA, TAWA, TFS, TAWIRI for policy, protection, and monitoring; Local Government Authorities (Itigi, Chunya, Sikonge) for integrating actions into VLUPs and coordinating joint patrols; community institutions (Village Councils/Assemblies, VNRCs, JVLFR Committees, Village Forest Guards, and corridor CBOs) for day-to-day stewardship and benefit sharing;

WCS/NGOs (e.g., ADAP, Lion Landscapes) for science, livelihoods, and value-chain links; NCMC and research bodies for carbon/MRV; and private sector (tourism/concessions/nature-finance) for investment and market access. They were selected for their legal mandates, existing operational presence, trusted community relationships, complementary capabilities, and ability to mobilize co-finance and assets already in the landscape.

Knowledge management and strategic communications Component 3 of the project is dedicated to knowledge management and learning. The project will document successes and lessons learned in the form of publications, reports, presentations, and other graphical products, which will be shared by MNRT, government agencies, and other stakeholders involved in the project implementation. The lessons learned will be shared at different platforms at the regional level under the East Africa Community, the Southern Africa Development Community, Global Wildlife Program, and the International Conventions e.g., CBD, CITES, and UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Strategic communications will use FPIC, a grievance redress mechanism, targeted outreach to agro-pastoralists (meetings/radio), and gender-responsive messaging to keep communities engaged, reduce conflict risk, and replicate effective practices beyond Ruaha–Katavi and GEF visibility.

To effectively coordinate and cooperate with ongoing initiatives and projects in the Ruaha-Katavi landscape, the project will i) undertake detailed stakeholder mapping including government agencies, NGOs, local communities, and private sector partners during PPG phase; ii) establish platforms for sharing data and information on wildlife corridors, habitat connectivity, and conservation efforts in the landscape; iii) facilitate regular meetings to update stakeholders on progress, challenges, and opportunities for collaboration; iv) establish joint monitoring programs to track the effectiveness of conservation activities to inform evidence based decisions; and v) pool resources and expertise to enhance the effectiveness of conservation efforts.

Key initiatives in the landscape include i) The WCS Ruaha-Katavi Landscape Program focusing on conserving critical habitats for wildlife and supporting livelihoods through agriculture, irrigation, and tourism. ii) The Restoration Initiative (TRI) aimed at restoring degraded landscapes in the Great Ruaha and Lake Rukwa areas. It focuses on improving food security, bolstering ecotourism, and enhancing livelihoods through sustainable forestry, livestock grazing, and improved cropland management; and iii) the Environmental Trends Analysis conducted in Ruaha and Katavi National Parks, to monitor variables such as population, fire, vegetation, precipitation, and surface water to understand environmental trends and inform conservation strategies; iv) The World Bank (REGROW) project which supports communities (Financial management i.e., COCOBA – community conservation bank, equipment, scholarships for up to 500 students, training of Village Guard Scouts up to 300) around Ruaha NP; v) The UNDP-GEF6 project on 'Combating Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade' that supports the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism in the Ruaha-Rungwa wildlife ecosystem until December 2026, has strengthened interagency mechanisms on poaching and illegal wildlife trade, invested in human wildlife management measures and livelihood options that provide lessons for the proposed project; vi) The UNEP-GEF-8 LDCF project on Upscaling ecosystem-based adaptation to enhance ecosystem services and community adaptive capacity in Tanzania's Greater Serengeti Ecosystem.

Other key partners in the landscape include the Association for the Development of Protected Areas (ADAP) – implementing livelihood alternatives. ADAP has supported honey production capacity development in the past (in the northern wildlife corridor), as well as mushroom processing for marketing. The project will engage with ADAP for wider connectivity discussions involving these adjacent areas. In addition, Upendo Honey – one of the big players in Tanzania and with market connections abroad will be engaged in promoting honey production and marketing.

Hunting partners such as Super Service Hunting & Safari Ltd (northern wildlife corridor) including Mwatisi Hunting Safari (southern wildlife corridor); Rungwa Game Safaris (southern wildlife corridor) will be engaged to strengthen synergies in terms of wildlife/habitat protection. The project will collaborate with the Tanzania Development Foundation Trust for establishment of community conservation-linked micro finance loans. The project will coordinate and collaborate with MJUMITA (Community Forest Conservation Network of Tanzania) in supporting gender equality and women empowerment intervention activities in the nine villages.

The proposed project will leverage on the expertise and experience of ongoing initiatives in the landscape to avoid duplication and strengthen synergies. The project will also tap into the expertise of government agencies such as TANAPA, TAWIRI and TFS that are supporting protected area management in the landscape to train communities in ecosystem management and addressing HWC issues.

Core Indicators

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)
555647	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)
277,666.00			

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)
277,981.00			

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)
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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)
Kilulu East	TBC	22,792.00			
Kilulu West	TBC	85,789.00			
Mdabulo	TBC	169,085.00			

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)	11	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)	11			
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2027			
Duration of accounting	20			

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

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

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

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

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

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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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	52,093			
Male	47,153			
Total	99,246	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)

The project will contribute to GEF-8 core indicators related to landscapes under improved management practices, GHG emission reduction and people directly benefiting from project investment.

Core indicator 4 target includes: 4.1 Area of landscape under improved management to benefit biodiversity as Terrestrial OECM supported (277,666.0ha) includes `Kululu East (22,792ha); Kululu West (85,789ha); Mdabulo (169,085) under approved Joint Village Land Forest Reserves Management Plans in the nine villages; 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (277,981ha) covers area under land use plans zoned for cultivation, grazing and multiple use.

Core indicator 6 target: 6.1 Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated (direct and indirect) in the AFOLU sector (11.0MtCo2E) is based on avoided deforestation from estimated level of emissions from deforestationfertiliser use and manure management system in south-western Tanzania using the FAO Ex-ACT methodology (Annex J-worksheet attached to be validated during PPG).

Core indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments (99,246) includes: 52,093 females and 47,153 males. This is equivalent to 100% of the total population in target village communities based on 2022 census that will receive support either in monetary or non-monetary form to implement demand driven Income Generating Activities and conservation and HWC measures.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	Extreme weather, such as drought and floods, can interfere with the management of natural resources by destroying ecosystems and crops in the landscape pushing communities to encroach on fragile ecosystems. Changes in weather patterns also affect where wildlife in the landscape find adequate habitat. These circumstances can create difficulties that may result in land use and human wildlife conflicts. Participatory and inclusive land use planning elements of this project are collaboratively developed, considering local knowledge about the impact of such events in the past, and

		forward-thinking about the potential of such environmental disruptions will help to mitigate the impact of climate-related events on the outcomes of the project. The project will leverage and coordinate with other initiatives strengthening climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
Environmental and Social	Substantial	The project's SESP (see Annex D) identifies risks in line with UNDP SES programming principles and project-level standards: Principles: Human Rights; Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment; Accountability to Stakeholders. Project-level standards: Standard s 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6-given that support to community Village Forest Guards is planned, there is potential human rights risk to stakeholders living adjacent to the wildlife corridors, or to those involved in law enforcement activities such as Village Forest Guards. The project will have an Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) Specialist to oversee implementation, stakeholder engagement, sensitize project staff and partners on social safeguards and community engagement, including SES training. The project will develop a grievance redress mechanism during PPG and operationalise it during implementation. The established GRM will be a multilayered mechanism that allows grievances to be addressed at various levels depending on their nature. Plans to upgrade a major public road linking Manyoni with Makongolosi, which bisects the two wildlife corridors from dirt to tarmac, will improve overall access to the area and influence patterns of immigration, human settlement and natural resource access in ways that have not yet been modelled while potentially increasing wildlife mortality from accidents. Careful and integrated land use planning should proactively address this issue. Strengthened community-based monitoring, improved cooperation between land managers, and clear demarcation of boundaries will also help to prevent and mitigate potential conflict. During project design, options will be explored for making road design and construction that provide for habitat connectivity allowing migratory wildlife to freely move. Increased poaching pressure, driven by the existence of the global illegal wildlife trade, may also place unplanned additional pressures on wildlife in the project area. The importance of assuring project delivery in close collaboration with existing wildlife protection systems provided by TAWA, TANAPA and other national approaches, including the Tasking and Coordinating Groups / the National Taskforce on Anti-Poaching, will ensure that additional resources are mobilized to address this if needed.
Political and Governance	Low	Effective management of the most challenged areas of the wildlife corridors (the community lands) can only be achieved if the planning decisions made to date are implemented effectively. This will hinge on two key aspects, a) the various community structures vested with managing these areas must deliver on their mandates, respecting the need for transparent and clear leadership, and b) wider support for maintaining the wildlife corridors secured. To mitigate these risks, the project will reinforce existing capacities and structures where needed, as well as channels of communication between all stakeholders – especially around issues of sharing wildlife corridor and conservation related benefits. Regular mentorship and the strengthening of

		wider conservation focused partnerships will also contribute to assuring additional levels of oversight, guidance and other forms of support as needed. There is a weak community governance and insufficient stakeholder support for corridor management. Institutions responsible for managing community lands in wildlife corridors may fail to implement existing plans effectively due to weak governance, unclear or non transparent leadership, limited capacity, and insufficient wider stakeholder support, which could threaten corridor conservation and project outcomes. Loss of corridor function (connectivity), habitat degradation, conflicts over benefit sharing, and reduced project sustainability could highly impact the proposed project. The route causes to these are due to unclear mandates, limited skills and resources in community structures, poor communication and benefit sharing mechanisms, and lack of broader stakeholder buy in. In order to mitigate this, existing community structures, some planning decisions and communication channels in place. The proposed project will reinforce capacities and clarify mandates, strengthen communication and fair benefit sharing, provide regular mentorship, and build conservation partnerships for oversight and support.
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INNOVATION

Institutional and Policy	Moderate	The policies governing participatory forest management might be revised, weakening the overall approach in terms of delegation of forest rights to local communities. Given that the existing policies (based on the 2002 Forest Act) have been so widely applied across Tanzania, this seems unlikely. There is a risk that other government might identify alternative uses for the wildlife corridor areas that are incompatible with present land use decisions (for example, allowing permitted mining). Implementation of a participatory and integrated land use planning will reduce the potential of land use conflicts. The importance of mainstreaming this project with the interests of MNRT will be crucial in terms of assuring the visibility of this work nationally. The existing engagement of the NLUPC and PO-RALG in supporting work conducted to date will also be maintained. National or sectoral policy revisions (e.g., weakening delegation of forest rights) or decisions by other government agencies to permit incompatible uses (e.g., mining) could undermine current land-use decisions and wildlife corridor protection; institutional risks such as weak coordination, insufficient involvement of key agencies (MNRT, NLUPC, PO-RALG) and unclear roles/responsibilities could delay or block implementation of mitigation measures. Possible policy revisions (unlikely given long-standing 2002 Forest Act), competing sectoral priorities, unclear institutional mandates, weak inter-agency coordination, and limited mechanisms to enforce integrated land-use planning could further weaken conservation. In order to mitigate this, reliance on established 2002 Forest Act practice, collaboration with MNRT, NLUPC and PO-RALG, and planned participatory integrated land-use planning is suggested.
Technological	Moderate	Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data Analytics, and Machine Learning (ML) and remote sensing technologies have the potential to significantly enhance the security of Protected Areas (PAs) in terms of preventing encroachment,

		poaching, and other illegal activities while enhancing human-wildlife co-existence. These technologies can be applied in various innovative ways to monitor, predict, and respond to threats more effectively. Potential risks associated with “big data” include a) hesitation or reluctance from Government authorities to readily adopt the technology right away due to concerns over sensitivity and security of data; and b) ownership of the data and information produced especially where data protocols are perceived not to be followed. To mitigate the risk of technology adoption and data security, it will be important to involve relevant stakeholders and Government institutions right from the beginning to ensure the agreed solutions are co-designed. Data sharing protocols will be documented to ensure sensitive data sharing is done by mandated authorities. Data ownership rights will be agreed from the start of the project and access rights will be assigned following the agreed protocols. During the PPG phase, digital transition and readiness needs assessment will be undertaken for project partners to determine interventions needed to facilitate digital tools in project implementation. The UNDP country office has experience in the “big data” area working in collaboration with the SDG AI Lab and UN Biodiversity Lab. The project team will build on the existing knowledge, skills, and networks to address any risks related to technological innovation solutions with close involvement of relevant government authorities to ensure information security and ownership is achieved.
Financial and Business Model	Low	The UNDP CO is well practiced at managing these kinds of projects and will be working with the MNRT which has a good financial management record and is familiar with GEF and UNDP procedures.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Moderate	This project is designed specifically to increase the technical capacity of partners to carry out the proposed interventions, including creating enabling environments for more sustainable financing elaborated in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and Biodiversity Finance Plan for Tanzania. While the process of developing capacity is not always straightforward or immediately successful, ongoing mentorship is expected to improve these outcomes. Additionally, there is a risk that co-financing will not materialize which could be detrimental to any mid-term gains. However, UNDP has a long-term commitment with partners in this landscape and will continue to fundraise.
Fiduciary	Low	The UNDP CO is well practiced at managing these kinds of projects and will be working with the MNRT which has a good record of financial management systems and familiar with GEF and UNDP procedures. Responsible parties are expected to be utilised.
Stakeholder	Moderate	Work relies on the maintenance of good relationships with local communities. As long-term and trusted partners in the landscape and wildlife corridors in particular, UNDP already has and will maintain, (or where needed, strengthen) engagement with all local stakeholders. The importance

		of assuring the effective engagement and involvement of the agropastoral sector in the project is crucial to reducing potential conflict between grazers and settled farmers, as well as reducing human-carnivore conflict.
Other		
Overall Risk Rating	Substantial	One risk is rated substantial, 5 moderate and 3 low risks. The project area involves community groups which are not homogenous. These include representations from cultural groupings of people from different ethnic backgrounds, Nilotic and Bantu, and involved in different core livelihood activities, pastoral and agropastoral and agricultural, as well as approaches to land management and land use, namely sedentary and non-sedentary. This is not uncommon across Tanzania and this part of Africa generally; however, it can create conflict or at least tensions at times. In difficult cases, this has led in other parts of the country to relocations of people. Whilst there is no known or stated intention to relocate communities in the GRKL, caution has been taken to initiate early community-level consultations even at PIF level, which shall be further elaborated on at PPG through FPIC processes. The safeguarding process will need to be taken and maintained rigorously. Independent consultations in January-February 2024 indicated widespread community support for and a clear understanding of the project, although the potential economic displacement risk is still rated at substantial. This will be further revaluated at PPG and appropriate mitigation measures developed.

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 GEF-8 Focal Areas: BD-1. To improve conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems. At the core of the overall GEF-8 architecture is the *Healthy Planet, Healthy People* framework, inspired by the explicit recognition of the interdependence between human wellbeing and a healthy environment. Although not part of the Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program, the project will contribute to the IP priority areas of Human Wildlife Co-existence, combating poaching and illegal wildlife trade while leveraging on the wildlife economy. No specific conflicting policies have been identified at this time. However, policies aimed at protecting wildlife habitats restrict land use for agriculture and community land use practices, while policies on human-wildlife conflict mitigation largely focus on protecting wildlife without adequately considering the impacts on local communities.

The project is anchored on SDG 15.1, CBD Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) target 1,2 &3. The proposed project directly contributes to priorities of government towards building resilience of communities and ecosystems as reflected in the NDC; and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

(NBSAP) targets 1, 2, 4, 10, 11, 23 in line with the KMGBF. The project is expected to contribute to Tanzania party obligations and commitments to key multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) including the Rio Conventions on Biological Diversity (CBD); Climate change (UNFCCC) and Combating Desertification (UNCCD); the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance; the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); and Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, which this project is well aligned with and will further progress towards the objectives. Additionally, there are several key national laws and policies that this project aligns with, including: National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan; the Wildlife Corridors, Dispersal Areas, Buffer Zones and Migratory Routes Regulations, Cap 283 of 2018; National Strategy to Combat Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade; Human-Wildlife Conflict Management Strategy 2020-2024; Tanzania Wildlife Corridor Action Plan 2022-2026; National Environmental Master Plan for Strategic Interventions 2022-2032; Wildlife Conservation Act, Cap. 283 Revised Edition 2022; Forest Act, 2002 (Act No. 7 of 2002); the broader Tanzania Development Vision 2025 and the National five year Development plan for 2021/22 to 2025/26.

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

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

Initial stakeholder mapping identified those impacted by, or who could impact, the project. This included local communities (diverse groups), wildlife organizations, government agencies, and other relevant stakeholders. Local consultations emphasized engagement across different groups, respecting cultural diversity, ensuring gender equality, recognizing traditional community rights, and representing marginalized groups. Prioritizing inclusivity fosters diverse perspectives, equitable decision-making, and promotes sustainable outcomes for both wildlife and communities. Additionally, the importance of involving government agencies, land authorities, NGOs, community groups and media houses who could influence the project's success is recognized and incorporated into design.

- a) The project idea discussions and consultations involved various stakeholders since February 2023 when the Vice President's Office (VPO) GEF OFP convened a meeting to discuss projects to be funded under GEF 8. MNRT, WD, TAWA, WCS, TFS, UNDP, UNEP, FAO, AfDB, CSOs Academic and Research Institutions including the Private sector participated (GEF 8 STAR allocation report is available in Kiswahili).
- b) A follow up consultation took place from 21st to 22nd September 2023 at technical level involving VPO, UNDP, MNRT and its affiliated institutions (TAWA, TFS, TAFORI) and National Carbon Monitoring Center (NCMC) to solicit more information about the project and agree on how to proceed with the preparation of the PIF.
- c) Field consultations (January-February 2024) targeting the project area with various stakeholders, including MNRT-WD, UNDP, WCS, ADAP, and the District Councils of Itigi, Chunya, and Sikonge, all of whom have a key stake in the proposed project; and in depth consultations with community members in the two wildlife corridors across the nine villages were carried out (list of those consulted is attached). In Itigi District, 62 community members (38 women) on 30 Jan-01 Feb 2024 in Mwamagembe and Kintanula wards were consulted. In Sikonge district, consultation with 53 community members (15 women) on 02-04 Feb 2024 in Mwitikio Kapumpa) and Majojoro wards were undertaken while in Chunya consultations took place on 4-6 Feb 2024 with 68 community members (31 female) in Sipa, Kambikatoto, Bitimanyanga and Mafyeko). An independent consultant facilitated meetings in Kiswahili.
- d) Community meetings in each of the nine villages consulted shared project goals, gathered local inputs, and facilitated open discussions. An introductory presentation in Kiswahili focused on wildlife conservation and community support. Community members voiced their concerns and suggestions on issues including human-wildlife conflict, development, and conservation. The meetings allowed diverse participation, especially from marginalized groups and those living near the wildlife corridors. While it was agreed that the corridors won't cause physical displacement, there was consensus that degradation from livestock grazing due to increasing population pressures threatens the integrity of the corridors. This could degrade critical wildlife habitat, increase human-wildlife conflict, and raise zoonotic disease risks. Effective engagement to co-create the project and regular communication to ensure a community-driven approach will be crucial to address these threats, recognizing the diverse populations within the corridors.

Consultations revealed that target villages have already zoned their land with future use in mind, governed by village bylaws. Corridor lands were chosen for their intactness. When designated as Joint Village Land Forest Reserves (JVLFRs), Forest Management Plans allow activities such as modern beekeeping, mushroom production, traditional medicine collection, eco-tourism and the like. Each village allocates land within the VLUP/JVLFR framework for agriculture, grazing, settlement, multiple-use, and wildlife corridors, believing resources will suffice if planning is adhered to. Non-permitted activities (fire, livestock incursion, debarking trees for beehives, farming, settlement) are also defined within zones. Consultations revealed community support for the proposed project. Respondents recognized the value of conservation and community resilience. However, some members of community feared or predicted possibility of restrictions to resource access in future. These concerns will be further be assessed and a participatory and inclusive decision-making process and grievance redress mechanism put in place during the project design and implementation period. In addition, the project will endeavor to diversify livelihoods and improve community management.

In terms of stakeholder roles, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism will lead this project through the Wildlife Division, supported by its institutions (TAWA, Wildlife Division, TANAPA, TFS). The Tanzanian Wildlife

Authority (TAWA) will oversee operational implementation at the project area focusing on protecting critical wildlife habitats, migration routes, monitoring ecosystems, supporting research for adaptive management, and promoting community outreach and education. TAWA will support communities in establishing wildlife corridors and collaborate on proactive mitigation of human-wildlife conflict. Government agencies will play a crucial role in enforcing wildlife protection laws, coordinating conservation policies across sectors, and providing legal frameworks to empower community-based natural resource management.

NGOs will play a significant role in this project. WCS is actively exploring carbon-related funding opportunities alongside their wider ongoing support to the landscape and participatory forest management, while “Lion Landscapes” offers potential collaboration based on their experience in the region especially on performance mechanisms for conservation outcomes. Conversations were also held with the three CBO Managers, for Kululu East, Kululu West and Mdabulo CBOs to review the planned scope of their work. The Association for the Development of Protected Areas (ADAP) also confirmed their interest in playing a role in further strengthening beekeeping – including engagement with the private sector for strengthened marketing. ADAP’s Program Manager provided feedback on the 12th of September 2023 and noted they would welcome the opportunity to encourage engagement with Ipole WMA as well.

With regards to the private sector, opportunities exist at multiple levels for increased investment, participation, and employment, notably in nature-positive investment opportunities for improved supply chains, linked to trophy hunting concessions, ecotourism and the development of innovative financing mechanisms such as nature bonds, and carbon and biodiversity credits.

(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
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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	Tanzania	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	3,101,142.00	294,608.00	3,395,750.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						3,101,142.00	294,608.00	3,395,750.00

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	Tanzania	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	Tanzania	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	3,560,000.00
Total GEF Resources					3,560,000.00

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
BD-1-1	GET	3,101,142.00	10900000
Total Project Cost		3,101,142.00	10,900,000.00

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	MNRT	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	10000000
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	300000
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	Investment mobilized	200000
Civil Society Organization	WCS	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	300000
Civil Society Organization	WCS	Grant	Investment mobilized	100000
Total Co-financing				10,900,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

UNDP investment will be cash co-financing from core resources towards the project management costs.

WCS investment will be grant financing to activities complementing GEF funding that focuses on improving bolstering ecotourism, and enhancing livelihoods through sustainable forestry, livestock grazing, and improved cropland management.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Nancy Bennet	6/30/2025			nancy.bennet@undp.org

Project Coordinator	Onesimus Muhwezi	6/30/2025			onesimus.muhwezi@undp.org
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Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Kemilembe Mutasa	OFP, Director of Environment	THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE	7/7/2025

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

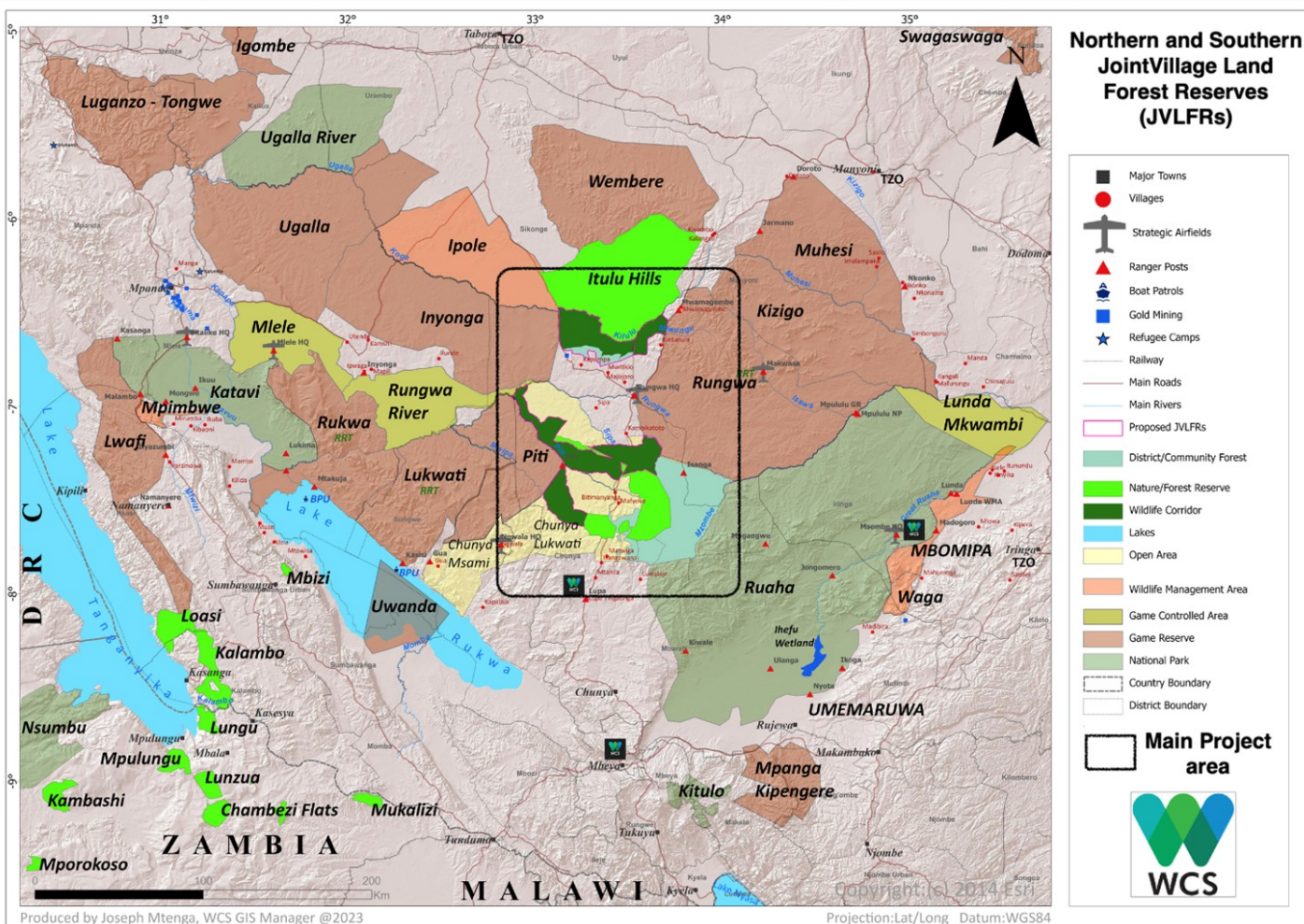
Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place

The project area is in south-western Tanzania; it includes a network of protected areas extending from 5.2393 E to 8.961492 E and 29.622967 S to 36.442853 S. In the northern side, the northern corridor links Ruaha-Rungwa with Itulu Hills Nature Forest Reserve, Ipole WMA, Inyonga GR to Ugalla GR. The southern wildlife corridor links Ruaha-Rungwa with Lukwati-Piti GR via Rungwa South open area and Rungwa-Mzombe. Additionally, the proposed project area includes designated forest reserves such as Mzombe Forest Reserve and Lila District Forest. The coordinates for the joint village land forest reserves are shown in the table 2.

Villages are situated as follows: Mwamagembe to the northeast, Kintanula to the southeast, Majojoro, Mwitikio and Kapumpa to the south of the Inyonga Corridor. Sipa is to the northwest of the Katavi Corridor, and Kambikatoto is north of the same corridor. Bitimanyanga and Mafyeko are in the Ruaha–Rungwa–Katavi Corridor. Community-based organizations (CBOs) are similarly situated as follows: Kululu West is in the south of the Inyonga Corridor, Kululu East is in the northeast, and Mdabulo CBO is in the south of the Katavi Corridor.

Table 2 Location and size of the Joint Village Forest Reserves in the Katavi-Ruaha landscape

SN	Joint Village Forest Reserve	Area (Ha)	Centre coordinate (Lat/Lon)	
1	Kululu West	85,978.297 Ha	-6.63266	33.29544
2	Kululu East	22,792.507 Ha	-6.61413	33.61038
3	Mdabulo	169,084.61 Ha	-7.29145	33.26715



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

PIMS9788 Social and Environmental Safeguards 05-2025

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2	Significant Objective 1

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Influencing Models	Convene multi-stakeholder alliances		

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
	Demonstrate innovative approaches		
Stakeholders	Private Sector	SMEs, Individual / entrepreneurs	
	Beneficiaries, Local Communities, Civil Society	Community-based organizations	
	Types of Engagement	Non-governmental Organization Information Dissemination Partnership Consultation	
Capacity, Knowledge and Research	Capacity Development Knowledge generation & Exchange Innovation Knowledge & Learning	Behaviour Change Adaptive management Indicators to Measure Change Knowledge management Innovation Capacity development	
Gender Equality	Gender mainstreaming	Beneficiaries	

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
		Women groups	
		Sex-disaggregated indicators	
		Gender-sensitive indicators	
	Gender result areas	Participation & leadership	
		Access to benefits & services	
		Capacity development	
		Awareness raising	
		Knowledge generation	
Focal Area/Theme	Biodiversity	Protected Areas & Landscapes	Community-based Natural Resource Management
		Species	Illegal Wildlife Trade Threatened Species
		Biomes	Tropical Dry Forests
		Financial & Accounting	Conservation Finance
		Sustainable Land Management	Ecosystem Approach Community-Based NRM
			Sustainable Livelihoods
			Income Generating Activities

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
		Land Degradation Neutrality	Sustainable Forest/Woodland management Land Cover & Land Cover Change