



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)¹

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Strengthening Wildlife Forensic Capabilities to Combat Wildlife Crime for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Species (target: Rhinoceros)		
Country(ies):	South Africa	GEF Project ID: ²	4937
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	856
Other Executing Partner(s):	Department of Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Water and Environmental Affairs, South Africa	Submission Date:	2012-04-18
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration (Months)	48
Name of parent program (if applicable):	n/a	Agency Fee (\$):	269,045
<input type="checkbox"/> For SFM/REDD+			

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK³:

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
(select) BD-1	Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas	Output 2. Coverage (2,130,077 hectares) of unprotected threatened species (two species of Rhino)	GEFTF	2,568,162	11,129,212
(select) (select)			(select)		
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(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)	Others		(select)		
Sub-Total				2,568,162	11,129,212
Project Management Cost ⁴			(select)	122,293	529,962
Total Project Cost				2,690,455	11,659,174

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: to strengthen law enforcement capacity in South Africa's protected area system through forensic-based technologies focused on the Rhinoceros						
Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Cofinancing (\$)
Component 1: Enhancing Rapid-Response Capacity and Innovative Approaches and Technologies to Combat Wildlife	TA	1.1 Innovative approaches to rhinoceros conservation, management and enforcement identified, developed, encouraged	1.1.1 A common database with information on traceability, identification, provenance and other markers provided using DNA or other relevant techniques and involving	GEFTF	1,540,897	6,677,527

¹ It is very important to consult the PIF preparation guidelines when completing this template.

² Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

³ Refer to the reference attached on the [Focal Area Results Framework](#) when filling up the table in item A.

⁴ GEF will finance management cost that is solely linked to GEF financing of the project. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project grant amount.

Crime		and used within protected area networks	<p>also (SA Police, Defense Force, Customs Authority, etc.)</p> <p>1.1.2 SA and other countries in region have access to at least one wildlife forensics laboratory providing dedicated forensic support for enforcement purposes, tracing rhino horns in international trade, identification and geo-location</p> <p>1.1.3 Enhanced professional capacity in public and private run PAs to use of DNA testing to bring criminals to justice, including collection of chain of evidence, DNA analysis and custody of evidence</p> <p>1.1.4 Adequate rapid-response mechanisms for prosecuting wildlife crimes including those committed by nationals of other countries are put in place</p>			
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Component 2: Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination	TA	2.1 Mechanisms enhanced and maintained for effective national and regional coordination of rhinoceros conservation, management and law enforcement efforts	<p>2.1.1 Enforcement officials have access to more effective and timely enforcement schemes resulting in poaching levels that are reduced by 50% in the target PAs over the project period, and at the same time horns that are legally acquired -through e.g. trophy hunting- can be exported from SA legally and in a traceable manner</p> <p>2.1.2 Intelligence is more effectively and timely collected and shared through an expanded network of cooperation protocols developed in SA and the SADC region to share intelligence, scientific information and best practices</p> <p>2.1.3 The network of PAs hosting populations of Rhinos in South Africa and SADC Region, has enhanced professional capacity to participate in regional rhinoceros conservation and management strategies</p> <p>2.1.4 Capacity to timely collect, store and share DNA-based forensic evidence is enhanced within protected area networks and adequate resources allocated in protected area management plans</p> <p>2.1.5 Awareness programs targeting different stakeholders, including local communities, decision-makers, donors, consumers and media</p> <p>2.1.6 Innovative financing and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) further developed to support rhino conservation efforts (e.g. with PROA SA and LEAD SA)</p>	GEFTF	1,027,265	4,451,685
	(select)			(select)		

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	(select)			(select)			
				Sub-Total		2,568,162	11,129,212
				Project Management Cost ⁵	(select)	122,293	529,962
				Total Project Costs		2,690,455	11,659,174

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

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	CITES Secretariat	In-kind	800,000
National Government	Department of Environmental Affairs	Unknown at this stage	2,632,656
Local Government	Provincial Governments	In-kind	526,518
National Government	South African Police Service, SANDF - Defense Force, Department of Justice's National Prosecuting Agency, Customs Authority, PA Management Authorities	Unknown at this stage	6,300,000
CSO	Conservation NGOs including i.e.: IUCN-African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG), WWF SA, IFAW, Honorary Rangers from SANParks for Kruger NP, and the University of Pretoria	Unknown at this stage	600,000
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	ICCWC partners: the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO)	Unknown at this stage	300,000
Private Sector	Private Rhino Owners Association (PROA SA), LEAD SA Initiative	Unknown at this stage	400,000
GEF Agency	UNEP	In-kind	100,000
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
Total Cofinancing			11,659,174

D. GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY¹

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/Global	Grant Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) ²	Total c=a+b
UNEP	GEFTF	Biodiversity	South Africa	2,690,455	269,045	2,959,500
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0

⁵ Same as footnote #3.

(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
Total Grant Resources				2,690,455	269,045	2,959,500

¹ In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table

² Please indicate fees related to this project.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

A.1.1 the [GEF focal area/LDCF/SCCF](#) strategies /[NPIF](#) Initiative:

The project will contribute to GEF Biodiversity Focal Area Strategic Objective One: “Improve sustainability of Protected Area (PA) systems”, Outcome 1.1: “Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas”, and will specifically deliver benefits under Output 2: coverage (2,130,077 hectares) of unprotected threatened species (two species of Rhino in South Africa).

A.1.2. and A.1.3 n/a

A.2. national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, etc.:

South Africa ratified the CBD on 2 November 1995 and the CITES on 15 July 1975. The project is fully aligned with the current NBSAP for South Africa which clearly identifies the need for management plans for species of special concern to ensure their long term survival in the wild and for the development of norms and standards for Biodiversity Management Plans for Species. The project is designed to support and complement the National Strategy for the Safety and Security of Rhinoceros Populations in South Africa (2010). The strategy makes reference to all relevant international conventions that have been signed and ratified by the Government of South Africa and especially CITES. The strategy and the project are therefore also aligned with existing legislation such as the "National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act No. 10 of 2004 (NEM:BA)", the "National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act No. 57 of 2003; (NEM:PAA)", the "South African White Rhino strategy" and revised "National Black Rhino Conservation Plan" (currently near to be being finalised for submission as National Species Plan under NEM:BA and building on previous RMG plans) and other relevant national policy documents.

B. Project Overview:

B.1. Describe the baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address:

This project aims to support and complement the on-going efforts of the Government of South Africa to tackle the drastic increase in the number of incidents of Rhinoceros (Rhino) poaching in the country and the continued leakage of certain horn stocks into the international illegal trade. This has raised concern with conservation bodies, private landowners and attracted international attention including media coverage worldwide, and increased the focus on South Africa at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). South Africa has a proud track record of successful Rhino conservation, and up to 2008 Rhino poaching was contained to acceptable levels, with an average of 42 animals poached per year in the period 2000-2007. The population of rhinos in SA was healthy and increasing. However there has been a dramatic increase in rhino poaching in recent years, and a record 448 Rhinos were killed by poachers in 2011. **That’s a Rhino killed every 18 hours.**

Rhinos in other African and Asian range countries are also being targeted by poachers. The upsurge is tied to increased demand for Rhino horn in Asia, where it is being marketed by illegal traders as a “cure for cancer”, for which there is no scientific evidence. The modus operandi being utilised both locally and internationally in the illegal killing of Rhino and the smuggling of their horns in recent years clearly indicates the increasing involvement of

highly organised and well-structured crime syndicates that are operating a lucrative international enterprise. In addition to the loss of horns through increased poaching, concerns have also been raised regarding “leakage” of South African horns onto the illegal international markets from stocks in the public and private sector. These syndicates are also involved in the “legal / unethical” hunting of Rhino in the country.

When comparing the statistics on Rhino population growth with the actual number of animals lost through poaching, it is clear that current levels of poaching are not preventing South African Rhino numbers from increasing. However the concern is that should poaching continue to escalate at the current rates, unabated, one could reach the situation where numbers start declining to a point when more animals are being poached than are born into the population – as has been experienced in other Rhino range states in the recent past. A properly structured and concerted effort by government and other relevant role-player’s, is therefore urgently needed to address this problem, as it poses a significant threat not just to the Rhino population but also to the reputation, eco-tourism industry and public image of South Africa. This threat, if ignored, might also lead to international pressures to up-list South Africa’s white Rhino population from Appendix II to Appendix I at CITES which would have very negative consequences to the country.

Until recently there was also an unexpected problem with significant numbers of white Rhino being suspiciously legally sport hunted by nationals from non-traditional hunting countries in Asia. However, following a number of new legislative measures in South Africa and increased attention from police and wildlife investigators this legal hunting is no longer a major problem. Following the introduction of the new measures there has however been a marked reduction in Rhino sport hunting. This unfortunately has coincided with a rather rapid escalation in Rhino poaching activity. The question still remains however of how many illegal non-permitted hunts are still taking place within some of the private areas – hence there is a need to stay abreast of numbers and trends in private sector populations.

Within the above institutional strategic and planning framework, all the elements of the existing Rhino Conservation Strategy are currently being implemented under the coordination of the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and SA National Parks (SANParks). These represent the principal baseline investments underlying this proposed GEF project and include some immediate and longer term objectives. The activities being implemented under the immediate objectives include i.e.: the mobilization of staff and resources for the establishment of an interim National Wildlife Crime Reaction Unit (NWCURU) in collaboration with Provincial Conservation authorities including SANParks, South African Police Services (SARHINOPS), National Prosecuting Authority and Provincial conservation agencies; conducting of joint operations, law-enforcement actions also with provincial structures, private Rhino owners and CSOs; better information sharing and analysis to support risk and threat assessment and identification of criminals; improvement of monitoring of Rhinos, horn stockpiles and Rhino movements nationally especially on private sector land. The Longer Term Outcomes focus on (a) the consolidation of the NWCURU and improvement of national coordination platforms for information management, law-enforcement response, investigation and prosecution, as a collaborative effort between government (at national and provincial level), private land owners’ local communities and international stakeholders, and (b) investigating proactive security-related measures aimed at possibly facilitating a better understanding for any possible future regulated and controlled international trade in the species, and any associated by-products.

Rhino and other wildlife are killed illegally in both formally protected areas as well as on private game reserves in SA. However, the current Rhino poaching incidents are mostly

concentrated in the Kruger National Park (where the largest population of approx. 10,000 rhinos is found), which also borders Mozambique. Therefore the DEA and SANParks are currently focusing anti-poaching efforts mostly in the KNP, and reinforcing trans-boundary collaboration with Mozambique on anti-poaching. This approach is expected to generate the highest impact to stem the tide of increasing Rhino poaching levels, thus preventing a scenario of overall decline of the Rhino population in the country. In the KNP, a special investigations unit (17 staff) was recently set-up to deal with the current Rhino poaching situation, together with all the existing ranger and field ranger corps. There is also a special project which includes the South African National Defense Force that is responsible for Border Line Security and the South African Police Service. SANParks is also stepping-up anti-poaching efforts in a number of ways including e.g.: deployment of 58 new field rangers into poaching “hot spots” within the KNP; upgrading of radio communications facilities and equipment; development of new specific safety and security plans; adjustment in work schedules of field rangers to facilitate adequate deployments over weekends and public holidays; assessing feasibility of deploying tracker dogs in anti-poaching; acquisition of 19 additional motorbikes to assist in patrolling and new “night vision” equipment to for night deployments; purchase of an ultra-light Bantam aircraft which will boost the existing ultra-light aircraft fleet to two; establishment of effective joint liaison and cross-border operational mechanisms with Mozambique to support cross border anti-poaching operations and acquisition of a new SANParks intelligence / investigation management system (MEMEX) to assist with the capture, storage and analysis of environmental crime related information.

- B. 2. [incremental /Additional cost reasoning](#): describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or additional (LDCF/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF financing and the associated [global environmental benefits](#) (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project:

The GEF project will complement baseline investments by the Government of SA to step-up the Rhino conservation efforts described above, by addressing two key problems:

- (a) Suboptimal Capacity for efficient and timely DNA analysis of forensic evidence:

SA has some existing institutional capacity (including forensic labs and DNA equipment) to carry-out the baseline projects. However existing capacity is not sufficient to cope with the recent dramatic increase in the number of Rhino poaching incidents. Currently all DNA testing is conducted in one central Forensic Lab of the South African Police. All types of forensic analyses are done in this lab - including human issues. Hence wildlife-related cases are treated as lower priority and are not receiving sufficient attention due to lack of sufficient human resources (essential equipment is available).

As a result of this situation, the current level of capacity and timeliness of response to support wildlife forensic cases is way below requirements. The time factor is critical: e.g. in the case of capture by the Police of a poacher with illegal Rhino horn material in his possession, there is currently a significant delay before sufficient evidence can be produced for the Court. According to existing law, if sufficient evidence to prolong conviction is not produced within 48h, then the convict can be released on bail. As most poachers are coming into SA from neighboring countries (e.g. from Mozambique in the case of Kruger NP), the current delays often result in the escape and consequent non-punishment of offenders. This situation significantly constrains law-enforcement efforts and is negatively affecting the effectiveness and impact of anti-poaching campaigns.

(b) Suboptimal coordination and information sharing among all actors involved in the law enforcement and anti-poaching effort:

The IT hardware needed support the establishment of a national coordination structure for information management on wildlife law enforcement is partly in place and it is being enhanced, with government funding. The DEA is also in the process of developing a new “Electronic Permits System” which will include a business management system which can be used as an information management system. This system will cost approx. 2,3M US\$. In the meantime the DEA, SA National Parks and Provinces are using the MEMEX software for sharing of information. The effectiveness and timeliness of response with the current system is however constrained by the lack of direct connection and IT information sharing protocols with all other relevant agencies that need to be working together in wildlife law enforcement (including i.e. Police, Customs Authority, SA Defense Force, possibly Private Game Reserves, etc.). The current delays in obtaining a response on wildlife forensic cases from the above partner agencies are also constraining the timeliness and therefore the effectiveness of wildlife law enforcement efforts in the field.

The GEF incremental support will address the above critical issues, in support of key priorities of the SA Rhino Strategy (outcomes 1,2,3 and 5), thus fully complementing ongoing efforts to address important missing links to stem the tide of Rhino poaching.

Without the GEF project, SA and countries in the SADC region would not be in a position to make full use of forensic technologies to complement their ongoing efforts to combat Rhino poaching and other wildlife crimes in Protected Areas. With the GEF project, the required additional resources and highly specialized technical support will be mobilized through an expanded partnership at the national and international level. This will rapidly enhance DEA’s response capacity in wildlife forensics and boost the effectiveness of anti-poaching efforts in Protected Areas, with a consequent positive impact on the conservation status of populations of Rhinos in SA and the whole SADC region. Project components, outcomes and expected outputs are summarized in table B, and the specific incrementality of the GEF contribution is illustrated in the table below:

Current Situation	GEF Project Incremental Contribution	Global Environmental Benefits
Component 1. Enhancing rapid-response capacity and innovative approaches and technologies to combat wildlife crime		Coverage (2,130,077 hectares) of unprotected threatened species (two species of Rhino) The level of rhino poaching is decreased by 50% over the project period, resulting in more effective conservation of viable meta-populations of the two globally important and threatened species of Rhinos in SA and SADC countries PA Management effectiveness scores in targeted PAs hosting Rhinos in SA is increased back to pre-
Significant investments to increase anti-poaching capacity in critical PAs provide a viable baseline for the project but are hampered by the limited capacity of DEA to collect, share, analyze and use DNA-based forensic evidence to prosecute wildlife crimes in SA	At least one dedicated wildlife forensics lab is established in SA (enhancing existing facilities), to serve all SA PAs as well as all countries in the SADC Region. The GEF will support TA to develop most of the additional professional capacity required, while co-financing will fund the hardware Rapid-response capacity to support forensic cases is significantly increased in DEA, SANParks and partner agencies through capacity development of existing and additional staff Staff of private run Game Ranches and several other conservation partners of DEA / SANParks are also trained in the collection, storage and sharing of DNA-based forensic evidence	
Component 2. Enhancing cooperation and coordination at national and regional level		
Existing IT platform (MEMEX) used by DEA	Several other partners are linked up to the DEA’s MEMEX and e-permits platforms (Police, Defense Force, Border	

to share information required to gather evidence, monitor and prosecute wildlife crime is only available to DEA and SANParks	Police, Customs Authority, Dept. of Home Affairs, etc.) and their staff is trained in the use of the new IT platforms and wildlife law enforcement issues to enhance collaboration with DEA and SANParks. This will be done using the existing common system software (MEMEX) thus entailing TA for networks set-up and training of staff in all partner agencies mentioned above. This software is also used in SA by the Department of Home Affairs for i.e. Citizens' IDs, etc. so this provides for an optimal common platform for easy linkages to the wildlife law enforcement effort	Rhino-poaching-crisis levels Enhanced forensic capacity of DEA and methodologies developed through the project will benefit several other threatened species affected by illegal wildlife crime in SADC Region, all Africa and globally (e.g. Asian Rhinos, Elephants, Great Apes, etc.)
In spite of ongoing efforts, the level of Rhino poaching is still increasing as cartels of wildlife criminals are outpacing the response capacity of DEA and SANParks	The GEF will catalyze involvement of the ICCWC and other partners to mobilize the latest technology, know-how and IT information sharing networks and additional resources in support of ongoing anti-poaching efforts, to enhance DEA's capacity to combat wildlife crime at national and international level	

The benefits generated through the GEF project will mainly accrue to Rhino population hosted in the Kruger National Park (1,948,500 ha), where the majority of Rhino poaching is currently occurring within SA. However the GEF project will also benefit all other PAs in SA where Rhino populations (and poaching) occur. These include the Provincial Nature Reserves of Hluhluwe (14,381.39ha), Umfolozi (44,544.07ha) and Ndumo (13,849.53ha) in KwaZulu-Natal, as well as the Marakele (58,801.71ha) and Pilansberg (50,000he) National Parks. Therefore the total area of improved conservation coverage for the two species of Rhinos of SA will be 2,130,077 ha in 6 major PAs. Indirectly, the project will also positively affect the conservation status of all other Rhino populations in the rest of SA, and in the SADC region, which are all closely inter-dependent with a healthy Rhino population in SA National Parks and Reserves (from where Rhinos are regularly exported for re-introductions in PAs of the SADC region).

Additional global environmental benefits will also include: (a) the conservation of all other globally important species of Rhino surviving other parts of the world [there are 5 species of Rhino: 3 found in Asia (Javan, Sumatran and Indian Rhinos) and 2 in Africa (white and black Rhino)], of which the Javan and Sumatran Rhinos are categorized by IUCN as critically endangered and Indian Rhinos are categorized as vulnerable. The Javan Rhino subspecies in Viet Nam was declared extinct on October 25, 2011. A small population of Javan Rhinos still exists in Indonesia. In Africa, the white Rhino subspecies includes the endangered southern white Rhino, the most abundant Rhino in the world, and the critically endangered northern white Rhino. The four subspecies of the critically endangered black Rhino include the eastern, south-western, southern central and western Rhino. The western black Rhino was declared extinct in 2011. And, (b) the conservation of several other globally important species listed under CITES (including e.g. Elephant, Great Apes, etc.) that are affected by similar issues of wildlife crime and illegal trafficking in Africa and worldwide.

The project will develop the professional capacity of the existing and/or newly recruited staff in all key government and non-government partners involved in the Rhino anti-poaching effort in South Africa (listed in section B.5). Capacities will be developed in the fields of forensic-based DNA analysis and related database management technologies to support and enhance ongoing wildlife law enforcement and anti-poaching efforts. All the above partners are already investing and will continue to invest significant resources in Rhino conservation

and law enforcement. The additional professional capacity developed through the GEF project will (a) address some of the principal constraints to more effective anti-poaching and law enforcement, and (b) be enshrined in existing and efficient institutions in SA and in the wider SADC region. This approach is expected to facilitate and catalyze subsequent replication in other countries and maximize the sustainability of project outcomes after project completion and in the longer term.

The GEF incremental contribution should be considered in the framework of significant ongoing investments in i.e. hardware, operational costs and personnel by the Government of SA as well private Game Ranches hosting Rhino populations. The level of GEF funding requested is appropriate in relation to the provision of a broad spectrum of highly-specialized Technical Advice to support identified incremental interventions including i.e.: capacity development in forensic technologies and database management for a significant number of national staff in DEA/SANP and from several other government and private sector partners; institutional strengthening and re-organization in DEA and partner organizations; establishment and organization of new specialized wildlife forensic lab(s) (with hardware existing and/or provided through government funding); broadening and improvement of existing IT information sharing platforms (entailing i.e. purchase of additional software licenses, development of information sharing systems and protocols, as well as formal and on-the-job training for a significant number of additional staff in DEA and all partner organizations). The level of GEF funding requested is therefore appropriate and proportional to the scale and large number of target beneficiaries of the planned interventions.

The project is designed to take full advantage of existing capacities and is enshrined in the ongoing programs of most relevant existing partners nationally and internationally. The GEF intervention builds upon existing institutional and professional strengths and it complements the ongoing efforts of all key players involved in Rhino conservation in SA, the SADC region and globally. This approach is expected to maximize cost-effectiveness and long-term sustainability of project outcomes, also when compared with any other alternative approach that may be considered to achieve similar benefits.

The Executing Agency for this project is the Department of Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Water and Environmental Affairs, South Africa. The DEA oversees the SA National Parks and is thus already working closely with the wide range of national partners involved in Rhino conservation in SA (ref. section B.5). The DEA also plays an important role at the regional level as a lead partner in the implementation of the Regional Rhino Conservation Strategy for the SADC Region, and is thus already working closely with all other countries hosting remaining populations of Rhinos.

The DEA and CITES Secretariat are already working closely to address the illegal trade of Rhino horns (as well as on several other species listed under the CITES). The CITES will therefore contribute to the execution of this project with significant in kind support and technical advice to DEA and partners. The CITES will also coordinate and catalyze the technical support from all other members of the ICCWC (ref. section B.5).

The DEA is therefore best positioned to lead the project and will coordinate activities with all partners at the national and international level, as an integral part of its mandate and ongoing work. The project will be executed as an element of the ongoing Action Plan for the implementation of the SA Rhino Conservation Strategy, as well as within the framework of the SADC Rhino Conservation Strategy. This execution arrangement provides an optimal set-up to ensure (a) full coordination, added-value and maximum complementarity with all other relevant ongoing initiatives at national and regional level and (b) long-term

sustainability of project outcomes.

B.3. Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the Project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF). As a background information, read [Mainstreaming Gender at the GEF.](#)":

The Rhino populations in SA are an important economic resource for Private Game Ranches, for the eco-tourism industry and public image of South Africa. The threat of poaching, if ignored, may consequently have a direct and indirect socio-economic impact not only on the national tourism business, but also for the over 400 Private Game Ranches of SA. This will in turn affect a large number of local community groups employed at multiple levels in a number of small local enterprises related to tourism in public and private lands. The increase in Rhino poaching levels might also lead to international pressures to up-list South Africa's white Rhino population from Appendix II to Appendix I at CITES which would have very negative consequences for the country's legal hunting industry.

The conservation of Rhinos in state run PAs and in Private Lands in SA is very closely inter-related, and linked to the economic value of Rhinos to private owners. For example, many state run parks are near their productive carrying capacities and need to remove surplus animals to maintain optimum productivity. To allow the continued expansion of Rhino range and numbers, the private sector and communities therefore have to provide the new conservation land for Rhino. The extent to which they can do this largely depends on economic incentives and the perceived risk of managing Rhinos. Historically, live sales, eco-tourism and limited sport hunting have provided economic incentives for the private sector and communities to conserve Rhino. This has led to an increase in Rhino range and the number of Rhinos being managed by the private sector and communities, and e.g. it is now estimated that there are more than 4,500 white Rhinos conserved on private land in South Africa (2010).

State conservation agencies have in the past used much of the money raised from live white Rhino sales to either help subsidize the high cost of their conservation efforts or, in the case of South African National Parks (SANParks), to assist with buying additional conservation land. For example, white Rhino sales have been the biggest contributor to total turnover at Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZWN) game auctions, both live and catalogue, accounting for 74,9% of total turnover from 2008 to July 2011. The current weighted average price obtained per white Rhino from EKZWN and SANParks 2011 sales combined is R 234,405 (approx. 29,300US\$). As such, any decline in demand for surplus Rhino and any declines in price will also negatively affect state conservation agencies' ability to execute their greater conservation mandate.

However, the recent dramatic increase in Rhino poaching has led to a number of Rhino owners viewing their animals as a liability. This could result in reduced demand for live Rhino and a corresponding drop in prices. There are already signs that some Rhino owners are selling off all their animals. It is believed that white Rhino hunting has contributed to increasing live sale prices. There is therefore a concern that a moratorium on hunting [which may be triggered by a decline in Rhino populations due to the recent dramatic increase in poaching levels] may result in a reduction in prices and more Rhino owners may sell their animals. This would mean a big reduction in the estimated 22,274km² (2,227,400ha) of conservation land that private land owners currently contribute.

Besides the ongoing surge in DEA's anti-poaching and law enforcement efforts within state run PAs, the strict implementation of the current permitting and hunting protocols managed by the DEA, with extra attention applied to the current transgressors (landowners and professional hunters in this case) would also largely address the rise of pseudo-hunting of white Rhino. Furthermore, moves towards a nationally-managed enhanced permitting process [that will also be partly supported by this GEF project] would be advantageous. In the past it was not necessary to have a national hunting quota for Rhino, as the number of top dollar hunters from traditional hunting countries such as the United States was limited and as such, market forces dictated that only a limited and sustainable number of white Rhino were hunted every year. As indiscriminate, illegal Rhino hunting increases, the number of Rhinos that can be sustainably hunted will decrease. There is therefore a concern that unregulated hunting may rise to unsustainable levels and become prejudicial to good conservation and population growth, with consequent negative economic impact for a broad range of related economic actors in the country, including women groups and indigenous groups, who depend upon sustainable nature-based tourism in public and private lands (*source:*

<http://www.wrsa.co.za/conservation-a-hunting/49-the-Rhino-moratorium-curse>)

Detailed and gender-disaggregated information on the social and economic benefits resulting from the implementation of the GEF project at the local scale (i.e. within and around Kruger National Park and other target PAs) and at the national level, will be gathered during the project formulation phase. The project's Socio-economic and Environmental impact will also be assessed at project design stage and this aspect will be closely monitored during implementation as an integral part of the project Monitoring & Evaluation plan.

B.4 Indicate risks, including climate change risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design:

This project presents overall medium/high risks due to the complexity of the issues being addressed, which are however moderated by the good baseline capacity and investment, sound foundations and the science-based and consultative approach adopted to identify priority actions in the National Strategy for the Safety and Security of Rhinoceros Populations in South Africa. The main risks that have been preliminarily identified and that may prevent the project objectives from being achieved include i.e.: (a) increasing demand for Rhino products in recipient countries mostly in the far East (high), (b) rapidly-evolving strategies, capacity and resources of poachers and wildlife traffickers (high), (c) high cost of Rhino conservation efforts in-country (medium), (d) complexity of setting-up a sufficiently broad and efficient anti-poaching and anti-trafficking system for such a broad area and regional network, with several key stakeholders involved (medium/low). Climate change does not pose specific risks for this type of project. The above anticipated risks will be further analyzed during the project development phase. These identified risks will be mitigated through (a) targeted awareness raising and education activities envisaged under project component 2 and as part of the Rhino Strategy that will also include work with partners in countries where the demand originates, (b) the GEF-supported engagement of the ICCWC partnership is expected to significantly boost the capacity of DEA and national institutions to combat wildlife crime and stem the tide of Rhino poaching, (c) the GEF-funded development of innovative PPPs and other fund-raising efforts envisaged in the Rhino Strategy are expected to increase the financial support for sustainability of anti-poaching efforts, and (d) the

project builds upon significant ongoing efforts by the DEA and several other partners, and these efforts will be further strengthened through this project to address identified risk.

B.5. Identify key stakeholders involved in the project including the private sector, civil society organizations, local and indigenous communities, and their respective roles, as applicable:

The DEA will lead Project Execution and, as an integral part of its national role and mandate, the DEA will coordinate and maintain extensive and continued stakeholder consultations at national and international level to support all components of the project. This will be done in the framework of the regular consultative mechanism established as part of the ongoing implementation of the National Rhino Conservation Strategy of SA and SADC Region.

Category	Stakeholders	Roles and Contributions
National Government of South Africa and affiliated organizations	Department of Environmental Affairs, and SA National Parks (SANParks) of the Ministry of Water and Environmental Affairs, South Africa; South African Police Service (and its forensic lab); SANDF - Defense Force; Department of Justice's National Prosecuting Agency; Customs Authority; PA Management Authorities; Provincial Authorities.	These government-affiliated institutions will play a major role in the project and contribute a significant baseline investment which the GEF contribution will build upon. These contributions will include the baseline costs of, i.e.: PA management, law enforcement, stakeholder consultations, education and awareness, data management and information sharing, etc. and all the underlying hardware (including e.g. IT platforms, lab facilities & equipment) personnel, infrastructure and funding for a broad range of related collateral activities.
Research institutions	University of Pretoria, The National Agricultural Resources and Industry Institute, the Zoology Institute of the Zoo of Pretoria.	The technical capacity and existing facilities of these relevant existing public and privately run labs in SA will be engaged by DEA to contribute to the development of enhanced and rapid-response capacity to support wildlife forensic in SA.
Local and Indigenous Community Groups, including Women groups	A wide range of local and Indigenous Community Groups, including Women groups, are living within and around target PAs. As an example: the Kruger National Park is surrounded by 3 million people within 181 communities (villages), 7 District Municipalities and 68 Tribal Authorities.	These groups will be engaged in supporting the implementation of the Rhino Conservation Strategy through existing consultative mechanisms put in place by the DEA and SANParks. E.g. for the KNP, the SANParks has established a Park Forum where all surrounding communities are represented. SANParks interacts with this Park Forum on co-management matters, regular review of management plans, proposed development plans, sustainable use of natural resources and all park-related issues. Through the above mechanism -already in place- community groups will be consulted and engaged in dialogue at all stage of the implementation of the SA Rhino Strategy, therefore including also the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of this GEF project.
Private Sector	The private run Game Ranches play a vital role in maintaining a viable meta-population of Rhinos in SA, and they are already engaged with DEA and SANParks to implement the Rhino Strategy for SA. Examples of Private Sector Partners include i.e.: the Private Rhino Owners Association (PROA) of SA, and the LEAD SA Initiative	The Private Rhino Owners Association in South Africa (PROA SA) includes most of the 400 private Rhino owners of SA. PROA SA will be engaged in the project by establishing PPPs with the DEA and SANP and by (a) providing very significant contributions to Rhino conservation efforts and (b) benefitting from project results as the GEF support will also provide training for field rangers of PROASA as well. LEAD SA: The Rhino Action Group under the LEAD SA Initiative www.leadsa.co.zac is supporting a media-driven campaign, raising funds from the public, and focusing on awareness raising education, and supporting Rhino anti-poaching initiatives. This is an existing PPP that will be further developed through the project

Category	Stakeholders	Roles and Contributions
CSOs, conservation NGOs & other conservation-oriented partners	Conservation NGOs including i.e.: IUCN-African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG), WWF SA, IFAW, Honorary Rangers from SANParks for Kruger NP.	The role of most CSO partners is already defined as part of the Rhino Strategy implemented by DEA, and they will be involved in various aspects of the project including i.e.: biodiversity conservation, planning, monitoring and field research, law enforcement, development of public-private sector partnerships, assessment and evaluation of the impact of project interventions in target PAs, linkages with parallel ongoing work in the SADC region and beyond, etc. All such contributions will be defined in detail at CEO endorsement.
International Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements, UN and International Organisations	UNEP, through the UNEP-hosted CITES Secretariat, is supporting the International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime The ICCWC comprises the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO). The CITES Secretariat chairs the alliance. (for more information on ICCWC and its individual partners, see http://www.cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php)	All members of the ICCWC will support the project Executing Agency (DEA) through the CITES Secretariat, in several ways and mainly by mobilizing and facilitating the provision of state-of-the-art Technical Advice and know-how to enhance SA's capacity to combat wildlife crime, focusing on Rhino poaching in particular. The CITES Technology Fund (in preparation), in partnership with the private sector, is also expected to assist with the development of innovative financing mechanisms to generate sustainable revenue for Rhino conservation. The contributions of each partner organizations will be defined in detail at CEO endorsement

B.6. Outline the coordination with other related initiatives:

As outlined above, the DEA will coordinate and maintain extensive and continued stakeholder consultations at national and international level to support all components of the project. This will be done in the framework of (a) DEA's and SANParks mandate and role, and (b) as part of the regular consultative mechanism established as part of the ongoing implementation of the National Rhino Conservation Strategy of SA and SADC Region. Internationally, coordination will also be facilitated by DEA in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat. This will ensure continued coordination with all other ICCWC partners including the INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO). Other relevant international and regional conservation initiatives of a similar nature such as those led by the IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group (AfSG) and by other relevant international conservation NGOs and Private Rhino Owners active in SA, will be further reviewed during the project preparation phase, and coordination mechanisms will be established as and where appropriate by the DEA through the establishment of ad-hoc consultative groups and/or participation in existing consultative mechanisms. The project design will also ensure that proper coordination is maintained with the proposed UNDP/GEF project "Improving Management Effectiveness of the Protected Area Network" (GEF ID 4848), which will also be implemented through SANParks and other partners, thus optimizing synergy and complementarity of efforts.

C. DESCRIBE THE GEF AGENCY'S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROJECT:

C.1 Indicate the co-financing amount the GEF agency is bringing to the project:

UNEP will be project GEF Implementing Agency and will bring direct co-financing to the project in the form of in-kind contributions for a total amount of 100,000\$. This will be provided as technical inputs to project design, implementation and M&E by UNEP staff involved in relevant parallel initiatives implemented with a range of external

partners, some of which are the same partners as for this GEF project and including, but not limited to, i.e.:

- The UNEP/DELIC (Division of Environmental Law and Conventions) hosts the CITES program for Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE). This team is based in Nairobi and has extensive expertise on monitoring illegal activity in African protected areas, and is implementing ranger-based law enforcement and threat monitoring systems in 30 elephant range States, including all rhino range States (and many sites hosting Rhino populations). Together with six international NGOs, MIKE is a member of the SMART Consortium, which is developing a new-generation, open-source and multi-platform ranger-based monitoring platform. One of the applications to be developed under this platform will enable the monitoring of known individuals of threatened species listed under CITES, such as rhinos. MIKE also works closely with IUCN and TRAFFIC to develop methods to map and analyze the dynamics of illegal trade in endangered species. In addition, the MIKE program has developed close links with the Nairobi-based United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and together they have made a number of well-researched proposals to the ICCWC for the use of DNA from ivory and rhino horn to determine the geographic origin of seized products. These proposals are likely to be integrated into the program of work of ICCWC. MIKE also collaborates with the University of Mainz (Germany) on the development of isotope-based methods for aging and assigning seized ivory to area of origin.

- The UNEP/UNESCO Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) is a unique alliance of over 75 member nations, U.N. agencies, conservation NGOs and private donors that works to protect great apes and their habitat in Africa and Asia. Established in 2001, GRASP is the only species-specific conservation programme within the United Nations. The GRASP Secretariat is hosted within the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and its five-member staff -based at UNEP HQ in Nairobi- monitors a wide variety of projects that are designed to conserve chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans and bonobos. At present, the GRASP portfolio includes over 20 projects in eight countries. Increasingly, GRASP has placed an emphasis upon law enforcement and the growing illegal trade in great apes, and in November will release a rapid response assessment on the black market. Compiled in collaboration with CITES, Interpol, the World Customs Organization, the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, the Last Great Ape Organization and other GRASP partners, the report will be the first comprehensive analysis of the illegal trade. In addition, GRASP is working with Interpol to establish a database on the illegal trade, which will be an open-source resource to help identify, track and close down black markets. That database is being designed to specifically support existing law enforcement programmes utilized by Interpol, CITES, MIKE and others, in order to promote efficacy and reduce duplication of efforts. GRASP is an active member of the Great Ape Integrity (GAPIN) law enforcement programme supported by the Government of Sweden, and helps fund game ranger projects in Cameroon and Nigeria.

- UNEP's work on Biosafety issues also entails existing linkages with a broad range of national and international public and private sector partners and research institutions working on the similar DNA-analysis technology as the one used in forensics to combat wildlife crime.

In addition to the above, UNEP will also support the project indirectly, through the UNEP-hosted CITES Secretariat. If appropriate, possible contributions from other

relevant UNEP Programs and MEAs hosted by UNEP (e.g. UNEP-CMS) may be explored and defined during project preparation.

C.2 How does the project fit into the GEF agency's program (reflected in documents such as UNDAF, CAS, etc.) and staff capacity in the country to follow up project implementation:

The project is consistent with the objectives and expected outcomes of the current UNEP Program of Work (2012-2013) and fits under the Ecosystem Management and Environmental Governance sub-programs. UNEP has a Liaison Office in Pretoria, South Africa, that will facilitate project implementation and contacts with partners at the country level. UNEP HQ is also located within the same sub-region, thus allowing more cost-effective and thus more frequent visits to South Africa by UNEP HQ staff. UNEP will also support the project technically through (a) UNEP staff based in UNEP HQ who are involved in coordinating related initiatives (and with the same partners) entailing the development application forensic-based technologies for other wildlife species such as i.e. Elephants and Great Apes (see details above in section C.1), (b) UNEP/DELCO also hosts CITES staff based in the UNEP HQ and involved in the MIKE program and who will be involved in supporting the project technically, (c) technical staff involved in supporting the UNEP Biosafety portfolio where similar DNA-testing technology is being used and several highly specialized partner research institutes are involved and (d) the GEF Task Manager in DEPI with relevant experience in facilitating innovative technology projects in the field of biodiversity conservation. In addition to the above, the UNEP-hosted CITES Secretariat in Geneva will provide significant support to the project (ref. Table C).

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

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this template. For SGP, use this [OFP endorsement letter](#)).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Mr Zaheer Fakir	Acting Deputy Director General, International Cooperation, Department of Environmental Affairs	MINISTRY WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, SOUTH AFRICA	03/28/2012

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Maryam Niamir-Fuller, Director, GEF Coordination Office, UNEP		04/18/2012	Edoardo Zandri, GEF Task Manager, DEPI, GEF BD/LD Unit, UNEP, Nairobi	+254 20 762 4380	edoardo.zandri@unep.org