

# PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	10947
Project Name:	Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (AFRICA 2)
Countr(ies):	Regional, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

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## I. Overview

### A. Description

Project name

Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (AFRICA 2)

Country

Regional, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe

GEF ID

10947

Implementing Agency

UNEP

Executing Entity

Department of Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, Conservation & Tourism, Botswana; Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Eswatini; Department of Environment, Ministry of Tourism, Environment & Culture, Lesotho; Ministry of Environment, Forestry & Tourism, Namibia; Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment, South Africa; Ministry of Land and Natural Resources, Zambia; Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry, Zimbabwe

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

EA

PIR Submission

9/12/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 2nd PIR

Objective

To fast-track readiness and early actions to implement the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework by providing financial and technical support to GEF-eligible Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in their work to review and align their national targets, NBSAPs, policy frameworks, monitoring frameworks and finance with the Global Biodiversity Framework.

### B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Satisfactory

Development Objective

Satisfactory

Overall risk

Low Risk

Project Financing

2,100,000.00

Cumulative Disbursement

1,653,075.19

## C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval 4/13/2022	Agency Approval 7/13/2022
Implementation Start 5/30/2023	First Disbursement 5/23/2023
Expected MTR	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 2/28/2025	Actual Completion

## II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

### A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

During the reporting period, the implementation of the GBF EAS Project has advanced through a series of strategic and inclusive activities aimed at aligning the national biodiversity planning process with the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The project commenced with a launching workshop that convened key stakeholders from various sectors and local committees, fostering broad-based awareness and information sharing. This was followed by a target alignment workshop, which introduced GBF goals and facilitated the initial drafting of national targets through participatory discussions.

#### Country-Specific Status

Botswana has launched its national ecosystem assessment project, a critical step toward implementing the GBF. This project aims to generate data and knowledge on biodiversity and its benefits, which will inform the revision of its NBSAP and help the country meet the GBF's targets. The nation's NBSAP is currently under revision.

Eswatini is actively working on revising its NBSAP to align it with the GBF and its national development strategy. The country's previous NBSAP was not fully implemented due to a lack of formal adoption, so the current effort is focused on ensuring the new plan becomes a national policy instrument.

Lesotho, with the support of the GEF and UNDP, has started the process of updating its NBSAP to align it with the GBF. The country is focusing on a 'whole-of-government and whole-of-society' approach to ensure a more integrated and participatory planning process.

Namibia's second NBSAP was already closely aligned with the previous Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The country is now working to revise this plan to fully align with the GBF. This includes a focus on integrating biodiversity into its national development goals, particularly in sectors that are crucial to its economy like tourism, fisheries, and agriculture.

South Africa is playing a leading role in the GBF's implementation. It is actively engaged in developing policy frameworks and is working to align financial flows—both public and private—with biodiversity goals, an approach that is explicitly called for in the GBF.

Zambia is in the process of reviewing and updating its NBSAP to reflect the GBF's ambitious targets. The country is working to ensure its new plan is actionable and includes clear targets, indicators, and financing strategies to reverse biodiversity loss.

Zimbabwe has also embarked on a process to review and update its NBSAP. The country's previous NBSAP was from 2014, and the current effort is aimed at aligning it with the GBF, including new targets for its protected areas and a strong focus on mainstreaming biodiversity into all economic sectors.

On submission of targets to the CBD, South Africa has communicated its national targets as part of its contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The country is in the process of revising its full NBSAP in 2025 to align with the GBF and its national goals.

Namibia's previous NBSAP was already closely aligned with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The country is now revising its plan to fully align with the GBF and its new reporting requirements, including a focus on incorporating the '30x30' target.

Zambia is actively reviewing and updating its NBSAP, but a formal submission of its post-2020 GBF targets to the CBD's online reporting tool has not been publicly confirmed.

Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, and Zimbabwe: These countries are all engaged in the GEF-funded 'Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (GBF-EAS)' project to revise their NBSAPs and align their national targets with the GBF.

## **B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities**

While no significant risks have been identified at this stage, challenges related to fund disbursement have emerged due to new government regulations, among others. Nonetheless, efforts have been made including through internal execution modalities being considered for some countries to mitigate these delays.

## **C. Stakeholder Engagement**

Several countries have made efforts to engage various stakeholders in this project. To strengthen political support, some countries like the organised awareness workshops with the Select Committee on Environment, emphasizing the importance of legislative backing for the GBF-aligned NBSAP. Additionally, a steering committee workshop was conducted to review project documentation, define roles, and establish Terms of Reference to guide effective and timely implementation.

## **D. Gender Equality**

The above countries are at varying stages of integrating gender considerations into their biodiversity activities. For example, Botswana is taking steps to integrate gender into its environmental policies. Its national climate change policy emphasizes empowering vulnerable groups, including women and youth, to actively participate in climate response measures. This includes ensuring their access to technologies, finance, and capacity-building. Eswatini has launched an initiative to strengthen biodiversity while promoting gender equality. This effort aims to ensure that women, youth, and marginalized groups are active participants in conservation as leaders and custodians of traditional knowledge.

Lesotho is committed to gender equality and empowerment. Its national development plan requires all sectors to address gender issues. This includes promoting women's access to and control over productive resources like land and water and ensuring their participation in policy dialogues on environmental matters. Namibia has a strong institutional framework for gender equality in environmental management. The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) has a Gender Policy and Action Plan (2022-2027) that promotes an equitable approach to environmental protection. Namibia also collects sex-disaggregated data through its Community-Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) Programme, which helps in designing more effective and inclusive conservation projects.

South Africa has a clear strategy for gender mainstreaming in the environment sector. The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) has conducted a gender analysis of its projects to identify gaps and is developing a Gender Plan of Action to ensure women are equitably represented and benefit from biodiversity initiatives. Zambia has a history of integrating gender into conservation projects. An all-women anti-poaching unit has been established in the Lower Zambezi National Park. Additionally, projects on sustainable resource

management and agriculture actively support women by providing them with skills and opportunities for leadership in conservation. Zimbabwe recognizes that women are disproportionately affected by climate change and environmental degradation. National consultations for environmental policy updates, including biodiversity strategies, specifically seek input from women and girls. Efforts are being made to ensure women's representation in decision-making roles and that policies are designed to be sensitive to the gendered division of labor, particularly in activities like fetching water and firewood.

### E. Knowledge Management

Implementation of knowledge management approaches is on-going.

## III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

## IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

## V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

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