



GEF-6 REQUEST FOR PROJECT ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

PROJECT TYPE: FSP

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TF

For more information about GEF, visit TheGEF.org

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Strengthening institutions, information management and monitoring to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade in South Africa			
Country(ies):	South Africa	GEF Project ID: ¹	9525
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	Addis No 01391
Other Executing Partner(s):	Department of Environment Affairs (DEA)	Resubmission Date:	March 1, 2018
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration (Months)	60
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Commodities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Food Security <input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Program:	SGP <input type="checkbox"/>
Name of Parent Program	Global Partnership on Wildlife Conservation and crime Prevention for Sustainable Development (Program)	Agency Fee (\$)	439,741

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES²

Focal Area Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
			GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
BD-2 Program 3	Outcome 3.1: Reduction in rates of poaching of elephants and rhinos and other threatened species and increase in arrests and prosecutions	GEFTF	4,886,009	7,420,000
Total project costs			4,886,009	7,420,000

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: To fight against illegal wildlife trade through institutional strengthening, improved information management and monitoring (and collaboration at an international level), thereby influencing the supply system at local (protected area), national (South Africa) and regional levels						
Project Components/Programs	Financing Type ³	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing
Component 1: Strengthening institutional capacity and information	TA	Increased capacity within Scientific Authority of South Africa	Output 1.1. SAoSA members are trained in effective wildlife trade monitoring and assessment	GEFTF	1,377,000	2,603,000

¹ Project ID number remains the same as the assigned PIF number.

² When completing Table A, refer to the excerpts on [GEF 6 Results Frameworks for GETF, LDCF and SCCF](#).

³ Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

systems for effective management of wildlife trade monitoring		(SAoSA) for legal and sustainable wildlife trade	Output 1.2. A centralized system for monitoring wildlife in trade is established			
Component 2: Development of a ready-to-use permitting system for CITES-listed species	TA	National web-based electronic permit system for CITES-listed species used by South African CITES Authorities	Output 2.1. Electronic permitting system for CITES-listed species is in place, adopted and used as a national CITES permitting system Output 2.2. Internal software developers provide skilled technical support to national e-permitting system for CITES-listed species Output 2.3. The national e-permitting system for CITES-listed species is linked with relevant national and international permitting systems	GEFTF	1,442,000	1,995,000
Component 3: Strengthening community capacity to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade	TA	Functional community governance mechanisms for sustainable livelihoods and reduced rate of illegal wildlife trade	Output 3.1. Key guiding principles and project activities co-developed with target communities Output 3.2. Environmental Monitors Programme strengthened Output 3.3. Co-ordination and communications strategy developed to share lessons in landscape and beyond	GEFTF	1,857,000	2,451,000
Subtotal					4,676,000	7,049,000
Project Management Cost (PMC) ⁴				GEFTF	210,009	371,000
Total project costs					4,886,009	7,420,000

C. CONFIRMED SOURCES OF [CO-FINANCING](#) FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE

Please include evidence for [co-financing](#) for the project with this form.

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
Recipient Government	Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)	In-kind	2,500,000
Recipient Government	Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)	Grants	2,500,000
Recipient Government	South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)	In-kind	420,000

⁴ For GEF Project Financing up to \$2 million, PMC could be up to 10% of the subtotal; above \$2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below.

Recipient Government	South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)	Grants	200,000
Recipient Government	South African National Parks (SANParks)	Grants	480,000
Recipient Government	South African National Parks (SANParks)	In-kind	20,000
CSO	World Wildlife Fund South Africa (WWF-SA)	Grants	500,000
CSO	Peace Parks Foundation (PPF)	In-kind	300,000
CSO	Peace Parks Foundation (PPF)	Grants	300,000
GEF Agency	World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)	In-kind	200,000
Total Co-financing			7,420,000

D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES), FOCAL AREA AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country Name/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee ^{a)} (b) ²	Total (c)=a+b
UNEP	GEFTF	South Africa	Biodiversity		4,886,009	439,741	5,325,750
Total Grant Resources					4,886,009	439,741	5,325,750

a) Refer to the Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies

E. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS⁵

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	<i>1,948,500 hectares</i>

F. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A “NON-GRANT” INSTRUMENT? NO

(If non-grant instruments are used, provide an indicative calendar of expected reflows to your Agency and to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Trust Fund) in Annex D.

⁵ Update the applicable indicators provided at PIF stage. Progress in programming against these targets for the projects per the *Corporate Results Framework* in the [GEF-6 Programming Directions](#), will be aggregated and reported during mid-term and at the conclusion of the replenishment period.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF⁶

A.1. Project Description

The project design has not changed significantly from the Child project concept. It is only the description and articulation of issues that has been improved. With reference to table B above, a few changes were made in stating the components, outcomes and outputs. While components 1 and 2 remained the same as in the concept, component 3 had its outcomes and outputs changed as described in section A1.3 below and detailed in section 3 of the project document. The wording of some elements of the project framework has been changed, in some cases simply to reflect more accurate descriptions of the project approach, and in others to reflect substantive changes in proposed project interventions in order to better align them to the existing baseline. The table below provides an explanation of these changes:

Child Project Elements & Text	CEO ER Elements	Comments from Project Proponents
Component 1. A centralized system for effective wildlife trade monitoring and assessment.	Component 1 Strengthening institutional capacity and information systems for effective management of wildlife trade monitoring	The new wording of this Component makes it explicit that the capacity also needs to be strengthen, not merely emplacing an information system for effective wildlife trade monitoring.
Outcome 1: Capacity of South African Scientific Authority is built for effective monitoring and assessment of wildlife	Outcome 1: Increased capacity within SAoSA for legal and sustainable wildlife trade	Same meaning, just more succinct.
Output 1.1 Training of the SASA staff in effective wildlife trade monitoring and assessment.	Output 1.1 – SAoSA members are trained in effective wildlife trade monitoring and assessment	Wording changed to output statement
Output 1.2 A centralized system of wildlife monitoring established.	Output 1.2 – A centralized system for monitoring wildlife in trade is established	Wording is now more precise, the system was not for monitoring wildlife but for monitoring wildlife trade.
Component 2: Development of a ready-to-use CITES e-permitting system	Component 2: Development of a ready-to-use permitting system for CITES-listed species	Wording change as the system is not a CITES system but a permitting system for CITES-listed species
Outcome 2: Web-based CITES electronic permitting application used by CITES Authorities as a national permitting system	Outcome 2: National web-based electronic permitting system for CITES-listed species used by South African CITES Authorities	Wording slightly changed to avoid repetition.
Output 2.1 Ready-to-use CITES e-permitting system in place, is adopted and used as a national permitting system	Output 2.1 – Electronic permitting system for CITES-listed species is in place, adopted and used as a national CITES permitting system	As above, the permitting system is not a CITES system, but a system for CITES-listed species.

⁶ For questions A.1 –A.7 in Part II, if there are no changes since PIF , no need to respond, please enter “NA” after the respective question.

Child Project Elements & Text	CEO ER Elements	Comments from Project Proponents
	Output 2.2 Internal software developers provide skilled technical support to national e-permitting system for CITES-listed species	Output added as it is necessary to build the capacity of the host institution in providing technical support to the national CITES e-permitting system.
	Output 2.3. The national e-permitting system for CITES-listed species is linked with relevant national and international permitting systems	In order for the system to be effective and optimize its operation, there is a need to establish national and regional linkages with key partners to facilitate the customized exchange of pertinent data. This output is added to promote such.
Output 2.2 An Electronic Permit Information eXchange (EPIX Conduit) is established		The project anticipated the development of an online Electronic Permit Information Exchange (EPIX) Conduit that would allow for sharing of permit information in real-time, semi-automatically. The EPIX Conduit has been partially developed by UNEP-WCMC during the PPG phase and other similar mechanisms are also being tested by Parties (eg France and Switzerland) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The development of standards and best practice for EPIX is still in an early phase, but it is a work-in-progress, but given its experimental nature, it was considered beyond the scope of this GEF6 project to pursue its development as a project activity. Focus, rather, is on developing and implementing a national e-permitting system for CITES-listed species, improving Customs control (through parallel development of mobile application for use by Customs), and establishing regional linkages with key partners to facilitate the customized exchange of pertinent data.
Component 3: Community empowerment, education and awareness	Component 3: Strengthening community capacity to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade	The component description has been changed to fully articulate the changes in outcomes and outputs described below.
Outcome 3: Strengthened community policing and ensured communication, advocacy and social development.	Outcome 3: Functional community governance mechanisms for sustainable livelihoods and reduced rate of illegal wildlife trade	Wording of Outcome changed to more precisely describe the incremental change GEF will make to the project
Output 3.1 An innovative approach to community policing to benefit rural communities and wildlife in neighbouring protected areas is created, tested and implemented.	Output 3.2. Environmental Monitors Programme strengthened	The output was broadened to include the wider environmental monitors programme that South Africa has launched
	Output 3.1 Key guiding principles and project activities co-developed with target communities	The output was developed in order to ensure that communities are fully involved in the development of specific development programmes and in how to confront the poaching problem.
Output 3.2	Output 3.3. Co-ordination and	Wording slightly adjusted to incorporate the

Child Project Elements & Text	CEO ER Elements	Comments from Project Proponents
Communications, marketing and advocacy enhanced.	communications strategy developed to share lessons in landscape and beyond	importance of coordination among development, government and community partners.
Output 3.3 Community awareness and social development promoted		The output is now part of output 3.1 and 3.3

A1.1) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed;

The international illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products has reached crisis proportions and is now ranked the fourth largest global illegal activity. It is a threat to the existence of iconic species, undermines the rule of law, threatens local community development and livelihoods and local and national revenue streams, and compromises local and global security. Species with a high market value, such as rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum*, *Diceros bicornis*, *Rhinoceros unicornis*, *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*, *Rhinoceros sondaicus*), tiger (*Panthera tigris*), elephant (*Loxodonta africana*, *Elephas maximus*) and pangolin (*Manis javanica*, *Manis pentadactyla*), amongst others, are under increasing threat of extinction caused by the recent escalation in poaching. Experts predict that a tipping point is imminent for African rhinoceros populations, with deaths from poaching exceeding births, leading to a rapid decline in numbers.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and INTERPOL, combined estimates place the monetary value of environmental crime at between US\$70 and US\$213 billion each year. Although the value of illegal trade remains uncertain, it has variously been estimated at between USD 5 – 20 billion per annum. These estimates suggest that wildlife crime is the fourth most lucrative type of transnational crime after illegal narcotics, human trafficking and armaments. While threatening the future existence of wildlife species, this illicit trade devastates vulnerable communities, drives corruption and undermines efforts to reduce poverty. International criminal syndicates target poor communities living within and around conservation areas, offering them large sums of money to kill endangered species.

South Africa is bearing the brunt of wildlife crime. The number of rhino killed has escalated from an average of 13 in 2007 to 668 in 2012, 1004 in 2013 and 1215 in 2014. Illegal wildlife trade has also decimated other high value species such as cycads (>90% decline over 20 years) and abalone, and there is increasing illegal trade in a range of other species. Illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife parts is an escalating driver of biodiversity loss. Unprecedented biological or commercial extinction of many life forms is now a critical reality throughout the world, jeopardizing the very foundations of biodiversity, including the future well-being of humans and requiring unprecedented political will, social sacrifice and law enforcement action to stem further losses. Progressively, through the advent of the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1975, together with a host of national legislative and regulatory instruments and mechanisms, the global community has moved to address the threat to thousands of species of wildlife posed by unfettered trade.

The problem is particularly acute in Africa, where charismatic species – the African elephant, white and black rhinos, as well as dozens of other species such as pangolins, succulents and cycads – are being targeted to the brink of extinction. Last year over 25,000 elephants were slaughtered for their ivory, which can fetch up to \$40,000 per tusk. The rhino poaching crisis is similarly escalating: in 2008, 13 rhinos were poached in South Africa in the entire year. In 2014, three were poached daily.

As poaching has become industrial in scale, with criminal organizations coalescing around the fact that wildlife is unguarded, poorly valued and its ownership remains unclear, responses to poaching remain fragmented with a focus on piloting new approaches. Poaching is facilitated by trafficking routes that are not guarded and over which regulatory authorities and private sector transportation entities have no incentives, will or tools to monitor for wildlife contraband. In addition, involvement of sophisticated criminal syndicates means that illicit wildlife trade cannot be dealt with on a species by species basis. Trade in items such as ivory or rhino horn may benefit from existing illicit conduits associated with illegal timber. Alternatively, a focus on one species or one area may result in a shift to other species (e.g. for abalone and crayfish) or new areas.

The major threats currently facing the large game species include poaching for the illegal wildlife trade, habitat fragmentation, habitat degradation, human-wildlife conflict, and unsustainable use of resources, unregulated development, and the impacts of climate change. This project will address illegal wildlife trade as the key and most immediate threat as elaborated below.

South Africa, which contains 82% of Africa's rhinoceros and has a strong conservation track record, has emerged as the centre of rhinoceros killing, in absolute terms. Between 1990 and 2005, rhinoceros poaching losses in South Africa averaged 14 animals each year but poaching dramatically increased in 2008 and has been exponentially increasing ever since, reaching a total of 1,215 in 2014. The South African poaching trend has to some extent been replicated in Kenya, which suffered a spike in poaching in 2013 and where poaching in relative terms is now slightly higher than South Africa. Poaching in Zimbabwe peaked in 2008 but, in contrast to Kenya and South Africa, has been declining. It remains low in Namibia but there is a risk it could increase there, with some reports indicating that this is already occurring.

As poaching escalates at a continental level, a tipping point is imminent, which will result in the African rhinoceros population as a whole starting to decline. Worst-case scenario predictions suggest that the tipping point, where numbers killed exceed the replacement rate from new births, could have been reached in 2014.

Aside from posing a severe threat to global biodiversity, the illegal wildlife trade disrupts local, national and international security. Owing to the high economic value of the trade, it is strongly linked to organized crime, violence, corruption and fraud; furthermore, it has been found to fund terrorist groups.

Finally, the poaching of charismatic species such as elephant and rhinoceros prevents sustainable rural development since it reduces the tourism potential of natural habitats. To date, interventions aimed at ending the poaching crisis have focused on protecting animals from extinction, protecting biodiversity, and sustaining rural economies and livelihoods. Though these efforts have proven effective in terms of increasing arrests and creating jobs in the tourism sector, they have not reduced the rising body count. International trade policy and enforcement experts from around the world agree that more resources are required to fully understand the dynamics of international trafficking syndicates and to deal with them effectively.

Refer to section 2.3 of the project document for a detailed description of Threats, root causes and barrier analysis

A1.2) The baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects,

Without the GEF6 activities, the current wildlife trade action carried out by various institutions in the country are expected to persist. Focus would remain on anti-poaching interventions, particularly related to rhino and elephant, applying a manual CITES permitting systems, limited monitoring and reporting on priority and CITES-listed species, and minimal engagement with various communities surrounding the western boundary of KNP with regard to social development and co-management of natural resources.

The DEA is currently implementing 30 support projects around the country in the various protected areas with a total budget of R1,334,098,200. An additional 14 projects across all provinces are in the pipeline with an anticipated budget of R352,685,216. Through the People and Parks Window of the Environment Programme, 1,585,408 job opportunities have been created. SANParks has called for public expressions of interest that will create opportunities for emerging game farmers around national parks to provide mechanisms for the transparent and equitable supply of founder herds of game to applicants and raise awareness for conservation, protected area management and sustainable utilisation principles in the wildlife industry.

The Kruger National Park (KNP) has been the hardest hit by poaching of rhinos, since it has the highest concentration of white rhino. In 2011, South Africa declared the illegal killing and trade of rhinos and rhino horn a priority crime and launched 'Operation Rhino'. Efforts to stop poaching include: increased numbers of anti-poaching personnel in KNP, upskilling of rangers, the formation of a National Wildlife Crime Reaction Unit, the elevation of rhino-related crime to a priority crime, increased intelligence gathering, the appointment of special wildlife prosecutors, and a huge increase in security investment by private rhino owners. KNP's anti-poaching unit consists not only of SANParks game rangers, but also the South African Police Service (SAPS), South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and the South African Air Force (SAAF).

Although these collective efforts have led to increased numbers of arrests and convictions, stronger sentences and significant asset forfeitures, they have primarily dealt with one side of the strategy, i.e. increasing the risks to poachers and traffickers. Efforts have not yet reduced rewards to traffickers and have so far proved insufficient to slow the rate of rhino poaching in most areas.

Additionally, while these enforcement efforts are critical, they are expensive, and the costs are unsustainable for many private rhino owners and are becoming too high even for the State. Importantly, as investments for rhino protection increase, resources are diverted from other important conservation efforts

The GEF5 Rhino Project which is currently being implemented in South Africa focuses on rhino DNA traceability as one issue to address illegal trafficking in rhino horn.

The interventions being implemented to counter rhino poaching in KNP are also being used to respond to the emerging threat on African elephants.

Other wildlife initiatives undertaken by South Africa have included: inclusion of environmental inspectors within national operational monitoring teams (to observe transgressions of wildlife legislation), capacity building of security forces regarding environmental legislation, creation of a specialised National Wildlife Information Management Unit (NWIMU) responsible for endangered wildlife security, nationally and internationally, awareness-raising and partnership development with communities living around national parks, and enhancing consultation with the private sector in an attempt to standardise practices and procedures, including enhanced security measures.

For details on baseline information with specific reference to project activities, refer to section 2.6 of the project document.

A1.3) The proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area⁷ strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project,

Project Objective: The objective of the Project is to fight against illegal wildlife trade through institutional strengthening, improved information management and monitoring, thereby influencing the supply system at local (protected areas), national (South Africa) and regional levels and improving monitoring and collaboration at an international level.

The project will be implemented through 3 components:

Component 1: Strengthening institutional capacity and information systems for effective management of wildlife trade monitoring

Specifically, the aim of component 1 is to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade through institutional strengthening of the SAoSA and improved information management and monitoring of priority species with NDFs, thereby influencing the supply system at local (protected areas), national (South Africa) and regional levels, and improving monitoring and collaboration at an international level. The key functions of the SAoSA are to monitor legal (and illegal) wildlife trade, make non-detriment findings and provide advice to the Government of South Africa regarding measures to reduce illegal or non-sustainable trade. Component 1 aims to develop a centralised system for improved wildlife trade monitoring through development of a capacity development plan and implementation of this plan through providing training modules and skills training to personnel in SAoSA at the national level, and to personnel of the scientific services at a provincial level, on effective wildlife trade monitoring and assessment. The capacity development efforts, including hiring and training young wildlife professionals across the provinces, will support the growth in capacity through the creation of a national wildlife monitoring system for priority species (big cats; elephant; rhino).

The various issues that have been described above and the numerous CITES processes, Decisions, Resolutions that have been drafted on wildlife trade and NDFs, underscore the importance of a strong SAoSA and an improved and coordinated monitoring system for wildlife trade in South Africa. This Component will provide GEF incremental support to the government of South Africa in taking the preliminary steps towards implementation of a centralised database for monitoring priority species, which will link to the national e-permitting system for CITES-listed species (Component 2). South Africa is a globally important site for the development of such a centralised system, particularly given its high-profile level of poaching and degree of illegal wildlife trade.

This Component supports the CITES CoP17 (Johannesburg, 2016) call for Parties to “engage in public awareness campaigns, including: supply and demand reduction; drawing attention to existing or new regulations concerning the sale and purchase of ivory” (Resolution Conf. 10.10 [Rev. CoP17]); and the need for well-targeted, evidence-based, species-specific, country-specific demand-reduction campaigns to more effectively bring about behaviour changes. The project will also indirectly address the call from CITES CoP17 to:

- conduct in-depth and regular research on the demand for specimens of illegally traded CITES-listed species
- create greater awareness of the broader consequences and impacts of illegal harvest and illegal trade of wildlife and plants, particularly on wild populations and the ecosystems in which they exist, as well as

⁷ For biodiversity projects, in addition to explaining the project’s consistency with the biodiversity focal area strategy, objectives and programs, please also describe which [Aichi Target\(s\)](#) the project will directly contribute to achieving..

raise awareness of broader impacts of wildlife trafficking on livelihoods and sustainable development; and

- strengthen legal and enforcement deterrents by creating greater awareness of laws prohibiting trade in illegal wildlife products and any associated penalties.

The coherent national monitoring system developed under Component 1 will integrate with the national e-permitting system for CITES-listed species to be developed under Component 2, which will provide an electronic system for CITES permitting that will ultimately ‘speak’ to an international CITES e-permitting system already created

Outcome 1: Increased capacity within SAoSA for legal and sustainable wildlife trade

The SAoSA monitors both legal and illegal trade in specimens of TOPS and CITES species, making recommendations on applications for permits to undertake restricted activities with TOPS species; making and publishing non-detriment findings and providing advice on the TOPS regulations, amongst others. The existing structure of the SAoSA provides the base for a potentially strong and effective scientific oversight of wildlife trade if a few well formulated interventions can be put in place. The intention of this outcome is to strengthen the capacity of the members to provide scientific oversight and to put in place a coordinated monitoring system that can then be jointly implemented by all the member organizations together with other partners (e.g. the NGO Panthera for leopard monitoring). The incremental funding from GEF is therefore required to provide this capacity building and development of a monitoring system, which can then be sustained through the normal functioning of the provincial scientific services structures and the SAoSA. this outcome will be achieved through two outputs:

Output 1.1 SAoSA members are trained in effective wildlife trade monitoring and assessment

Output 1.2 A centralised system for monitoring wildlife in trade is established

Component 2: Development of a ready-to-use permitting system for CITES-listed species

The main aim of Component 2 is to develop a national electronic permitting system to support South Africa’s implementation of CITES. CITES Parties manage international wildlife trade through permits and certificates, and subsequent tracking and reporting on levels of trade. This is carried out by the CITES Management Authority (the DEA in the case of South Africa). Document control and checking of shipments is handled by Customs (border agencies). Currently, the permitting and Customs clearance is based on paper permits which often cause unnecessary delays in processing reporting and monitoring of trade. Such an electronic permitting system will reduce circulation of fraudulent paper permits and improve monitoring of and reporting on international trade in not only key priority but all CITES-listed species in South Africa.

Outcome 2: Expected outcome of this component is National web-based CITES electronic permit system used by South African CITES Authorities.

The outcome for Component 2 will be the creation of a ready-to-use e-permitting system for CITES-listed species that will be based on international norms and standards (as recommended in the approved e-permitting Toolkit). It will be designed such that it can accommodate national needs and be integrated into relevant national environments that allow for all related application information when applying for permits. The e-permitting system will be available 24/7, offer enhanced security over current paper-based processes and will consist of the following:

- Core system to manage the day-to-day permitting process;
- Application Program Interface (API) functionalities for integration with external systems, including fetching taxonomic and listing data from the CITES Checklist and linkages with other relevant systems for automatic permit information sharing and reporting;

- Mobile application for use by Customs officials.

A ready-to-use e-permitting system for CITES-listed species will increase the efficiency of permit management processes, empowering South Africa to deliver increasingly accurate and timely data, and strengthening sustainable legal trade. It will ultimately improve management of CITES by ensuring that trade is legal, sustainable and verifiable.

South Africa's national e-permitting system will benefit from the scientific and technical expertise that UNEP-WCMC has gained in recent years with implementing similar projects. To facilitate e-permitting for CITES-listed species, a foundation with the core CITES datasets, ie species names, CITES listings, distribution information, etc is needed. These are already held and managed with the 'Checklist of CITES Species'⁸ and 'Species+'⁹.

In addition, South Africa will collaborate with the CITES Secretariat, who will provide guidance and oversight as the electronic permitting system is being designed, as well as provide facilitation and expert inputs to the regional and international communications and side-events planned under this Component.

Benefits arising from creating a national e-permitting system for CITES-listed species include the following:

- Streamlined reporting from Provinces to DEA
- Reduced fraudulent use of permits
- Efficient service delivery to applicants
- Auditable permits workflow
- Efficient local permit verification process, as well as for international trade
- Service delivery will improve
- Support provided to CITES Enforcement and Scientific Authorities with information for decision making
- Electronic payments for permits is both efficient and verifiable
- Human error on any permits issued is reduced
- Reporting on Parliamentary queries as well as National and International reporting are improved
- Information is centralized at DEA, allowing for improved execution of DEA's mandate
- Ability to share data with other relevant Government agencies (ie, SARS, Police etc), to ensure consolidated management and regulation of national and international trade, is strengthened
- More effective regulation of species under quota (eg, lion, elephant, big cats).

The specific outputs under Component 2 included:

This outcome will be achieved through three outputs:

Output 2.1: e-permitting system for CITES-listed species is in place, adopted and used as the national CITES permitting system

Output 2.2: Internal software developers provide skilled technical support to national e-permitting system for CITES-listed species

Output 2.3: The national e-permitting system for CITES-listed species is linked with relevant national and international permitting systems

For the detailed description of activities under this output refer to section 3.3 of the project document

Component 3: Strengthening community capacity to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade

⁸ <http://checklist.cites.org/#/en>

⁹ <https://www.speciesplus.net/>

This component aims at empowering communities to address IWT through education and awareness-raising, so that they could assist governments to improve enforcement of existing laws. It aims also to focus on documenting and show-casing community social development so as to be able to raise awareness on the need to engage communities in other activities away from poaching and IWT.

Outcome 3: Functional community governance mechanisms for sustainable livelihoods and reduced rate of illegal wildlife trade.

In the absence of viable economic opportunities to sustain their livelihoods, the communities living on the boundaries of protected areas are easily influenced to support and harbour the criminal syndicates involved in wildlife crime. Community livelihoods projects with a clear focus on long-term community beneficiation and diversification strategies will need to be prepared in consultation with the relevant community representatives, government agencies and strategic partners. Thereafter, appropriate projects will be identified and placed in a project pipeline for funding development and future implementation. Introduction of extensive community awareness about the benefits of conservation to livelihoods, and education programmes is also essential. Communication and development programmes will need to be tailored for each community, as will distinctive environmental and economic factors. It will be extremely important to ensure that the community voice is heard on this outcome and that the development of livelihood projects is not driven from a top-down approach, but responds to actual needs and priorities of the communities at the target clusters. The Outcome will be achieved through THREE outputs:

- Output 3.1 Governance Guidelines and project activities co-developed with target communities
- Output 3.2 Environmental Monitors Programme strengthened
- Output 3.3 Co-ordination and communications strategy to share lessons in landscape and beyond

For the detailed description of activities under this output refer to section 3.3 of the project document

A1.4) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing;

While there have been some projects and initiatives to protect single species (i.e. rhinos, and elephants) or particular spaces, this is the first time that a suite of investments will be coordinated to respond to a key driver of biodiversity decline, namely illegal wildlife trade. Interventions will not simply focus on a single species or site or group of stakeholders, but rather on the mechanisms and underlying enabling conditions that provide the opportunities for criminal activity. It will also focus on equipping national governments with the tools they need to effectively implement CITES and detect illegality through improved technology.

Please refer to Table and Appendix 3 of the project document for details on the incremental contribution of this project.

Table 1: Incremental Contribution as per Component of the Project

Baseline Scenario (Business as Usual)	GEF Incremental Contribution (what the GEF project will contribute)	Key Outcomes expected with the Alternative Scenario
Component 1 – A centralised system for effective wildlife trade monitoring and assessment		
SAoSA human resource base provides for a potentially strong oversight of wildlife trade but needs assistance/improvements	Capacity Building provided to SAoSA members	Improved monitoring of biological data for key species in global wildlife trade
Capacity of member institutions to participate in SAoSA not uniform	Recruitment and training of young wildlife professionals as interns to be	Increase in number of skilled membership of SAoSA ensuring

<p>across the country</p> <p>Monitoring systems are not uniform and currently difficult to coordinate</p>	<p>rotated across the Provincial Scientific Authorities, together with the training modules, field trips and workshops, will strengthen the capacity and ensure that all 'actors' are brought to the same level of understanding of expected tasks and responsibilities.</p> <p>Centralised biological data monitoring system put in place</p>	<p>synchronicity of efforts across the Provinces</p> <p>Accurate biological and population data for key species in trade is available for all SAoSA members, with the result that NDFs and decisions on wildlife trade from South Africa are reliable and provided in a timely fashion for CITES reporting purposes.</p>
<p>Component 2 – Development of a ready-to-use e-permitting system for CITES-listed species</p>		
<p>Document control and checking of shipments of CITES specimens in transit is handled by border agencies (Customs). Currently, CITES permitting and Customs clearance in the country is largely based on paper permits, which can cause unnecessary delays in processing, reporting and subsequent monitoring of the trade and are potentially more prone to forgery, loss, and traceability issues.</p> <p>Permitting systems are not set up and implemented uniformly across the Provinces making it difficult to coordinate permit data for SAoSA purposes</p>	<p>An electronic-permitting system will assist with streamlining the processing and reporting of wildlife trade in CITES-listed species, as well as improve the accessibility of key global datasets (ie, eCITES, CITES Trade Database, CITES+) and, ultimately, help to detect and prevent illegal trade at permitting, transit and destination points.</p> <p>The centralized electronic permitting system that will be created will be designed to interface with other related national systems, such as the biological monitoring system created under Component 1. This will ensure that the Provinces are able to access valuable permit data to assist with making NDFs.</p>	<p>The key outcome will be a web-based CITES electronic permitting application used by national CITES Authorities (Management Authority, Scientific Authority, Enforcement Authority) as a national permitting system, with trained and skilled software developers in the DEA for sustainability and long-term utilization of the electronic system</p> <p>The Provincial permitting authorities will have to use the centralized, national, electronic permitting system, which will include a linkage to the web-based monitoring system developed under Component 1, ensuring that the SAoSA has access to the permit data for better-informed decision-making.</p>
<p>Component 3: Strengthening community capacity to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade</p>		
<p>Most of the target communities bordering the Kruger National Park (and beyond) are struggling with ineffective governance and elite capture.</p> <p>Lack of national governance guidelines for communities involved in, or on the periphery of, the wildlife economy</p>	<p>Effective governance guidelines will be co-developed with communities from the target village clusters on the western boundary of Kruger National Park</p> <p>Draft community governance guidelines will be implemented at the project target sites by mid-term - leading to draft <u>national</u> guidelines that will be agreed soon thereafter (by the end of the project period)</p>	<p>If the project can recruit high quality technical facilitators, and stakeholders participate reliably, draft national guidelines will be developed, and communities will adhere to their own, co-developed and agreed upon commitments of good governance</p> <p>Community governance compliance will be in place to ensure that communities are the primary beneficiaries of projects and programmes developed under the Project</p>

No examples of effective wildlife/natural resource policing at the target sites/clusters	Community Environmental Monitors Programme will be initiated and effective with clear monitoring indicators	Initiating community Environmental Monitors at selected project sites/clusters will provide a strong community-driven effort to protect priority species and reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade activities at the target sites.
--	---	--

A1.5) global environmental benefits

This GEF project will provide global environmental benefits in terms of the Biodiversity Focal Area BD 2-Program 3.

South Africa (SA) has globally significant populations of white and black rhino and important populations of elephant, African lion and cheetah (as source populations for other countries). It has many endemic species in trade that are globally significant, such as bontebok, black wildebeest, pangolin, 39 species of cycad and Pachypodium succulent plants. Approximately 1,300 species found in South Africa are listed on the CITES Appendices due to risks associated with international trade. Species often end up listed on the Appendices due to poor management and oversight, as well as overexploitation. Illegal trade becomes an issue when the management and regulatory systems fail to stop over-exploitation. The Scientific Authority of South Africa (SAoSA) has identified 49 species as very high priority not only because of their threat status, but also due to the high levels of recorded trade. Improved management of SA’s wildlife trade will yield global biodiversity benefits.

The WWF 2016 Living planet index noted that biodiversity had declined by up to 60% since 1970 and that overexploitation was the 3rd highest threat to terrestrial species (notably reptiles, mammals and birds) and the main threat to marine species (fish, reptiles and mammals).

The 2015 United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have an explicit focus on protecting the integrity of ecosystems. They call “to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.” SDG 14 calls for an end to illegal and unreported fishing, and destructive fishing practices, while SDG 15 focuses on protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and ‘take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both the demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.’

Locally - In South Africa, protecting rhinos helps protect other species including elephants, buffalo, and small game. Rhinos, elephants and lions are not only ecologically important, but they can provide a source of revenue for local communities given that other ‘valuable’ plants and animals exist in almost all wildlife conservation areas. The ‘Big 5’ contribute to economic growth and sustainable development as they are a major drawcard for the tourism industry, which creates job opportunities and provides tangible benefits to local communities living alongside wildlife.

The combination of three Components to this GEF project ensures that a suite of critical approaches is made and contributes to global efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade, i.e.

- i. Ensuring that the SAoSA is strengthened and new personnel are trained in effective compilation and analysis of biological and permit data for species and wildlife trade monitoring
- ii. The potential to create a functional national e-permitting system for enhanced decision-making and traceability of wildlife in trade, that can also communicate with other CITES Parties
- iii. Enhanced participation of local communities living alongside wildlife in conservation and anti-poaching activities for improved livelihoods.

The conservation benefits generated through Component 3 of this GEF project will mainly accrue to rhino populations in the Kruger National Park (1,948,500 ha), where the majority of rhino poaching is currently occurring within SA. However, spin-off benefits will also be provided to other PAs in SA where rhino populations (and poaching) occur, as well as in the surrounding SADC region given that rhinos are regularly exported or translocated for re-introductions into PAs in the SADC region (and thus depend on a healthy rhino population in SA's National Parks and Reserves). Similarly, for the African elephant and the African lion (which have been translocated from South Africa to Rwanda).

On the international arena, South Africa has been encouraging cooperation between CITES Parties to address wildlife crime and has initiated engagements with several countries on law enforcement, information exchange, technology use, capacity building, research and awareness (e.g. bilateral agreements and MoUs between South Africa and MZ, VN, BW, CN, Gambia, Chad etc.). In addition, in 2000, South Africa and its neighbouring partners established the Great Limpopo Trans-Frontier Park (GLTP) and the further development of the Great Limpopo Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA). The long-term plan of the GLTFCA is that each country would have an operation centre with communication capabilities linked to centres in other countries (land lines, mobile phone coverage, radio communication and satellite communication in accordance with the existing Protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region).¹⁰

The GEF project is one of 20 countries contributing to the larger Global Wildlife Program and, accordingly, the benefits arising from this GEF project will have larger global benefits through collaboration and coordination of efforts with the GWP. In addition, the project will contribute to the effective implementation of CITES, which is the leading international entity dealing with international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora. The Convention has formed alliances with other UN agencies to assist with implementation, such as the MoU signed with four other inter-governmental organisations that make up ICCWC, i.e. INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank (WB), and the World Customs Organisation (WCO), ensuring that a global collaboration and coordination takes place to combat illegal trafficking in wildlife.

A1.6) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

Innovativeness

While there have been some projects and initiatives to protect single species (i.e. tigers, rhinos, and elephants) or particular spaces, this is the first time that a suite of investments will be coordinated to respond to a key driver of biodiversity decline, namely illegal wildlife trade. Interventions will not simply focus on a single species or site or group of stakeholders, but rather on the mechanisms and underlying enabling conditions that provide the opportunities for criminal activity. It will also focus on equipping national governments with the tools they need to effectively implement CITES and detect illegality through improved technology

Sustainability

The project will be implemented by the Department of Environmental Affairs, the SANBI and SANParks, primary government agencies responsible for biodiversity conservation in South Africa across the target issues being addressed (biodiversity monitoring, enforcement of CITES obligations, and KNP buffer zone co-management with adjacent communities). This will ensure that the GEF6 project is well placed for continued implementation and sustainability beyond the project period (2018-2022).

¹⁰ https://www.environment.gov.za/speech/molewa_rhinopoaching_citescop16_iccwc

Component 1 will strengthen the institutional capacity at SANBI, particularly through strengthening the Scientific Authority of South Africa, the Secretariat of which is housed at and administered by SANBI, for improved monitoring of biodiversity that is traded internationally. By supporting the SAoSA's efforts for transformation amongst its members, and training and recruiting a new, young cohort of wildlife professionals, the Project will provide important support to a long-debated and much-overdue development of the SAoSA to perform its legally-mandated tasks. This forward-looking approach aims to develop the capacity of the SAoSA through utilisation of modern technology combined with 'good old-fashioned' fieldwork to monitor key species in trade.

Component 1 will develop the necessary training modules and tools for sustainable skills-transfer to supporting scientific institutions and authorities upon which the SAoSA relies for informed, accurate, scientific data for decision-making. The Component will deliver on the South African Government's desire for transformation of the conservation and environmental management sectors, giving opportunities to talented young professionals from diverse backgrounds to further their education and aspirations to become scientists and decision-makers of the future. Successful implementation of Component 1 will provide South Africa's Scientific Authority with a broader understanding of wildlife trade from South Africa and the long-term security for wildlife trade monitoring across the country.

Institutional sustainability will be improved at the SAoSA through the capacity building activities designed under this GEF6 project, leading to improved ability for law enforcement and wildlife management at the member institutions and agencies working to ensure that wildlife trade is legal and sustainable. The technical skills gained using the new data management systems, and through use of SMART tools by the community Environmental Monitors, will contribute to strengthening South Africa's efforts to address illegal wildlife trade. In addition, strengthening the communications between SAoSA and its partners (eg SADC country CITES Authorities, WCMC, CITES Secretariat, IUCN SSC specialist groups) through trade studies, capacity building and species assessment will help to strengthen these partnerships and lead to an aggregate impact on addressing illegal wildlife trade.

Developing an electronic permitting system for CITES-listed species under Component 2 will provide South Africa with a modern information-technology-based control system for international trade in CITES-listed species. Moving away from paper permits will reduce the delays in processing, reporting and monitoring of trade. It will also reduce circulation of fraudulent paper permits that have led to illegal wildlife trade across international borders. Through the development of an e-permitting system, the project will ultimately assist South Africa to improve its obligations to CITES by ensuring that wildlife trade is not only legal, but verifiable and sustainable. Training of in-house software developers to maintain the e-permitting system will ensure sustainability beyond the GEF6 project period.

For long-term sustainability and impact, Component 3 aims to strengthen the capacity of local communities bordering the KNP to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade. Activities have been designed to align improved livelihood options with the SANParks's conservation and park management goals. By co-developing and implementing strong community governance guidelines, the Project aims to ensure sustainability beyond the project period. Institutionalising integrated land use planning at the target clusters in the Greater Kruger Buffer Zone, together with the creation of formalised long-term knowledge and information hubs at the SAWC and University of Venda, will ensure that efforts made under the GEF6 project will endure beyond the project period.

Both Component 1 and Component 3 aim to strengthen youth participation in activities and will partner with institutions and other stakeholders to develop a career-path protocol that will see young wildlife professionals, village Environmental Monitors, Community Champions absorbed into career paths at various institutions and agencies. This will ensure that the training received under the GEF6 project will be of benefit to conservation efforts in South Africa for years to come.

Aspects of the project have been designed specifically to build on existing initiatives and plans – rather than creating new, expensive systems - to develop improved collaboration and information exchange (Component 3). In addition, through creating a streamlined electronic permitting system for CITES-listed species (Component 2), the project will help the South African government to promote legal trade in wildlife through development of a regulatory environment that provides a clear advantage for legal, sustainable and verifiable trade. The e-permitting system, which will be an expensive new system, coupled with the biodiversity monitoring system (Component 1), will create a detailed system to control trade and eliminate the risk of loss of wildlife through illegal activities. Such a system will not require additional donor input at the end of the GEF6 project period as the costs of setting up the system will be covered during the project period.

The underlying premise of the GEF6 project is that interest exists at the highest levels of Government in South Africa to address poaching and illegal wildlife trade. The GEF6 project provides cost-effective and sustainable solutions to reduce the rate of poaching and improve South Africa's ability to monitor wildlife trade, and will generate additional co-financing from stakeholder partners committed to achieving the same project objective. Financial sustainability is guaranteed through the collaborative efforts with government agencies and the other stakeholder partners, such that the project Outcomes are absorbed into the day-to-day activities and operational budgets of the DEA, Provincial Authorities, SANBI, SAoSA, SANParks. At the end of the project period (2022), these agencies and authorities will be strengthened and better equipped to fulfil their mandated roles.

Through the GEF6 project's inputs to development (and strengthening) of stakeholder participation at the target sites, and working at the landscape level with partners for wildlife conservation and biodiversity protection (through the community Environmental Monitors Programme), a degree of social sustainability is also assured. Empowering local communities to participate in the KNP's Buffer Zone management, as well as to participate in wildlife trade monitoring activities (acting as informants, for example), together with awareness-raising to address social priority needs will increase the level of community engagement in biodiversity conservation. Regular communications with communities, holding joint field operations (also under Component 1) and targeted awareness-raising endeavours, will ensure that local participation in KNP governance is increased and will ultimately lead to sustainability of this project's outcomes.

Finally, the project will have environmental sustainability impacts as it involves a coordinated approach to address the baseline for illegal wildlife trade, leading to a scenario where the risks of engaging in illegal trade outweigh the rewards, particularly with regard to the priority species (rhino, elephants, big cats). Working with government, NGOs, academic institutions and civil society groups, the GEF6 project will have incremental impacts through efforts to improve enforcement of legislation (eg NEM:BA) and the institutional capacity to act along the value chain (from source to shelf). This project is a Child Project under the Global Wildlife Program, which includes projects in countries involved at all stages of the wildlife trade chain, ie from source to transit to destination countries, and thus will contribute to the GWP's better understanding of wildlife trade and poaching

Potential for scaling up

The project activities have been designed to support replicability of various elements, including:

Component 1: Regional meetings and international exposure through CITES processes will inform national and SADC partners of the benefits of the centralised monitoring system for improved implementation of CITES obligations (particularly with reference to Article IV of the Convention and the making of NDFs).

In addition, through partnerships with training institutions such as the OTS, SAWC, Zoological Gardens and research institutions (as members of SAoSA), the knowledge and expertise developed through modules and curricula will further understanding of wildlife management and trade issues beyond the immediate SAoSA membership.

The young wildlife professionals will take the skills learned as they enter the formal workplace and continue their careers in biodiversity conservation, resulting in a broader-based understanding of requirements for legal, sustainable and verifiable international wildlife trade.

Component 2: South Africa's national e-permitting system for CITES-listed species will be shared with the broader CITES Parties 'community' from inception to completion. This will engender interest and potential replication beyond the national focus as other Parties may investigate establishing their own electronic permitting system. In addition, through interactions with the CITES Working Group on Electronic Systems and Information Technologies, the project will share the technologies used by South Africa for replicability.

The planned regional dialogue under this Component will aim to identify common concerns, challenges and opportunities, as well as seek consensus on developing comparable and compatible systems in the future.

Component 3: Developing the community-specific governance guidelines, identifying Community Champions, and providing training-of-trainers will ensure that the essential methodologies required for effective community engagement in anti-poaching and combating illegal wildlife trade can be refined and adapted to other villages and clusters beyond the target areas. The GEF6 project aims to see a roll-out of the Community Governance Guidelines nationally.

The project will, through the membership of the Task Team, provide a platform for liaison between the Environmental Monitors Programme at the target sites and the larger network of SANParks and other national 'ranger' programmes. The communications strategy will also provide valuable 'lessons learned' from the project sites to inform national, regional and international audiences.

South Africa will produce and disseminate information materials on the activities and achievements under Component 3 to the CITES community, for example to the CITES Community Working Group, as well as provide case studies on CITES & Livelihoods in terms of CITES Notification No. 2017/066

A.2. Child Project? If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

This is a Child Project under the Global Wildlife Program (GWP). This program was launched by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in June 2015 in response to the growing wildlife crisis and international call for action, Led by the World Bank, the GWP is a \$131 million grant programme designed to address wildlife crime across 19 countries in Africa and Asia. The GWP serves as a platform for international coordination, knowledge exchange, and delivering action on the ground. The GWP builds and strengthens partnerships by supporting collaboration amongst national projects, captures and disseminates lessons learned, and coordinates with implementing agencies and international donors to combat IWT globally. National project within the GWP form an integral part of a community-of-practice that promotes the sharing of best practices and technical resources.

During the PPG phase of this project, South Africa's PPG team was able to participate regularly in the virtual Knowledge Management exchange webinars that were organized by the World Bank. The South African government representatives were also able to participate at the Conference organized in India in October 2017 on 'People's Participation in Wildlife Conservation', which brought together over 100 participants from over 20 different countries. Being part of the GWP will enable South Africa to benefit from relevant documents and other materials that are produced by the participating countries and the World Bank oversight team, particularly with regard to strengthening capacity to regulate and enforce legal wildlife trade, as well as other community empowerment processes that take place in other Child projects.

The South Africa Child project will contribute to the GWP's target to 'maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society' through activities planned under

all three components. Component 3 aims to strengthen community capacity to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade, and thereby maintain healthy populations of target species in Kruger National Park (KNP). The target areas for Component 3 extend across the western boundary of KNP, which has a total area of 1,948,500 Hectares. The interventions made by the project will contribute significantly to reducing illegal wildlife trade and poaching recruitment at the target sites. Component 2 will address the need to strengthen enforcement of laws and regulations governing wildlife trade

The South Africa project will also contribute to the expected outcome of the Global IWT Program (GWP) for BD 2 – Program 3, ie ‘*reduction in rates of poaching of rhinos and elephants and other threatened species, and increase in arrests and convictions*’, where the GWP Program Objective is to ‘*Promote wildlife conservation, wildlife crime prevention and sustainable development to reduce impacts to known threatened species from poaching and illegal trade.*’

The three Components of the South Africa project are aligned with the following GWP Components and Outcomes:

Component 1: Reduce poaching and improve community benefits and co-management

Component 2: Reduce Wildlife Trafficking

Component 4: Knowledge, policy dialogue and coordination

Outcome 1: Reduction in elephants, rhinos and big cat poaching rates

Outcome 2: Increased community engagement to live with, manage and benefit from wildlife

Outcome 4: Enhanced institutional capacity to fight trans-national organized wildlife crime by supporting initiatives that target enforcement along the entire supply chain of threatened wildlife and products

Outcome 6: Establishment of a knowledge exchange platform to support project stakeholders

The following table shows how the project will align with the GWP’s Indicators and Targets for the above-listed Components and Outcomes.

Table 2: how the project will align with the GWP’s Indicators and Targets for the above-listed Components and Outcomes

South Africa Child Project Components	Relevant GWP Components	Relevant Outcome	GWP	Relevant GWP GEF Indicators and Targets
Component 1. Strengthening capacity and information systems for effective management of wildlife trade monitoring	Component 2: Reduce Wildlife Trafficking	Outcome 4: Enhanced institutional capacity to fight trans-national organised wildlife crime by supporting initiatives that target enforcement along the entire supply chain of threatened wildlife and products	4:	4.1: Number of laws and regulations strengthened with better awareness, capacity and resources to ensure that prosecutions for illicit wildlife poaching and trafficking are conducted effectively (increase) 4.2: Number of dedicated law enforcement coordination mechanisms (increase) 4.3: Number of multi-disciplinary and/or multi-jurisdictional intelligence-led enforcement operations (increase) 4.4: Proportion of seizures that result in arrests, prosecutions, and convictions (increase)
Component 2. Development of a ready-to-use e-permitting system for CITES-listed	Component 1: Reduce poaching and improve community	Outcome 1: Reduction in elephants, rhinos and big cat poaching rates	1:	4.1: Number of laws and regulations strengthened with better awareness, capacity and resources to ensure that prosecutions for illicit wildlife poaching and trafficking are conducted effectively (increase)

species	benefits and co-management Component 2: Reduce Wildlife Trafficking	Outcome 4: Enhanced institutional capacity to fight transnational organised wildlife crime by supporting initiatives that target enforcement along the entire supply chain of threatened wildlife and products	4.2: Number of dedicated law enforcement coordination mechanisms (increase) 4.3: Number of multi-disciplinary and/or multi-jurisdictional intelligence-led enforcement operations (increase) 4.4: Proportion of seizures that result in arrests, prosecutions, and convictions (increase)
Component 3. Strengthening community capacity to reduce illegal wildlife trade	Component 1. Reduce poaching and improve community benefits and co-management Component 2. Reduce Wildlife Trafficking Component 4. Knowledge, policy dialogue and coordination	Outcome 1: Reduction in elephants, rhinos and big cat poaching rates (baseline established per participating country) Outcome 2: Increased community engagement to live with, manage, and benefit from wildlife Outcome 6: Establishment of a knowledge exchange platform to support program stakeholders	1.1: Poaching rates of target species at program sites (Specifically, a reduction in PIKE trend for elephants to below 50% at each site; and for rhinos and big cats, a reduction in poaching rates to reverse population declines - compared to baseline levels at start of project) 1.2: Number of poaching-related incidents (i.e. sightings, arrests, etc.) per patrol day 1.3: Number of investigations at program sites that result in poaching-related arrests (increase at first, then decrease over time) 1.4: Proportion of poaching-related arrests that result in prosecution (increase) 1.5: Proportion of poaching-related prosecutions that result in application of maximum sentences (increase) 1.6: Protected areas (METT score) and community/private/state reserves management effectiveness for Program sites (increase) 2.1: Benefits received by communities from sustainable (community-based) natural resource management activities and enterprises (increase)

A.3. Stakeholders: Elaborate on how the key stakeholders engagement, particularly with regard to civil society organizations and indigenous peoples, is incorporated in the preparation and implementation of the project.

Table 3 below provides a stakeholder mapping and the different stakeholders’ roles and responsibilities in the GEF6 project. A more detailed stakeholder analysis is provided in Section 2.5 of the project document.

Table 3: Stakeholder Mapping, Roles & Responsibilities

Institution	Role and Responsibility in the Project
Government of South Africa	
Department of Environmental Affairs	Lead Government Executing agency for the GEF Project (Chair of Project Steering Committee) Key participant in, and beneficiary of, project outcomes and outputs Overall responsibility for biodiversity conservation at the national level
Provincial Authorities: Eastern Cape Province Department of Economic Development & Environmental Affairs Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency Free State Province Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs Gauteng Province Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development KwaZulu Natal Province Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Rural Development Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZNW) Limpopo Province Department of Economic Development, Environment & Tourism, LEDET Mpumalanga Province Department of economic Development, Environment & Tourism, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) North West Province Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation & Tourism, NWPB Northern Cape Province Department of Environmental Affairs and Nature Conservation Western Cape Province Department of Environmental Affairs and development Planning CapeNature	Key participants in the Project as they will be recipients of the capacity building and institutional strengthening activities under Component 1 Provincial Management Authorities responsible for the issuing of permits or certificates relating to import, export, re-export and introduction from the sea of any species listed in CITES Appendices I, II and III as specified in section 87A (2) of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004.
South African National Parks (SANParks)	Key Project implementing agency for community ranger and policing activities in and around KNP

Institution	Role and Responsibility in the Project
	Responsible for management of National Parks in South Africa and the People & Parks Programme
Department of Rural Development & Land Reform (DRDLR)	Will be a key stakeholder to provide guidance when developing community-based activities under Component 3 Responsible for issues of communal land tenure and use right. Annual Performance plan includes provision for involvement of youth in rural communities (National Rural Youth Service Corps)
South Africa National Defence Force (SANDF) South Africa Police Service (SAPS)	Provide strategic input and take part in inter-departmental initiatives as members of the National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure (NATJOINTS). Responsible to provide support to illegal wildlife trade prevention efforts, specifically on the borders of the country. Responsible for illegal wildlife trade crime prevention and oversight of CITES export permitting across national borders (Customs)
South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) Scientific Authority of South Africa (SAoSA)	Will be the main recipient of capacity building activities under the Project as the administrative arm of SAoSA The SAoSA is a key implementing partner and recipient of capacity building activities under the Project SANBI is mandated to provide scientific and policy support to DEA and monitor and report on biodiversity. SANBI has been designated as responsible for the logistical and administrative functions of the Scientific Authority. SAoSA is responsible for determining the sustainable offtake of species and issues advice to the Government of South Africa (as the CITES Management Authority) regarding the issuance of export permits of CITES-listed species
Southern Africa Wildlife College (SAWC)	Will provide capacity building support and training opportunities to SAoSA and provincial authorities Will provide research outputs into wildlife trade in the country The College provides conservation education, training and skills development in natural resource management SAWC provides all training for Environmental Monitors and SANParks Rangers
Organisation of Tropical Studies (OTS)	Will provide capacity building support and training opportunities to SAoSA and provincial authorities Will provide research outputs into wildlife trade in the country Provides hands-on field-based education and training for students interested in tropical studies, global health, and wildlife conservation.
Research Institutions	
Higher Education Institutions Nelson Mandela University North West University Stellenbosch University University of Cape Town University of KZN University of Pretoria University of Venda University of Witswatersrand	Will provide capacity building support and training opportunities to SAoSA and provincial authorities Will provide research outputs into wildlife trade in the country Provide research insight and input into wildlife trade in the country Provide wildlife education, training and skills development
CSIR	Can provide research outputs into wildlife trade in the country – particularly related to monitoring of priority species
Local & Indigenous Community Groups, including women's groups	
Community groups around Kruger	Communities living around key hot-spot areas where IWT occurs and

Institution	Role and Responsibility in the Project
National Park (surrounded by 3 million people within 181 communities/villages, 7 District Municipalities and 68 Tribal Authorities)	<p>where poaching recruitment is high or has potential to occur.</p> <p>Communities will be major beneficiaries of project interventions, particularly those under Component 3 related to strengthening community capacity to manage biodiversity (and key target species) in the areas adjoining the western boundary of KNP.</p> <p>Key providers of advice to the Project regarding community needs, wants and capabilities and will provide inputs to development of livelihood options for funding.</p>
NGOs	
Peace Parks Foundation (PPF)	<p>Provide support to communities and training and skills development, in partnership with the SAWC</p> <p>Will be implementers of key activities on developing Community Governance Guidelines under Component + important source of co-funding</p>
World Wildlife Fund South Africa (WWF-SA)	Key NGO working in South Africa on large mammal conservation, addressing illegal wildlife trade, and capacity building at community level, particularly in terms of its Khetha Project (with funding from USAID)
GLTFCA	Manage the Greater Limpopo Trans-frontier Conservation Area and buffer zones around TFCAs, including KNP
EWT	<p>Support in addressing wildlife trade in the country, with focus on priority species such as rhino.</p> <p>Capacity building and skills development in trade in wildlife</p> <p>Will play a role in Component 1 and Component 2 of the project, assisting with monitoring of rhino in South Africa.</p>
IUCN: IUCN/SSC AfRSG IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group IUCN/SSC SULi	<p>Will play a role in Component 1 and Component 2 of the project, assisting with monitoring of rhino in South Africa. AfRSG: collect and update rhino population numbers at a continental level and discuss specific rhino conservation issues.</p> <p>IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group: responsible for the global assessment of the conservation status of all 38 wild living cat species</p> <p>SULi - Engaging communities as partners in combatting illegal wildlife trade (IWT).</p>
Panthera	<p>Provides support in monitoring big cat species and community engagement in addressing illegal wildlife trade</p> <p>Will provide data and monitoring information for big cat species in South Africa under Component 1 and Component 2 of the project.</p>
TRAFFIC	<p>Provide monitoring and research support on sustainable use of priority wildlife species, as well transport routes used and trafficking of wildlife.</p> <p>Can play a role in Component 1 and Component 2 of the project, assisting with monitoring of species in South Africa.</p>
Private Sector	
Private Rhino Owners Association in South Africa (PROA) of WRSA	Can play a role in Component 1 and Component 2 of the project, assisting with monitoring of rhino in South Africa.
Wildlife Ranchers of South Africa (WRSA)	Can play a role in Component 1 and Component 2 of the project, assisting with monitoring of priority species and supporting legislative compliance of private owners.
Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa (PHASA)	<p>Supports conservation and ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources through promotion of ethical hunting</p> <p>http://www.phasa.co.za/about-phasa/mission.html</p> <p>Will be a key stakeholder in terms of strengthening knowledge and sharing species information management under Component 1 of the Project.</p>

Institution	Role and Responsibility in the Project
Game Rangers' Association of South Africa	Can play a role in Component 1 and Component 2 of the project, assisting with monitoring of priority species and supporting legislative compliance
Private Lodges (on KNP Boundary)	Will be a key stakeholder in terms of strengthening knowledge and sharing species information management under Component 1 and Component 3 of the Project
Greater Kruger Environmental Protection Foundation (GKEPF)	Will be a key stakeholder in terms of strengthening knowledge and sharing species information management under Component 1 and Component 3 of the Project
South African Hunters and Game Conservation Association (SAHGCA)	Will be a key stakeholder in terms of strengthening knowledge and sharing species information management under Component 1 of the Project
Confederation of Hunters Associations of South Africa (CHASA)	Will be a key stakeholder in terms of strengthening knowledge and sharing species information management under Component 1 of the Project
International Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements, UN, International Organisation	
UN Environment	GEF Implementing Agency in South Africa. Overall project oversight and supervision. Represents GEF on the Project Steering Committee. Provides technical support and specific support to project execution as required/appropriate.
CITES Secretariat	The main Convention dealing with regulations for trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora. South Africa has ratified and is a Party to the Convention. Involved as an Observer during Project Preparation and will provide guidance (including through the E-Permitting Working Group) for selected activities during Project implementation
UNEP-WCMC	Involved during Project Preparation and will provide technical expertise and co-finance for selected activities
ICCWC	Established in 2010, the ICCWC brings together the main international governmental organizations responsible for combating wildlife crime (CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, UNODC, WCO and World Bank) to provide a coordinated response. A key output is the Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit to guide national responses, and the more recent ICCWC Indicator Framework
World Bank Group (WBG)	The WB is the lead GEF agency for the Global Wildlife Program (GWP) under which the South Africa IWT falls Will share technical experiences from other projects under the GWP
Bilateral and other potential Donor Agencies	
USAID	Need to confirm with USAID whether there are additional funds beyond Khetha that can be allocated as co-financing to the GEF project
GIZ	GIZ funded the regional SAoSA meeting prior to the CITES CoP17 (in 2016) and are a potential co-funder for the GEF6 project.
Other Embassies and bilateral donors interested in Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade activities in ZA and beyond	Contribute expertise, lessons learned and co-finance for project activities

A.4. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Elaborate on how gender equality and women's empowerment issues are mainstreamed into the project implementation and monitoring, taking into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of women and men.

Since 1994, South Africa has made enormous efforts to realise gender mainstreaming and ensure that women are included in key decision-making processes. The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) 107 of 1998 makes it clear that the vital role of women and youth in environment management and development must be recognised and their full participation therein must be promoted. South Africa’s National Gender Policy Framework established a national goal, proposed central objectives, defined key indicators for attaining the goal and objectives, and identified expectations of key national structures that are mandated to implement the framework. While the National Gender Policy Framework was not prescriptive, it did set standards and norms for a national gender programme.

According to the National Development Plan (NDP), economic transformation refers to broadening opportunities for all South Africans, particularly the historically disadvantaged. It also refers to equity in life chances and encompasses a code of inclusiveness that is presently missing. Such opportunities and inclusiveness should also benefit women.

DEA has developed a Strategy toward Gender Mainstreaming in the Environment Sector to assist the sector in complying with the various prescripts to move the country toward gender equality. The principles embedded in DEA’s Gender Strategy will be used during implementation of this GEF6 project. The project will promote gender equality and women’s empowerment under the three Components through various actions, as shown in the Table below.

Table 4: Actions for gender empowerment

Action	Potential Indicators
<p>Component 1: Strengthening capacity and information systems for effective management of wildlife trade monitoring</p> <p>The project Executing Agency, Implementation Agencies, and project partners/contractees will adhere to employment equity targets</p> <p>The project will encourage use of Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment (BBEEE) scorecards for procurement</p> <p>Gender will be mainstreamed into the knowledge management and social learning for change strategy. This will relate to empowering women through capacity strengthening opportunities, involvement in citizen science, participation in strategic dialogues and other platforms, ensuring knowledge products are gender sensitive, mobilising women’s groups in support of the project, and/or promoting discussion of relevant gender-sensitive aspects of ecological infrastructure for water security. This could further enhance project impact and sustainability (as described in the GEF report on Mainstreaming Gender at the GEF, 2013)</p> <p>Generation of evidence of the impact of project interventions that is gender sensitive</p>	<p>Number of women (and men) recruited as young scientists/interns</p> <p>Number of women and men employed through jobs created from the project</p> <p>Number of men and women trained through under the project</p>
<p>Component 2: Development of a ready-to-use CITES e-permitting system for CITES-listed species</p> <p>As DEA will be implementing this Component, it will automatically adhere to its Strategy towards Mainstreaming Gender into the Environment Sector</p> <p>Advertisements for Consultants to provide specialist technical inputs will include gender considerations</p>	<p>Number of women and men applying for contracts to develop the e-permitting system</p> <p>Number of women and men receiving training on the use of the e-permitting system</p>
<p>Component 3: Strengthening community capacity to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade</p> <p>The project Executing and Implementing agencies will adhere to employment equity targets</p> <p>Supporting involvement of women in community governance</p>	<p>Number of men and women trained through opportunities aligned with the project</p> <p>Number of men and women involved in the knowledge management and social</p>

systems and relevant capacity building opportunities	learning for change strategy and its implementation Number of men and women and/or female-headed households shown to benefit from project interventions
--	--

Gender-sensitive indicators will be collated during the project implementation, that will take into account the following principles: (i) addressing gender gaps and inequalities that the sector is seeking to change; (ii) collection of data, disaggregated by sex, as well as by age and socio-economic and ethnic groups; (iii) consider a long-term perspective, given that social change takes time; and (iv) use participatory approaches where women and men actively take part in the planning of performance measurement frameworks, in their implementation, and in the discussion of their findings

A.5 Risk. Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

The Project has the full support of the Department of Environmental Affairs at the Ministry of Environment, together with implementing partners SANBI and SANParks, local partner agencies WWF-SA, PPF, and international partners UNEP-WCMC and CITES. Table below highlights the specific risks that are related to the key assumptions that could impact on the successful implementation of project activities, together with the risk mitigation measures to be applied.

Table 5: Risks and Mitigation Measures

Risk	Risk Level	Mitigation Measure
Inability of government to meet its financial and co-financial commitments	Medium/High	The GoSA has provided a letter of co-finance and is committed to leading the project and ensuring its successful implementation.
Weak institutional capacity	Medium/High	The project’s overall goal is to strengthen institutions, which assumes that the target institution/s have limited capacity to carry out their prescribed function/s. Component 1 focuses on directly addressing this risk. However, to address this challenge, the project has been designed to ensure close collaboration and capacity building at all levels of intervention.
Lack of capacity to mentor young professionals and interns	Medium/High	The goal of Component 1 is to strengthen the SAoSA and provincial scientific services through establishing a cohort of young professionals or interns. The project assumes that the target institutions have the resources and capacity to provide mentorship to these new recruits. This component focusses on directly addressing the risk by also focusing activities on developing the capacity of the SAoSA secretariat and provincial scientific authorities.
Lack of participation by scientific services	Low	The focus of Component 1 is to build the capacity of the SAoSA and requires an active involvement of the provincial scientific authorities. There is always the risk that the provincial authorities will not commit to this component to the extent required given their human and financial resource restrictions. However, provincial authorities have been engaged in the design of the GEF6 project and will continue to be engaged during the implementation of the project – thereby reducing the risk to a ‘low’ classification.
Inability to absorb	High	Component 1 assumes that the target institutions will absorb these young

young professionals and interns into participating organisations		recruits into the organizations. This component focusses on directly addressing the risk by also developing a sustainability plan in the capacity building strategy and focusing on building the capacity of these new recruits to meet the needs of the scientific authorities. However, during inception, the project will confirm the capacity of host institutions in to retain staff and if lacking training will be provided. As noted previously in the document, the GoSA has not invested adequate resources into the environmental scientific authorities and, when posts become vacant (through retirement or resignation), they are instantly ‘frozen’, i.e. no replacement staff are budgeted for or recruited. During the GEF6 project, parallel efforts will be made by SANBI to seek for an unfreezing of these posts.
Limited internet infrastructure in the provinces	Low/Medium	The species monitoring system requires that provincial scientific service input new data into the system. This will require access to the internet and the web, without which the database would not be updated. The project has provided for internet connection for these personnel, but has not dedicated any funding to matching inputs by external scientific agencies/NGOs/private sector (although it is assumed that these entities will have adequate internet facilities given the field in which they are working).
Lack of participation of the private sector in the monitoring system	Medium	The centralized wildlife monitoring system requires buy-in and participation of current monitoring programmes, the private sector (e.g. private rhino owners) and NGOs. Component 1 addressed this risk through engaging with stakeholders during the design of the GEF6 project, and will engage with these institutions throughout the project period.
Security concerns related to data and information sharing for key species of concern	High	Given the high black-market value of wildlife products - such as rhino horn - and the security surrounding populations owned privately as well as the locations of populations in the wild, it will be necessary to include various levels of security and access to the database to address security concerns related to monitoring and reporting priority species in the country. Some data may be considered sensitive and there is a risk that not all relevant data will be secured; including encryption and security levels in the monitoring systems will assist in mitigating this risk.
Reduced commitment to CBNRM aspect of project objective and outcomes due to change in Government	Low/Medium	Changes in government commitment cannot be excluded but are difficult to assess. The project has consulted with and will include a variety of stakeholders during its implementation, which will increase the chances for continuity and sustainability. In addition, working with established institutional structures such as the DEA, SANParks and SANBI, as well as conservation organisations working in the country (Peace Parks Foundation, WWF-SA), will have a mitigating effect in case of higher level government changes.
Incorrect profiling and selection of Community Environmental Monitors	Medium	It is always likely that Environmental Monitors will be influenced by the promise of immediate wealth and become involved in illicit activities. Through the activities planned under Component 3, specifically the community Governance Guidelines and employment through the Environmental Monitors Programme (and efforts to ensure sustainability through a recruitment strategy into formal ranger programmes) this risk will be mitigated by ensuring that the benefits will outweigh the costs of engaging in illicit activities.

A.6. Institutional Arrangements and Coordination

The project document details the institutional framework and implementation arrangements for this project (Section 4 of ProDoc). The project will be executed by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), with UN Environment as the implementing agency.

Overall project supervision will be the responsibility of UN Environment, with UN Environment's Task Manager providing support and working closely with the DEA. The Task Manager is located in Nairobi, Kenya, but will be in constant contact with the project team throughout the project period to ensure consistency with GEF and UN Environment policies and procedures, as well as provide regular operational oversight for the project. Operational oversight will include: ensuring that the project practices due diligence with regard to Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP). UN Environment will also have representation on the Project Management Committee (PMC) with regard to general project implementation.

UN Environment will provide overall coordination and ensure that the project remains in line with its Medium-Term Strategy and its Programme of Work, as approved by the UN Environment's Governing Council. Project supervision missions by the Task Manager will be described in the project supervision plan, which will be developed. UN Environment will also report to the GEF Secretariat on progress against milestones outlined in the CEO ER, as well as inform the GEF Secretariat of any substantive changes in co-financing that could impact on the project objectives, scope, conformity with GEF criteria, outcome of the project, or likelihood of project success. UN Environment will also be responsible for the following:

- Submission of overall annual Project Implementation Review (PIR) to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, which will include an annual rating of the project in terms of progress meeting project objectives, project implementation progress, risk, quality of project monitoring and evaluation
- Review and clearance of reports and other documents prepared by DEA, as Executing Agency, before publication
- Review and agree any communications on the project prior to publication/dissemination
- Arrange for independent mid-term evaluation by the Evaluation Office (EO) and ensure that EOU arranges a terminal evaluation and submits its report to the GEF Evaluation Office
- Management and disbursement of GEF funds in accordance with rules and procedures of UN Environment.

DEA will be responsible for the coordination, management and day-to-day administration of the project in accordance with the activities, outputs and outcomes described in this document. DEA is the CITES Management Authority in South Africa and works closely with national, regional and international partners to address illegal wildlife trade in priority species. DEA's role in the project will ensure full coordination and added value through the GoSA's complementary activities with SADC, CITES Secretariat and other international initiatives.

DEA will provide the key political interface with other relevant government Ministries and institutions and will provide assurance to UN Environment for the timely execution of financial and technical inputs to the project. DEA's responsibilities will include:

- Coordination of annual work plans (drafting, sharing, finalising) with project partners
- Oversight of all project activities
- Coordination of monitoring and evaluation missions and reports
- Coordination of stakeholder consultations at national, regional and international levels

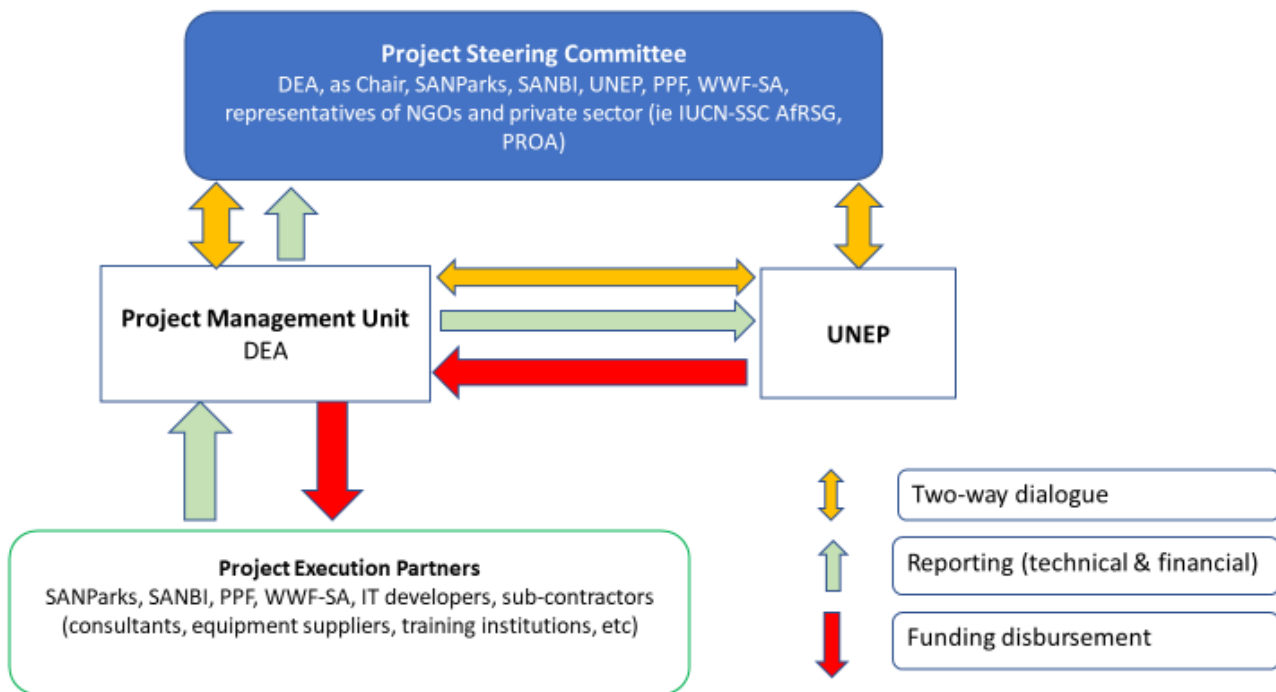
The Project will be implemented over a 5 year period.

The **Project Manager (PM)** will be responsible for overall guidance and oversight of the Project implementation, development of annual action plans, coordination of monitoring and evaluation reports for UN Environment and GEF, managing the project execution arrangements, acting as contact point for the project, and management of sub-contracts.

The **Project Coordinator (PC)** will assist the PM and be responsible for the day-to-day operations. The Administrative Assistant will provide project accounting services, as well as project procurement services. Independent auditors will be contracted to audit the project accounts. National and International Consultants will be hired as required to support project activities (as outlined in Appendix 14).

For this project, additional Project Managers will also be nominated at SANBI and SANParks to provide guidance and oversight to project activities under Component 1 and Component 3, respectively. The Project Manager-SANBI will act as the interface between the SAoSA and SANBI and will provide progress and implementation reports to the lead Project Manager (PM). The Project Manager-SANParks will be nominated at SANParks to provide leadership and oversight to project activities in the Greater Kruger Buffer Zone and at the target clusters specifically. The Project Manager-SANParks will also be responsible for coordination of activities carried out in terms of SANParks co-financing contribution to the project.

There will be three Government agencies implementing the project, i.e. DEA (Components 1, 2 and 3), SANBI (Component 1), and SANParks (Component 3 primarily), and two NGOs, WWF-SA and PPF (both Component 3). These agencies will be responsible and accountable for managing their respective inputs to the project and managing the funding provided through GEF resources. The project’s organisational structure is as follows:



Additional Information not well elaborated at PIF Stage:

A.7 Benefits: Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels

The Project will deliver socio-economic benefits to South Africa at the local level through activities at the target sites to empower communities bordering the western boundary of KNP to identify livelihood projects that they see as a priority for their area. By reducing poaching incursions and the rate of IWT, security issues

within rural communities will be improved (fewer armed or otherwise dangerous traffickers in the area). Given the international nature of trade in CITES-listed species, this project will have knock-on socio-economic benefits beyond South Africa's borders.

Increased revenues from legal trade is assured as trafficked species and specimens no longer enter the value chain, thereby augmenting incomes (and national taxes) for legally-operating businesses. At the target sites, socio-economic benefits will accrue to the communities through recruitment into the Environmental Monitors Programme and the training that will be provided. This will lead to improved employment opportunities, with increased revenues for individuals, as well as the trickle-down effect to local vendors and service providers

A.8 Knowledge Management

The lessons learned from the project via a participatory M&E system will be made available nationally, regionally and internationally for replication through the dissemination of project results, recommendations and experiences. To achieve this, the project will prepare information on progress and achievements through the bulletins, publications, and the project website, as well as through the GWP's Knowledge Management and sharing processes, the UN Environment, and the GEF Programme Frameworks. In addition, the project will make information available through presentations and participation at regional (SADC) and international (CITES) events.

Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention area through existing information sharing networks and forums. The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to the project. The project will identify, analyse and share lessons learned that might be beneficial to the design and implementation of similar projects and disseminate these lessons widely. There will be continuous information exchange between this project and other

Section 3.9 of the project document gives a detailed description of training, knowledge sharing, public awareness and communications.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

B.1 Consistency with National Priorities

South Africa has a number of overarching imperatives, outlined in the NDP, which link to this GEF6 project. The South African government identified poaching and the illegal wildlife trade as a significant threat in their National Biodiversity Strategies (NBSAPs). It recognized sustainable wildlife use in its Constitution (Section 24) as one way to achieve environmental protection and is supported by environmental legislation, particularly the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act of 2004. This legislation facilitates a considerable trade in wildlife and wildlife products that is an important and growing economic sector. The country has a strong focus on the youth and capacitating the youth of the country to be able to contribute to the economic growth of the country.

The National Biodiversity Economy Strategy (NBES) for South Africa focuses on the legal trade of species in the country through a strong and transparent permitting system. The NBES has the goal of the South African biodiversity economy achieving an average annual GDP growth rate of 10% per annum by 2030. The strategy outlines the framework and actions requirement to achieve this goal, within the bioprospecting and wildlife sector of the country. A key imperative of this strategy is the economic transformation of the sub-sectors of the biodiversity economy, through inclusive economic opportunities, reflected by a sector which is equitable -

equitable access to resources, equitable and fair processes and procedures and equitable in distribution of resources (i.e. business, human, financial).

South Africa has also developed several BMP-S for priority species, with the purpose (in terms of NEM:BA) to ensure the long-term survival in the wild of the species and provide for monitoring and reporting on the progress with implementation of the plan. Examples of BMP-S include:

The draft White Rhino BMP-S where one of the key objectives is to ensure adequate monitoring of all rhinos, their horns and their movement in South Africa and the development of an integrated and co-ordinated national information management system for all data related to white rhino management. The White Rhino BMP-S indicates a need to monitor annually White Rhino population estimates, demographics, performance, mortality patterns, animal behaviour and translocations. The species monitoring system to be established under Component 1 links directly with these national objectives, supporting both the BMP-S objective regarding reporting on rhino status and the development of the national information management system. Components 1 and 2 of the GEF6 project will contribute to the following activities outlined in the White Rhino BMP-S:

- develop and implement a secure national centralized web-based electronic permitting system to issue permits for the regulation of all white rhino restricted activities
- develop a secure live white rhino web-based database and information management system linked to a national electronic permitting system
- issue permits dependent upon provision of white rhino survey data
- monitor white rhino population data by reserve/farm every year
- establish an ongoing annual national status report of all white rhino in South Africa
- establish a secure rhino horn database in all provinces and national conservation authorities (eg SANParks)

To achieve all the above objectives of the draft White Rhino BMP-S a competent, capacitated SAoSA and provincial scientific services of the Scientific Authority are required, as these institutions are mandated to monitor and report on the management, conservation, sustainability and trade in this species.

One of the key objectives of the Black Rhino BMP-S is monitoring of the population of black rhino in the country. The objective is to collect accurate and precise information on black rhino population performance in the country to inform evidence-based decision making. The BMP-S requires that the population sizes and demography of the black rhino are monitored and reported on an annual basis, including: the number of animals, demographic information in line with RMG status reporting format such as sex ratios (using standard AfRSG/RMG age classes), age of first calf, ICI etc, mortality rates (natural and illegal, capture, hunting, exotic disease etc), spatial distribution, and removals and introductions. The monitoring system to be developed under Component 1 of the GEF6 project links directly to these national objectives, the system envisaged will enable the SAoSA to monitor and report on a number of these BMP-S requirements. Similarly, a strengthened SAoSA and provincial scientific services of the Scientific Authority are required to fulfil this monitoring and reporting responsibility.

The Lion BMP-S's objective is to establish a lion forum to monitor the implementation of the lion BMP and manage a meta-population plan. As with the rhino BMPs, a strengthened SAoSA (and its members) will provide improved support and input into the monitoring and management of the species under the BMP. The monitoring system will also contribute to this process.

C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN:

The project will follow UNEP standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures. Reporting requirements and templates are an integral part of the UNEP legal instrument, the Project

Cooperation Agreement (PCA) to be signed between the executing agency and UNEP in which the substantive and financial project reporting requirements will be detailed.

The project M&E plan is consistent with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy. The Project Results Framework presented in Appendix 4 includes SMART indicators for each expected outcome as well as mid-term and end-of-project targets. These indicators along with the key deliverables and benchmarks included will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether project results are being achieved. The means of verification and the costs associated with obtaining the information to track the indicators are summarized in Appendix 7. Other M&E related costs are also presented in the Costed M&E Plan and are fully integrated in the overall project budget.

The M&E plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary during the project inception workshop to ensure project stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis project monitoring and evaluation. Day-to-day project monitoring is the responsibility of the project management team but other project partners will have responsibilities to collect specific information to track the indicators. It is the responsibility of the Project Manager to inform UNEP of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely fashion.

The project Steering Committee (PSC) will receive periodic reports on progress and will make recommendations to UNEP concerning the need to revise any aspects of the Results Framework or the M&E plan. Project oversight to ensure that the project meets UNEP and GEF policies and procedures is the responsibility to the Task Manager in UNEP-GEF. The Task Manager will also review the quality of draft project outputs, provide feedback to the project partners, and establish peer review procedures to ensure adequate quality of scientific and technical outputs and publications.

Baseline data gaps will be addressed during the first year of project implementation.

Project supervision will take an adaptive management approach. The Task Manager will develop a project supervision plan at the inception of the project, which will be communicated to the project partners during the inception workshop. The emphasis of the Task Manager supervision will be on outcome monitoring but without neglecting project financial management and implementation monitoring. Progress vis-à-vis delivering the agreed project global environmental benefits will be assessed with the Steering Committee at agreed intervals. Project risks and assumptions will be regularly monitored both by project partners and UNEP. Risk assessment and rating is an integral part of the Project Implementation Review (PIR). The quality of project monitoring and evaluation will also be reviewed and rated as part of the PIR. Key financial parameters will be monitored quarterly to ensure cost-effective use of financial resources.

In-line with UN Environment Evaluation Policy and the GEF's Monitoring and Evaluation Policy the project will be subject to a Terminal Evaluation. Additionally, a Mid-Term Review will be commissioned and launched by the Project Manager before the project reaches its mid-point. If project is rated as being at risk, a Mid-Term Evaluation will be conducted by the Evaluation Office instead of a MTR.

The Evaluation Office will be responsible for the Terminal Evaluation (TE) and will liaise with the Task Manager and Executing Agency(ies) throughout the process. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UN Environment, the GEF, executing partners and other stakeholders. The direct costs of the evaluation will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The Terminal Evaluation will be initiated no earlier than six months prior to the operational completion of project activities and, if a follow-on phase of the project is envisaged, should be completed prior to completion of the project and the submission of the follow-on proposal. Terminal Evaluations must be initiated no later than six months after operational completion.


The draft Terminal Evaluation report will be sent by the Evaluation Office to project stakeholders for comments. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the Evaluation Office in an open and transparent manner. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the Evaluation Office when the report is finalised and further reviewed by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office upon submission. The evaluation report will be publicly disclosed and may be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

The GEF tracking tools are attached as Appendix 14. These will be updated at mid-term and at the end of the project and will be made available to the GEF Secretariat along with the project PIR report. As mentioned above the mid-term and terminal evaluation will verify the information of the tracking tool

PART III: CERTIFICATION BY GEF PARTNER AGENCY(IES)

A: GEF Agency(ies) certification

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies¹¹ and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for CEO endorsement under GEF-6.

Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Kelly West, Senior Programme Manager & Global Environment Facility Coordinator Corporate Services Division UN Environment		March 1, 2018	Jane Nimpamya Task Manager, Ecosystem Division, UNEP Nairobi, Kenya	Tel: +254 207 624 629 Cell phone +254 718436427	Jane.Nimpamya@unep.org

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Please see appendix 4 of the project document.

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

N/A

¹¹ GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, and SCCF
CEO Endorsement Request for the South Africa GEF 6 project on Illegal Wildlife Trade – Nov 2017

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS¹²

A. Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: \$150,000			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GEF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
National Project Personnel and Consultants	110,200	52,000	56,244
Travels	22,800	11,400	11,546
Training/ Workshops	14,000	7,631	6,369
Office Supplies	2,000	1,000	0
Communication Costs	1,000	810	0
Reporting	0	0	3,000
National Project Personnel and Consultants	110,200	52,000	56,244
Travels	22,800	11,400	11,546
Total	150,000	72,841	77,159

ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used)

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF Trust Funds or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

N/A

¹² If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue to undertake the activities up to one year of project start. No later than one year from start of project implementation, Agencies should report this table to the GEF Secretariat on the completion of PPG activities and the amount spent for the activities. Agencies should also report closing of PPG to Trustee in its Quarterly Report.