

Capacity Development in Reducing Illegal Wildlife Trade and Improving Protected Area Management Effectiveness in South Sudan

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

9551

Countries

South Sudan

Project Name

Capacity Development in Reducing Illegal Wildlife Trade and Improving Protected Area Management Effectiveness in South Sudan

Agenices

UNEP

Date received by PM

5/30/2019

Review completed by PM

11/21/2019

Program Manager

Jaime Cavelier

Focal Area

Biodiversity

Project Type

FSP

PIF

CEO Endorsement

Project Design and Financing

1. If there are any changes from that presented in the PIF, have justifications been provided?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

6-4-19

There is a detailed account of the changes made since PIF approval.

In the first page of the CEO Endorsement, African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) appears as an Executing Agency. AWF communicated to the GEF that they were not going to participate in the project. Please remove AWF from **Other Executing Partner(s)** and replace it with IUCN, the executing partner for Component 2 on NNP.

On page 151 of the project Document it says

4.1.2 Executing partners

The Ministry of Wildlife, Conservation and Tourism (MWCT), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) will be the executing partners for components 1, 2 and 3, respectively. The executing partners' mandate is to oversee the implementation of the project components, and to work supportively and collaboratively with project stakeholders and partners, which include NGOs and governments, to achieve the projects objective.

The Executing partners of Component 2 is IUCN and of Component 3 is WCS. Please correct and resubmit Project Document.

11-18-19

The Executing partners for the components has been addressed in Portal and Project Document.

4.1.2 Executing partners

The Ministry of Wildlife, Conservation and Tourism (MWCT), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) will be the executing partners for components 1, 2 and 3, respectively. The executing partners' mandate is to oversee the implementation of the project components, and to work supportively and collaboratively with project stakeholders and partners, which include NGOs and governments, to achieve the projects objective.

Cleared

Response to Secretariat comments

14/08/2019

Response 1: As the first page of the CEO Endorsement is not editable from IA side, a request has been sent to GEF Sec and WB IT team to assist in updating the section by replacing the AWF with IUCN, the executing partner.

Response 2: This has been corrected in section 4.1.2 and the whole document has been double checked to ensure correct use of IUCN.

Responses: 22/10/2019

1. The first reference to AWF in the CEO endorsement document was not found.

2. This has been corrected in section 4.1.2 and the whole document has been double checked to ensure correct use of IUCN.

2. Is the project structure/ design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

6-4-19

The structure of the project (at least in theory) should be appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs. The issue with the project is that there are FAR TOO MANY ACTIVITIES that will be virtually impossible to deliver in full with the proposed budget and time available. In the Project Document there are 44 pages describing 28 outputs and numerous activities (pages 81 to 125). It reads as if no prioritization was made considering that funds and time are limited.

The GEF request to reconsider this matter, reduce the number of proposed activities and reallocate the budget to priority actions. The project can always increase the number of activities during the implementation of the project without running the risk of over-promising and under-delivering. This is the most likely scenario since with a project that is far more aspirational than practical. The project can't be about a long menu of options to chose from during implementation.

This is the list of outputs & activities that appear less relevant and should be seriously reconsidered:

Component 1

Activity 1.1.2.1 All Acts and Policies? Any Priorities?

Activity 1.1.3.1. All countries? What are the priority countries where enforcement is most likely?

Activity 1.1.3.3 Really a priority? What are the chances of not using the results of this investment in the near future and report getting outdated soon? In the experience of the GEF studies like this with no secure funding for execution are rarely used later on.

Activity 1.2.1.1 Why undertake a training needs assessment when when the types of training were already identified during the PPG? They are listed in the project. Use funding for implementation of priority needs as suggested in 1.2.1.2. Expert opinion can be used to determine priority needs. No further assessments should be needed.

Activity 1.2.1.2. The GEF can not support post-graduate studies. Please remove.

Activities 1.1.2.1 and 2. Not clear why SMART appears under this component when the project clearly state that SMART that

The SMART system is focused on the PA site, and comprises the following activities:

(page 94 of Project Document). Start by investing on SMART at the site

level first. Remove from this Component.

Component 2

Activity 2.1.1.3 Aren't road improvements the responsibility of the Government? Shouldn't this be funded by co-financing?

Activity 2.1.2.1. Who has the baseline information, and what is institution is going to maintain and redo the surveys?

Activity 2.1.2.5. Is this the most appropriate time to do an international marketing of NNP eco-tourism opportunities? What about concentrating the funds and efforts to secure the natural assets? What are the stats on international vs domestic tourism in NNP?

Activity 2.2.2.1. Has Uganda been informed of this activity and is it on board to develop and implement the proposed activities?

Activity 2.2.3.2 Where are the funds going to come from beyond the budget and time for this project?

Outcome 2.3 This outcome requires a significant revision. There is a lot of CBNRM jargon and very little substance. What are the real and tangible benefits that the Local Communities will be receiving form the project? Please only list the actual opportunities that the project will offer to the local communities. This should be done in 1 page maximum, not 7 as in the current project. The GEF is very concerned about listing activities that will deliver actual benefits and means to improve the livelihoods of the local communities. Best to concentrate on a few options than to build an unnecessary bureaucratic processes that may end up rendering very little gain to those on the ground. After a 1.5 year of project preparation, the options should be clear.

Component 3

Activity 3.1.1.1. Is SMART going to be deployed to all three PAs (i.e. SNP, MGR, ZGR) in the Sudd Ecosystem? What is the cost of this considering that there is no mobility (as stated in 3.1.1.2) or infrastructure (as stated in 3.1.1.3) in place to deploy SMART? What would be the priority PA(s)?

Activity 3.1.3.1 Is it worth trying to expand the PA System in the Sudd Ecosystem, when the existing PAs are not secured? What is the opportunity cost of the investments in the documentation of potential expansion of the PAs?

Output 3.1.4. Very important. Secure funding as needed for this engagement.

Outcome 3.3 SAME AS FOR COMPONENT 2. This outcome requires a significant revision. There is a lot of CBNRM jargon and very little substance. What are the real and tangible benefits that the Local Communities will be receiving from the project? Please only list the actual opportunities that the project will offer to the local communities. This should be done in 1 page maximum, not 7 as in the current project. The GEF is very concerned about listing activities that will deliver actual benefits and means to improve the livelihoods of the local communities. Best to concentrate on a few options than to build an unnecessary bureaucratic processes that may end up rendering very little gain to those on the ground. After a 1.5 year of project preparation, the options should be clear.

11-18-19

Cleared

Response to Secretariat comments

14/08/2019

The following activities have been removed in whole or in part, and budgets re-allocated accordingly as shown below:

Activity 1.1.3.1: The regional workshop has been removed (p87), and instead the project will work through HAWEN. This allowed \$15 k to be reallocated to travel and meetings to better support this activity.

Activity 1.1.3.3: This activity was removed and \$18k was reallocated (see page 89, prodoc).

Activity 1.2.1.1: The training needs analysis (p91) was removed and \$16k was reallocated to staff training.

Activity 1.2.1.2: Post-graduate studies was removed (p93).

\$50k for resizing the vehicle request was reallocated.

Component 1

Activity 1.1.2.1: A long list of acts and policies is presented in section 2.4.2 (tables 5, 6). A short list is now provided in this activity as the first order of priority, on the basis that they are underway, previous investments have been made in their development, and they directly support the achievement of the project objective. See p 85 prodoc.[\[JR1\]](#)

Activity 1.1.3.1: Page 87, prodoc has been revised to focus on three urgent priorities: Uganda, Ethiopia and DRC, noting that there is a need for similar work with other neighbouring countries that can be considered during implementation as needed.

Activity 1.1.3.3: Agree. This has been removed (see page 89 in the prodoc) thus freeing \$18k that has been reallocated. This activity was aspirational and seeking to establish an understanding for future potential projects and priorities.

Activity 1.2.1.1: Agreed, the training needs analysis was removed (p91) and the training plan will be done by the PMU, enabling \$16k to be reallocated to staff training.

Activity 1.2.1.2: Post-graduate studies was removed (p93). The option to consider internships for students recruited into MWCT was added.

Activities 1.2.2.1: This activity is focused on the headquarters and national information management system, whereas components 2 + 3 focus more specifically on carrying out the daily implementation activities of SMART.

Activity 1.2.2.2 has many inter-related components that require coordination and engagement at both the national and site levels, all of whom will need to be actively involved. This is required to ensure a cohesive, agreed design at the site-level, especially because it is anticipated that the resulting system (after the project) will be up-scaled in SS. This also supports information sharing, which as been identified through the PIF and PPG as a significant barrier and need.

Component 2

Activity 2.1.1.3: The national priorities for basic road works for civil society needs are enormous and this project work would not be a priority in that context. Minor road works, i.e., maintenance of the access and management tracks, are essential to enable effective PA management and enforcement of anti-poaching laws and the project objective.

Activity 2.1.2.1: There is a need to assemble new baseline information. The executing agent (IUCN partnership) will provide the necessary capacity and oversee the baseline surveys for the project duration. With MWCT, IUCN partnership will implement best practices for the surveys, the data and how this is used for adaptive management. The systems that will be set-up will be included in the new/updated management plan.

Activity 2.1.2.5: There are two markets for Nimule... one is Juba expats and the other is linking into the Uganda safari/adventure tourism sector. IUCN has already reached out to Uganda white water operators and there is real interest in Nimule white water rafting. The international marketing (is referring to Uganda) and it includes engagements with tour operators in Uganda, bringing operators to Nimule NP, pilot tours on the river with tour operators to develop packages, etc. The most feasible at this stage seems to be a 2-day, 1-night rafting trip, starting in Nimule.

The project's executing partners understand the challenges associated with advancing tourism products, and the direct linkage to peace and stability. The multi-stakeholder workshops had identified tourism as a gap in earlier drafts and requested that it be included. This aspect reinforces the efforts to provide conservation compatible sustainable livelihoods, and needs to be initiated in order to realize direct benefits in the future. Accordingly, this activity has been retained.

Activity 2.2.2.1: NNP staff have an ongoing relationship with their Ugandan counterparts, and there is a willingness to collaborate on improving transboundary enforcement. Ugandan reports as well as transboundary meetings and routine calls (e.g., the most recent was in June 2019) recognize the need for enhanced transboundary cooperation.

Activity 2.2.3.2: The project has a sustainable finance component that will explore how to secure additional funds for Nimule after the GEF project cycle. Text has been added to address this point on p105 of the prodoc.

Outcome 2.3: This section has been reduced to 3 pages by focussing on the key benefits and removing the descriptive supplementary information. Some of the extra information provides context and was requested by reviewers and contributors throughout the PPG process. Many implementation details have been removed, enabling greater discretion during implementation to suit the circumstances. The interventions (activities) listed here aim to: (a) provide direct conservation and economic benefits to local residents, (b) improve the conservation context such that local residents will derive indirect benefits, and to (c) incentivise a conservation-oriented economic system.

- Output 2.3.1 will provide essential soft skills and ownership through local governance and land-use mechanisms.
- Output 2.3.2 will provide direct economic and social benefits through conservation-oriented, sustainable livelihood activities.
- Output 2.3.3 activities will provide the supporting awareness tools for the first two outputs.

The activities included here have been demonstrated to have positive impacts in the South Sudan context.

Component 3

Activity 3.1.1.1: The WCS plan is to roll out SMART in those areas within the Sudd project landscape (could be inside the 3 PAs and/or in the corridors in between) where: 1) the SSWS has a functional presence of SSWS senior staff and rangers on the ground; and 2) those areas within the Sudd project landscape that have the highest biodiversity value and highest threat level (need). Information from SSWS on the above and the various field and wildlife assessments that WCS will conduct at the start of the project will inform where SMART deployment will be prioritized and initiated, starting around the project field site in the Sudd project landscape (exact location to be decided). WCS anticipates scaling up SMART deployment as the project progresses. Regarding costs: this has been budgeted for in the project budget. The review comment regarding “no mobility” is incorrect. Mobility is possible (though certainly not without its challenges) by use of the project vehicles and project boats that will be purchased within the project budget, and of course by foot (i.e., the latter being often the most effective and strategic way of conducting patrols as that’s also the way poachers move most of the time).

Activity 3.1.3.1: The question of whether to establish new PAs when the existing PAs are not fully secured can be debated from different points of view. However, in the face of ongoing, irreversible land use threats that are unfolding in South Sudan (section 2.3.1), designating lands for protection is a first necessary step toward long-term and ongoing securement activities. Failure to set aside lands now while it’s still possible will forego future opportunities for South Sudan and its PAs. The existing PAs were established long ago (table 1 in the prodoc) with boundaries based on limited scientific information and during a time that people and wildlife presence were quite different from what it is today. The protracted war has likely impacted values at different PAs. Hence, the real risk is that the current PA network will not be adequate to protect the globally significant wildlife in the longer-term. The proposed extensions are/will be key areas that need to be included to protect the wildlife in the landscape, since much the wildlife spends at least some--if not almost all of their time for certain species--outside the existing three PAs (compare e.g., Boma and Badingilo and the antelope migration: the two PAs, even if well protected, will not secure the migrating wildlife as they spend substantial time outside the two PAs, as shown on figure 5 in section 2.2.3). Hence there is a need for extensions and/or corridor management, shown in figure 4). For Meshra, it is even likely (from what is known at this point) that human encroachment and cattle grazing has had a serious impact on wildlife, and that de-gazetting Meshra might even be something that GoSS could consider. This all of course needs to be assessed first by the aerial and ground surveys (wildlife, threats and socio-economic), and then prioritization of which areas to focus on needs to be done. Limiting ourselves in advance to the three existing PAs would result in ongoing loss of key species in the broader landscape.

The output (for activity 3.1.3.1) was approved in the PIF and confirmed by the PSC during its review of the project document. It responds directly to the CBD Achi target 11 (to increase terrestrial protected areas to 17%, per table 9 in prodoc). The current PA system is 13.9% (section 2.1.2). This activity is designed specifically to address the myriad land use threats and challenges described in section 2.3.1 and the current baseline for component 3 (e.g., expansion of mining, agriculture, etc.). In addition, this activity is intended to work in a synergistic way with other activities, i.e.,

- **Activity 1.1.4.1:** Develop a Protected Area Network Strategy.
- **Activity 3.1.4.2:** Support state authorities in integrated land use planning.
- **Activity 3.2.3.1:** Develop community-based information gathering and sharing networks.
- **Activity 3.3.1.1:** Establish appropriate community networks, structures and/or partnerships for supporting wildlife and PA management in and around PAs.
- **Activity 3.3.1.2:** Increase incentives for wildlife stewardship and decrease the costs of living with wildlife.
- **Activity 3.3.1.3:** Assess the feasibility of establishing community conservancies and initiate establishment in the Sudd Ecosystem.

Finally, on the question of opportunity costs (an estimate of the value of a protected area based on the foregone income of the best alternative use of the area), the project may consider whether to study and present such information as part of the local and national level dialogue. However, it should be clear that such a method for assessing economic costs should be coupled with consideration of the social, cultural and biodiversity benefits that are important to nature and society. Economic valuation is not a standalone criterion in this respect. Once such lands and biodiversity are lost, the social, cultural, ecological and economic benefits are also lost. Accordingly, it is strongly recommended that incremental steps be taken to secure high-value biodiversity values through this activity.

Outcome 3.3: This section has been reduced to 2 ½ pages by focussing on the key benefits and removing the descriptive supplementary information. Refer to response for outcome 2.3 for further information.

UNEP Response: 22/10/2019

GEFSEC Comments	Agency Response
<p data-bbox="94 370 165 395">6-4-19</p> <p data-bbox="94 421 1191 571">The structure of the project (at least in theory) should be appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs. The issue with the project is that there are FAR TOO MANY ACTIVITIES that will be virtually impossible to deliver in full with the proposed budget and time available. In the Project Document there are 44 pages describing 28 outputs and numerous activities (pages 81 to 125). It reads as if no prioritization was made considering that funds and time are limited.</p> <p data-bbox="94 596 1191 746">The GEF request to reconsider this matter, reduce the number of proposed activities and reallocate the budget to priority actions. The project can always increase the number of activities during the implementation of the project without running the risk of over-promising and under-delivering. This is the most likely scenario since with a project that is far more aspirational than practical. The project can't be about a long menu of options to chose from during implementation.</p> <p data-bbox="94 772 1164 798">This is the list of outputs & activities that appear less relevant and should be seriously reconsidered:</p>	<p data-bbox="1227 421 2078 478">The following activities have been removed in whole or in part, and budgets re-allocated accordingly as shown below:</p> <p data-bbox="1227 504 2105 593">Activity 1.1.3.1: The regional workshop has been removed (p87), and instead the project will work through HAWEN. This allowed \$15 k to be reallocated to travel and meetings to better support this activity.</p> <p data-bbox="1227 619 2114 676">Activity 1.1.3.3: This activity was removed and \$18k was reallocated (see page 89, prodoc).</p> <p data-bbox="1227 702 2069 759">Activity 1.2.1.1: The training needs analysis (p91) was removed and \$16k was reallocated to staff training.</p> <p data-bbox="1227 785 1854 858">Activity 1.2.1.2: Post-graduate studies was removed (p93). \$130k for resizing the vehicle request was reallocated.</p>

GEFSEC Comments

Component 1

Activity 1.1.2.1 All Acts and Policies? Any Priorities?

Activity 1.1.3.1. All countries? What are the priority countries where enforcement is most likely?

Activity 1.1.3.3 Really a priority? What are the chances of not using the results of this investment in the near future and report getting outdated soon? In the experience of the GEF studies like this with no secure funding for execution are rarely used later on.

Activity 1.2.1.1 Why undertake a training needs assessment when when the types of training were already identified during the PPG? They are listed in the project. Use funding for implementation of priority needs as suggested in 1.2.1.2. Expert opinion can be used to determine priority needs. No further assessments should be needed.

Activity 1.2.1.2. The GEF can not support post-graduate studies. Please remove.

Activities 1.1.2.1 and 2. Not clear why SMART appears under this component when the project clearly state that SMART that



(page 94 of Project Document). Start by investing on SMART at the site level first. Remove from this Component.

Agency Response

Activity 1.1.2.1.: A long list of acts and policies is presented in section 2.4.2 (tables 5, 6). A short list is now provided in this activity as the first order of priority, on the basis that they are underway, previous investments have been made in their development, and they directly support the achievement of the project objective. See p 85 project document.

Activity 1.1.3.1: Page 87, project document has been revised to focus on three urgent priorities: Uganda, Ethiopia and DRC, noting that there is a need for similar work with other neighbouring countries that can be considered during implementation as needed.

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Activities 1.2.2.1: This activity is focused on the headquarters and national information management system, whereas components 2 + 3 focus more specifically on carrying out the daily implementation activities of SMART.

Activity 1.2.2.2 has many inter-related components that require coordination and engagement at both the national and site levels, all of whom will need to be actively involved. This is required to ensure a cohesive, agreed design at the site-level, especially because it is anticipated that the resulting system (after the project) will be up-scaled in SS. This also supports information sharing, which as been identified through the PIF and PPG as a significant barrier and need.

Component 2

Activity 2.1.1.3 Aren't road improvements the responsibility of the Government? Shouldn't this be funded by co-financing?

Activity 2.1.2.1. Who has the baseline information, and what is institution is going to maintain and redo the surveys?

Activity 2.1.2.5. Is this the most appropriate time to do an international marketing of NNP eco-tourism opportunities? What about concentrating the funds and efforts to secure the natural assets? What are the stats on international vs domestic tourism in NNP?

Activity 2.2.2.1. Has Uganda been informed of this activity and is it on board to develop and implement the proposed activities?

Activity 2.2.3.2 Where are the funds going to come from beyond the budget and time for this project?

Outcome 2.3 This outcome requires a significant revision. There is a lot of CBNRM jargon and very little substance. What are the real and tangible benefits that the Local Communities will be receiving from the project? Please only list the actual opportunities that the project will offer to the local communities. This should be done in 1 page maximum, not 7 as in the current project. The GEF is very concerned about listing activities that will deliver actual benefits and means to improve the livelihoods of the local communities. Best to concentrate on a few options than to build an unnecessary bureaucratic processes that may end up rendering very little gain to those on the ground. After a 1.5 year of project preparation, the options should be clear.

Activity 2.1.1.3: The national priorities for basic road works for civil society needs are enormous and this project work would not be a priority in that context. Minor road works, i.e., maintenance of the access and management tracks, are essential to enable effective PA management and enforcement of anti-poaching laws and the project objective.

Activity 2.1.2.1: There is a need to assemble new baseline information. The executing agent (IUCN partnership) will provide the necessary capacity and oversee the baseline surveys for the project duration. With MWCT, IUCN partnership will implement best practices for the surveys, the data and how this is used for adaptive management. The systems that will be set-up will be included in the new/updated management plan.

Activity 2.1.2.5: There are two markets for Nimule... one is Juba expats and the other is linking into the Uganda safari/adventure tourism sector. IUCN has already reached out to Uganda white water operators and there is real interest in Nimule white water rafting. The international marketing (is referring to Uganda) and it includes engagements with tour operators in Uganda, bringing operators to Nimule NP, pilot tours on the river with tour operators to develop packages, etc. The most feasible at this stage seems to be a 2-day, 1-night rafting trip, starting in Nimule.

The project's executing partners understand the challenges associated with advancing tourism products, and the direct linkage to peace and stability. The multi-stakeholder workshops had identified tourism as a gap in earlier drafts and requested that it be included. This aspect reinforces the efforts to provide conservation compatible sustainable livelihoods, and needs to be initiated in order to realize direct benefits in the future. Accordingly, this activity has been retained.

Activity 2.2.2.1: NNP staff have an ongoing relationship with their Ugandan counterparts, and there is a willingness to collaborate on improving transboundary enforcement. Ugandan reports as well as transboundary meetings and routine calls (e.g., the most recent was in June 2019) recognize the need for enhanced transboundary cooperation.

Activity 2.2.3.2: The project has a sustainable finance component that will explore how to secure additional funds for Nimule after the GEF project cycle. Text has been added to address this point on p105 of the prodoc.

Outcome 2.3: This section has been reduced to 3 pages by focussing on the key benefits and removing the descriptive supplementary information. Some of the extra information provides context and was requested by reviewers and contributors throughout the PPG process. Many implementation details have been removed, enabling greater discretion during implementation to suit the circumstances. The interventions (activities) listed here aim to: (a) provide direct conservation and economic benefits to local residents, (b) improve the conservation context such that local residents will derive indirect benefits, and to (c) incentivise a conservation-oriented economic system.

- Output 2.3.1 will provide essential soft skills and ownership through local governance and land-use mechanisms.
- Output 2.3.2 will provide direct economic and social benefits through conservation-oriented, sustainable livelihood activities.
- Output 2.3.3 activities will provide the supporting awareness tools for the first two outputs.

Component 3

Activity 3.1.1.1. Is SMART going to be deployed to all three PAs (i.e. SNP, MGR, ZGR) in the Sudd Ecosystem? What is the cost of this considering that there is no mobility (as stated in 3.1.1.2) or infrastructure (as stated in 3.1.1.3) in place to deploy SMART? What would be the priority PA(s)?

Activity 3.1.3.1 Is it worth trying to expand the PA System in the Sudd Ecosystem, when the existing PAs are not secured? What is the opportunity cost of the investments in the documentation of potential expansion of the PAs?

Output 3.1.4. Very important. Secure funding as needed for this engagement.

Outcome 3.3 SAME AS FOR COMPONENT 2. This outcome requires a significant revision. There is a lot of CBNRM jargon and very little substance. What are the real and tangible benefits that the Local Communities will be receiving from the project? Please only list the actual opportunities that the project will offer to the local communities. This should be done in 1 page maximum, not 7 as in the current project. The GEF is very concerned about listing activities that will deliver actual benefits and means to improve the livelihoods of the local communities. Best to concentrate on a few options than to build an unnecessary bureaucratic processes that may end up rendering very little gain to those on the ground. After a 1.5 year of project preparation, the options should be clear.

Activity 3.1.1.1: The WCS plan is to roll out SMART in those areas within the Sudd project landscape (could be inside the 3 PAs and/or in the corridors in between) where: 1) the SSWS has a functional presence of SSWS senior staff and rangers on the ground; and 2) those areas within the Sudd project landscape that have the highest biodiversity value and highest threat level (need). Information from SSWS on the above and the various field and wildlife assessments that WCS will conduct at the start of the project will inform where SMART deployment will be prioritized and initiated, starting around the project field site in the Sudd project landscape (exact location to be decided). WCS anticipates scaling up SMART deployment as the project progresses. Regarding costs: this has been budgeted for in the project budget. The review comment regarding “no mobility” is incorrect. Mobility is possible (though certainly not without its challenges) by use of the project vehicles and project boats that will be purchased within the project budget, and of course by foot (i.e., the latter being often the most effective and strategic way of conducting patrols as that’s also the way poachers move most of the time).

Activity 3.1.3.1: The question of whether to establish new PAs when the existing PAs are not fully secured can be debated from different points of view. However, in the face of ongoing, irreversible land use threats that are unfolding in South Sudan (section 2.3.1), designating lands for protection is a first necessary step toward long-term and ongoing securement activities. Failure to set aside lands now while it’s still possible will forego future opportunities for South Sudan and its PAs. The existing PAs were established long ago (table 1 in the prodoc) with boundaries based on limited scientific information and during a time that people and wildlife presence were quite different from what it is today. The protracted war has likely impacted values at different PAs. Hence, the real risk is that the current PA network will not be adequate to protect the globally significant wildlife in the longer-term. The proposed extensions are/will be key areas that need to be included to protect the wildlife in the landscape, since much the wildlife spends at least some--if not almost all of their time for certain species--outside the existing three PAs (compare e.g., Boma and Badingilo and the antelope migration: the two PAs, even if well protected, will not secure the migrating wildlife as they spend substantial time outside the two PAs, as shown on figure 5 in section 2.2.3). Hence there is a need for extensions and/or corridor management, shown in figure 4). For Meshra, it is even likely (from what is known at this point) that human encroachment and cattle grazing has had a serious impact on wildlife, and that de-gazetting Meshra might even be something that GoSS could consider. This all of course needs to be assessed first by the aerial and ground surveys (wildlife, threats and socio-economic), and then prioritization of which areas to focus on needs to be done. Limiting ourselves in advance to the three existing PAs would result in ongoing loss of key species in the broader landscape.

The output (for activity 3.1.3.1) was approved in the PIF and confirmed by the PSC during its review of the project document. It responds directly to the CBD Aichi target 11 (to increase terrestrial protected areas to 17%, per table 9 in prodoc). The current PA system is 13.9% (section 2.1.2). This activity is designed specifically to address the myriad land use threats and challenges described in section 2.3.1 and the current baseline for component 3 (e.g., expansion of mining, agriculture, etc.). In addition, this activity is intended to work in a synergistic way with other activities, i.e.,

- **Activity 1.1.4.1:** Develop a Protected Area Network Strategy.
- **Activity 3.1.4.2:** Support state authorities in integrated land use planning.
- **Activity 3.2.3.1:** Develop community-based information gathering and sharing networks.
- **Activity 3.3.1.1:** Establish appropriate community networks, structures and/or partnerships for

3. Is the financing adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objective?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

6-4-19

No. There are far too many activities for the GEF funding allocated to the project. Since the co-financing is mostly in-kind (\$8.6 million of \$12.1 million), the available funds available for implementation are simply not enough. While there is a detailed budget activity by activity, when looking at the sub-activities listed on pages 81 to 125, it becomes cleared that the funds will not be enough.

The project is requesting 3 vehicles: 2 for Component 1 and 1 for the PMU. It is not clear that the project will need 3 vehicles when all of them will be used in Juba. Please resize the request.

11-18-19

Cleared

Response to Secretariat comments

14/08/2019

The outcomes and outputs are consistent with the approved PIF, which provided the framework for the outcomes and outputs. The number of activities has been reduced or amended to remove certain elements. While the number of activities in this project may seem large, it is noted that they will be delivered through the 3 distinct components by the 3 primary partners, two of whom (IUCN and WCS) bring considerable capacity and experience in project implementation and technical expertise. In addition, several activities that cut-across components will be coordinated in their delivery through annual work plans by the PMU. Accordingly, the project partners are not concerned about the 'number' of outputs per se. They see the activities as a suite of reinforcing actions (i.e., removing pieces here and there tends to undermine the package of interventions as a whole).

The request for component 1 vehicles has been resized to address the review comment, as follows: one vehicle will be shared between the PMU and Component 1 instead of one each, and a second vehicle will be for field work in component 1 (and if necessary, this vehicle can be used for PMU or other component 1 manager work). This results in a reallocation of \$50k; this info is provided in the budget note, appendix 1b.

Two field vehicles for component 3 will be located at The Sudd PAs.

Responses: 22/10/2019

The outcomes and outputs are consistent with the approved PIF, which provided the framework for the outcomes and outputs. The number of activities has been reduced or amended to remove certain elements. While the number of activities in this project may seem large, it is noted that they will be delivered through the 3 distinct components by the 3 primary partners, two of whom (IUCN and WCS) bring considerable capacity and experience in project implementation and technical expertise. In addition, several activities that cut-across components will be coordinated in their delivery through annual work plans by the PMU. Accordingly, the project partners are not concerned about the 'number' of outputs per se. They see the activities as a suite of reinforcing actions (i.e., removing pieces here and there tends to undermine the package of interventions as a whole).

The request for component 1 vehicles has been resized to address the review comment, as follows:

One vehicle will be shared between the PMU and Component 1 instead of one each. This resulted in a reallocation of \$50k.

A field vehicle for component 1 has been cancelled with that \$80k reallocated to various component 1 activities.

Two field vehicles for component 3 will be located at The Sudd PAs. As requested, the project will procure only 3 vehicles in total.

4. Does the project take into account potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, and describes sufficient risk response measures? (e.g., measures to enhance climate resilience)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

6-4-19

Yes. There are a high number of Risky investments that will require constant monitoring and adjustment on the part of the PSC.

Cleared

Response to Secretariat comments

5. Is co-financing confirmed and evidence provided?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

6-4-19

Yes. The 10 LoC have been submitted.

The LoC from WCS stated that the co-financing is \$3,500,000 in cash and in-kind. In the Portal this con-financing was divided in \$3,000,000 in cash and \$500,000 in-kind. The GEF contacted WCS and requested the revised letter. No action needed on the part of the Agency. The GEFSEC will upload the revised letter (with the same allocation as in the Portal currently).No action needed on the part of the Agency

Cleared

Response to Secretariat comments

6. Are relevant tracking tools completed?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

6-4-19

Cleared

Response to Secretariat comments

7. Only for Non-Grant Instrument: Has a reflow calendar been presented?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement NA

Response to Secretariat comments

8. Is the project coordinated with other related initiatives and national/regional plans in the country or in the region?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

6-4-19

Yes.

Cleared

Response to Secretariat comments

9. Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

6-4-19

Yes

Cleared

Response to Secretariat comments

10. Does the project have descriptions of a knowledge management plan?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

6-4-19

Yes

Cleared

Response to Secretariat comments

Agency Responses

11. Has the Agency adequately responded to comments at the PIF stage from:

GEFSEC

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

6-4-19

Yes

Cleared

Response to Secretariat comments

STAP

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

6-4-19

Yes

Cleared

Response to Secretariat comments

GEF Council

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

6-4-19

Yes. From Germany and the US.

Cleared

Response to Secretariat comments

Convention Secretariat

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement NA

Response to Secretariat comments

Recommendation

12. Is CEO endorsement recommended?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

6-4-19

No. Please address outstanding issues. Thanks.

11-18-19

No. Please complete table of Indicators (Indicator 11). Thanks.

11-21-19

This CEO Endorsement is recommended.

Response to Secretariat comments

14/08/2019

The CEO endorsement has been updated as needed, to address the changes noted above.

Responses: 22/10/2019

GEF Sec comments addressed as required. Please note that the response to GEF comments is uploaded in the documents section.

Responses: 19/11/2019

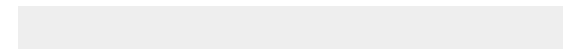
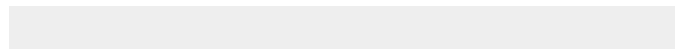
Table of Indicators (Indicator 11) has been completed in the portal as requested.

Review Dates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

Response to Secretariat comments

First Review



Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

Response to Secretariat comments

Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		

CEO Recommendation

Brief Reasoning for CEO Recommendations

CONTEXT: South Sudan owns the largest expanse of substantially intact wild habitats in East Africa, including savannas and the wetlands of the Sudd, one of the most important habitats for migratory birds in the continent. Due to the size and diversity of its ecosystems, South Sudan supports some of East Africa's most important wildlife populations of white-eared kob, tiang, buffalo, elephant, giraffe, hartebeest, lion, and wild dog, among others. The wildlife of South Sudan was featured in the Special Edition of National Geographic “Mysteries of Great Migrations”, Nov. 2010. Substantial work has been done in the past few years with regard to wildlife management inside and outside protected areas, starting with aerial surveys in 2007 and the development of the South Sudan Land Act (2009). However, most of South Sudan's wildlife policies and laws remain in draft form, and the protected areas are under threat by the escalation of poaching and illegal wildlife trade hammering the populations of elephants across the continent. Although the government of South Sudan and its partners have made efforts to control illegal wildlife trade (IWT), its efforts have been impeded by incomplete policy, legal and institutional frameworks and ineffective wildlife protection and management of protected areas on the ground.

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS: The objective of this project is to combat illegal wildlife trade by strengthening PA legislative and management systems (including information and monitoring), and community empowerment through both national and site level. In addition, this project is aiming at increasing management effectiveness in two target areas; Nimule NP and the Sudd Ecosystem. Nimule NP encompasses 540 km² along the White Nile River and along the border with Uganda, with wildlife moving freely back and forth between the two countries. The Park is inhabited by significant populations of elephants, hippopotamus, Uganda kob and leopard. The Sudd ecosystem is the only designated Ramsar site with high importance for both biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods. Currently, there are three protected areas in the Sudd: Shambe National Park (1,750 km²), Zeraf (10,961 km²) and Meshra (4,432 km²) Game Reserves.

These protected areas will be targeted for extensions (Meshra and Shame) and the other four will benefit from investments aiming at improving the effective management. In the Sudd ecosystem various surveys have identified important biodiversity hotspots, critical habitat for vulnerable species such as elephants and giraffe, and important corridors for animal movement (e.g. antelope migration) that are yet to be included in the PA state.

INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY: The engagement of intelligence-led, targeted preventative and pre-emptive efforts to fight wildlife crime is not yet widespread practice in South Sudan, and the methodologies of the ICCWC's Wildlife and Forestry Crime Analytic Toolkit will be applied for the first time. The equipment, devices and intervention strategies that are proposed for adoption by the SSWS and at the site level are innovations in the national context. Innovation will also be infused in the training and capacity building methods that the project will promote. The overall sustainability of the project results will be supported by embedding capacity into the institutions and entities that need and can make good use of strengthened abilities and resources. The project will seek to create stable situations on the ground where there is proper enforcement along with local communities engaged in conservation-compatible activities that generate local benefits while generating global environmental benefits.

SCALING UP: Training of CBOs and local communities within and adjacent to the targeted PA sites in wildlife protection and community co-management processes will be crucial for developing models that can be replicated elsewhere in the country, and replication of lessons and best practices may be enabled in areas such as monitoring, enforcement, ecotourism and other biodiversity compatible livelihood opportunities.

CO-FINANCING: Will be provided by the Government of South Sudan (Ministry Wildlife Conservation and Tourism -MWCT; Ministry of Environment and Forestry -MEF; Bureau of Statistics -BoS), CSOs (IUCN and WCS), Institute for Development, Ecology, Conservation & Cooperation (IDECC), and local NGOs (SS Nature Conservation Organization -SSNCO & South Sudan Wildlife Society -SSWsoc).