



GEF-6 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: FULL SIZE PROJECT

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Capacity Development in Reducing Illegal Wildlife Trade and Improving Protected Area Management Effectiveness in South Sudan		
Country(ies):	South Sudan	GEF Project ID: ¹	9551
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	01392
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism (MWCT), in conjunction with African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	Submission Date:	July 25, 2016
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration (Months)	48 months
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:	N/A	Agency Fee (\$)	506,298

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES²

Objectives/Programs (Focal Areas, Integrated Approach Pilot, Corporate Programs)	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
		GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
BD-2 Program 3: Preventing the Extinction of Known Threatened Species	GEFTF	5,329,452	15,950,000
Total Project Cost		5,329,452	15,950,000

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: To combat illegal wildlife trade by strengthening PA legislative and management systems through institutional strengthening, improved information management and monitoring, and community empowerment through both national and site level actions

Project Components	Financing Type ³	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
Component 1: National Frameworks and Coordination Mechanisms for Wildlife Protection	TA	<p>Outcome 1.1 Policies, laws and strategies for wildlife protection revised and harmonized</p> <p>Outcome 1.2: Capacity development,</p>	<p>1.1.1 Wildlife and forest crimes analysed using the ICCWC’s Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit</p> <p>1.1.2 Bylaws on the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) developed, endorsed, and enforced</p> <p>1.1.3 Enactment of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism Policies and related bills</p> <p>1.1.4 National Community Engagement Policy developed and implemented in selected protected areas</p> <p>1.1.5 Transboundary Wildlife Management Protocols developed and under implementation</p> <p>1.1.6 South Sudan PA Network Strategy developed</p> <p>1.1.7 South Sudan accedes to Lusaka Agreement, CITES, the CMS, and the Horn of Africa Wildlife Enforcement Networks (HAWEN)</p> <p>1.2.1 Capacity of key units (i.e. info. management unit within Directorate of Training and Planning (DTP); staff from police/judiciary involved in wildlife trade)</p>	GEFTF	1,000,000	2,000,000

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC and to be entered by Agency in subsequent document submissions.

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.

		coordination and awareness on wildlife protection enhanced	strengthened for implementation of policies and laws 1.2.2 Improved coordination between PA management, local government authorities and Central Government 1.2.3 Awareness raised on the value of wildlife protection and combatting illegal wildlife trade			
Component 2: Improved wildlife conservation demonstrated through strengthened management of Nimule National Park	INV	Outcome 2.1: Park management and wildlife protection in Nimule NP improved Outcome 2.2: Strengthened capacities and information for wildlife protection in and around Nimule National Park Outcome 2.3: Community-based conservation and sustainable livelihoods developed	2.1.1 Comprehensive park security systems implemented 2.1.2 PA revenue generation strategies improved 2.1.3 Basic tourism hiking trails developed and signage improved 2.2.1 Multi-agency anti-trafficking Rapid Response Units established 2.2.2 Protocols piloted for management of transboundary movements of wildlife on the Western and Southern borders 2.2.3 Networks established for information gathering and sharing among PAs, state/local authorities, and communities 2.2.4 Appropriate incentives in place to report illegal wildlife related activities 2.3.1 Community structures for wildlife co-management established and their capacity built 2.3.2 Support compatible and sustainable community livelihoods activities in the NNP buffer zone 2.3.3 Community awareness of biodiversity conservation and natural resources increased	GEF TF	1,000,000	3,000,000
Component 3: Wildlife Protection Initiative in the Sudd Ecosystem	INV	Outcome 3.1 Protection of Sudd ecosystem and associated PAs (Shambe, Meshra, Zeraf) Outcome 3.2: Strengthened capacities and information for wildlife protection in and around three protected areas in the Sudd Ecosystem Outcome 3.3 Community based conservation in the Sudd ecosystem	3.1.1 Aerial and ground surveys and animal tracking completed to support PA planning and wildlife protection 3.1.2 Targeted intelligence-led law enforcement operations conducted; patrol training & equipment given to key areas 3.1.3 Expansion of PA coverage and strengthening of PA management processes and systems 3.1.4 Engagement with extractive industries in the Sudd 3.2.1 Multi-agency anti-trafficking Rapid Response Units established 3.2.2 Protocols piloted for management of transboundary movements of wildlife on the Eastern border 3.2.3 Networks established for information gathering and sharing between park, state / local authorities, and communities 3.2.4 Appropriate incentives in place to report illegal wildlife related activities 3.3.1 Initial steps for community conservancies completed 3.3.2 Community conservation awareness conducted 3.3.3 Partnerships with communities for wildlife protection and wildlife friendly land-use forged 3.3.4 Sustainable livelihoods promoted in the framework of community conservation agreements	GEF TF	3,075,699	9,500,000
Subtotal					5,075,699	14,500,000
Project Management Cost (PMC)⁴				GEF TF	253,753	1,450,000
Total Project Cost					5,329,452	15,950,000

For multi-trust fund projects, provide the total amount of PMC in Table B, and indicate the split of PMC among the different trust funds here: *NA*

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.

C. INDICATIVE SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE, IF AVAILABLE

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
GEF Agency	UNEP	In-kind	500,000
Recipient Government	Ministry Wildlife Conservation and Tourism (MWCT)	In-kind	3,000,000
CSO	African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)	In-kind	2,500,000
CSO	African Wildlife Foundation	Grants	500,000
CSO	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	Grants	2,450,000
CSO	Wildlife Conservation Society	In-kind	7,000,000
Total Co-financing			15,950,000

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS^{a)}

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country / Regional / Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b) ^{b)}	Total (c)=a+b
UNEP	GEFTF	South Sudan	Biodiversity		5,329,452	506,298	5,835,750
Total GEF Resources					5,329,452	506,298	5,835,750

a) Refer to the Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies.

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)⁵

Is Project Preparation Grant requested? Yes No If no, skip item E.

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), TRUST FUND, COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

Project Preparation Grant amount requested: \$150,000					PPG Agency Fee: \$14,250		
GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country / Regional / Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					PPG (a)	Agency Fee ⁶ (b)	Total c = a + b
UNEP	GEFTF	South Sudan	Biodiversity		150,000	14,250	164,250
Total PPG Amount					150,000	14,250	164,250

F. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS⁷

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	1,755,300 hectares ⁸

⁵ PPG requested amount is determined by the size of the GEF Project Financing (PF) as follows: Up to \$50k for PF up to \$2m (for MSP); up to \$100k for PF up to \$3m; \$150k for PF up to \$6m; \$200k for PF up to \$10m; and \$300k for PF above \$10m. On an exceptional basis, PPG amount may differ upon detailed discussion and justification with the GEFSEC.

⁶ PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the Agency fee over the GEF Project Financing amount requested.

⁷ Provide those indicator values in this table to the extent applicable to your proposed project. 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.

⁸ The extent of targeted PAs in the Nimule (410 sq. km.) and Sudd ecosystems (17,143 sq.km.)

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A.I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.1) The Global Environmental and/or Adaptation Problems, Root Causes And Barriers That Need To Be Addressed

South Sudan, the world's newest nation having attained independence in 2011, covers approximately 640,000 km² in Sub-Saharan Africa. The country has recently emerged from several decades of warfare, and is now undergoing major changes to its political, legal, economic, and social systems and structures. Starting with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that resulted in the independence of the country in July 2011, the main priorities of the Government of South Sudan (GOSS) have been recovery, the provision and development of basic infrastructure, accommodating returning refugees, and initiating investments that generate a positive fiscal balance (these issues became secondary during the renewed fighting in 2013-2015, but have now returned to the forefront). Although the GOSS has initiated a number of measures and investments to conserve its natural asset base, protect and manage wildlife sustainably and engage in conservation planning, these activities have been framed in the broader post-conflict and state building context.

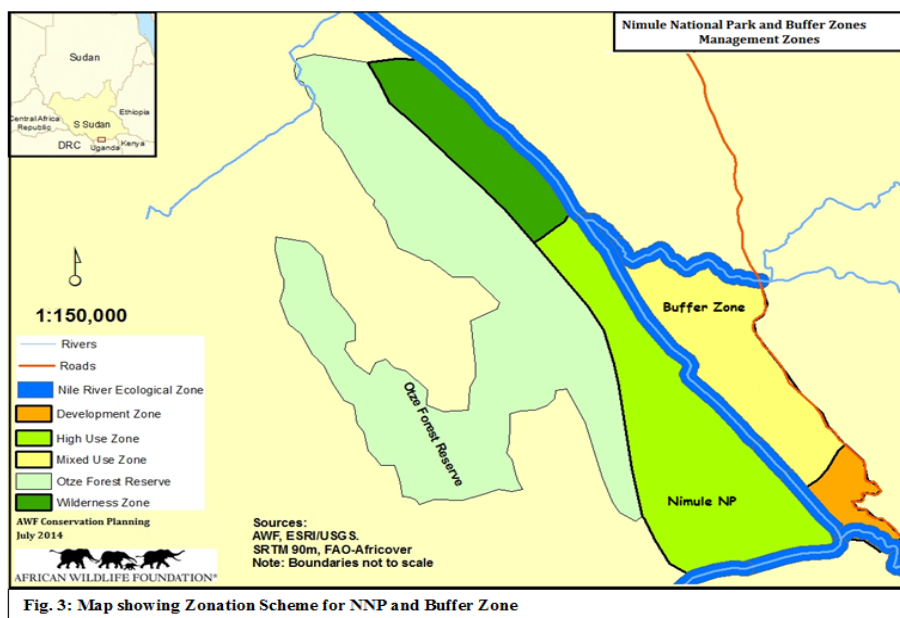
Substantial work has been done in the past few years with regard to wildlife management inside and outside protected areas, starting with aerial surveys in 2007 and the development of the South Sudan Land Act (2009), and continuing with the development of key strategy documents and regulatory frameworks for wildlife and tourism management. However, most of South Sudan's wildlife policies and laws remain in draft form; the *National Environmental Protection and Management Bill* (2014) has been drafted, and draft wildlife and tourism bills have been reviewed by Ministry of Justice and are in an advance stage of the legislative process. The *Wildlife Conservation and Protected Areas Bill (2015 draft)* will be a critical step forward when it is passed, as it defines various categories of protected areas, taking into consideration user rights and procedures for establishing conservancies to promote community participation in conservation; allows local communities around Protected Areas (PAs) to participate in the development of policies, plans and processes for the conservation and management of wildlife in collaboration with the South Sudan Wildlife Service (SSWS), and also permits other organizations to manage any PA on behalf of Government; provides provisions for regulation of private sector (e.g. tourism) and management and development of protected areas, defines the roles of various management authorities; and classifies species protection based on current status (lending more protection to vulnerable species; etc.). The *Wildlife Bill (2013 draft)* establishes an autonomous South Sudan Wildlife Service (SSWS) responsible for coordination with other relevant authorities on all issues affecting wildlife management, including issues of security, infrastructure, private investment and land use planning. Under this bill, SSWS officers will be granted similar enforcement and prosecutorial powers as police officers under the *Code of Criminal Procedure Act 2008*, including powers of arrest, inspection, seizure and forfeiture. The draft bill also increases the number of wildlife offences, including illegal hunting, capture and trafficking of animals in protected areas, and for the first time, wildlife trafficking. SSWS will coordinate and cooperate with local communities and facilitate their participation in wildlife management in and around protected areas, including overseeing the appropriate allocation of rights and responsibilities.

Despite several decades of war and conflict, South Sudan constitutes the largest expanse of substantially intact, wild habitat in East Africa, including high altitude plateaus and escarpments, wooded savannah, grassland savannah, wetlands, and flood plains; the country contains the largest intact contiguous savannah in Africa, and the Sudd is the largest wetland and perhaps most important habitat for migratory birds. Due to the size and diversity of its ecosystems, South Sudan supports some of East Africa's most important wildlife populations; areas such as the Sudd and the Boma and Southern National Parks harbour important populations of white-eared kob, tiang (topi), buffalo, elephant, giraffe, hartebeest, lion, wild dog, and other species. South Sudan is recognized as one of Africa's most diverse countries. It has an extensive system of game reserves and national parks, including 6 national parks and 13 game reserves, which together encompass 87,030 km² or approximately 13.6% of the country's land surface. In addition to the 19 areas included in the official PA system, the Sudd ecosystem is a Ramsar site.

One of the protected areas targeted by the project is Nimule National Park (NNP), which encompasses 540 km² along the White Nile River that constitutes the border with Uganda, with wildlife moving freely back and forth between the two

countries. The NNP is inhabited by a number of significant mammal species including elephants (*Loxodonta africana*), hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*), Uganda kob (*Kobus kob*), oribi (*Ourebia ourebi*) and leopard (*Panthera pardus*). Details on critical species, ecological systems, and communities / habitats in the NNP are provided in Annex 1. The most recent survey of elephants in 2008 identified 69 animals (Grossmann, *et al.*, 2008), down from 156 in 2000 (Morjan, *et al.*, 2000). Seeking to balance ecological conservation and human benefits, the GOSS has divided the Nimule protected area into a number of zones (see Map 1 below): Nimule National Park (256 km²), which extends from the western and southern boundary of the Nile, west to the Ugandan border and north to the Assua River, is government-owned land gazetted under national legislation (2003 Wildlife Act and 2008 Wildlife Protected Area Policy). The NNP is divided into a High Use Zone (HUZ) and a Wilderness Zone (WZ). The main goals of the NNP are to conserve viable wildlife populations and habitat integrity, and, in time, to provide a wilderness experience by developing limited infrastructure and development of tourism facilities. In addition, the NNP includes a Buffer Zone (154 km²) composed of government-owned land that is co-managed with Nimule community and is meant to protect wildlife and preserve the livelihood and cultural values of local residents. The Buffer Zone will be divided into a Mixed Use Zone (MUZ) and Development Zone (DZ). The ‘Nile River Ecological Zone’, a 500-meter strip on either side of the Nile River for its entire length (48 km.) within the NNP, has been established to provide increased protection to sensitive riverine forests, fish breeding areas, elephant crossing points, and the Nile River itself, and is the only zone with a primary ecological protection function. The specific area, boundaries, and allowed activities for each zone have been elaborated in a zonation scheme as part of the NNP General Management Plan (GMP), which establishes a framework for the spatial management of the Park, including provision of specialized protection for critical or representative habitats, wildlife, ecosystems and ecological processes, and also establishes Limits of Acceptable Use (LAU) for visitor accommodation and activities in the various zones in order to avoid conflicts over tourism and to protect natural and cultural values, and allow damaged sensitive areas time to recover or be restored. As with all national parks in South Sudan, the NNP is managed by the MWCT. However, the park is very close to the town of Nimule, some residential areas and a school are located within the NNP’s buffer zone (DZ), and internally displaced persons and returnee settlements continue to increase the human footprint within park. Thus, the close proximity between the NNP and town requires close collaboration and joint planning for mutually beneficial co-existence, although to date there is only limited collaboration between park and town authorities.

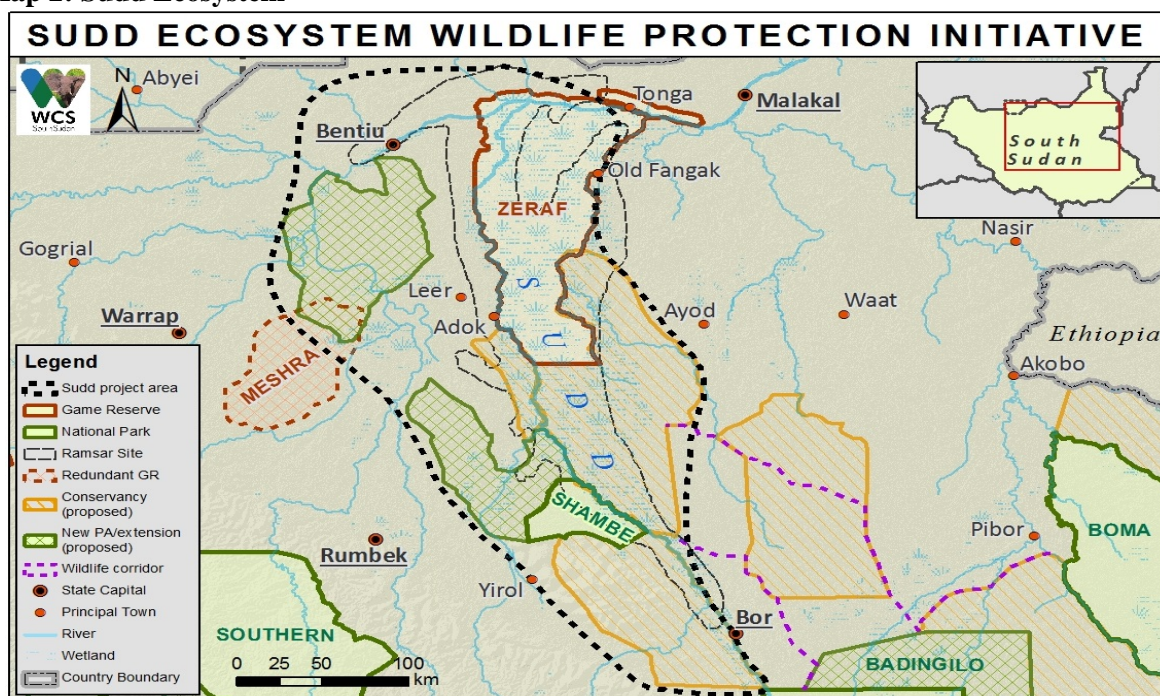
Map 1: Nimule Ecosystem



The second project site is the Sudd ecosystem in the north central part of the country. South Sudan’s only designated Ramsar site, and part of the “Sudd-Sahelian Flooded Grasslands and Savannas” WWF Global 200 eco-region, the Sudd is Africa’s largest wetland and an area with high importance for both biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods. With a

permanent extent of 9,176 km², which increases to 41,334 km² during seasonal flooding, the Sudd is sustained by rainfall and by the flow of the White Nile, which as it flows northward from Juba dissipates across a shallow depression to produce a network of channels, lagoons and inundated areas. The patterns of flood inundation heavily influence the Sudd's vegetation, which consists of permanent swamps, river and rain flooded grasslands, and floodplain woodlands, and these habitats exhibit strong environmental gradients with pronounced short and long term variations in biomass production and distribution. The Sudd is internationally recognized for its unique ecological attributes that include various endangered mammal species (Annex 2), antelope migrations, and millions of Palearctic migratory birds. Notable wildlife species include elephants (*Loxodonta africana*), Nile lechwe (*Kobus megaceros*) (endemic to South Sudan), tiang migration (*Damaliscus lunatus tiang*), the largest population of buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) remaining in the country, and the shoebill stork (*Balaeniceps rex*). The Sudd is an important wintering ground for birds such as the Great White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*), Black Crowned Crane (*Balearica pavonina*), White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) and Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*). A large proportion of the estimated 1 million people inhabiting the Sudd region rely heavily on its ecosystem services, including fishing, Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) collection, agriculture and pastoralism. The wetland serves as a filter that controls water quality and a sponge that stabilizes water flow. It is the major source of water for domestic, livestock, and wildlife use and an important source of fish. Various agro-pastoralist communities move seasonally between the wetland's flooded grasslands and the peripheral drier areas to meet their livelihood needs. With numerous permanent and temporary settlements across the Sudd, patterns of subsistence resource use overlap considerably with target wildlife protection areas. Currently, there are three protected areas in the Sudd: Shambe National Park (1,750 km²), Zeraf (10,961 km²) and Meshra (4,432 km²) Game Reserves (see Map 2 below). In recent years, various surveys have identified important areas such as biodiversity hotspots, critical habitat for vulnerable species such as elephants and giraffe, and important corridors for animal movement (e.g. antelope migration) that are not yet included in the existing protected areas.

Map 2: Sudd Ecosystem



Threats

Biodiversity in South Sudan is subject to a variety of threats, many of which have been exacerbated by the country's long period of unrest and violence and the resulting diminishment of political and traditional community structures. For example, the extended periods of warfare in the country from 1955-1972 and again from 1983-2005 resulted in the proliferation of

small arms and the development of an extensive trade in bush meat, which is an important source of food in times of crop and livestock failure and during armed conflicts. Today, poaching and wildlife trafficking is widespread in South Sudan, including within protected areas, with elephants targeted for meat and ivory while hippos, Uganda kob, oribi and bushbucks targeted mainly for meat. Another critically important threat to biodiversity is the destruction and fragmentation of natural habitat, due primarily to agricultural encroachment and wood harvesting. The intensification of shifting agriculture is causing large-scale land use changes across the country, and the displacement of populations into new areas due to conflict has worsened this problem as more natural habitat is converted to agriculture. Livestock are present in most of the protected areas in South Sudan, even where they are expressly prohibited, resulting in competition for water and fodder with wildlife, facilitating poaching and causing land degradation through burning and overgrazing. The use of bush fires for land preparation under shifting cultivation, for hunting, and for rejuvenation of grazing areas is a major threat to biodiversity throughout the country. In addition, fuelwood and charcoal make up approximately 80% of the country's energy supply, and as a result, many rural residents are involved in charcoal production for domestic use as well as for sale in neighbouring towns, accelerating deforestation. The activities of oil and other extractive industries in South Sudan are becoming one of the major causes of biodiversity loss and ecosystem destruction, while also adversely impacting local community livelihoods through destruction of ecosystem services. Road building for oil and other industrial development also facilitates access to previously remote areas for agricultural settlers and wildlife poachers. Oil exploration is carried out mainly in the central flood plains of Jonglei, Lakes and Upper Nile States, which are also endowed with vast natural resources including forests, livestock, wildlife and aquatic resources.

Many of the aforementioned threats are evident at the sites targeted by this project. In NNP, wildlife poaching is widespread, affecting elephants, hippos and other species. Encroachment into natural areas is significant, primarily due to unplanned settlement by internally displaced persons (IDPs). Illegal cattle grazing has been going on in the NNP for many years, but has increased significantly with the influx of IDPs in to the area. The unsustainable use of natural resources within the NNP and in its buffer zone also includes illegal fishing, primarily for commercial purposes and largely uncontrolled, illegal wood cutting for cooking but also for local sale (e.g. wood is used by fishermen to smoke and dry fish and by others to bake earth bricks). Another significant threat in the area comes from uncontrolled fires, which are started by poachers during the dry season to open up vegetation in order to easily locate animals, and by livestock herders to allow new re-growth of grass beneficial for their livestock. The threats to biodiversity in the NNP are likely to become more severe with the rapid growth of the nearby Nimule Town and the potential influx of IDPs to the site along the border with Uganda in the event of further political instability and fighting. An additional threat is the proposed development of a 40 Megawatt hydropower plant inside the Park along the Fula rapids that is envisaged to supply power to Juba and surrounding towns.

In the Sudd ecosystem, which was the site of many of the major military confrontations during the civil war, the fighting resulted in widespread poaching of wildlife by both government and opposition forces for food and for commercial profit, and the disruption of site-based wildlife protection in the Sudd's protected areas. Today, although fighting has ended in the Sudd region, overexploitation of wildlife and habitat fragmentation continue, including escalating commercial poaching linked to widespread firearms, inadequate planning for IDPs and refugees, competition for scarce natural resources (e.g. pasture and water), road construction without sufficient environmental planning, and the expansion of the oil industry into ecologically sensitive areas (the Sudd contains Sudan's largest oil reserves). Another potential threat is the Jonglei Canal Project that would reduce wet and dry season flows in the Sudd by 20% and 10% respectively, thus impacting the wetland's ecology and consequently its inhabitants; however, this project is currently on hold.

Barriers

Although the government and its partners have made efforts to control illegal wildlife trade (IWT) and increase protected area management effectiveness, its efforts have been impeded by a number of barriers, as follows:

Incomplete policy, legal and institutional frameworks and capacities for biodiversity conservation and protected area management: South Sudan does not have an adequate legal and regulatory framework with which to control wildlife poaching and trafficking. As noted earlier, a number of new laws and policies have been drafted in the past five years that could greatly strengthen the policy and legal framework, but these laws are yet to be enacted. Moreover, the draft Wildlife

Conservation and Protected Areas Bill (WCPAB), which is expected to be passed by Parliament at the end of 2016, lacks any provisions for upgrading specified forest reserves or open areas (e.g. the Imatong Central Forest Reserve) into national parks. The Government of South Sudan also lacks practical experience and the detailed subsidiary regulations necessary to effectively implement laws and policies related to both wildlife protection and protected areas management. For example, Section 9(5) under the WCPAB allows the Minister to authorize local communities to enter and/or reside within national parks and game reserves based on historical access/uses, but it does not specify how to balance the needs of the people and environmental conservation. In addition, South Sudan has weak capacity for protected area and wildlife management at the operational and administrative levels, with many staff inadequately trained and equipped to carry out their functions. One area of weakness relates to the very limited experience and policy guidance in the country on establishing tourism concessions within protected areas, which leaves tourism development within PAs vulnerable to exploitation and abuse by private sector interests. Weaknesses at the individual level are compounded by institutional and systemic weaknesses, including confusion regarding mandates and lines of authority for parks, reserves, and adjacent landscapes, and a lack of mechanisms to share information between national, state, and local authorities, PA managers, and communities. The very low levels of awareness and understanding of the values of wildlife conservation and protected areas, and of the negative impacts of the illegal wildlife trade, among policymakers and the general public also limit support for these objectives and reduce the capacity of the MWCT and other concerned agencies to work collaboratively with line Ministries, development partners and community groups on conserving the country's wildlife and ecosystems.

Ineffective wildlife protection and management of protected areas on the ground: A critical constraint to effective wildlife protection in South Sudan is the very limited information that exists on biodiversity and the threats to biodiversity in the country. WCS has conducted some aerial surveys, animal tracking (e.g. elephants in the Sudd) using GPS, reconnaissance and ecological monitoring in the past decade that provided valuable information on the status of wildlife populations and protected areas, but additional and more up to date surveys and data are needed to assess the ecological impact of the 2013 armed conflict and the mass displacements of civilians across the Sudd; such information is critical for guiding the implementation of protected area activities and the management of wildlife and natural resources. This information gap is compounded by and contributes to the absence of a landscape-level approach to parks, buffer zones, community conservancies and conservation corridors, and the lack of multi-sectoral land and resource use planning, which together greatly reduces the effectiveness of existing efforts to manage wildlife and preserve ecosystem services including critical habitat areas and the corridors between them. Most of the protected areas in the Sudd ecosystem (which were designated between 31 and 75 years ago) have never demarcated their boundaries, and they do not conform well to current wildlife distribution patterns and do not protect key elephant and antelope movement corridors. In addition, many of Sudan's PAs were established without consultation processes with local stakeholders, and the boundaries and management regulations for adjacent buffer zones have not been defined adequately. Management of protected areas, and of the wildlife that resides within or travels through them, is further constrained by the lack of management plans and the insufficient technical capacities and resources of wildlife protection and PA staff. The government's approach to management of wildlife and PAs has relied heavily on the integration of former SPLA soldiers, and although staffing levels are often adequate (e.g. there are 194 officers and rangers assigned to the NNP and its Buffer Zone), most of these staff are essentially untrained in PA management, wildlife conservation, community engagement and collaboration and development of sustainable resource use / livelihoods programs, and in many cases they are physically unable to execute their duties. At the management level, on the other hand, many posts remain unfilled and key capacities, for example in ecological monitoring, are very weak. The PA units and wildlife conservation staff targeted under this project also suffer from inadequate equipment and infrastructure: in general access to many areas of critical habitat is extremely difficult as there are few or no roads and few functioning vehicles; guard outposts are very poorly constructed; and field work and communications are greatly limited by a lack of radios, telephones, GPS units, binoculars, cameras, compasses, etc. Funding for wildlife protection and PA management is extremely limited and mostly allocated to salaries for rangers. Most of the biodiversity conservation funding in South Sudan over the past decade has come from the international donor community, but even the amount of these funds has been very limited as most donors have concentrated on humanitarian and basic development assistance. Finally, cooperation with the tourism sector on PA management and wildlife protection, as well as the generation of revenues / jobs for local communities, has been limited by the the lack of stability and security in South Sudan, as few private tourism operators have been willing to establish operations in the country.

1.2) The baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects

The South Sudan Wildlife Services (SWSS) within MWCT has primary responsibility for protected areas and wildlife conservation and management in the country. SWSS includes a headquarters with departments responsible for Wildlife Management, Law Enforcement, Tourism, Fisheries and Production, Training and Planning, as well as a Wildlife Conservation and Research College. SWSS also has regional, county, and Payam (sub-county) offices and staff, and it is responsible for National Parks and their staff (primarily wardens). The continuing conflicts and low levels of development in South Sudan have meant that SWSS has very little funds available for PA management or wildlife protection. However, since the outbreak of the December 2013 conflict, WCS has stepped in with GEF 4 and USAID funding support to cover basic PA operating costs, including vehicles, vehicle repairs, fuel, and some rations. Government support is further constrained by the very high staffing levels at SWSS; the service's 14,000 plus staff consume approximately 75% of the annual budget and very little is left for development, investment and the operational costs of protected areas. The very high staffing levels are a result of the post-conflict effort to demobilize former combatants, and in fact staffing level are expected to rise following the signing of the recent peace agreement between SPLM and SPLM-IO and further demobilization efforts.

As noted above, GOSS support for PA management and wildlife conservation has been extremely limited, and to date the primary source of funding for conservation has been from donor-supported programs. A broad multi-stakeholder partnership for wildlife conservation and protected area management has been developed in recent years, including the Wildlife Service, Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources Management Group (NRMG), WCS, USAID, UNEP, UNDP and other interested donors who have committed to supporting biodiversity conservation, wildlife management and sustainable community livelihood development. At present, apart from GEF-funded initiatives (described in the "Coordination" section below), there are only a few significant biodiversity conservation programs in South Sudan. One of these is the ongoing Conservation of Biodiversity across the Boma-Jonglei Landscape of Southern Sudan project, supported by WCS, GOSS, USAID, and private donors with a budget of US\$ 12 million, which seeks to support and integrate biodiversity conservation and protected area management with sustainable land-use planning across the 200,000 km². Boma-Jonglei landscape in the eastern part of the country. In addition, Fauna and Flora International has carried out various smaller programs on PA management strengthening in Southern National Park and in the west of the country, and on the formulation of new policies and regulations concerning the wildlife and tourism sector.

In the Sudd ecosystem, the Wildlife Conservation Society's Livelihoods Small Grants Program is working in partnership with four CBOs in four wildlife conservation areas within the Boma-Jonglei-Equatoria Landscape Program. These CBOs are working with communities in the implementation of conservation-based alternative livelihoods projects; for example, the Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO) is implementing sustainable fishing projects with communities in Mangalla and Gemeiza on the western boundary of Badingilo National Park, which lies on the south-eastern bank of the Sudd. Significant additional WCS programming in the area will constitute important co-financing for this project, and will support aerial surveys and monitoring, socio-economic surveys, awareness campaigns, and conservation-based livelihoods. In addition, the NGO Global Communities is implementing a number of development projects on economic opportunities and livelihoods in the Sudd region, and a number of other NGOs and UN Agencies are implementing or planning to implement humanitarian and/or development programs in the area.

In the area around Nimule National Park, the work of the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) to support MWCT in implementing the approved 2014 General Management Plan for the NNP will constitute substantial co-financing for this proposed project. AWF will provide technical assistance to NNP's management team as well as the MWCT offices in Juba; strengthen community capacity for co-management of the Buffer Zone; and support conservation compatible livelihoods for local communities. In addition, although there are no other significant conservation-oriented projects in the region of the NNP, there are a number of large programs to support internally displaced persons in the area that will reduce their reliance of unsustainable use of natural resources, including illegal hunting in the area. For example, FAO is implementing a DFID-funded project titled, "Emergency livelihood support to crisis-affected populations in South Sudan" that aims to provide livelihood support to conflict-affected displaced and vulnerable populations in order to enhance food security and diet diversification for vulnerable households. Norwegian Church Aid and the local NGO GLOBAL AIM are implementing a project to assist IDPs and host communities through the distribution of non-food items, psychosocial support, and training

programs on water, sanitation and hygiene, prevention of gender based violence, and HIV and AIDS awareness. Two national NGOs, MRDA and SPEDP, are working in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare to implement a project in Nimule entitled '*Building Resilience among host communities and IDPs*'.

1.3) The proposed alternative scenario, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project

The Project Objective is to combat illegal wildlife trade by strengthening PA legislative and management systems through institutional strengthening, improved information management and monitoring, and community empowerment using both national and site level actions. The project will be executed through three components – the first component consisting of national level actions aiming at legal frameworks and capacity building of relevant institutions, while the other two components involve site level actions to demonstrate wildlife protection within the context of official protected areas.

Component 1: National Frameworks and Coordination Mechanisms for Wildlife Protection

Under Component 1, a coordinated system of wildlife monitoring with centralized and easily accessible information, consistent and agreed monitoring protocols, and recording systems with semi-automated analyses, will be developed for South Sudan. During the PPG stage, priority species for monitoring will be identified, with a focus on species for which some data is already available and managed by organizations willing to partner with the project, and these will be the initial focus of project interventions. The major activities under this output will include consolidating and strengthening relevant policies and laws for wildlife protection under Outcome 1.1, and building additional capacity to manage information and enforce laws and regulations under Outcome 1.2.

Outcome 1.1 - Policies, laws and strategies for wildlife protection revised and harmonized: Outcome 1.1 is focused on harmonizing and enacting laws and regulations for wildlife protection and ensuring that they are adequately enforced and well-publicized among relevant stakeholder groups. The approach taken by the project will focus on criminalizing professional / commercial wildlife poachers and traders, rather than local communities. Working primarily with government agencies and staff, activities under this outcome will begin with a detailed analysis of wildlife and forest crimes in South Sudan using the Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit developed by the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC). Based on the findings of this analysis, the project will work to get new policies and regulations on IWT developed, endorsed, and enforced, in part by facilitating the participation of conservation agencies and supportive donors and NGOs in pushing for the fast tracking of new laws and policies. To further strengthen on-the-ground application of wildlife protection policies and laws, the project will support the development and implementation of a National Community Engagement Policy (to be tested at the sites under Components 2 and 3) and the development of Transboundary Wildlife Management Protocols in selected protected areas (to be tested at the sites under Component 2). A number of South Sudan's wildlife PAs lie at the borders with neighboring countries. Wildlife also migrates across those borders. South Sudan has signed a memorandum of understanding with Uganda for transboundary or 'peace park' management in four protected areas. There are plans to undertake measures to reach similar agreements with Ethiopia, Kenya, CAR and the DRC. Transboundary wildlife management efforts are an important mechanism to build trust and cooperation between South Sudan and its neighbours, for preventing conflicts over natural resources, sharing skills and resources, learning from different countries' experiences, and managing wildlife at the landscape-scale where it crosses international boundaries.

Because protected areas host the majority of wildlife in South Sudan during long periods of the year, and because many of the most important habitats for wildlife are within the protected area network, PA management is a critically important element in wildlife conservation in the country. For these reasons, the project will develop a Protected Area Network Strategy that will identify strategic areas and actions to ensure the adequate protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat in the PA systems, and that integrates PA management into the broader objective of wildlife conservation in South Sudan. This PA Network Strategy will be fully aligned with the results of the ICWC recommendations and related policies and regulations. The project also will support the GOSS in completing the activities required in order to accede to and participate in: the Lusaka Agreement on Co-operative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora; CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora); CMS (Convention on Migratory Species); and the Horn of Africa Wildlife Enforcement Networks (HAWEN).

Outcome 1.2 - Capacity development, coordination and awareness on wildlife protection enhanced: Activities under Outcome 1.2 will focus on capacity building, coordination and awareness raising on wildlife protection for key units in national-level institutions. The project will capacitate the information management unit within the Directorate of Training and Planning (DTP) to consolidate information on wildlife monitoring, poaching and trafficking, using a Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART)⁹ system, in order to improve coordination between local communities, PA managers, local government authorities and central government agencies. The information system will be designed to effectively cover the entire country, but under the project will only be populated with information from the two project areas. Once the information management unit is equipped, DTP staff will be trained in the use of software and equipment, data capture and analysis, and how to package data for various users. In addition, staff from units within the police and judiciary that are involved in controlling the wildlife trade at the national level will be trained in implementing monitoring, enforcement and prosecution actions, including strategies to implement such actions under the new national policies and laws once they are enacted. The project also will undertake activities to raise awareness among decision makers and the public on the value of wildlife protection and the need to combat the illegal wildlife trade. These activities will include efforts to educate policymakers on the need to link reconstruction and conflict reduction policies and programs with wildlife protection and protected area management, so that development and assistance projects achieve sustainable results, secure the resource base, and do not precipitate further wildlife declines or environmental damage.

Component 2: Improved wildlife conservation demonstrated through strengthened management of Nimule National Park

AWF together with the MWCT has developed a GMP designed to bring about the sustainable and effective management of Nimule National Park (incl. the Buffer Zone) to achieve the twin goals of conservation of the Park's important natural resources and optimal revenues from tourism. Achievement of the goals in the GMP will require major investment in infrastructure, human resources and management activities for both the NNP and Buffer Zone. The GEF funds being sought for this project will support improving park management and wildlife protection, and support of conservation compatible livelihoods within the buffer zone. The two outcomes proposed under Component 3 will generate new operational capacities and resources that will ensure that the NNP is rehabilitated and functionally operational.

Outcome 2.1 - Park management and wildlife protection in Nimule NP improved: The key project priority in the NNP is the establishment of a comprehensive park security system. The elongated shape of the NNP, with the Ugandan border on the southern and western boundaries, make security operations very challenging, and snaring, poaching, illegal grazing of livestock, illegal fishing and illegal tree felling are significant threats to the biodiversity of the Park. While poachers from the Ugandan side need to be stopped, it is important to strike a balance between the types of tactics used to enforce the law and relationships with the Park's neighbouring communities. The security division of NNP has the responsibility to protect wildlife, visitors and the Park's property and resources, but the current security system in the Park is nowhere near to achieving this objective as the security unit is ill-equipped and lacks adequately trained personnel, infrastructure and appropriate security gear, and is composed mainly of an older work force that is not always able to carry out duties in the field. For these reasons, the project will provide training and equipment to the park ranger staff to enable them to implement a SMART system. The park staff will be provided with transportation, GPS, communications equipment, and uniforms, as well as training in implementing the SMART system and in strengthening surveillance patrols in hot spots. The project also will help to upgrade and equip the park's ranger outposts, establish record keeping procedures and databases to facilitate security, and facilitate collaborative law enforcement with relevant agencies and stakeholders. In addition, the boundaries of NNP will be more clearly demarcated and awareness raised in order to deter incursions into these areas by poachers as well as illegal settlers. The project will support actions to solicit additional funding from development agencies and other partners based on the GMP that has been recently developed for the NNP. To further increase park revenues, the project will work with private sector partners; mainly existing tour operators and local governments to increase the small but steady flow of local and expatriate residents who currently visit the park, for example by creating basic signage and hiking trails, developing tourism products such as canoe safari trips, and exploring opportunities with private sector partners (mainly existing tour operators) to invest in NNP. AWF will actively engage with private sector investors and tourism operators of good standards

⁹ <http://smartconservationtools.org/>

and reputations at both local and international levels and try to persuade them to invest in and around Nimule NP to support its potential as a tourism destination. These investments must be both market and conservation driven in order to be sustainable and will be in line with the recommendations laid out in a paper on “*Developing protected area tourism concessions in South Sudan*” developed by AWF and Conservation Capital. During the project preparation phase, the feasibility of allocating tourism concessions will be investigated, and if it is deemed economically feasible and realistic considering the process of peace building, the project will help to develop specific concession agreements, following programmatic approaches developed in previous AWF¹⁰ and UNDP¹¹ projects.

Outcome 2.2 - Strengthened capacities and information for wildlife protection in and around Nimule National Park:

The project will strengthen the capacities of wildlife services in the NNP region to combat wildlife poaching and trafficking. To begin, the project will establish and capacitate an anti-trafficking Rapid Response Unit, including SSWS, customs and police staff as well as local authorities, to consolidate information on poaching and trafficking and to coordinate responses to identified poaching and trafficking threats. This state-level unit will be linked to the national level anti-trafficking network that has already been established with support from SSWS and WCS. The project also will support the establishment of a SMART system for wildlife in the NNP and its immediate vicinity, which will allow park wardens to use GPS to report incidents (with the information automatically uploaded to a database and shared with relevant agencies). At the same time, the project will work with local communities in and around the NNP to develop information gathering and sharing networks and to establish incentives for local residents to report illegal activities, such as direct payments and professional training in investigation activities. Because the NNP lies on the border with Uganda, it is important that protocols are established for the management of transboundary wildlife movements. The transboundary officer, in collaboration with the security unit, will be tasked with coordinating engagement with the Ugandan authorities to enable cooperation on anti-poaching operations on both sides of the border, and regular technical meetings with Ugandan counterparts will be held to share information and devise strategies.

Outcome 2.3 - Community-based conservation and sustainable livelihoods developed: The buffer zone in the east and northeast part of NNP is used by a number of communities and presents an opportunity to integrate local communities into conservation of wildlife resources. Effective management of the Buffer Zone is critical for the continued existence of the Park, as the population is likely to continue to increase rapidly, which could lead to the creation and expansion of informal settlements around the buffer zone (particularly since the legal status of the Buffer Zone is unclear). Accordingly, the project will support sustainable livelihood activities and cooperative management by local communities that they can contribute to conservation objectives while also securing benefits from helping to conserve the rich wildlife resources in the Buffer Zone.

To begin, the project will establish and capacitate community-based structures for wildlife management. A Natural Resource Management Committee (NRMC) will be established for co-management of the Buffer Zone in collaboration with NNP management. Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) is an approach to conservation and development that recognizes the rights of local people to manage and benefit from the management and use of natural resources. It entails transferring back to communities’ access and use rights, empowering them with legislation and devolved management responsibility, building their capacity and creating partnerships with the public and private sector actors to develop programmes for the sustainable use of a variety of natural resources (primarily the Nile River, pasture, reed, and fuelwood). This in essence creates the space to accommodate local interests and livelihood needs, and empower resource users to benefit from and influence the outcomes of new policies. In Nimule the Buffer Zone presents an opportunity for communities to be directly involved in conservation activities and at the same time exploit tourism and other enterprise opportunities. However, in order to effectively manage the designated Buffer Zone, communities should be assisted to develop elaborate structures and instruments that will facilitate the management of the conservation area. In order to address this issue two management actions have been developed in the GMP to help communities establish such structures and instruments. In Nimule the NRMC will be an adequate structure whose primary objective will be to conserve resources of the Buffer Zone in a manner that facilitates the sustainable utilization of the resources by and for the benefits of local community members ordinarily resident in Nimule. In this regard, communities should be prepared to identify suitable individuals and elect a NRMC to

¹⁰ E.g., the recommendations laid out in AWF’s paper on “*Developing protected area tourism concessions in South Sudan*”

¹¹ http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/ecosystems_and_biodiversity/tourism-concessions-in-protected-natural-areas.html

oversee management of the Buffer Zone in collaboration with NNP management. The NRMC will be tasked with facilitating the sustainable utilization and protection of resources by and for the benefit of local community members, and ensuring that management actions are accountable to the communities, local councils and county government. The NRMC also will be responsible for conflict resolution, and implementation of by-laws / codes of conduct and disciplinary measures for community members with regards to the Buffer Zone. Natural Resources Management entails a lot of issues including policy engagement with governments, local authorities, wildlife and other resource management departments. This maybe overwhelming for communities with limited experience in such issues. In light of these concerns NNP management and partners (incl. AWF) will facilitate training in natural resources management for the elected Nimule Natural Resources Management Committee to enhance their role in CBNRM and empower them in addressing issues of devolution and proprietorship with confidence. As part of the training, a learning trip could possibly be organised for the committee to visit at least an area in East Africa where CBNRM has been successfully implemented. There are several successful examples of this from Kenya e.g. Community Conservancies, Water Resource Users Associations, and Community Forest Associations, or from Wildlife Management Areas in Tanzania.

The future desired state of NNP and the Buffer Zone is where the communities adjacent to the protected area will benefit and contribute positively to conservation of wildlife. This will be made possible through support to community projects, social responsibility or by initiating conservation related income generating projects. To achieve this output, two different interventions will be investigated that focus on, improving the fishing industry, promoting local wildlife-related enterprises and building capacity of local community to manage enterprises. It should be noted that to successfully achieve this objective the Nimule Natural Resource Management Committee, NNP management and other partners should be actively involved in all management actions proposed in this section. Working with the NRMC, the project will support compatible sustainable community livelihoods activities in the NNP buffer zone so that the communities adjacent to the protected area will benefit from and contribute positively to conservation of wildlife. If deemed feasible as the project progresses (depending on security situation and tourism potential), the project may promote local wildlife-related enterprises, in particular related to wildlife tourism, and will build the capacity of local residents and private sector actors to manage such enterprises. Community areas in Nimule are endowed with abundant and diverse natural resources. The Buffer Zone allows communities to establish and manage enterprise projects. The project will explore, identify and if possible support establishment of community conservation enterprises. In line with the zonation prescriptions for the buffer zone, communities are allowed to develop certain wildlife based enterprises. In order for the community to reap maximum benefits from these resources, members of the community will organize themselves according to their interests into self-help groups with the aim of establishing enterprises that will allow collective sustainable exploitation of resources and marketing of products. Some of the enterprise options proposed for the community in the GMP include handicrafts, brick molding, fuel efficient stoves, Lulu (shea) products, bee keeping, tree planting and microfinance. The feasibility for these will be explored further during the more detailed project proposal development stage. For selected enterprises the project will collaborate with stakeholders and partners to provide the feasibility assessment to determine if these enterprises are viable, followed by necessary training and support needed for it enterprise to be operational. While the funds available under the GEF project is not enough to undertake all of the potential enterprises, the project will actively engage development partners and donors to fund and implement such initiatives in the Buffer zone to complement the GEF initiative.

The project will support improvements to the local fishing industry, which is one of the major community activities in the Buffer Zone of the NNP. Fishing is mainly carried out along the Nile River. Fishing for commercial purposes is largely carried out in fishing camps along the Nile River. At present, there are thirteen fishing camps along the Nile River (ten within the Buffer Zone). Each camp is headed by a chief who by way of tradition inherited the camp from their predecessors. The main challenge with fishing along this part of the Nile is that it is largely uncontrolled in terms of fishing methods, location and offtake. To improve fishing in and around the NNP and realize more benefits for the community, the project will develop and support a fishing cooperative and offer training on sustainable fishing methods. Opportunities for value addition and improved market linkages for the fish produce will be investigated as the area is close to Nimule town and with good road infrastructure to other urban centres along the road to Juba and with new roads being built towards e.g. Magwe and Torit. AWF together with the Nimule NRMC and NNP management will facilitate the establishment of one umbrella fishing cooperative for the Buffer Zone. Through this cooperative other regulatory instruments such as registration and licencing of each fishing camp will be employed. Under this cooperative mechanisms will be developed to ensure that the greater Nimule

community benefits from the fishing proceeds on the Nile. Registered and licensed fishing camps will receive support through the cooperative. The type of support offered may include purchase of fishing gear, training and security at camp sites. As part of the conservation initiative AWF, NRMC, and NNP management and other potential partners will facilitate provision of training to local fisherman to improve fishing methods and handling and marketing. The training should aim to improve and modernize fishing methods and sensitize the fisherman on the importance of sustainable fishing. Additionally, the training should equip the fisherman with proper fish handling and packaging skills and also ways in which they can improve and maximize on their marketing. This will result in higher and more sustainable catches of fish. With better organization and improved market linkages enhanced income generation potential for the fishermen are envisaged. The existing community conservation programme run by the NNP management faces many challenges, including lack of capacity and the need for new approaches to community engagement that can increase buy-in to conservation objectives. Thus, in order to ensure community interest in and support for co-management and livelihoods activities, the project will implement conservation education and awareness raising activities on the important of wildlife and ecosystem services, of the benefits they can offer to local communities, and of the existing and potential threats to these important assets.

Component 3: Wildlife Protection Initiative in the Sudd Ecosystem

This component will aim to strengthen protection of the ecosystem services and biodiversity habitat in the Sudd ecosystem, with a focus on enhancing the management effectiveness of existing protected areas (Shambe National Park and the Meshra and Zeraf Game Reserves), extending the total area included in protected areas, community conservancies and corridors, and developing effective community partnerships to support conservation and livelihoods objectives. WCS and the South Sudan Wildlife Service have identified a number of key areas proposed for community conservancies, new protected areas and extensions based on research and surveys conducted over the past years to complement the existing protected areas in the Sudd region. These proposed area designations now need to be introduced for stakeholder deliberation and eventual legal designation.

Outcome 3.1 - Protection of Sudd ecosystem and associated PAs (Shambe, Meshra, Zeraf): The project will undertake a number of activities to strengthen the protection of the Sudd ecosystem and in particular the management of protected areas and wildlife. To begin, aerial surveys will be conducted to identify and map key ecosystems and habitats, as well as animal populations and movements and human activities, in order to inform a landscape-level approach to PA expansion and wildlife protection. These aerial surveys will be complemented by collaring and real-time tracking of key species (i.e. elephants) and other terrestrial monitoring activities to validate the aerial surveys and to ensure protection of elephant groups and reductions in elephant poaching. These survey activities will be supported by training in targeted intelligence-led law enforcement operations and in use of SMART, as well as the provision of basic field equipment (including radio network and mobility support) to protect wildlife and enforce wildlife laws and control other illicit natural resource activities. The information generated by the aerial and ground surveys will assist SWSS and other stakeholders in strengthening the zoning and coverage of the PA system in the Sudd. Existing PAs (Shambe National Park and the Meshra and Zeraf Game Reserves) will undergo zoning processes to identify areas for strict conservation / wilderness, for mixed use, for intensive use, etc. In addition, important areas not yet included in the PA system, such as biodiversity hotspots, critical habitat for vulnerable species such as elephants and giraffe, and areas for animal movement (e.g. antelope migration), will be assessed, surveyed and proposed as extensions of existing protected areas, conservation corridors, or community conservancies. The project also will support the development of new and/or updated management plans for protected areas in the Sudd ecosystem, including policies and regulations to govern the allowed uses and activities within different PA types and zones. To further support effective PA management, the project will facilitate engagement with extractive industries in the Sudd, such as oil companies, agricultural enterprises and infrastructure developers, to promote sound environmental planning and protection of wildlife and to reduce negative impacts on the ecosystem from habitat fragmentation, pollution, and increased poaching.

Outcome 3.2 - Strengthened capacities and information for wildlife protection in and around three protected areas in the Sudd Ecosystem: The project will strengthen the capacities of wildlife services in the Sudd Ecosystem region to combat wildlife poaching and trafficking. To begin, the project will establish and capacitate an anti-trafficking Rapid Response Unit, including SSWS and police staff as well as local authorities, to consolidate information on poaching and trafficking and to coordinate responses to identified poaching and trafficking threats. This unit will be linked to the national level anti-trafficking network that has already been established with support from SSWS and WCS. The project also will support the

establishment of a SMART system for wildlife in the three target protected areas and their immediate vicinity, which will allow park wardens to use GPS to report incidents (with the information automatically uploaded to a database and shared with relevant agencies). At the same time, the project will work with local communities in and around the three PAs to develop information gathering and sharing networks and to establish incentives for local residents to report illegal activities, such as direct payments and professional training in investigation activities. With the current model of WCS that will be replicated in the Sudd, each PA has a WCS employed focal person that links with the network set for that PA in gathering and sharing information. The networks for the various PAs provide information to their respective focal persons. The WCS focal persons then provide the information to a WCS central focal person. The central focal person discusses with the SSWS counterpart(s) for decision making. WCS has been, and is still implementing this model in anti-poaching and anti-trafficking across areas it is operating in, including in Lantoto NP, Boma, NP, Badingilo NP and Juba International Airport. Great success have been achieved through this model.

Outcome 3.3 - Community based conservation in the Sudd ecosystem: The second element of project interventions in the Sudd will focus on engaging local communities in conservation and natural resource management partnerships to build support for Sudd protected areas and wildlife protection. To begin, the project will conduct preliminary awareness raising and mapping activities and studies to assess the feasibility of establishing community conservancies that can protect habitat outside of existing PAs (provision for the establishment of such areas is included in the new PA policy and law). The time that it will take to establish the community conservancies depends of how fast the government will act pass out legal frameworks and political recognition of the conservancies. The NGOs and SSWS will be responsible for creating awareness on the development of the conservancies, but the govt will need to pass out frame-works related to the development the conservancies. Based on the results of these assessments, the project expects to assist in the establishment of at least 2 pilot community conservancies in the Sudd ecosystem by the end of the project (WCS has been working on similar processes in other parts of the country for several years). At the same time, the project will design and implement awareness campaigns on wildlife conservation, sustainable resource use, and wetland / rangeland management in order to build community support for wildlife law enforcement and long-term conservation activities, including the presence of protected areas, wildlife corridors, and community conservancies. Based on the increased awareness and understanding that will exist in local communities, the project will seek to establish community partnerships for wildlife protection and wildlife friendly land-use (particularly with fishing and pastoralist communities). These partnerships will focus on community cooperation on monitoring and security for both wildlife and humans, and on developing wildlife friendly land-use management systems that support more sustainable land and resource use practices (particularly with regard to NTFPs, fishing and rangeland management). Finally, the project will support environmentally sound sustainable livelihoods activities in selected communities within the Sudd ecosystem, in particular through the use of community conservation security partnerships/agreements. Currently there are community conservation security partnerships/agreements, which are mutual understandings that the communities and wildlife rangers, as well as other law enforcement agents are obliged to be abide to, for the security of wildlife and humans (communities). The ideal working is that the members of communities report to wildlife rangers, conservation organizations, and other law enforcement agents if they detect incidences of insecurity for wildlife or humans. For instance, communities report presence or movement of wildlife traders and traffickers, poachers, cattle rustlers, and other cases of insecurity. Under such partnerships/agreements, sustainable livelihoods activities will be supported and additional funding sources for community development will be sought out in exchange for agreement by community participants to adopt sustainable practices, to participate in wildlife monitoring and reporting, etc. For the Sudd area, the priority will be to develop sustainable fish capture. This will include training the beneficiaries on the best fish capture practices, effective sustainable fish preservation techniques that use less energy for preservation, fish marketing, development of fishing groups and cooperatives. If well planned and implemented, the groups will have sense of ownership for the projects. In Badingilo NP western sector, such model resulted in some individuals employing locals to work for their enterprises despite continuing working in their groups. Fishing groups also developed group savings that they use for their group activities if need be. According to the WCS model, WCS advertised for CBOs who would directly implement the activities with the communities. The CBOs that applied were vested over time until a suitable one was identified for a particular area. WCS then sub-contracted the CBOs to implement the activities with technical support from WCS. WCS makes routine monitoring and supervisory work to the activity sites.

1.4) Incremental Cost Reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF and co-financing

Scenario without the GEF investment: Without GEF and co-financing assistance, protected area management and wildlife protection in South Sudan will continue to have very minimal scope and successes. As described in the Baseline, the SSWS has developed a 3-year (2015-2018) work plan and budget to guide its operations, including disarmament programs in and around protected areas, education and conservation awareness, information gathering, procurement of equipment for research, and combatting wildlife crime. However, at present the SSWS has only received budget allocations for staff salaries, and none of these operational programs / objectives under the 3-year plan have been funded. Thus, rangers will remain on staff but will not be deployed to strategic locations; SWSS and PA staff will not have technical capacities to effectively implement wildlife protection programs or to develop and implement PA management plans/activities; critical legal and policy changes to support improved wildlife and PA management will remain in draft form; basic information on wildlife and ecosystem services will remain unavailable to resource managers and other stakeholders; and local communities will continue to have poor understanding of the negative impacts of wildlife poaching and few incentives to contribute to wildlife protection. In this scenario, without GEF and other external assistance, globally significant wildlife populations will continue to decline and ecosystem services that support wildlife and local human populations will continue to be degraded.

Scenario with the GEF investment: While the post-conflict threats to wildlife and natural ecosystems are growing, there is also tremendous opportunity to conserve these globally important assets in South Sudan. The country has a relatively low human population density, many intact wildlife populations and habitats, and high levels of biodiversity. The window of opportunity is narrow as extractive industry, returning refugees, and development projects expand and threaten wildlife and protected areas. It is critical to take this opportunity for conservation now and to influence the entire development / reconstruction approach in South Sudan, while also ensuring sustainable natural resource management for the benefit of local communities. GEF financing will help build institutional capacity of the GOSS to undertake integrated approaches to combating the illegal wildlife trade and the conservation and management of protected areas, including community and private sector based partnerships like working with tour operators and travel agents to advertise the PAs beyond the inner circles of the PA management. The project will provide incremental funding across a suite of interventions that build on the limited government funding available for fighting wildlife crimes and undertaking protected area management, as well as on financing from development assistance that focuses on supporting stronger natural resource management in pursuit of ending wildlife crime. The project will promote a shared vision for change in the supply and trafficking of wildlife, and a common objective among the participating partners that will produce results greater than the sum of the project's individual components. In addition, project activities to develop and implement trans-boundary wildlife management protocols will allow for levels of collaboration across countries, especially between Uganda and South Sudan that can generate additional baseline resources to support project objectives.

Co-Financing: As described in Section 1.3, GOSS, AWF, WCS and UNEP will provide substantial and significant co-financing in cash and in kind to support the proposed interventions in the amount of USD 8.3 million.

1.5) Global environmental benefits

The project will put in place measures to strengthen the enforcement of wildlife protection laws, with the main priority being the protection of globally significant and threatened species against poaching, illegal harvest and trafficking throughout South Sudan. This outcome of the project is expected to produce tangible conservation benefits for species such as white-eared kob, tiang (topi), buffalo, elephant, giraffe, hartebeest, lion, wild dog, white and black rhino, and other species. In addition, the project will support activities that will lead to improved management of a total of about 17,553 km² at four protected area sites and their buffer zones in the Nimule and Sudd ecosystem regions. Improved management of these sites will help to maintain globally significant biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services. The Sudd wetland provides essential ecosystem services and significant carbon reservoirs are contained in the vast reaches of the protected areas. The project also will contribute to South Sudan's achievement of the CBD 2020 Aichi Targets mainly through Target 12, as the project contributes to reducing the loss of known threatened species, and possibly preventing their extinction across the landscapes; and will also contribute to other Aichi targets as follows: Target 4, to the extent that the project will engage

governments, business and various other stakeholders to manage biodiversity within safe ecological limits (e.g. through site management activities); Target 11, as the project will contribute to improving the management effectiveness of the PA system;; and Targets 14 and 15, as the project support the enhancement of ecosystems' functions, structure and resilience, including in the face of climate change.

1.6 Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up

Innovation: The engagement of intelligence-led, targeted preventative and pre-emptive efforts to fight wildlife crime is not yet widespread practice in South Sudan, and the methodologies of the ICCWC's Wildlife and Forestry Crime Analytic Toolkit will be applied for the first time. The equipment, devices and intervention strategies that are proposed for adoption by the SSWS and at the site level are innovations in the national context. Innovation will also be infused in the training and capacity building methods that the project will promote.

Sustainability: The overall sustainability of the project results will be supported by embedding capacity into the institutions and entities that need and can make good use of strengthened abilities and resources. At the national level, the project will raise awareness among legislators, the Council of Ministers, and other decision makers on the importance of conserving South Sudan's protected areas and wildlife, thereby increasing their support for additional funding for conservation and for mainstreaming conservation objectives across all branches of government, including in particular Finance, Tourism, and Planning and Natural Resource Management. Capacity building will strengthen the on-going ability law enforcement and protected area agencies with jurisdiction over species and their habitats, and of rural communities dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods, to continue to carry out activities that can benefit wildlife and ecosystem services. Building good policies, strong legislation and the capacity to implement them will establish the enabling environment for attacking the illegal wildlife trade. Securing alternative development pathways that rely on a resilient and healthy wildlife stock that benefits communities will reduce the incentives for rural populations to engage in wildlife trafficking or destructive ecosystem management practices. The project will seek to create stable situations on the ground where there is proper enforcement along with local communities engaged in conservation-compatible activities that generate local benefits while generating global environmental benefits.

Potential for scaling-up: The proposed project will address capacity building for staff within the Directorate of Training and Planning (DTP) on managing information systems for wildlife monitoring, poaching and trafficking; training on implementing monitoring, enforcement and prosecution actions for units within the police and judiciary involved in controlling the wildlife trade; and training on PA management for staff at the targeted PA sites, which together will allow for best practices and lessons learned through national and on-site enforcement activities to be easily and widely up-scaled to overall national wildlife protection operations and throughout the national protected area system. The Project will catalyse different innovations that can be deployed at speed and scale across other site, for example identifying consensus indicators to measure success in conserving wildlife populations and ecosystem services. Training of CBOs and local communities within and adjacent to the targeted PA sites in wildlife protection and community co-management processes will be crucial for developing models that can be replicated elsewhere in the country, and replication of lessons and best practices may be enabled in areas such as monitoring, enforcement, ecotourism and other biodiversity-compatible livelihood opportunities. International exchanges with other countries practicing Community Based Natural Resource Management, such as Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, will be used to further strengthen skills in these technical areas among stakeholders at the targeted PA sites, who can then provide peer training to their colleagues at other sites in South Sudan.

2. **Stakeholders.** Will project design include the participation of relevant stakeholders from civil society organizations (yes /no) and indigenous peoples (yes /no) If yes, identify key stakeholders and briefly describe how they will be engaged in project preparation.

Table 1: Stakeholders and their roles in project preparation

<i>Stakeholder</i>	<i>Relevant Role</i>
Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism (MWCT)	The MWCT will be the lead GOSS institution overseeing the design and implementation of the project and will act as the official project implementing partner (augmented by support from Ministry of Environment and Forestry). At the systemic and institutional level, it will play a leading role in developing strategies for any legal and institutional reform processes. The MWCT will chair the project steering committee and most local working groups.
South Sudan Wildlife Services (SSWS)	SSWS will design the project activities at the park management level, including activities to improve park management, support infrastructure development, and work closely with targeted communities. At the individual level, it will identify staff to participate in project supported trainings and capacity development.
South Sudan Police Service (SSPS)	The SSPS, under the Ministry of Interior, will assist in the design of project activities to provide training for law enforcement staff.
Ministry of Justice	The Judiciary will be involved in taking up court cases on IWT and crime
African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)	In cooperation with the SSWS, AWF will be the executing partner responsible for the design and implementation of project activities under Component 3, which will address protected area management and wildlife conservation in the area of Nimule NP. AWF will be responsible for administration, all financial management, contracting and reporting for the project.
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	In cooperation with the SSWS, WCS will be the executing partner responsible for the design and implementation of project activities under Component 4, which will address protected area management and wildlife conservation in the Sudd ecosystem.
CBOs	Community representatives at the local level, including representatives of indigenous groups, will be engaged in the project design and implementation through consultation processes and through the establishment of site-based coordination mechanisms. Communities particularly affected by protected areas and wildlife will be engaged in designing the project activities on wildlife management and environmentally sound livelihoods projects, in accordance with community priorities.
Local Governments	Local governments at all levels will be involved in project design, project implementation and decision making, and will be responsible for representing all stakeholders within their communities, including indigenous groups.
UNEP	As the GEF implementing agency, the primary role of UNEP will be oversight and supervision of the project design process. In addition, South Sudan is currently implementing the NBSAP project and the NCSA project with technical support from UNEP to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF); and UNEP will provide technical inputs and integration between those projects and the design of this proposed project.
University of Juba	The College of Natural Resources at the University of Juba provides a four-year degree in wildlife management and staff members may be able to provide specialist and technical inputs into the design of project activities. Students and recent graduates of the College may also be assigned to undertake scientific surveys or other work to assist in project design and implementation.

3. **Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment.** Are issues on gender equality and women’s empowerment taken into account? (yes /no). If yes, briefly describe how it will be mainstreamed into project preparation (e.g. gender analysis), taking into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of women and men.

While degradation of natural ecosystems have an impact on communities in general, women have suffered more than their male counterparts. In traditional African households, women are usually the primary food providers for their families, and they fetch forest products such as firewood, leafy vegetables, fruits, roots, and tubers. Women in South Sudan also take a very active role in activities such as fishing, collection of wild fruits and vegetables and ensuring food security at the household level. Despite their critical role in the management of natural resources, women have limited property rights to ensure their access to land and forests. Women also have comparatively few employment opportunities in the collection, production, and sale of timber, wood, charcoal, and other forest products. This gender disparity in access to and utilization of natural resources from forests and elsewhere is a major contributor to rising poverty among women. For these reasons, during the project preparation phase, attention will be paid to ensuring that women play an active role in the project and enjoy tangible benefits from the project interventions. Stakeholder consultations will be organized around the proposed

activities in order to mobilize local communities and enhance the impact of the project at local level, and all stakeholder meetings, workshops, trainings, etc. will take into consideration gender balance and the representation of various ethnic groups. The project will push for equal participation of both women and men in the wildlife protection and livelihoods related activities, and awareness raising activities will highlight the importance of inclusion of all representative groups. A baseline analysis on gender will be further developed during the PPG phase.

4. Risks. Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental 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 (table format acceptable).

Table 2: Identified risks and their management strategy

Risk	Risk Level	Management Strategy
Possibility of armed conflict and/or weak rule of law	High	The project will follow appropriate instructions and applicable protocols from the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). All project staff will undergo training in security in the field, and prior to any deployment, project staff, consultants and collaborators will apply for security clearance according to UNDSS procedures. If necessary, the project can limit or suspend on the ground activities in order to reduce security risks. If necessary, some sub-national activities (e.g. coordination meetings, public hearings, public awareness activities) can be relocated to Juba, while on-the-ground activities at PA sites can be put on hold if required.
Weak management capacity and weak accountability mechanisms undermine conservation outcomes	High	Institutional capacity will be one of the targets of the project. The project will build the capacity of the SSWS and the NNP staff in protected area management including putting in place tracking and performance evaluation systems and financial management and accountability.
National reconstruction policies and programs do not integrate biodiversity conservation concerns and priorities	Medium	AWF, WCS, UNDP, UNEP, USAID and other development partners are engaged with strengthening the capacity of the GOSS in environmental impact assessment and in an extensive land policy and development reform process. While land policy and development reforms are not within the scope of this project, the project will work to establish close ties – through steering committees and other coordination mechanisms – with institutions and programs that are leading reconstruction efforts to ensure that they integrate protected area management, wildlife conservation, and other aspects of biodiversity conservation.
Confusion over jurisdiction / governance between the national and state governments	Medium	Because South Sudan’s states are almost autonomous in decision-making, including the development and enforcement of laws, the project will support vertical and horizontal inter-ministerial coordination in order to ensure that project activities are not undermined by sectoral or state-level decisions.
Climate change may increase the speed and intensity of ecosystem degradation	Medium	Climate scenarios for South Sudan project greater spatial and temporal variations in rainfall, which could exacerbate the risk of drought and flooding and reduce access to water and feed for wildlife. By strengthening protected areas, increasing PA connectivity through community conservancies and corridors, and improving wildlife protection, the project will increase the likelihood that ecosystem services and populations of globally significant wildlife are more likely to remain resilient in the face of these potential climate change impacts.
Potential problems of community access and displacement and land tenure conflicts related to strengthening protected area management and wildlife protection	Medium	Legislation currently being developed will enshrine co-management and other forms of environmental governance as recognized approaches for PA management and conservation. Based on this, conflict resolution structures will be designed and internalized into the stakeholder participation plans for targeted PA sites. Given the intricate linkages between local livelihoods and the natural resource base, the design of PA management approaches will give specific attention to co-management options. The project will engage relevant actors to ensure that potential access rights and potential displacement issues with regard to PAs and wildlife conservation measures are identified and addressed appropriately.

5. Coordination. Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF-financed and other initiatives

This project has commonalities with a number of other GEF interventions in South Sudan, and the project team will engage in dialogue, seek collaboration, and initiate sharing of knowledge and best practices with these other projects. UNEP is implementing five relevant GEF-funded projects, namely: 1) development of the NBSAP and the National Report to the CBD; 2) the NAPA; 3) the Initial National Communication to the UNFCCC; 4) the National Capacity Self Assessment for implementation of the Rio conventions; and 5) the Regional Umbrella Programme for Biennial below Update Report to the United National Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The UNEP office in South Sudan will support the promotion and integration of the outcomes from the proposed project into the planning processes of South Sudan's UNDAF, NBSAP, NAPA, INC, BUR1, and NCSA. The project is aligned with South Sudan's UNDAF (2013-2017) Outcome 10: Environmental assets and natural resources that are well protected and continually enhanced.

WCS is currently executing the UNDP-GEF project Launching Protected Area Network Management and Building Capacity in Post-conflict Southern Sudan in four protected areas in South Sudan: the Boma, Badingilo and Southern National Parks and the Zeraf Game Reserve. This PA Network project is helping to establish a foundation for effective PA site management in the country; draft PA management plans for Boma and Badingilo Park have been developed and are awaiting stakeholder consultations, and the infrastructure of the PA sites has been greatly expanded in the Southern, Boma and Badingilo NPs, including the construction of HQs, ranger posts, garages, etc., as well as the deployment of key management and conservation equipment.

6. Consistency with National Priorities. Is the project consistent with the National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions? (yes /no). If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, etc.

This project is country-driven and is consistent with, and supportive of, the following key national development policies, strategies and plans and conventions. The South Sudan Development Plan 2011–16 recognizes the need to protect and sustainably manage natural resources and environment through development of environmental, wildlife and protected area policies, laws and environmental processes; anti-poaching and law enforcement; raising environmental awareness; conducting surveys, research, monitoring, development of protected areas infrastructure, and the development of an Environmental Information Centre. The South Sudan Wildlife Conservation and Protected Area Policy (2012) recognizes that landscape-level conservation and management is required to maintain the integrity of ecosystems, habitats, species and genetic diversity, and the health of environmental services. Strategies identified under this policy include: integrated planning to ensure that wildlife conservation is adequately integrated into wider economic, development and infrastructure planning processes that shape landscape and habitats in critical ways; land-use planning, especially important in maintaining wildlife habitats in areas outside protected areas; and tourism development to enhance the use and value of wildlife and protected areas. The project will assist in the implementation of the provisions of this policy by coordinating investments in the NNP and the Sudd ecosystem to reduce poaching, strengthen community-based wildlife management and improve protected area management effectiveness. The project will support the implementation of the draft National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and the National Capacity Self Assessment, both of which are currently under development. The project will also directly support measures that help South Sudan accede to Lusaka Agreement, South Sudan's participation in the Horn of Africa Wildlife Enforcement Network (HAWEN), CITES and CMS.

7. Knowledge Management. Outline the knowledge management approach for the project, including, if any, plans for the project to learn from other relevant projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

The focus of the proposed project is to protect critical wildlife populations by coordinating investments accelerating learning and investing in direct action to disrupt wildlife trafficking. As part of this effort, the project will enhance learning uptake and strengthen the information and evidence base to underpin more effective and informed policies and interventions on illegal wildlife trade. The project also will facilitate exchanges with other donors, NGOs and development agencies through conferences and workshops regarding wildlife conservation and effective protected area management, and it will enable civil

society, private sector and academia to have increased understanding and a greater voice in the collaborative management of wildlife and in community livelihood development. Lessons from project interventions will be shared widely to scale up successes and avoid failures and will support the national implementation of international agreements on wildlife crime. The project will provide opportunities for south-south learning, foster intergovernmental cooperation, use M&E tools and geospatial services, apply best practices and peer review and develop portfolio-wide training and communication strategies.


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

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT¹² OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):
(The Operational Focal Point endorsement letter is attached to this template)

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
David Batali	Director, GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment	24/06/2016

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies¹³ and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation under GEF-6.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
Brennan Van Dyke, Director, GEF Coordination Office, UNEP		July 25, 2016	Jane Nimpamya Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) UNEP Nairobi, Kenya	Tel: +254 207 624 629 Cell: +254 718436427	Jane.Nimpamya@unep.org

C. ADDITIONAL GEF PROJECT AGENCY CERTIFICATION (APPLICABLE ONLY TO NEWLY ACCREDITED GEF PROJECT AGENCIES)

For newly accredited GEF Project Agencies, please download and fill up the required GEF Project Agency Certification of Ceiling Information Template to be attached as an annex to the PIF.

¹² For regional and/or global projects in which participating countries are identified, OFP endorsement letters from these countries are required even though there may not be a STAR allocation associated with the project.

¹³ GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCAF, and SCCF

Annex 1: Nimule National Park

AWF together with the MWCT has developed a General Management Plan designed to bring about the sustainable and effective management of NNP and the Buffer Zone in order to achieve the twin goals of conservation of the Park's important natural resources and optimal revenues from tourism. The GMP identifies several conservation targets oriented around species, ecological systems, and communities/habitats, with consideration of ecological, cultural and scenic values as priorities for conservation. Ideally conservation of these main targets will ensure persistence of subsidiary targets. The conservation targets for NNP (incl. the Buffer Zone) and their viability are elaborated in the table below.

Table 3: Conservation Targets for NNP and Buffer Zone

Category	Conservation Target	Rationale	Target Viability	
			Current status	Desired Future status
Species	Elephants	Vulnerable and Keystone; threatened by closure of corridors, loss of habitat and poaching	Poor	Good
	Hippo	One of the remaining mammals in the Park threatened by poaching	Poor	Good
	Uganda kob	NNP currently hosts one of only two known populations in South Sudan	Poor	Good
	Goliath herons	Breeding sites. The Park is an IBA	Good	Very good
Systems	Nile River	The Nile supports diverse communities of terrestrial and aquatic diversity along its entire length of 655 km within the Sudd (from Bor to Fanyikang)	Poor	Medium
Communities / Habitats	Riverine woodland	Spectacular stands of <i>Acacia siberiana</i> and <i>Borassus aethiopum</i> . Important dry season habitat	Fair	Medium
	Wooded grassland	Extensive vegetation type covering most of the Park and buffer zone	Good	Medium
	Riverine papyrus swamps	Unique papyrus, aquatic grass, and water hyacinth	Good	Good
	Fula Rapids	Dramatic scenery	Fair	Good
Key Viability Assessment	Poor: Restoration increasingly difficult; May result in extirpation	Fair: Outside acceptable range of variation; Requires human intervention	Good: Indicator w/in acceptable range of variation; Some intervention required for maintenance	Very Good: Ecologically desirable status; Requires little intervention for maintenance

Annex 2: the Sudd system

Table 4: Conservation targets and key ecological attributes for the Sudd

	Conservation target	Rationale	Conservation status
Species	Elephants	Vulnerable and Keystone; threatened by poaching, oil pollution and habitat loss	Poor
	Hippopotamus	Largest population concentration in South Sudan, threatened by poaching	Medium
	Nile Lechwe	Vulnerable, threatened by poaching and endemic to the area and South Sudan/Ethiopia	Medium
	Tiang	Southeast Sudd wetland vital ranging area for tiang migration during the dry season, threatened poaching and habitat loss	Poor
	Buffalo	Largest remaining population concentration in South Sudan, vulnerable and threatened by poaching	Medium
	Giraffe	Highly fragmented population (Shambe and Ayod) and very vulnerable to poaching	Very poor
	Shoebill	Largest population globally	Good
	East-Asian/East African flyway of Palearctic birds	Sudd provides vital ecological stepping stone for millions of birds each year, linking breeding ranges in central-Europe and Asia with winter ranges to the south	Medium
Systems	Nile River	The longest river in the world - 6,695 km, supporting diverse communities of terrestrial and aquatic diversity. The distance of the Nile within the Sudd is 655 km from Bor to Fanyikang.	Medium
	The Sudd	A Ramsar site. The biggest fresh water system in Africa and one of the world's largest tropical wetlands and the largest freshwater wetland in the Nile basin. Hosts large numbers of migrating antelopes during the dry season including tiang, reedbuck, Mangalla gazelle and white-eared kob. Vital for local livelihood resilience and potential tourism attraction site.	Medium
Communities / Habitats	Riverine woodland	Spectacular stands of <i>Acacia siberiana</i> and <i>Borassus aethiopum</i> .	Medium
	Flooded grassland	Extensive vegetation on either side of the Nile. Important seasonal grazing sites for communities.	Good
	Riverine papyrus swamps	Unique papyrus, aquatic grass, and water hyacinth	Good