



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)¹

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Hwange-Sanyati Biological Corridor (HSBC) Environment Management and Conservation Project		
Country(ies):	Zimbabwe	GEF Project ID: ²	4645
GEF Agency(ies):	WB (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	P124625
Other Executing Partner(s):	WWF	Submission Date:	2012-05-29
GEF Focal Area (s):	Multi-focal Areas	Project Duration (Months)	72 Months
Name of parent program (if applicable): ➤ For SFM/REDD+ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	Agency Fee (\$):	564,500

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK³:

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
(select) BD-1	1.1. Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas.	1.1. New protected areas (number) and coverage (hectares) of unprotected ecosystems. 1.2. New protected areas (number) and coverage (hectares) of unprotected threatened species (number).	GEFTF	1,799,200	7,900,000
(select) LD-3	3.2. Integrated landscape management practices adopted by local communities	3.2. INRM tools and methodologies developed and tested	GEFTF	1,638,170	6,392,500
CCM-5 (select)	5.1 Good management practices in LULUCF adopted within the forest land and wider landscape	5.2. Forest and non-forest lands under good management practices	GEFTF	735,000	2,272,500
(select) SFM/REDD-1	1.2. Good management practices applied in existing forests	1.2. Forest area (hectares) under sustainable management	GEFTF	1,195,000	5,100,000
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)	Others		(select)		
Sub-Total				5,367,370	21,665,000
Project Management Cost ⁴			(select)	277,630	1,500,000
Total Project Cost				5,645,000	23,165,000

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

² Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

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

⁴ GEF will finance management cost that is solely linked to GEF financing of the project.

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To provide tools for sustainable management of the Hwange-Sanyati Biological Corridor						
Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Cofinancing (\$)
Improving PA management effectiveness	TA	Hwange National Park (1,465,100ha) management effectiveness score increased by 20% as recorded by the METT	<p>a) PA Management plan implemented and investment activities completed</p> <p>b) Signed agreements for joint tourism ventures with private sector and community associations;</p> <p>c) Alternative livelihood subprojects to improve natural resources management in the buffer zone of Hwange PA implemented</p>	GEFTF	2,420,620	7,900,000
Promoting improved Land and forest management practices	Inv	Improved land and forest management practices adopted	<p>a) Modeling to identify root-causes of degradation in the Sanyati catchment conducted</p> <p>b) Pilot rehabilitation projects of degraded lands at specific locations within Sanyati undertaken as a demonstration</p> <p>c) Development and application of updated economic, social and environmental valuation tools to estimate forest ecosystem services to assist decision makers</p> <p>d) Communities awareness enhanced on tools for sustainable land and forest management</p> <p>d) Monitoring tools to assess and prevent land degradation developed and tested</p> <p>e) At least 10% of the HSBC area (forests and non-forest lands) under good management practices</p> <p>f) Carbon stock monitoring</p>	GEFTF	2,000,000	9,492,000

			systems established in the forest areas covering more than 244,000 ha within HSBC			
Support to technical and institutional capacity improvement	TA	a) Enhanced awareness on cross sectoral issues relating to BD, LD, SFM and LULUCF among local governments and community organizations b) Improved information and knowledge made available for policy makers and stakeholders	a) Strategy for landscape based approach for good management of forests and wider landscape put in place with particular emphasis on the HSBC area b) Communication strategy developed and disseminated to policy makers and other stakeholders c) Local environmental committees trained on issues relating to ecosystem, sustainable forest management, and landscape management issues	GEFTF	946,750	4,273,000
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
			Sub-Total		5,367,370	21,665,000
			Project Management Cost ⁵	(select)	277,630	1,500,000
			Total Project Costs		5,645,000	23,165,000

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

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	Southern Africa Development Community (SADAC)	Grant	550,000
GEF Agency	Terra Africa (WB)	Grant	250,000
GEF Agency	WB Multi-donor trust fund	Grant	4,000,000
CSO	CAMPFIRE	In-kind	200,000
National Government	Min. of Environment and Natural Resources Management	In-kind	4,200,000
Private Sector	Participating Safari and Lodge operators	In-kind	3,450,000
National Government	Environment Management Agency	In-kind	2,885,000
National Government	Forestry Commission	In-kind	2,750,000
National Government	National Park Authority	In-kind	3,380,000
Foundation	WWF	Grant	1,500,000
Total Cofinancing			23,165,000

⁵ Same as footnote #3.

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

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/Global	Grant Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b)²	Total c=a+b
WB	GEF TF	Biodiversity	Zimbabwe	1,890,000	189,000	2,079,000
WB	GEF TF	Land Degradation	Zimbabwe	1,720,000	172,000	1,892,000
WB	GEF TF	Climate Change	Zimbabwe	775,000	77,500	852,500
WB	GEF TF	Multi-focal Areas	Zimbabwe	1,260,000	126,000	1,386,000
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
Total Grant Resources				5,645,000	564,500	6,209,500

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

² Please indicate fees related to this project.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

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

The Project uses an integrated landscape/ecosystems approach in a specific geographic area (Hwange-Sanyati Biological Corridor -- HSBC) within Zimbabwe and, thus, addresses multiple GEF Focal areas. The project is a cross-cutting proposal that is consistent with the GEF Biodiversity (Objectives 1), Climate Change (Objective 5), Land Degradation (Objective 3) and Sustainable Forest Management/REDD (Objective 1).

Biodiversity: Under this focal area, the project supports the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by strengthening the management of the Hwange National Park and its buffer area with GEF funding as well as other National parks within the HSBC with cofinancing resources.

Under Land Degradation, the project will contribute to developing tools for arresting and reversing current trends in land degradation in the Sanyati catchment area and investing in a pilot demonstration activity. Specifically the project will develop tools and demonstrative small interventions to address land degradation in Chireya municipality.

Under Climate Change focal area, the project supports the development of good management practices in LULUCF in the forest land and wider landscape aiming at promoting forest conservation, and reforestation and SFM. It will also strengthen local environmental committees dealing with issues on small mitigation measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, management of land and longer-term adaptation measures to help the development of plans, programs, projects, and actions. These will particularly be in compliment to the SFM activities envisaged under the project.

Under the Sustainable Forest Management/REDD focal area, the project will support the reduction of pressures on the remaining forest of the HSBC by developing SFM tools and testing and adopting them in pilot areas. Since the project encompasses four focal areas under a landscape approach, activities in one of the focal areas will also contribute to the other and as such there is a strong linkage among the focal areas. All focal areas will contribute to increased capacity to manage sustainable land, forest and biodiversity and enhance public awareness about the values of these resources.

The Project will be implemented following the landscape approach which integrates people's livelihood objectives in the management of the different ecosystems within the landscape thereby contributing to all the focal areas.

A.1.2. For projects funded from LDCF/SCCF: the LDCF/SCCF eligibility criteria and priorities:

N/A

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

The National Environmental Policy and Strategies (June 2009) outlines the policy goals, objectives and key principles. The main policy goal for the environment sector is: “to avoid irreversible environmental damage, maintain essential environmental processes, and preserve the broad spectrum of biological diversity so as to sustain the long-term ability of natural resources to meet the basic needs of people, enhance food security, reduce poverty, and improve the standard of living of Zimbabweans through long-term economic growth and the creation of employment.” In BD, the main strategy direction outlined in the document is to “develop and coordinate the implementation of an integrated strategy for biodiversity

conservation in Zimbabwe”. The document recognizes PAs as crucial for “protecting the full range of biodiversity of the country”. The strategy notes the need to “promote and support community-based initiatives, including the formation of community conservation areas and conservancies, to protect biodiversity outside the Parks and Wild Life Estate and State Forests.” Zimbabwe has been active member of the BD Convention since 1994. In LD, the strategic directions of the government include promoting “the use of appropriate conservation measures and support the rehabilitation of degraded land.” On CC, the project will promote conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management of land use, land use change and forestry based on the initial National Communications to the UNFCCC which outlines issues relating to finance, technology, greenhouse gas inventories, impact assessment, vulnerability and adaptation analysis, mitigation analysis, research and systematic observations, and public awareness.

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

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

Zimbabwe is globally renowned for its past visionary approach to natural resource management. It was the first African country to develop a noticeable alternative approach to the management of natural resources outside protected areas through the Community Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) in the 1980s and 1990s. CAMPFIRE enabled communities to benefit from wildlife hunting revenue streams in their areas. Part of the money has traditionally been used to build schools, clinics and roads in targeted areas by the respective Rural District Councils. An assessment of CBNRM conducted in 2010 reported that historically: “Many wildlife producing wards recorded successes in sustaining the habitats for wildlife; and the populations for buffaloes, elephants, lions and leopards remained stable. In addition, CBNRM is contributing to management of the buffer areas of 800,258 hectares of gazetted forests. Woodland management projects are making contributions in terms of protecting watershed areas through beekeeping activities. Veld fires and over-harvesting of biodiversity has been reduced through work of community-based organizations (CBOs) and facilitating nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).”

Zimbabwe is known for its varied mega fauna and floral diversity and extensive network of protected areas such as Hwange and Mana Pools National Parks. It’s national parks and their neighbouring communal areas and private lands lie in low rainfall areas and on poor soils. Consequently, communal area inhabitants that are not engaged in wildlife hunting are subsistence farmers who practice extensive agriculture; keep livestock; and engage in wildlife poaching for survival. The opening up of land for agricultural expansion is fragmenting and reducing the wildlife range; and increasing human wildlife conflicts (HWC). The latter is worsened by wildlife poaching which reduces the prey base (medium sized ungulates such as antelopes and wildebeest) for predators such as the lion. Weak law enforcement in park areas largely due to underfunding (US\$10/km² compared to US\$1,700/km² for Kruger National Park) has exacerbated the problem of wildlife poaching and habitat encroachment.

Climate Change is manifesting itself through frequent draughts and increased temperature (the six warmest years on record for Zimbabwe have occurred since 1987 and that four of those years were recorded after 1998). The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change predicted that CC will turn the low-lying areas of southern Zimbabwe into a non-maize-producing area, as exemplified by reduced maize production in Masvingo Province. There has been a noted shift in agricultural seasons, as evidenced by late onset and sometimes late secession of the rainy season. As a result communities are now heavily dependent on wetlands for food production. Climate change is introducing new threats and challenges through its impact on agriculture, water resources, wildlife management, and food security all of which are related to land use practices.

In sum, Zimbabwe is facing increased challenges to its biodiversity and ecosystems services due to a combination of factors: i) expansion of agriculture in forested areas and natural habitats which is accelerating land degradation and the expansion of invasive species; ii) wildlife poaching; and iii) lack of understanding about sustainable management practices for land use, land use change and forestry issues.

To address these threats, the Government of Zimbabwe requested GEF funding to the World Bank for a new project. The project area is located in North Western Zimbabwe specifically in the Hwange-Sanyati Biological Corridor (HSBC – covering 5,697,137 hectares and including 244,081.92ha in forest land). HSBC is one of the of the four biodiversity hotspots in Zimbabwe and the Government is committed to ensure that the ecological integrity and biodiversity are protected and that local communities can continue to benefit from wildlife gaming and tourism activities. Hwange National Park has not deteriorated as much as other parks in the country due to the proximity to Victoria Falls that is able to bring some tourists to the park. . The HSBC is rich in biodiversity and consists of a mosaic of land uses under different tenure arrangements. The region is home to three national parks; three Safari areas; five gazetted forest areas; 13 communal lands in addition to private and resettled lands and covers seven districts. In terms of rehabilitating degraded land the project will focus on the Sanyati catchment located at the North East border of the HSBC. The catchment is characterized by widespread illegal mineral panning activities, land and water pollution, unsustainable cultivation of wetlands and stream banks.

The baseline project in this case is a combination of initiatives which are directly complimenting the GEF activities. The baseline project is estimated based on national-and local scale efforts to improve Zimbabwe's Environmental management and conservation. The World Bank will be funding the baseline project through a Multi-donor Trust fund supporting land resources management in the country and through Terra Africa. In addition, there are other initiatives funded by other government funded programs, regional funded projects, municipal support, private sector initiatives, NGOs and in kind support which are considered as the baseline for this project. These baseline activities include the following :

- 1) support the conservation of the Transboundary Conservation Area (along the Zambezi river bordering Zambia) funded by the Southern Africa Development Community (SADAC) that will contribute to improving management of the Hwange national park;
- 2) development of the overall vision and strategic plan for the HSBC supported by local municipal government and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Management (MENRM); given in the past the region is dependent on tourism, both central and local government are working to improve the attractiveness of the region to tourists by basic services for tourism such as roads, facilities, and incentives for private sector development in the area.
- 3) development of a baseline map and monitoring system for land degradation for the project area supported by the Environmental Management Agency (EMA);
- 4) support the management effectiveness of the national parks within the HSBC area by the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management, including updating of the management plan and enforcement activities;
- 5) improve government planning by incorporating an integrated landscape/ecosystem approach through the MENRM and the WB Multi-Donor Trust Fund on Land Management and Land use changes.
- 5) improve the conservation status of key endangered species supported by WWF to be incorporated into the Park tasks;
- 6) support tourism interventions, such as improved roads, new community lodges, improvement in safari areas, and other services by the private sector; in addition, the private sector is supporting communities to allow wildlife range area expanded to community lands through benefit sharing scheme
- 7) support activities to improve wildlife movement within the HBS and prioritize and support to livelihood initiatives by Campfire and Worldwide Life Fund (WWF);

- 8) improve watershed management of the Sanyati catchment to reverse land degradation through studies and awareness raising events to reduce land degradation by NGOs and municipal governments;
- 9) soil analysis by EMA and University of Zimbabwe to contribute to understanding of the root causes of the land degradation
- 10) implement water harvesting as a temporary measure before the rainy season sets on to reduce run-off and erosion until the technical analysis of the root causes of land degradation are identified and appropriate measures are taken; and
- 11) conservation work in upper watershed (within HSBC) by Ministry of Agriculture

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

The proposed project will have significant global environmental benefits since the HSBC area is well known for its richness in biodiversity and forest ecosystems. It has 1 334 plant species (including the African/Zambezi teak), 150 mammals and 109 fish species. Elephants make up 70% of the biomass with buffalo, giraffe and impala contributing 24%. In fact, there are indications that the elephant population in the Hwange National Park may have exceeded the Parks carrying capacity. This has worsened the human wildlife conflict. Vulnerable species include lion and cheetah while black rhino and the African wild dog are critically endangered. Species that require special attention include: leopard, buffalo, hippo, gemsbok, sable, roan antelope, oribi, brown hyaena and pangolin. The landscape has two important bird areas and some 410 bird species occur in the Hwange National Park alone. In general, the park is home to a significant number of globally significant biological resources.

The broader HSBC corridor includes forested lands and communal lands with high biodiversity values too. These areas as mentioned earlier are under threats due to expanded agricultural activities that result in loss of forest and biodiversity, land degradation, land use change and increased poverty.

The global environment benefit is improvement in biodiversity, enhanced carbon sequestration from improvement in vegetation cover (including forests), carbon sequestration through avoided deforestation and improved land degradation through recovery of indigenous plant species and reduction in siltation.

Zimbabwe faces a tremendous challenge in assessing carbon stocks. A recent scientific review of allometric equations estimating aboveground biomass concludes that most allometric equations concerning forests have been developed for Asia and South America, while there is a lack of such equations for Africa (Henry, 2010). Consequently, this leads to huge uncertainties in terms of carbon stock estimation. At the global scale, in terms of carbon dioxide emissions, Zimbabwe contributes minimally to global emissions, in both absolute and *per capita* terms. A conservative analysis based on extrapolated preliminary information for Zimbabwe⁶ suggests that the project will save 40,348 tonnes of CO₂ per year over 10 years (assuming that 4,400 ha/yr would be destroyed in the baseline and the production if 2.5 tonnes C/ha/yr or 9.17 t CO₂/ ha/yr). Over the ten year period, 403,480 t of CO₂ would be preserved or rather not emitted into the atmosphere. Further analysis of the

⁶ Reference book Y. Katarere, 1988. "Fuelwood Consumption and Supply Patterns, Tree-Planting Practices and Farm Forestry in Rural Zimbabwe," pp 160-184 in R. Hosier (ed). Energy for Rural Development in Zimbabwe, Volume 11 in Energy, Environment, and Development in Africa. Stockholm: Beijer Institute.

carbon calculations will be done during the preparation stage.

The Project will have three closely inter-related components.

Component 1: Improving PA management effectiveness. The aim of this component is to improve PAs management in the Hwange National Park and the livelihood of communities involved in stewardship of the natural resources in the buffer area of the Park. This component will specifically support: (i) the establishment of biodiversity and livelihood baselines (including management effectiveness); (ii) investments in infrastructure and equipment to support implementation of selected key elements of the management plan; (iii) studies on feasibility of alternative livelihoods including potential for forest carbon trading; and (iv) support investments in alternative livelihood subprojects -- while the activities to be supported will be identified by the communities, the subproject will be studied for their contribution to improving conservation of the region's resources, economic feasibilities including employment creation, improvement to food security, market availability and for their sustainability, among others. Initial list of activities identified include guinea fowl farming, bee keeping, crafts, community tourism, increasing value added at the community sites, identification of niche products and other activities as will be defined later. This component has a strong baseline of activities and bi-lateral donors will be the main contributors for funding alternative livelihood activities.

Component 2: Promoting improved Land and Forest management practices . The aim of this component is to improve land and forest management across HSBC by developing tools to address land degradation, land use change and deforestation. The root causes of land degradation have yet to be fully understood, which may includes both natural and man-made factors. Among factors suspected are extensive change in land use, deforestation, intensive farming of river banks and hill sides, change in chemical composition, among others. Activities to be financed include: (i) mapping of land use patterns within the biological corridor; (ii) analysis of the causes of deforestation and mapping of priority areas for intervention; (iii) modeling to identify the root-cause of land degradation in the most affected localities of the Sanyati catchment; (iv) investments in pilot rehabilitation and restoration interventions of the most affected localities in Sanyati, within HSBC, which includes removing invasive species, protecting at least one wetland through improved management of water resources; and (v) investments in pilot SFM projects to rehabilitate degraded forests, expand community forestry and improve management to cover at least 244,000 ha. In terms of addressing LD, the main GEF support will be investment in the worst affected area (Chireya) to reverse land degradation and establish sustainable land management practice. Due to extensive land degradation, important social infrastructure (a hospital and two schools) are threatened of collapse by the expanding intensive gully system which can only be addressed though a holistic approach and investment both in upper and lower watershed and enforcement mechanisms;

Component 3: Support to technical and institutional capacity improvement. The aim of this component is to provide support to both technical and institutional capacities in the context of better management of ecosystems using the landscape approach. This component will provide: (i) technical support to the units within the ministries to develop a strategy for landscape based approaches for good management of forests and wider landscape in the HSBC area, (ii) support to develop and disseminate a communication strategy, (iii) support for national awareness building and outreach activities and (iv) training to strengthen local environmental committees trained on issues realting to ecosystem, sustainable forest management, and landscape management issues.

A well managed Hwange PA attracting tourists that visit Victoria Falls nearby and selected

successful interventions to arrest land degradation and deforestation of priority ecosystems of HSBC is key for the Government of Zimbabwe. This GEF will help safeguard biodiversity, and equally create sustainable livelihood for the communities living within the buffer zone of the Park. Without the proposed project, and without GEF intervention, it will be difficult to establish sustainable management at Hwange park and revitalize support to communities at the buffer zone and to develop a strategy and key interventions to sustain the ecological integrity of the HSBC. Donor intervention in support of HSBC and alternative livelihood programs (through the successful Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources -- CAMPFIRE) in the specific region has been limited recently, making sustainable management planning difficult. Success in improving the management effectiveness of HBCS and Hwange National Park, as the primary PA of the country, will go a great length in informing the development of improved management effectiveness in other PAs (including safaris) of the country and how to reduce land degradation and deforestation as well as how to actively address climate change in other parts of the country.

Overall, the GEF resource will allow strengthening and consolidating these different interventions under an integrated approach to provide a holistic and sustainable approach towards improving the sustainable management of the regions ecosystem. Without an incremental GEF contribution the efforts may not be integrated and a landscape approach may not be taken. Each limited to the activities that are tasked by their mandates. In addition, the GEF and the World Bank involvement will allow the introduction of international best practices in improving the disjointed environment management and conservation efforts by the actors active in the region.

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

In the past, communities living around the Hwange National Park relied heavily on employment opportunities generated directly by the Park and more importantly from activities related to the Park that mainly cater to tourist. With the economy collapsed, the Park visitation reduced substantially and with it the livelihood opportunities disappeared for a substantial portion of the surrounding community. In the general area of the HSBC in excess of 80,000 households benefited from activities associated with the Park and at its buffer zones (wildlife management, crafts, concessions, among others) through the CAMPFIRE programme in addition to employment in lodges and self-employment in related activities. As the economic crisis left communities with limited opportunities, they resorted to wildlife poaching, expanding their farm land, incursion to forests and illegal trade. Thus, the Hwange Park is the main source of livelihood, directly and indirectly, for the large proportion of households. The availability of alternative livelihood, as experience in the last ten years fashionably demonstrated, ensures the integrity of the ecosystems both within the Hwange PA and the adjacent area to the Park.

In Zimbabwe, there exists more than 676 community based organizations and in the project area there are about 135 although at different level of capacity and need training, which is an activity supported through this project. Through the alternative livelihood subprojects, at least 3,500 families are expected to benefit if bi-lateral donors are willing to contribute to such type of initiatives as they did in the past.

Since 2009, the economy of Zimbabwe has started to recover and with it the fate of Parks has improved. During 2010, the total revenue the country earned from tourism is

estimated to have recovered to \$800 million. However, the Park and the surrounding community need support to fully recover and take advantage from the revived tourism in the region. To a large extent, the employment beneficiaries from the tourism sector in the HSBC area are women. To ensure that gender is mainstreamed into the management of the buffer zone, the project will target women as direct beneficiary from alternative livelihood activities supported by the project. A proportion of the fund will be allocated to benefit women living around the buffer zone to the Hwange PA.

More importantly, the Hwange National Park is administered by the Parks & Wildlife Management Authority that runs its activity from the revenue it receives from visitors, renting its facilities (mainly lodges) and related incomes. With increased tourist inflow, the Hwange Park has to improve its management and ensure that its products are well managed, protected and preserved. To do that it needs to improve its capacity quickly, brand its products and enhance its stature given that there is fierce competition among parks and safari areas in the southern Africa region.

At national level the improved tourist inflows will spill-over to other parks (since most tourists don't come to visit only a single park) including to the national economy thereby contributing to the overall economy of the country.

Effective management of the Park will contribute in abating impacts from climate change, land degradation, the spread of invasive species, and the unsustainable harvest of natural resources. Project activities will achieve global benefits through enhanced protection of globally important biodiversity through improved PA management, the promotion of sustainable land management, the reduction of threats to important species (mainly the Big Five); and improvement in the livelihoods of communities living at the buffer zone and indirectly in the HSBC area.

This project will be the main intervention and support mechanism towards improving environmental and natural resources management in HSBC. It is clear that medium-to-long term economic development of Zimbabwe, as a country that relies heavily on its natural resources, could be compromised if environmental management issues are not addressed in the short-run. More importantly, sustainability of agriculture and food security will be further compromised by loss of biodiversity.⁷ This project will be the first step in addressing this nexus (biodiversity loss and food security).

Sustainability of project outcome depends on addressing the root causes. The CAMPFIRE experience in Zimbabwe proved that if communities are provided with alternative livelihood and benefit from sustainable resource management, they are a dependable custodian of the environment. To address the root causes (lack of opportunities and weakness in local institutions) and ensure sustainability the project will support a revamped CAMPFIRE system that will open new opportunities to communities to allow them become custodian of the natural resources. Experiences in Zimbabwe and in the HSBC area have fashionably demonstrated that communities are willing to put their energy and resources if given the opportunity. The availability of alternative livelihood contributes directly towards sustainable management of the natural resources of the HSBC supported through an improved local enforcement mechanism. An estimated 3500 households will be direct beneficiaries from alternative livelihood activities that will shift communities away from depending on unsustainable resource harvesting. The fact the CAMPFIRE system survived a decade long economic crisis testifies for the resilience of such mechanism. In fact, in areas where CAMPFIRE is still active, wildlife population has been maintained or improved thanks to communities stewardship. In addition, improvement in the management of the Hwange national park will ensure that project

⁷ For emerging issues in biodiversity conservation, food, water and livelihood security, see The World Bank. 2009. Convenient Solutions to an Inconvenient Truth: Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change.

outcomes are sustainable. In addition, this GEF project will play a catalytic role in attracting additional donors to support such alternative livelihood, duplicating and scaling-up the experience. Indications are the economic crisis is now over and as such the government will be in a much better position to finance follow-on activities through its own budget resources.

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

Revenue from tourism may fluctuate: Inflow of tourism is affected by several factors including branding, political stability and infrastructure. A fluctuation in revenue may not allow the Park Authority to conduct effective planning to improve management effectiveness. The project will strive to improve capacity as a priority to ensure the viability of the Park is enhanced and the management plan will identify financing mechanisms under different scenarios.

Communities may continue with unsustainable practice such as wildlife poaching. However, experience of CAMPFIRE has shown that communities could become partners in conservation and lessons learned from this experience will be utilized in addition to awareness building and educational activities.

As a response impacts of climate change, communities may resort to extensive agriculture that will reduces wildlife range. Climate change impacts are already being felt through frequent drought, change in rainfall pattern and intensity. As a coping strategy, communities may be tempted to continue with practices that degrade natural resources. The mitigation measure includes support through alternative livelihood subprojects coupled with awareness creation and education.

Coordination: Since the project involves community organizations and specialized agencies, coordination may become time consuming. To ensure that coordination will be effective, detailed annual planning exercise will be undertaken with clear demarcation of responsibilities and activities to be completed by participating institutions. The regional CAMPFIRE Collaborative Group in which most of the stakeholders of this project are members will be utilized to strengthen coordination.

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

At national level, a coordination/steering committee will be organized composed of project stakeholders that include different government ministries (MENRM, Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Agriculture) and agencies (Environment Management Agency, Parks & Wildlife Management Authority, and Forestry Commission); NGOs and CSOs (the main one being the CAMPFIRE Association); communities and private sector representatives and donors. The role of this group at national level will be to review annual plan, monitor project progress, to seek additional financing for the HSBC and approve annual budget for the project.

The project will be executed by WWF, which has a long history of presence in the country and have been involved in support of the environment sector. WWF will be: (i) responsible for all fiduciary aspects of the project including overseeing financial management and procurement including contracting of independent auditors and project reviewer; (ii) responsible for the implementation of safeguard policies; (iii) managing and coordinating the monitoring and

evaluation system; (iv) preparing periodic reports as will be agreed in the Project Agreement; (v) supporting the government in the preparation of projects for financing by other donors and multilateral financiers; (vi) coordinating communication strategy and undertaking outreach and awareness building; (vii) coordinating and consulting with relevant civic and NGOs representatives; and providing targeted TA and training as needed.

At local level, district government authorities and technical staff of the ministries at the steering committee, the Hwange Park office representative, NGOs with active presence in the Corridor, CSOs and communities will be the main stakeholders. Tourism operators and lodge owners (there are more than 100 lodges within the Corridor) will represent the private sector. The role will be support and coordinate the implementation of the project at local level. The project idea has been discussed with representatives of the different stakeholders, especially with those that are active within the HSBC area and in general they have shown interest and supported the articulation of the issues in environmental management in the HSBC area.

Community participation will be supported through the 135 local institutions present in the HSBC and through CAMPFIRE. Consultation with communities in the past has clearly indicated the need for alternative livelihood activities to improve the sustainable management of the areas resources. Communities also identified initial list of subprojects for financing. In addition, communities will participate and contribute to subprojects and other works, such as re-forestation. Awareness building will also be carried using chiefs and other individuals with high standing in the community. In communal land areas, communities will decide to participate in CAMPFIRE program and the type of program they will participate and also in conservation of land through community forestry where land degradation pose danger.

In the HSBC area the private sector is playing an important role of conservation mainly through safaris. The feasibility of these safaris depend on the better management of the environment and mainly a wider range and uninhibited movement of wildlife. Land degradation, expansion of farming areas to wildlife range and poaching by communities clearly will compromise the feasibility of safaris. Thus, the private sector is working very closely with communities to address both land degradation and free movement (within a corridor) of wildlife. Private sector through an arrangement with CAMPFIRE has shared benefit from tourism with communities and therefore representatives of the private sector will be part of the overall project coordination both as financier of improvement in natural resource management and in sharing benefits from tourism with communities that would allow their land to be used as wildlife range.

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

In the project area, project interventions are being undertaken through the above three agencies (Park Authority, Environment Management Agency, Forestry Commission) and CAMPFIRE association funded through FAO and NORAD. In addition, WWF will also provide cofinancing support. Synergies will be drawn with the Southern Africa Development Commission (SADAC) is investing in Transboundary Conservation Areas (along the Zambezi river bordering Zambia). While preliminary discussions have been carried out, other bi-lateral donors who are interested in supporting environmental works will be approached and their interest to co-finance will be sought during preparation. Notably, the private sector is active in the HSBC and the project will seek their support to cofinance tourism development in order to benefit the communities and reduce pressure on the ecosystems from unsustainable agriculture.

As such, this project offers a coordination platform for the participation of all partners and donors, and therefore activities within the Corridor will be part of the annual planning and monitoring exercise. The private sector, in particular, Matupula Safari and the Ministry of Tourism have already been consulted during the identification mission since they are seen as key partners in the tourism sector. The Project will be led and coordinated by the MENRM which is

responsible to coordinate with other projects. At local level, a coordination group will be established among all agencies and community representatives. WWF and CAMPFIRE in the past have established Community Based Natural Resource Management groups and a similar approach will be taken for local level coordination.

Consequently, the project adds value in bringing about an integrated and holistic intervention to the different activities underway in uncoordinated fashion. The coordination will enable a common vision, division of labor and prioritization of activities in a country where reengagement has just begun.

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

The Bank has a long history of involvement in supporting environment sector in Zimbabwe including the implementation of several GEF projects. The Bank also has a diverse and rich portfolio in the southern Arica region both as an IA of the GEF and through an IDA fund. The experience and lessons from these comparable projects will be utilized in successful implementation of this proposed project. In Zimbabwe, the Bank administers an MDTF currently capitalized at 16 million dollars (with a contribution from 10 donors and growing) which demonstrates its convening power, and has been proposed as the baseline project complimenting this GEF proposal. The Bank can use this convening power to bring donors together in support environmental and NRM activities in Zimbabwe.

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

Zimbabwe is in arrears and until a full engagement is initiated, IDA and IBRD resources will not be available to prepare lending operations. However, the World Bank is expected to bring in financing through a Multi Donor Trust Fund that has been set up for Zimbabwe to work on land resources management with an estimated contribution of US\$ 4 million. In addition, Terra Africa will provide some seed funds to Zimbabwe and link them to the whole initiative. Significantly however the Bank's dialogue in the country has helped in leveraging other co-financing sources which will compliment the proposed project.

The objectives of the MDTF are to lay the groundwork for re-engagement by donors and the IDA in Zimbabwe through: (i) analytical work on the key development challenges facing Zimbabwe; (ii) development of suitable instruments enabling the Government of Zimbabwe and donors to respond quickly to changing country conditions; and (iii) facilitating donor coordination. The MDTF will support activities under three broad categories: (i) Economic Management and Governance; (ii) Agricultural sector; and (iv) infrastructure. Under the Agriculture sector thematic group with cross cutting support, the MDTF jointly with the EU will support a Comprehensive Land Reform Programme. The start-up activities to the Programme have been completed and led to an updated land register that includes geo-referenced database entitled Land Information Management (LIMS) database; defined data collection instruments that will help in establishing consistency in the data collection across institutions including to be used by the ZIMSTATS in the national statistical surveys; and definition of methodology for data collection including testing.

The Programme, which is currently under preparation is expected to be effective in early 2012 and will have a national coverage to support activities to (i) define land policy including tenure security; (ii) land administration and categorization including defining land for environmental services, such as parks and forests; (iii) land titling and comprehensive need assessment; (iv) land database system design and establishment; (v) cartographic work including cadastre survey; (vi) undertake field valuation; (vii) support capacity development in land administration including natural resources management; (viii) prepare for the national land audit. The programme, will have a major contribution in improving the sustainable management of land

resources and better land use practices across the country and in this case in the HSBC area. It will also put in place policy in land administration and environmental use that will support removing threats to the daunting land degradation that Zimbabwe is facing. Further, it will provide security to investors to invest in natural resource management, safari improvement, tourism, of which the main beneficiary will be the North Western Zimbabwe, among others. A clear land use demarcation will also allow the sustainability of the parks in the region.

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

The project is consistent with the Bank overall strategy for the region and the Interim Strategy Note for Zimbabwe, which is under development. The draft ISN3, which is aligned with the Bank's strategy for Africa, is based on three pillars: (i) Competitiveness and Employment; (ii) Vulnerability and Resilience; and (iii) Governance and Public Sector Capacity. This project directly supports and is aligned to the second pillar. The project will support the management of environmental and ecological risks, one of the strategic engagement areas identified by the ISN3. The project also supports strengthening of institutions, another area of engagement identified by the ISN3.

Among the four areas of strategic engagement criteria identified by the ISN3, this project is in line with three: (i) the Bank possesses a comparative advantage in the environment sector; (ii) engagement is politically feasible – the environment sector has not been a source of contention among the political parties but rather an area of interest and collaboration; and (iii) more recently there is specific interest expressed by the government to support the environmental agenda through developing a project. The government, represented by the Ministry of Environment has endorsed GEF 5 resources to the tune of US\$6,429,500 for this project and has requested the Bank to be the Implementing Agency. The Ministry also has chosen to be flexible in the allocation of GEF 5 resources among the three focal areas. In addition, the project is in line with Africa Strategy, which provided prominence to vulnerability reduction most importantly from climate change. .


The World Bank has an office in Zimbabwe where the Task Manager is located. The office is headed by a country manager and fiduciary staff.

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

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

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Mr. Irvin D. KUNENE	Director, Environment	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	09/01/2011

- B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION**

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF criteria for project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Karin Shepardson, GEF Agency Executive Coordinator		August 30, 2011	Paola Agostini, Regional Coordinator, Africa Region	202 473 7620	pagostini@worldbank.org

