



**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)**

**PROJECT TYPE: FULL SIZED PROJECT**

**TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND**

**PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

<b>Project Title:</b>	Improving Management Effectiveness of the Protected Area Network		
<b>Country (ies):</b>	South Africa	<b>GEF Project ID:</b>	TBD
<b>GEF Agency (ies):</b>	UNDP	<b>GEF Agency Project ID:</b>	4943
<b>Other Executing Partner(s):</b>	South African National Parks, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency, Department of Environmental Affairs, South African National Biodiversity Institute CapeNature East Cape Parks and Tourism Agency Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism	<b>Submission Date:</b>	9 March 2012
<b>GEF Focal Area (s):</b>	Biodiversity	<b>Project Duration:</b>	60 months
<b>Name of parent program: For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/></b>	Not Applicable	<b>Agency Fee:</b>	855,000

**A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK:**

<b>Focal Area Objectives</b>	<b>Expected FA Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected FA Outputs</b>	<b>Indicative Financing from GEF</b>	<b>Indicative Co Financing (\$)</b>
<b>BD1:</b> Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems	1.1: Improved Management Effectiveness of Existing and New Protected areas	Increased coverage of threatened ecosystems and threatened species  New protected areas (number) and coverage (hectares) of unprotected ecosystems	6,705,000	42,950,000
	1.2: Increased revenue for protected area systems to meet total expenditures required for management.  Indicator 1.2: Funding gap for management of protected area systems as recorded by protected area financing scorecards	PAs meet or exceed their target for reducing the protected area management funding gap and implement sustainable financing plans.	1,412,500	
Project management cost			432,500	4,550,000
<b>Total project costs</b>			<b>8,550,000</b>	<b>47,500,000</b>

**B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK**

**Project Objective:** The Biodiversity of South Africa is protected from existing and emerging threats through the development of a sustainable, effective and representative national protected areas network, cost effective protected area expansion in biodiversity priority areas and improved land use practices in buffers around parks with a focus on community benefits and partnerships.

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>GEF Financing (\$)</b>	<b>Co-Financing (\$)</b>

Establishment of New Protected Areas	TA	<p>National PA estate expanded by 197,000 ha over a baseline of 7.9 million ha resulting in increased representation of the following globally important terrestrial and marine habitats currently under-represented in the PA system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 50,000 ha <i>Succulent Karoo</i></li> <li>- 95,000 ha <i>Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany hotspot</i></li> <li>- 12 000ha - <i>Lowlands fynbos and renosterveld in the Cape Floristic Region</i></li> <li>- 20 000 ha – Marine protected areas in the <i>Benguela Large Marine Ecosystem</i></li> </ul>	<p>1.1 <i>Richtersveld Coastal Community Park</i> covering 50,000 ha of Succulent Karoo, established in partnership with the local community, delivering social benefits in an impoverished region.</p> <p>1.2 <i>Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot</i> expanded by 95,000 ha through –(a) Consolidation of the Sneeuberg grasslands linking Mountain Zebra and Camdeboo National Parks covering 45,000 ha by means of contractual partnerships with private landowners; and (b) Expansion of the <i>Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Reserve</i> by improving conservation tenure on 50,000 ha of private conservation areas, communal conservation areas and unproclaimed state reserves in the buffer zone of <i>Kruger National Park</i> in partnership with the <i>Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency</i> , <i>Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism</i>, local communities, land claimants, and private landowners,</p> <p>1.3 <i>Riverlands-Pella Protected Area</i> expanded by 12,000 ha of <i>Lowlands fynbos and renosterveld</i> currently underrepresented within the <i>Cape Floristic Region hotspot</i>. to prevent the loss of irreplaceable biodiversity and maintain ecosystem functions such as water purification and climate change mitigation through partnerships with communities, proclamation of state land and land acquisition</p> <p>1.4 Protection of <i>Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem</i> improved through establishment of <i>Namaqualand Marine Protected Area</i> and consolidation and expansion of 3 Island MPAs (<i>Jutten, Malgas and Marcus</i>), <i>Langebaan Lagoon MPA</i> and <i>Sixteen Mile Beach MPA</i> covering 20, 000ha.</p> <p><i>All New PAs will be operationalised through:- Formal gazettement, establishment of governance structures, boundary marking, fencing, restocking, management planning ,enforcement, monitoring, business planning; and contractual partnerships.</i></p>	4,405,000	23,650,000
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Improve management effectiveness of the new and existing protected areas and threatened species	TA	<p>Improved PA management effectiveness delivers enhanced protection to <b>1,100,000</b> ha of new and existing protected areas and results in reduction in poaching of black and white rhino by 30% against a baseline of 1 rhino poached/day in national parks and reserves run by the partner agencies and private owners.</p> <p>Habitat loss reduced by 50% over a baseline of 100% in buffer zones around three national parks covering 100,000 ha through implementation of improved land use controls.</p>	<p>2.1 Capacity of PA staff to implement robust and low cost protected area expansion improved through providing key support to the contractual process including <i>facilitating contract negotiation, declaration of PAs, completion of Protected area registers, management planning, monitoring and evaluation of newly expanded PAs.</i></p> <p>2.2 Poaching reduced over an area of 1,000,000 hectares through strengthening intelligence, detection, deterrence and enforcement capacity including the acquisition of state of the art MEMEX security technology and specialized equipment (<i>e.g. thermal imagery, micro light or unmanned aircraft</i>).</p> <p>2.3 Land use in buffer zone of <i>West Coast, Mountain Zebra and Camdeboo National Parks</i> improved through among other things inclusion of sensitive areas into local authority land use plans in partnership with private landowners, local authorities and the provincial conservation agency.</p>	2,300,000	12,050,000
3. Cost Effective Protected Area Expansion	TA	PA Financing costs per hectare reduced by 60% over a baseline of US\$ 500/ha <sup>11</sup> by introducing partnerships for PA management and reducing direct purchase of state land for protected area expansion.	<p>3.1 Economic and social benefits of cost effective partnerships for PA management piloted</p> <p>3.2 Sustainable PA finance models that strike a balance between state subsidies, and revenue generated through tourism, generation of green jobs, game sales, and other emerging potential income streams are developed and implemented through partnerships for the National PA system and the buffer zones.</p>	1,412,500	7,250,000
Project management cost				432,500	4,550,000
<b>Total project costs</b>				<b>8,550,000</b>	<b>47,500,000</b>

#### C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE, (\$)

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type	Amount (\$)
Project Government Contribution	South African National Parks,	Grant	17,750,000
	Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency,	Grant	8,250,000
	CapeNature	Grant	7,200,000
	East Cape Parks and Tourism Agency	Grant	8,500,000
	Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism	Grant	5,000,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	800,000
Private Sector			
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			<b>47,500,000</b>

#### D. GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY (IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES)

GEF AGENCY	TYPE OF TRUST FUND	FOCAL AREA	Country name	Project amount (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total c=a+b
UNDP	GEF	Biodiversity	South Africa	8,550,000	855,000	9,405,000
<b>Total GEF Resources</b>						

## PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

### A. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

#### A.1.1. THE GEF FOCAL AREA STRATEGIES:

<sup>1</sup> : Based upon land acquisition by SANParks & donors over last two years, inclusive of those to be completed.

The project seeks to expand representation of globally important terrestrial and marine habitats by establishing new PAs covering 197,000 ha. The current Protected Area estate does not effectively represent the full range globally important species and habitats; and as a result, key critical biodiversity areas remain under protected. The project also seeks to improve management effectiveness and reduce external threats to existing protected areas covering 1,000,000 ha. In this respect, it is in line with **GEF Biodiversity Focal Area Strategic Objective One: Improve sustainability of Protected Area (PA) systems; specifically outcome 1.1 Improved Management Effectiveness of Existing and New Protected areas.** Shrinking conservation budgets have necessitated the use of alternative cost effective PA expansion methods in order to secure larger protected areas. The project will engender a paradigm shift from direct purchase of land for PA expansion, to introduction of partnerships for PA management with communities and private landowners. This will result in reduced PA expansion costs per hectare and enable the PA system to meet total expenditures required for management, which is in line with GEF Biodiversity Focal Area Strategic Objective One, *Outcome 1.2 Increased revenue for protected area systems to meet total expenditures required for management.*

## **A.2. NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS OR REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS UNDER RELEVANT CONVENTIONS.**

The project is consistent with South Africa's national priorities and policies. Most relevant is the *National Protected Area Expansion Strategy*. (NPAES) that aims to achieve cost effective protected area expansion for ecological sustainability and climate change resilience. The NPAES set targets for PA expansion, maps the critical biodiversity areas, and makes recommendations on mechanisms for expansion. Implementing the NPAES calls for a system wide approach to PA management and this project therefore comes at an opportune moment. The project will also enable the Government of South Africa to contribute towards global target of ensuring 17-percent of the world's land area is under protection.

The project was selected after a comprehensive consultation process that included a request for proposals. Out of 50 or so proposals that were submitted, the Department of Environmental Affairs selected six proposals from *South African National Parks, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency, South African National Biodiversity Institute, Cape Nature, East Cape Parks and Tourism Agency and Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism* that have been merged into this project.

## **B. PROJECT OVERVIEW:**

### **B.1. DESCRIBE THE BASELINE PROJECT AND THE PROBLEM THAT IT SEEKS TO ADDRESS:**

1. With a land surface area of 1,2 million km<sup>2</sup> - representing just 1% of the earth's total land surface - South Africa contains almost 10% of the world's total known bird, fish and plant species, and over 6% of the world's mammal and reptile species. This diversity is highly threatened by development, with 34% percent of South Africa's 440 terrestrial ecosystems being threatened. Of these, 5% are critically endangered (mostly in the forest and fynbos biomes), 13% are endangered (mostly in the grassland and savanna biomes), and 16% are vulnerable (mostly in the fynbos, grassland and succulent karoo biomes). The situation is even worse in aquatic systems where 82% of river types are threatened, of which 44% are critically endangered, 27% are endangered, and 11% are vulnerable. The combination of high levels of diversity and high threat results in there being three internationally recognized biodiversity hotspots in South Africa namely in *Succulent Karoo*, the *Cape Floral Kingdom* and the *Maputaland Pondoland Albany Hotspot*. The **Succulent Karoo** boasts the richest succulent flora on earth, as well as remarkable endemism in plants, with 69 percent as endemics. Reptiles also show relatively high levels of endemism in the region. It is also one of only two entirely arid ecosystems to earn hotspot status, and is home many unique species of lizards, tortoises and scorpions. Grazing, agriculture and mining, especially for diamonds and heavy metals, threaten this fragile region. Fortunately, low population levels have allowed for greater preservation in the Succulent Karoo when compared to other more densely populated regions, and allow relatively easy protected area expansion compared to other regions. The **Cape Floristic Region** is one of the world's five Mediterranean hotspots. Home to the greatest non-tropical concentration of higher plant species in the world, the region is the only hotspot that encompasses an entire floral kingdom, and holds five of South Africa's 12 endemic plant families and 160 endemic genera. The geometric tortoise, the Cape sugar-bird, and a number of herbivore species are characteristic of the Cape Floristic hotspot. The **Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany hotspot**, which stretches along the east coast of southern Africa below the Great Escarpment, is an important center of plant endemism. The region's warm temperate forests are home to nearly 600 tree species, the highest tree richness of any temperate forest on the planet. The rescue of the southern subspecies of white rhinoceros from extinction, which took place in this hotspot, is one of the best-known success stories in African conservation. Private nature reserves contribute significantly to the protection of Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot, but enjoy little formal recognition or security of conservation tenure. South Africa's west coast is part of the highly productive southern **Benguela Large Marine Ecosystem** that hosts vulnerable marine ecosystems, and breeding populations of threatened seabirds.

2. South Africa has developed a substantial protected area network of approximately 558 land-based protected areas and marine protected areas. The land-based protected areas collectively exceed 7.9 million hectares or 6.5 % of the country and the marine protected areas comprise over 426,000 ha or 0.42% of the mainland marine territory. Most of these reserves enjoy legal protection and are typically type II reserves under the IUCN classification. In addition to the state reserves, private nature reserves, game farms, mixed farming and ecotourism operations protect an area of roughly 205,000 km<sup>2</sup> or 16.8% of the terrestrial area, 2.5 times the formal protected area estate. These areas are well managed and contribute significantly to biodiversity conservation objectives, but they generally have no formal legal protection and are subject to land use changes and activities such as mining and prospecting. They can be classified as type VI reserves under the IUCN classification. Oversight for formal protected areas lies with the *Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)*. Management is undertaken at three levels namely: national managed by *South African National Parks (SANParks)*; provincial level managed by Provincial Park Boards or Provincial Government Agencies; and municipal, managed by municipalities. SANParks oversees 19 large national parks that make up just over half of the PA network; provincial conservation agencies run approximately 390 mostly smaller reserves which comprise 44% of the reserve network, with the remaining very small reserves being run mostly by local authorities.

3. **Baseline:** The Government contributes US\$ 20 million annually to South African National Parks (covering 12% of expenses) including US\$ 2 million for reserve expansion in 2011. This is supplemented by tourism income of US \$102 million and game sales to the value of US\$1.4 million most of which is required for the management of the existing protected area network. A handful of financially viable protected areas (*notably Kruger and Table Mountain National Parks*) effectively cross subsidize the remainder of the protected area network. Provincial protected area agencies receive a total budget from the state of US\$ 93 million from Government, of which a small amount is available for reserve expansion.

The private sector has also been an important investor. It is estimated that the private sector contributes 16.8 % of South African land-in-conservation related activities, and in 2007 the private wildlife industry contributed US\$ 587 million to the national GDP. Although this investment appears to have slowed down during the global economic downturn, it is likely that the investment into the consolidation of private nature reserves, game farms and ecotourism operations still significantly exceeds state investment in protected area expansion.

4. The Government and other partners have invested substantially in expanding the PA network over the last 12 years. An average of 38,580 ha of terrestrial area and 8,500 ha of marine area have been added to the national park network each year, especially in under-conserved and under-represented biomes such as the *Lowland Fynbos, Succulent Karoo, and Thicket*. This has seen the number of parks increase by four (*Table Mountain, Agulhas, Garden Route, and Namaqua National Parks*) since 1998, with a total of 49,000 ha added annually. Actual land acquisition by SANParks and the state accounted for 54% of this increase, while 21% was by development partners, and 11% by contractual arrangements (*i.e. conservation/stewardship partnerships with land owners*). The focus here has been on increasing the size of parks to accommodate both ecological patterns and resilience to climate change. Provincial conservation agencies have added a total of approximately 10,000 hectares to the conservation estate annually also through various partnerships with landowners at low cost. The use of low cost park expansion mechanisms has become more important over the years as the nationally allocated budget for protected area land purchases reduced.<sup>2</sup> Other private conservation funds most notably the *Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust* and the *National Parks Trust* have contributed significantly to expansion of formal state run protected areas with an estimated total expenditure on expansion of about US\$ 2 million per year. The land incorporated using this private funding is included in the expansion figures for national and provision PA expansion.

5. Despite these achievements, a number of threats remain namely: -

**Poaching:** There has been a significant increase in the level of poaching of key species of global concern, notably white and black rhinos over the last 2-3 years, and abalone in a marine context. Rhino poaching has increased from a low 0.04 rhino/day in 2007 to 1.22 rhino per day in 2011 (*i.e. a total of 448 rhinos*). This loss currently accounts for about 2.2% of the national herd of 20,600 animals and threatens the Critically Endangered black rhino (with a continental total of 4,800 animals) and the Near Threatened white rhino (with a continental total of 20,100 animals). The SANParks population of 10,600 white rhino and 760 black rhinos (accounting for 55% of South Africa’s entire rhino population and 46% of the entire continental population) is the single largest contributor to the protection of these species. Increased poaching places the whole system at risk if effective control is lost over significant portions of the conservation estate, and could result in the inevitable diversion of management resources to anti-poaching efforts and away from other key activities such as park expansion. SANParks invests **US\$ 2.2 million** a year in the *Environmental Crime Investigation (ECI)* unit for anti-poaching in Kruger alone (*not inclusive of the field rangers contribution*). This investment is **23%** higher than it was in 2007 when rhino poaching escalated. Furthermore, private land owners now see rhinos as a liability. The increased risks and costs of owning the rhinos have resulted in reduction of their value. (*White rhino sales prices have declined by \$3600/white rhino since 2008*). All this leads to less demand for animals sold by the state, and reduction in revenue accruing to the state conservation areas.

**Contra-conservation practices within the buffer areas of the parks.** Buffer areas around protected areas have been subject to increased development pressure that potentially undermines effective conservation of biodiversity within protected areas. Much of the once expansive grasslands, savannas and forests in which many of the large mammals dwell are facing increased threats from industrial and local farming and also the expansion of grazing lands. This will have major ecological impacts on protected areas (*e.g. through isolation and destruction of corridors important for wildlife dispersal, and/or loss of important functionality of the park's and broader landscape's ecosystem*). There are also potential financial and tourism viability impacts (*e.g. a protected areas ecotourism could be impacted by the development of an industrial area adjacent to the reserve*). There is an increasing need to effectively control impacts in buffers areas around parks using innovative and low cost mechanisms such as the proclamation of Protected Environments (*as piloted in the GEF funded Nuwejaars River Special Management Area of the Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative*).

6. A representative, effectively managed and financially sustainable protected area network can provide secure long term protection for the globally important biodiversity present within South Africa, form the basis for Ecosystem-based Adaptation to climate change, while at the same time providing significant socio-economic development benefits particularly to poor rural communities. However, a number of key barriers need to be addressed in order to achieve this goal:

Barrier	Elaboration
Globally important terrestrial and marine habitats are underrepresented in the Protected Area estate; and as a result, key critical biodiversity areas remain under protected	<p>The <i>Succulent Karoo, Grassland and Nama Karoo</i>, in particular, remain poorly represented in terrestrial protected areas. There are areas where they are either not protected at all, have insufficient area under protection; or are protected in small, isolated and ineffective reserves subject to high levels of pressure. Furthermore, the <i>Namaqua marine coastal bioregion</i> of the <i>Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem</i> is completely unprotected although proclamation of a Marine protected area (MPA) along this coast has been a priority for more than 20 years. Small, fragmented MPAs in the south are not sufficiently meeting biodiversity and fisheries objectives due to their small size and inappropriate zonation. (<i>See Tables 1-3 in Annexure 2</i>). Representation can be improved through establishment of new protected areas in the Richtersveld Coastal Community Reserve (<i>Succulent Karoo</i>), the Mountain Zebra to Camdeboo corridor, expansion of the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Reserve (<i>Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot</i>) and the Namaqua Marine Protected Area (<i>Benguela Current Large Marine ecosystem</i>) to mention a few</p> <p><b>Second.</b> Private nature reserves, game farms, mixed farming and ecotourism operations have no security of legal conservation tenure, enjoy no legal protection from mining and prospecting (which can occur even if the landowner objects), are subject to the vagaries of market forces (<i>e.g. a landowner</i></p>

<sup>2</sup> Only 8000 ha of land has been added to the national protected area network per year from 2009

Barrier	Elaboration
	<p>could switch from an ecotourism operation to a golf estate should economic forces make this a more attractive option), and can be lost as soon as ownership of the area changes. There is an opportunity to incorporate these areas into the protected area network by entering into contractual partnerships for PA management/conservation.</p> <p><b>Third</b>, the protected areas and conservation areas are often too small or isolated to effectively represent biodiversity priorities in the long term (see <b>Table 4 in annex</b>), Although the representation of biodiversity features such as species and habitats can be achieved in many smaller and isolated areas, the larger scale ecological and evolutionary processes generally require larger areas. Ecosystem based adaptation to climate change will also likely require larger protected areas to be incorporated into a mosaic of compatible land use. Thus it is important to build and maintain a national protected area network comprising some very large areas interspersed with many smaller areas all with appropriately managed buffer areas. There is an opportunity to improve this by increasing the size of some of the smaller reserves through contractual partnerships and buffer zone interventions (e.g. two small national parks can be linked into one large protected landscape by the Mountain Zebra to Camdeboo project, and the buffer intervention around the West Coast National park would help embed the reserve in a mosaic of compatible land uses).</p>
<p>Current PA Expansion strategy is not cost effective, could potentially place the financial stability of the entire protected area network at risk and is further restrained by conflicting land uses.</p>	<p>Traditional PA expansion mechanisms that largely rely on purchasing land have very little chance of meeting park expansion requirements for a number of reasons. Firstly, there is a very small and declining land acquisition budget, yet landowners in priority areas may not be willing to sell at a reasonable price, and in most areas land is too expensive to justify extensive land purchases. Secondly, although land purchases and incorporation of land into protected areas does provide for secure biodiversity management, the purchase of land may potentially place the conservation sector in conflict with private land owners and other economic sectors such as rangeland agriculture and private ecotourism and sustainable resource use operations. Finally, expanded protected areas result in an increased management burden on the state that can result in either real financial instability for the protected area network or in a reduced willingness of conservation agencies to take on additional management responsibilities.</p> <p>There is a need to ensure protected area expansion does not add undue burden to the financial stability of the existing protected area network. There is a need to develop and implement mechanisms that support long term financial sustainability for protected areas through various models. There is an opportunity to reduce PA expansion costs per hectare, by reducing or eliminating direct land purchases and entering into contractual partnerships with land owners based on the sound cost benefit analysis and the right incentives.</p>
<p>Limited capacity to implement cost effective protected area expansion.</p>	<p>Both national and provincial agencies have struggled to effectively implement park expansion at the required rate. Key constraints include: - <i>lack of a coherent strategy; lack of resources to implement the strategy; lack of capacity to perform ecological assessments required as part of the stewardship process, inability to facilitate and develop contracts, inability to follow through on the proclamation and gazette process including issues such as boundary delineation and surveying; inadequate support to private and communal landowners, and lack of monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of these expanded protected areas.</i> Furthermore, some of the economic models that were developed for these areas turned out to be inappropriate resulting in a number of areas not delivering the anticipated benefits to private or communal landowners, and in some cases benefits excessively exposed to impacts such as global tourism downturns. Last but not least, recent management effectiveness audits (e.g. METT-SA) have shown that the PA system is already under pressure and sub-optimal in terms of addressing the growing threats. There is need to invest in improving management effectiveness of both new and existing PAs, including strengthening capacity for negotiating contracts (under complex land tenure arrangements); designing proper incentives for private or communal land owners to join a protected areas management partnership such as, reduced taxes, tourism, access to valuable species from sales or hunting; and others</p>

**B. 2. INCREMENTAL COST REASONING AND THE ASSOCIATED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS:**

The project will deliver global environmental benefits by adding 197,000 ha to the protected area system and improving management effectiveness of 1,000,000 ha of existing protected areas in two internationally recognized biodiversity hotspots namely the *Succulent Karoo*, and the *Maputland-Pondoland-Albany-Hotspot*, and the *Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem*.

The *Succulent Karoo* is the world’s only plant hotspot that is entirely arid. It’s most distinctive feature is the 1700 species of leaf succulents, 700 of which are stone plants and their allies. 851 Red Data Book plant species, 685 of which are endemic are also found in this hotspot. The Richtersveld Mountains contain extremely ancient sediments, more than 2.6 billion years old, which are among the oldest sedimentary rocks of the world. On the sandy coastal plain of the Namaqualand-Namib Domain, the numerous seasonal river courses provide stepping-stone corridors for succulents to extend across the plain from the rocky coast to the inland hills and mountains. Unfortunately **only about 3 percent of the ecoregion is conserved in ten statutory reserves. Therefore, many of these species are endangered, and are becoming increasingly vulnerable to overgrazing, mining activities, expansion of communal lands for agriculture and illegal harvesting for horticulture.**

The *Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot* unites three diverse centers of endemism (Maputaland, Pondoland and Albany) in an area of nearly 275,000 km<sup>2</sup> along the east coast of southern Africa, below the Great Escarpment. The hotspot is the second richest floristic region in southern Africa (after the Cape Floristic Region) and also the second richest floristic region in Africa. At a habitat level, one type of forest where at least 598 tree species occur, three types of endemic subtropical thicket, six types of bushveld and five types of grasslands are unique to the hotspot. The coastal waters of this hotspot, which encompass three of South Africa's six marine bioregions, are also significant at the global level for their diversity of marine species. **However, loss and degradation of habitat as well as degradation of marine and estuarine resources continue to occur in this hotspot due to commercial and subsistence farming, timber production, urban development and the increasing threat of mining impacting the region. The unsustainable use of natural resources, the spread of invasive alien species and human-wildlife conflict are also placing pressure on the hotspot's biodiversity and ecosystems.**

Last but not least. The *Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem* (BCLME) is an important center of marine biodiversity and is one of the most productive ocean areas in the world. It is considered a Class I, highly productive (>300 grams of Carbon per square meter per year (gC/m<sup>2</sup>-yr)), ecosystem based on SeaWiFS global primary productivity estimates. It supports a large biomass of fish, crustaceans, sea birds and marine mammals. It presents favorable conditions for a rich production of small pelagics, herrings, sardines and anchovies. **The over exploitation of the commercial fish stocks, wastage through the dumping of by catch and undersize fish and some unsustainable harvesting of the living resources continue to be a cause of concern.**

The GEF funding will reduce threats and provide greater conservation security for the above hotspots by expanding the protected area estate and improving management effectiveness (See Annexure 3) The project will demonstrate that protected areas can be expanded using an efficient and cost effective approach in partnership with private landowners and communities that in turn delivers the required biodiversity benefits without placing unsustainable financial strain on the rest of the PA network. This will be achieved through the following three complementary components:

**Component 1: Implementation and Operationalisation of the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy** The National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES) identifies the need for significant expansion of the national protected area estate. However, as budgets for land purchase and ongoing management are limited, it is clear that innovative mechanisms will be necessary to both expand the protected area estate in a cost effective manner while also ensuring that globally important ecosystems are fully represented. This component will support PA expansion in areas that comprise currently under-represented globally important ecosystems through the following sub-components: -

**a) *Establishment of Richtersveld Coastal Community Park:*** Through a partnership between SANParks and the Richtersveld community, a Coastal Community Park will be established. This will expand of the protected area system by 50,000 ha in priority *Succulent Karoo* habitat while at the same time deliver social benefits in an impoverished region. SANParks owns extremely high biodiversity value properties of *Klein Duine* and *Oograbies Wes* near *Port Nolloth* on the Atlantic coast. The economic and biodiversity potential of these properties remains undeveloped and the areas are not protected by national legislation. Adjacent to these state landholdings, the Richtersveld community owns significant portions of coastal land. The community has earmarked this land for conservation and ecotourism development. A key focus will be the delivery of real economic benefits to the community. Activities to be supported by the project include: (a) *fencing boundaries of the core national park area*, (b) *stocking the park with appropriate game species*, (c) *job creation by introducing an ecotourism economy and ecotourism infrastructure, including a small coastal tented camp, sustainable resource harvesting* (such as hunting); and many others. The alternative income streams provided by tourism and hunting (could potentially provide the financial basis for cost effective reserve expansion in partnership with communities and private land owners.

**(b) *Establishment of a corridor between Mountain Zebra to Camdeboo National Parks:*** The area between the Mountain Zebra and Camdeboo National Parks in the *Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany biodiversity hotspot* is identified as a conservation priority in the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy. This sub component will support consolidation of the *Sneeuberg grasslands* linking *Mountain Zebra and Camdeboo National Parks* through contractual partnerships with private landowners and formalizing protection on existing state held land. Private conservation areas (which currently have no security of conservation tenure) cover an area of 97 000 ha within the corridor, and include well-established private nature reserves. This work will complement a smaller scale CEPF project in the area, focused on identifying user willingness. Support will also be provided to facilitate the development of contractual partnerships with existing private nature reserves; and to declare privately owned nature reserves as either contractual national park or protected environment with a view to expand the PA estate by 45,000 ha at low cost; protect the integrity of the buffer area around the national parks; improve the climate change resilience of the area by consolidating a key corridor; and create jobs through the stimulation of a broader ecotourism, sustainable resource use and biodiversity driven economy in the Sneeuberg region.

**(c) *Expansion of the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Reserve in the buffer areas of Kruger National Park:*** This sub component will support the effective implementation of the Mpumalanga Protected Areas Expansion Strategy, the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Conservation Plan's critical biodiversity areas, and the draft Limpopo Conservation plan (informing Park Expansion). There are a number of important private protected areas along the western boundary of Kruger National Park (KNP), however, these do not have secure conservation tenure and are not protected under national legislation. In addition, there are a number of provincial and local protected areas that are not proclaimed or effectively managed. Opportunities exist for community owned areas to also be included. The sub component will improve conservation tenure on 50,000 ha of priority habitat in private/communal conservation areas through a partnership with local communities, private landowners, and formally proclaim Manyeleti NR, Bushbuckridge NR and Andover NR. The area to be covered by this sub component coincides with the larger *Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Reserve* (K2C), which was declared in 2001 by UNESCO. The eastern buffer zone next to the Kruger National Park (KNP) provides the ideal opportunity to link with the *greater Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area* (GLTFCA). This area also includes almost all of the Bushbuckridge and Maruleng *Presidential Poverty nodes*, communities, private and provincial reserves. This sub component will be led by *Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency* (MTPA), in partnership with SANParks, Limpopo Province and a range of conservation NGOs.

**(d) *Expand protection of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem through establishment of Marine Protected Areas:*** This sub component aims to increase representation of ecosystems effectively conserved within protected areas through establishment of Namaqualand Coastal Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in the currently unprotected *Namaqua coastal region*, and expansion and

consolidation of 3 Island MPAs (*Jutten, Malgas and Marcus*), Langebaan Lagoon MPA and Sixteen Mile Beach MPA on the west coast leading to an increase in protection on 20,000ha of the *Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem*. The proposed Namaqualand MPA is of national importance, and was identified as the top priority for declaration of a coastal MPA. The *Namaqua National Park* borders the coast between the Groen and Spoeg rivers, an area previously identified for the proposed MPA. The west coast of South Africa is under heavy pressure from mining, particularly diamond mining in the inshore and adjacent coastal areas. This is considered the biggest threat to biodiversity in the region and has already extensively impacted the area. Key actions to be supported under this sub component include *a) the identification of mining right status and the valuation of these rights; b) proposal to purchase rights, with support from WWF, SANBI and DEA; c) negotiations with rights holder; and declaration of the MPA*. A management authority with allocated resources, including a patrol vessel, is already in place. This MPA will deliver on national biodiversity targets as set out in the NPAES (2008).

**(e) Expansion of the Riverlands-Pella Protected Area:** The *Riverlands - Pella Protected Area Expansion Initiative* has recently been highlighted as one of the top three nodes for formal protected area expansion by both *Western Cape Protected Area Expansion Strategy* (2010), and the 2010 *WWF-Table Mountain Fund Climate Change Corridor identification* process for the Western Cape. The corridor is prioritized on the basis of having extremely high biodiversity value, and requiring urgent action in order to prevent the loss of irreplaceable biodiversity. More extensive connectivity is required to maintain ecological function, especially to mitigate the effects of climate change. A large proportion of the proposed corridor is comprised of State and Public Land that provides an opportunity for cost effective protected area expansion. Furthermore, this initiative has real potential to unlock the socio-economic opportunities in the surrounding area. It is estimated that the initiative can generate 250 000 person days for initial alien clearing and would provide an excellent platform for skills development. The area also falls within the Witzands Aquifer protection zone and is crucial for the protection of Cape Town's water security. If further degradation is not stopped, a sea water desalination plant or a transfer scheme would cost in the region of US\$ 102 million and US\$ 39 million respectively. This sub component will, therefore, support efforts to prevent the loss of irreplaceable biodiversity and maintain ecosystem functions such as water purification and climate change mitigation by bringing under protection 12,000 ha of *lowland fynbos Renosterveld* currently underrepresented within the **Cape Floristic Region** hotspot. The expansion will link the Riverlands Nature Reserve with the coast through cost effective partnerships, proclamation of state land and land acquisition.

**Component 2: Improve Management Effectiveness of New and Existing Protected areas:** -This component will ensure the PA is fully functional and remains resilient to impacts outside its boundaries and emerging threats such as climate change focusing on three main areas: (a) strengthening capacity to implement cost effective protected area expansion (b) putting in place proper land use practices in the buffer zones that ensure reduced loss of habitat and (c) stronger measures to reduce poaching of highly threatened species such as black and white rhino. Implementation will be led by SANParks and provincial conservation agency reserve networks. Key subcomponents include:

**(a) Improving Legal and Technical Capacity for contractual partnerships:** - The primary objective of contractual partnerships is to implement the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES). The strategy is implemented by a number of different agencies at both the national and the provincial agency level through contractual partnerships with communities and land owners. One of the main challenges is the different level of capacity to implement the strategy at each agency. Capacity tends to be much lower at the provincial and municipal level, than at national level. This sub component will support strengthening of capacity of **each agency according to their needs** (*details to be established after a capacity needs assessment*). Support will include equipping relevant staff with appropriate skills and tools for contract negotiation, declaration/gazettement of PAs, oversight of the contracts *after they have been signed*, completion of Protected area registers, verification of reserve boundaries, declaration alignment *especially of Private Nature Reserves declared under old legislation* in the project target sites.

**(b) Development and implementation of cost effective management planning, monitoring and evaluation in newly expanded protected areas:** Contractual incorporation of private and communal land into the protected area network (*especially where management responsibility and actions are retained by the owner*) will reduce long term management costs to the state per hectare. The expanded PA will, nevertheless, result in increased total management costs for PA agencies. One of the key barriers to contractual expansion of the protected area estate has been the ability and willingness of conservation agencies such as SANParks or provincial agencies to take on management costs for these areas, even where these are limited to monitoring and evaluation costs. It is therefore critical that cost-effective management planning, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are developed for the expanded areas. These mechanisms need to ensure that the areas meet their long-term overall biodiversity and social objectives, but at the same time are streamlined and as cost-effective as possible. This component will support a streamlined and cost effective management planning, monitoring and evaluation system over an area of 100 000 ha.

**(c) Targeted improvement of management effectiveness in select PA Agencies:** The METT-SA project, which applied the METT tool to all terrestrial state protected areas, and the *WWF State of Management report on MPAs*, identified key problem areas within SANParks and other agencies. These include heritage resource management, land and water use planning in buffer areas of PAs, human resource capacity, law enforcement and maintenance of equipment and infrastructure. Many of these issues can be addressed by targeted improvement of management planning processes to focus attention on key objectives, particularly linking the budget processes to park objectives. This sub component will support 4 PA agencies (*SANParks, East Cape Parks and Tourism Agency, CapeNature, Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, and the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency*) to address the above key gaps. The park management planning process will be refined to allow more direct linkages between identified problem areas, setting of park objectives, budgeting processes, annual plans of operations, evaluation and reporting. In particular improved information management and the development of effective evaluation components of the management planning process will be emphasized. Where necessary additional operational management planning evaluation methods will be developed and applied. The



goal is to improve METT scores for 1,000,000 ha of protected area within the reserves addressed by this programme, to ensure that the METT scores are increased from their current minimum baseline of 33% to 50%.

**(d) Improved Protection of Threatened Species:** -The last two years have seen significant growth in poaching of threatened species (especially rhino) from protected areas. In addition to the direct threat facing rhinos, the management effectiveness of the reserve network is under pressure since scarce resources are diverted to face this threat. The increased risks and costs of owning the rhinos has resulted in reduction of their value and thus already resulted in reduced revenue accruing to the state conservation areas. Such funds are crucial to the operational expenses of the conservation organizations. In addition to the SANParks financial contribution to the Environmental Crime Unit, (the state has ploughed even more resources through the deployment of the South African Defense Force units in the park. This sub component will complement current anti-poaching efforts by strengthening intelligence, detection, deterrence and enforcement capacity. State of the art MEMEX analytical tools (for *intelligence, prevention and deterrence of crime*) will be introduced, together with specialized equipment (e.g. *thermal imagery, micro light, unmanned aircraft, & other field equipment*), Relevant staff will receive anti-poaching training (*improved investigative skills and intelligence gathering*), and prosecution capacity will be strengthened through *dedicated training for prosecutors & magistrates*. Last but not least, a dedicated dog section will be established. These activities will focus on parks with heavily threatened rhino populations such as *Kruger NP* (and associated provincial and private nature reserves in the buffer zone), *Addo Elephant National Park, Baviaanskloof Mega Reserve, and the Great Fish Reserve Complex*. Many of the activities (e.g. training, investigations) will be system wide, but will focus on key agencies where poaching is most felt including SANParks, Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency and Mpumalanga Parks and Tourism Agency. In addition support will be provided to consolidate evidence packages in mitigation of sentences.

**(f) Reduced habitat loss in terrestrial and marine buffer zones through improved land use practices:** - This sub component aims to reduce potential threats to the park arising from land degradation and subsequent loss of ecosystem services in the buffer areas. The *Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative* demonstrated high return on investment through systematic interventions with private landowners and other government sectors (e.g. agriculture department and local authorities) around national park. Numerous operational, legal and institutional hurdles were overcome in delivering sustainable environmental and social benefits in the Overberg Region. There is now need to scale up these successful buffer zone interventions to regional implementation. This sub component will support replication of these processes in the *West Coast National Park*. In partnership with the *UNESCO West Coast Biosphere*, local authorities and provincial conservation agencies, this sub component will support protection of the priority lowland corridors linking *West Coast National Park* to inland reserves and to other core areas in the West Coast Biosphere through implementation of effective land use controls (e.g. appropriate zoning) in partnership with private landowners, local authorities and the provincial conservation agency.

**Component 3: Cost Effective Expansion of the Protected Area Network.** The component will comprise the following sub components:

**a) Development of a social and economic optimal framework for protected area expansion in partnership with communities and private landowners:** The real economic and social benefits of conservation partnership for local communities and private landowners remains largely unknown. Realistic and feasible economic and co-management models for these areas (*that demonstrate clear benefits and do not result in excessive initial and ongoing management cost*) are needed. This sub component will support development of detailed financial scenarios for various conservation land use options for both community and private partnerships, building on lessons learnt through the *Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative, the Addo Elephant National Park World Bank Project*, and others. In addition to standard tourism focused models, alternative sustainable revenue streams from payment for ecosystem services and carbon sequestration will be explored. Study sites will be Addo Elephant National Park (payments for carbon sequestration), Garden Route National Park (for payment for watershed services) and Baviaanskloof Mega Reserve (payment for both watershed services and carbon sequestration).

**b) Implementation of financially sustainable partnerships for the new protected areas and the buffer zones:** The national parks network is heavily cross-subsidized via tourism earnings from southern Kruger National Park and a few others. The Lowveld area of the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere contains a variety of different private, state and communal protected areas with widely differing levels of current financial viability: A number of private nature reserves are financially viable; while most provincial reserves run at significant deficits. Furthermore, local and community reserves are almost entirely dependent on external funding. There is a strong need to address this imbalance. Sustainable financial models, including co-management models, that strike a balance between state subsidies, and revenue generated through tourism, generation of green jobs, game sales, trophy/recreational hunting, and other emerging potential income streams are needed. Another key challenge remains the ability to unlock additional revenue streams for PA financing. This sub component test the development and implementation of PA financing models in the project target sites, including putting in place a framework that enables unlocking of other possible investments into the PA including corporate contributions with a view to ensure long-term financial stability of the expanded PA estate.

**B.3. THE SOCIOECONOMIC BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED BY THE PROJECT, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF GENDER DIMENSIONS, AND HOW THESE WILL SUPPORT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT BENEFITS.**

A robust network of effectively managed protected areas will play a key role in reducing rural poverty in South Africa. Eco-tourism and sustainable resource use (e.g. game sales and hunting) can contribute significantly to development. In the Eastern Cape, well managed ecotourism based operations in private and state sector protected areas have delivered up to four times as many employment opportunities at double the salary of agricultural workers per hectare. Furthermore,, expanded protected area projects have a significant role in stimulating regional ecotourism based economies, for example, the GEF funded *Addo Elephant National Park expansion* project realized a 607% increase (increasing from 106 to 644 posts) in internal employment opportunities and a 35% increase in ecotourism job opportunities in the buffer area of the park,

and is directly supporting 88% of tourism businesses in the area which deliver an additional 1606 jobs. This illustrates the role that well managed and effective protected areas with the right mix of tourism activities can play in stimulating depressed rural economies. The current project aims to generate similar positive socio-economic benefits in the areas where it is expanding protected areas (e.g. Richtersveld and Mountain Zebra to Camdeboo), albeit at a smaller scale

The project aims to expand protected areas in direct partnership with local communities who own the land. This will allow these communities to directly access the benefits of ownership or co-ownership economically viable ecotourism operations, as well as the benefits associated with increased employment opportunities. The systems intervention to identify the most appropriate economic models (for example a mix of ecotourism and sustainable resource use) for development of these contractual partnerships with communities will improve the prospects of these projects delivering optimum socio-economic benefits. For the state, the development of a robust and financially self-sufficient protected area network, with expansion at no or low additional cost to the state will play a long term role in supporting state finances. This will be achieved by reducing dependency of rural communities on state support, and via reduction in the ongoing operating deficit of the protected area network that is funded by the state.

Last but not least, protected area projects have significant benefits for redressing gender imbalances. For example, protected area projects deliver a significant number of jobs for women via the various "Working for" projects such as the highly successful Working for Water Programme which preferentially benefits female and youth sections of the community. In addition, the protected area expansion projects make far higher quality jobs available to women in the ecotourism service industry than would previously have been the case in existing rural economies.

**INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY;** -The system wide interventions are designed to improve the financial, operational, financial and social sustainability of the conservation network. Once these interventions (e.g. improved management effectiveness and cost effective economic models for reserve expansion) are embedded in the operations of the agencies, they will be self-sustaining and no longer require external funding after GEF. The site level interventions (e.g. Richtersveld and Mountain Zebra to Camdeboo) are designed to be robust and largely self-sufficient during their operational phase, and are specifically designed to neither place a burden on the remainder of the reserve network or require significant additional funding.

**B.4 RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVES FROM BEING ACHIEVED, AND IF POSSIBLE, PROPOSE MEASURES THAT ADDRESS THESE RISKS:**

Risk/ Assumption	Rating	Mitigation Strategy
Gazetting, legal and administrative delays, inclusive of conflict between government Departments	M	Project interventions are designed to facilitate the key legal processes necessary for formal proclamation of protected areas. Enhanced discussions between government Departments (DEA & DAFF) responsible for potentially conflicting mandates ( MPAs and sea fisheries, respectively) would address conflicts/misunderstandings between departmental objectives. Further, significant lessons have been learnt in previous projects such as the Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative, and the current project will benefit significantly from the processes developed in the Overberg.
Conflict with land owners, land claimants, other sectors, and communities reduces ability to effectively expand the reserve network	L	Unlike previous park expansion paradigms where land is removed from private ownership or when communities remain distrustful of protected area expansion motives (and hence where there is a real risk of conflict with individuals and communities), land purchase is being replaced by a low cost park expansion mechanisms which are implemented in partnership with willing communities and private landowners who will then share in the benefits of these projects. Open transparent negotiations, especially with communities, will address possible fears around losing land claim and restitution rights. This significantly reduces the risks of conflict with land owners associated with protected area expansion. Further, project concepts (e.g. <i>the Richtersveld Coastal Community park</i> ) have either originated from or been developed in conjunction with the affected communities, and therefore the risks of both conflict and project delays are significantly reduced.
Rapid park expansion results in financial instability of the park network due to increased costs	M	The project is deliberately aimed at addressing this issue by reducing the establishment and ongoing operations costs of an expanded protected area network. Development of appropriate economic models and management strategies are likely to play an important role in ensuring that additional protected areas do not place unsustainable strain on the financing of the protected area system as a whole. This project will play a key role in both reducing the actual and the perceived risk of protected area expansion.
Increased poaching pressure due to factors such as local economic downturns (which may increase the social pressure to engage in poaching) or increased demand in key markets	H	In order to mitigate this risk, increased focus is being placed on improved management of affected populations, growing populations as quickly as possible to provide greater buffers against increased poaching, growing the number of secure populations (again to provide a greater buffer against poaching pressure) and placing significant additional law enforcement resources in place.

Risk/ Assumption	Rating	Mitigation Strategy
The benefits generated by the project may be offset by the impacts of climate change.	M	The terrestrial areas identified for park expansion have been planned in order to identify areas which are most resilient to climate change – a key focus being on maintaining functional connectivity across the landscape, and maintaining functional diversity (both key to enhancing the resilience of ecosystems to climate changes induced fire, drought and other perturbations). The areas identified in the Lowveld, Richtersveld and West Coast all form components of part of regional climate change adaptation networks incorporating protected areas, corridors and managed landscapes. Under all scenarios, these areas will play an important role in climate change adaptation and will be extremely important as keystone areas for Ecosystem-based Adaptation. By reducing existing anthropogenic stressors to ecosystems through improved park management, the project will enhance the capacity of ecosystems to recover following such climate changed induced perturbation.

**B.5. KEY STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT, INCLUDING THE PRIVATE SECTOR, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, LOCAL AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES:**

Key stakeholders	Relevant Roles and Responsibilities (indicative)
South African National Parks	SANParks is the primary implementing agency for the national protected area project. In addition to directly implementing a number of the components, it will provide the project management capacity and overall financial oversight for the project. The board manages approximately half of South Africa's formal protected area network (measured by area).
Provincial Conservation Agencies	Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (with the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism) is the key implementing partner for the projects in the Kruger buffer area. East Cape Parks and Tourism Board is a partner in the management effectiveness, protected area financing and poaching reduction of key species components. CapeNature is a partner in the management effectiveness component (particularly in the development of cost effective management planning processes for low cost expansion areas and protected area financing).
Department of Environmental Affairs	DEA is the government department that has overall responsibility for the protected area network. In addition to providing much of the non-tourism financial support for the protected area network, DEA will also play a key-supporting role in the formal proclamation of expanded protected areas.
South African National Biodiversity Institute	SANBI is a key partner in terms of general alignment of the project with national policy and best available information. In addition, the marine section will be key implementation partners in marine protected area expansion and for management effectiveness interventions in marine protected areas. The protected area programme is aligned with the SANBI led mainstreaming programme, and significant interaction will be necessary to ensure that these projects interact effectively.
Research and Educational Institutions	Key academic partners who will contribute to the appropriate analysis of project outcomes and lessons include the University of Witwatersrand Rural Research Facility, the Agricultural Research Council, University of Pretoria, and the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.
Local communities and Community institutions	Local communities will be major beneficiaries of project interventions and improvements especially those related to enhancing community capacities to plan and manage natural resources in communal areas contracted into national parks. Key partners include the Richtersveld Community Organization for Communal Property (who was partners in developing the Richtersveld proposal).
NGOs	A range of NGOs are involved to a greater or lesser degree in the local implementation of projects or as stakeholders in these implementation projects. Key organizations include the Wilderness Foundation, Wildlands and the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere.
Private land owners	A wide diversity of private land owners important in conservation of landscapes and endangered/threatened species such as black & white rhinos.

**B.6. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:**

This is the first GEF project in South Africa to take a system wide approach to protected area management both at national and provincial level. Previous projects in the Garden Route, Addo Elephant National Park, the Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative and some components of the CAPE and SKEP program focused on mainstreaming biodiversity into production sectors. Furthermore, the project sites for these projects were in different geographical areas. The value added of this project, therefore, is that it is the first to support a system wide approach to PA expansion and management effectiveness and also concentrates on protecting the remaining biodiversity priority hotspots,

The Mountain Zebra to Cambeboo project and the Lowveld Protected Area Consolidation Project will complement smaller scale CEPF investments in the Maputaland Pondoland Albany Hotspot. The CEPF projects focus on civil society interventions particularly into community based conservation initiatives and payments for ecosystem service projects, which can provide an initial stimulus for conservation based land use and eventually result in formal protection. It should be noted that most CEPF activities in the Maputaland Pondoland Albany Hotspot are focused on mainstreaming activities in production landscapes, and hence complement rather than duplicate the current program that has a protected area focus. Strong synergies are likely to develop in some areas such as the Mountain Zebra to Cambeboo project where the CEPF program will contribute to improved protection in the buffer area around the parks utilizing a broader range of interventions and mechanisms, while the more formal PA focused program will provide a specific catalyst for a wider range of conservation orientated activities in the region.

The UNDP-GEF project in the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) is focusing on the overall reduction in degradation of the BCLME, with emphasis on the restoration of its depleted fisheries, through the adoption of national policy reforms, the sustainable institutionalisation of a regional Commission, and the endorsement and ratification of a binding international Treaty for the LME. While it is in the same area as some of the work proposed under this project, there is no conflict since it is not focusing on expanding the protection of the ecosystem as this project proposes. Secondly, the existing project is implemented under the International Waters focal area of the GEF, while this one is under the biodiversity focal area.

**C. THE GEF AGENCY’S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROJECT:**

**C.1 Indicate the co-financing Amount the GEF Agency is bringing to the Project.**

UNDP will contribute US\$ 800,000 from the UNDP country support programme

**C.2 HOW DOES THE PROJECT FIT INTO THE GEF AGENCY’S PROGRAM (REFLECTED IN DOCUMENTS SUCH AS UNDAF, CAS, ETC.) AND STAFF CAPACITY IN THE COUNTRY TO FOLLOW UP PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:**

The project is in line with Outcome 1 of the UNDP Country Support programme that ensures that Environmental assets are well protected and enhanced. Under this outcome, UNDP is supporting the Government of South Africa’s ongoing efforts to promote sustainable use of natural resources, mitigate environmental impact and explore new solutions and opportunities for inclusive growth.


UNDP has a wealth of experience in supporting biodiversity management projects in South Africa working with a broad group of partner institutions. Past and ongoing projects implemented through UNDP Country Office include the CAPE project, the Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative, The National Grasslands Programme, to mention a few. The UNDP-GEF Biodiversity Team comprised of 1 Principal Technical Advisor and 4 Regional Technical Advisors sits in the country office is on hand to provide technical assistance and ensure smooth implementation.

**PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) AND GEF AGENCY**

**A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT (S):** (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)
Zaheer Fakir	GEF Focal Point	DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRNMENTAL AFFAIRS	MARCH 8, 2012

**B. GEF AGENCY (IES) CERTIFICATION**

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/ LDCF/SCCF criteria for project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Yannick Glemarec, UNDP/GEF Executive Coordinator		9 March 2012	Alice Ruhweza RTA, EBD	+27 71 874 4992	alice.ruhweza@undp.org

**Annexure 1. Map of the intervention areas in national protected area expansion strategy context.**

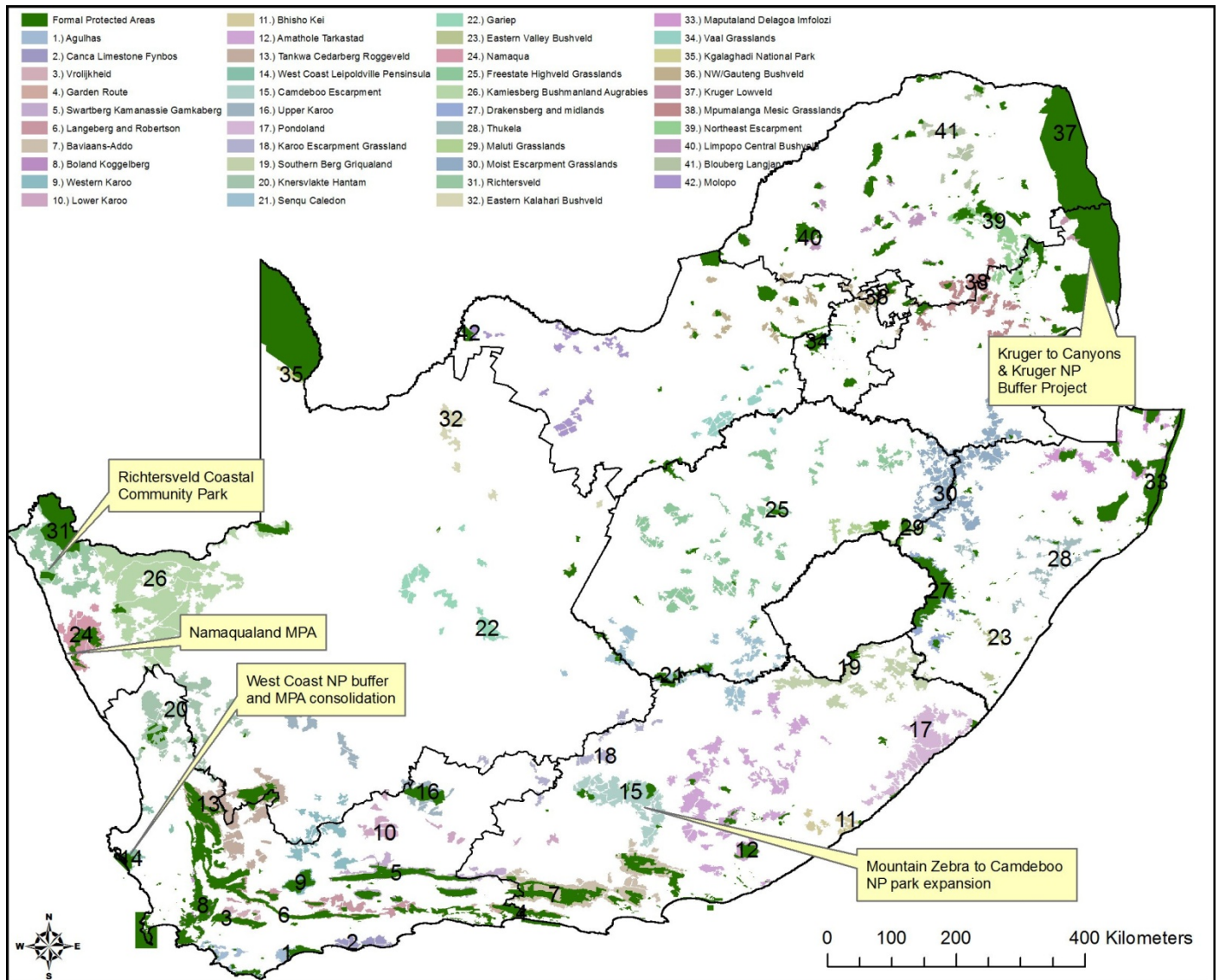


Figure 1: Map indicating specific protected area program implementation sites, in the context of the identified priority areas identified in the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy. Note that most interventions are systems wide, and hence are not indicated on the map.

## Annexure 2

Table 1: Area protected and percentage of protected area target met by biome.

Biome data				Area protected			
Biome	Biome area (ha)	Biome PA target (ha)	PA's (ha)	% of PA target	% of biome		
Water bodies	67 300	8 800	54 300	614	81		
Forests	471 500	108 700	176 200	162	37		
Fynbos Biome	8 395 200	1 257 600	1662 600	132	20		
Desert Biome	716 400	130 700	159 800	122	22		
Savanna Biome	41 266 300	4 233 900	3779 600	89	9		
Albany Thicket Biome	2 913 300	303 300	208 000	69	7		
Azonal Vegetation	2 898 300	405 800	203 000	50	7		
Indian Ocean Coastal Belt	1 428 200	195 700	97 000	50	7		
Succulent Karoo Biome	8 328 700	1 025 300	434 700	42	5		
Grassland Biome	35 449 300	4 771 500	701 300	15	2		
Nama Karoo Biome	24 819 600	2 769 900	180 400	7	1		

Table 2: Number of vegetation groups and vegetation types for which the protected area target has been met in the national protected area network (shown as a proportion of the total number per biome)

Biome	Vegetation groups for which protected area target has been met		Vegetation types for which protected area target has been met	
	Number / total	%	Number / total	%
Albany Thicket Biome	0 / 1	0	3 / 14	21
Azonal Vegetation	2 / 6	33	15 / 34	44
Desert Biome	1 / 2	50	6 / 15	40
Forests	2 / 2	100	8 / 12	67
Fynbos Biome	5 / 12	42	50 / 119	42
Grassland Biome	0 / 4	0	10 / 72	14
Indian Ocean Coastal Belt	0 / 1	0	2 / 3	67
Nama-Karoo Biome	0 / 3	0	1 / 14	7
Savanna Biome	3 / 6	50	29 / 87	33
Succulent Karoo Biome	5 / 6	83	15 / 63	24
Water bodies	1/1	100	2 / 3	67
<b>Total</b>	<b>19 / 44</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>141 / 438</b>	<b>32</b>

Table 3: Protection of South Africa's inshore marine bioregions in marine protected areas measured as the length (km) of coastline.

Bioregion	MPAs	% in MPAs	Total length
Namaqua	0	0	684
SW Cape	214	51.0	420

Bioregion	MPAs	% in MPAs	Total length
Agulhas	328	19.2	1 706
Natal	143	20.6	693
Delagoa	153	100	153
Total	892	24.4	3 656

Table 4: The area and number of land-based protected areas and marine protected areas.

Size class (ha)	Land-based protected areas		Marine Protected areas	
	Area	Number	Area	Number
0 – 10	131	23	4	1
10 – 10 <sup>2</sup>	3 679	78	420	7
10 <sup>2</sup> – 10 <sup>3</sup>	68 812	154	3 913	13
10 <sup>3</sup> – 10 <sup>4</sup>	683 360	183	45 064	14
10 <sup>4</sup> – 10 <sup>5</sup>	3 092 654	106	376 600	13
10 <sup>5</sup> - 10 <sup>6</sup>	2 191 330	7		0
> 10 <sup>6</sup>	1 901 885	1		0

**Annexure 3**

Table 5: Expected Global Environmental benefits resulting from the implementation of this project.

Current Practice	Alternatives to be put in place by the project	Expected Global Benefits
<p><i>Poorly representative PA system:</i> The current protected area network remains poorly representative of the biodiversity of the country, and therefore biodiversity of global importance remains unprotected.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Coverage of PAs in the land and seascape is improved by approximately 165,000 ha over the baseline.</li> <li>2.) The capacity of the PA system, to expand is permanently increased by improving the ability of management systems to effectively incorporate new areas at lower cost per unit area while still maintaining required biodiversity management activities.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PA systems cover more representative areas of global biodiversity significance.</li> <li>2. Population status of several globally significant species maintained or increased.</li> </ol>
<p><i>Expansion of the PA network is limited by high establishment and ongoing management costs:</i> Current protected area expansion mechanisms based on direct purchase of land are high cost both in terms of reserve establishment and management. Although low cost mechanisms have been utilized in the past the protected area system is not yet able to implement these mechanisms at the required rate.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The project will implement park expansion mechanisms that have low establishment and reduced ongoing management costs. This will ensure that limited park expansion budgets are efficiently utilized.</li> <li>2. The capacity of the system to implement low cost reserve expansion mechanisms will be improved by providing key support in bottleneck sections of the process such as contract facilitation and legal support, and management planning and monitoring.</li> <li>3. The project will ensure that the most appropriate economic models are applied in contractual areas. This will facilitate ongoing expansion of protected areas via contracts, as the existence of financially sustainable expanded protected areas will both demonstrate the concept and free resources for ongoing expansion.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PA systems cover more representative areas of global biodiversity significance in large ecological units.</li> </ol>
<p><i>Existing private protected areas have no security of conservation tenure:</i> Although private reserves, game farms and ecotourism operations cover an area that is greater than the formal state run conservation estate, these areas are extremely vulnerable to activities such as mining and other negative land use changes which have major biodiversity impacts.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The project will proclaim these areas as either contractual national parks or protected environments. This will provide legal security of conservation tenure for these areas from activities such as mining.</li> <li>2. The project will improve the capacity of the system to rapidly, and at low cost, apply these alternative protection mechanisms.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Private and communally owned areas managed for ecotourism and sustainable resource use will contribute to a more representative PA system which will better protect areas of global biodiversity significance.</li> <li>2. Risks to state formal protected areas will be reduced by the buffer effect created by the formalized private and communal reserve areas, which will provide improved global biodiversity benefits including better protection of key species such as black and white rhino.</li> </ol>
<p><i>Limited protection is provide to key species such as white and black rhino:</i> Recent increases in poaching pressure on key species such as black and white rhino are putting these species at greater risk of extinction and also placing significant strain on the protected area network by increasing management costs and required activities.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The project will improve the protection provide for white and black rhino over 6 national parks (or 55%) of the national herd.</li> <li>2. Poaching of white and black rhinos will be reduced by 30% through improved protection, detection and prosecution capacity.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Population status of two globally significant species maintained or increased.</li> <li>2. Increased protection of these areas will have positive benefits for other associated species in these globally important areas.</li> </ol>



<p><i>Inadequate management of the PA system:</i> Management measures in PAs are sub-optimal in terms of addressing the growing threats. For SANParks, key problem areas included marine protected areas, heritage resource management, land and water use planning in buffer areas of PAs, human resource capacity, law enforcement and maintenance of equipment and infrastructure.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The project aims to improve management effectiveness of new and existing PAs covering 1 million hectares and at the same time develop and support a system wide culture of outcome focused protected area management, inclusive of contractually included land areas.</li> <li>2. The project will examine METT-SA scores for selected protected areas from participating conservation agencies. Specific areas of weakness and potential areas of greatest return for management intervention will be targeted for management interventions.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improved management and security of globally significant biodiversity contained within a range of different protected areas.</li> <li>2. Increased protection of these areas will have positive benefits for other associated species in these globally important areas.</li> </ol>
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