

GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title

Reimagining National Parks for People and Nature - Mega Living Landscapes Project

Region

South Africa

GEF Project ID

11347

Country(ies)

South Africa

Type of Project

FSP

GEF Agency(ies):

WWF-US

GEF Agency ID

G0048

Executing Partner

South African National Parks (SANParks)

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area (s)

Biodiversity

Submission Date

10/16/2023

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Influencing models, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Stakeholders, Private Sector, Civil Society, Local Communities, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Beneficiaries

Type of Trust Fund

GET

Project Duration (Months)

72

GEF Project Grant: (a)

8,874,312.00

GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)

0.00

Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)

798,688.00

Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)

0.00

Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)

9,673,000.00

Total Co-financing

55,080,000.00

PPG Amount: (e)

300,000.00

PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)

27,000.00

PPG total amount: (e+f)

327,000.00

Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)

10,000,000.00

Project Tags

CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: 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)

South Africa (SA) is one of the 17 megadiverse countries that host most of the world’s biodiversity and has large numbers of species found nowhere else. However, global change, including climate change, habitat loss and transformation, invasive species, pollution, over-harvesting, and illegal harvesting, continues to result in the ongoing loss of biodiversity, ecological degradation, and decline of the ecosystem services from biodiversity and ecological infrastructure.¹

South Africans currently face headwinds with the country characterised by low economic growth exacerbated by an energy crisis, high unemployment, and inequality.² Despite SA’s commitment to protecting and conserving biodiversity and reducing the impacts of climate change, there is a significant gap between its desire to achieve 30 x 30, and the current quantum of land under some form of conservation – an additional 13.35% of land and inland freshwater resources, and 15.3% of its marine areas will need to be added, according to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) ³. The government-approved National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPEAS) commits SA to achieve 28% of land and water protection by 2036.⁴

The recent approval of the White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use of SA’s Biodiversity⁵, and the Launch of SANParks Vision 2040⁶ herald in the beginning of a paradigm shift that will enable the country to change from its current trajectory to one where nature is understood to be the bedrock of the economy.

This GEF project will assist in breaking the barriers blocking both the expansion of protected areas and pro-nature economic development that benefits local communities. It will create three Mega Living Landscapes (MLL) that contribute to the realisation of a dynamic reimagined national conservation vision for South Africa that will become an integral part of the country’s sustainable development and nature positive economic future resulting in thriving people and nature. In these MLLs the GEF project will, within six years, bring 2 million hectares of land under conservation – 1,372,100 hectares being added to the Protected Area (PA) estate or being under improved management within PAs, and 630,000 hectares of landscapes outside declared PAs will be under improved land management in production systems, thereby contributing to Global Environment Benefits. In SA, the concept of “landscapes outside declared PAs under improved land management in production systems” have until recently been referred to as “conservation areas” but since the publication of the White Paper will be referred to as Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs) going forward in alignment with Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

The project will focus on three areas of the country where synergies exist with government’s National Development Plan (NDP) and where existing protected areas and initiatives can be built on to create mega living landscapes. These areas are a) the Greater Addo stretching from the coastal town of Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth) from the Addo National Park (and its adjacent marine protected area) inland to join up with the Mountain Zebra National Park near the town of Craddock and the Camdeboo National Park around the town of Graaff Reinet, all in the Eastern Cape Province; b) Barberton/Makhonjwa which stretches from near the town of Barberton to south of the Kruger National Park in the Mpumalanga Province; and c) the Grasslands which will see the declaration of the Grasslands National Park in the Eastern Cape highlands. Due to the wide scope of the three MLLs, this GEF project will implement all project outputs in only one, namely Addo, and select project outputs in Barberton and Grasslands. Stewardship mechanisms, and compatible land use interventions where landowners and communal land users are active participants, will characterise the way in which these mega living landscapes will be created. Lessons from the successful implementation of these three MLLs will be used in a further five MLLs, shown in the Map in Annexure C, which seeks to double the 4.6m hectares of land that SANParks is currently responsible for protecting and conserving.

The long-term impact of the project will be well-connected functioning ecosystems that result in thriving biodiversity, and increased livelihoods, human well-being, and resilience in three mega living landscapes.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

Create three mega living landscapes (MLL), including a mosaic of declared Protected Areas (PAs) and production landscapes outside of PAs, that contribute to the realisation of a dynamic reimagined national conservation vision for South Africa that becomes an integral part of the country's sustainable development and nature positive economic future resulting in thriving people and nature.

Project Components

Component 1: Establishment of MLL through strengthened institutions, partnerships, plans & formal declaration.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
5,324,587.00	33,000,000.00

Outcome:

- 1.1 MLLs established, with new PAs &, OECMs, through partnerships & planning.
- 1.2 Capabilities of SANParks/ the MLL management teams including local community leadership and transformation of leadership increased for effective management of MLL (PAs & OECMs).
- 1.3 PAs declared & OECMs formalized within MLLs with increased effective management.

Output:

- 1.1.1 Management partnership agreements for each MLL, that formalizes the management partnership, developed, and agreed.
- 1.1.2 Collaborative stakeholder coordination & planning platforms strengthened/established & working effectively in each MLL.
- 1.1.3 Landscape level Plans for each MLL developed & integrated within relevant government planning domains, & with key industry bodies.
- 1.1.4. Long term (20 years) forecast model & strategic funding plan to deliver the MLL developed & utilized. To include:
 - a) Long-term financing forecast model developed, which sets out the anticipated costs, inflows, & shortfalls for the next 20 years.
 - b) Funding strategy & plan to raise the required finance developed.
- 1.2.1. Capability program to ensure implementation of the MLLs Plans by SANParks & MLL management team (including local community leadership) developed & implemented. This programme will address competencies, technology, processes, and governance.
- 1.2.2 Bespoke black leadership training & coaching program, that is cross-sectoral (public, private and community), long-term, & focused on middle and senior black management to transform leadership within the MLL, developed & implemented.
- 1.2.3 TA and training to improve SAN Parks Supply Chain Management.

1.3.1 Stewardship Toolkits & Legal Manuals utilized & improved: a) Technical assessments & all ground & legal work to prepare documentation to submit to authorities for PA declaration implemented. b) Improved stewardship agreements for private landowners & communal land users, including using traditional knowledge, & extension support and access to financial/ tax benefits. c) Legal advisory panel to support effective agreements established.

1.3.2 Technical support to facilitate land acquisition processes, including assessments, safeguards, and stakeholder engagement activities, provided.

1.3.3 On the ground Implementation of MLL Plans, including activities to improve effective management of existing PAs.

Component 2: Unlock private sector investments and local communities' socio-economic benefits in achieving mega living landscape objectives.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
2,484,807.00	15,000,000.00

Outcome:

2.1 Pro-nature economic development catalyzed and owned by the private sector in each landscape, that supports local communities to develop sustainable livelihoods and green businesses, aligned to MLL objectives.

2.2 Leveraging other employment, enterprise development & restoration initiatives benefit local communities.

Output:

2.1.1 Aligned with MLL Plans and Financing Strategies, private sector pro-nature value propositions (including standards etc.) developed to promote pro-nature economic development initiatives, both inside & outside PAs, that will build the MLL. These will differ per landscape and link to 1.1.3 & 1.1.4 with the following economic sectors possible: a) Rangeland agriculture. b); Wool industry. c) Ecotourism. d) Heritage tourism. e) Game industry. f) Fruit industry. g) Forestry.

2.1.2 Based on the landscape-level pro-nature economic development initiatives identified above, technical support to private sector & local communities to develop portfolio of opportunities for local enterprises, business incubators & livelihood development.

2.1.3 Brand initiatives that promote the MLL & its pro-nature economic initiatives, and benefit producers, buyers & local communities, catalysed through studies & engagement with private sector, communities & existing initiatives.

2.2.1 Other employment, enterprise development & restoration initiatives, such as climate adaptation through the Green Climate Fund's (GCF) Eco-DRR & the EPWP, leveraged in the MLLs. This could involve GEF resources addressing the shortcomings & scaling up these programmes to improve their effectiveness such as through better targeted restoration & increasing sustainability.

Component 3: ncrease knowledge sharing on the benefits of mega living landscapes amongst the society.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET

GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
198,616.00	1,001,100.00

Outcome:

3.1 Increased awareness amongst SANParks & key partners in the MLL that nature is the foundation of economic development and improved knowledge about what this means on the ground for ecosystem functioning and livelihoods.

Output:

3.1.1 Cross mega living landscape workshops to share knowledge & experience held.

3.1.2 Knowledge management & communication products delivered.

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
443,716.00	3,000,000.00

Outcome:

Effective, informed, and adaptive project management.

Output:

M&E reports, including project progress reports, midterm evaluation & terminal evaluation completed.

Annual reflection workshops, between main stakeholders, held.

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Component 1: Establishment of MLL through strengthened institutions, partnerships, plans & formal declaration.	5,324,587.00	33,000,000.00
Component 2: Unlock private sector investments and local communities' socio-economic benefits in achieving mega living landscape objectives.	2,484,807.00	15,000,000.00
Component 3: ncrease knowledge sharing on the benefits of mega living landscapes amongst the society.	198,616.00	1,001,100.00
M&E	443,716.00	3,000,000.00

Subtotal	8,451,726.00	52,001,100.00
Project Management Cost	422,586.00	3,078,900.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	8,874,312.00	55,080,000.00

Please provide justification

Due to the wide scope of the three MLLs, GEF project resources will be fully deployed to achieve all project outputs in only one, namely Addo, and select project outputs in Barberton and Grasslands. The reason for focusing on Addo is threefold: 1) It is the MLL that has the best potential to achieve significant scale (2m ha); 2) There is a strong foundational base for the project because SANParks currently manages three national parks in the area and there are various private sector and NPO initiatives to build from; 3) The area is well positioned to build pro-nature economic viability in eco-tourism and game industries. The Table below provides a summary of where GEF Project Spend will occur in each MLL per Outcomes and Outputs. The project outputs not funded by the GEF will be achieved using co-finance.

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

If South Africa continues with the business-as-usual approach to expanding PAs, it will take many decades to achieve the ambitious 30x30 vision, and pro-nature local economic development will remain limited. The historical approach to protected areas in SA has been exclusionary, erecting barriers between people and nature. This has led to unresolved land claims and inadequate poverty alleviation. The GEF Project will build upon key initiatives and programs, including DFFE's White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biodiversity 2022, SANParks 2040 Vision process, and other relevant strategies and initiatives to create a more inclusive and effective conservation model.

This project proposes to create the first three mega living landscapes, connecting and consolidating existing protected areas and other land uses, by consolidating and expanding existing and establishing new PAs, predominately through using innovative stewardship mechanisms, and bringing nature based economic opportunities to create living landscapes where PAs, OECMs and other land uses are connected and cohesive and provide benefits to wildlife, ecosystems, and people. The lessons learnt in establishing these three MLLs will be instrumental in the establishment of the other five MLLs.

The extent of protected and conserved area is as follows: 16.45% of land (9.9% declared PAs and 6.65% conservation area), and 14.7% of marine (all protected area including Prince Edward Island). SANParks is responsible for 40% of this land, and 5% of this marine area. The Protected Area Register lists 1,651 protected area sites which include – special nature reserves, national parks, nature reserves, protected environments, World Heritage Sites, specially protected forest areas, forest nature reserves, forest wilderness areas and mountain catchment areas. 60% of these 11.3 million hectares are under state ownership/management. Of state-owned protected areas 58% are managed by SANParks, 30% by provincial agencies, 7% by agencies responsible for forests and 5% by the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. [\[1\]](#)¹ SANParks currently manages 20 National Parks (~4.2 million ha) and 10 Marine Protected Areas (~0.4 million ha) accounting for 40% of SA's terrestrial, and 5% of SA's marine protected area estate.

This GEF Project will link to and build from the following key initiatives and programmes:

- The DFFE's recently approved White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biodiversity 2022, which includes a policy objective to “create large, contiguous connected terrestrial conservation landscapes that enhance naturalness and wildness,” and which emphasises four pillars - conservation, sustainable use, equitable benefit sharing and transformation. [\[2\]](#)²
- SANParks 2040 Vision process, where it is developing a bold plan for protected areas which emphasises the interconnectedness between biodiversity protection, climate resilience and the well-being of people.

- The High-Level Panel review of policies, legislation and practices on matters related to the management of elephant, lion, leopard, and rhinoceros.[\[3\]](#)³
- Various DFFE’s initiatives including the National Biodiversity Economy Strategy, [\[4\]](#)⁴ the National Integrated Strategy to Combat Wildlife Trafficking, [\[5\]](#)⁵ and the DFFE/UNDP’s BioFin Initiative.[\[6\]](#)⁶
- SANParks Programmes – including the Rhino Range Expansion Programme and Rhino Conservation Strategy, SANParks Land Inclusion Plan and Park Management Plans.[\[7\]](#)⁷
- Previous and currently funded GEF projects (see detail below in this document).
- Civil society initiatives and partnerships across SA landscape (see detail below in this document).
- Private sector and business initiatives (see detail below in this document).

Reimagining National Parks and Mega Living Landscapes

The GEF project aims to overcome the barriers to protected area expansion and pro-nature economic development that benefits local communities. It will do so by creating three Mega Living Landscapes (MLL) that contribute to a reimagined national conservation vision for South Africa. These landscapes will become an integral part of the country's sustainable development and nature positive economic future, resulting in thriving people and nature. The long-term impact of the project will be well-connected functioning ecosystems that result in thriving biodiversity, increased livelihoods, human well-being, and resilience across the three mega living landscapes.

Pro-nature economic development is development that on balance, across a landscape, retains or improves biodiversity and ecosystem services. This can be achieved for example through biodiversity compatible rangeland management practices that maintain and enhance diversity of species and support or enhance the delivery of ecosystem services while simultaneously supporting livestock production; or the development of eco-tourism facilities, in a way that minimizes its direct negative impact and allows for the creation of exclusion zones for biodiversity hotspots because of increased revenue generated through increased visitors numbers.

Mega Living Landscapes will be created as a mosaic of conservation and production landscapes. These landscapes will have different legal statuses and management regimes depending on their land type and use. The range of these areas includes the highest form of declared national protected areas with exclusion zones for certain wildlife and ecosystems or species, OECMs, conservation-compatible sustainable land uses and regenerative agriculture, and buffer zones where non-conservation compatible land uses, such as cultivation, occur. The aim is to bring about ecological sustainability while simultaneously unlocking significant social and economic benefits, as these landscapes will enable thriving rural economies to be expanded and built.

“Mega” denotes large where the actual size depends on the local conditions, for example the Addo Landscape is about 2 million hectares, while other areas will be well below a million hectares. The word “Living” is used in the place of “Conservation” to indicate that production (e.g., cattle farming) will continue over some of the land while other parts of the land will be like current fenced protected areas. “Landscape” covers land, water, air, and sea that contains biodiversity value, aesthetic value, and heritage value.

The concept of large, interconnected conservation areas, sometimes called bioregions or biospheres, is not new in South Africa. However, they have often not been effectively realized on the ground due to the barriers described and other area-specific factors. Creating MLLs has several advantages, including greater inclusivity by retaining landowners and land users, enabling natural ecosystem linkages for climate change mitigation and adaptation, stimulating a shift to greener development, and allowing for integrated approaches across government departments and partnerships. Additionally, MLLs enable different partnership delivery models to be implemented, allowing for lessons to be learned about which management approach works best in various circumstances.

Through an initial stakeholder engagement process with biodiversity and mapping experts from SANParks, DFFE, SANBI, and partner conservation NGOs including WWF, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Wilderness Foundation Africa (WFA), Conservation South Africa (CSA), Care for Wild and Conservation Outcomes, a reimagined Protected Area Network for South Africa was mapped using a variety of criteria. These criteria include biodiversity and cultural heritage, climate resilience, economic factors at regional and national levels, social criteria at park and regional levels, and operational requirements.

Eight MLLs, shown in the Map under Annexure C, have been identified as priority areas for SANParks which cumulatively can double the amount of land, water and sea under protection and conservation contributing towards SA’s 30x30 GBF goals. Three of these have been assessed as having high potential for success and for being catalytic, were identified for the proposed GEF project focus as set out in the Table below:

The baseline in the three MLLs is set out in the Table below.

Name of MLL	Location & current PAs	Key conservation	Foundational Partnerships & Initiatives
Greater Addo MLL	<p>Located in the Eastern Cape Province, this MLL, once created, will stretch from the Indian Ocean to Karoo including seascapes, landscapes, & waterscapes.</p> <p>It will link 3 existing national parks – Addo (+ the adjacent Addo MPA), Mountain Zebra & Camdeboo, currently 945 700 hectares.</p> <p>Several private landowners have declared their land as Protected Environments.</p> <p>There are provincial nature reserves.</p>	<p>6 biomes - Albany Thicket, Nama Karoo, Grassland, Fynbos, Forest, and the Indian Ocean Coastal Belt.</p> <p>Contains biodiversity hotspots.</p> <p>1 Strategic Water Source Area (SWSA [8]⁸).</p> <p>Species (endangered & vulnerable) – e.g., black rhino, Cape mountain zebra, eagles, 13 species of endemic herpetofauna.</p> <p>Heritage value – evidence of the Khoisan, the first inhabitants of southern Africa; Palaeontology – fossils records in 230 million years old rocks strata.</p>	<p>The MLL partnership will build from: a) The existing SANParks teams, headed by Park Managers currently managing each of the 3 national parks. b) The SANParks regional office that will draw on experiences from elsewhere, for example, the Greater Kruger Strategic Development Plan & Funding Strategy as a framework example for the MLLs’ plans. c) Relationships with the Eastern Cape Parks & Tourism Agency (ECPTA) who manage provincial parks located within the MLL. d) Stewardship initiatives underway in the area including the Mountain Zebra – Camdeboo PE Landowners Association and the Wilderness Foundation Africa (WFA) who have supported the widespread adoption of Protected Environments by private landowners. e) Co-management contractual agreements that a few landowners have with SANParks.</p> <p>Other key initiatives that are foundational include: a) Restoration & job creation programs such as DFFE’s Extended Public Works Programme & the private sector’s Youth Employment Service (YES). b) Initiatives by private game, woolgrowers & tourism landowners in the area to actively build pro-nature economy. c) TNC’s innovative financing initiatives such as the Water Fund. d) Textile industry and game farming associations.</p>
Barberton MLL	<p>Located in Mpumalanga Province, this MLL, once created, will run from the Barberton mountains up to south of Kruger National Park.</p>	<p>3 biomes - Forest, Savanna, and Grassland.</p> <p>Contains biodiversity hotspots.</p> <p>2 Strategic Water Source Areas (SWSA).</p> <p>Species (endangered & vulnerable) – at least 80 endemic plant species, safe area for black rhino.</p>	<p>The MLL partnership will build from: a) The MOU between SANParks & the NGO, Care for Wild (CFW), in terms of which CFW rescues, rehabilitates, rewilds & releases black rhinos, often orphans due to poaching in Kruger. b) The CFW’s co-management agreement with the MTPA to manage the Barberton Nature Reserve. c) CFW’s partnerships with the 7 Swazi traditional communities surrounding the area on farming & conservation projects which to date has created over 150 local permanent jobs, of which 57 are part of the local anti-poaching unit, 10 of whom are female, & trained 300 local youth. d) The ability of CFW to raise own finance through domestic and global philanthropic sources. e) CFW’s relationship with the</p>

	<p>No national park in this area but several provincial parks under the Mpumalanga Tourism & Parks Agency (MPTA) & also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.</p>	<p>Heritage value – contains the best-preserved, oldest & most diverse sequence of volcanic and sedimentary rocks on Earth.</p>	<p>Barberton Chamber of Business. f) The work done by private landowners to create Conservancies.</p>
Grasslands MLL	<p>Located in the northern part of the Eastern Cape Province Drakensberg mountains near to Rhodes and Naude's Nek.</p> <p>No national park in this area.</p> <p>The Ongeluksnek nature reserve is a provincial park managed by the ECPTA.</p>	<p>1 biome - Grasslands.</p> <p>Contains biodiversity hotspots.</p> <p>1 Strategic Water Source Area (SWSA).</p> <p>Species (endangered & vulnerable) – high level of endemic species, birds such as the wattled and blue cranes.</p> <p>Heritage value – ancient San rock art is found in this area.</p>	<p>The MLL partnership will build from: a) Since 2021 SANParks & WWF have through a partnership agreement been managing the process towards declaration of the Grasslands National Park. b). WWF-SA's work to protected Strategic Water Source Areas. c) MeatNaturally Herders for Health communal rangeland market access initiative. d) Woolgrowers' initiative to bring natural wool to retailers such as H&M. e) CSA & SANBI's PES & youth/restoration initiatives. f) SANBI's GCF proposal to support ecological adaption to mitigated natural disasters.</p>

The GEF Project Incremental Value is set out in the Table below.

Name of MLL	GEF Project Incremental Value
Across all 3 MLLs	<p>The GEF Project will create the institutional platform that will facilitate the MLL approach. This platform will coordinate the actions of government (SANParks, provincial parks), private sector (organised business), private & communal landowners & users, conservation NGOs, and local community organisations & leaders.</p> <p>The Project will also ensure the formalisation of the institutional arrangements to manage the MLLs.</p> <p>Landscape level Plans, including climate action, will be developed, and integrated with regulatory authorities & business. Financial Forecast Models and Funding Strategies will be developed.</p> <p>The conservation actions (e.g., improvements to the stewardship agreements & declaration, incentives for landowners and users etc.) required to create & extend PAs & conservation compatible land uses (OECMs) within the MLLs will be implemented.</p>

	<p>The capabilities (competencies, skills, technology, systems & governance) of the MLL management teams to effectively create & manage the MLLs will be increased.</p> <p>Private sector investments and plans will be unlocked in support of the MLLs.</p> <p>The Project will increase local communities' socio-economic benefits and resilience through and from the MLLs.</p>
Addo	<p><u>Extent</u></p> <p>The footprint of the MLL in the long term will be 2 million hectares.</p> <p>By project end there will be 155,000 hectares of new declared PAs; 220,000 hectares outside declared PAs under improved practises due to the establishment of the MLL; with improved management effectiveness over 945,700 ha of PAs.</p> <p><u>Management arrangements</u></p> <p>The primary manager of this MLL will be SANParks. Partnership agreements will be utilised for certain aspects of management.</p> <p><u>Pro-nature & pro-poor economic opportunities</u></p> <p>Pro-nature tourism & game farming will be key economic drivers to create range expansion for threatened mammals (black rhino) & re-establish wildlife migrations.</p>
Barberton	<p><u>Extent</u></p> <p>The footprint of the MLL in the long term will be 1.5m hectares.</p> <p>By project end there will be 35,000 hectares of new declared PAs; 360,000 ha outside declared PAs under improved practices due to the establishment of the MLL, with improved management effectiveness over 196,400 ha of existing PAs. A focus in this landscape is that of improved management as a significant amount of existing declared PAs in this area are currently not being well managed.</p> <p><u>Management arrangements</u></p> <p>An alternative management model will be implemented, one where an NGO, Care for Wild, is responsible for management of the MLL including over land owned by provincial conservation agency (MTPA), contracted private land & SANParks land.</p> <p><u>Pro-nature & pro-poor economic opportunities</u></p> <p>Wildlife driven conservation area based on sustainable development model protected by empowered, rural communities at the heart of conservation.</p>
Grasslands	<p><u>Extent</u></p> <p>The footprint of the MLL in the long term will be 1.1m hectares.</p> <p>By project end the new Grassland National Park will have been established with 20,000 hectares new PAs; and there will be 50,000 hectares outside declared PAs under improved practises due to the establishment of the MLL, with improved management effectiveness over 20,000 of existing PAs.</p> <p><u>Management arrangements:</u></p> <p>The GNP will be the first national park established by SANParks primarily through contractual agreements with communal land users and private landowners using the biodiversity stewardship approach. The GEF project will focus on sustainable rangeland with communal stewardship agreements that secure critical biodiversity and which benefit land users. The second unique feature will be that management of the national park will be done through a partnership agreement between SANParks and an NGO, WWF-SA.</p>

	<p><u>Pro-nature & pro-poor economic opportunities</u></p> <p>Innovative approaches to sustainable large and small stock rangeland farming on communal lands, such as improved market access through the MeatNaturally approach and regenerative wool production, will be pursued. A key strategy will be to leverage existing initiatives to scale up and create long terms sustainability.</p>
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Global environment significance, problems, and barriers

South Africa is one of the world's 17 megadiverse countries, hosting many unique species. However, the country faces multiple challenges, including climate change, habitat loss, invasive species, pollution, over-harvesting, and illegal harvesting, which contribute to biodiversity loss, ecological degradation, and decline of ecosystem services.

Almost half of the 1,021 ecosystem types assessed in SA's National Biodiversity Assessment^{[9]⁹} (2018) are categorised as threatened. Rivers and inland wetlands have the highest proportion of types in the Critically Endangered category, 42% and 61% respectively. Of the assessed taxa in South Africa (23 312 indigenous taxa from 11 taxonomic groups), 0.2% are extinct and 14% are threatened with extinction. 22% of endemic taxa are threatened with extinction. Estuaries have the highest proportion of threatened taxa (27%), and 19% of marine taxa are threatened. The IUCN Red List Index that tracks the changes in species threat status shows an increased extinction risk for most of eight taxonomic groups assessed (plants, reptiles, birds, mammals, amphibians, freshwater fishes, dragonflies, and butterflies) with freshwater species and butterflies at most risk.

There are many pressures on biodiversity within the country, with environmental problems including: biodiversity loss due to habitat loss on land caused by, amongst others, cultivation mining and urban development; ecological degradation of strategic water source areas; threatened species such as rhino and succulents due to restricted habitat and environmental crime; poverty, inequality, and historic injustice with social welfare interventions by the state needing to take priority over environmental funding; and funding and capability challenges faced by many of the conservation authorities limiting their ability to deliver on their environmental mandate.

Climate change is also having negative impacts on biodiversity across land and aquatic systems and if unmitigated, climate change is likely to cause significant changes in South Africa's ecosystem structure and functioning by 2050, and to result in significant losses in biodiversity in the latter half of this century. Climate change also multiplies other pressures on biodiversity, both exacerbating the effects of other pressures and altering the frequency, intensity, and timing of events.

South Africans face increasing hardship with high levels of unemployment (34% of the population or at least 7.9 million people), high levels of inequality (World Bank poverty database lists SA as the most unequal country in the world with a Gini coefficient of 0.63) and significant governance and institutional challenges. South Africa faces headwinds as economic growth has slowed over the past five years, with National Treasury recently reducing its estimate of real annual GDP growth to 0.9% for the 2023/24 financial year.

The green energy transition being spearheaded by the National Energy Crisis Committee (NECOM), located in the Presidency, is critical to fundamentally change SA's economy through creating new industries and jobs and

helping South Africa achieve energy security and climate resilience. There is an Energy Action Plan, an Energy Investment Plan of \$8.5bn that was announced at COP27 in 2022, and a recently announced Resource Mobilisation Fund set up by Business for SA to support all the above. At a global level, the WEF's 2023 Economic Outlook is gloomy with 2/3 expecting a global recession. The world faces an existential threat to humanity with a triple planetary crisis – climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste.

Biodiversity value proposition and institutional context

On the upside, South Africa is characterized by world class environmental legislation, policies, and strategies, and is an active participant in all key global environmental/climate related agreements under the leadership of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE). SA's biodiversity contributes significantly to the national economy, local livelihoods, and climate change resilience. With a varied geography ranging from plains and savannas to deserts and high mountains, South Africa's ecosystems support over 95,000 species, and its rich biodiversity contributes to an estimated 418,000 jobs directly using or protecting biodiversity.^{[10][10]}

SANParks is SA's premium conservation authority, a Schedule 3A public entity (there are 150 public entities in SA) governed by a Board. It functions under the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act 57 of 2003 with an ecological, environmental and tourism promotion mandate. SANParks makes significant contributions to employment through directly employing 4 720 fulltime staff, and to local communities through 4 741 full time equivalents via public works initiatives, and 2 100 by SANParks concessionaires as well as game meat sales and promotion of nature-based enterprises and their value chain. SANParks has a proud and clean history of unqualified audits. SANParks has for over a decade generated about 80% of its annual required income of R3billion, primarily from ecotourism. This is not sustainable, with long term financial sustainability being a key need.

Barriers

There are key barriers that are the underlying causes that are contributing to the environmental problem which the GEF project strategies will work to address to generate global environmental benefits.

- There was a fixed protected areas mindset that the only way to protect biodiversity was to separate nature and people. This was overlaid by apartheid beliefs that saw protected areas being orientated towards servicing the privileged white population. In certain cases, black rural communities were impoverished as they were forced off their land resulting in a negative relationship with conservation which sometimes led to over-extractive practices, and vulnerability towards participation in illegal poaching and harvesting. This mindset drove where and how national parks were established, resulting in National Parks being established in a way that led to the separation of nature and people and their culture.
- Only 28 years ago, when apartheid ended and SA became a democratic nation in 1994, did white domination of the conservation sector begin to transform. In a nation where high inequality, poverty, poor education, and unemployment persist, transformation of the conservation sector remains an important objective. Highly skilled competent scientists, planners and practitioners of all races are fundamental to the success of the conservation sector. What is being sought is a shift in the culture of institutions that will occur when a critical mass of the leadership is black.
- Slow expansion of protected areas due to lack of resources partly caused by lack of understanding of the critical importance of the biodiversity economy and partly caused by factors beyond the influence of this project, namely those to do with systemic poverty, and the current decline of the SA economy.

- Institutional weaknesses and lack of effective partnerships to implement. It is well known in SA and globally that the SA state is in decline. The inability of the country to solve energy loadshedding is one example. Within the conservation sector, the ability of the eleven conservation agencies to effectively manage their protected areas have declined significantly. As mentioned above environmental crime is a significant threat.
- Lack of sufficient implementation capacity to establish and effectively manage mega living landscapes. COVID recovery is slow due to its long tail, such as the impact of lower international tourism numbers leading to lower revenue over several years. The governance of some conservation agencies, in particular certain provincial agencies, has not yet improved to pre-COVID levels.
- Limited knowledge and awareness of the link between nature and people, and a narrative that pits environment versus people, whereas it should be that a healthy environment is essential for healthy people.

Lack of access to sustainable financial resources to enable effective environmental action that benefits both nature and people.

[1] DFFE, March 2022, Status Quo of protected areas in South Africa, unpublished.

[2] DFFE, October 2022, Revised Draft White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use of SA's Biodiversity 2022.

[3] DFFE, December 2020, High Level Panel Report of Experts for the Review of Policy, Legislation and Practices on Matters of Elephant, Lion, Leopard, and Rhinoceros Management, Breeding, Hunting, Trade and Handling.

[4] Department of Environment Affairs, 2016, National Biodiversity Economy Strategy.

[5] DFFE, February 2017 version 4, National Integrated Strategy to Combat Wildlife Trafficking.

[6] Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). 2017. Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) – South Africa: Biodiversity Finance Plan. Draft Report written by Hugo Van Zyl, Tracey Cumming, James Kinghorn, Mark Botha, Kamlesh Pillay, David Meyers, Massimiliano Riva and Lucia Motaung. Department of Environmental Affairs and United Nations Development Programme, Pretoria.

[7] Each Park has a detailed Management Plan which updated on a rolling 5-year basis, and the Land Inclusion Plan operates over a three-year period, being updated annually.

[8] SWSA are areas that supply a disproportionate amount of mean annual runoff to a geographical region of interest. In South Africa, SWSAs are the 10% of the country's land area that delivers 50% of mean annual runoff.

[9] SANBI, 2018, National Biodiversity Assessment.

[10] SANBI, 2018, National Biodiversity Assessment 2018: the Status of South Africa's ecosystems and biodiversity – Synthesis Report.

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

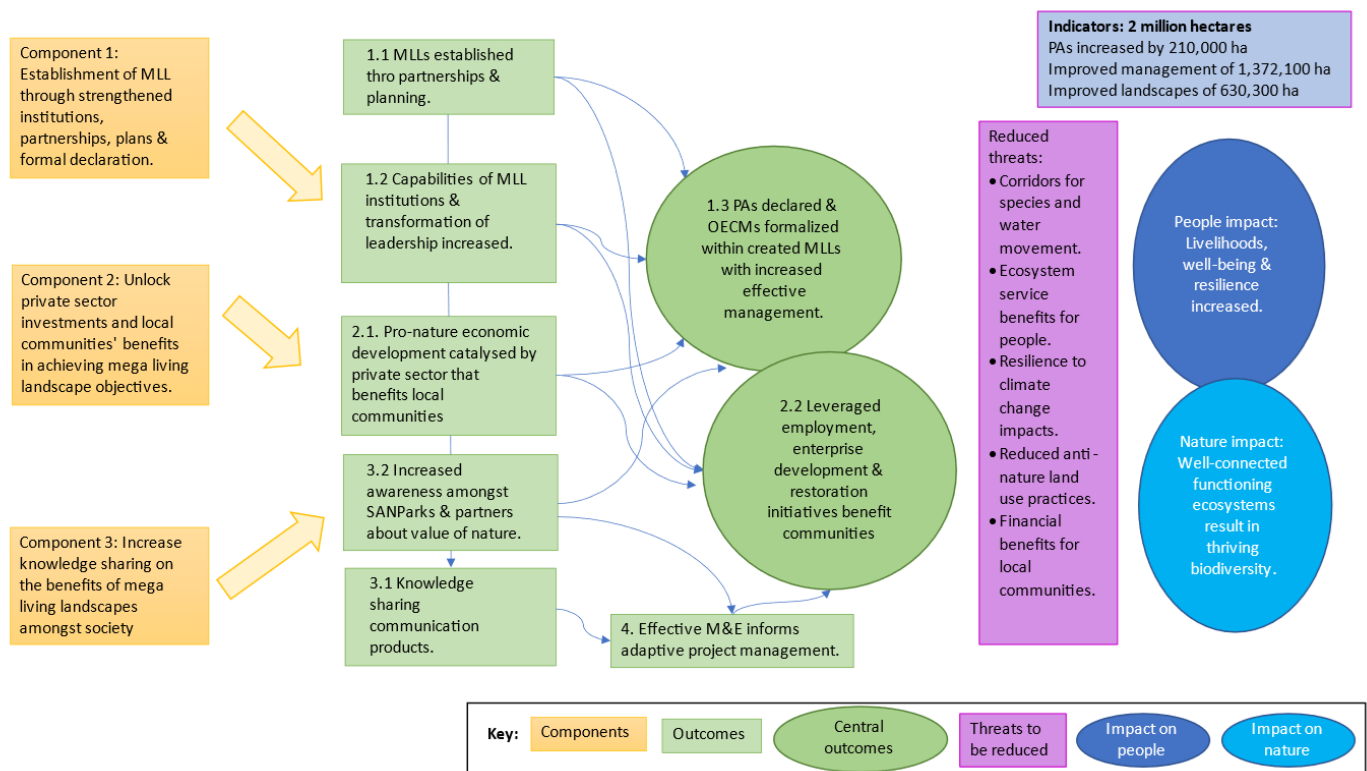
Project description

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

Theory of Change

The projects Theory of Change is shown in the diagram below, with the narrative thereafter explaining what each strategy entails, what will be implemented and how and why this will lead to the impact the project seeks.



Project Strategies, Outcomes and Outputs

The high-level theory of change of this project is that through the creation of MLLs, the project will demonstrate that the historic conservation mindset of separating people and nature and their culture (at that time included an apartheid overlay of excluding the black population), is no longer the optimal way to establish PAs. Through protection of key ecosystem services within the MLLs (such as water sources which demonstrate a direct link to benefiting people), without excluding all human activities (such as sustainable rangeland activities), and through innovative stewardship approaches that retain private landowners and communal land users on the land while conserving biodiversity, MLLs will demonstrate the critical importance of the biodiversity economy in SA and the benefits this can realise for both the private sector and local communities. This will contribute to increased understanding of the value of biodiversity and development of a pro-nature-and-people narrative. The project will also demonstrate that climate change impacts can be mitigated through the creation of large continuous corridors that allow for species migration and adaption.

The project will lay the seeds to demonstrate, in the long term, that well-connected functioning ecosystems result in thriving biodiversity; and that the livelihoods, well-being, and resilience of the local communities living within them is increased. This will contribute to the realisation of a dynamic reimagined national conservation vision for South Africa that will become an integral part of the country's sustainable development and nature positive economic future.

This section explains the Theory of Change describing per Strategic Component what the Outputs are and why they will lead to the Outcomes. The issues of how relevant stakeholders will contribute to developing and implementing the project, how global environmental benefits will be generated and be enduring, the impact on policy, how knowledge will be generated and shared and the way in which the Project is transformative is addressed throughout the description. Critical assumptions and risks to the project are assessed.

Component 1: Establishment of MLL through strengthened institutions, partnerships, plans & formal declaration.

If partnerships between the public, private, NGO and community sectors are built and implemented, in each MLL, this will lead to the establishment of MLL. If different delivery models are tested, lessons can be learnt and shared for use across MLLs.

Outcome 1.1. MLLs established created, with new PAs & OECMs through partnerships & planning.

Through a collaborative platform, stakeholders in each MLL will create a common vision and plan which will pragmatically guide their implementation. Best practices will be drawn from several landscape level initiatives: for example, the Greater Kruger Strategic Development Programme where partnerships and regional integration are at the heart of creating a platform for inclusive conservation compatible with economic development, and the Upper Umzimvubu Catchment Partnership. Gender mainstreaming considerations will be considered during the development and implementation of the MLL Plans, including the participation of women and their representative organizations in planning platforms, PA management workshops and trainings. Methods and materials used in those activities will be gender sensitive.

If the decades of experience in SA regarding co-management agreements are drawn upon, this will lead to improved development and implementation of effective management agreements. Human resource allocation to this work is essential as without people collaboration can't be implemented. If the incentives and toolkits necessary to support stewardship, both with private landowners and communal land users, are strengthened the protected area network will be expanded.

Outputs

1.1.1 Management partnership agreements for each MLL, that formalizes the management partnership, developed and agreed.

1.1.2 Collaborative stakeholder coordination & planning platforms strengthened/established & working effectively in each MLL.

1.1.3 Landscape level Plans for each MLL (MLL Plans) developed & integrated within relevant government planning domains, & with key industry bodies. These Plans will incorporate nature-based climate solutions that are aligned to the energy transition in each landscape including an evaluation of the energy transition & solutions.

1.1.4 Long term (20 years) forecast model & strategic funding plan to deliver the MLL developed & utilized. To include:

a) Long-term financing forecast model developed, which sets out the anticipated costs, inflows, & shortfalls for the next 20 years.

b) Funding strategy & plan to raise the required finance developed.

Outcome 1.2. Capabilities of SANParks/ the MLL management teams including local community leadership and transformation of leadership increased for effective management of MLL (PAs & OECMs).

If the capabilities across institutions are strengthened, then the chances of successful delivery increase exponentially. In this project the capability development process will be linked to the objective of implementing the MLLs. If the capabilities of local community organisations are not built, the risk of capture by a few community members who become, at best, gatekeepers, and at worst corrupt, is high. A capability program will be developed following this process:

- a) Confirmation of the objective to be achieved – i.e., implementation of MLL, through enhancing stewardship and local economic development.
- b) Identification & definition of the capabilities to be developed to achieve the objective addressing the following questions: What are the competencies that are required? e.g., what technical skills & knowledge, and what qualities or soft skills that are required? What tools or technology or infrastructure is required to deliver on step 1 e.g. IT, databases, apps, and related systems. What are the processes, procedures, resources, and responsibilities that govern the way work is divided and done? Governance: what governance mechanisms will be put in place to sustain and improve the capability being developed?
- c) Change management and ongoing M&E to ensure effective integration to existing organizational processes and structures.

Equally critical is the need for transformed leadership across the institutions involved in the MLLs, including gender considerations. Despite 29 years of democracy in SA black leadership in this sector is more often the exception than the norm. If a focused intervention is made to increase black leadership this will garner significant support across society for the conservation objectives of the MLLs.

Outputs

1.2.1. Capability program to ensure implementation of the MLLs Plans by SANParks & MLL management team (including local community leadership) developed & implemented.

This programme will address competencies, technology, processes, and governance.

1.2.2 Bespoke black leadership training & coaching program, that is cross-sectoral (public, private and community), long-term, & focused on middle and senior black management to transform leadership within the MLL, developed & implemented.

1.2.3 TA and training to improve SAN Parks Supply Chain Management.

Outcome 1.3 PAs declared & OECMs formalized within MLLs with increased effective management.

The process of declaring PAs is usually done through either stewardship or land acquisitions, both of which require improvements for effective implementation. Management of PAs will be improved to a high level of effectiveness.

Outputs

1.3.1 Stewardship Toolkits & Legal Manuals utilized & improved: a) Technical assessments & all ground & legal work to prepare documentation to submit to authorities for PA declaration implemented. b) Improved stewardship agreements for private landowners & communal land users, including using traditional knowledge, & extension support and access to financial/ tax benefits. c) Legal advisory panel to support effective agreements established.

1.3.2 Technical support to facilitate land acquisition processes, including assessments, safeguards, and stakeholder engagement activities, provided.

1.3.3 On the ground implementation of MLL plans, including activities to improve effective management of existing PAs.

Component 2: Unlock private sector investments and local communities' socio-economic benefits in achieving mega living landscape objectives.

-

This component is about identifying and realising pro-nature economic development in the landscapes that is driven by the private sector and which also benefits local communities. The approach in this component is to support the private sector to act themselves, and to ensure that such action will lead to increased benefits for local communities. If the private sector increases investment in the MLLs in for example ecotourism, then jobs and business opportunities for local communities will be created. If conscious intention is given to ensuring that pro-nature initiatives by the private sector are linked to improving benefits for local communities and only these are supported, then the chances of communities benefiting are increased. If consumers demand sustainable products, and investors require companies in their portfolio to meet certain environmental requirements, then producers will respond to these external pressures and commit to sustainable production practices. If producers receive incentives for pro-nature production and buyers will not purchase unsustainable products, then producers will shift their practices to respond to this.

A key advantage in all the landscapes is that rangeland agriculture, the game industry and ecotourism, where opportunities exist for compatible land users, are significant land uses.

Outcome 2.1 Pro-nature economic development catalyzed and owned by the private sector in each landscape, that also generates local community benefits in the form of sustainable livelihoods and green businesses, aligned to MLL objectives.

The economic focus will be landscape specific, owned by the relevant industry, and not prescribed by the public sector. In the Greater Addo landscape, ecotourism and heritage tourism is expected to be key. SANParks will build on its experience of tourism Private Public Partnerships (PPPs) where its role is to create the enabling environment that facilitate private sector involvement. The private sector is already driving the economy of the area through game and tourism businesses, and through philanthropic investment in the landscape. In the Grasslands landscape, which is remote with less economic drivers, access to markets for rangeland agricultural products and tax incentives for private landowners will be key. Barberton has experienced that protection of the rhinos is creating opportunities for local communities, and local communities are protecting the rhinos.

Outputs

2.1.1 Aligned with MLL Plans and Financing Strategies, private sector pro-nature value propositions (including standards etc.) developed to promote pro-nature economic development initiatives, both inside & outside PAs, that will build the MLL. These will differ per landscape and link to 1.2.1., with the following economic sectors possible: a) Rangeland agriculture. b); Wool industry. c) Ecotourism. d) Heritage tourism. e) Game industry. f) Fruit industry. g) Forestry.

2.1.2 Based on the landscape-level pro-nature economic development initiatives identified above, technical support to private sector & local communities to develop portfolio of opportunities for local, business incubators & livelihood development.

2.1.3 Brand initiatives that promote the MLL & its pro-nature economic initiatives, and benefit producers, buyers & local communities, catalysed through studies & engagement with private sector, communities & existing initiatives.

Outcome 2.2 Leveraging other employment, enterprise development & restoration initiatives

The focus of this outcome is on leveraging other initiatives to realise community benefits. For example, in the Greater Addo landscape, if the ecotourism and heritage tourism sectors grow this will lead to job creation. The key leverage opportunity is to link this growth to initiatives that promote small enterprise development so that these can be developed to provide products and services required by tourism and heritage facilities. If SANParks and other businesses implement preferential procurement, this will enable enterprise development. In the Grasslands landscape if the project facilitates access to markets for communal land users to sell their livestock, after they implement improved rangeland management, this can unlock livelihoods. The approach followed by the social enterprise Meat Naturally, which brings livestock auctions to communal stock owners who implement stewardship grazing agreements will be adopted. In Barberton if the protection of the rhinos continues to create opportunities for local communities, then local communities will continue to protect the rhinos.

In addition to the economic opportunities that arise from the pro-nature economic development in the MLLs, if the value of key employment initiatives already being implemented in SA can be unlocked, improved livelihood opportunities and sustainability can be secured. If sustainability is secured this will be transformative, overcoming a key constraint to long-term thriving people and nature. For example, the Green Climate Fund's (GCF) Eco-Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) project, being driven by SANBI and close to GCF approval, will be implemented in these landscapes. The Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) is being rolled out in some of the landscapes and improvements will be sought to emphasize sustainable small enterprise development and job creation. Other employment creation programmes such as the YES (Youth Employment Service) Programme, a business-led collaboration with the government, is being implemented in the Barberton landscape. The Presidential Employment Stimulus (PES) and the Finance Facility for Extension Services will also be leveraged.

Activities under this Outcome will be implemented with a gender sensitive approach, considering that, in the communities, men's and women's differential roles, responsibilities and daily practices directly influence their uses and needs for natural resources and access to economic opportunities. The project will ensure that access to resources and opportunities for training, information and decision making are equitable and transparent for all community members, including women, at the household, community, and landscape levels.

Outputs

2.2.1 Other employment, enterprise development & key restoration initiatives, such as climate adaptation through the Green Climate Fund's (GCF) Eco-DRR & the EPWP leveraged in the MLLs. This could involve GEF resources addressing the shortcomings and scaling up these programs to improve their effectiveness such as through better targeted restoration & increasing sustainability.

Component 3. Increase knowledge sharing on the benefits of mega living landscapes amongst society.

If the project can increase knowledge and awareness about the benefits of MLLs for both nature and people, this will both generate knowledge and allow for it to be discussed and internalised in the broader society. The MLL platforms will be key conduits of learning and sharing which will occur across sectors and stakeholder groups, with a gender sensitive approach. If knowledge and lessons are shared across society, with the intention to show how the policy/implementation gap can be addressed, this will have a transformative impact. SANParks will utilize the lessons learnt from the creation of these three MLLs in the creation of the other five MLLs.

Outcome 3.1. Increased awareness amongst SANParks & key partners that nature is the foundation of economic development & the value of ecosystem functioning for livelihoods.

Outputs

- 3.1.1 Cross mega living landscape workshops to share knowledge & experience.
- 3.1.21 Knowledge management & communication products.

M&E

Effective, informed, and adaptive project management.

Under this outcome the PMU and partners will follow an M&E plan to monitor and report on project progress and to adapt as experience grows. The following reports will be provided: Annual Work Plan and Budget; Bi-annual Project Progress Report; Quarterly Financial Report; Annual adaptive management workshop; Mid-term and Terminal Evaluation.

The project will implement a robust gender responsive Monitoring and Evaluation plan that collects both gender and sex-disaggregated data with gender sensitive collection methods. All project-level reports will include information on the implementation of the gender mainstreaming plan.

Outputs

- M&E reports, including project progress reports, midterm evaluation & terminal evaluation.
- Annual reflection workshops between main stakeholders.

Assumptions and Risks

The key assumptions underpinning this project are:

- It is feasible to develop the institutional capabilities and partnerships within the timeframe.
- There is sufficient economic and political stability in South Africa to implement an effective project.
- Climate change impacts do not overwhelm SA during the project timeframe.
- Sufficient resources – both human and financial – will be realized in addition to that of the GEF project for viable implementation of the mega living landscape approach.

Key risks to the project and mitigation strategies to tackle them are set out below.

1. Climate Change Impact Risk. *Medium-Low residual risk*

Climate change impacts are forecast to be substantial in SA, and this risk is mitigated by:

- Climate change impacts are considered as part of the project design and linkages will be made to other interventions such as the GCF's Eco-Disaster Risk Reduction project in SA.
- There is high climate change awareness in SA due to energy loadshedding.

2. Political instability and criminality within the SA state Risk. *Medium- residual risk*

2024 is the year of national elections in SA, where it is anticipated that there may be political instability. Criminality within the SA state has recently been highlighted. This risk is mitigated by:

- Resounding rejection by SA citizens and institutions of political parties that have recently tried to shut down the country and ferment discord.
- The fact that two of the landscapes – Greater Addo and Grasslands – don’t lend themselves to the economic sectors where criminal syndicates are currently active.
- The successful experience of Care for Wild, to avoid the criminal syndicates active in rhino poaching.

3. Economic downturn Risk in SA negatively affects pro-nature economic initiatives which in turn limit local community benefits. *Medium-Low residual risk*

Although the SA economy is in an economic downturn, it has a resilient private sector, that has historically survived economic sanctions and economic decline under apartheid, and during the transition to democracy.

4. Institutional weaknesses Risk. *Low residual risk*

Institutional weaknesses can lead to ineffective implementation and non-performing partnerships.

- To mitigate this risk the project has placed the building of institutional capabilities across the public, private, NGO and community sectors as a key component of the project.

Key to Table: Red = High Residual Risk, Orange = Medium Residual Risk, Yellow = Medium-Low Residual Risk, Green = Low Residual Risk.

Likelihood of risk event occurring	High	□	□	□
	Med	□	□	□
	Low	□	□	□
Risk matrix		Low	Medium	High
		Impact on Project Quality should risk event occur		

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

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

No

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

and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

The GEF8 investment will build from the following opportunities and linkages:

- DFFE and other conservation agencies initiatives and lessons, for example:
 - National Integrated Strategy to Combat Wildlife Trafficking.
 - National Biodiversity Economy Strategy.
 - DFFE/UNDP’s BioFin initiative.
 - Implementation lessons from stewardship implementation.
 - The Sustainable Finance Coalition, a partnership between Wilderness Foundation Africa and WWF South Africa.
- The SANParks’ Vision 2040 process and strategic processes for example:

- The SANParks Rhino Range Expansion Programme and Rhino Conservation Strategy.
- The SANParks Land Inclusion Plan and Park Management Plans.
- The strong network of civil society partnerships across SA landscape, for example:
 - The establishment of the National Grasslands Park via a partnership with WWF – this will be a contract park which protects both critically endangered grasslands ecosystems and a key water source area while maintaining compatible rangeland management practices.
 - The WWF Black Rhino Range Expansion Programme (BRREP) – has catalysed extensive conservation area expansion and facilitated the doubling of black rhino population since 1990s. The SANParks/Care for Wild partnership in Barberton has a high success rate for rhino rescue, rehabilitation, and release.
 - The stewardship work of Wilderness Foundation Africa (WFA) in the establishment of Protected Environments within the Greater Addo area, will be replicated and extended.
 - Conservation South Africa’s (CSA) innovative model for restoration & job creation will be replicated.
 - The Nature Conservancy’s (TNC) integrated approach to land, water and sea management, and innovative financing strategies such as the Water Fund (implemented in Greater Cape Town & Kruger to Canyon catchments) will be instructive.
- Private sector and business initiatives
 - National Business Initiative (NBI) – for example, linkages to the JET IP.
 - Social enterprise initiatives that support sustainable rangeland practices and market access for communal rangeland users adjacent to parks.
 - Corporate SA’s CSR and offset programmes.
- Previous and current GEF investments including:
 - GEF 7 “Catalysing financing and capacity for the biodiversity economy around Protected Areas” implementation, which is just beginning.
 - GEF 7 Country child Project “South Africa Biodiversity Economy and Illegal Wildlife Trade”.
 - GEF 5 that focused on supporting improvement of the Supply Chain Management (SCM) systems and procedures of SANParks.
 - GEF 4 “Development, empowerment and conservation in the iSimangaliso Wetland Park and surrounding region” which generated useful community development innovations introduced through the Rural Enterprise Accelerator Programme (REAP).
- The project will contribute to the development of an application to the GBF Fund.

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
1372100	0	0	0

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
210000	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
			210,000.00			

Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
1162100	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
TBD	TBD		1,162,100.00						

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)
630300	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)
630,300.00			

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

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

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

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

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 10 Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced

Grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ (Expected at PIF)	Grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ (Achieved at MTR)	Grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 10.1 Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control emissions of POPs to air (Use this sub-indicator in addition to Core Indicator 10 if applicable)

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 10.2 Number of emission control technologies/practices implemented (Use this sub-indicator in addition to Core Indicator 10 if applicable)

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
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Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

The catalytic activities undertaken by the GEF project in the three MLLs will unlock additional activities and resources that collectively will result in 1,372,100 hectares being added to the PA estate or being under improved management within six-years. These will lay the foundation for more significant targets being achieved in these landscapes in the long term. The targets per MLLs are estimated as follows:

- Greater Addo – the GEF project will enable the linking of three existing national parks with the 6-year target being 155,000 hectares new PAs, 220,000 hectares outside declared PAs under improved practises due to the establishment of the MLL, & improved management effectiveness over 945,700 ha of PAs.

- Grasslands – the GEF project will establish the new Grassland National Park with the 6-year target being 20,000 hectares new PAs and 50,000 hectares outside declared PAs under improved practises due to the establishment of the MLL, and improved management practices effectiveness over 20,000 of existing PAs. The GEF project will catalyse the growth of the GNP to 200,000 hectares over the long term.
- Barberton/Makhonjwa - the GEF project will enable the addition of establishment of 35,000 additional hectares to the PA estate, 360,000 ha outside declared PAs under improved practices due to the establishment of the MLL, and improved management effectiveness over 196,400 ha of existing PAs. A focus in this landscape is that of improved management as a significant amount of existing declared PAs in this area are currently not being managed, with the GEF project rectifying this.
- The management effectiveness of existing PAs will be improved through targeted interventions on areas identified for improvement in prior METT assessments. These interventions will vary across PAs but improved connectivity and habitat requirements for large, threatened mammal species within parks and restoration of previously degraded ecosystems will be among the targeted interventions.

Risks to Project Preparation and Implementation

Summarize risks that might affect the project preparation and implementation phases and what are the mitigation strategies the project preparation process will undertake to address these (e.g. what alternatives may be considered during project preparation- such as in terms of consultations, role and choice of counterparts, delivery mechanisms, locations in country, flexible design elements, etc.). Identify any of the risks listed below that would call in question the viability of the project during its implementation. Please describe any possible mitigation measures needed. (The risks associated with project design and Theory of Change should be described in the “Project description” section above). The risk rating should reflect the overall risk to project outcomes considering the country setting and ambition of the project. The rating scale is: High, Substantial, Moderate, Low.

Risk Categories	Rating	Comments
Climate	Moderate	Climate change impacts are forecast to be substantial in SA, with the impact of severe flooding and drought already having a substantial impact in some parts of SA. The electricity energy crisis in SA, which results in ongoing energy loadshedding affects most South Africans. The impact of these realities is that climate change awareness is much higher in SA than in previous decades. This has the advantage of institutions and citizens working to adapt to and mitigate climate change impacts. During project preparation this will stimulate minds to focus on solutions.
Environment and Social	Moderate	As a mega-biodiverse country where ecosystems, habitats and species are threatened, with high unequal

		poverty and many social problems, the mindset shift to understand the critical importance of nature as a cornerstone of economic development needs to take place. Project preparation will work consciously within this context.
Political and Governance	Substantial	2024 is the year of national elections in SA, where some political instability is expected as the ANC government may lose the majority. In 2021/2022 SA experienced the shocks of COVID and civil unrest, which occurred in two provinces – KwaZulu/Natal and Gauteng. In 2023 the shock of energy loadshedding has knocked the economy. SA has a history of weathering times of political uncertainty as most SAs reject radical politics with a stable middle class and private sector.
Macro-economic	Moderate	The macro-economic outlook for SA is poor, predominately driven by energy loadshedding.
Strategies and Policies	Low	SA has excellent strategies and policies in the environmental sector.
Technical design of project or program	Low	SA has excellent capabilities to design the project.
Institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability	Moderate	Despite institutional weaknesses in some parts of the state, there remain strong institutional capacity across the public, private and NGO sectors actively engaged in this project.
Fiduciary: Financial Management and Procurement	Low	The conservation sector has an excellent track record of financial responsibility as does SANParks which is a government entity with decades of clean audit reports.
Stakeholder Engagement	Low	This project has had excellent stakeholder participation and collaboration to date, which will be

		deepened during the project preparation stage.
Other	Substantial	Weaknesses within the SA state is of concern. For example, the extent and nature of rhino poaching syndicates that have reduced the rhino population of Kruger has highlighted this risk. The experience of Care for Wild, who have intimate knowledge and experience of the problem, will assist the project navigate this difficult issue. The other two landscapes occur in areas where this risk is less prevalent
Financial Risks for NGI projects		
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	Overall, the project should be able to mitigate and manage these risks during the project preparation and implementation phases.

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Describe how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The catalytic GEF8 investment is aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country priorities, as follows:

- The project will contribute to the GEF8 Biodiversity Focal Area Objective 1 “To improve conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems”, by:
 - Contributing to the effective protection of ecologically viable and climate-resilient representative samples of the country’s ecosystems and adequate coverage of threatened species at a sufficient scale to ensure their long-term persistence; and
 - Enabling sufficient and predictable financial resources available, including external funding, to support protected area management costs; and
 - Ensuring sustained individual and institutional capacity to manage protected areas such that they achieve their conservation objectives.
- The project is aligned to the country priorities with no contradictions:
 - The National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 which demonstrates strong commitment to environmental and biodiversity protection as a vehicle to address South Africa’s most crucial development challenge—accelerating growth while reducing inequality.
 - White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use of SA’s Biodiversity and its four pillars.
- The project is aligned to, amongst others, the following multilateral agreements of which SA is a signatory:
 - The Convention on Biodiversity, specifically the 2022 COP15 agreement including the target to conserve and manage at least 30% of the world’s lands, inland waters, coastal areas, and oceans + restore 30% of degraded lands by 2030 + secure \$200bn per year for biodiversity.
 - The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, referencing the 2022 COP27.

- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

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:

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector: Yes

Provide a brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations

Key stakeholders were consulted during the PIF development as required per GEF policy. The Table below provides a high-level overview of key stakeholders and the roles they may play in the project. Those who were engaged in the development of the PIF are denoted with an asterisk.

Throughout the life of the project, the stakeholder engagement plan will be implemented, and will represent one of the main mechanisms of addressing gender mainstreaming in the project. Stakeholder engagement will be conducted in a way to ensure participation of men and women, considering constraints for women's participation, such as those related to their heavy domestic responsibilities. During the project development phase detailed engagements with stakeholders, including CSOs and community organizations will be held within each of the Mega Living Landscapes (MLLs). Effective stakeholder engagement is an essential element of project preparation and will include at least:

- Based in each MLL engagement will build from existing initiatives that management teams operating in the area have.
- Include one on one engagement with stakeholder groups and at least two stakeholder workshops per MLL.
- Include two national online workshops – initial Kick-off workshop and a Validation workshop.

An initial stakeholder engagement plan for the project development phase, that includes name of stakeholder, mandate/role, relevance to project, type of engagement and frequency of engagement has been developed and is available as a stand-alone document.

Stakeholder type	Stakeholder list	Possible contributions and roles in the project
Government ministries (at central and provincial levels)	DFFE* SANParks* SANBI* Mpumalanga Parks and Tourism Authority (MPTA)* Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPA)* Department of Trade and Industry Department of Science and Innovation Department of Agriculture and Land Reform Local government	Focal Point Oversight Responsible for Project Implementation Provision of technical inputs & knowledge sharing Human resources Finance
NGOs	WWF-South Africa* The Nature Conservancy (TNC)* Care for Wild (CFW)* Wilderness Foundation Africa (WFA)* Conservation Outcomes (CO)* Conservation South Africa (CSA)*	Implementation of Management Agreements Provision of technical inputs & knowledge sharing Delivery of capability building programmes Finance
Private sector	Industry specific bodies e.g., Cattle Farmers Association, Wool Association National Associations such as the National Business Initiative (NBI) Local businesses, e.g., ecotourism & game offerings Conservancies Business incubators e.g., First National Bank and SANLAM	Change agents within business sectors Human resources Finance Implementers
Local community organisations and individuals	Traditional authorities Local community organisations Local community leaders Local private landowners	Social mobilisation & change agents Development of business that can take up opportunities. Recipients of socio-economic benefits

Stakeholder type	Stakeholder list	Possible contributions and roles in the project
		Human resources Signatories of stewardship agreements & implementors of these agreements
Research Institutions	Nelson Mandela Bay University CSIR	Research programmes Technical inputs & knowledge sharing Human resources

* denotes stakeholders consulted during PIF development

More detail on the stakeholder engagement - names of people and dates – during the development of the PIF is provided below:

<u>Stakeholder organisation</u>	<u>Who involved</u>	<u>When</u>
<u>SANParks (Executing Agent)</u>	<p><u>Core staff responsible for PIF: Luthando Dziba/Howy Hendricks (Head Conservation) and Kristal Maze (Head: Park Planning & Development). Both served on the PIF Project Steering Committee.</u></p> <p>-</p> <p><u>Hapiloe Sello: CEO (was Acting head during PIF development)</u></p> <p>-</p> <p><u>Other key staff involved throughout PIF: Anele Kumalo – Grasslands National Park stewardship; Wenzile Giyose – Grasslands National Park stewardship; Naledi Mneni – GEF7 Coordinator; Natasha Wilson: Expansion Manager: Park Planning & Development; Candice Eb: Resource Economist: Park Planning & Development; Fahiema Daniels: Mapping; Norman Johnson: Regional Manager: Arid; Evans Mkansi: Park Manager: Mountain Zebra National Park; Nick de Goede: Park Manager: Addo Elephant National Park</u></p> <p>-</p> <p><u>Other SANParks consulted included: Mpumelelo Ndebele – Resource Mobilisation head; Ngcali Nomtshongwana (NN) – SET head; Reuben Ngwenya (RN) – Northern Region Parks head; Irene Sinovich – Vision 2040 consultant; Marisa Coetzee: General Manager: Regional Integration and Planning Kruger; Noki Maier: Kruger Lead Economics</u></p>	<p><u>Throughout development of the PIF Kristal Maze led the process and involved relevant staff as required.</u></p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p><u>Howy Hendricks/Kristal Maze briefed CEO as necessary and made formal submissions to Board which went via CEO's office.</u></p> <p>-</p> <p><u>Staff listed here either participated in the PIF Design Workshop on 16 March 2023 or the Board workshop on 19 April 2023 or were consulted one on one.</u></p>
-	<p><u>SANParks Board members:</u></p> <p><u>Board chair: Pam Yako</u></p>	<p><u>Ongoing engagements between Kristal Maze & Pam Yako on PIF as it was developed.</u></p>

	- <u>At full day Board workshop: Bulelwa Koyana, Yolana Friedmann, Zuks Ramasia, Flora Mokgohloa</u>	<u>Board workshop held on 19 April 2023.</u>
<u>DFFE</u>	<u>GEF Focal point: Ms Shakira Parker</u> - - - - <u>Biodiversity Branch: Head of Biodiversity Branch & senior staff: Flora Mokgohloa (DDG), Tsepang Makholela (Chief Director) and Simon Maletle (Director). Simon served on the Project Steering Committee.</u> - <u>Other DFFE staff at PIF Design workshop: Pamela Kershaw: Deputy Director: Biodiversity Planning; Karl Naude: Deputy Director: Protected Area Planning and Development; Sibongile Mampe: Biodiversity Control Officer</u>	<u>Focal point engagement occurred via formal channels between DFFE & SANParks as needed. Also, formal communication between WWF & focal point with dates indicated in letters & emails.</u> <u>At Board or Design workshop. Project Steering Committee met 4 times during PIF development.</u> - - <u>At March Design workshop.</u>
<u>SANBI</u>	<u>Deshni Pillay: Chief Director Biodiversity Info & Policy</u> <u>Aimee Ginsburg</u>	<u>One on one engagements or at March design workshop.</u>
<u>MPTA</u>	<u>Mervyn Lotter: Biodiversity Planner and GIS Manager</u>	<u>One on one engagement.</u>
<u>ECPTA</u>	<u>Malaika Koali-Lebona: Expanding Protected Areas</u>	<u>March Design workshop.</u>
<u>WWF</u>	<u>WWFUS/GEF: Renae Stenhouse: VP, GEF Agency at WWF-US; Isabel Filiberto: Director & PIF Lead; Astrid Breuer: Senior Program Officer, GEF, WWF-US</u> - <u>SA office: Khungeka Njobe: Head of Programmes; Shela Patrickson: Public Sector Partnerships Coordinator; Mkhululi Silandela: Impact Lead; Selwyn Willoughby: Delivery Lead; Thembanani Nsibande: Project Coordinator Grasslands National park; Angus Burns: Senior Manager of Land and Biodiversity Stewardship.</u>	<u>People who served on the Project Steering Committee: Stenhouse; Filiberto; Njobe, Silandela, Willoughby & Patrickson</u> - <u>One on one engagements & at March design workshop.</u> -
<u>Care for Wild</u>	<u>Petronel Nieuwoudt: Founder and CEO; Chris De Bruno: Chair of Board</u>	<u>One on one engagements & at March design workshop.</u>
<u>TNC</u>	<u>Louise Stafford: SA Country Director; Wehncke van der Merwe: Kruger 2 Canyons Conservation Programme Manager</u>	<u>Either at March Design workshop or one on one engagements.</u>
<u>CSA</u>	<u>Julia Levin: Executive Director; Peter Shisani: Deputy Country Director; Peter Shisani</u>	<u>March Design workshop.</u>
<u>WFA</u>	<u>Andrew Muir: CEO</u>	<u>One on one engagement.</u>
<u>CO</u>	<u>Kevin McCann: Director; Greg Martindale: Director</u>	<u>March Design workshop & one on one engagements.</u>

* denotes stakeholders consulted during PIF development

More detail on the stakeholder engagement - names of people and dates – during the development of the PIF is provided below:

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-	<p><u>SANParks Board members:</u></p> <p><u>Board chair: Pam Yako</u></p> <p>-</p> <p><u>At full day Board workshop: Bulelwa Koyana, Yolana Friedmann, Zuks Ramasia, Flora Mokgohloa</u></p>	<p><u>Ongoing engagements between Kristal Maze & Pam Yako on PIF as it was developed.</u></p> <p>-</p> <p><u>Board workshop held on 19 April 2023.</u></p>
<u>DFFE</u>	<p><u>GEF Focal point: Ms Shakira Parker</u></p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p><u>Biodiversity Branch: Head of Biodiversity Branch & senior staff: Flora Mokgohloa (DDG), Tsepang Makholela (Chief Director) and Simon Maletle (Director). Simon served on the Project Steering Committee.</u></p>	<p><u>Focal point engagement occurred via formal channels between DFFE & SANParks as needed. Also, formal communication between WWF & focal point with dates indicated in letters & emails.</u></p> <p><u>At Board or Design workshop. Project Steering Committee met 4 times during PIF development.</u></p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p><u>At March Design workshop.</u></p>

	- <u>Other DFFE staff at PIF Design workshop: Pamela Kershaw: Deputy Director: Biodiversity Planning; Karl Naude: Deputy Director: Protected Area Planning and Development; Sibongile Mampe: Biodiversity Control Officer</u>	
<u>SANBI</u>	<u>Deshni Pillay: Chief Director Biodiversity Info & Policy</u> <u>Aimee Ginsburg</u>	<u>One on one engagements or at March design workshop.</u>
<u>MPTA</u>	<u>Mervyn Lotter: Biodiversity Planner and GIS Manager</u>	<u>One on one engagement.</u>
<u>ECPTA</u>	<u>Malaika Koali-Lebona: Expanding Protected Areas</u>	<u>March Design workshop.</u>
<u>WWF</u>	<u>WWFUS/GEF: Renae Stenhouse: VP, GEF Agency at WWF-US; Isabel Filiberto: Director & PIF Lead; Astrid Breuer: Senior Program Officer, GEF, WWF-US</u> <u>SA office: Khungeka Njobe: Head of Programmes; Shela Patrickson: Public Sector Partnerships Coordinator; Mkhululi Silandela: Impact Lead; Selwyn Willoughby: Delivery Lead; Thembanani Nsibande: Project Coordinator Grasslands National park; Angus Burns: Senior Manager of Land and Biodiversity Stewardship.</u>	<u>People who served on the Project Steering Committee: Stenhouse; Filiberto; Njobe, Silandela, Willoughby & Patrickson</u> <u>One on one engagements & at March design workshop.</u>
<u>Care for Wild</u>	<u>Petronel Nieuwoudt: Founder and CEO; Chris De Bruno: Chair of Board</u>	<u>One on one engagements & at March design workshop.</u>
<u>TNC</u>	<u>Louise Stafford: SA Country Director; Wehncke van der Merwe: Kruger 2 Canyons Conservation Programme Manager</u>	<u>Either at March Design workshop or one on one engagements.</u>
<u>CSA</u>	<u>Julia Levin: Executive Director; Peter Shisani: Deputy Country Director; Peter Shisani</u>	<u>March Design workshop.</u>
<u>WFA</u>	<u>Andrew Muir: CEO</u>	<u>One on one engagement.</u>
<u>CO</u>	<u>Kevin McCann: Director; Greg Martindale: Director</u>	<u>March Design workshop & one on one engagements.</u>

(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 (\$)
WWF- US	GET	South Africa	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	8,874,312.00	798,688.00	9,673,000.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						8,874,312.00	798,688.00	9,673,000.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

300000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

27000

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
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WWF-US	GET	South Africa	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	300,000.00	27,000.00	327,000.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)						300,000.00	27,000.00	327,000.00

Please provide justification

The SANParks Mega Living Landscape (MLL) project is seeking a PPG of \$300,000, exceeding the customary \$200,000, based on the following justifications:

Novelty and Ambition of the MLL Concept:

- The MLL initiative is an ambitious endeavour to develop three mega living landscapes (MLL), which will include a mosaic of declared Protected Areas (PAs) and production landscapes outside of PAs.
- This strategy is pivotal for manifesting a dynamic, reimagined national conservation vision for South Africa, that becomes an integral part of the country's sustainable development and nature positive economic future resulting in thriving people and nature.
- This project is an integral part of SA's commitment to the GBF and will bring 2 million hectares of land under conservation.
- Spearheaded by SANParks, SA's foremost national conservation authority, this MLL concept marks a paradigm shift in conservation approaches, underscoring the necessity for meticulous project planning to garner robust backing from stakeholders and decision-makers across multiple sectors, necessitating consultants with proficiency in diverse fields including conservation, socio-economic development, and institutional building, complemented by gender and safeguard specializations.

-

Extensiveness and Complexity of the Project:

- The project encompasses three geographically dispersed MLLs within the vast expanse of SA, which align with the government's National Development Plan (NDP) and leverage existing PAs and initiatives.
- While the GEF project will focus on in-depth implementation in the Addo MLL, it will selectively administer project outputs in the Barberton and Grasslands MLLs, serving as a catalyst for conservation efforts across all these landscapes.
- Insights from the successful execution of these MLLs will inform the strategy for an additional five MLLs, aiming to double the 4.6m hectares currently under SANParks' guardianship.
- To guarantee a catalytic effect across the MLLs, the planning stage must encompass extensive stakeholder engagement and meticulous site selection, necessitating national technical workshops, bespoke stakeholder consultations, and at least eight landscape-based stakeholder engagement workshops, taking account of the linguistic diversity spanning the landscapes.

Elevated PPG Allocation required:

- In light of the project's ambitious scale, innovative conservation methodologies, and the multifaceted nature of the tasks at hand, an expanded financial PPG outlay is indispensable for broad-based stakeholder workshops and the enlistment of top-tier, respected consultants with the required spectrum of expertise.
- A standard PPG of \$200,000 is inadequate to meet these exigencies, thereby justifying the request for an allocation of \$300,000.

In essence, the innovative approach, ambitious scale, and intricate scope of the SANParks MLL project warrant a PPG of \$300,000. This quantum is critical to achieving the project's objectives and its significant role in SA's sustainable future and the global commitment to biodiversity conservation.

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
WWF-US	GET	South Africa	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	10,000,000.00
Total GEF Resources					10,000,000.00

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
BD-1-1	GET	4,437,156.00	27540000
BD-1-2	GET	4,437,156.00	27540000
Total Project Cost		8,874,312.00	55,080,000.00

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	South African National Parks (SANParks)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	6210000
Recipient Country Government	South African National Parks (SANParks)	Grant	Investment mobilized	2140000
Recipient Country Government	ECPB	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	610000
Recipient Country Government	MPTB	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	610000
Recipient Country Government	SANBI	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	610000
Recipient Country Government	SANBI	Grant	Investment mobilized	1530000

Recipient Country Government	DFFE	Grant	Investment mobilized	24440000
Private Sector	Business incubators - First National Bank & SANLAM	Grant	Investment mobilized	2440000
Civil Society Organization	WWF	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4260000
Civil Society Organization	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3060000
Civil Society Organization	Care for Wild	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	610000
Civil Society Organization	Care for Wild	Grant	Investment mobilized	7640000
Civil Society Organization	Wilderness Foundation Africa	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	310000
Civil Society Organization	Conservation South Africa	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	610000
Total Co-financing				55,080,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
Project Coordinator	WWF	10/12/2023	Isabel Filiberto	+12027796942	isabel.filiberto@wwfus.org
GEF Agency Coordinator	WWF	10/12/2023	Rena Stenhouse	+12027669372	Rena.stenhouse@wwfus.org

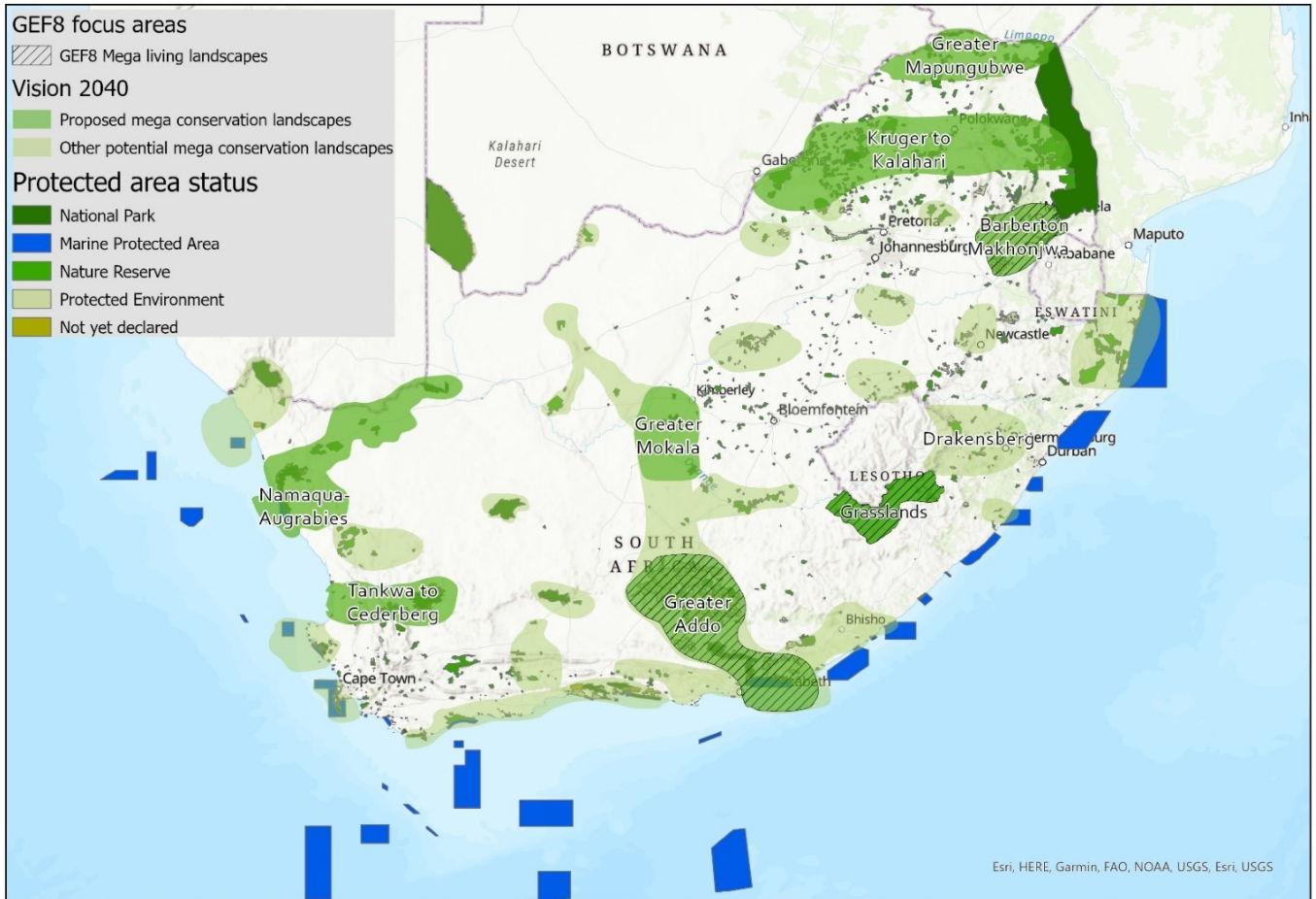
Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Ms. Shahkira Parker	Senior Policy Advisor: International Governance Management / South Africa GEF Operational Focal Point	Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment	11/13/2023

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

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

Map: Location of the GEF8 three Mega Living Landscapes (Addo, Grasslands & Barberton) noting that all eight MLLs are shown on the map.



Please review PIF uploaded document for two complementary 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

WWF GEF G0048 ANNEX D ESSF PIF GEF 8 SA MLL 13 November
ESSF PIF GEF 8 SA MLL 11 Oct FINAL

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
No Contribution 0	No Contribution 0	Significant Objective 1	No Contribution 0

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Influencing Models	Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making	Convene multi-stakeholder alliances	Transform Policy and regulatory environments
Stakeholders	Private Sector	Civil Society	Local Communities
Capacity, Knowledge and Research	Knowledge generation and exchange	Learning	Capacity Development
Gender Equality	Gender Mainstreaming	Women groups	Beneficiaries
Focal Area/Theme	Biodiversity	Protected Areas and Landscapes	Terrestrial Protected Areas/ Coastal and Marine Protected Areas