

Sustainable Wildlife Management and Resilient Communities in the Greater Ruaha-Katavi Landscape of Tanzania

Review PIF and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

11967

Countries

Tanzania

Project Name

Sustainable Wildlife Management and Resilient Communities in the Greater
Ruaha-Katavi Landscape of Tanzania

Agencies

UNDP

Date received by PM

7/9/2025

Review completed by PM

Program Manager

Tasila Banda

Focal Area

Biodiversity

Project Type

MSP

1. General Project Information / Eligibility

a) Does the project meet the criteria for eligibility for GEF funding?

b) Is the General Project Information table correctly populated?

Secretariat's Comments

09/10/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

2. Project Summary

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

Secretariat's Comments

09/10/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

3 Indicative Project Overview

3.1 a) Is the project objective presented as a concise statement and clear?

b) Are the components, outcomes and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change?

Secretariat's Comments

09/10/2025 TMB

1. We request the Agency to revise the duplicated component 1 and 2 titles by including qualifying statement for the objective of each. Presenting them as sub-components of 1 and 2, respectively, will also reduce the amount of space they are currently occupying in the overall document.

10/23/2025 TMB

While this has been satisfactorily revised in the WORD version of the PIF, it has not been revised in the portal version. Kindly revise.

Agency's Comments

UNDP Response, 6 November 2025

Thank you for your comment. Please be informed that we are unable to revise duplications in Component 1 & 2 as these components are split into 2 parts (TA and Investment). Portal is not offering a technical option to unify these 2 parts under a single component hence we have to enter each component twice. We hope this clarifies the issue of duplicated entries.

UNDP Response, 23/10/2025

The duplication of titles has been corrected. The two components were revised /rephrased as guided, to include the statement of objective of each component.

3.2 Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and monitoring and evaluation included within the project components and appropriately funded?

Secretariat's Comments

09/10/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

3.3 a) Are the components adequately funded?

b) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?

c) Is the PMC equal to or below 5% of the total GEF grant for FSPs or 10% for MSPs? If the requested PMC is above the caps, has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated?

Secretariat's Comments

09/10/2025 TMB

1. We wonder why the M&E and PMC budgets are at 2.85% and 4.76%, respectively for this MSP project? Justify or modify.

10/23/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

UNDP Response, 23/10/2025

The M&E and PMC components have now been revised to 5% in line with the GEF guidance on project and programme cycle 2020 (GEF/C.59/Inf.03). PMC is set at 5% because the project grant exceeds USD 3 million in line with GEF guidance on streamlining project cycle 2024 (GEF/C.66/08/Rev.1). Additionally, the co-financing portion of the M&E and PMC has been adjusted to be proportional to the GEF grant.

4 Project Outline

A. Project Rationale

4.1 SITUATION ANALYSIS

a) is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key contextual drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective?

b) Are the key barriers and enablers identified?

Secretariat's Comments

09/10/2025 TMB

The current situation (global environmental problems are well articulated, however, we request the Agency to clearly identify/list the key barriers and enablers for the project.

10/23/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

UNDP Response, 23/10/2025

The key barriers and enablers have been highlighted in the project rationale and theory of change of the revised PIF for ease of reference.

4.2 JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT

a) Is there an indication of why the project approach has been selected over other potential options?

b) Does it ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers?

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

d) are the relevant stakeholders and their roles adequately described?

Secretariat's Comments

09/10/2025 TMB

Some of the elements of project justification was interwoven into the project rationale. We request the Agency to include the justification for the project with the following elements:

- why the project approach has been selected over other potential options
- if the project ensures resilience to future changed in the drivers
- a description of how the GEF project alternative on on-going /previous investments for both GEF and non-GEF, lessons an experiences in the country/region

10/23/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

UNDP Response, 23/10/2025

Project justification has been elaborated with additional information on the project approach selected over other potential options; Resilience strategies to future changes in the drivers; a description of how the GEF project alternative will build on the baseline and on-going /previous investments for both GEF and non-GEF, lessons and experiences in the country/region.

5 B. Project Description

5.1 THEORY OF CHANGE

a) Is there a concise theory of change that describes the project logic, including how the project design elements will contribute to the objective, the expected causal pathways, and the key assumptions underlying these?

b) Are the key outputs of each component defined (where possible)?

Secretariat's Comments

09/10/2025 TMB

Figure 1 is a mere reproduction of the project objective, components, outcomes and outputs. We request the Agency to develop a Theory of Change diagram which describes the project logic, including how the project design elements will contribute to the objective, the expected causal pathways and key assumptions for each.

10/23/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

UNDP Response, 23/10/2025

This has been addressed and will be refined during the PPG phase.

5.2 INCREMENTAL/ADDITIONAL COST REASONING

Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12?

Secretariat's Comments

09/10/2025 TMB

We request the Agency to provide a paragraph on the incremental/additional cost reasoning for this project. See GEF guidance: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/C.31.12_Operational_Guidelines_for_Incremental_Costs.pdf

10/23/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

UNDP Response, 23/10/2025

Incremental/additional cost reasoning for this project has been elaborated

5.3 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

a) Is the institutional setting, including potential executing partners, outlined and a rationale provided?

b) Comments to proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception).

c) is there a description of potential coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area

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

Secretariat's Comments

09/10/2025 TMB

The description of potential coordination and cooperation with on-going projects in the area is presented, however, kindly clarify what the institutional setting for this project will be. Who are the executing partners and what is the rationale for selecting them. Also include proposed elements to capture and disseminate knowledge, and learning outputs and strategic communication will be conducted.

10/23/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

UNDP Response, 23/10/2025

Executing partners: The project is executed by Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT) as the lead government partner in collaboration 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. The executing partners 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 target 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.

5.4 a) Are the identified core indicators calculated using the methodology included in the corresponding Guidelines (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)?

b) Are the project's indicative targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through core indicators)/adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable?

Secretariat's Comments

09/10/2025 TMB

Core indicators are presented. However, we request the Agency to include the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for the indicators. See GEF guidance: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF.C.54.11.Rev_02_Results.pdf

We note that the project includes Core Indicator 6, target 6.1. We request the Agency to upload the EX-ACT file.

Core indicator 6 target: 6.1 Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated (direct) in the AFOLU sector (11.98MtCo2E) is based on avoided

deforestation from estimated level of emissions from deforestation in south-western Tanzania using the FAO Ex-ACT

methodology.

10/23/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

UNDP Response, 23/10/2025

Methodological approach to setting core indicator targets have been elaborated and EX-ACT sheet provided as annex J. This will be elaborated on during PPG phase.

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

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

5.6 RISKS

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

Secretariat's Comments

09/10/2025 TMB

We request the Agency to revise the following Risks

- Political and Governance: What is the actual risk being presented. Present it in the risk identification language.
- Institutional and Policy: Please see the comment on institutional arrangements above, once elaborated on, please include the institutional risk(s) here in addition to the policy risks already included.
- Execution Capacity for MNRT: Kindly review and revise this risk, i.e. is the co-financing an capacity risk?

10/23/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

UNDP Response, 23/10/2025

Changes have been made as guided on risk 2,3 and 4 and highlighted for ease reference

5.7 Qualitative assessment

- a) Does the project intend to be well integrated, durable, and transformative?**
- b) Is there potential for innovation and scaling-up?**
- c) Will the project contribute to an improved alignment of national policies (policy coherence)?**

Secretariat's Comments

09/10/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

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

- 6.1 Is the project adequately aligned with focal area and integrated program strategies and objectives, and/or adaptation priorities?**

Secretariat's Comments

09/10/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

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

Secretariat's Comments

09/10/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

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

Secretariat's Comments

09/10/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

7 D. Policy Requirements

7.1 Is the Policy Requirements section completed?

Secretariat's Comments

09/10/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

7.2 Is a list of stakeholders consulted during PIF development, including dates of these consultations, provided?

Secretariat's Comments

09/10/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

8 Annexes

Annex A: Financing Tables

8.1 Is the proposed GEF financing (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):

STAR allocation?

Secretariat's Comments

09/10/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat's Comments

09/10/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

SCCF A (SIDS)?

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

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

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

8.2 Is the PPG requested within the allowable cap (per size of project)? If requested, has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated?

Secretariat's Comments

09/10/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

8.3 Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

Secretariat's Comments

09/10/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

Annex B: Endorsements

8.4 Has the project been endorsed by the country? (ies) GEF OFP and has the OFP at the time of PIF submission name and position been checked against the GEF database?

Secretariat's Comments

09/10/2025 TMB

Please upload the OFP letter of endorsement dated 10/16/2023.

10/23/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

UNDP Response, 23/10/2025

Most recent version of the LoE from 7-July 2025 has been uploaded.

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

Secretariat's Comments
09/10/2025 TMB
Upload the LoE into the Portal

10/23/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

UNDP Response, 23/10/2025

LoE from 7-July 2025 has been uploaded to Portal.

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

Secretariat's Comments
09/10/2025 TMB

Ensure that the correct format of the LoE and that amounts are consisted with what is in the portal.

10/23/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

UNDP Response, 23/10/2025

The correct LoE format has been used in the revised version from 7 July 2025 and uploaded to Portal.

8.5 For NGI projects (which may not require LoEs), has the Agency informed the OFP(s) of the project to be submitted?

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments
Annex C: Project Location

8.6 Is there preliminary georeferenced information and a map of the project's intended location?

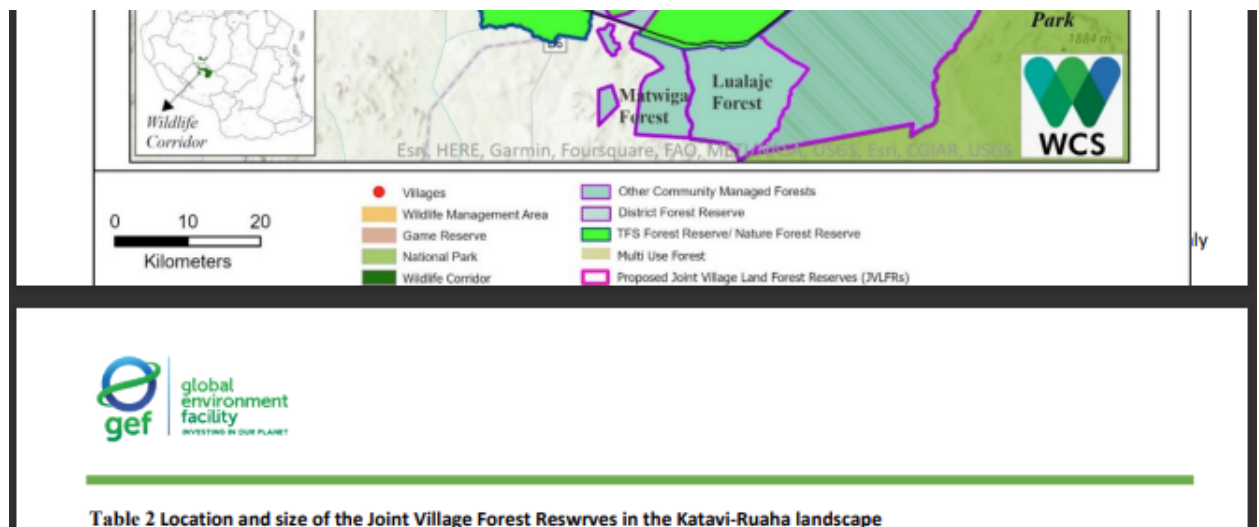
Secretariat's Comments

09/10/2025 TMB

Please include a high definition map.

10/23/2025 TMB

Kindly correct the map image in Annex C (Project location). Currently, it appears cut off and misaligned in the PIF PDF document (the version circulated to Council and later web-posted) on page 40. The project speaks about Rukwa-Katavi region but not shown on the map in its entirety.



11/11/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

UNDP Response, 6 November 2025

A new map showing the Rukwa-Katavi region in its entirety has been uploaded and displays fully on page 50 of the newly generated PIF pdf.

UNDP Response, 23/10/2025

High-definition map has been uploaded to Portal and included in the PIF Annex C.

Annex D: Safeguards Screen and Rating

8.7 If there are safeguard screening documents or other ESS documents prepared, have these been uploaded to the GEF Portal?

Secretariat's Comments
09/10/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

Annex E: Rio Markers

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

Secretariat's Comments
09/10/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

Annex F: Taxonomy Worksheet

8.9 Is the project properly tagged with the appropriate keywords?

Secretariat's Comments
09/10/2025 TMB

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

Annex G: NGI Relevant Annexes

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

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

9 GEFSEC Decision

9.1 Is the PIF and PPG (if requested) recommended for technical clearance?

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

9.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency at the time of CEO Endorsement/ Approval

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

UNDP Response, 23/10/2025

We would like to appreciate the valuable review comments. Responses to the comments have been incorporated in the revised PIF and highlighted in green for ease of reference. Your continued guidance is very much appreciated.

Review Dates

First Review

Additional Review (as necessary)

Additional Review (as necessary)

Additional Review (as necessary)

Additional Review (as necessary)

PIF Review

9/10/2025

10/23/2025

11/11/2025

Agency Response