GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title

Restoring the ecosystem integrity of the degraded Bobirwa-Tswapong ecosystem to sustain livelihoods and effectively respond to human-wildlife conflict and biodiversity management requirements

Region	GEF Project ID
Africa	12291
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Botswana	FSP
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency ID
UNDP	10301
Executing Partner	Executing Partner Type
Ministry of Environment and Tourism	Government
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Multi Focal Area	3/2/2026

Project Sector (CCM Only)

AFOLU

Taxonomy

Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Influencing models, Indigenous Peoples, SMEs, Private Sector, Stakeholders, Local Communities, Civil Society, Type of Engagement, Communications, Capacity Development, Enabling Activities, Knowledge Generation, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, Theory of change, Learning, Adaptive management, Gender Mainstreaming, Beneficiaries, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Integrated Programs, Resilience to climate and shocks, Agroecosystems, Land and Soil Health, Diversified Farming, Small and Medium Enterprises, Food Security in Sub-Sahara Africa, Food Value Chains, Gender Dimensions, Smallholder Farming, Landscape Restoration, Integrated Landscapes, Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration, Integrated Land and Water Management, Gender Equality, Biodiversity, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Tourism, Mainstreaming, Forest and Landscape Restoration, Focal Areas, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Land Management, Land Degradation, Sustainable Livelihoods, Income Generating Activities, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Sustainable Pasture Management, Land Productivity, Drought Mitigation, Land Degradation Neutrality, Climate Change, Least Developed Countries, Climate resilience, Climate Change Adaptation, Community-based adaptation, Livelihoods

Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
GET	60
GEF Project Grant: (a)	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)
6,282,877.00	0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)

596,873.00	0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d) 6,879,750.00	Total Co-financing 31,167,890.00
PPG Amount: (e) 200,000.00	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f) 19,000.00
PPG total amount: (e+f) 219,000.00	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f) 7,098,750.00
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)

Project Summary

1. The Bobirwa–Tswapong landscape hosts iconic wildlife species and the Tswapong Hills, a World Heritage and IBA site supporting endangered species and critical ecosystem services. Unsustainable land use, overharvesting of woodlands, and climate change have reduced ecological integrity, increased biodiversity loss, weakened livelihood resilience, and intensified human–wildlife conflicts. The Government’s baseline programmes (SPEDU, CBNRM Bill of 2025, and the National Environment Fund - NEF) aim to reverse degradation by facilitating sustainable utilization of natural resources to increase economic benefits, diversify livelihoods and reduce pressure on ecosystems and biodiversity. The effectiveness of these programmes is constrained by limited technical capacity, weak natural resource governance, low uptake of restoration measures, and inadequate investment in nature-based enterprises, partly due to insufficient access to knowledge and proven solutions.

2. The objective of the proposed project is to restore the Bobirwa-Tswapong landscapes to sustain livelihoods, mitigate human-wildlife conflict, and strengthen biodiversity conservation. The project proposes an ILM approach, underpinned by SLM, to restore degraded ecosystems, strengthen natural resource governance, and promote climate-resilient livelihoods. ILM will provide a participatory framework to balance competing land uses, reduce land-use conflicts, and sustain biodiversity and ecosystem services. The project will place 410,000 ha under restoration (CI 3) and catalyze nature-based enterprises and value chains (CI 4.3). It will benefit 180,000 people (50% F) (CI 11), mitigate 7,926,073 tCO_2e (CI 6), and advance SDGs 1,2,5,13 15; and KMGBF targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 22 and 23, and advance Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and National Determined Contributions (NDC) Targets, which aim to reach LDN by 2030.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

To restore the Bobirwa-Tswapong landscapes to sustain livelihoods, effectively mitigate human-wildlife conflict, and strengthen biodiversity conservation.

Project Components

1. Institutional capacitates for ILM, community based NRM and inclusive, gender responsive landscape governance

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
505,000.00	3,500,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 1.1: Strengthened institutional and local community capacities for design and implementation of ecosystem restoration interventions, use of NbS to tackle impacts of drought and nature-positive local economic development.

Indicators and targets:
- % increase in the capacity of institutions to support BD conservation, SLM and restoration goals and commitments at landscape levels. Target TBD during PPG
- One ILUP covering 11,422,520 ha developed/updated and harmonized with all VDCs and CTs strategic plans
- # of policy discourses communities engage with to either localize national policies or influence policy directions. Target – 4

Output:

1.1.1: Skills developed for ILM and NbS: stakeholders from government, communities, civil society, academia, and the private sector trained on ILM on NbS, in inclusive gender responsive processes.

1.1.2: An Integrated Land Use Plan produced in an inclusive and gender responsive process and approved for implementation to guide ILM and NbS for addressing environmental degradation, drought, biodiversity loss, and food insecurity

1.1.3: Village Development Committees and Community Trusts supported to access decision-support systems, tools and finance to competently steer sustainable use and management of natural resources in an inclusive, gender responsive manner and support the development of small nature-based enterprises and value-chains

1.1.4: Local institutions and stakeholders supported to engage in and influence national policy discourses and dialogues on key natural resources management strategies and policy instruments through an inclusive and gender-responsive multistakeholder platform bringing together government, communities, VDCs, CTs, TACs, CSO, private sector and academia

2. Ecosystem Restoration and biodiversity management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET

GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1,495,697.00	13,500,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 2.1: Grasslands and woodlands (wildlife habitats) restored via community-based management to enhance socio-ecological resilience

Indicators and targets

Area (Ha) of natural grass and woodlands under restoration (being restored as they convert to OECMs)

Target 305,000 ha (GEF CI 3.3)

Outcome 2.2: Degraded agricultural land restored via NbS and SLM to mitigate effects of drought, improve productivity and the flow of agro-ecosystem services.

Indicators and targets

- Area (Ha) of Area of agricultural land under restoration; target 105,000 ha (GEF CI 3.1 - 100,000 ha of pasture land and 5,000 ha of cropland).
- Greenhouse gas emission mitigated in the AFOLU sector (GEF CI 6.1); Target: 7,926,073 tCO2e.

Output:

2.1.1: Bobirwa OECM (along the Tuli block) established and put under restoration measures, with a management plan to guide action

2.1.2: Tswapong Hills OECM established and put under restoration measures, with a gender responsive management plan to guide action

2.2.1: Degraded grazing land restored via sustainable rangeland management and silvopastoral practices to reduce overgrazing and improve ecosystem productivity (100,000 ha)

2.2.2: Degraded cropland restored via NbS, including climate-smart agriculture and agroecological practices (5,000 ha)

3. Resilient livelihoods and landscapes through nature-positive investments and local economic development

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
3,600,000.00	10,500,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 3.1: Sustainable value addition to natural resources facilitates livelihood diversification, reduces human wildlife conflicts and enhances ecosystem integrity.

Indicators

- # of green and veld-products based value chains successfully established. Target - 5
- % Change in number of people engaging in enterprises (green and veld products-based value chains) disaggregated by sex: Target 10% increase
- % Change in income for individuals engaging in green and veld products-based value chains - target: 25% increase for those participating (disaggregated by sex).
- # of people under the HWC insurance scheme (disaggregated by sex and age). Target 126,000 (50% male, 50% female).
- % reduction in HWC: Target – 50% (baseline to be established at PPG)

Output:

3.1.1: Gender responsive ecotourism packages designed and piloted to support communities around the four dams and Tswapong hills to derive revenues from these resources

3.1.2: An integrated veld products micro processing plant established, and public-private partnerships mobilized to pilot veld-based value chains

3.1.3: A gender responsive insurance scheme designed and piloted to manage human wildlife conflicts, including adoption and implementation of best practices in HWC mitigation

3.1.4: Low value grants disbursed to community groups (women, youth) to facilitate their engagement with

sustainable value addition to natural resources.

4. Knowledge Management, Learning and Awareness

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
200,000.00	1,560,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 4.1: Gender inclusive stakeholder awareness, KM and exchange strengthened to promote replication and upscaling of successful practices and innovations and inform relevant national policy discourses and decisions

Indicators

- # of KM products (including lessons learned reports, case studies, policy briefs, and technical guidance notes) related to ecosystem management, restoration, or sustainable livelihoods) developed and

disseminated. Target – At least 4 KM products developed and 100% dissemination through approved channels (meetings, websites, policy fora, and partner networks)

- # of Functional multi-stakeholder Platforms with shared lessons, reports produced. Target 4

Output:

4.1.1: Gender-responsive awareness and communication strategy developed and implemented to raise awareness and foster appreciation of nature-positive local economic development approaches that generate sustainable livelihood benefits while protecting nature

4.1.2: Lessons, innovations and solutions from the project documented and shared through knowledge products and global platforms such as PANORAMA and WOCAT to promote learning, uptake in the project areas and beyond.

4.1.3: Functional multi-stakeholder Platforms established to facilitate sharing of lessons, reports produced.

4.1.4: A project exit strategy designed detailing strategies for sustaining relevant and appropriate project interventions post project.

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
182,996.00	610,700.00

Outcome:

Effective project coordination, reporting and adaptive management

Indicator:

- Satisfactory Progress rating for PIR, MTR and TE in line with UNDP/GEF criteria

Output:

Gender responsive project M&E system operational, providing comprehensive information on project progress in achieving outcomes and supporting adaptive management

High quality annual PIRs, MTR and TE reports produced timely to inform adaptive management decisions.

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)

1. Institutional capacitates for ILM, community based NRM and inclusive, gender responsive landscape governance	505,000.00	3,500,000.00
2. Ecosystem Restoration and biodiversity management	1,495,697.00	13,500,000.00
3. Resilient livelihoods and landscapes through nature-positive investments and local economic development	3,600,000.00	10,500,000.00
4. Knowledge Management, Learning and Awareness	200,000.00	1,560,000.00
M&E	182,996.00	610,700.00
Subtotal	**5,983,693.00**	**29,670,700.00**
Project Management Cost	299,184.00	1,497,190.00
Total Project Cost ($)	**6,282,877.00**	**31,167,890.00**

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

Country context and background

3. Covering approximately 11,422,520 hectares (ha) [1][1], the Bobirwa-Tswapong ecosystem/landscape is a critical ecological zone in Botswana, supporting biodiversity, local livelihoods, and climate resilience (Map provided in Annex C1). The region is characterized by semi-arid savannah, woodlands, and river systems, that provide essential ecosystem services such as water regulation, soil fertility, pasture, wildlife habitats and veld products. The Tswapong Hills, designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site[2][2] and recently declared as an International Bird Area[3][3], are host to some of Botswana's most endangered species including the Wattled Crane, Cape Griffon vultures, and the African Wild Dog[4][4]. The rest of the ecosystem is host to iconic species, including large herds of the African Elephant, lions, cheetahs and zebras. The main crops grown

under rain-fed conditions are maize, sorghum, millet, cowpeas, groundnuts, round nuts, and watermelons. Subsistence livestock and poultry production, a mainstay of the local economy, is mainly characterized by rearing cattle, goats, and chickens under free-range[5]. Other land uses include game reserves and privately owned farms with abundant wildlife (Table 2).

Baseline situation without the project

4. Land and ecosystems degradation: Natural resources management in this critical ecosystem is characterized by competition and conflict between wildlife conservation considerations, economic development and livelihoods, driving ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss and vulnerable livelihoods in positive feedback loops[6]. Land degradation and habitat loss are driven by overgrazing[7], excessive tree-cutting for biomass energy, expansion of agriculture leading to loss of vegetation cover, soil erosion and compacting, loss of biodiversity and weakened provisioning capacity of ecosystems. These challenges are compounded by impacts of climate change. Temperatures have risen by 1.5^0C between 1900 and 2024 with mean annual precipitation averaging a stable 396 mm and regional trends showing high variability or slight declines[8]. Climate projections include an increase of up to 2.26 ºC on average by 2100[9], increased unpredictability of seasonal rainfall events and increased incidence of drought[10] . Rising temperatures and prolonged droughts increase water scarcity, reducing river flows, groundwater recharge, and dam levels. This negatively affects agriculture, livestock production, and rural livelihoods. Erratic rainfall patterns contribute to land degradation, soil erosion, and desertification, weakening ecosystem resilience.

5. Indeed, drought prevalence in Bobirwa district increased to 50%, 60% and 70% between 1981–1990, 1991–2000, and 2001–2010, respectively[11]. The district registered a decline in vegetation by 50.67 km^2/year between 1995 and 2016, with corresponding 34.02 km^2/year increase in croplands[12] (Map in Annex C2). Palapye district lost 26% of natural land cover between 1986 and 2014 due mainly to transition into croplands, built-up areas, and grassland, with built-up area projected to gain an additional 272 km^2 by 2028[13].

The combined effects of land degradation and erratic rainfall have led to declining yields in the Bobirwa-Tswapong ecosystem, characterized by low and highly variable productivity of cereals, Mopane caterpillars, natural pastures and wild fruits[14]. Collectively, the above degradation processes have compounded human wildlife conflicts (HWC)[15]. Although specific data on economic loss associated with HWC are lacking, such loss is significant due to crop and livestock destruction, damage to property, lost productivity and

resources used in mitigation measures. These losses impact livelihoods, especially for rural communities that rely on agriculture, and contribute to poverty, disproportionately affecting the vulnerable segments of the population, such as women and children headed households, the very old and the youth.

Table 2: Hectarage, Population, Land use and Land Cover of the Bobirwa-Tswapong Landscape[16]

District	Approx. Area (ha) of the whole district	Area considered Bobirwa-Tswapong landscape	Population of the whole district[17]	Main Land Uses	Key Ecosystems
Bobirwa	8,593,200	8,593,200 (100%)	71,936	Grazing lands, croplands, wildlife areas (near Mashatu)	Mopane woodlands, savanna
Palapye	3,092,500	2,474,000 (80%)	180,500	Croplands, grazing lands, built-up, shrublands/grasslands	Tswapong Hills woodland, shrubland, savanna
Mahalapye	2,368,800	355,320 (15%)	118,875	Grazing lands, croplands, seasonal rivers	Hardveld, sandveld, shrubland, limited wetlands
Total	14,054,500	11,422,520	371,311		

6. Baseline programmes: The government of Botswana has three programmes through which it facilitates communities to sustainably utilize natural resources to increase economic benefits in order to diversify livelihoods and reduce pressure on ecosystems and biodiversity; CBNRM, economic development and investments through Selibe-Phikwe Economic Diversification Unit (SPEDU) and the National Environment Fund (NEF).

7. The 1997 CBNRM policy was updated in 2007 and further strengthened in 2025 with the passing of the CBNRM and Forest and Range Resources Bills into an Act of Parliament. Its objectives are to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use, while simultaneously reducing poverty through employment and income generation in rural communities. It aims to achieve these objectives by recognizing the rights of local people to manage and benefit from resources, which empowers them and increases the value they place on wildlife; establishing and capacitating local natural resources institutions (Community Trusts), thereby enabling communities to make decisions on the use of their natural resources, leading to more sustainable practices; encouraging partnerships between communities and the private sector (e.g., safari operators); allowing community organizations to retain a share of the revenue from activities like hunting and tourism.

8. SPEDU was established in 2006 to diversify the economy of the Selebi Phikwe region away from over-dependence on mining under the then Ministry of Finance and Development Planning[18]. In 2012, the unit evolved into a Parastatal mandated to drive regional economic development for the hinterlands of Selebi-Phikwe (covering Bobirwa, Tswapong North and parts of Mahalapye – including the targeted project area). Its

main functions are to promote investment, facilitate business development, create jobs, and build skills in key sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism.

9. The NEF was established in 2010 and mandated to support community organizations to implement projects that will help Botswana achieve the national environmental agenda and meet her international obligations[19][19]. The NEF provides grants to support capacity building and sustainable development based on the use of natural resources, including eco-tourism. It also supports rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems, protection of the urban environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation, waste management and pollution control, environmental awareness and education, and environmental research and monitoring.

10. Botswana National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA) (2022–2026)[20][20] is designed to bridge science, policy, and community knowledge so that ecosystems are managed sustainably while supporting national development goals. It will produce a National Ecosystem Assessment Report, policy briefs and recommendations and knowledge products (maps, datasets, and indicators that provide accessible evidence for decision-makers, researchers, and communities). The process includes capacity building and stakeholder engagement to strengthen institutional and community capacity for ecosystem management; integration of traditional knowledge alongside scientific findings and will develop monitoring framework for ongoing tracking of ecosystem health and services, ensuring sustainability beyond the initial assessment.

11. Barriers: These baseline programmes have faced challenges in tackling the drivers of ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss and vulnerable livelihoods, due to the barriers described below.

12. Inadequate technical capacities at all levels, compounding weak natural resources governance at local levels: Botswana has a well-established natural resources governance system at the local, district and national levels; constituting of Village Development Committees (VDC) and Community Trusts (CTs) at the local level, supported by Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) at the district level, constituting of representatives from all line ministries and government institutions. TACs are supported by national line ministries. TACs, VDCs, CTs and civil society organizations (CSO) at the ecosystems level have weak technical capacities challenging the adoption of knowledge-informed planning and implementation of integrated landscape planning, the rehabilitation of degraded landscapes and sustainable value addition and value-chain development from biodiversity and natural resources. Many CTs have very weak governance capacities, making them ineffective in leading the development of long-term sustainable value chains from biodiversity and natural resources, which is their core mandate. This core barrier has led to three additional barriers: Inadequate uptake and sustenance of proven and innovative measures to restore the ecological integrity of the ecosystem to improve socio-ecological processes (barrier 2). Although the ecosystem is rich in wildlife, there are no communal or community-managed wildlife management areas, apart from the private game farms along the Limpopo River, managed as conservation areas. Recent establishment of permanent domestic water sources to alleviate water shortages in communal areas has attracted wildlife, especially elephants, into community areas previously free of wildlife, with consequent rise in human wildlife conflicts. Furthermore, despite high levels of degradation, there is only limited restoration effort. Ineffective and inadequate value addition to biodiversity and natural resources, challenging the diversification of livelihoods to reduce pressure on the ecosystem (barrier 3) due to several constraints such as poor access to financial resources, lack of awareness of potential income earning activities such as eco-tourism, insufficient knowledge and technical expertise. Inadequate management and use of knowledge and awareness raising to create an enabling environment for scaling up ecosystem restoration, biodiversity management and sustainable value addition to natural resources.

Business As Usual Scenario Without the Project

13. In the absence of the project, Bobirwa-Tswapong ecosystem will continue to degrade, further weakening its capacity to sustain livelihoods and respond to climate change impacts, including drought; biodiversity loss and land degradation are likely to accelerate; inadequate beneficiation from wildlife and other natural resources will fuel the current intolerance to wildlife and conservation, worsening human wildlife conflicts and poverty, undermining both livelihoods and the potential to generate global environmental benefits. Furthermore, the loss of ecosystem integrity and land degradation will continue to complicate the country's ability to meet its sustainable development goals under changing climate regimes as well as its commitments on SDGs, KMGBF, LDN and NDCs.

Alternative scenario, GEBs and Incremental costs

14. Desired Solution and Project Objective: The objective of this project is to restore the ecosystem integrity of the Bobirwa-Tswapong region to sustain livelihoods, enhance climate resilience, mitigate human-wildlife conflict, and improve biodiversity management. The project takes an integrated landscape management approach, underpinned by NbS to enhance sustainable land management, mitigate effects of drought and enhanced beneficiation from natural resources to restore degraded ecosystems, strengthen natural resource governance and biodiversity management, and promote diversified climate-resilient livelihoods. The total cost of achieving the alternative scenario and delivery of the GEBs is estimated at US$ 38,106,641 consisting of the GEF grant of US$ 7,098,751 and co-finance of US$ 31,007,890. Table 3 presents the incremental cost reasoning.

Table 3: Incremental cost reasoning

Baseline situation	**Alternative practices to be facilitated by project**	**Global benefits**
• Inadequate use of knowledge to plan, institutional capacities and insufficient collaboration among key stakeholders in the landscapes lead to failure to produce landscape level plans that integrate environmental, social, and economic objectives hence no framework for balancing various, often conflicting, demands for land and resources at the landscape level. • Unsustainable land use practices continue, fuelling further degradation of natural resources, further weakening ecosystem's capacity to sustain livelihoods and biodiversity and harmoniously. • The loss of ecosystem integrity further weakens resilience, weakening ability to safeguard biodiversity, livelihoods and economic development under current and future climate change related uncertainties. • Communities continue to be ravaged by food insecurity and low incomes while they own rich,	• Capacities (skills, financial resources and empowered local institutions of resource governance) provided to foster ecosystem restoration. • Integrated land use map produced via a participatory gender responsive process, balancing competing land uses in order to reduce land-use conflicts. • 410,000 ha of the ecosystem under restoration (includes 305,000 ha put under improved management	• 410,000 ha of degraded ecosystem, including degraded agricultural lands under restoration to advance targets on KMGBF LDN and NDCs. • 7,926,073 tCO2e mitigated • 180,000[21]21 people (50% women) benefitting from the GEF investment.

largely intact natural capital, further fuelling the current intolerance to wildlife and conservation, worsening human wildlife conflicts and poverty.	under community OECMs and 105,000 ha of degraded agriculture restored via NbS). • Productivity of grazing and cropping lands enhanced via NbS, increasing resilience of production systems. • Household incomes and wellbeing promoted via nature positive value chains. • Communities engage meaningfully in the rolling out of new and updated polies, legislation and strategies; engendering community ownership and stewardship. • Awareness created, lessons generated and shared to inform national policy discourses, ensuring sustainability, upscaling and/or replication, broadening the GEBs. • Gender and human rights considerations mainstreamed in all plans and activities, ensuring equitable access to project benefits (promotes sustainability of GEBs).	

Key enablers and justification for the choice of the project strategies

15. Despite the challenges, there are significant key enablers that will ensure that the investment achieves transformational outcomes, which also serve as the rationale for selecting the project strategies.

16. Conservation is a key strategy in Botswana's efforts to diversify its economy beyond minerals and ensure long-term economic growth. Indeed, the country has proven - e.g. in the Chobe and Okavango areas - that biodiversity conservation has significant potential, primarily through sustainable ecotourism, which contributes to Gross Domestic Product and economic diversification; and CBNRM, which provides sustainable livelihoods and rural development opportunities. Despite its significant potential for conservation-led development and veld products, there has been limited investments in the Bobiwa-Tswapong landscape to promote these opportunities for development. This is about to change, driven by two recent developments: enactment of the 2025 CBNRM Act creates a new Department of CBNRM under the MET, elevating it from a team of a few people. This will increase national support for CBNRM significantly. Similarly, in its 2026-2029 Environmental, Social, and Governance Strategic Development Plan, SPEDU commits to restore biodiversity, rehabilitate degraded ecosystems, enhance climate resilience, and convert ecological assets into engines of sustainable tourism, carbon market participation, and long-term natural capital growth. It has also committed to unlock Eastern Botswana's tourism potential, by transforming the region from a peripheral, high-cost, low-impact tourism area into a vibrant, diversified, and inclusive destination by facilitating innovate land tenure and mandate inclusive benefit-sharing, support targeted infrastructure and product diversification and foster citizen empowerment and community-led tourism. However, SPEDU is in the process of raising funds and creating partnerships to implement these strategies. The project provides an opportunity for national focus on the Bobirwa-Tswapong region and its ecosystems, thereby utilizing these baseline capacities to deliver transformative outcomes, unlocking the potential to deliver significant global environment benefits from the GEF investment.

17. Large areas of the Bobirwa-landscape are still intact; e.g., by 2015, 64% of Palapye district was characterized as undegraded to low degradation, while 36% scored medium, high and very high degradation[22][22] (Map in Annex 2)[23][23]. This is corroborated by the Land Degradation Neutrality report, which stated that large portions of Botswana showed stable land cover conditions between 1995 and 2024[24][24]. Although the extent of degradation has increased in the target ecosystem since then, rehabilitating degradation hotspots and the use of NbS measures to mitigate effects of droughts will cost-effectively restore ecosystem integrity over large parts of the landscape, increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the GEF investment. The returns on taking action against land degradation was estimated in 2019 at 6 USD for every dollar invested in restoring degraded land in Botswana[25][25], demonstrating strong economic incentive for bold action against land degradation.

18. In Botswana, the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use sector is responsible for 59% of the total greenhouse gas emissions of the country[26][26]. Halting, avoiding and reversing degradation of terrestrial ecosystems is a cost-effective way of securing carbon sinks, with co-benefits to advancing the countries commitments under Multilateral Environmental Agreements and aligned targets (GBF, LDN and NDCs).

19. Collectively, these policy and institutional reform windows present a unique opportunity for the GEF investment to leverage significant returns on global environmental benefits while leap-frogging national development.

Stakeholders and their roles in the system

20. The project operates through an integrated socio-ecological system in which local actors, public institutions, civil society, academia and the private sector perform complementary functions essential for delivering global environmental benefits (GEBs), socio-ecological resilience gains and sustainable livelihood outcomes. Preliminary stakeholder analysis has identified the groups described below. Further in-depth stakeholder mapping will be conducted during the PPG, to identify relevant groups including local institutions of natural resources governance (VDC, CTs), government departments at the national and district levels, Non-Governmental Organisations, including CBOs and the private sector, who will drive the implementation of various outcomes.

21. Local communities (including indigenous peoples) are the main beneficiaries of the project. Village Development Committees and Community Trusts function as the system's primary stewards and managers of natural capital. They co-design and implement integrated landscape plans, manage community conservation areas and OECMs, adopt sustainable land management and restoration measures, and lead nature-based livelihood activities. Their decisions directly determine biodiversity conservation, reversal of land degradation, mitigation of droughts, and climate resilience, reinforced by feedback from improved incomes, reduced human–wildlife conflict, and enhanced ecosystem services.

22. The Bobirwa–Tswapong landscape is home to multiple ethnic groups, some of which could meet the criteria for Standard 6 (Indigenous peoples). As is the case with many African countries, the Government of Botswana does not formally recognise the term "Indigenous Peoples," maintaining that all citizens are indigenous. Instead, government policy frameworks—including the Remote Area Development Programme (RADP), the Affirmative Action Framework (AAF), and the Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Policy—refer to "remote area communities," recognizing them as geographically isolated and socio-economically marginalized groups requiring targeted support and inclusion measures.

23. Within this context, a detailed stakeholder analysis will be conducted during the PPG, including the identification of vulnerable/marginalized groups and indigenous communities. Additionally, an expanded Process Framework will be developed for the overall integrated land-use plan under Output 1.1.2 during the PPG phase following Standard 5 guidelines. This framework will establish the procedures/mechanism through which potentially affected communities will be engaged to assess the extent of resource use in the designated areas, the extent of impacts on livelihoods and to co-design appropriate mitigation measures. This approach will address the risk of economic displacement as a result of the creation of the OECMs (Outputs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2) and/or the implementation of improved rangeland management and agricultural practices under Outputs 2.2.1 and 2.2.2. This framework will include a mechanism for conflict resolution and an M&E system.

24. **Government institutions**, led by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism with district and technical departments, provide system stabilization and rule-setting, embedding project innovations into national policies, regulatory frameworks and planning systems (CBNRM, land-use planning and HWC). This ensures durability, scalability, and replication of outcomes beyond the project's lifecycle.

25. **Civil society and community-based organizations** act as connectors and safeguards, strengthening governance quality, inclusion, gender equity and accountability, thereby reducing social risks and enhancing adaptive capacity.

26. Private sector actors, coordinated through SPEDU and strategic partnerships, serve as value-creation and financing nodes, translating restored ecosystems into viable ecotourism, veld-product value chains and insurance pilots critical for sustaining restoration and conservation outcomes through market feedback.

27. Academic and research institutions provide learning and adaptive intelligence, supporting monitoring, evidence-based decision-making, and knowledge transfer to national systems.

28. Together, these interacting actors create self-reinforcing feedback loops—where ecosystem restoration enables livelihoods, livelihoods incentivize stewardship, institutions stabilize incentives and markets sustain financing—ensuring that biodiversity, land restoration and climate adaptation benefits are sustained well beyond the GEF investment period.

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[1] Covering all of Bobirwa district, about 80% of Palapye and about 15% of Mahalapye districts, including Tswapong hills

[2] Tswapong Hills Cultural Landscape - UNESCO World Heritage Centre. The Tswapong Cultural Landscape fulfils criteria (v) and (vi) for cultural sites: (v) be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change. (vi) be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal value.

[3] BirdLife DataZone; The Hills were designated in 1998 due to their significant support for breeding populations of vulnerable bird species, particularly the Cape vulture.

[4] Other animals include leopard, kudu, rock hyrax, baboon, crested porcupine, brown hyenas, small bovids, fish, crabs and over 345 butterfly species.

[5] https://www.mdpi.com/2073-445X/11/11/2057#B14-land-11-02057

[6] Self-reinforcing cycles where the output of a process amplifies the original change, leading to accelerated and potentially irreversible environmental damage.

[7] According to the 2019 Annual Agriculture Review, Central Serowe/Palapye had the highest cattle population countrywide, hosting 10.5 percent of the total cattle population.

[8] https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/botswana/climate-data-historical

[9] Includes increases of 1.5–2.5°C by the 2050s under medium-to-high emissions scenarios (RCP4.5 to RCP8.5), with mean monthly changes around 2.5°C in high-emission cases.

[10] https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/botswana/climate-data-historical

[11] Ephias Mugari, Hillary Masundire and Maitseo Bolaane 2020:Effects of Droughts on Vegetation Condition and Ecosystem Service Delivery in Data-Poor Areas: A Case of Bobirwa Sub-District, Limpopo Basin and Botswana

[12] Consistent Changes in Land-Use/Land-Cover in Semi-Arid Areas: Implications on Ecosystem Service Delivery and Adaptation in the Limpopo Basin, Botswana

[13]Filicia O. Akinyemi, Gofamodimo Mashame, 2018. Analysis of land change in the dryland agricultural landscapes of eastern Botswana. Land Use Policy, Volume 76, 2018. Pages 798-811. ISSN 0264-8377. Analysis of land change in the dryland agricultural landscapes of eastern Botswana - ScienceDirect

[14] Ephias Mugari, Hillary Masundire and Maitseo Bolaane 2020:Effects of Droughts on Vegetation Condition and Ecosystem Service Delivery in Data-Poor Areas: A Case of Bobirwa Sub-District, Limpopo Basin and Botswana

[15] Country-wide, the country registered 22% increase in HWC incidents between 2015 and 2019 with elephant related conflicts being the highest at 33% of all conflicts recorded over the period (National Human Wildlife Conflict Strategy and Action Plan for Botswana, 2025-2030).

[16] Covering all of Bobirwa district, about 80% of Palapye and about 15% of Mahalapye districts, including Tswapong hills

[17] Source: Government of Botswana, 2022: 2022 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS PRELIMINARY RESULTS V2. 2022 Population and Housing Census Preliminary Results.pdf

[18] https://www.spedu.co.bw/spedu-origins/

[19] Government of Botswana, 2022: National Environmental Fund; FUNDING GUIDELINES, SEPTEMBER 2022 VERSION.

[20] Supported by UNDP's Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net), with technical leadership of UNEP-WCMC. https://www.besnet.world/national-ecosystem-assessment/

[21] 80,000 direct, 100,000 indirect

[22] Filicia O. Akinyemi, Gofamodimo Mashame, 2018. Analysis of land change in the dryland agricultural landscapes of eastern Botswana. Land Use Policy, Volume 76, 2018. Pages 798-811. ISSN 0264-8377. Analysis of land change in the dryland agricultural landscapes of eastern Botswana - ScienceDirect

[23] Akinyemi, F. O., Tlhalerwa, L. T., & Eze, P. N. (2021). Land degradation assessment in an African dryland context based on the Composite Land Degradation Index and mapping method. *Geocarto International*, *36*(16), 1838–1854. https://doi.org/10.1080/10106049.2019.1678673

[24] Government of Botswana: Land Degradation Neutrality Report.

[25] Favretto N., Stringer L.C., Dougill A.J., Perkins J.S., Akanyang L., Dallimer M., Atlhopheng J.R., Mulale K., 2019: ELD Case Study of Botswana's Kalahari - Assessing the socio-economic and environmental dimensions of land degradation. Botswana - ELD Initiative

[26] UNCCD, 2019; Investing in Land Degradation Neutrality: Making the Case and Indicators. Botswana_3.pdf

[27] Although the country does not yet recognize indigenous peoples as defined by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and International Labour Organization criteria, there are San communities (Basarwa) living in the three target districts, who maintain hunter-gatherer heritage despite government's official non-recognition. Since January 2026, the (new) government is taking action to ratify the ILO Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_norm/@normes/documents/publication/wcms_717509.pdf

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

Project Description

29. The theory of change (TOC - Fig. 1) recognizes that a healthy and highly functional ecosystem can effectively sustain biodiversity and profitable yet sustainable natural resources-based revenue streams to fuel local economic development, which, in turn, promotes co-existence with wildlife, reducing human-wildlife conflicts with co-benefits to mitigation and resilience. Complemented by the use of NbS to mitigate effects of drought, the integrated landscape approach, built on the principles of participation, negotiation, and cooperation, presents an innovative approach to natural resources management in the landscape, that will empower communities to negotiate the various competing needs for development on the landscape, thereby reducing land use conflicts while avoiding, halting and reversing degradation of natural resources. The project will therefore put in place, in a gender responsive and inclusive manner, foundational conditions (technical skills, information and empowered local natural resources governance institutions) to empower stakeholders, including communities, to use ILM and NbS to tackle environmental degradation in the landscape, advancing the countries commitments to KMGBF, LDN, NDC and SDG targets.

30. The project strategy will be delivered via five inter-related outcomes: (1.1) Strengthened institutional and local community capacities for design and implementation of ecosystem restoration interventions, use of NbS to tackle impacts of drought and nature-positive local economic development; (2.1) Grasslands and woodlands (wildlife habitats) restored via community-based management to enhance socio-ecological resilience; (2.2) Degraded agricultural land restored via NbS and SLM to mitigate effects of drought, improve productivity and the flow of agro-ecosystem services; (3) Sustainable value addition to natural resources facilitates livelihood diversification, reduces lower human wildlife conflicts and enhances ecosystem integrity; and (4): KM and M&E systems, learning and stakeholder awareness create an enabling environment for scaling up project outcomes and informing national policy discourses. Project implementation will be guided by a stakeholder participation plan, a gender strategy, and a social and environmental risk management plan, which will be formulated during the PPG.

Outcome 1.1: Strengthened institutional and local community capacities for design and implementation of ecosystem restoration interventions, use of NbS to tackle impacts of drought and nature-positive local economic development

31. To be effective, efficient and sustainable, ecosystem management and restoration requires knowledge-based, climate smart catchment/ecosystems level planning, to identify broad land use categories (conservation areas and wildlife corridors, agriculture lands, grazing lands, etc.), identify degradation hotspots, the cost effective management and restoration technologies, determine the right levels of intervention (household or ecosystem/landscape), identify potential and actual trade-offs and potential leakage

points: supported by empowered and inclusive natural resources governance institutions to support implementation of intervention measures, and ensure long-term sustainability of project outcomes. Under this outcome, the project will provide technical capacities for all stakeholders to enable a knowledge-informed participatory and gender responsive planning process and deliver plans to be implemented under component 2.

Output 1.1.1: Skills developed for ILM and NbS: stakeholders from government, communities, civil society, academia, and the private sector trained on ILM and NbS, in inclusive gender responsive processes

The project will assess, in a gender responsive and inclusive manner, skills of key stakeholder groups (existing village development committees (VDCs), community trusts (CTs), communities, technical staff of relevant ministries and local government institutions, civil society groups, existing academia and private sector) related to: (i) planning, implementation, monitoring, learning and disseminating lessons for integrated approach to ecosystem restoration. It will design a training program to respond to the identified gaps, including production of protocols to guide implementation of various interventions. The choice of the most effective means of training and empowerment of communities will be informed by lessons generated by other relevant current and past projects and validated through stakeholder consultations during PPG and implementation.

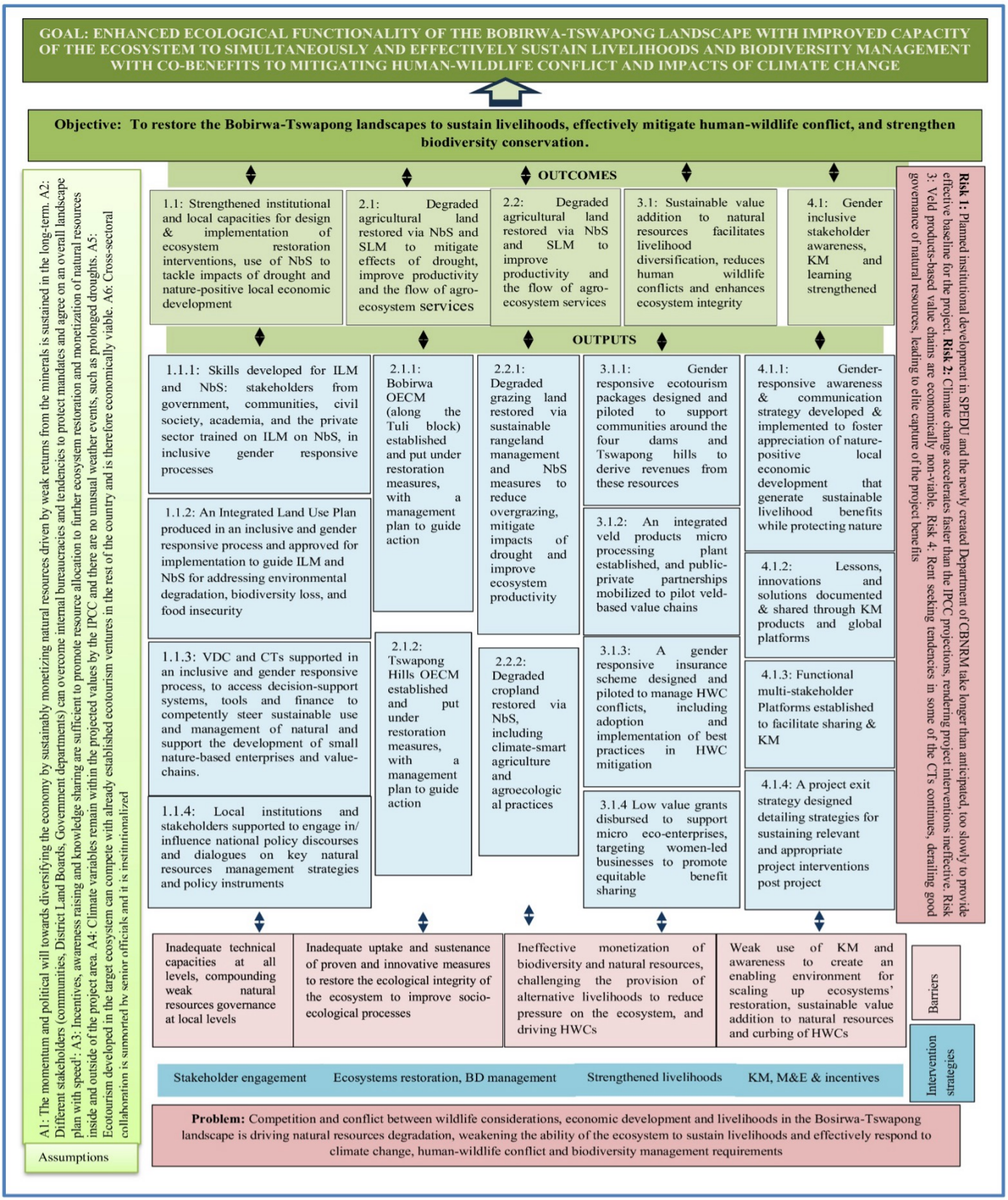

Figure **1: Theory of change**

Output 1.1.2: An Integrated Land Use Plan produced in an inclusive and gender responsive process and approved for implementation to guide ILM and NbS for

addressing environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, drought and food insecurity

32. The project will facilitate stakeholders to update the land cover/land use maps developed by the Botswana International University of Science and Technology and the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources for Bobirwa, Palapye and Mahalapye (Annexes C2)[1][27] to provide information as the basis for identifying ecosystem degradation hotspots and broad land use categories, particularly areas suitable for biodiversity protection (community managed protected areas under OECMs), wildlife corridors, areas suitable for ecotourism development, community grazing lands and agricultural (cropping) areas – that provide the best options for protecting biodiversity, sustainably using and managing resources and restoring degraded parts of the ecosystem, cost-effectively, efficiently, and based on negotiated consensus and collaboration with all stakeholder groups. Community institutions - VDCs, the CTs and the Land Boards – will be engaged in the planning process to ensure inclusive, gender responsive community participation and buy-in of the process and its outcomes[2][28]. Although this land use plan will be aligned with the District Land Boards plans, where relevant and appropriate, it will not be subjected to formal approval processes, once the relevant village development committees and the community trusts agree to abide with the general guidelines, supported by the district-level TACs. The plan will also identify degradation hotspots to inform the ecosystem restoration interventions under outcomes 2.1 and 2.2.

Output 1.1.3: Village Development Committees and Community Trusts supported to access decision-support systems, tools and finance to competently steer sustainable use and management of natural resources in an inclusive, gender responsive manner and support the development of small nature-based enterprises and value-chains

33. The project will facilitate a participatory and gender inclusive process to assess existing capacities for CBNRM as the basis for ecosystems restoration and sustainable value chains, identifying challenges and opportunities for empowering the current CBNRM institutions (VDCs, CTs, TACs) and supporting CSOs, private sector and academia and relevant governance institutions. It will identify pathways to enhance local level governance of these natural resources. Actual capacity building interventions will be identified during the PPG but are likely to include establishment of systems, structures, policy frameworks, and processes for CBNRM. The capacity strengthening processes will be driven by the core principles of inclusion (leave no one behind), social justice, civic participation, transparency and accountability, innovation, gender equality, human rights, rule of law, and sustainable peace for improved access and service provision.

Output 1.1.4: Local institutions and stakeholders supported to engage in and influence national policy discourses and dialogues on key natural resources management strategies and policy instruments through an inclusive and gender-responsive multistakeholder platform bringing together government, communities, VDCs, CTs, TACs, CSOs, private sector and academia

34. The country is rolling out several key strategies, including the CBNRM Act (2025), the Forest and Range Resources Act (2025), National Human Wildlife Conflict Strategy and Action Plan (2025-2030), the National Tourism Plan (2022) and the National Ecosystems Assessment process. In addition, the Tourism and Botswana Tourism Organisation Acts are being reformed to create a more conducive environment for investment and growth of the tourism sector. These strategies/policies/legislations support a conservation-based development approach designed to improve community livelihoods by enabling direct benefits from sustainable use of natural resources, facilitated by the local institutions (VDCs, CTs, TACs). The local institutions in the Bobirwa-Tswapong region are amongst the weakest in the country, potentially weakening community contribution to the on-going discourse on the roll out of Bills and National strategies. The project will support the establishment and/or strengthening of existing multistakeholder platforms to collectively engage communities in the dialogues and discourse of these and any other relevant policies and strategies that may emerge during the project implementation process. The form of the multistakeholder platform will be discussed during the PPG and described in the project document.

Outcome 2.1: Grasslands and woodlands (wildlife habitats) restored via community-based management to enhance socio-ecological resilience

35. This outcome will be achieved through the implementation of the integrated land use plan developed under output 1.1.2 to enable successful and effective ecosystems restoration as cornerstones of a nature-based economy and socio-ecological resilience in a changing climate. The project will facilitate formal establishment and recognition of OECMs under community conservation areas and the simultaneous restoration of degradation hotspots via NbS and hybrid measure. This will advance the achievement of the country's commitment to KMGBF, NDC and LDN targets. Implementation of the interventions under this outcome will be informed by lessons and best practices from a wide range of projects (Annex K).

Outputs 2.1:1 and 2.1.2: Bobirwa OECM (along the Tuli Block) established and put under restoration measures, with a management plan to guide action (2.1.1); Tswapong Hills OECM established and put under restoration measures, with a management plan to guide action (2.1.2)

36. Building on the planning work done under output 1.1.2, the stakeholders will be facilitated to identify and map potential areas for wildlife conservation, including potential wildlife corridors in Bobirwa (along the Tuli Block) and biodiversity

conservation and cultural heritage sites on the Tswapong Hills and surrounding areas. The establishment of OECMs will be guided by the IUCN Guidelines on OECMs[3][29] ensuring Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) so all voices are heard. As explained under output 1.1.2, the community institutions (VDCs, VTs and the Land Boards) will be engaged in the refinement of these plans, ensuring an inclusive, gender responsive process underpinned by FPIC processes where relevant[4][30]. In parallel with the OECM process, the project will restore degradation hotspots within the OECM, prioritized via the land use plan (output 1.1.2). Activities will include revegetation via assisted natural regeneration of native drought-tolerant tree and shrub species to stabilize soils and increase ground cover and construction of soil and water conservation structures. They may also include the creation of ecological corridors to reconnect fragmented habitats and support species movement. Grassland restoration will be promoted through reseeding with indigenous grasses to combat erosion and improve habitat for wildlife. Community-led initiatives will establish fire management practices using controlled burns and firebreaks to reduce the risk of uncontrolled wildfires.

Outcome 2.2. Degraded agricultural land restored via NbS and SLM to mitigate effects of drought, improve productivity and the flow of agro-ecosystem services

37. Interventions under this outcome will restore agricultural via NbS and SLM combat impacts of drought on land productivity and to halt, reverse and avoid further degradation in production landscapes, specifically rangelands and croplands, thereby securing agro-ecosystem provisioning services, strengthening socio-ecological resilience, including food security.

Output 2.2.1 and 2.2.2: Degraded grazing land restored via sustainable rangeland management and NbS measures to reduce overgrazing, mitigate impacts of drought and improve ecosystem productivity (100,000 ha) (Output 2.2.1) and degraded cropland restored via NbS, including climate-smart agriculture and agroecological practices (Output 2.2.2) – 5,000 ha.

38. Under outputs 2.2.1 and 2.2.2, the project will facilitate the restoration of degraded community grazing and cropping areas, by treating degradation hotspots identified under output 1.1.2, to simultaneously improve productivity and mitigate climate risks such as droughts and floods, using NbS and hybrid measures, as appropriate and relevant. For rangelands, this will include the use of soil and water conservation measures such as check dams, terraces, soil bunds, grass strips, agroforestry, enrichment planting (grasses, trees), etc., and other water harvesting technologies. Climate-smart farming practices and technologies will be promoted to transition towards nature-positive and regenerative agricultural practices. To be further outlined during the PPG and planning under outcome 1.1, selection of NbS, CSA and agroecological practices will be based on their potential to improve soil fertility, soil resilience and health, water use efficiency, increasing productivity, enhancing resilience to climate impacts, carbon

sequestration, promoting biodiversity and agrobiodiversity, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and degradation of soil and water resources[5][31].

Outcome 3.1: Sustainable value addition to natural resources facilitates livelihood diversification, reduces human wildlife conflicts and enhances ecosystem integrity

39. This outcome will build on the work programme under SPEDUs 2026-2029 Environmental, Social, and Governance Strategic Development Plan[6][32], which intends to rehabilitate degraded ecosystems, restore biodiversity, enhance climate resilience, convert ecological assets into engines of sustainable tourism and roll out insurance schemes to offset losses associated with human wildlife conflicts. SPEDU will be the Responsible Party for the outcome and will provide baseline funding (via cash-cofinance of US$ 2,250,000) and sustainability of the interventions post GEF project[7][33]. Confirmation of SPEDU's willingness, co-finance and ability to take on this role is in Annex G. Furthermore, the Tuli Block (bordering Bobirwa district) is running highly profitable tourism businesses[8][34]. They are members of the Bobirwa Community Trust and have expressed willingness to support the development of eco-tourism along the four dams and the restoration of the Bobirwa OECM[9][35].

3.1.1: Ecotourism packages developed and implemented in a gender responsive process to support communities around Tswapong hills and the four dams to derive economic returns from the dams and the surrounding natural resources

40. The Bobirwa Tswapong landscape has high potential for eco-tourism around the four large dams (Letsibogo, Thune, Lotsane and Dikgatlhong), the Tswapong Hills Cultural Landscape (Box 1)) and the wildlife rich areas along the Tuli block in Bobonong. Building on the planning undertaken under output 1.1.2, the project will facilitate the communities to establish ecotourism businesses. This will involve: (i) in-depth consultations with the relevant villages to ensure that they fully understand and embrace the role of ecotourism in conservation of natural resources, socio-economic development, cultural preservation, environmental education, and income generating ventures[10][36]. (ii) Confirming and mapping suitable ecotourism sites/destinations within the relevant localities ensuring inclusive, gender responsive and applying FPIC processes where relevant; (iii) Developing concepts and business plans, including for ecotourism activities, integrating sustainability principles; (iv) Securing permits; (v) Identifying and operationalizing partnerships with the private sector to pilot the businesses, where

possible and applicable (cofinance) and (vi) Construction of any required facilities and infrastructure to support ecotourism (cofinance).

Box 1: Tswapong Cultural Landscape and the Dams

Four Dams: The **Letsibogo Dam** is on the Motloutse River in Mmadinare village in Palapye, with a storage capacity of 100,000,000 cubic metres; Thune dam is on the Thune river, near the village of Bobonong, with a planned capacity of 90,000,000 cubic metres; **Lotsane Dam** is on the Lotsane River, in Maunatlala village in the Tswapong Hills area, with a storage capacity of 40,000,000 cubic metres; Dikgatlhong Dam is on the Shashe River, near the village of Robelela, with total storage capacity of 400,000,000 cubic metres.

Tswapong Hills Cultural Landscape: According to UNESCO[11][37]: the Tswapong Hills cover an area of about 105,000 ha (1,050 km^2 - stretching over 70km and an average width of 15km) and rise 400m above their surroundings. The rocks of Tswapong Hills were formed 1800 million years ago within a major sedimentary basin. The Cultural Landscape presents a unique, rare heritage resource with fascinating natural scenic beauty with numerous waterfalls and picturesque cliffs along the hill escarpment. The area hosts vast archaeological material including rock paintings, iron smelting sites and cultural practices particularly the intangible heritage of Moremi village. The Hills are regarded as sacred by the Batswapong/ Bapedi people living in the villages around the hills. Despite its potential for tourism development, only a small area surrounding the Moremi Gorge is being exploited for eco-tourism, co-managed by the Moremi-Mannonye Conservation Trust and Botswana Tourism Organisation.

3.1.2: An integrated veld products micro-processing plant established and operationalized to promote value chains based on veld products

41. The Bobirwa-Tswapong landscape is rich in veld products such as medicines, craft materials, tannins, gums, resins, dyes, essential oils, florist materials, ornamental plants, insects (e.g. mopane worms), horns, hides, skins and many other renewable natural resources. Communities exploit many of the veld products largely for own household consumption, with limited processing for the market[12][38]. The project will lay the foundation for sustainable value addition to veld products and assess the potential and feasibility of establishing an integrated veld products micro-processing plant (through cofinance), including its financial viability, in close consultation and collaboration with the relevant sectors of government, including the Local Enterprise Authority[13][39], as well

as the Botswana Innovation Hub[14][40]. The project will collaborate with the relevant local and national partners to (i) undertake a feasibility study to assess the economic viability of the integrated veld value chains (understand markets and their preferences, establish viable products, quantities and seasonality, provide cost estimates for the plant, assess and quantify the needs for raw materials, processing equipment, labour, and potential profits). (ii) Determine location(s) of the plant(s) and collection centres (if found feasible) and assess the requirements for obtaining land and permits; (iii) construct and equip the processing center (co-finance). (iv) Identify potential partnerships with the private sector and financing institutions for mobilization of blended finance, including government grants (e.g., from the National Environment Fund) and private investors for development of such an operation (cofinance)[15][41]. The project will leverage on experiences and lessons learned from the Botswana GEF-6 project on Managing the human-wildlife interface to sustain the flow of agro-ecosystem services and prevent illegal wildlife trafficking in the Kgalagadi and Ghanzi Drylands (PIMS 5590; GEF ID 9154) in developing veld products related value chains.

3.1.3: An insurance scheme piloted in a gender responsive process to manage human wildlife conflicts, including adoption and implementation of best practices in HWC mitigation

42. In line with the provisions of the National Human-Wildlife Conflict Strategy and Action Plan (2025-2030) the project will support the design and piloting of an insurance-style scheme that compensates eligible community members for specified losses caused by wildlife (e.g. human injury/death, livestock predation, crop damage, damage to critical infrastructure such as water points or fences) while creating incentives for adoption of agreed human–wildlife conflict (HWC) prevention measures. The mechanism will build on and complement Botswana's existing national HWC compensation framework, addressing current gaps in timeliness, predictability, targeting and prevention incentives. The project will also develop operational guidelines and standard operating procedures, using established protocols such as the IIED Guide[16][42]. It will therefore (i) Facilitate a feasibility study to clarify private insurance opportunities and challenges. (ii) Facilitate partnerships with the private sector for piloting of the insurance scheme. (iii) Design insurance products and market structure, working in sustainability strategies; (iv) Document and share the models and lessons nationally to enable national roll out of the insurance scheme (cofinance). GEF will finance the design of the insurance scheme, but the actual implementation is likely to be outsourced to the private sector (by SPEDU). Domestic funding for the premiums could be sourced from a blend of national and local sources, to be investigated during the design of the scheme. Likely sources at the national level include protected-area fees and concession rentals, the National Environmental Fund, the tourism levy earmarked for conservation, and the

existing central-budget line for HWC. Locally, Community Trusts could channel revenues from wildlife concessions into the scheme. In addition, the project will design and implement HWC mitigation techniques, such as use of cutting-edge technologies for HWC prevention, fences, barriers, and early warning systems, working with the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, local authorities and community-based organizations on conflict resolution techniques and collaboration mechanisms to rapidly and effectively tackle HWC incidents.

43. The design of the insurance scheme will draw on lessons from around the world, including (a) Government of Kenya HWC Insurance Scheme, piloted with private insurers and technical partner, formally approved by the Insurance Regulatory Authority in 2021 and piloted in six high-conflict counties from 2022. (b) Livelihoods Insurance from Elephants (LIFE)" – IIED-led Darwin Initiative project testing insurance for crop and property damage by elephants in Kenya and Sri Lanka. (c) Compensation/relief scheme around Chitwan National Park, implemented under Nepal's Wildlife Damage Relief Guidelines 2009.

3.1.4: Low value grants disbursed to community groups (women, youth) to facilitate their engagement with sustainable value addition to natural resources

44. The project will set aside US$ 250,000[17][43] to be disbursed as low value grants to facilitate meaningful community engagement of special groups – women, youth, marginalized groups – in eco-friendly community projects, such as participation in trading on veld products, establishment of ecotourism facilities, etc. The guidelines for the grants will be developed during PPG, and will spell out the overall objective, types of projects to be funded, criteria for selecting projects and beneficiaries, terms of accessing the funds and all other relevant details to manage the fund effectively.

Outcome 4.1: Gender inclusive stakeholder awareness, KM and learning strengthened to promote replication and upscaling of successful practices and innovations and inform relevant national policy discourses and decisions

45. This outcome will ensure that project impacts and lessons are documented and shared to inspire, inform and guide replication and scaling beyond the project lifespan and spatial reach, by informing policy discourses at local, sub-national and national levels. It will raise awareness and support advocacy for financing and replication of sustainable practices through systematic documentation and codification of knowledge and policy-relevant messages on key topics and issues arising from project implementation.

4.1.1: Gender-responsive communication strategy developed and implemented to raise awareness and foster appreciation of nature-positive local economic development approaches that generate sustainable livelihood benefits while protecting nature

46. The project will develop and implement a gender-responsive awareness, communication, and advocacy strategy to enhance knowledge and appreciation of healthy ecosystems and their critical role in sustaining livelihoods and strengthening socio-ecological resilience to climate change and other shocks. The strategy will be grounded in a participatory gender and social inclusion of communication needs assessment and stakeholder segmentation to ensure tailored, context-specific messaging. Clear, measurable communication objectives will be defined in alignment with the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, ensuring targeted and culturally appropriate messaging. Communication materials and recommendations will draw on lessons generated under Output 4.1.2 to support adaptive learning and scaling of impact.

Output 4.1.2: Lessons, innovations and solutions from the project documented and shared through knowledge products and global platforms such as PANORAMA and WOCAT to promote learning, uptake in the project areas and beyond

47. The project will set up and use systems for knowledge management (further details on KM are provided under Section on "Knowledge Management"). KM products are likely to include documented best practices, lessons learned, tools, methods, policies, strategies, and capacity-building resources. A dedicated interactive web portal will be established as a tool for information sharing and storage of important information derived during project implementation, including data, models, documentation, reports of policy dialogues. Stakeholders will be facilitated to participate in local, national and regional lesson-sharing events convened by related projects and programmes. Knowledge and solutions from the project will be shared globally through platforms such as PANORAMA Solutions For A Healthy Planet, and WOCAT - the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies.

Output 4.1.3: Functional multi-stakeholder Platforms established to facilitate sharing of lessons, reports produced.

48. The project will establish and operationalize functional multi-stakeholder platforms at national and landscape levels to strengthen coordination, learning, and adaptive management. A comprehensive stakeholder mapping and institutional analysis will inform the development of Terms of Reference, governance structures, and inclusive participation mechanisms, ensuring representation of government institutions, civil society, women, youth, academia, and private sector actors. The platforms will be formally launched and anchored within existing national and regional coordination mechanisms to enhance sustainability. Regular dialogue meetings, cross-district exchanges, and thematic working groups will facilitate joint planning, harmonization of approaches, and conflict-sensitive collaboration. Standardized templates and digital knowledge-sharing tools will support production of annual synthesis reports, policy briefs, and technical guidance notes. Monitoring indicators will track participation, decisions implemented, and policy uptake, ensuring that the platforms function effectively as mechanisms for learning, accountability, and scaling of successful interventions.

4.1.4: A project exit strategy designed detailing strategies for sustaining relevant and appropriate project interventions post project

49. The project will design an exit strategy (cofinance) to ensure sustainability of results post GEF project. The strategy should be ready a year to the project closure to ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities and financing post GEF project.

Stakeholder Roles and Engagement

50. Relevant stakeholders will be engaged throughout project design, implementation and learning to ensure ownership, sustainability and enduring global environmental benefits and resilience.

51. Local communities, including Indigenous Peoples across the Bobirwa–Tswapong landscape, are the primary beneficiaries and central actors in implementation. They will participate in project planning during the PPG phase and lead on-the-ground delivery of restoration, conservation, and livelihood activities. A gender-responsive Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Gender Action Plan, based on comprehensive analyses, will guide inclusive design and implementation, prioritizing equitable participation and access to benefits for women, youth and other marginalized groups.

52. Civil society organizations and community-based organizations, including Village Development Committees and Community Trusts, will be strengthened under Outcome 1.1 and serve as executing partners for selected activities. Their roles include community mobilization, governance strengthening, gender mainstreaming, advocacy, and management of low-value grants that support nature-based enterprises and value chains. Specific organizations and roles will be finalized during the PPG based on participatory capacity assessments and consultations.

· The private sector will play a dual role as both beneficiary of capacity development and delivery partner, particularly under Outcome 3.1. SPEDU will spearhead partnerships to develop ecotourism, veld-product value chains and other nature-based enterprises, working with other key government entities, including the Local Enterprise Authority (LEA) and Botswana Innovation Hub (BIH) as relevant, as well as community institutions, and local private sector actors to be identified during the PPG.

· Government institutions, led by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism as Executing Entity, together with district and national line ministries, will provide policy oversight, technical guidance, implementation support and co-financing. These institutions are critical for institutionalizing project approaches, ensuring sustainability, and enabling scaling and replication beyond the project period. They will also play a key role in facilitating access to key government institutions and parastatals (including LEA,

BIH) and the knowledge and technical support they can provide, including training, technology and financial support for project supported innovations.

- Academic and research institutions, including the Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) and the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) and others such as the National Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NARDI) will contribute baseline knowledge, applied research, monitoring and long-term learning, updating ecosystem assessments and supporting evidence-based restoration and management, and collaborating with project-supported platforms to engage the communities in the project area on various key themes and topics of interest, further strengthening the evidence base for public policy discourse and informed decision-making at all resource use and management levels.

53. A Project Management Unit under MET, supported by a multi-stakeholder Project Steering Committee, will ensure coordinated implementation, accountability and strategic oversight. A draft Project Governance structure is provided in Annex H, to be confirmed during PPG. Under the National Implementation Modality, funds will be administered by UNDP and transferred to the MET based on approved Annual Work Plans and budgets. Funds will be released in tranches in line with UNDP financial management and assurance procedures, and expenditures be reported through standard agreed financial reporting mechanisms, subject to UNDP oversight. If Responsible Parties are included in the design, these will be contracted by MET and receive their funding directly from MET based on workplans and budgets.

Knowledge Management and Learning

54. The project will generate knowledge through baseline assessments and situational analyses, participatory integrated landscape planning, implementation of ecosystem restoration and biodiversity management measures, and piloting of climate-resilient livelihood and innovative financing mechanisms. Evidence will be drawn from monitoring ecological, climate, and socio-economic outcomes and applied through adaptive management. Knowledge will be systematically managed using standardized data collection tools, geospatial mapping, sex-disaggregated indicators, technical guidelines and documented good practices, stored in a centralized digital repository linked to national and UNDP knowledge platforms and other global partner-managed platforms such as PANORAMA Solutions for a Healthy Planet and WOCAT, to ensure long-term accessibility and wider dissemination. Knowledge exchange will be facilitated through multi-stakeholder platforms at community, district and national levels, including learning forums, policy dialogues and practitioner exchanges, enabling feedback between science, policy and practice, applying inclusive methodologies such the UNDP BES-Net Trialogue methodology. Lessons learned will be captured through annual learning reviews, Mid-Term Review and Terminal Evaluation, and synthesized into policy briefs, operational guidelines and replication toolkits to inform future projects and support scaling beyond the project landscape.

55. A KM plan will be developed to serve two purposes: i) localizing and availing knowledge, technologies and tools on ecosystems rehabilitation, biodiversity management and sustainable value addition to natural resources already proven elsewhere to stakeholders in Botswana and the project areas; and (ii) to share project generated lessons with relevant stakeholders inside and outside of the country. Recognizing the potency of collaboration between academia and practitioners in delivering applied research with greater applicability for real-world implementation, the project will partner with relevant and appropriate institutions of higher learning, research institutions, professionals and community organizations to design a series of questions/theories for investigation via research. These researchers will use participatory learning processes, ensuring gender and youth responsive and inclusive learning processes. KM products that will be produced and disseminated have been discussed under output 4.1.2.

Contribution to policy coherence

56. The project will strengthen policy coherence by translating integrated landscape management and community-based conservation approaches into practice and feeding implementation evidence back into national policy processes. By operationalizing key national frameworks, including the CBNRM Act, National Human–Wildlife Conflict Strategy and Action Plan for Botswana (2025-2030), land-use planning instruments, biodiversity, climate and Land Degradation Neutrality targets, the project will identify gaps, overlaps and misalignments across biodiversity, land, climate, agriculture and tourism policies. Evidence generated from ecosystem restoration, OECMs, climate-smart land management, nature-based livelihood and insurance pilots will inform policy refinement, implementation guidelines and harmonized operational standards across sectors and levels of government. Structured multi-stakeholder policy dialogues will enable communities, district councils and technical ministries to jointly assess trade-offs and align incentives for nature-positive economic development. This process will shed light on misaligned incentives (e.g. incentives provided through the Tribal Grazing Land and the Agriculture Policies often undermine biodiversity conservation objectives by prioritizing commercial beef production over wildlife habitats, reducing incentives for CBNRM, and leading to conflicts between commercial farmers and community groups). By embedding project tools, planning approaches and monitoring indicators within government systems, the project will enhance vertical (local–district–national) and horizontal (cross-sectoral) policy alignment, improve coordination of public and private investments, and support durable, coherent policy frameworks that sustain biodiversity conservation, climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods beyond the project period and spatial extent.

Transformation Pathway

57. The project's transformation pathway moves the Bobirwa–Tswapong landscape from fragmented, degradation-driven resource use to a durable, self-reinforcing system of restored ecosystems, resilient livelihoods and coherent governance capable of sustaining global environmental benefits at scale. The pathway begins by establishing enabling conditions through strengthened institutional, technical, and governance capacities at community, district, and national levels. Participatory integrated landscape planning, informed by scientific and local knowledge and aligned with national policies, provides a shared framework for balancing conservation, production and livelihoods, reducing land-use conflicts and aligning incentives across sectors. The project then delivers demonstration and scaling effects by targeting ecological leverage points. Restoration of degraded hotspots, establishment of large-scale community conservation areas under OECMs, and adoption of sustainable land management and nature-based solutions improve ecosystem functionality, connectivity and productivity across extensive grazing and cropping systems. Although interventions are spatially targeted, their impacts extend across much larger landscapes, generating biodiversity, sustainable land management and climate resilience benefits at scale. In parallel, the project drives economic and behavioural transformation by linking restored ecosystems to tangible livelihood benefits. Ecotourism, veld-product value chains and insurance mechanisms. These incentives shift behavior away from short-term extraction toward long-term stewardship, reinforcing conservation and restoration outcomes. Durability and replication are secured by embedding project tools, governance models, monitoring systems and lessons within national frameworks, including CBNRM, land-use planning and human–wildlife conflict management, and by mobilizing private sector and biodiversity finance. Continuous learning and knowledge exchange further support scaling beyond the project area and lifespan.

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[1] **Ephias Mugari, Hillary Masundire and Maitseo Bolaane 2020:Effects of Droughts on Vegetation Condition and Ecosystem Service Delivery in Data-Poor Areas: A Case of Bobirwa Sub-District, Limpopo Basin and Botswana; Consistent Changes in Land-Use/Land-Cover in Semi-Arid Areas: Implications on Ecosystem Service Delivery and Adaptation in the Limpopo Basin, Botswana; Filicia O. Akinyemi, Gofamodimo Mashame, 2018. Analysis of land change in the dryland agricultural landscapes of eastern Botswana. Land Use Policy, Volume 76, 2018. Pages 798-811. ISSN 0264-8377. Analysis of land change in the dryland agricultural landscapes of eastern Botswana - ScienceDirect**

[2] **The application of these broad land suitability categories (under outcome 2.2) will involve Free, Prior and Informed Consent from the relevant community groups – as described under outputs**

[3] IUCN Guidelines for OECMs | PDF | Conservation Biology | Protected Area

[4] The project will leverage on experiences and lessons learned in establishment of OECMs in other countries particularly in southern Africa such as Kingdom of Eswatini supported under GEF-5 strengthening national protected area system in Swaziland project (PIMS 4932, GEF ID 5065).

[5] The actual construction of the NbS and hybrid structures will be implemented, where relevant and appropriate, through cash for work and community contracting services under strict technical guidelines, to ensure quality and sustainability of the structures, and in line with established social and environmental safeguards standards.

[6] SPEDU https://www.spedu.co.bw

[7] A HACT (Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer) will be conducted to confirm technical, managerial, administrative and financial capacities required for a Responsible Party before formalizing the partnership.

HACT capacity assessment will be conducted during the PPG to confirm capabilities and

[8] Travel Guide to Tuli Block - The Ancient Land

[9] However, other than the decision to engage in these activities made by the Bobirwa Trust (including them), they prefer to issue letters of commitment and co-finance after the PPG consultations

[10] Ensuring inclusive, gender responsive and FPIC informed planning processes

[11] Tswapong Hills Cultural Landscape - UNESCO World Heritage Centre

[12] P. Malope and K.R. Molapisane, 2006. Poverty Reduction Through Alternative Livelihoods in Botswana's Desert Margins. S. Afr. Tydskr. Landbouvoorl./S. Afr. J. Agric. Ext., ISSN 0301-603X

[13] https://www.lea.co.bw/about-us - whose mandate is to promote entrepreneurship and develop the Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises

[14] https://www.bih.co.bw/; mandated to support, including through technical advice, business incubation and financing for among others, commercialisation of alternative medicine and supplementary nutrition products based on local plant and animal material, including cosmetic products

[15] The PPG will conduct initial assessment on the potential financing needs for such an initiative and how the project budget can best unlocking financing from the private

sector and government grants, e.g., from the National Environment Fund, for such an investment.

[16] International Institute for Environment and Development, AB Entheos, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka, Seratu Aatai, Actuarial Partners and Zoological Society of London (2023) Insurance to promote human-wildlife coexistence: A guide for governments, conservationists and insurers. IIED, London.

[17] The amount will be confirmed during PPG

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

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

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

58. To ensure complementarity, avoid duplication and maximize impact, the proposed project will build strategically on a range of ongoing and planned initiatives in Botswana, the SADC region and beyond that address ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation, climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods Annex K presents an analysis of how lessons and best practices from past, current and planned project informed the choice of interventions). The Project Management Unit, under the guidance of the Project Steering Committee, will establish structured mechanisms for coordination, joint learning and resource leveraging, including technical exchanges, harmonized monitoring approaches and shared knowledge platforms, in line with the draft Project Governance Structure in Annex H. Partnerships will be further refined and formalized during the PPG phase.

59. At the national level, the project will directly leverage the Botswana National Ecosystem Assessment (2022–2026)[1][44], which provides an evidence base on the status, trends and economic value of ecosystems and ecosystem services. Findings from this assessment will inform integrated landscape planning, prioritization of degradation hotspots and valuation of restoration and conservation outcomes, strengthening the economic case for sustained public and private investment in ecosystem integrity. It will draw lessons from the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) – Bobirwa Capacity Support Project on community capacity building which focuses on mentoring, monitoring, and supporting local organisations implementing environmental projects. The project will complement and draw lessons from the FAO-GEF Miombo–Mopane Landscapes Project (GEF ID 10255, 2021–2026), which promotes sustainable land and forest management, Land Degradation Neutrality and climate mitigation in north-eastern Botswana. Technical approaches, community engagement models, gender-responsive practices, restoration methodologies and value chains development tested under this initiative will inform design and implementation of restoration and sustainable land management interventions in the Bobirwa–Tswapong ecosystem.

60. Furthermore, alignment with the UNDP-managed Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support Programme (AFRICA 2 – SADC, GEF ID 10947) will ensure coherence with national GBF targets, NBSAP updates, monitoring frameworks and biodiversity finance strategies. The proposed project will serve as an implementation platform to operationalize GBF-aligned targets at landscape level, while feeding lessons back into national policy and reporting processes. The project will also build on UNDP-GEF investments that

promote beneficiation and sustainable use of biodiversity, notably the project on genetic resources, value addition and traditional knowledge protection (GEF ID 11035). It will also be informed by and recently completed projects in Makgadikgadi, Kgalagadi and Ghanzi drylands in Botswana (GEF ID 9154), which demonstrated integrated landscape approaches to biodiversity conservation, livelihoods and human–wildlife conflict management. Lessons on governance, benefit-sharing, community participation and market development will inform the design of sustainable value addition pathways for veld products, ecotourism and other nature-based value chains. Strong complementarities exist with ongoing and planned biodiversity finance initiatives, including BIOFIN and the UNDP-GEF project on mainstreaming biodiversity into Botswana's financial sector (GEF ID 11778). These initiatives provide policy, institutional and financial instruments that will help sustain and scale project outcomes, including mobilization of private finance, development of incentives for nature-based enterprises and integration of biodiversity into financial decision-making.

61. At the regional and global level, the project will benefit from knowledge generated by similar GEF initiatives such as the WWF-managed South Africa Mega Living Landscapes Project (GEF ID 11347), GEF-7 Dryland Sustainable Landscapes Impact Programme' (DSL-IP) (Child project cited in para 56); Enhancing Wildlife Conservation in the Productive Southern Kenya Rangelands through a Landscape Approach' (GEF 4827). It will also benefit from lessons from the Government of Kenya HWC Insurance Scheme, the IIED-led Darwin Initiative on Livelihoods Insurance from implemented in Kenya and Sri Lanka and the compensation/relief scheme of Chitwan National Park, Nepal. Together, these complementarities ensure that the proposed project builds on existing investments, fills critical gaps, accelerates learning and contributes to a coherent, scalable and regionally relevant approach to ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation and climate-resilient development.

[1] Supported by UNDP's Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net), with technical leadership of UNEP-WCMC. https://www.besnet.world/national-ecosystem-assessment/

Core Indicators

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
105000	0	0	0

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Cropland	5,000.00			
Rangeland and pasture	100,000.00			

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

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

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

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

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

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

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
305000	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)

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)
305,000.00			

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)

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)
Bobirwa Community Conservation Area	At CEOR	200,000.00			
Tswapong Community Conservation Areas	At CEOR	105,000.00			

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 CO_2e (direct)	7926073	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (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 CO_2e (direct)	7,926,073			
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (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 CO_2e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

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

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

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

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

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	90,000			
Male	90,000			
Total	**180,000**	**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)

Table 4 Core indicators

Project Core Indicators Expected at PIF

3	Area of land and ecosystems under restoration	
	3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration	105,000
4	Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding PAs)	
	4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported	305,000
6	Carbon (tCO2e) sequestered, or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector	
	6.5 – Direct tCO2e	7,926,073
11	People benefiting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex (count)	180,000 people (50% female)

Explanation of the indicators

60. Core Indicator 3 (Area of land and ecosystems under restoration): The project will place 105,000 ha of degraded communal lands (crops, pasture) under restoration (via SLM and NbS) comprising 100,000 ha of grazing lands and 5,000 ha of croplands (CI 3.1).

63. It will also put 305,000 ha of natural grass and woodlands under sustainable land management. This sustainable land management will take place in newly created community-based conservation areas (OECMs) consisting of 200,000 ha in Bobirwa and 105,000 ha in Tswapong Hills. In this way, these areas could be counted under either CI 4.3 or CI 4.5.

62. GHG emissions effects were calculated with the Ex-Act tool version 9.4. Total GHG emissions reductions over a 20-year period (6 years project + 14 years capitalization) are 7,926,073 t of CO2eq, of which 841,500 t of CO2eq reductions would result from the improved management of 100,000 ha of rangelands and 7,084,573 t of CO2eq reductions would result from the creation of OECMs and their improved management resulting in a reduced degradation level of the shrublands included in these areas.

63. Core Indicator 11 (Beneficiaries): The project will benefit 180,000 people will benefit from GEF financed investments with an aspiration to reach at least 50% women . This represents approximately 30% of the population within the target landscape .

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	The climate of the target areas is characterized by significant variability, with regular and worsening droughts. Rehabilitation of rangelands, wildlife habitats and agriculture, even CSA, can be affected negatively affected by prolonged and intense droughts, negatively affecting the achievement of results. Mitigation: Project activities sensitive to weather conditions will be carefully scheduled taking into account weather forecast. Furthermore, the project will seek to use crop, trees, grasses and shrubs that are resistant to drought, pests and adapted to the environment/area. Technical drawings for drought infrastructure (e.g. check dams) will be, to the greatest extent possible, based on climate scenarios. The use of NbS and CSA are themselves a mitigating factor on this risk. Nevertheless, a climate risk/vulnerability assessment applying, as a minimum, the STAP Guidance on Climate Risk Assessment . will be undertaken during PPG. The results of the climate risk/vulnerability assessment will inform the design of project activities vulnerable to climate change. Specific mitigation measures as required will be

		integrated in the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), to be developed also during PPG.
Environmental and Social	Moderate	Environmental risks: Ecological Risks from Restoration Activities: Ecosystem restoration, such as the removal of invasive alien plant species (IAPS), construction of check dams, terraces and other soil and water conservation measures may inadvertently lead to habitat disturbances or unintended ecological consequences if not carefully managed and monitored. Social risks: Stakeholder Conflict over Resource Use and Gender and Social Inclusion Risks, displacement and livelihood disruption, and Health and safety risks. Indigenous groups, including the San, could be marginalized and excluded from the project processes inadvertently. Furthermore, for all communities, the transition from unregulated use of resources, such as unsustainable harvesting of TFPs and NTFPs, grazing livestock in degraded areas to restricted access in compliance with ILM plans may cause initial resistance and/or animosity towards those complying with the new restrictions. This is an inherent risk in the use ILM and NbS brought on by the fact that while landscape level NbS measures may generate important broader societal benefits (e.g. watershed services, flood control), they may present a higher burden on individual households e.g. foregoing production in certain areas. Where communities are already resource constrained, as is the case in the Bobirwa-Tswapong landscape, this withdrawal of "free resources" can be traumatic, especially where the benefits from the ILM and NbS measures may take long to accrue to households. Mitigation: The use of ILM combined with capacity enhancement of the local institutions (CTs, VDC) will mitigate these risks. communities will be made to understand trade-offs and will contribute to identifying measures to offset the likely negative, albeit short-term impacts. The project treats degradation hotspots on the landscape to enhance the ecological integrity of the whole landscape, to avoid large scale exclusion from resources for communities already resource constrained. Compensatory initiatives (enhanced value chains, expanded crop varieties, restored grazing lands) will offset some immediate negative impacts. Stakeholder assessment during PPG will identify relevant groups and potential negative impacts, ensuring Free, Prior and Informed Consent with Indigenous Peoples groups and further propose concrete mitigation measures. These measures will be codified in the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), which will outline steps for further assessment and mitigation measures which may need to be developed under implementation. Similarly to all risks identified here will be assessed further during PPG and ESMP formulated to manage them.
Political and Governance	Moderate	Political instability: Botswana is one of the stable democracies in Africa. There is strong political support, backed by investments, into improved natural resources management, CBNRM for biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization of natural resources and eco-enterprises, to diversify the economy away from heavy reliance on diamonds. However, the country transitioned into new political dispensation in 2024 after 58 years of a single party leadership,

		which could introduce uncertainties and potential policy shifts. This risk will further be assessed during PPG and appropriate mitigation measures will be provided. Governance: the Tribal Grazing Land Policy and some agricultural initiatives incentivise expansion of cattle ranching, often resulting in high stocking densities around water points, causing rangeland degradation, ecosystem fragmentation, and livestock encroachment into designated Wildlife Management Areas intended as migratory corridors and buffers for protected areas. Consequently, these incentives can undermine biodiversity conservation objectives by prioritizing commercial beef production over wildlife habitats, reducing incentives for CBNRM, and leading to conflicts where boreholes saturate conservation zones, threatening species and long-term ecosystem services. Mitigation: the new CBNRM Act of 2025 signals government commitment to prioritizing natural resources-led economic development, building on local communities. Adoption of ILM, built on the principles of participation, negotiation, and cooperation, presents an innovative approach to natural resources management in the landscape, that will empower communities to negotiate the various competing needs for development on the landscape, thereby reducing land use conflicts while avoiding, halting and reversing degradation of natural resources. Furthermore, the project will strengthen the capacities of the VDCs and CTs (skills, constitutions, registration), under outcome 1.1, to plan and manage community mobilization and design and implementation of initiatives, which will mitigate the risk.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Low	Delays and uncertainty in formal recognition and operationalization of OECMs: There is a risk that the process of defining, gazetting and operationalizing OECMs, including agreement on governance arrangements, rights and responsibilities of communities, and alignment with existing categories such as Wildlife Management Areas, may face legal and procedural delays, reducing the pace and scale at which the new OECM framework can deliver conservation outcomes. Mitigation: During PPG, the project will map legal and policy pathways for OECM recognition, undertake an institutional capacity and gap assessment, and agree a stepwise roadmap with MET and key agencies. Pilot OECMs will be established using existing legal instruments where possible, while supporting the development/adjustment of guidelines and secondary regulations to operationalize OECMs nationally. Close coordination with GBF Early Action Support and BIOFIN initiatives will ensure coherence with emerging national biodiversity and finance frameworks. Resistance to integrated landscape management approaches that rebalance sectoral mandates: Introducing ILM as a coordinating framework across sectors (environment, agriculture, livestock, tourism, land boards) may face resistance from institutions accustomed to working in silos, with competing mandates and incentive structures that currently favour, for instance, expansion of cattle ranching over biodiversity objectives. Mitigation: The project will institutionalize ILM through multi-stakeholder platforms at district and national level, with clear Terms of Reference endorsed by relevant ministries

		and councils. Evidence from restoration, OECMs and nature-based enterprises will be packaged to demonstrate economic and social co-benefits, helping to shift policy narratives. Policy dialogues will explicitly tackle misaligned incentives (e.g. under the Tribal Grazing Land Policy and agricultural policies) and feed recommendations into ongoing reforms, using the National Ecosystem Assessment and GBF processes as key entry points. Insufficient clarity on roles and rights of communities under new OECM and CBNRM arrangements: If institutional reforms (new CBNRM Act, creation of OECMs, strengthened CTs and VDCs) do not provide clear, enforceable rights and responsibilities for communities, there is a risk of confusion, overlapping mandates or conflicts between traditional authorities, CTs, VDCs and sector agencies, which could weaken governance and undermine durability of conservation outcomes. Limited institutional capacity to use project evidence to adjust national policies: Even where the project generates strong evidence on ILM, OECMs, insurance and value chains, limited analytical and coordination capacity within government may constrain the translation of lessons into policy refinements and implementation guidelines. Mitigation: The project will support participatory development of constitutions, by-laws and management plans for CTs and VDCs, clarifying decision-making procedures, benefit-sharing and conflict-resolution mechanisms. Legal and institutional support will be provided during PPG and implementation to align community-level instruments with national legislation. Special attention will be given to inclusive participation of women, youth and Indigenous Peoples, with FPIC applied where relevant, as detailed in the SEP and GAAP. The project will establish structured learning mechanisms (policy labs, joint reviews, knowledge products) linking district-level implementation with national policy processes, including NBSAP and GBF reporting. Dedicated resources under Outcome 1.1 will strengthen analytical capacities of MET, the Department of CBNRM and planning units, while embedding project tools (e.g. ILM planning, monitoring indicators) into routine government systems to support uptake beyond the project area.
Technological	Moderate	Risk: Weak capacities of the VDCs, CTs and the local communities may challenge adoption and implementation of ecosystem restoration technologies and the sustainable value addition to natural resources and development of economically viable value chains. Mitigation: The low technical capacities of the stakeholders is one of the key barriers to adoption of innovative practices and technologies in natural resources management. The project has a strong focus on increasing the technical capacities, facilitating access to innovative practices and strengthening inclusive and gender-responsive design and access to solutions under outcome 1.1.
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	The project proposes HWC insurance, value chains, and ecotourism models, which are associated with several risks: Limited uptake and affordability of HWC insurance scheme: There is a risk that smallholder farmers and livestock keepers may not enrol in the proposed human–wildlife conflict insurance scheme due to low ability to pay premiums, limited trust in insurance products,

		or lack of understanding of how payouts are triggered, which could undermine its viability as an innovative risk-sharing mechanism. Actuarial and sustainability risk of the HWC insurance model: If actuarial assumptions underestimate HWC frequency or severity, the insurance mechanism could face liquidity shortfalls, delayed payments, or loss of credibility, threatening its financial sustainability and replication. • Mitigation: During PPG, willingness-to-pay and affordability analyses will inform premium design, subsidy levels and product features. The scheme will be piloted at small scale, combining premium support (e.g. via NEF/BIOFIN instruments), simplified claim procedures, and pay-out triggers linked to verified HWC incidents. Financial literacy and awareness campaigns will be co-designed with communities, and lessons from Kenya and Nepal HWC insurance schemes and the IIED Darwin "Livelihoods Insurance" initiative will be systematically adapted to the local context. PPG will undertake technical design with specialist actuarial input, including use of historical HWC data and climate-informed scenarios. A layered risk-financing structure will be explored (e.g. combining community reserves, contingent budget lines, and possible re-insurance or risk-sharing with national schemes). Design will incorporate caps, deductibles, and adaptive pricing reviewed annually. Early performance will be monitored through a dedicated M&E sub-indicator, enabling adjustments before scale-up. Market and profitability risk for nature-based value chains (veld products, restoration-linked enterprises): New or upgraded value chains for veld products and restoration-linked enterprises may face weak or volatile market demand, quality and certification challenges, and high transaction costs, resulting in lower-than-expected income and weakening incentives for sustainable resource management. • Mitigation: The project will prioritize value chains with demonstrated demand (building on lessons from Makgadikgadi, Kgalagadi and Ghanzi drylands projects and BIOFIN work), undertake market assessments during PPG, and structure phased pilots with clear go/no-go and scale-up criteria. Business development support, aggregation models (e.g. through Community Trusts, cooperatives), quality standards and branding linked to Botswana's conservation image will be introduced. Partnerships with SPEDU and private off-takers will help de-risk investments, while diversified product portfolios will reduce reliance on a single commodity. • Revenue concentration and leakage in ecotourism models associated with OECMs and community areas: Ecotourism ventures around OECMs and community-managed areas may result in revenue concentration among a few actors or external operators, with limited benefit-sharing at community level, which can erode local support for conservation and restoration. • Mitigation: The project will support inclusive business models (e.g. joint ventures, community concessions, and benefit-sharing agreements) aligned with the CBNRM Act and tourism regulations. During PPG, template contracts and benefit-sharing mechanisms will be co-designed with the new Department of CBNRM and Ministry of Environment and Tourism. Capacity building for CTs and VDCs on contract negotiation, governance, and financial management will help reduce leakage and ensure transparent,

		gender-responsive revenue allocation, reinforcing the economic case for OECMs. Misaligned incentives between insurance/value chains and long-term ecological integrity: Poorly designed financial incentives (e.g. insurance payouts not linked to compliance with ILM plans, or value chains promoting overharvesting of specific species) could inadvertently encourage maladaptive practices and undermine restoration and biodiversity objectives. Mitigation: All innovative financial instruments will be explicitly tied to compliance with ILM, OECM management plans, and sustainable harvesting protocols. The ESMF and ILM guidelines will include screening criteria for new enterprises and safeguards for species and habitats. Performance-based payments or premium discounts will reward adherence to agreed land-use practices, while community monitoring and adaptive management will be used to refine incentives over time.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Low	The country has a long history of project implementation and a strong GEF portfolio. Combined with institutional capacity building focus of the proposed project (Outcome 1.1), the project will establish a Project Management Unit to lead the implementation, supported by a multi-stakeholder Project Steering Committee. Nevertheless, MET and UNDP will, during the PPG, identify likely challenges to speedy, efficient and effective project implementation and design strategies to mitigate, which will be reported in the CEO Request.
Fiduciary	Low	Procurement delays: Project activities dependent on procurements from outside of the country may face delays due to recent changes to public procurement procedures towards a centralised approach. During the PPG, UNDP and government (MET) will identify procurement needs and the required procedures for these and assess the potential for delays due to the recent policy changes, and where necessary, request for waivers to ensure that delays are minimised. Mitigation: PMU will prioritise development of a procurement plan for the project and ensure that systems and capacities are put in place to reduce potential delays, securing waivers where necessary.
Stakeholder	Low	The project takes a fully participatory and inclusive process in the design and implementation, in line with new CBNRM Bill, and benefitting from the newly created Department of CBNRM. There is a strong potential for engagement of the private sector, strengthened by the partnership with SPEDU, which provides a platform for attracting investment and supporting businesses.
Other		NA
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	Obtained as weighted average of individual risks. Additional assessment will be undertaken during the PPG phase to elaborate on the risks and propose appropriate mitigation measures.

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)

Contribution to Gef-8 Focal Areas and Strategic Alignment

67. Land Degradation (LD): The project will put 450,000 ha of degraded agricultural lands under SLM practices including treating degradation hotspots to improve the overall productivity of land and flow of agro-ecosystems services (outcome 2.2). This contributes to LD-1 - promote sustainable land management in production landscapes by integrating biodiversity, soil, and water management into agriculture, forestry, and grazing systems) and LD-2 - Support large-scale ecosystem restoration (restore degraded lands to improve ecosystem services, resilience, and carbon sequestration). Introduction of cleaner and more efficient household energy solutions (Output 2.2.3) will alleviate pressure on woodlands.

68. Biodiversity (BD): The project will establish 305,000 ha of OECMs under improved management by communities, directly supporting BD-1: conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems (Support ecosystem restoration and sustainable management practices). This will be complemented by uptake of energy efficient and renewable energy sources (output 2.2.3) and sustainable value addition of natural resources to increase benefits from biodiversity (outcome 3.1) and create tolerance, reducing HWCs. By addressing the root drivers of biodiversity loss—such as unsustainable fuelwood harvesting, low agricultural productivity, and weak governance—the project will reduce anthropogenic pressures while restoring habitats. It also aligns with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), contributing to: (a) Target 1 on integrated land-use planning; (b) Target 2 on restoring degraded ecosystems; (c) Targets 5 and 10 on reducing pressures from production systems and enhancing ecosystem resilience; (d) Target 8: Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience; (e) Target 9: Manage Wild Species Sustainably to Benefit People; (f) Target 11: Restore, Maintain and Enhance Nature's Contributions to People; (g) Target 14 on strengthening institutional capacities; (h) Target 21 on knowledge sharing; and (i) Target 22 on gender equality and inclusive governance; (j) Target 23: Ensure Gender Equality and a Gender-Responsive Approach for Biodiversity Action.

69. Climate Change Mitigation (CCM): The project will support avoidance of emission of an estimated 3.6million tCO_2e through restoration of woodlands, rehabilitation of rangelands and climate smart agriculture. This contributes to CCM 2 (transform food, land-use, and industrial systems) to reduce emissions from agriculture, forestry, and industry through sustainable practices.

70. Strategic Alignment: the project will contribute to: (i) SDGs on climate action (SDG 13), biodiversity conservation (SDG 15), and poverty reduction (SDG 1); (ii) Africa Union's Agenda 2063 pillar on environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities (outcomes on sustainable natural resource management and biodiversity conservation, sustainable consumption and production patterns and climate resilience); (iii) SADC Great Green Wall initiative, Cross-cutting Pillar on Gender, Youth, Environment and Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management of the SADC Regional Strategic Development Plan (2020–2030) on Strategic Objective 4 and 6 . At the national level, the project aligns with: (a) the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, 2022-2026 under the priority on economic diversification and green growth; (b) UNDP Country Program – 2022 – 2026, contributing to outcomes 2 and 4 . (b) Botswana's 12th National Development Plan (2025 to 2030) 'Building a Diversified and Inclusive Deep Economy for Sustainable Jobs", which focuses on shifting the economy from diamond dependence to sectors like energy, manufacturing, and tourism. (c) the 2nd Updated Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement (2024) which aims to avoid GHG emissions of approximately 15% by the year 2030 via actions such as adoption of renewable energy, improved soil carbon from improved rangeland management and tree planting.

(d) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2023-2027) - themes 1 and 2[1][45]. (e) Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Targets, which aim to reach LDN by 2030 and the 2nd Updated Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement.[2][46] (v) other national strategies, including the National Tourism Strategy and Master Plan, 2022 – 2032, National Human Wildlife Conflict Strategy and Action Plan, 2025-2030, CBNRM Policy, Selibe-Phikwe Economic Diversification Programme and the National Environment Fund.

[1] – improve management of protected areas, expand them, and safeguard threatened species (strengthen conservation), and ensure equitable benefits from resources in agriculture, forestry, tourism, and fisheries (sustainable use).

[2] https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2024-12/BOTSWANA_NDC_2%20REPORT.pdf

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

74. The design of this PIF was informed by a concept paper prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), in partnership with the UNDP Botswana Country Office (Annex A to the stakeholder participation report (annex L). The concept was based on informal consultation among staff members of the MET conducted between January 2025 – May 2025. To further develop the concept, a field mission was undertaken from 15th to 25th November 2025 (schedule of meetings and number of people met in Table 6, list of people consulted Annex J. Consultations were held with village development committees and community trusts which represent communities including Indigenous Peoples, small scale farmers and other vulnerable

populations. These findings informed the strong emphasis on building foundational capacities for communities (all segments of it), CSO, private sector and academia, and relevant government institutions as explained in the TOC and stated expressly in outcomes 1.1, 2.1, 2.2 and 3 – and as explained in the stakeholder engagement report (annex L) about project concept (PIF).

75. All consultative discussions aimed to: (a) validate and expand the baseline situation on the state of natural resources, livelihoods and ecosystems captured in the concept paper prepared by the MET team; (b) identify the institutions with the mandate for natural resources within the context of national development and obtain their views on baseline conditions, challenges and opportunities for restoration of the Bobirwa-Tswapong landscape and the stakeholders and users to enhance local capacities to sustain livelihoods, effectively respond to climate change, mitigate human-wildlife conflicts, and enhance biodiversity conservation and land management; (c) Identify past, existing and planned projects that would be relevant to the proposed project, in terms of lessons and potential collaboration and coordination, with the aim of using lessons and best practices to inform the design of the proposed project and to optimise synergies with current and planned initiatives, to optimise synergies, avoid duplication and waste of resources; and iii) identify potential target sites in landscape to benefit from the project.

Table 6: List of Informants Consulted during the Field Work

Date	**Stakeholder**	**Type**	**# of people met**	
			M	F
17th November 2025	Selibe Phikwe Office of the District Commissioner,	LG[1][47]	1	
	Mmadinare Development Trust	CBO	5	3
	Botswana Tourism Organization	NG[2][48]		1
	Department Of Wildlife and National Parks			1
18th Nov 2025	Bobong District Technical Advisory Committee	LG	3	4
	Mathathane (MOREMA Trust)	CBO	4	3
	SPEDU	Parastatal	2	1
	Office of the District Commissioner -P	LG	4	3
19th Nov 2025	Lesenepole Trust	CBO	7	6
	Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Serowe		2	2
20th Nov 2025	Maunatlala and Lerala Village Leadership, Palapye	LG	7	6
	Batho le Ditsatlholego Conservation Trust	CBO	2	5
21 Nov 2025	**Mahalapye Technical Advisory Committee**	LG	5	6

[1] Local Government

[2] National Government Office in the District

(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
Medium/Moderate			

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 ($)
UNDP	GET	Botswana	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	2,301,399.00	218,633.00	2,520,032.00
UNDP	GET	Botswana	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: CCM-1-1	Grant	885,068.00	84,081.00	969,149.00
UNDP	GET	Botswana	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	Grant	3,096,410.00	294,159.00	3,390,569.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**6,282,877.00**	**596,873.00**	**6,879,750.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount ($)

200000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

19000

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)
UNDP	GET	Botswana	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	73,259.00	6,960.00	80,219.00
UNDP	GET	Botswana	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: CCM-1-1	Grant	28,174.00	2,677.00	30,851.00
UNDP	GET	Botswana	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	Grant	58,567.00	5,000.00	63,567.00
UNDP	GET	Botswana	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-2	Grant	40,000.00	4,363.00	44,363.00
Total PPG Amount ($)						**200,000.00**	**19,000.00**	**219,000.00**

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	Botswana	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	2,600,251.00
UNDP	GET	Botswana	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	1,000,000.00
UNDP	GET	Botswana	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	3,498,499.00
Total GEF Resources					**7,098,750.00**

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)

BD-1-1	GET	2,301,399.00	11160000
CCM-1-1	GET	885,068.00	10007890
LD-1	GET	3,096,410.00	10000000
Total Project Cost		**6,282,877.00**	**31,167,890.00**

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment and Tourism	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	24347890
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2160000
Recipient Country Government	SPEDU	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	2250000
Others	Botswana International University of Science and Technology	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1000000
Private Sector	Makoro Group of Companies	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100000
Civil Society Organization	Somarelang Tikologo	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	150000
Others	Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation (BITRI)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1000000
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	160000
Total Co-financing				**31,167,890.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

78. Co-financing identified at PIF stage includes in-kind support from the MET (US$ 30,507,890), which will serve as the Executing Agency for the project. The investment to be mobilised is based on relevant programmes and projects identified by MET under the National Development Plan (2025), implemented through the respective ministries and departments. These include investments in the commercialisation of veld products value chains, restoration of degraded landscapes, establishment and strengthening of CBNRM initiatives and community support, establishment of an anti-poaching unit in Bobonong to strengthen law enforcement, installation of an early warning system in Selibe Phikwe for the greater Phikwe–Bobirwa area, and development of strategic ecosystem management tools (actual contribution from each of the listed items will be provided during the PPG). They also include in kind resources mobilized by the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs. SPEDU will provide cash co-finance of 2,250,000 as part of the implementation of its Environmental, Social and Governance (2026-2029). Opportunities for co-

finance will be further assessed during PPG and formalized through commitment letters. Opportunities for co-financing will be further assessed during the PPG phase and formalised through commitment letters.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Nancy Bennet	3/2/2026	Ms. Nancy Bennet		nancy.bennet@undp.org
Project Coordinator	Goetz Schroth	3/20/2026	Goetz Schroth		goetz.schroth@undp.org

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

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Mr. Cyril Taolo	Government Liaison Officer	Ministry of Environment and Tourism	1/26/2026

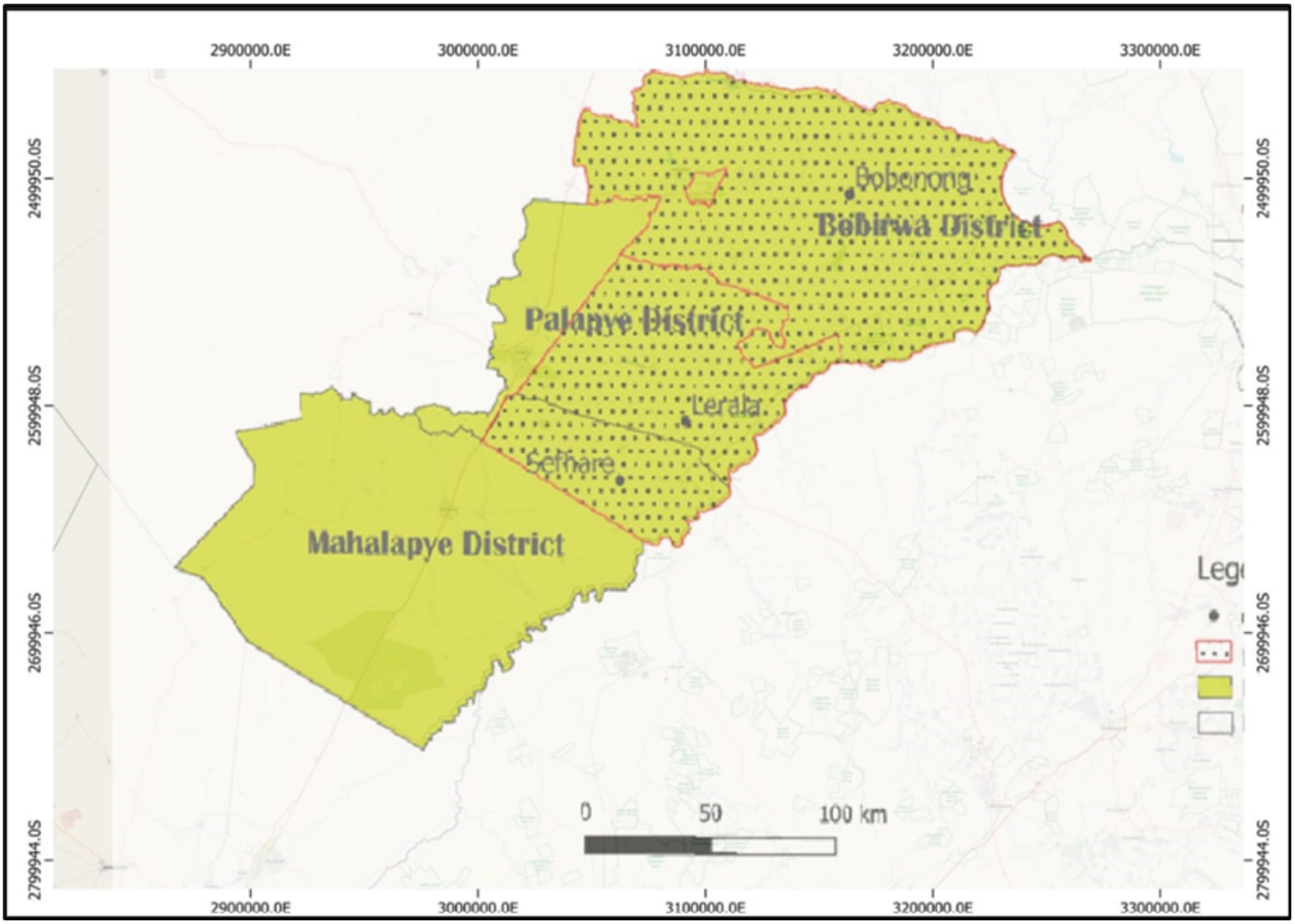
ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

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

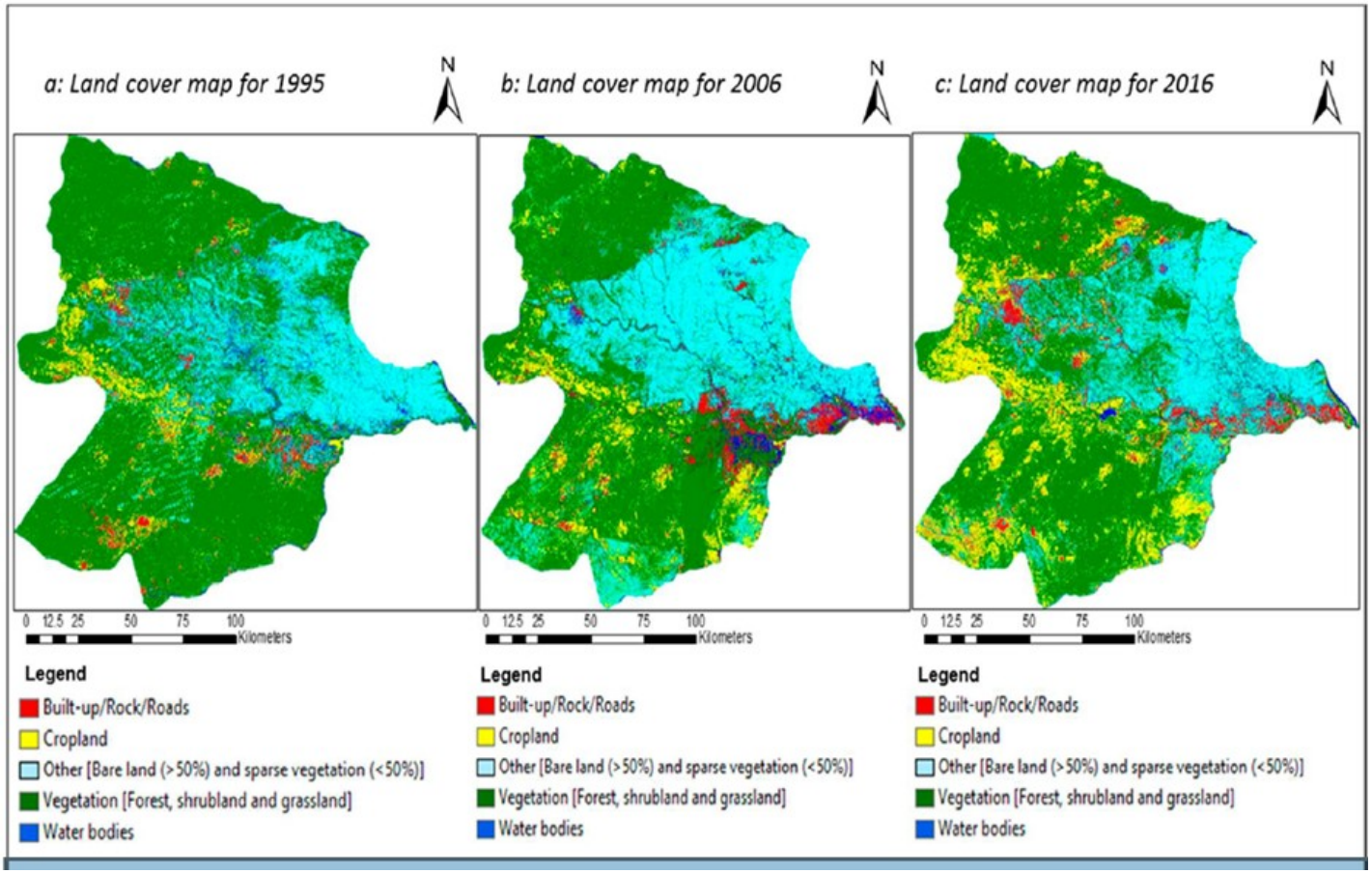
79. The project sites fall within Mahalapye, Bobirwa and Palapye districts bounded within the polygon UTM coordinates below.

Reference Site	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)	UTM Zone	Easting (m)	Northing (m)
Bobonong (Bobirwa District)	21.970671	28.427740	35S	646,460 mE	7,570,920 mN
Lerala (Tswapong Hills area)	22.7173	27.6720	35S	568,780 mE	7,485,940 mN
Palapye (Palapye District)	22.5460	27.1251	35S	512,820 mE	7,504,990 mN
Sefhare (Mahalapye area)	23.0290	27.4691	35S	547,330 mE	7,451,780 mN

80. Note: Coordinates are indicative and represent the outer boundary of the Bobirwa–Palapye–Mahalapye landscape. Final boundaries will be confirmed during PPG through participatory spatial planning and GIS validation informed by further stakeholder consultation and baseline assessment results). The map will be refined, to show geo-referenced project intervention sites.



Land Cover Change Maps



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
PIMS10301 SESP Updated 28th Feb

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	Transform policy and regulatory environments	Convene multi-stakeholder alliances	
	Strengthen institutional capacity/decision-making		
	Convene multi -stakeholder alliances		
Stakeholders			
		SMEs; individuals/Entrepreneurs (including women and youth)	

		Community based organizations, farmers, herders	
		NGOs	
		Information dissemination	
		Partnership	
		Consultation	
		Participation	
	Communications	Awareness raising	
		Education	
		behaviour Change	
	Stakeholder engagement		
Capacity, Knowledge and Research	Capacity development		
	Enabling Activities		
	Knowledge Generation and Exchange	Knowledge management	
		capacity development;	
		Learning	
	Learning	Theory of change	
		Adaptative Management	
	Stakeholder Engagement Plan		
Gender Equality	Gender mainstreaming	Beneficiaries	
		Women groups	
		Sex-disaggregated indicators	
		Gender-sensitive indicators	
	Gender results areas	Access to benefits and services	
		Access and control over natural resources	
		Participation and leadership	
		Awareness raising	
		Capacity development	
Focal Area/Theme	Integrated programs	Food security in Sub-Sahara Africa	Resilience (climate and shocks)
			Agroecosystems
			Land and soil health
			Diversified Farming
			Smallholder Farming
			Small and Medium Enterprises
			Food value chain
			Gender dimensions
		Food systems, land use and restoration	Land and soil health
			Integrated land and water management
			Small and medium enterprises
			Landscape restoration
			Smallholder farmers
			Integrated landscapes
			Food value chains
	Biodiversity	Protected areas and landscapes	Terrestrial protected areas
			Community Based Natural resource management
		Mainstreaming	Tourism
	Forest	Forest and landscape restoration	
	Land Degradation	Sustainable land management	Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded lands
		Land degradation neutrality	Sustainable livelihoods
			Income generating activities
			Improved soil and water techniques
			Sustainable pasture management
			Land productivity
			Drought mitigation
