

GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title

Harnessing Natural Capital - Unlocking Zimbabwe's Biodiversity Potential in the Sebungwe Landscape

Region	GEF Project ID
Africa	11987
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Zimbabwe	FSP
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency ID
UNDP	10149
Executing Partner	Executing Partner Type
Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife	Government
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Multi Focal Area	8/20/2025

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Taxonomy

Transform policy and regulatory environments, Women groups, Capacity Development, Beneficiaries, Local Communities, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Productive Seascapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Threatened Species, Wildlife for Sustainable Development, Species, Biodiversity, Wetlands, Biomes, Tropical Dry Forests, Grasslands, Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting, Financial and Accounting, Land Degradation, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Sustainable Livelihoods, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Land Management, Focal Areas, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Gender Mainstreaming, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership, Access to benefits and services, Awareness Raising, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Gender results areas, Gender Equality, Knowledge Generation, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Learning, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change, Adaptive management, Innovation, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Civil Society, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Consultation, Participation, Stakeholders, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Influencing models

Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
GET	72
GEF Project Grant: (a)	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)
5,681,588.00	0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)
539,751.00	0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
6,221,339.00	25,580,000.00
PPG Amount: (e)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)

150,000.00	14,250.00
PPG total amount: (e+f)	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)
164,250.00	6,385,589.00

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)

The Sebungwe Region has four districts (Binga, Kariba, Gokwe North and Gokwe South) with different land use types including national parks (PAs, 37%), forest areas (2%) and communal areas (61%). It covers 15,600km². The region forms an important component of the KAZA but has witnessed significant biodiversity loss. Declines in wildlife have mainly been due to poaching and a loss of habitats as a result of increasing human pressures and pastoral activities. This has led to large migrations of wildlife from the region. This coupled with the effects of climate change and economic pressures has led to an over reliance on natural resources, leading to their degradation. The project seeks to unlock the biodiversity potential of Zimbabwe's Sebungwe region by developing a sustainable biodiversity economy that enhances conservation of resources, improves livelihoods, and contributes to national economic growth. Relevant government organisations, financial institutions and Civil Society Organisations will develop a Natural Capital Accounting framework that will be piloted in Sebungwe, where community-based enterprises will be established. These include wetland protection and sustainable use, establishing Community Wildlife Conservancies, and other wildlife based initiatives in the corridors (aquaculture, apiculture) and promoting sustainable harvesting of wild fruits, value addition, helping build these into viable business enterprises by providing the infrastructure, building capacity and aiding access to markets. Although efforts are being made to restock the protected areas, there is need to support them with resources for anti-poaching and strengthening the protected areas' ability for sustainable financing. These activities will contribute to a framework for natural capital accounting for the country, improved protection on biodiversity in both protected land and communal land and improved economic beneficiation from natural resources for communities in the Sebungwe region. The GEBs to be achieved in the project include the conservation of globally significant biodiversity through strengthening the management of 493,800 ha of protected area (GEF Core Indicator 1.2); sustainable use of biodiversity through the development of a sustainable tamarind value chain, community conservancies (100,000 ha), reduction in forest loss and forest degradation through improving land management practices in 380,000 ha of communal land, the development and initial implementation of 10 management plans for community forests (8,109ha) including harvest quotas and their implementation (GEF Core Indicators 4.1) and ensuring sustainable land management in production systems (100ha, GEF Core Indicator 4.3) and enhanced sustainable livelihoods for local communities and forest-dependent peoples.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

To unlock the biodiversity potential of Zimbabwe's Sebungwe Region through the establishment of a sustainable biodiversity economy that increases community livelihoods, improves conservation outcomes and

contributes to the regional green economy, in alignment with national biodiversity and economic development targets

Project Components

Component 1: Enhanced natural capital accounting and integrated biodiversity planning and policy

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
467,138.00	2,593,969.00

Outcome:

Outcome 1.1: Increased recognition of the value of natural capital in economic decision-making

Indicator:

National framework document

Target: 1 National framework for natural capital accounting and biodiversity databases developed

Output:

Output 1.1.1.

A developed and operational national framework for natural capital accounting

Output 1.1.2. Ministries, civil society and private sector trained in natural capital valuation and management with equal participation of women and men in capacity-building activities

Output 1.1.3.

Land Degradation Neutrality and biodiversity data management platforms created at district level, feeding into the national database, with mechanisms to capture and analyse sex-disaggregated data

Output 1.1.4. Awareness and education materials on the importance of biodiversity for sustainable development developed and disseminated to local land users ensuring gender-sensitive messaging and equitable access for women and men

Component 2: Promoting a sustainable and inclusive biodiversity economy for improved community livelihoods and economic improvement

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
3,665,825.00	10,793,968.00

Outcome:

Outcome 2.1: Empowered Local Communities and Thriving Nature-Based Enterprises

Indicator: Number of beneficiaries, particularly women and vulnerable households and nature-based enterprises benefiting from GEF-financed investments

Target:

At least 4 inclusive nature-based enterprises developed/strengthens and 1000 people benefiting directly from the enterprises (with at least 50% women beneficiaries).

Output:

Output 2.1.1. Inclusive community-based natural resource management structures with devolved authority established/strengthened

Output 2.1.2. Training programs and workshops for local communities on sustainable natural resource management developed and delivered, integrating gender-responsive approaches and addressing the distinct roles and needs of women and men in resource use and decision-making

Output 2.1.3. Business plans and support mechanisms for the development of sustainable nature-based enterprises developed and implemented, with strong support for women-led enterprises

Output 2.1.4.

Selected community-based, inclusive biodiversity economy projects implemented in communities in Sebungwe Region, with strong support for women-led initiatives

Output 2.1.5

A small grant programme for community projects established and operationalised, with at least 50% of grants disbursed to women-led enterprises/initiatives

Output 2.1.6 Access to markets facilitated, especially for women-led enterprises

Output 2.1.7. Discussion paper for incentive mechanisms for communities for the conservation of rhinos developed and discussed with stakeholders in preparation for implementation

Component 3: Conservation of critical biodiversity habitats

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1,000,000.00	10,293,968.00

Outcome:

Outcome 3: Effective Protected Area Management and Biodiversity Conservation

Indicator 3.1: METT score for targeted PAs

Indicator 3.2: Area of terrestrial ecosystems protected or under improved management

Target: 493,800 ha of protected area under improved management

400,000 ha of communal lands under improved management

Area restored (5 ha)

2 sustainable use zones created

Output:

Output 3.1.1. Strengthened capacity of PA staff and communities for effective conservation of biodiversity in protected areas in Sebungwe to reduce biodiversity loss, integrating gender-responsive approaches and promoting equal engagement of women and men in conservation planning and implementation

Output 3.1.2. Management plans developed and improved harvesting practices implemented in forests and wetland on communal land, with gender-responsive approaches ensuring equitable participation of women and men in resource management

Output 3.1.3. Sustainable use zones created within protected areas with guidelines to balance conservation and equal economic benefits for men and women

Output 3.1.4. Community conservancies established for Improved protection of corridors (GEF CI 4.1)

Component 4: Knowledge Management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
178,073.00	503,200.00

Outcome:

Lessons learned by the project are developed and shared

Indicator:

Platforms with shared lessons, reports produced

Output:

Output 4.1.1. Learning Landscape Lessons from the project shared using different platforms integrating local knowledge and gender perspectives and highlighting contributions of both women and men

Output 4.1.2. Provision and management of gender-disaggregated data, information, technical analyses, methodologies generated by the project

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
100,000.00	176,800.00

Outcome:

M&E evidence for effective project performance.

Indicator:

Output:

Output 5.1.1.

Project M&E system operational, providing comprehensive information on project progress in achieving outcomes and outputs with sex-disaggregated data to track differential impacts for women and men

Output 5.1.2: Baseline assessments, Mid-term and terminal evaluations conducted

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Component 1: Enhanced natural capital accounting and integrated biodiversity planning and policy	467,138.00	2,593,969.00
Component 2: Promoting a sustainable and inclusive biodiversity economy for improved community livelihoods and economic improvement	3,665,825.00	10,793,968.00
Component 3: Conservation of critical biodiversity habitats	1,000,000.00	10,293,968.00
Component 4: Knowledge Management	178,073.00	503,200.00
M&E	100,000.00	176,800.00
Subtotal	5,411,036.00	24,361,905.00
Project Management Cost	270,552.00	1,218,095.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	5,681,588.00	25,580,000.00

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

Zimbabwe is a country rich in biodiversity, with abundant plant and animal life, varied landscapes, and diverse aquatic ecosystems. Zimbabwe's biodiversity is foundational to human well-being, providing essential goods and services such as food, fresh water, wood, fuel, climate regulation, water purification, recreational activities, and more. This biodiversity supports key economic sectors including agriculture, industry, energy, tourism, and manufacturing, which are critical to the country's economy.

Efforts to conserve biodiversity in Zimbabwe have since the 1980s focused on wildlife conservation, understood as the management of the living planet for sustainable human benefit. The Communal Areas Management Programme For Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) was the main tool used to ensure economic beneficiation by communities. This was not enough for communities as beneficiation was at village level, resulting in improved public infrastructure with little or no impact on the quality of life of individual households. Thus, communities continued to harvest resources to improve food security and for economic gain. The impacts of a growing human population, a declining national economy and climate change began to be felt and seen on the status of biodiversity as they led to an increased pressure on resources seen as overharvesting of resources, hence, a loss of biodiversity, poaching of resources in protected areas and the degradation of biodiversity and natural ecosystems in general.

The Sebungwe Region in Zimbabwe covers four districts, that is, Binga, Gokwe North, Gokwe South and Nyaminyami Districts. It hosts a mosaic of land use types including communal lands, growth points and protected areas (national parks, Forest areas and safari areas). The 2014 Great Elephant Census revealed a 76% decline in the elephant population in 13 years. The decline was seen across all megaherbivores (buffalo, sables and kudu). While mortalities could not explain the decline, threats such as an increasing human population which had decimated the buffer zones were noted. The increasing human population also culminated in an increased demand for resources such as firewood and other non-timber forest products for their livelihood. The Sebungwe region is very dry with limited output from rainfed cropping. Thus, there is a high reliance on biodiversity to support the livelihoods of the people in the area, including the Zambezi River for fishing and the forests for timber and non-timber forest products. The human pressure and high demand for resources has led to a land degradation and land use change, further threatening biodiversity. The communities harvest fruits such as Tamarind and baobab to sell at markets and to motorists. These are mostly harvested and sold by women and children as raw products earning them very little returns. Cultural norms determine where individuals harvest, but the trees in the wild fail to meet the demand for the products. This leads to destructive harvesting, with minimal contribution to livelihoods. Forests in Gokwe North are harvested for commercial purposes (timber and NTFPs), where a lack of management plans for these forests results in over-harvesting and poor regeneration.

The declining animal populations affect tourism in the area, hence economic development is also negatively affected. The area also acts as a corridor with animals moving within the Hwange Sanyati Biological Corridor as well as between the Chirisa-Chizarira National Park block and Matusadona National Park. Several protected areas in the area have the Zambezi River as their boundary while all of them also share boundaries with communities. The area is susceptible to poaching, with the river and communal lands offering an exit to poachers. Some (Chirisa and Chete Safari Areas and Sijarira Forest) protected areas in the region have limited capacity for anti-poaching and are often the entry point for poachers, threatening biodiversity in the region. The increasing local human populations also threaten conservation efforts with high pressure from subsistence poachers. Working with partners such as African Parks, the ZPWMA has started translocating animals into the Sebungwe to restore populations. This comes with demands for improved protection of the resources and the need for alternative livelihood options to reduce degradation of habitats from human demands as well as to offer an alternative economic lifeline to would-be poachers. Conservation, sustainable use and ecosystem restoration will result in recovery of species and increased animal movement in the corridors, which may in turn increase human-wildlife conflict, although with planning this also creates an opportunity for establishing community conservancies and creating tourism opportunities within the corridors. In a co-management arrangement with African Parks for Matusadona National Park, ZPWMA has advanced plans to reintroduce rhinos into the Intensive Protection Zone. This is likely to increase the tourism value of the park. While more rangers will be recruited to help protect the IPZ, undoubtedly the communities will play a role in ensuring the protection of these rhinos. The project will initiate the discussion of community beneficiation from the park with the park administrations. A positive outcome from this is the piloting of economic beneficiation for communities from the park.

As a dry area, access to water is also limited. This is leading to the degradation of wetlands due to cultivation and the degradation of seeps to meet the demands for water for domestic use and for watering gardens.

Development projects often take precedence over efforts to conserve biodiversity. The absence of biodiversity considerations in local and national plans and policies results in the degradation of biodiversity resources. This also results in reactive efforts to save biodiversity, which are often too late. The inaugural Zimbabwe Biodiversity Economy (ZBE) Report, launched in 2023, provides a comprehensive framework to measure and track the economic contributions of biodiversity and its associated ecosystem services. The report identifies numerous opportunities for economic growth within Zimbabwe's biodiversity economy, including nature-based tourism, wildlife-based land use, commercialisation of non-timber forest products, and expansion of fisheries.

This project aims to address these challenges by facilitating improved protection of biodiversity in protected areas and communal land and establishing sustainable, nature-based business ventures towards improved economic beneficiation for the communities. This will also be done through capacity building to improve the knowledge and skills of communities in biodiversity conservation and business administration, to allow communities to manage the business entities. The project will help protect identified wetlands and ensure their sustainable use. To improve the protection of forests on communal lands, management plans will be developed and their implementation supported. Community conservancies will be developed in corridors and sustainable agriculture enterprises will be promoted in the human settlements. Tamarind agroforestry plantings will be developed in collaboration with WWF Zimbabwe. Value addition will be explored for tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*) by helping complete the processing plant currently being established by Marondera [University Of Agricultural Science and Technology](#), so it produces different finished products for the market. The project will also help communities access markets for their products.

The assumptions of the project are;

1. Government is fully supportive of the development of the biodiversity economy in Sebungwe and will contribute through technical assistance and investments.
2. The provision of adequate resources for resource protection will result in improved protection of the biodiversity resources.
3. Communities will cooperate in projects that help improve their livelihoods.

Objective

To unlock the biodiversity potential of Zimbabwe's Sebungwe region through the establishment of a sustainable biodiversity economy that improves community livelihoods, enhances conservation outcomes, and contributes to the regional green economy, in alignment with national biodiversity and economic development targets.

Justification

The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers

Wildlife conservation has over the years focused on the survival of species with tourism benefits mainly accruing to the government through tourism in protected areas and safari areas as well as private players involved in tourism. Communities who bear the brunt of living with wildlife have mainly been spectators in the economic gains of wildlife conservation thus leading to over exploitation and degradation of resources in communal land for subsistence. To reverse this scenario, the Government of Zimbabwe is keen to build the biodiversity economy in a manner that allows communities to be key players. The conservation, sustainable use and restoration of landscapes is also key to ensuring recovery of flora and fauna and for community beneficiation. The project's proposed activities will help to achieve GBF Targets 5, 9 and 11, among other key priorities.

Zimbabwe's biodiversity economy

Zimbabwe's protected areas network covers approximately 27.2% of the country's land mass, harbouring most of its biodiversity. The total value of Zimbabwe's biodiversity economy is estimated to be in the billions of dollars, though precise figures are not available due to a lack of comprehensive data. For example, the nature-based tourism industry contributed 6.7% to the national GDP in 2019, yet the full contribution of nature to livelihoods and the economy is not known. A national framework to systematically account for biodiversity contributions to the economy, allowing for better decision-making and policy development, is therefore needed.

The economic valuation of biodiversity use in Southern Africa underscores the substantial benefits that can be derived from ecosystem services, including tourism, carbon sequestration, and non-timber forest products. For instance, nature-based tourism, which contributes significantly to Zimbabwe's GDP, still has untapped opportunities in remote national parks and resettlement areas. The commercialisation of non-timber forest products is estimated to have a high economic value, indicating substantial potential for formal economic development. By addressing challenges such as inadequate data, limited capacity for sustainable resource management, limited livelihood options and weak coordination between stakeholders, Zimbabwe can unlock the full economic potential of its biodiversity while ensuring its conservation for future generations.

To unlock the full potential of Zimbabwe's biodiversity economy, the country needs to address these challenges through improved natural capital accounting, strengthened institutional capacity, sustainable

resource management practices, diversified livelihood options and significant economic beneficiation for communities, especially women. Implementing key recommendations from the ZBE report, such as devolving authority to local communities and enhancing access and benefit-sharing mechanisms, will help Zimbabwe harness its biodiversity to drive sustainable development and improve community livelihoods.

In the absence of the project and hence failure to address the identified challenges, the economy of Zimbabwe will continue to be undervalued, as it will exclude its biodiversity and natural capital, further perpetuating lack of or underinvestment in conserving and sustainably managing it. Non-timber forest products such as tamarind will be overexploited and possibly become extinct in Binga. Communities living in wildlife corridors will continue to experience human-wildlife conflict, increasing their vulnerability. The community in Ward 8 & 7 of Nyaminyami District and Gokwe North will continue to experience human-wildlife conflict but not benefit from its wildlife. Failure to protect wetlands in the area will result in them drying up, further threatening biodiversity and livelihoods.

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

If

- **There is an operational framework and institutions are strengthened for valuation of natural resources and mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations into planning.**
- **Platforms for data management are created at district level to inform decision-making.**
- **Communities have a better understanding of the importance of biodiversity and sustainable development,**
- **Inclusive nature-based enterprises are developed and benefit the community in tangible ways,**
- **Communities have the capacity to manage the nature-based business enterprises and have access to markets for sustainably produced products,**
- **Critical terrestrial and aquatic habitats are conserved in both protected and communal land**

Then

Biodiversity will be better valued economically and effectively conserved in the Sebungwe region, and thus generate better socio-economic in return for communities which will in

turn contribute to an improvement in the quality of their livelihoods. This will also lead to improvements in the economy of the region and consequently the national economy.

The core project strategy is to address community beneficiation from through sustainable natural resources utilization and conservation, in a manner that demonstrates an understanding of the contribution of natural resources to the national economy. Continued community beneficiation can be ensured through the development and implementation of plans and policies for the sustainable use of the resources. An investment in the protection of core biodiversity areas is key to this strategy, to ensure survival of wild species, and plans for their sustainable access and utilization therefore need to be developed and implemented. Creating long-lasting capacity for resource protection and sustainable utilization at all levels of resource management is key, including at community levels, local and national government institutions, civil society and the private sector, through multistakeholder partnerships and collaboration at landscape levels. The project also specifically addresses equity in access to resources by being gender-sensitive and socially inclusive. Emphasising the crucial role of local communities and women in building the economy, the project seeks to prevent biodiversity loss by improving PA effectiveness and benefiting both the environment and local communities. The project will generate Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) by preventing biodiversity loss in and around Protected Areas (PAs) through enhanced management and more stable financial output from nature-based economic activities that benefit local communities.

The core project strategy is to establish in the Sebungwe Region a biodiversity economy that enhances conservation efforts, improves community livelihoods, and contributes to national economic growth. This project presents an opportunity to contribute towards a transformative approach to conservation in Zimbabwe, building on past success established through initiatives like CAMPFIRE. This objective contributes to enhancing economic growth, environmental sustainability and community livelihoods by valuing, protecting and sustainably utilising natural capital. There are, however three key barriers that stand in the way of this long-term scenario:

i. Lack of a natural capital accounting framework for biodiversity and ecosystem services

Natural capital accounting has been implemented for crops and, partially, for hunted wildlife species in Zimbabwe. The Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency has been responsible for developing the natural capital accounting framework for the agriculture sector. By failing to do the same for other biodiversity and the ecosystem services obtained

from it, the contribution of Zimbabwe's biodiversity to the economy is currently not fully understood. A comprehensive framework will allow for a harmonised process of valuing biodiversity and its value chain, and the development of a national database to evaluate its contribution to the national economy. This will, in turn, inform decision-making and support the case for increased investments in biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization.

ii. Insufficient benefits for local communities and underdeveloped nature-based tourism and enterprises

Beneficiation from natural resources for communities living with wildlife in Zimbabwe has mainly been through CAMPFIRE. The CAMPFIRE framework allows for communal beneficiation, hence through the development of communal infrastructure. Thus, individual financial benefits for these communities have mainly been through jobs in the tourism sector, which are limited and need to be expanded to make a significant contribution to community livelihoods in the country. Nature-based tourism enterprises are often owned by government departments or private sector entities. Communities lack the necessary resources and capacity to own and manage these business ventures. Where they are, the enterprises are underdeveloped and do not reach their full potential. The project aims at contributing to the realisation of the tourism potential of the target landscapes for improved revenue generation for the communities, as well as promoting sustainable utilisation of non-timber forest products through improved value chain investments (e.g. with tamarind) to increase sustainable income opportunities.

iii. Limited capacity for sustainable natural resource management

Protected area management requires support to improve its effectiveness in protecting resources and addressing threats to resources. The needs include capacities, equipment and new technologies to address poaching, fires and other threats. Communal resources are either managed with administrative assistance from local government or through community structures, which in some cases are managed through traditional leadership structures and community institutions. In general, additional resources are needed to improve these capacities for local natural resources management, including strengthening co-management arrangements. Communal resources easily get degraded when there is an over reliance on them for survival, necessitating the need for more sustainable alternatives. These problems will be addressed through capacity building and the promotion of sustainable management practices in forests and wetlands in the corridor areas surrounding the protected areas in the landscape.

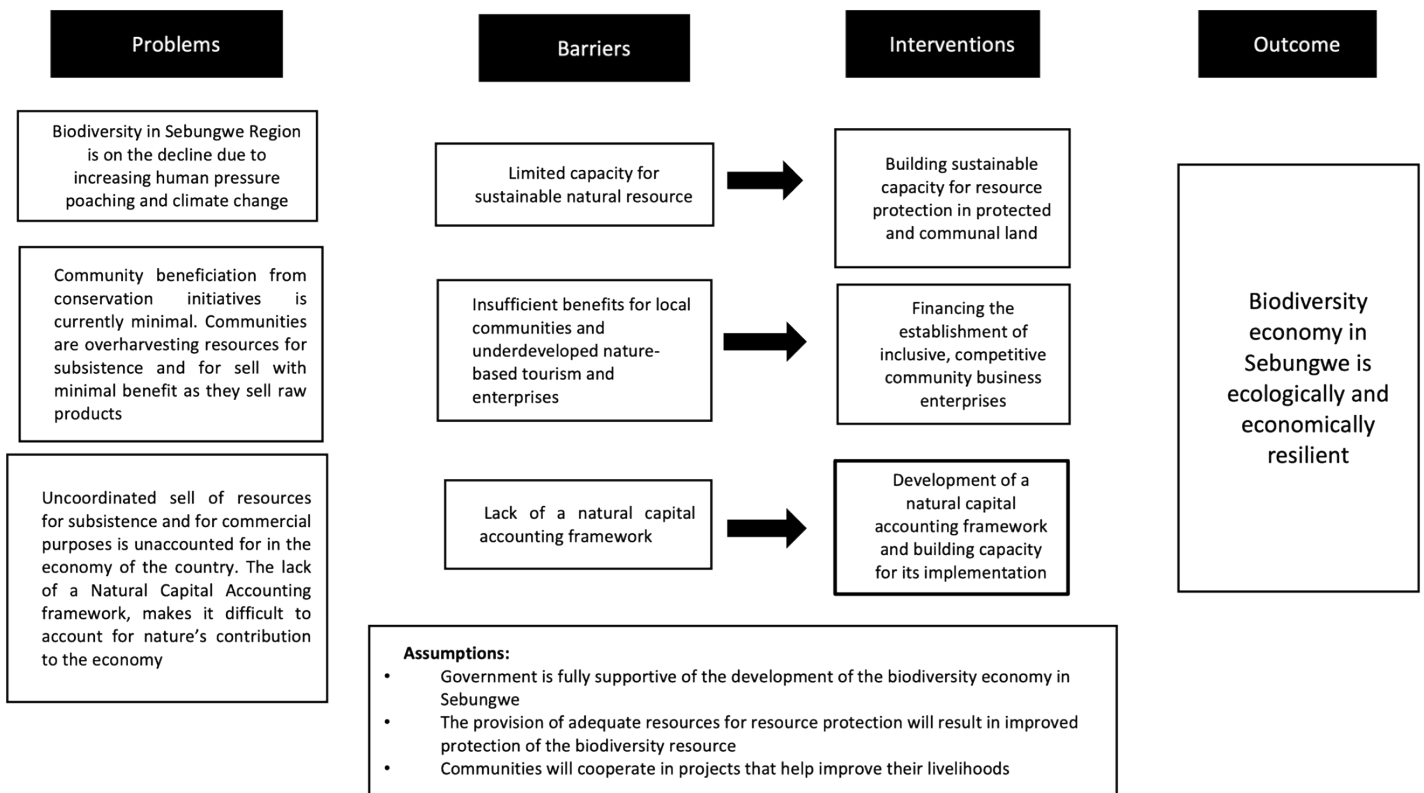


Figure 1. Theory of change for biodiversity conservation and promoting a biodiversity economy in Sebungwe Region (NCA, Natural Capital Accounting)

Proposed alternative scenario with brief description of expected outcomes

Component 1: Enhanced natural capital accounting and integrated biodiversity management

Currently, there is inadequate capacity for natural capital accounting for wild biodiversity resources in Zimbabwe. Communities harvest resources for subsistence and to sell locally, while commercial entities add value and sell to both the local and international markets, yet the value of the resources is not fully understood and not fully accounted for in the regional and national economy. Using information produced from natural capital accounts, biodiversity considerations will be mainstreamed into local and national development plans, policies and investment decisions, promoting sustainable development and growth of the biodiversity economy. The initiative will reinforce synergies with the ongoing BIOFIN project, which is focused on developing national biodiversity financing strategies. BIOFIN's work includes a comprehensive policy and institutional review, an expenditure analysis, and a financial needs assessment which will inform a national Biodiversity Finance Plan. This project will

apply these tools and processes at the Sebungwe region and landscape level to inform project activities geared at increasing investments in protection of biodiversity and generating more sustainable returns from it.

Output 1.1.1: A developed and operational national framework for natural capital accounting

This will involve financial institutions (FBC Bank), government departments (Forest Commission, Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe and Zimstat) and Non-Governmental Organisations. The BIOFIN project is to conduct a Biodiversity Expenditure Review, Finance Needs Framework and a Policy and Institutional review. The project will develop the framework for natural capital accounting, leaning on the results of the reviews done under BIOFIN. The Framework will be operationalised by the identified institutions. It will take advantage of multistakeholder collaboration structures already formed under the BIOFIN project, including technical committees.

Output 1.1.2: Ministries, civil society and private sector trained in natural capital valuation and management, with equal participation of women and men in capacity-building activities

Relevant government institutions, civil society organisations and the private sector will be empowered with the skills, equipment and software required to conduct natural capital accounting and related assessments for biodiversity and ecosystem services. Training activities will include elements of practical application in a learning-by-doing approach, in coordination with the BIOFIN technical committees, multistakeholder platforms and oversight structures. An coordination structure will be established to facilitate cross-sectoral coordination, securing policy coherence and coordination across multiple ministries, agencies, the private sector, and civil society. The trained institutions will be responsible for contributing to the development and implementation of a framework for natural capital accounting for the country. An inclusive and gender-responsive approach will be taken to training/capacity-building, ensuring that both male and female employees and stakeholders will be engaged and contribute.

Output 1.1.3: Land Degradation Neutrality and biodiversity data management platforms created at district level, feeding into the national database with mechanisms to capture and analyse sex-disaggregated data

Database management platforms will be created for the four districts in Sebungwe region and databases created using existing data from previous projects as well as data which will be collected in this project. Where possible, the data will be sex-disaggregated to better understand the impact of and effects on different groups. This will include the distribution of Tamarind trees and other useful species to avoid overharvesting and monitoring of land degradation. These data will continually be mapped, creating up to date databases of landuse change. This information will contribute to a national database.

Output 1.1.4: Awareness and education materials on the importance of biodiversity for sustainable development developed and disseminated ensuring gender-sensitive messaging and equitable access for women and men

Inclusive and gender sensitive awareness and education materials on the importance of biodiversity for sustainable development will be developed and disseminated by the project technical team in collaboration with research and academic institutions and other relevant stakeholders. Information will be shared on different platforms (online and physical) to increase reach, including in meetings with communities, ensuring equitable access for women and men.

Component 2: Promoting a sustainable and inclusive biodiversity economy for improved community livelihoods and economic improvement

A biodiversity economy which promotes the livelihoods of communities is key to effective conservation. This component will improve the capacity of local communities to manage natural resources sustainably, resulting in improved livelihoods, reduced poverty, and the growth of sustainable nature-based enterprises contributing to economic development. The project will actively support the empowerment of women and other vulnerable groups in all aspects of the project including discussions with traditional leadership and other groups on the subject. It will draw lessons from initiatives such as the UNDP GCF climate resilience project, which focuses on advancing women's economic empowerment and promoting female leadership. Best practices from that project—such as inclusive planning, targeted capacity building, and mentorship for women leaders—will be adapted to strengthen gender equity and ensure that women play active roles in decision-making, implementation, and benefit-sharing.

Output 2.1.1: Inclusive community-based natural resource management structures with devolved authority established/strengthened

With the support of relevant government departments, the rural district council for each district will support the establishment and/or strengthening of community-

based natural resource management structures with devolved authority. These structures will be inclusive with representation from women and other vulnerable groups. The established structures together with other project members will be supported with the necessary training and skills to successfully manage the projects. The community will be consulted on indigenous knowledge used in resource management (e.g. wildlife migrations monitoring, risks and prevention of HWC, traditional use of tamarind, weather forecasting etc) and for incorporation into project activities and approaches and documented.

Output 2.1.2: Training programs and workshops for local communities on sustainable natural resource management developed and delivered, integrating gender-responsive approaches and addressing the distinct roles and needs of women and men in resource use and decision-making

This aims to capacitate the community to sustainably manage and utilise natural resources. This will ensure sustainability of the developed enterprises. Government departments responsible for biodiversity conservation will support the development of the training materials as well as the delivery of the training program. To promote a gender-responsive and social-inclusive approach, communities will be sensitised on:

- Division of labour roles and responsibilities among men and women and community roles in biodiversity management.
 - Access to and control over resources, emphasising opportunities and information availability for individuals to utilise resources effectively. Control over resources involves decision-making power over resource use, often lacking for women despite access.
 - Enhanced decision-making power for men and women in environmental management, including capacity building, dialogue establishment, and opportunities for women in employment and income-generating activities.

Aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the project will incorporate crucial safeguards

concerning the rights of local communities, including the assurance of their free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) alongside other safeguards. Assumptions: (i) Community members are interested in the growth of the enterprises and sustainable harvesting of resources (ii) All beneficiaries who have completed training will be usefully absorbed into operational structures or integrated into other productive conservation initiatives.

Output 2.1.3: Business plans and support mechanisms for the development of sustainable nature-based enterprises developed and implemented, with strong support for women-led enterprises

This output focuses on the development of viable business plans and establishing a support mechanism which will ensure the sustainability of the nature-based enterprises. The private sector, including FBC Bank will support the development of the business plans while relevant government institutions and civil society organisations will be identified to support the community establishments, with identified specific roles. Additionally, efforts will be made to enhance the entrepreneurial capacities of local communities for their biodiversity conservation and sustainable management efforts, with at least 50% of this support provided to women. The project will organise and support local communities for equitable benefit sharing, with a particular focus on empowering and involving women in decision-making committees for the management of communal resources. The assumption is that key stakeholders, including women, local communities and NGOs/CBOs, can effectively participate and benefit from activities, and efforts will be made to ensure that women, women-owned and women-led enterprises and institutions will be particularly targeted for support.

Output 2.1.4: Selected community-based, inclusive biodiversity economy projects implemented in communities in Sebungwe Region, with strong support for women-led initiatives

The enterprises will include the development of the Tamarind value chain in Binga District through an agroforestry approach. To promote the economy in Binga, Marondera University of Agricultural Science and Technology will be installing a plant for processing of the Tamarind fruit into a pulp, thus increasing the economic gains for the women involved in the Tamarind value chain. This project will support the value addition process by collaborating with Marondera University to develop the plant further and support value addition on the pulp to produce different products, thus increasing financial benefits. Indigenous knowledge will be investigated for traditional value added products to be incorporated into the project. To increase the supply of raw products and ensure sustainability, Tamarind agroforestry plantings will be developed in collaboration with WWF Zimbabwe which is already teaching communities how to plant the trees. Additional collaborations and partnerships with universities in the region, such as Lupane State University and the National University of Science and Technology (NUST), will be explored during PPG and concrete collaboration arrangements planned. Support will be provided for community-led restoration of two wetlands, which provide key ecosystem goods and services to the local communities, including will be continued supply of raw materials and resources

for the nature-based enterprises. The project will support development of Community conservancies in the corridors in Binga and Nyaminyami District (WhiteCliff-Manyuli). This will help protect these sites from the landuse change threatening the existence of biodiversity in communal areas. This will be further supported by the development of community livelihood projects in the settlement areas such as aquaculture ponds and community gardens. The Forest Commission will support the development of management plans for communal forests in Gokwe North and Binga (Chalala-Kalundu, Mayovhe, Della, Nebiri, Madzivazvido, Nyaurungwe, Nenyunga, Nora, Simuchembo and Citongo community forests). While these forests are already benefitting the communities, improved management, including through support from the project, will promote sustainability and beneficiation. Deliberate action will be taken to support women-led initiatives.

Output 2.1.5: Small grant programme for community projects established and operationalised, with at least 50% of grants disbursed to women-led enterprises/initiatives

US \$1,000,000 will be set aside for a small grant programme, to allow NGOs and CBOs operating in the region to implement more conservation and livelihood projects to help conserve biodiversity and improve livelihoods. To ensure sustainability, funded initiatives will emphasize local ownership, capacity building, and long-term ecological and financial resilience. Women-owned and women-led initiatives and projects will be prioritised for support, ensuring that at least 50% of the initiatives supported significantly empower women as actors/leaders, contributors and primary beneficiaries, including supporting their stronger role in decision-making and participation in income-generating activities.

Output 2.1.6: Access to markets facilitated, especially for women-led enterprises

Market research will be conducted for the different products being produced by the project stakeholders and beneficiaries, and to understand barriers to market access for locally produced products, and for women-led businesses. The project will support farmers through training in product development and branding, forming cooperatives and facilitating market access via trade events and digital marketing platforms. It will also explore online promotion of products as well as partnerships with private and public institutions to sustain market linkages. Enhanced support for market access for women-led business enterprises will be facilitated to remove barriers for this group.

Output 2.1.7: Discussion paper for incentive mechanisms for communities for the conservation of rhinos developed and discussed with stakeholders

The project management team will initiate the discussion with both African Parks and ZPWMA and propose a mechanism for community beneficiation from the protected area related to specific conservation targets (e.g. rhino population increase). While this approach is new to Zimbabwe, it is recognized that community engagement is critical for the conservation of vulnerable species such as rhino, which opens a door for the development of more reward mechanisms for communities contributing to the prevention of poaching and habitat degradation. Lessons will be explored from similar initiatives elsewhere, in close collaboration with BIOFIN.

Component 3: Conservation of critical biodiversity habitats

This component aims to improve management and connectivity of protected areas, ensuring the long-term conservation of biodiversity while promoting sustainable use and economic benefits. Resources will be provided to improve park management in Chizarira National Park, Chirisa and Chete Safari Areas and Sijarira and Kavira Forests. Corridors between gazetted protected areas will be better protected and managed to promote animal movement and ensure an ideal environment for wildlife to thrive.

Output 3.1.1: Strengthened capacity for effective conservation of biodiversity in protected areas in Sebungwe to reduce biodiversity loss, integrating gender-responsive approaches and promoting equal engagement of women and men in conservation planning and implementation

This aims to improve the conservation of natural resources in protected areas through improved capacity for park management activities by supporting Forest Commission and Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority with the necessary equipment and training for anti-poaching and game management activities as well as improving their revenue generation potential to ensure sustainable financing of anti-poaching activities. This will be done through efforts to improve the product offered and improved advertising. A desktop study will identify key intervention points, with a focus on gender-inclusive strategies. METT has not previously been used to assess impact in these protected areas and a new baseline assessment will be conducted through this project.

Output 3.1.2: Management plans developed and improved harvesting practices implemented in forests and wetlands on communal land, with gender-responsive approaches ensuring equitable participation of women and men in resource management

Forest management plans will be developed for commercial forests on communal land. Two wetlands will be protected for reduced degradation. Education and awareness campaigns will be conducted with communities utilising the wetlands for

improved management and use. Communities will better protect areas where they harvest Tamarind by using friendly harvesting methods and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in the utilization of these resources. Women will be supported to participate in the development and implementation of management strategies for the different resources and ecosystems.

Output 3.1.3: Sustainable use zones created within protected areas with guidelines to balance conservation and equal economic benefits for men and women

Protected areas in Sebungwe region are facing threats of poaching and degradation due to the increasing human population and its demands for natural resources. This has led to settlements being developed in buffer zones. The degradation of communal lands has also led to shortage of firewood and a high demand for firewood from Sijarira forest by public entities. Legal sustainable use zones need to be identified to meet these needs with the involvement of both men and women, considering their different needs and interests.

Output 3.1.4: Community conservancies established for improved protection of corridors

Corridors will be better protected by establishing community conservancies through engagement with communities and formalization of conservation agreements, with emphasis on compliance with safeguards (including FPIC) policies. Indigenous knowledge and inclusive, gender-responsive local innovations will be investigated for possible solutions to Human Wildlife Conflict and these will be incorporated into the project.

Component 4: Knowledge Management

This component will ensure that data produced is well managed and the lessons learned are shared and inform adaptive project management.

Output 4.1.1: Learning Landscape Lessons from the project shared using different platforms integrating gender perspectives and highlighting contributions of both women and men

A knowledge management hub will be established to facilitate lesson and experience sharing. A dedicated interactive web-portal will be established as a tool for information sharing and storage of important information derived during project implementation. Workshops to share experiences and lessons learnt from the project will be held with a view to replicating successful experiences also in other landscapes

in the country. The information produced will integrate gender perspectives and highlight the contributions of both women and men.

Output 4.1.2. Provision and management of sex-disaggregated data, information, technical analyses, methodologies generated by the project

This output will support collation of data, models, reports of policy dialogues produced during the project and dissemination of materials as well as measures on the performance of the biodiversity economy in the landscape.

Component 5: Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation will be conducted to evidence effective project performance and progress towards planned objectives.

Output 5.1.1. Project M&E system operational, providing comprehensive information on project progress in achieving outcomes and outputs with sex-disaggregated data to track differential impacts for women and men. Key Performance Indicators for current elements of the biodiversity economy in the landscape will be established and continuously monitored.

Output 5.1.2: Baseline, Mid-term and terminal evaluations conducted

Baseline assessments, mid-term review and terminal evaluations will be conducted to evidence project performance. An up-scaling/replication and sustainability/exit strategy will be developed with all key project stakeholders.

Stakeholders and their roles

During the Preparatory Project Phase (PPG), a comprehensive stakeholder mapping will be conducted, with a particular emphasis on communities, government departments, Non-Governmental Organisations and the private sector, who will all inform design and drive the implementation of different sections of project activities and outcomes. Stakeholder identification was started during the development of the PIF, and these are listed in this section and in the Stakeholder Consultation list annexed to the PIF. Local communities will actively participate in project preparation, contributing to problem analysis, proposing solutions, and approving action plans. The project will embrace an inclusive approach throughout its lifecycle, encompassing design, implementation, monitoring, and financing to address vulnerability in all its dimensions and ensure the inclusion of marginalised populations. This will specifically target women, youth, the elderly, and other groups marginalised due to their social status. Deliberate efforts will be made to involve these

groups in the project including planning, decision making processes and as beneficiaries from project investments.

Special emphasis will be placed on engaging and empowering women and other vulnerable groups, as they rely on natural resources for their families' subsistence and often face unequal access to resources and the benefits derived therefrom. Biodiversity loss jeopardises and limits livelihood and economic opportunities for them and adds additional burdens on their household and societal roles and responsibilities. In the project area, women play vital roles in gathering wood, NTFPs, food, and water. They also have small businesses based on harvesting, processing and sale of NTFPs. While they contribute significantly to biodiversity conservation through innovative and traditional practices, their unequal participation in decision-making bodies hinders their full contribution to territorial planning and natural resources management. Therefore, it's essential to recognise their agency as change agents and leaders in promoting a biodiversity economy.

The Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Wildlife will oversee project execution, with execution facilitated by the Rural District Council (implementation of wildlife management and anti-poaching activities on communal land), Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA) (implementation of activities within national parks and safari areas), Forest Commission (Implementation of activities in forest areas and leading the development of forest plans), AGRITEX (support the development of agricultural activities in the different communities), and the Environmental Management Agency (oversee wetland restoration). A dedicated Project Management Unit, under the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife, will oversee day-to-day project delivery. The Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion will guide the development of the NCA framework. Strategic oversight will be provided by a multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder Steering Committee, engaging government departments, local NGOs, academic institutions, finance institutions and women's associations (not exhaustive). Bureaucratic processes within government departments can act as a barrier to change and quick implementation of projects. This project will ride on existing structures already created under the BIOFIN project and other initiatives.

In addition to the state and non-state players, there exist the local communities in Binga (human population 159 982), Gokwe North (249 723) and Nyaminyami (45 774) Districts within the landscape. The communities of Binga have been harvesting tamarind fruits (*Tamarindus indica*) in the communal lands for sale and consumption from time immemorial. Exclusive, cultural methods have been used to determine harvesters, and this has helped preserve the tamarind plants. Culturally the fruit of tamarind are harvested and sold by women. District councils often provide administrative duties to community projects for a percentage of the revenue. This limits the level of beneficiation to communities. To counter this communities will be trained to manage these GEF projects

and the project's technical committee will provide them with the necessary support to ensure maximum community beneficiation. The culture of these communities where men play the leading role and make decisions may hinder the involvement of women. Education and awareness programs will be held with traditional leaders and the different groups, including targeting based on sex-disaggregation, to ensure an understanding of the need for equitable involvement of women in the project.

Stakeholder(s)	Role
STATE ACTORS	
Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife	Executing agency for the project, providing strategic guidance and oversight in the implementation of the project.
Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority	Conservation of biodiversity in national parks and safari areas and guiding local authorities in the development of wildlife-based enterprises. Policy guidance on wildlife issues.
Forestry Commission	Conservation of biodiversity in forest land, development of baselines for NTFPs, and guiding the establishment of plantations and gardens of tamarind. Policy guidance and development of forest policies for community-owned forests.
Environmental Management Agency	Environmental protection through gully reclamation, development of a plant for the reduction of pollution in the NTFPs processing plant and guidance on policy.
Rural District Councils (Binga, Gokwe North and Nyaminyami Districts)	Oversight of the implementation of community projects.
AGRITEX	Support the technical implementation of community projects.
Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion	Guide the development of the NCA framework and its adoption.
Lupane State University	Technical partner of community-based natural resources management in the landscape.
Marondera University of Agricultural Science and	Train the community on value addition of NTFPs and installation of the Tamarind processing plant.
Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency	Development of the natural capital accounting framework and maintenance and storage of databases.
Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe	Development of the natural capital accounting framework.
NON-STATE PLAYERS	
FBC Bank	Guide and contribute to natural capital accounting process, the development of business plans and the valuation of resources.
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Zimbabwe	Development of tree nurseries and training of communities on the development of plantations and gardens.
Africa Parks	Conservation of biodiversity in Matusadona National Park and surrounding areas.
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)	Cofinancing and overseeing activities aimed at improving resource protection in Kavira Forest.
Basilwizi (CBO and Govt)	Restoration of Masibinta Wetland.

Kulima Mbobumi Training Centre	Restoration of Mabungu Wetland.
Community Based Organisations and Civil Society Organisations	To implement projects supported through the small grant programme.

Associated baseline projects

The Government of Zimbabwe has, over the years, invested in the landscape in anti-poaching operations in protected areas, that is, in national parks, gazetted forests and communal lands. The Government of Zimbabwe works through Rural District Councils (RDCs) to safeguard biodiversity resources in the communities. This includes conducting antipoaching ground patrols, human-wildlife conflict management, and carrying out education and awareness campaigns around communities. Outside protected areas, government agencies such as the Environmental Management Agency (EMA), Forestry Commission (FC) are represented at the district level and assist with law enforcement and conservation of natural resources.

The Environmental Management Agency is responsible for the entire management of the landscape in terms of environmental resource planning, preservation, management and conservation. This includes wetland preservation, management of veld fires, erosion control, invasive species control and pollution control among other areas.

The Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) is a community-based natural resource management program. It is one of the first programs to consider wildlife as renewable natural resources, while addressing the challenges in the transfer of wildlife ownership to indigenous peoples in and around protected areas. It was initiated in 1989 by the Zimbabwean government as a program to support community-led development and sustainable use of natural resources. The 1975 Parks and Wildlife Act set the legal basis for CAMPFIRE by allowing communities and private landowners to use wildlife on their land, marking a substantial shift from colonial policy that made it illegal for local populations to utilise wildlife in any way. CAMPFIRE is managed through Rural District Councils (RDCs), who award contracts to safari operators and allocate revenue to local communities. CAMPFIRE earns revenue through safari hunting, the sale of animal products, and tourism contracts. During 1989–2001, for instance, CAMPFIRE generated over US\$20 million of transfers to the participating communities, with 89% of revenue being generated through safari hunting, which is a critical component of Zimbabwe’s successful CAMPFIRE programme. Payment for ecosystem services has been through carbon trading practised on communal land by private entities such as Carbon Green Africa under the REDD+ programme.

Other projects being implemented in the area include:

- **The Matusadona Conservation Trust (Africa Trust) funded the development of the Integrated Land Use Plan for Nyaminyami District and is helping implement it by developing community projects including community garden and a cooperative-level centre pivot irrigation scheme. Although these are small projects, with the gardens benefitting 35 households each, there are lessons on community engagement, and addressing Human Wildlife conflict.**
- **The European Union funded, Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme established the Mucheni Community Conservancy to help with community beneficiation from wildlife. The conservancy sits at the base of Chizarira National Park and competes with the park for tourism activities. While the conservancy was successfully established over 5 years ago, the community is yet to accrue direct benefits from it. The project is also assisting communities with livestock production. The project was implemented by FAO.**
- **Basilwizi and Kulima Mbobumi Training Centre are local Community-Based organisations working on improving wetland protection through education and awareness as well as working with communities to protect seeps. To try and reduce overharvesting of water at Masibinta Wetland, Basilwizi drilled a borehole somewhere else to support the watering of vegetables, unfortunately the hole was dry. As a result, the seeps are being degraded by water collection. Only education and awareness has been done in Mabungu wetland area. There is need for protection of the seeps.**
- **A presidential scheme donated 31 fishing rigs to chiefs, women and the youth in Binga and Kariba. These fishing groups are struggling with market access.**

Lessons can be learnt from the following projects implemented around the country:

- **The African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) is conducting the valuation of ecosystem services in the Zimbabwe section of the KAZA. This project demonstrates the importance of valuing ecosystem services to promote conservation and sustainable development.**
- **The Wildlife Dispersal Area in the KAZA, where connectivity of protected areas is promoted, has experience with coexistence.**
- **The WWF Zimbabwe - GEF 5 Project, which promoted the Hwange Sanyati Biological Corridor, which goes from Northwest Matabeleland into Sebungwe, has lessons on promoting corridors and coexistence. The project provided anti-poaching equipment**

and training to rangers. Business ventures were established in animal corridors to support livelihoods of communities. It emphasized the need to build capacities of communities to be able to run the business establishments beyond the life of the project as well as the need to diversify the livelihood options beyond wildlife tourism to cushion the community from shocks. Examples of livelihood options include fish farming and cropping. Value chains should be developed for all livelihood options, with strong market linkages established to ensure sustainability and profitability. The project highlighted the importance of continued investment in an area and the difficult access of women to decision making structures. The project had 52% women beneficiaries.

- The UNDP-GEF 6 Project “Strengthening Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management and Climate-Smart Landscapes in the Mid to Lower Zambezi Region of Zimbabwe,” seeks to address multiple threats to biodiversity and sustainable community development in the Lower Zambezi which include poaching and associated wildlife trade, retaliatory killing of wildlife, deforestation and associated land degradation due to unsustainable agriculture and firewood consumption, and uncontrolled veld fires. Lessons from the project showed that community engagement leads to tailored solutions which meet local needs. Enhanced economic benefits to the community improve local buy-in which is essential for sustaining conservation efforts. Gender mainstreaming and inclusive practices enhance project success by empowering women and marginalised groups. Internal Savings and Lending groups for women foster financial independence but there is a need to promote improved access to markets. The promotion of Community Based Wildlife Management (CBWM), Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), and Sustainable Land Management (SLM) increased the area under sustainable management and significantly improved livelihoods for local communities. Collaboration amongst stakeholders is essential for effective conservation fostering ownership and effective anti-poaching programmes through multi-agency collaboration to help protect the PA network. Continuous training enhances effective wildlife management while capacity building maintains effectiveness over time. An ecological plan addressing issues such as animal migrations and woodland regeneration is key to project success. Technology aids conservation efforts such as wildlife tracking.
- UNDP-GEF5 project on Scaling up adaptation in Zimbabwe with a focus on rural livelihoods. The project aimed at restoring community livelihoods and increasing income generation opportunities for women and the youth. The project developed Village Saving and Lasting Associations allowing access to affordable financing to women. It ensured that land, natural resources and climate change were sustainably managed. Lessons learned from the project include that rural

communities understand the implications of climate change and will participate in projects that address threats to their livelihoods if they realise benefits from their efforts. Participatory planning processes in project design and implementation promote more long-lasting impacts among beneficiary communities.

- The UNEP - GEF 7 project on Unlocking a sustainable and inclusive Wildlife Economy potential of Hwange National Park in Tsholotsho District of the Hwange-Kazuma Landscape in Zimbabwe. The project is currently being implemented and will have lessons on building a wildlife economy.
- The UNDP- GEF 5 project on a cross-sector approach supporting the mainstreaming of sustainable forest and land management to enhance ecosystem resilience for improved livelihoods in the Save and Runde catchments of Zimbabwe. Gender mainstreaming should be done from the onset to build resilience. An understanding of how gender roles affect relationships with nature is key to empowering women. Multi-sectorial collaboration with public-private sector cooperation is effective. Adaptive management based on contextual analysis and stakeholder consultations improves project success. Robust knowledge management, monitoring, and collaboration systems to support SLM/SFM at multiple scales (landscape, national, regional, and global) should be built.
- The European Union's Sustainable Wildlife Management project in Binga District focuses on promoting community-based wildlife management and conservation, with an emphasis on improving the livelihoods of local communities and reducing human-wildlife conflict. The project works with local communities, government agencies, and other stakeholders to develop and implement sustainable wildlife management plans, as well as the development of community wildlife conservancy and community beneficiation.
- WWF's Nature-based Solutions project promotes the development of nurseries for Tamarind, which can be promoted for financial gain.

Knowledge will be generated in the development of the natural capital accounting framework, its implementation in valuing resources, ecosystem services, as well as the value chain for community business enterprises to be developed and the improved conservation of critical biodiversity habitats. A knowledge management hub will be developed for Sebungwe and for the country and shared. A dedicated interactive web-portal will be established as a tool for information sharing and storage of important information derived during project implementation, including data, models, documentation, reports of policy dialogues and dissemination materials as well as measures on the performance of the

biodiversity economy in this landscape. Key Performance Indicators for current elements of Biodiversity Economy in the landscape will be established and continuously monitored. Workshops to share experiences and lessons learnt from the project will be held. A gender mainstreaming strategy in biodiversity economy approaches will be developed and implemented, and this will act as a pilot of its kind in Zimbabwe. Therefore, an up-scaling / replication strategy of the transformative project will be developed, as well as a Sustainability and Exit Strategy. Finally, a midterm review and a terminal evaluation exercise will be conducted to evidence project performance.

Selection criteria

- a. The project demonstrates a high potential to generate global environmental benefits (GEBs) by fostering community-based conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity, as well as improving conservation in protected areas and promoting the creation of OECMs. By empowering IPLCs to benefit from biodiversity on their lands and improving PA management, the project contributes to mitigating biodiversity loss and promoting sustainable use practices. Specifically, the project aims to achieve outcomes such as effective community-based biodiversity conservation, strengthening IPLCs' capacities for sustainable use and co-management of natural resources, enhancing institutional support and resourcing for PA management, and developing the natural capital accounting framework to guide investments in protection and sustainable use and management of natural capital.**

- b. The project aims to promote a high level of policy coherence and coordination across various stakeholders, including government agencies, local communities, local NGOs, financial institutions and women's associations. Through the establishment of a dedicated Project Management Unit and a multi-stakeholder Steering Committee, the project seeks to facilitate collaboration and coordination among different sectors involved in biodiversity conservation and sustainable management and financial institutions. By fostering inclusive decision-making processes and stakeholder engagement, the project aims to ensure that local communities contribute to the decision-making process and their perspectives are integrated into policy and planning processes, as well as contributing to the national economy.**

- c. The project will mobilise resources from both the private sector and financial institutions to support its implementation. By engaging with private sector stakeholders and financial institutions, under strict observation of UNDP policies for private sector partnerships, the project aims to secure access to additional financial resources, expertise, and technology to enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable management and equitable**

beneficiation efforts. Furthermore, the project will leverage partnerships with these private and financial organisations to support capacity building, knowledge exchange, and innovative conservation initiatives.

- d. The project will actively engage with and provide support to local communities throughout and improve management of protected areas. Local communities will be involved in project preparation, contributing to problem analysis, proposing solutions, and approving action plans. Special attention will be given to empowering women, who play vital roles in biodiversity conservation and sustainable management efforts. By ensuring the meaningful participation of communities in resource decision-making processes and project activities, the project aims to enhance their capacity to lead conservation initiatives.
- e. By promoting alternative nature-based livelihood options outside of wildlife corridors, the project co-existence strategy promotes animal movement between protected areas, linking the Hwange landscape to the Sebungwe landscape as well as the mid- and lower Zambezi landscapes, promoting genetic flow and improving conservation efforts. This will also reduce Human-Wildlife Conflict and improve livelihoods.

Potential of the project to generate Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs)

The implementation of the project has great potential to generate global environmental benefits as it will address threats to ecological resources and contribute to biodiversity conservation, such as protecting habitats and species (globally significant biodiversity), sustainable use of resources and opening and promoting ecological migratory corridors. The project will contribute to the reduction of land degradation in reclaiming gullies. The project will promote sustainable forest and rangelands management aimed at improving community livelihoods through adoption and upscaling of nature-based livelihoods initiatives including ecotourism ventures, tree nurseries and the establishment and decentralisation of tamarind plantations and gardens to reduce pressure of the natural environment as well as increasing the source of the primary ingredient for the various value chains such as for Tamarind. Additionally, this project will contribute climate change mitigation and adaptation and the promotion of nature-based solutions.

The project will contribute to the following GEF-8 Core Indicators:

- (i) **Core Indicator 1 (Sub Indicator 1.2) Terrestrial protected areas under improved management for conservation and sustainable use by strengthening the management of 493,800 ha of existing protected areas within the Sebungwe landscape. This will be through improved institutional capacity and resourcing for PA management in Chizarira NP (190,000 ha), Chete (110,000 ha) and Chirisa Safari (140,000 ha) areas and Sijarira (25,600 ha) and Kavira (28,200 ha).**
- (ii) **Indicator 3 (Sub Indicator 3.4) Area of land restored – two wetlands will be restored in Binga, that is Masibinta and Mabungu wetlands (37 ha).**
- (iii) **Core indicator 4 - Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) – 388,209 ha of land will be under improved practices to benefit biodiversity. Sub Indicator 4.1- Area of landscapes under improved practices to benefit biodiversity: Two community conservancies will be created in Nyaminyami and Binga districts (100,000 ha), Forested area (Binga and Gokwe North) – 8,109 ha, and the area of land where community harvest naturally occurring Tamarind (280,000 ha); sub-indicator 4.3 – communal tamarind plantings and gardens (100 ha).**
- (iv) **Core Indicator 11 - Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment – It is expected that at least 50,000 people will directly benefit from the project activities with 25,000 being female.**

Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up

Innovation: A project that is trying to unlock a sustainable and an inclusive biodiversity economy potential at district and local community levels is a unique one and innovative in its own way. This is going to be the first project in Zimbabwe that will foster active participation and ownership by local frontline communities in implementation of a biodiversity economy approach project at local level.

Sustainability: The project builds on a strong baseline, for instance through the strong financial investments made by WWF Zimbabwe, CIRAD (Sustainable Wildlife Management), Africa Parks and the government of Zimbabwe in the development and implementation of the CAMPFIRE. The institutions involved in the project have strong capacity to deliver. The objective of the project speaks to ensuring sustainability, as local stakeholders need to support biodiversity conservation, therefore important issues to address. The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife and will seek to ensure the ownership and buy-in of other relevant sectors to ensure that frameworks developed are fully integrated into the national development framework.

Potential for scaling up: The project has the potential to be scaled up to cover the whole of Zimbabwe by replicating the biodiversity economy approach in other districts and in other landscapes and could lead to the development of a national biodiversity economy strategy. Lessons learnt from the Zimbabwe experience will inform challenges experienced in other SADC countries and beyond. Similarly, best practices and lessons learned through the engagements in this project in the Sebungwe region will be disseminated through appropriate forums, communities of practice and clearing house mechanisms.

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

- The project will cooperate with the BIOFIN project in the training of the project team and stakeholders. The BIOFIN steering committee will conduct trainings in elements of practical application in a learning-by-doing approach. BIOFIN's upcoming National Biodiversity Finance Plan (BFP) will outline measurable finance pathways and indicators that can inform the Sebungwe project for further uptake and implementation.
- The African Parks and Zimparks co-management project of Matusadona National Park will help improve resource protection in the park and surrounding area. The present project will collaborate with African Parks and Zimparks to initiate the discussion of communities directly benefitting from protected areas in the country, e.g. through the sharing of park revenues (entry fees).
- The WWF Zimbabwe project is teaching people in Binga to produce seedlings of Tamarind. The knowledge generated by this project will benefit the implementation of the respective components of the present GEF project.

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)
493800	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)
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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)
493800	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)
Chete Safari	1478	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	110,000.00						
Chirisa Safari	2348	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	140,000.00						
Chizari NP	1105	National Park	190,000.00						
Kavira Forest	32474	Protected Landscape/Seascape	28,200.00						
Sijarira Forest	20356	Wilderness Area	25,600.00						

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)
37	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)
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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)
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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)
Woodlands				
Natural grass				

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)
37.00			

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)
388209	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)
388,109.00			

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)
100.00			

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

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

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

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	30,000			
Male	20,000			

Total	50,000	0	0	0
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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)

Indicator 1: The total area, 493,800 ha is the total area of terrestrial protected areas in which the project will be implemented. The protected areas are Chizarira NP (190,000 ha), Chete (110,000 ha) and Chirisa Safari areas (140,000 ha) areas and Sijarira (25,600 ha) and Kavira Forests (28,200 ha).

Indicator 3: Masibinta and Mabungu wetlands, total area of 37 ha.

Indicator 4: 388,209 ha of land will be under improved practices to benefit biodiversity. Sub Indicator 4.1- Area of landscapes under improved practices to benefit biodiversity: Two community conservancies will be created in Nyaminyami and Binga districts (100,000ha), Forested area with management plans under implementation (Binga and Gokwe North) – 8,109 ha, and the area of land where community sustainably harvest naturally occurring Tamarind (280,000 ha); sub-indicator 4.3 – communal tamarind plantings and gardens (100 ha).

Core Indicator 11 - Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment – It is expected that at least 50,000 people will directly benefit from the project activities with 25,000 being female

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	Project actions are dependent on climatic conditions. Establishment of nurseries and plantations are climate dependent. Climate conditions can impact these activities, but efforts will be made to protect them from climatic extremes, e.g., through provision of water and shade for plantations and nurseries.
Environmental and Social	Moderate	The success of community projects is dependent on social dynamics. The cultural roles of women and men are being considered, and a gender inclusive approach will be adopted. Environmental risks are considered to be minor. Human Wildlife Conflict already affects people in the area. Creating corridors for animals and educating the community on wildlife behaviour will help reduce incidence of conflict, on the other hand there is a risk of increasing wildlife numbers intensifying conflict. The incidence of HWC will be carefully monitored and strategies to reduce it will be promoted with the communities, also building on traditional knowledge.
Political and Governance	Low	There is strong buy-in from government into the project. The project aligns with existing national strategies and policies. Elections are due in Zimbabwe in 2028, however, the country has a stable administration and structures, and

		local systems are in place to prevent any disruptions of work during and after electoral periods.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Moderate	The Zimbabwean economy is currently stable due to use of the US dollar although previously changes to fiscal policies have been made within short notice affecting many projects' implementation. The project will mitigate this risk by capacitating local communities to produce and implement business plans as well as with access to local and international markets.
Technological	Low	Strong engagement of government and stakeholders, no particular difficulties anticipated
Financial and Business Model	Low	Most co-financing is coming from projects already running, ensuring that the funds have been secured.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Moderate	The project will benefit from support from the Steering Committee of the BIOFIN project which is made up of experts from different ministries and NGOs who are developing policies for the implementation of the NBSAP. The project will provide targeted and tailored capacity-building. Where capacity is limited, training will be implemented as part of the project.
Fiduciary	Low	The Ministry has previously successfully managed GEF and UNDP project funding. Although sometimes slow, the procurement system in the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife has strict guidelines, reducing risk.
Stakeholder	Low	Key stakeholders were engaged at the PIF level and are buying into the project. The participatory approach taken by this project will ensure that stakeholders are aware of the risks and benefits of all project interventions. Increased benefits will serve as demonstrations of potential economic benefit from sustainable use of biodiversity
Other		
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	Weighted average of individual risk levels, in line with SES risk

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 project aligns with the GEF-8 strategies for Biodiversity (specifically to improve conservation, sustainable use and restoration of natural ecosystems) and Land Degradation Focal Areas (specifically through Sustainable land management and landscape restoration). The project focuses on improving the conservation of biodiversity in both protected areas and communal land as well as the sustainable uses of resources to support livelihoods and the protection and restoration of wetlands. The project has mobilised funds through co-financing from the public and private sector. The project will promote sustainable land management by improving the management of areas where communities harvest fruits, creating conservancies and rehabilitating wetlands. Forest management will be improved by producing and supporting implementation of management plans for forests on communal land. The project will foster collaboration amongst public institutions, the private sector, Non-Governmental Organisations and communities. Knowledge gained from the project and best practices will be shared on public platforms.

The project aligns with the following national, regional and international strategies/plans:

Vision 2030

To achieve an upper-middle-income society in Zimbabwe by the year 2030. It is focused on promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, equitable development and prosperity for all, under a market economy that leverages Zimbabwe's natural resources and abundant human skills. Vision 2030 seeks to broaden climate change mitigation and adaptation activities to include critical elements such as water management and harvesting measures to mitigate the effects of drought, respect for biodiversity and wetland management issues.

National Development Strategy 1 (2021-2025):

To achieve an upper-middle-income society in Zimbabwe by the year 2030. The project will contribute to the following NDS1 (2021 – 2025) priorities: Economic Growth and Stability; Food Security and Nutrition; Governance; Moving the Economy up the Value Chain & Structural Transformation; Environmental Protection; Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management; Health and Well-being; Social Protection; Youth, Sport and Culture; and Devolution.

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) targets:

Contributes to national reporting of NBSAP through the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). NBSAP acts as a guide to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and associated ecosystems and is crucial for linking biodiversity conservation with economic development.

National Land Degradation Neutrality Targets

Zimbabwe's National Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Targets are part of the country's commitment under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). These targets aim to halt and reverse land degradation by 2030, in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15.3. The challenges related to land degradation in Zimbabwe include deforestation, soil erosion, illegal mining, veld fires, and the spread of invasive alien species. These issues are driven by factors such as population pressure, poor agricultural practices, and reliance on firewood.

Zimbabwe has established voluntary LDN targets, which include initiatives for reforestation, sustainable land management, wetland restoration, and reducing both deforestation and the invasion of alien species. Key measures to achieve these goals involve enforcing laws, promoting renewable energy, implementing conservation farming practices, and enhancing the capacity of farmers and communities. The government

aims to integrate LDN into national policies and development programs, utilising existing frameworks such as the Environmental Management Act and the National Conservation Strategy. Emphasis is placed on collaboration with the private sector, civil society, research institutions, and international partners for resource mobilization and project implementation. Progress will be monitored using global and national indicators, including land cover, productivity, and soil organic carbon. The goal is to create a balance between land degradation, yielding ecological, economic, and social benefits.

Africa's Agenda 2063 Aspiration 1:

Contributes to the realisation of goals 4 and 7 on Transformed Economies and environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient economies and communities, respectively.

African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Strategy and Priorities for Intervention in Africa

This Strategy aligns the vision and mission of the GBF with Africa's Agenda 2063, and is thus anchored on aspirations

for a prosperous Africa where the continent's unique natural endowments, its environment and ecosystems, including its wildlife, wild lands and ocean are healthy, valued and protected, with climate-resilient communities and economies.

Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

Its vision is that of a world of living in harmony with nature where, by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people. The project will contribute to the realisation of the following of three of the Four goals, that is;

- Goal A: Enhancing the integrity of ecosystems, increasing integrity and connectivity of ecosystems by improving the protection of protected areas, and creating community conservancies in corridors to enhance connectivity.
- Goal B: Nature's contributions to people are valued, maintained or enhanced through conservation and sustainable use, supporting the global development agenda for the benefit of all - The natural capital accounting framework will be used to value nature and its contribution to humans. Nature's resources will be sustainably used to improve livelihoods through the development of business enterprises and thus contributing to the national economy.
- Goal D: Invest and collaborate: This goal addresses the means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, and technology transfer to achieve the other goal of the project. The financial resources from GEF and co-financing partners will be used to implement the project. There will be capacity building on different aspects of the project.

The GBF recognises that gender equality, women's empowerment, youth and gender-responsive approaches and the full and effective participation of IPLCs are necessary elements for successful implementation of the framework.

Convention on Biological Diversity

The project will contribute to the conservation of biodiversity by ensuring the sustainable use of both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. It recognises that biodiversity is a societal asset that makes significant contributions to advance economic development and human well-being.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during PIF development as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes and plan to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan before CEO endorsement has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: Yes

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector: Yes

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

Consultation Date	Stakeholder	Individual Consulted
11/09/2024	Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate	Tanyaradzwa Mundoga
12/09/2024	CIRAD (Sustainable Wildlife Management)	Maxwell Phiri
12/09/2024	Forest Commission	Stephen Zingwena Lewis Radzire Pomerayi Mutete Charlotte Mpabanga
13/09/2024	Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe	Godfrey Chokwa
19/09/2024	Marondera University of Agricultural Science and Technology	Professor Lesley Macheke
23/09/2024	Binga RDC	Lovemore Siamuyi Lameck Muntanga Frequency Siachiwelwe
24/09/2024	Chief Sinampande	Chief Sinampande
24/09/2024	Chief Sikalenge	Chief Sikalenge
24/09/2024	Chief Sinakoma	Chief Sinakoma
25/09/2024	Chief Sinansengwe	Chief Sinansengwe
25/09/2024	Chief Pashu	Chief Pashu
26/09/2024	Africa Parks	Michael Pelham

		Daniel Sithole
26/09/2024	Nyaminyami RDC	Henry Varandeni
27/09/2024	FBC Bank	Desire Nemashakwe
30/09/2024	Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency	Nelson Mupfugani
8/10/2024	Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority	Professor Edson Gandiwa Professor Patience Gandiwa Mukululi Ndlovu Midwell Kapesa
9/10/2024	Gokwe North RDC	David Munyawu Clayton Madzana
04/10/2024	WWF Zimbabwe	Tendai Chino
14/10/2024	Environmental Management Agency	Prosper Kaneta
14/10/2025	Basilwizi	Potte=a Muzamba

(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
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Medium/Moderate

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B)

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

Indicative Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
UNDP	GET	Zimbabwe	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD- 1	Grant	2,162,677.00	205,454.00	2,368,131.00
UNDP	GET	Zimbabwe	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	Grant	3,518,911.00	334,297.00	3,853,208.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						5,681,588.00	539,751.00	6,221,339.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

150000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

14250

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
UNDP	GET	Zimbabwe	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	50,000.00	9,500.00	59,500.00
UNDP	GET	Zimbabwe	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	Grant	100,000.00	4,750.00	104,750.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)						150,000.00	14,250.00	164,250.00

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Zimbabwe	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	2,422,881.00
UNDP	GET	Zimbabwe	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	3,962,708.00
Total GEF Resources					6,385,589.00

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
BD-1-1	GET	2,162,677.00	20980000
LD-1	GET	3,518,911.00	4600000
Total Project Cost		5,681,588.00	25,580,000.00

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1000000
Recipient Country Government	Forest Commission	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4600000
Recipient Country Government	Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	8480000
Recipient Country Government	Marondera University of Agricultural Science and Technology	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	850000
Others	WWF Zimbabwe	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	750000
Others	African Parks	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	9600000
Others	International Foundation for Animal Welfare (IFAW)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	300000
Total Co-financing				25,580,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Not Applicable

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	UNDP	8/20/2025	Nancy Bennet		nancy.bennet@undp.org
Project Coordinator	UNDP	8/20/2025	Goetz Schroth		goetz.schroth@undp.org

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

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Tanyaradzwa Mundoga	Acting Director – Department of Wildlife and Forestry	Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife	10/7/2025

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

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

Area	X coordinate	Y coordinate
Chizarira National Park	-17°42'31.95"	27°51'04.33"
Chete Safari Area	-17°21'42.19"	27°46'03.50"
Chirisa-Sengwa	-17°56'41.77"	28°13'48.28"
Kavira Forest	-18°4'59"	27°0'0"
Sijarira Forest	17°34'39.4"	27°32'36.82"

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

PIMS 10149 Zimbabwe pre SESP 31Mar2025

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

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

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
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Influencing Models	Transform policy and regulatory environments	Natural resource management	Economic development
Stakeholders	Beneficiaries	Local communities	Nature based enterprise
Capacity, Knowledge and Research	Capacity Development	Natural capital	Ecosystem services
Gender Equality	Gender mainstreaming	Women empowerment	Female led enterprises
Focal Area/Theme	Biodiversity	Land degradation	Climate change