GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title	
Support the implementation of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan in Senegal/PNNK	
Region Africa	GEF Project ID 12292
Country(ies) Senegal	Type of Project MSP
GEF Agency(ies): IUCN	GEF Agency ID
Executing Partner National Parks Directorate (Ministry for the Environment and Ecological Transition)	Executing Partner Type Government
GEF Focal Area (s) Multi Focal Area	Submission Date 3/2/2026
Project Sector (CCM Only)	
Taxonomy Biodiversity, Land Degradation	
Type of Trust Fund GET	Project Duration (Months) 24
GEF Project Grant: (a) 1,258,700.00	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b) 0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c) 113,283.00	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d) 0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d) 1,371,983.00	Total Co-financing 4,000,000.00
PPG Amount: (e) 50,000.00	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f) 4,500.00
PPG total amount: (e+f) 54,500.00	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f) 1,426,483.00
Project Tags CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No Competitive Window: No	

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. The explanation and justification of the project should be in section B “project description”.(max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Over 24 months, the project objective is to restore 3,000 ha of degraded Sudanese savanna and wetland habitats and place 913,000 ha of the PNNK under improved management, while strengthening the resilience and livelihoods of 2,000 beneficiaries (1,500 women) in peripheral areas through ecological restoration, participatory governance, and the diversification of green value chains

The approach is based on three components: (i) restoration of PNNK ecosystems and enhancement of community livelihoods; (ii) participatory governance of heritage values (ecological monitoring and governance mechanisms); and (iii) coordination and knowledge management to ensure adaptive management and policy influence.

Expected Global Environmental Benefits (quantified Core Indicators): 913,000 ha of terrestrial protected area under improved management (CI 1); 3,000 ha of ecosystems under restoration (CI 3); 5,000 ha of landscapes under improved practices (CI 4); and 2,000 direct beneficiaries (1,500 women, 500 men) (CI 11). Project objective (SMART): over 24 months, restore 3,000 ha of degraded Sudanian savannah and wetland habitats, bring 913,000 ha of the PNNK under improved management, and strengthen the resilience and livelihoods of 2,000 beneficiaries (1,500 women), through ecological restoration, participatory governance and diversified green value chains.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

Over 24 months, the project objective is to restore 3,000 ha of degraded Sudanese savanna and wetland habitats and place 913,000 ha of the PNNK under improved management, while strengthening the resilience and livelihoods of 2,000 beneficiaries (1,500 women) in peripheral areas through ecological restoration, participatory governance, and the diversification of green value chains.

Project Components

1. Restoration of PNNK ecosystems and community livelihoods

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
351,369.00	1,400,000.00

Outcome:

1.1. Key habitats and peripheral landscapes within the PNNK restored and subject to more sustainable land use practices.

Output:

1.1.1 3000 ha of degraded land restored

1.1.2 Ecosystem exploitation practices compatible with the development and management plan a promoted.

2. Participatory governance of heritage values

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
667,886.00	1,900,000.00

Outcome:

2.1. PNNK functional inclusive governance mechanism established

Output:

2.1.1 PNNK's ecological monitoring system strengthened

2.1.2 Participatory governance tools and bodies of the PNNK and its periphery in place and operationalised.

3. Knowledge management and communication

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
68,945.00	200,000.00

Outcome:

3.1. Stakeholders have access to project-related knowledge and communication products.

Output:

3.1.1 knowledge products generated by the project is shared and used.

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
57,000.00	100,000.00

Outcome:

Improved institutional capacity to use gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation for evidence-based decision-making

Output:

M&E framework aligned with indicators, taking gender into account, implemented

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1. Restoration of PNNK ecosystems and community livelihoods	351,369.00	1,400,000.00
2. Participatory governance of heritage values	667,886.00	1,900,000.00
3. Knowledge management and communication	68,945.00	200,000.00
M&E	57,000.00	100,000.00
Subtotal	**1,145,200.00**	**3,600,000.00**
Project Management Cost	113,500.00	400,000.00
Total Project Cost ($)	**1,258,700.00**	**4,000,000.00**

Please provide justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Briefly describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

Senegal is undergoing a transition towards an endogenous and sustainable development model that seeks to reconcile economic growth, poverty reduction and preservation of natural capital, particularly in protected areas of global importance such as Niokolo-Koba National Park (PNNK). The 'Senegal 2050' Vision and the National Development Strategy (SND) 2025-2029 places the sustainable management of natural ecosystems, biodiversity conservation, enhancement of local resources and territorial development at the heart of the national agenda, in a context of strong population growth and intensifying pressure on land and water resources. In this context, the PNNK plays a strategic role in conservation and territorial development, but remains subject to increasing pressures that threaten its heritage values and justify this targeted support from GEF-8 to consolidate achievements and strengthen the resilience of ecosystems and communities.

National context, systems and drivers

At the national level, the SND 2025-2029 assessment highlights the ongoing degradation of natural capital, marked by the disappearance of vegetation cover, soil depletion, salinisation and acidification of land, and still limited control of water resources. These trends threaten food security, the rural economy and climate resilience, and increase the vulnerability of populations, particularly in rural areas dependent on natural resources. In response, Vision 2050 'A Sovereign, Fair and Prosperous Senegal' and the National Agenda for Systemic Transformation, particularly the 'Sustainable Planning and Development' and 'Good Governance and African Engagement' pillars, aim to promote sustainable ecosystem management, biodiversity conservation, natural resource development and the development of drivers of territorial growth.

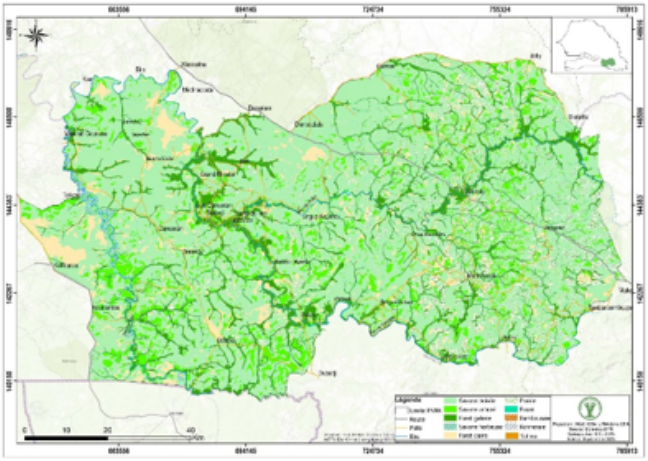
In environmental terms, strategic objective 3.2 of the SND 2025-2029 explicitly aims to promote sustainable management of natural ecosystems, with expected effects in terms of (i) biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services (extension and better management of protected areas, reduction of causes of biodiversity loss, control of invasive species, pollution and climate change) and (ii) sustainable land management and restoration of degraded land. Senegal has also updated its sectoral frameworks, notably the National Biodiversity Strategy and its action plan, the National Strategy for the Management of Protected Areas and the sectoral policy letter on the Environment and Ecological Transition, and has ratified several international conventions (CBD, World Heritage, MAB, CITES, CMS, Algiers Convention), giving it a clear mandate to strengthen in situ biodiversity conservation and ecosystem resilience, particularly in World Heritage sites and biosphere reserves.

In this context, the integration of ecosystem conservation and sustainable territorial development into the National Transformation Agenda, as well as the territorialisation of public policies around development hubs, offer a window of opportunity to position the Niokolo-Koba landscape as a regional 'ecological and socio-economic driver'. The proposed project aims to capitalise on this momentum by combining ecosystem restoration, sustainable use of natural resources, creation of green jobs (particularly for women and young people) and improved territorial governance.

Specific context of the PNNK and challenges

The PNNK, covering an area of 913,000 hectares, is located in south-eastern Senegal, straddling the regions of Kédougou, Tambacounda and Kolda. It forms the core of the Niokolo-Koba Biosphere Reserve and has been classified as a National Park since 1954, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a Biosphere Reserve (MAB programme) since 1981. The park is recognised for its Outstanding Universal Value as the last great sanctuary of Sudanian savannahs, with a mosaic of ecosystems (the Gambia River and its tributaries, gallery forests, floodplain grasslands, ponds, dry dense forests and rocky hills) supporting a remarkable diversity of mammals, birds and plants.

Location of Niokolo Koba National Park



Map of Niokolo Koba National Park

Inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2007 due to habitat degradation, poaching, colonisation of ponds by Mimosa pigra and other pressures, the PNNK has been the subject of significant restoration and management reinforcement efforts, which led to its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2024. However, the update of the Management and Development Plan (PAG 2026-2035) highlights the persistence of very strong pressures on heritage values: illegal logging and wildlife exploitation, organised poaching (using motorcycles and military weapons), recurring bush fires, agricultural expansion (cash crops, banana plantations), stray livestock and human-wildlife conflicts, industrial and artisanal gold mining polluting watercourses, colonisation of ponds by invasive species (Mimosa pigra), habitat fragmentation linked to infrastructure (RN7, future hydraulic structures such as Sambangalou) and the effects of climate change (rainfall variability, prolonged droughts, proliferation of invasive species, increased risk of bush fires).

These ecological issues are closely linked to issues of governance, capacity and information. Despite a solid legal and institutional framework (National Parks Directorate, sectoral codes, biosphere reserve status and international commitments), the park's governance remains hampered by insufficient human, financial and logistical resources, the weak operationalisation of certain bodies (advisory committees, network of mayors) and the still limited participation of local authorities and communities in decision-making and monitoring. Ecological monitoring systems exist in the park (protocols, camera trapping, databases) but remain fragmented, under-resourced and insufficiently interfaced with national systems, limiting the ability to assess biodiversity trends, management effectiveness and contribution to international commitments. The use of new technologies remains below its potential, particularly for communication, awareness-raising and the promotion of data among decision-makers and communities.

Systems perspective on the Mimosa pigra invasion. The colonisation of ponds is a symptom whose systemic root causes are the lack of sustained financing and institutional routines for recurrent invasive-species management, fragmented and under-resourced ecological monitoring, the incomplete operationalisation of governance bodies, and livelihood pressures driving resource over-use. The project intervenes at each level - symptom (recurrent community clearing campaigns), enabling capacity (training of staff and communities, strengthened monitoring), and root cause (sustainable financing, integration into the PAG 2026-2035 and annual work plans, livelihood alternatives) - rather than treating symptoms alone.

Baseline scenario, barriers and trajectories without a project

Without the project, the most likely trajectory for the Niokolo-Koba landscape (913 000 ha) is one of gradual degradation of the park's heritage values and increased tensions between conservation and local development. . Without additional interventions, key habitats in the PNNK (a remarkable diversity of fauna and flora,

unique in the sub-region. It has more than 70 species of mammals, 329 species of birds, 36 species of reptiles, 20 species of amphibians and a large number of invertebrates.) would continue to fragment under the combined effects of poaching (very high treat inside site more than 50%), bush fires, agricultural expansion, increased mining activities and the colonisation of ponds by Mimosa pigra, with increasing pressure on populations of emblematic species already considered 'critically endangered' by national and international assessments. Increased rainfall variability, prolonged droughts and more extreme weather events are likely to exacerbate these trends, affecting pasture productivity, gallery forest regeneration and water availability.
The main barriers preventing change to this trajectory are: (i) limited financial, human and logistical capacities to ensure effective management at the level of the park and its periphery, (ii) fragmented ecological monitoring and information management systems with little connection to national platforms, and (iii) territorial governance that is not fully operational, with consultation mechanisms that struggle to fully include communities, women and young people.

Conversely, the main favourable factors include the international status of the PNNK, the existence of an updated PAG, national strategic frameworks aligned with biodiversity and climate objectives, the presence of active technical partners, and a dynamic of territorialisation and endogenous development driven by national policies. The challenge is therefore to build on these strengths to overcome the identified barriers and shift the landscape towards integrated, resilient and inclusive management.

Project objective and rationale

The project aims to sustainably preserve the world-class heritage values and biodiversity of the PNNK, while strengthening ecosystem resilience through integrated landscape management, ecological restoration and participatory governance. This objective is fully aligned with the GEF-8 Biodiversity Strategy, which emphasises ecosystem conservation and restoration, pressure reduction and increased mobilisation of domestic resources in priority landscapes, in line with the Global Biodiversity Framework and key environmental conventions.

The project will generate overall environmental benefits by contributing to the maintenance and restoration of a globally significant Sudanese savannah ecosystem, the conservation of endangered species, and the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework under the CBD and the World Heritage Convention.

The project's rationale for change is based on the assumption that:
IF,
- degraded habitats and community livelihoods are restored,
- ecological and socio-economic monitoring systems are strengthened and integrated,
- park and landscape governance is improved, with increased participation by local authorities, communities, women and young people,

THEN,
it will be possible to reduce pressures, improve the conservation status of the PNNK ecosystems, and strengthen the resilience of local populations to climate change.

Compared to other possible options, the project stands out for its ability to simultaneously address ecosystems, information systems and governance, giving it greater potential for transformation. It targets a landscape of high ecological value (World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve) where the results will have a disproportionate impact on overall biodiversity objectives, and builds on ongoing efforts to amplify, coordinate and embed them in a long-term vision. By combining active restoration on the outskirts of the park (targeted reforestation, assisted natural regeneration, protection), control of Mimosa pigra, reduction of pressures (fires, poaching) and strengthened monitoring (centralised database, indicator dashboard, IMET-type assessments), the project creates the conditions for results to be sustained despite changing drivers and the climate context.

Baseline and continuity of invasive-species management. Invasive-species control in the PNNK is not a one-off operation. The DPN already conducts combined manual, mechanical and biological campaigns at ponds reaching the critical-coverage threshold (e.g. Simenti, Kountadala, Wouring), planned through the SMART/biomonitoring system. The project finances the system, staff and community capacity and a recurrent-campaign protocol rather than a single operation; continuity is secured by DPN co-financing (USD 2,500,000), IUCN co-financing (USD 1,500,000), integration into the PAG and annual work plans, and a sustainable-financing pathway (trust fund, tourism and private-sector contributions). The baseline infested area and a quantified reduction target will be established during the PPG.

Stakeholders, investment landscape and alignment with national priorities

The system of stakeholders in the Niokolo-Koba landscape is diverse and central to the project's success. The central environmental administration (Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition, DPN) provides strategic and operational guidance, ensuring consistency with the PAG of the PNNK, the SNBPA, the SND 2025-2029 and international commitments (UNESCO, CBD, Ramsar). Other sectoral ministries (Agriculture/Livestock, Mines, Hydraulics, Tourism, Interior, Local Authorities, Finance) play a key role in regulating land and resource use, integrating project measures into sectoral policies and budgets, and reducing conflicts of use.

Category of Stakeholder	Main Stakeholder	Key role in the project
Central environmental administration	Ministry of the Environment and Ecological Transition, National Parks Directorate (DPN)	Strategic and operational management of the project, ensuring consistency of implementation with PNNK management plans, national coordination, integration into SNBPA, SND 2025 2029 and conventions (UNESCO, Ramsar, CBD).
Other sectoral ministries	Agriculture/Livestock farming, Mining/Geology, Hydraulics/Sanitation, Tourism, Interior/FDS, Local authorities, Finance	Guidance and supervision of practices and implementation of activities, and integration of project measures into sectoral policies and budgets.
Local authorities	Neighboring municipalities and departmental councils, network of mayors around the PNNK	Ensure coordination with local development plans, adoption of local agreements (POAS, charters), and territorial anchoring of project results.
Local communities	Farmers, livestock breeders, fishers, women (GPF, GIE), young people, beekeepers, artisans, tourist guides, traditional and religious leaders	Adoption of sustainable practices, joint monitoring of the park, participation in governance bodies, implementation and perpetuation of AGRs and green jobs.
CSOs/NGOs involved in conservation and development	Panthera, ZSL, ULB Cooperation, ENDA, local NGO, foundations	Technical support for conservation and restoration, strengthening local capacities, support for mobilising additional funding.
Social and solidarity economy actors	Cooperatives, economic interest groups, mutual societies, MFIs, microfinance schemes	Structuring of sectors (non-timber forest products, honey, crafts, tourism services), facilitating access to credit, economic security for women and young people.

Local authorities (municipalities and departmental councils in neighbouring areas, network of mayors) play a key role in anchoring the project in the local area: they ensure coordination with local development plans, the adoption of local agreements on land and resource use (POAS, local charters) and the continuation of sustainable practices. Local communities (farmers, livestock breeders, fishermen, women organised in GPFs and GIEs, young people, beekeepers, artisans, tourist guides, traditional and religious leaders) are at the heart of changes in land use practices, co-monitoring of the park, and the implementation of income-generating activities and green jobs. Conservation and development NGOs, universities and research centres provide technical support, contribute to capacity building, and help to generate and capitalise on knowledge. Finally, technical and financial partners (GEF, UNDP, World Bank, European Union, UNESCO, IUCN, other donors)

provide financial resources, support for reforms and a framework for coordination and performance monitoring.

The PNNK landscape has already benefited from several structural investments by the State, technical and financial partners, the GEF (via the PMF/GEF) and NGOs, including: strengthening park management (increasing staff numbers, improving land, air and water logistics, ecological and climate monitoring), implementing the 2026-2035 PAG (combating poaching, habitat restoration, participatory governance), local development programmes (agroecology, sustainable food systems, market gardening areas, agroforestry, promotion of agricultural products, support for GPFs and GIEs, female micro-entrepreneurship, beekeeping, fish farming, crafts, community ecotourism). These investments have, for example, enabled the installation of modern honey production facilities, the structuring of the beekeeping sector (Api-Niokolo brand), the development of activities around NTFPs, improved access to water, health and local infrastructure, and the testing of innovative financing mechanisms (trust funds, carbon projects, partnerships with the private sector and universities).

The GEF-8 project will fit into this landscape by playing a role of enhancement, reinforcement and integration rather than substitution. It will target critical links that are still insufficiently covered (ecological restoration on a sufficient scale, control of invasive species, integrated ecological, robust territorial governance mechanisms, improved livelihood) and connect the various existing initiatives to produce systemic effects at the landscape level. It will strengthen the planned governance mechanisms (biosphere reserve committees, local platforms, network of mayors), support the capitalisation and scaling up of good practices tested in pilot areas, and support state structures in seeking sustainable financing (trust funds, carbon projects, contributions from tourism and the private sector) to ensure the continuity of actions beyond the duration of the project.

Roles of key partners (emphasis on Senegalese institutions). Panthera - anti-poaching/surveillance support, large-carnivore monitoring and the 2026 surveillance plan; ZSL and ULB-Cooperation - ecological monitoring and community work; academic and research partners - Universite Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD), Universite Iba Der Thiam de Thies (UIDT), IFAN and IRD, together with Universite libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Universite de Liege and Antelope Conservation/CZU Prague (Western Giant Eland monitoring) - ecological monitoring, species research, capacity building and knowledge generation. National institutions (DPN, UCAD, UIDT, IFAN) act as lead partners, building on existing DPN-Panthera, DPN-ULB/ZSL and eland-monitoring agreements; coordination protocols (MoU) will be formalised during the PPG.

In doing so, the project is directly in line with the national priorities defined by the 'Senegal 2050' Vision and the SND 2025-2029, contributing to both axis 3 'Planning and Sustainable Development' and axis 1 'Competitive Economy'. It provides an operational response to strategic objective 3.2 of promoting sustainable management of natural ecosystems by strengthening the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, the extension and effective management of terrestrial protected areas, the control of invasive species and the restoration of degraded land in a site of high importance. It also contributes to the cross-cutting priorities of good governance, decentralisation, citizen participation and the economic empowerment of women and young people.

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

The project is based on the observation that, without major changes, the current trajectory of the Niokolo Koba landscape will lead to the gradual erosion of its ecological values, recurring conflicts between conservation and land use, and a weakening of the ecosystem services on which rural communities depend. The project's objective is to restore and sustainably conserve the key ecosystems of Niokolo Koba National Park (PNNK) and its surrounding landscape, while strengthening the resilience of ecosystems and local communities.

Theory of change and overall logic

The theory of change is based on a chain of causality linking three complementary levers: (i) ecosystem restoration and livelihood enhancement, (ii) strengthening ecological monitoring and governance, and (iii) good coordination and knowledge management.

Theory of Change (standalone narrative). IF (i) degraded habitats and community livelihoods are restored and pressures reduced at source, (ii) ecological monitoring and law-enforcement/anti-poaching systems are strengthened and integrated, and (iii) participatory governance is made effective, THEN pressures decline and the conservation status of PNNK ecosystems and the resilience of communities improve, BECAUSE reduced pressure combined with adaptive, evidence-based management sustains habitats and the species that depend on them. Scientific basis (PAG 2026-2035): the world's last viable population of the Western Giant Eland (~537 individuals; Brandlova et al., 2025), the West African lion (28-56 individuals; Lindshield & Ndiaye, 2021), the African wild dog (24-38 individuals; Drouille et *al*., 2021) and the West African chimpanzee (>45 individuals), monitored through aerial counts, biomonitoring and IMET/EOH assessments. Key assumptions: sustained State commitment, effective community participation, security conditions and continued financing.

Law-enforcement and anti-poaching pathway. Consistent with the evidence that anti-poaching is decisive for the PNNK, the project reinforces the existing surveillance architecture - 25 guard posts (six with an infirmary), six mobile brigades and a motorised anti-poaching (environmental-crime) brigade, with SMART/QGIS patrol planning (PAG 2026-2035) - through equipment, anti-poaching/IWT (LAB) training, an ecological-monitoring-surveillance interface (camera traps, telemetry where relevant, basic drones) and coordination with Panthera's 2026 surveillance plan. Participatory governance complements, rather than replaces, this pathway.

In concrete terms, the project starts from a baseline situation characterised by: (i) the degradation and fragmentation of key habitats (more than 70 species of mammals, 329 species of birds, 36 species of reptiles, 20 species of amphibians and a large number of invertebrates) in and around the park, due to poaching, fires (With over 1,000,000 hectares of flammable in the PNNK peripheric area), agriculture, gold mining and the colonisation of ponds by Mimosa pigra; (ii) existing but fragmented and under-resourced ecological monitoring systems; and (iii) multi-stakeholder governance that is still fragile.

The planned activities aim to transform this situation into a landscape where:
- Priority habitats around the park are restored and better protected;
- Community livelihoods are strengthened;
- Pressures (fires, poaching, invasive species, unsustainable practices) are significantly reduced;
- An integrated heritage value monitoring system is operational and feeds into adaptive management, national reporting (SNBPA, CBD) and UNESCO requirements;
- Governance mechanisms (DPN, communities, local platforms) are more effective, transparent and inclusive;

This logic is designed to remain robust in the face of different scenarios for driver and climate change: habitat restoration and sustainable management practices reduce vulnerability to climate extremes; adaptive management based on monitoring allows priorities to be adjusted in line with new data; and anchoring the project in national policies (SND 2025 2029, SNBPA, protected area strategies) increases institutional sustainability.

Component 1. Restoration of PNNK ecosystems and community livelihoods

Component 1 aims to reverse the dynamics of degradation in the PNNK landscape by combining active habitat restoration and livelihood enhancement, while reducing pressures at source. It is based on the principle that effective restoration requires a solid diagnosis, appropriate techniques (including local knowledge) and social and economic incentives to maintain results.

A first set of interventions aims to improve knowledge and planning for restoration in and around the PNNK. Participatory mapping of habitats, land uses and areas of high pressure (fires, overgrazing, cultivation, logging) will be carried out with communities, technical services and local authorities to identify priority sites for restoration, ecological corridors and areas of land use conflict. These assessments, supplemented by inventories of natural values (habitats, key species, wetlands, ponds colonised by Mimosa pigra), will provide a scientific and social basis for targeting interventions where they will have the greatest impact on biodiversity and resilience.

On this basis, a second set of activities will focus on restoring degraded habitats and reducing pressures in priority sites around the park. The project will support:
- raising awareness among communities and local authorities of the impacts of bush fires, overgrazing, illegal logging and pollution;
- the organisation and equipping of village firefighting brigades, ensuring the participation of women and young people (training, local leadership, distribution of tasks);
- the implementation of restoration actions (targeted planting of local species, assisted natural regeneration, protection, and rehabilitation of gallery forests, ponds, and wetlands) in priority areas;
- the integration of sustainable land management measures into municipal plans (crop rotation, pasture management, agroforestry).

At the same time, the project will develop an integrated approach to controlling invasive plant species, particularly Mimosa pigra, in the wetlands and ponds of the PNNK. Training will be organised for park staff, local authorities and communities on the biology, mapping and sustainable control techniques for invasive species, followed by supervised community campaigns (clear-cutting, residue management) in priority areas.

A final set of activities will strengthen communities' livelihoods through:
- Promoting value chains, particularly those for non-timber forest products;
- Diversifying market gardening production;
- Developing beekeeping;

This component will contribute directly to global environmental benefits (GEBs) by restoring 3000 ha of Sudanese savannah and wetland habitats, improving ecological connectivity around the park and reducing pressure on endangered species.

Component 2. Participatory governance of heritage values
Component 2 aims to provide the PNNK with a strengthened ecological monitoring and information management system for its heritage assets, while improving governance and management efficiency with a view to gradual alignment with international standards (IUCN Green List, UNESCO).

On the ecological monitoring side, the project will start with a detailed assessment of existing systems (protocols, human resources, equipment, information flows) to identify gaps and investment priorities. The park's services will be equipped with modern monitoring tools (camera traps, GPS, possibly telemetry collars, habitat monitoring equipment, basic drones where relevant), ensuring that staff – both women and men – are trained in their use and in data management. A centralised, secure database interfaced with national systems (SNBPA, biodiversity databases) will be strengthened.

In terms of governance and management efficiency, the project will support the implementation of IMET/EOH assessments for the PNNK in order to identify management strengths and weaknesses, risks and priority measures. Multi-stakeholder workshops (administrations, DPNs, local authorities, communities, women's and youth organisations, NGOs, researchers) will provide an opportunity to discuss the results, jointly develop responses and integrate priorities into management plans and annual action plans. On this basis, concrete roadmaps will be developed and implemented to progress towards the IUCN Green List, maintain UNESCO status and improve territorial governance mechanisms (biosphere reserve committees, local platforms, network of mayors).
This component will mainstream gender and social inclusion issues: women, young people and vulnerable groups will be explicitly targeted in participation mechanisms (quotas or representation targets in advisory committees, local platforms, participatory monitoring groups); specific needs for information, training and access to benefits will be taken into account in management plans and local agreements.

Gender-responsive design. Gender gaps (access to land, credit, decision-making and benefit-sharing) are explicitly linked to outcomes and activities. Women lead and benefit in agroforestry, market gardening, NTFP and beekeeping value chains (Api-Niokolo), in GPF/GIE structuring, in village fire brigades and in governance bodies (representation quotas in advisory committees, local platforms and participatory monitoring groups). A gender analysis and Gender Action Plan will be completed and uploaded before CEO Endorsement, with gender-sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated data in the results framework. Target (CI 11): 2,000 beneficiaries - 1,500 women and 500 men.

By strengthening monitoring, management and governance capacities, this component increases the likelihood that the results of Component 1 (restoration, pressure reduction) will be maintained and adapted to future changes in drivers (climate, economic demands, public policies).

Component 3. Coordination and knowledge management
Component 3 provides structured knowledge production and dissemination, and contributing to the improvement of policy and institutional frameworks.

In terms of project coordination and management, governance mechanisms will be put in place: a steering committee including key ministries, the DPN, local authorities, community representatives (including women's and youth associations) and technical partners; a project management unit; and operational coordination mechanisms with park teams and ongoing programmes.
In terms of knowledge management and learning, the project will generate and organise a rich body of data and lessons learned from field activities, ecological and socio-economic monitoring, and experiments in restoration, invasive species control, governance and green value chains. This knowledge will be stored in accessible databases, analysed regularly to guide the adaptive management of the park and community activities, and transformed into knowledge products (policy briefs, methodological guides, case studies, technical sheets, training modules, short videos).

A communication and sharing strategy will be implemented, targeting the general public, decision-makers, communities and technical partners, through experience-sharing workshops (local, national, sub-regional), national biodiversity platforms, regional networks and digital tools (websites, social networks). The lessons learned will not only inform the ongoing adjustment of the project, but also the design of future programmes in Senegal and the sub-region, particularly in other landscapes of high ecological value.

Finally, the project will contribute to improving existing policies and frameworks. By implementing the guidelines of the SND 2025-2029 and sectoral strategies (biodiversity, protected areas, environment, territorial development) in an emblematic site, it will provide evidence (data on the costs and benefits of restoration, socio-economic impacts of green sectors, effects on resilience) through the generation of knowledge, to inform public policy dialogues, strategy reviews and revisions of legislative or regulatory

frameworks, particularly in the areas of protected area management, integration of biodiversity into development plans and adaptation to climate change.

A results-oriented monitoring and evaluation system will be put in place. This will involve the development and implementation of a monitoring and evaluation framework aligned with GEF Core Indicators and national reporting requirements (SNBPA, CBD, UNESCO) and incorporating indicators that are sensitive to gender and social inclusion.

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Environmental additionality and expected transformation

Without GEF support, efforts would remain largely fragmented, dependent on ad hoc funding, focused either on strict park management or on micro-community projects, without critical mass or overall coherence at the landscape level. The GEF 8 project overcomes this logic by financing structural interventions that assist in establishing a more robust ecological monitoring system focused on heritage values, particularly large and medium-sized mammals and their habitats. Furthermore, this project will promote sustainable land restoration practices and increase food security for populations on the outskirts of the PNNK.

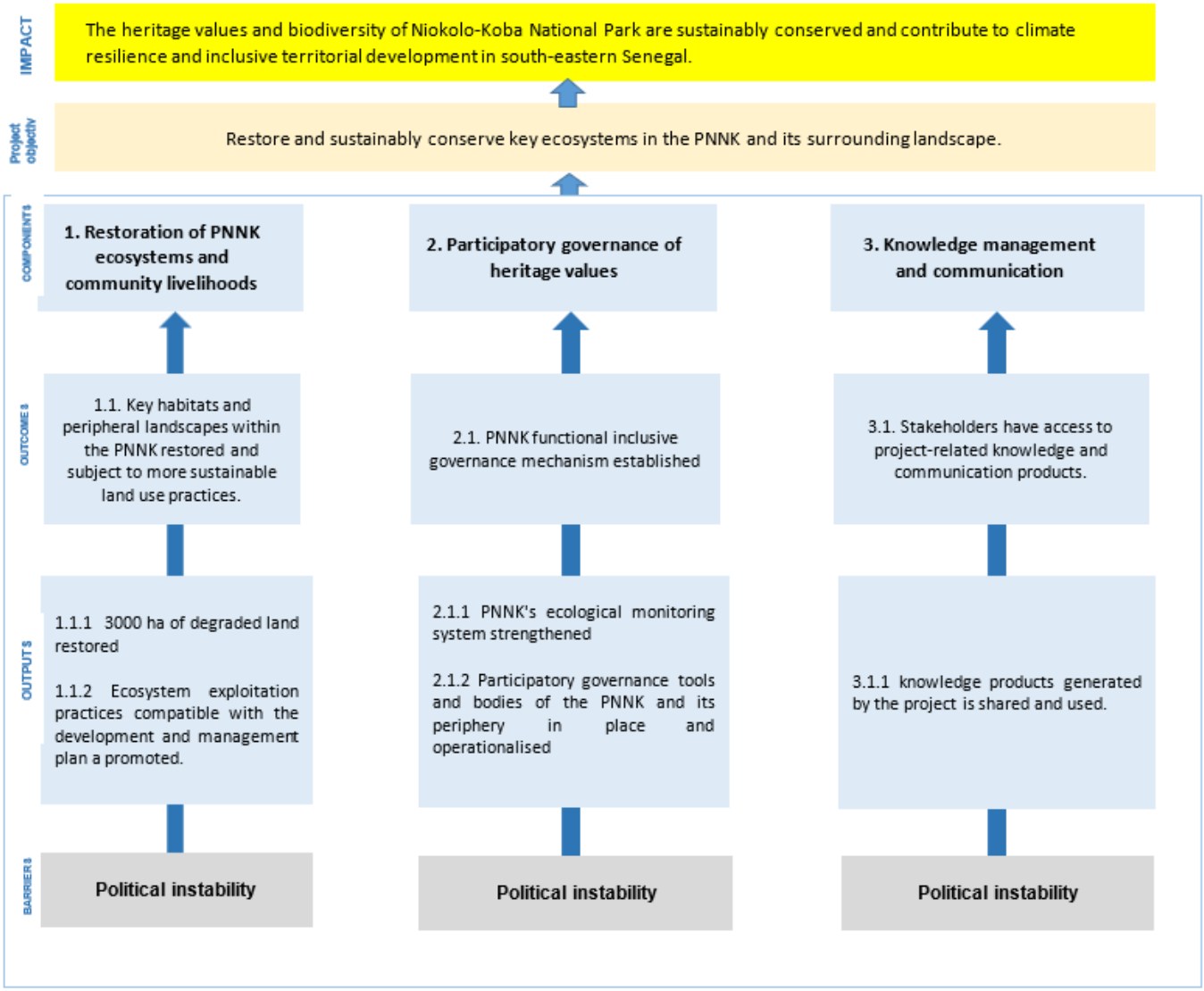
Incremental / additional cost reasoning (per GEF/C.31/12). Baseline scenario: fragmented, ad hoc-funded park management and isolated micro-projects (financed by the USD 4,000,000 co-financing) under which degradation continues. GEF alternative: landscape-scale restoration, an integrated invasive-species control system, a consolidated ecological-monitoring and information system, robust multi-stakeholder governance and green value chains (financed by the GEF grant, USD 1,258,702). Increment (the difference between the two scenarios): the Global Environmental Benefits that would not occur under the baseline - improved management of 913,000 ha, restoration of 3,000 ha, 5,000 ha under improved practices, the safeguarding of endangered species (including the world's last viable Western Giant Eland population, the West African lion and the African wild dog) and measurable contributions to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The expected overall environmental benefits include: maintaining and improving the conservation status of representative Sudanese savannah ecosystems at the regional level, safeguarding endangered species, restoring key ecosystem services (hydrological regulation, microclimates, soil fertility) and contributing to the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework. Adaptation benefits will result in reduced community vulnerability to climate hazards through income diversification, water resource protection and improved resilience of production systems.

The project is designed to be transformative: by strengthening governance, testing and demonstrating nature-based solutions and green value chain models on a large scale, and producing robust evidence for policy, it paves the way for scaling up to other protected landscapes in Senegal and the sub-region, and for increased mobilisation of public and private funding (trust funds, carbon mechanisms, contributions from tourism and the private sector).

Transformation and scaling (GEF-8 levers). Governance: operationalisation of biosphere-reserve committees, redynamisation of the mayors' network and local platforms, a scientific committee, and a roadmap to the IUCN Green List. Financial leverage: a sustainable-financing pathway (conservation trust fund, carbon mechanisms, tourism and private-sector contributions). Innovation: SMART patrol planning, camera traps, basic drones and telemetry, and green value chains (the Api-Niokolo honey brand - around 12% of local honey production already from modern apiaries supported by ULB-Cooperation - and NTFPs). Multi-stakeholder dialogue across administrations, communities, women's and youth organisations, NGOs and researchers. Scaling pathway: the integrated Niokolo-Koba model - anchoring globally unique values such as the last viable Western Giant Eland population - is

replicable in other Sudano-Sahelian World Heritage and biosphere landscapes (transboundary Niokolo-Badiar complex, wider PICVERT landscape), with knowledge products and policy uptake via the SND 2025-2029 and the NBSAP.



Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

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

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

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)
913000	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)
0	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)

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)
913000	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA 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)
Niokolo Koba	865	National Park	913,000.00						

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
3000	0	0	0

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

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

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
3,000.00			

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

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

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

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

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
5000	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)
5,000.00			

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)

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)

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	500			
Male	1,500			
Total	**2,000**	**0**	0	**0**

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

The project will contribute to the following GEF indicators, with indicative targets to be refined during the PPG phase:

Indicator 1 – Protected terrestrial areas under improved management

The project will strengthen the management of the PNNK (ecological monitoring, IMET/EOH assessments, plan updates, progress towards the Green List). The proposed target is 913,000 ha of protected terrestrial areas under improved management.

Indicator 2 – Area of land and ecosystems undergoing restoration

Restoration efforts will target priority sites on the periphery and in certain pockets of the park. An indicative target is 3,000 ha of terrestrial ecosystems put back on a path to restoration.

Indicator 3 – Area of landscapes benefiting from improved practices

Through agroecology, sustainable land management, local conventions and community agreements, the project will improve management practices in the agricultural, pastoral and forest areas of the municipalities bordering the PNNK. A working target is 5,000 ha of landscape under improved practices.

Indicator 4 – People benefiting from GEF-funded investments

Beneficiaries include households (agricultural and/or pastoral), communities bordering the intervention area, supported GPFs and GIEs, ecotourism stakeholders, as well as park and community agents. The proposed target is 2,000 direct beneficiaries, including 1,500 women and 500 men, with indirect effects on a larger number of people.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	Climate. Risk: droughts, floods and rainfall variability reduce the survival of restoration plantings, degrade pastures and gallery forests, and lower pond water levels. The project carries out restoration actions and climate indicators in ecological monitoring are integrated and work plans are adjusted annually. We will also strengthen local capacities on climate risk management
Environmental and Social	Moderate	Environmental and social. Risk: poaching, bush fires, land-use conflicts and mining/agricultural pressure degrade habitats and reduce wildlife populations. The project combines enhanced surveillance, awareness-raising and economic alternatives to reduce incentives for destructive practices.
Political and Governance	Low	Policy and governance. Risk: shifting priorities, administrative delays and weak inter-sectoral coordination slow implementation and weaken policy uptake. The project will be anchored in national frameworks (SND 2025 2029, SNBPA, biodiversity strategies) and in the park's approved management plans. Establish a steering committee including key ministries, DPN, local authorities and PTFs. Provide for formalised collaboration protocols (MoUs, letters of agreement) and high-level annual reviews to ensure policy alignment and remove obstacles.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Low	Institutional and political. Risk: limited capacity of decentralised administrations, staff turnover and low involvement of some local authorities undermine ownership and continuity. The project includes a capacity-building plan (technical, management, M&E) targeting stakeholders and formalising

		roles through terms of reference. Promote ownership by integrating actions into PDCs and involving elected officials in project governance bodies (CP)
Technological	Low	Technological. Risk: insufficient command of monitoring tools, equipment-maintenance difficulties and weak data management impair ecological monitoring. The project will select technologies appropriate to the context. Simple data management procedures will also be put in place, with ongoing training.
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	Financial and business model. Risk: low profitability or volatility of green value chains and difficult market access jeopardise the durability of community livelihood activities. The project will focus on the results of market research that has already been carried out on NTFPs and other studies on invasive plants, and will start with small-scale pilot projects, diversifying products and markets (local, tourism, national fairs). We will also strengthen capacities in management, marketing and quality; facilitate links with buyers, labels and financing mechanisms (microfinance, equipment grants).
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Low	Implementation capacity. Risk: weak coordination and over-burdening of the PMU and park teams delay delivery. The project will ensure that there is a competent Project Management Unit and local coordination with the park. It will also ensure realistic planning and work with local partners to ensure effective implementation.
Fiduciary	Moderate	Fiduciary. Risk: delays in procurement and in the transfer of funds disrupt the activity schedule. The project will establish fiduciary procedures in line with FEM and IUCN standards. The project will also provide training and support for administrative and financial staff.
Stakeholder	Low	Stakeholders and social acceptability. Risk: resistance to use restrictions and low effective participation reduce the adoption and durability of measures. The project plans to systematically involve women, young people and vulnerable groups in the implementation process. Link conservation measures to tangible benefits, communicate regularly on results and local impacts.
Other		
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	The overall risk analysis of the project indicates a moderate level of risk, mainly due to climatic, environmental, financial and fiduciary factors, which remain significant in the context of the intervention. Climate hazards (droughts, floods, rainfall variability) and anthropogenic pressures (poaching, bush fires, land use conflicts, mining and agricultural pressures) could affect the expected results. However, these risks are mitigated by robust and integrated measures: restoration supported by ecological monitoring using appropriate techniques, strengthening of sustainable economic alternatives, anchoring of the project in national strategic frameworks, strengthening of

		technical and management capacities, and strong involvement of local stakeholders, particularly women and young people. Risks related to governance, institutional capacity, technology, implementation and social acceptability are considered low thanks to the coordination mechanisms, realistic planning and local ownership provided for. Overall, the combination of a robust institutional framework, an adaptive approach and targeted support for local actors suggests that the identified risks remain manageable and compatible with the achievement of the project's objectives.

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 proposed interventions are fully aligned with GEF-8 guidelines, particularly with the Biodiversity Strategy, which emphasises ecosystem conservation and restoration, integrated landscape management and nature-based solutions. The project contributes to strengthening the management of a world-class protected area, restoring degraded ecosystems and reducing pressures on production landscapes around the PNNK, in line with GEF-8 priorities for sustainable landscapes, maintaining threatened species and integrating biodiversity into agricultural and pastoral sectors.

At the national level, the project is directly aligned with the 'Senegal 2050' Vision and the National Development Strategy (SND) 2025-2029, in particular the 'Planning and Sustainable Development' axis and the strategic objective of sustainable management of natural ecosystems, biodiversity conservation and restoration of degraded land. It is consistent with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its action plan, as well as with the national strategy for protected areas, which aim to extend and improve the effectiveness of conservation, restore key ecosystems and enhance ecosystem services for territorial development. The project also contributes to the implementation of the national Ecological Transition policy by demonstrating, in an emblematic landscape, integrated management approaches that reconcile conservation, adaptation and local development.

The interventions provide operational support for Senegal's commitments under the main multilateral environmental agreements. With regard to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the project strengthens in situ conservation, ecosystem restoration and the integration of biodiversity into sectoral and territorial policies. It also contributes to the objectives of the UNFCCC by integrating nature-based solutions into adaptation (habitat restoration, fire management, water resource protection) and strengthening the resilience of ecosystem-dependent communities. With regard to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, the project explicitly aims to maintain and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the PNNK by improving the conservation status of habitats, species and management systems. At the regional level, it is consistent with the ECOWAS and UEMOA frameworks on sustainable management of Sahelian/Sudanian ecosystems and climate resilience, making the Niokolo-Koba landscape a showcase for the integrated approaches advocated by these organisations.

No national policies explicitly contradictory to the project's objectives have been identified at this stage. However, certain sectoral policies (agriculture, mining, infrastructure) may, if poorly implemented, generate increased pressure on land and biodiversity. The project will help to reduce these risks by strengthening the coherence of local policies and plans (intersectoral dialogue, integration of biodiversity and adaptation issues into local development plans and land use plans, support for communities in negotiating and supervising investments) and by offering concrete development options that are compatible with conservation objectives (agroecology, sustainable land management, green sectors).

Contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The project contributes to several targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework:

- Target 1 (integrated land use planning and management): through participatory mapping of habitats and pressures, identification of priority sites, establishment of local land use agreements and integration of biodiversity issues into municipal plans and park management plans, the project strengthens spatial planning and integrated landscape management in Niokolo-Koba.

- Target 2 (ecosystem restoration): active restoration measures (targeted reforestation with native species, assisted natural regeneration, fencing, rehabilitation of gallery forests and ponds) are putting degraded terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands around the PNNK back on track for restoration.

- Target 3 (protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures – OECM): the project improves the management effectiveness of a protected area of high importance by strengthening monitoring systems, assessing management effectiveness, implementing management plans and progressing towards standards such as the IUCN Green List, while consolidating governance arrangements in peripheral areas.

- Target 6 (invasive alien species): it develops an integrated approach to controlling Mimosa pigra and other invasive species (training, mapping, control campaigns, biomass management), reducing their impact on habitats and ecosystem services.

- Target 11 (ecosystem services and nature's contributions to people): the project protects and restores essential services (hydrological regulation, soil fertility, microclimate regulation) on which rural communities depend, while developing economic sectors based on sustainable use of resources (NTFPs, beekeeping, ecotourism).

- Target 14 (integrating biodiversity into policies): by strengthening multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms, supporting the integration of biodiversity and adaptation into development plans and local land use frameworks, and producing knowledge that can be used for decision-making, the project promotes better consideration of biodiversity in policies and plans.

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).

No

The project will be implemented in synergy with PICVERT and the SENRM project. In preparing this PIF, we have benefited from the consultations that these ongoing projects have carried out with the various stakeholders, which are the same. Management has also engaged other consultants in the development of this project. Furthermore, consultations are continuing with key stakeholders and will be adequately documented during the development of the PPG.

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities:

Civil Society Organizations:

Private Sector:

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

The project will be implemented in synergy with PICVERT and the SENRM project. In preparing this PIF, we have benefited from the consultations that these ongoing projects have carried out with the various stakeholders, which are the same.

Management has also engaged other consultants in the development of this project. Furthermore, consultations are continuing with key stakeholders and will be adequately documented during the development of the PPG.

(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?

No

And if so, has its role been described and justified in the section B project description?

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

The project is considered to be moderate risk overall. At this stage, the Biodiversity and Cultural Heritage Standards are triggered, with the Indigenous Peoples and Access Restrictions Standard to be determined at a later stage. The project bears a moderate risk to community health and safety, as well as labour and working conditions. The risk area on resource efficiency is also rated moderate due primarily to the potential risks associated with handling of residue following invasive species removal.

It is of particular concern that no stakeholder engagement activities were carried out thus far, even though IUCN has previous experience implementing other projects in this landscape.

A targeted environmental and social impact assessment should be carried out during the PPG phase to assess the impacts of the project activities and to gather data relating to potential access restrictions, presence of Indigenous groups as well as impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the park. The social assessment should also identify vulnerable groups, differentiated impacts (if any) due to gender, as well as ascertaining the impact of potential for increased human-wildlife conflict.

An ESMP including budget for implementation is required to be written by the end of the PPG phase, including individual chapters on the safeguarding the Cultural Value of the site, protocol for species selection for restoration activities, SoPs for species monitoring (camera trap usage, radio telemetry, etc), Health and Safety Plan, and Waste Management Plan. A stand alone Gender Action Plan is also required. If the Impact Assessments determine that the Standard on Access Restrictions is triggered, an Access Restriction Mitigation Process Framework will also be required. In the event of the triggering of the Indigenous Peoples Standard, an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework is required. These Frameworks could be included as part of the ESMP.

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 ($)
IUCN	GET	Senegal	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	870,539.00	78,349.00	948,888.00
IUCN	GET	Senegal	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	Grant	388,161.00	34,934.00	423,095.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**1,258,700.00**	**113,283.00**	**1,371,983.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount ($)

50000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

4500

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)
IUCN	GET	Senegal	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	34,585.00	2,994.48	37,579.48
IUCN	GET	Senegal	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	Grant	15,415.00	1,505.52	16,920.52
Total PPG Amount ($)						**50,000.00**	**4,500.00**	**54,500.00**

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total($)
IUCN	GET	Senegal	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	986,581.00
IUCN	GET	Senegal	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	439,902.00
Total GEF Resources					**1,426,483.00**

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
BD-1-1	GET	870,539.00	4000000
LD-1	GET	388,161.00	
Total Project Cost		**1,258,700.00**	**4,000,000.00**

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)

Recipient Country Government	National Parks Directorate	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	2500000
GEF Agency	IUCN	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	1500000
Total Co-financing				**4,000,000.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

NA

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Janie RIOUX	2/27/2026			janie.rioux@iucn.org
Project Coordinator	P Carole KABRE	2/27/2026		00221778465931	carole.kabre@iucn.org

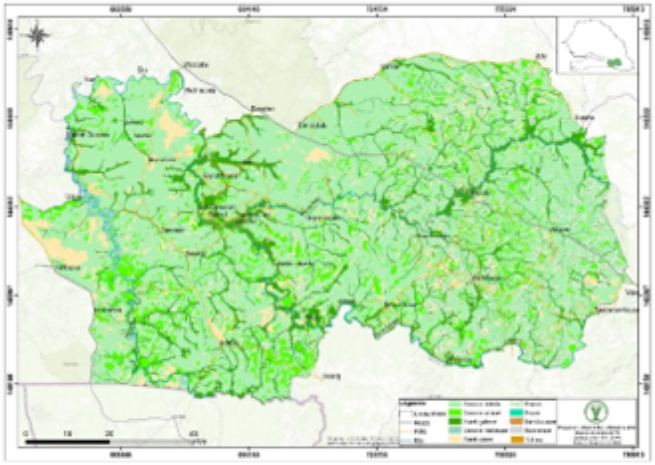
Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Baba Dramé	Senegalese Directorate of Environmental Regulation and Control	Ministry for Environment and Ecological Transition	3/11/2026

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

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

Location of Niokolo Koba National Park



Map of Niokolo Koba National Park

	Name	Country	Feature class	Latitude	Longitude	
1	Parc National du Niokolo-Koba Niodolo-Koba,Parc National du Niokolo-Koba,Parc national de Niokolo,Parc-reserve du Niokolo-Kola,Par...	Senegal, Kédougou	park	N 13° 0′ 27''	W 12° 54′ 52''	

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
ESMS preliminary screening_PNNK_Gef8_SN

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
No Contribution 0	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2	Significant Objective 1

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Influencing Models	Strengthening institutional capacity/Decision making	Transform policy and regulatory environment	Demonstrate innovative approaches
Stakeholders	Beneficiaries, Local communities	Stakeholders' engagement	
Capacity, Knowledge and Research	Capacity development, enabling activities	Knowledge generation and exchange, learning	
Gender Equality	Gender mainstreaming	Capacity, Knowledge and research	

Focal Area/Theme	Biodiversity	Capacity, Knowledge and research	