

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**Mainstreaming BD in Local Development**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 4719 |
| GEF ID | 5058 |
| Title | Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Land Use Regulation and Management at the Municipal Scale |
| Country(ies) | South Africa, South Africa |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Ecosystems and Biodiversity |
| Project Implementing Partner | Government |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Full Size |

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| **Project Description** |
| Since 1994 South Africa has made major strides in protecting its biodiversity having instituted extensive policy reforms and created new institutions at national and provincial levels to manage biodiversity.  There is a need to strike a balance between short-term acceleration of employment opportunities and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Coordinating and supporting the capacity of municipalities to deliver is key to successful realization of the New Growth Path. There are several challenges to achieving this. First, capacity at the municipal scale is very weak, and there is little or no coordination amongst the myriad of institutions that regulate land use. Second, less than 7% of land in South Africa is formally protected which leaves critical biodiversity under threat from degradation and conversion pressure in the absence of effective community based natural resource management. Last but not least, the potential contribution of biodiversity to the Government jobs agenda is not yet clear and thus there is little or no incentive for municipalities to work with landholders to manage land and natural resources in a biodiversity friendly manner.  This project is designed to address these challenges by (a) (a) strengthening coordination and capacity of municipal and other regulatory authorities that regulate land use decisions within municipalities to incorporate criteria to mitigate and offset impacts on biodiversity over and above statutory environments for environmental protection (b) putting in place a cooperative governance framework in partnership with private and communal land owners to better manage land, including providing incentives for landholders to engage in biodiversity friendly practices, while also demonstrating the potential of biodiversity to create jobs and contribute to economic growth.  The project will work in three district municipalities in global biodiversity hotspots and with very high rates of habitat degradation and conversion, and other pressing needs for action. The Amathole and Ehlanzeni district municipalities are located in the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany hotspot while the Cape Winelands district municipality is located between the Succulent Karoo and the Cape Floristic Region hotspots. |

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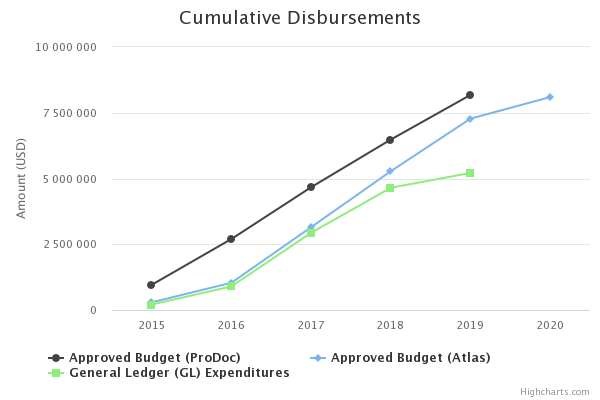
# Overall Ratings

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| Overall DO Rating | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Satisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | Low |

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **Enhance the sustainable and effective conservation of globally significant biodiversity in South Africa through exploring, piloting and implementing innovative mechanisms and approaches to mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into the regulation and management of land and resource use in the landscape at the municipal scale.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **Land and Natural Resource Use Management, Regulation, Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Indicator 1.1: Regulatory processes incorporate biodiversity criteria in two District Municipalities    - Coordination mechanism in place    - Application forms incorporate biodiversity information    - Biodiversity guidelines developed    - Database & system for compliance monitoring and enforcement of authorisations reflect biodiversity priorities | - No coordination mechanisms    - Biodiversity information included in one target district    - Guidelines exist on fynbos, grasslands, mining & biodiversity    - Existing compliance and enforcement database and system is not integrated or systematic and does not adequately reflect biodiversity priorities | *(not set or not applicable)* | - Intergovernmental cooperation forum and/or framework in two target districts  - Biodiversity information included in authorisation application forms of two target districts  - Biodiversity guidelines for 1 new sector & 1 new biome  - Updated database and integrated compliance and enforcement system in at least 1 target district | Output 1.1.1: In Cape Winelands the development of the Virgin Land Cooperation Agreement (now referred to as the Agriculture MoU) has been ramped up and a draft Operational Synchronisation model outlining an intergovernmental cooperation framework to address cultivation of Virgin Veld is at an advanced stage. This work is driven by DEA&DP along with Capenature; WC Dept of Agric, DWS and DAFF.    Mpumalanga stakeholders (DARDLEA, MTPA) decided to incorporate sections of the BLU Environmental Management Work plan into the agenda of Ehlanzeni District Municipality's (EDM) District Spatial Task Team. This task team’s overall purpose is to bring all the spatial plans of the various local municipalities together with that of EDM so that they all can be aligned and also to speak about issues that are common to all participating municipalities.    Two Biome guidelines (Savanna and Thicket) are at an advanced stage of development and will be completed within the next quarter. One sector guideline is currently being scoped out to address illegal cultivation in EDM.    Output 1.1.2: Through the development of the National EIA Screening Tool Process under NEMA (a process being led by DEA) SANBI and relevant stakeholders are developing a suite of Biodiversity Assessment Protocols aimed at ensuring that Biodiversity information is optimally taken up into Integrated Environmental Management process not just in 2 districts but in the country as a whole. Once the screening tool and all assessment protocols are gazetted it will become mandatory for all competent authorities to implement these tools. The EIA Screening Tool will allow for applicants to understand the environmental constraints of the site they wanted to develop before applying for an environmental authorisation through the EIA process.    SANBI and implementation partners are also working to change the application requirements for certain Strategic Water Source Areas (SWSAs) through NEMA Section 24 (2A). NEMA Section 24(2A) allows the Minister of Environmental Affairs the power to prohibit or restrict a relevant organ of state from processing and granting authorisation for specified activities in respect of a specified geographical area for a specified time period. 3 SWSAs have been identified to pilot the listing process under NEMA Section 24 (2A). This includes the, Northern Drakensberg (KZN), Ekangala (Mpumalanga and KZN), Boland (Western Cape) SWSAs. Two task teams have been established to facilitate broader stakeholder involvement in the listing process. These task teams include the SWSAs Broader Reference Group Meeting which allows for broad participation of all relevant organisations in the listing process, and then the SWSAs Spatial Task Team which brings together technical expertise from the respective organisations. A fine scaled delineation methodology has been developed by the SWSAs Spatial Task Meeting because a national study that had identified these areas did it at a very broad scale. This methodology has been applied to the respective SWSAs. Discussions relating to the threats that degrade these areas formed the basis of delineation discussions as well as discussions linked to the restriction of EIA listed activities that corresponded with respective threats.    The water crisis of 2017 and 2018 has had a huge impact on the environmental sector in the Western Cape. Emergency drilling of boreholes has led to many unintended negative environmental consequences. CapeNature's Scientific Services unit has engaged proactively with many local municipalities and with the National Department of Water Affairs to promote responsible planning during this crisis.    Output 1.1.3: Two Biome guidelines (Savanna and Thicket) are at an advanced stage of development and will be completed within the next quarter. These guidelines provide the ecological motivations for the respective ecological management units within these biomes and advise on management recommendations.    One sector guideline is currently being scoped out to address clearing of indigenous vegetation in EDM. The agriculture sector was selected in response to an increase in the amount of EIA applications received and transgressions registered with respect to Macadamia nut and avocado agricultural extensions. The EIA section within DARDLEA are interested in the guideline addressing specialist terms of reference for biodiversity assessments specifically linked to these agricultural extensions and then how the transgressions should be dealt with in terms of NEMA Section 24G.    The Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan of 2017 has been finalised and formally adopted by the provincial government at a launch event in December 2017. Project funding enabled printing of the handbook and BLU project funding is enabling dissemination and capacity development on this information.    Following on from the MTR recommendations, a motivation has been developed and presented to the Joint Planning Task Team on mining in sensitive areas to support a request to develop a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to guide mining in the Mpumalanga Highveld. JPTT supportive and will recommend to the Ministers that they support this initiative. This work will get underway in the reporting period.    Output 1.1.4: CapeNature conservation services and land use staff continue to work closely with the provincial decision making authority, DEA&DP in reporting and tracking environmental non-compliance. However there remains a challenge with the wording of authorisations and CapeNature is planning targeted engagements to support the writing of more robust and enforceable conditions attached to Environmental Authorisations.    DEA&DP CME has an existing database but biodiversity inputs have not been integrated as yet. This will be undertaken in the next reporting period. | 1.1.1 In Ehlanzeni: The Ehlanzeni Intergovernmental Forum was established on the 4th December 2018 and is convened on a quarterly basis. The forum members are DARDLEA (EIAs, CME, and Agriculture), MTPA, DAFF (Forestry and Agriculture), SANBI and various local municipalities and was established to strengthen professional networks among these stakeholders, share information, offer training on respective mandates and encourage collaborative decision making.  In Cape Winelands: The CARA-EIA-WULA-HIA Synchronisation Process aimed at addressing decision-making around the clearance of indigenous vegetation gained momentum during this reporting period and has resulted in a cooperation agreement being signed off by WC: DEA&DP, WC: DoA, Heritage Western Cape and Cape Nature. This process aligns provincial procedures with the requirements of national legislation in an effort to streamline decision making in the province. To quote DEA&DP: "The 'Agri-MOU' has been 15 years in the making and the WULA-EIA agreement 5 years in the making. We’re very excited that after all the hard work by all, we’ve finally have reached this stage."  In strengthening biodiversity inputs into EIAs, formal comments were submitted for 135 development applications in the CWDM during the reporting period which represents 100% of applications received.  1.1.2 Inputs into the DEA EIA Screening Tool has been made and biodiversity protocols have been developed in partnership with DEA and CSIR. The screening tool allows for applicants to screen their sites for environmental sensitivities before deciding to develop these sites. Four biodiversity protocols, namely, Aquatic, Terrestrial, Plant and Animal Protocols, have been developed. After a lengthy wait, the Minister of Environmental Affairs approved the Aquatic and Terrestrial Protocols to be gazetted for public comment. The minister’s approval delayed this work by close to six months, however this is beyond the project to control. Comments on these protocols were due in June 2019 where after they will be finalised. The Plant and Animal Species Protocols have been finalised and legally vetted. Working Group 5 approved these protocols for publishing for public comment. The Biodiversity Protocols will require that additional assessment criteria be investigated as part of specialist assessments for sites that have been identified as “very high" sensitivity by the screening tool.  Biodiversity inputs have been made into DEA&DP's revised Basic Assessment Report Template. The DEADP BAR Template was presented at the DEA WG 5 Implementation Workshop in an effort to share this revised template with competent authorities across the country. Input has also been provided on DEA&DP's application forms for Notice of Intent to Develop.  SANBI and implementation partners are also working towards changing the development application requirements for Strategic Water Source Areas (SWSAs) through NEMA Section 24 (2A). NEMA Section 24(2A) allows the Minister of Environmental Affairs the power to prohibit or restrict a relevant organ of state from processing and granting authorisation for specified activities in respect of a specified geographical area for a specified time period. 3 SWSAs have been identified to pilot the listing process under NEMA Section 24 (2A). These are Northern Drakensberg (KZN), Ekangala (Mpumalanga and KZN), and Boland (Western Cape) SWSAs. Progress to date is that SANBI and partners have finalised the delineation methodology of the relevant SWSAs. The formulation of the relevant development restrictions is currently under development with EIA and Water Use Licencing experts leading this work.  1.1.3 The development of the DARDLEA Clearance of Indigenous Vegetation Guideline started in December 2018. It is being developed as a project of the Ehlanzeni Intergovernmental Forum because the business of all the stakeholders is relevant to the guideline. We have used the December 2018 and March 2019 forum meetings to strengthen the scope of the guideline and to deliberate on further stakeholders to include in this process. A draft of this guideline was provided to the stakeholders at the end of June 2019. The guideline is set to be finalised by end September 2019.  The development of the Savanna and Thicket Ecosystem Guidelines was initiated in August 2017. The final drafts of the two guidelines were concluded in March 2019, after a number of delays. Delays resulted from the decision to broaden our stakeholder engagement reach for both guidelines as well as delays in the release of scientific data from the National Biodiversity Assessment. The guidelines will very shortly go out for external review before being finalised.  The project supported the reprint of the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan Handbook which has been well received. Promotion of the uptake of the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial plan continues with a number of formal engagements for local municipal officials, provincial officials, biodiversity specialists having been run (as reported on under 1.2).  The project actively participated in all Joint Planning Task Team (a platform which brings DMR, DEA and DWS together to discuss plans from each sector) meetings over the past year to ensure support for the proposed Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Mpumalanga Highveld by DMR, DEA and DWS (as recommended by the mid-term review). High level support for the SEA has now been received. DEA is leading with the development of the SEA which should get underway in the latter part of 2019 with some co-funding from BLU project.  1.1.4 Biodiversity parameters (particularly botanical expertise) is now embedded within the Winelands District Environmental Law Enforcement protocol and operations. This has also promoted capacity building to other designated enforcement officials in DEA&DP. SANBI has been working with DARDLEA and DEA&DP on improving their Environmental Assessment (EA) conditions from a legal robustness and enforcement perspective. SANBI's legal expert assessed a subset of EAs from both competent authorities and found that there has been a significant improvement in the way their conditions have been articulated. A report is available that details these findings.  The recent appointment of a botanist within DEA&DP (supported through the project) has enabled improved assessments of impacts typically related to unauthorised clearing for agriculture in CWDM.  The Western Cape enforcement register/database specific to the region has been updated with four important biodiversity parameters. An online platform inventory (iNaturalist) of biodiversity encountered and researched in the region has been compiled - to be locally and internationally accessible. Database updated and used in conjunction with Interested and Affected Parties contacts list to coordinate enforcement actions. The following enforcement activities have been undertaken:  1. Complaints/referrals received=19 2. Compliance & Enforcement operations:  - Compliance Inspections conducted=37 - Blitz Enforcement Operations conducted=3 3. Administrative Enforcement Notices issued = 30  4. Referrals - Criminal Investigations /24G = 1 |
| Indicator 1.2: Capacity to apply biodiversity criteria evident among regulatory authorities and environmental and planning professionals, as indicated by survey to be conducted with key personnel at start and end of project    - Number of staff of regulatory authorities applying biodiversity criteria in review and decision making processes    - Improvement in capacity of staff in regulatory authorities to apply criteria    - Quality of biodiversity information provided by applicants | - Zero at project start    - Zero at project start    - Zero at project start | *(not set or not applicable)* | - 20% increase on baseline  - 20% increase on baseline  - 20% increase on baseline | Output 1.2.1: Capacity assessments have been completed for MTPA, CapeNature, DARDLEA, EDM and UMDM. Capacity Assessment Frameworks aimed at understanding and addressing the capacity gaps in the various work streams have been completed and the development of training material is under way.    In CWDM, 8 training and capacity building engagements aimed at officials took place in the reporting period: Training of CapeNature's Regional Ecological Support Team in the use of the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation; Training of CapeNature's Conservation Services team (see Output 1.2.3); Invasive species database investigation with the City of Cape Town and The Nature Conservancy's Water Fund; Mainstreaming Ecosystem Based Adaptation learning session with GIZ Project Team and DEA&DP; and small group capacity building regarding the uptake of the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan with DEA&DP climate change adaptation team. Additionally the Land Use Advice Unit received technical training regarding the applicability of the spatial plan, this intervention reach 8 individuals    Output 1.2.2: 2 SALGA councillor training occurred in Mpumalanga (24 people in attendance of which 14 were councillors) and the Eastern Cape (39 people in attendance of which 29 were councillors) in July and August 2017. Capacity interventions have also occurred within various forums such as the Ehlanzeni Disaster Management Indaba, ICLEI Local Climate Solutions for Africa Congress in April 2017, etc.    SANBI is in the process of developing biodiversity training material which will go into the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform's online Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Training Platform which is accessible to all town planners within the country.    SANBI has also started undertaking capacity development sessions on what Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) are and how they should be incorporated into EIAs. One session was undertaken through the DEA training platforms in Pretoria on the 4th December 2017 and another was done in Nelspruit with Mpumalanga partners on the 20th March 2018. Fifty people attended the workshop in Pretoria, with representatives from DEA, DMR, various consulting companies and City of Johannesburg. Nineteen people attended the workshop in Mpumalanga, with representatives coming from various municipalities (Ehlanzeni district municipality, City of Mbombela, and Bushbuckridge Municipality), DARDLEA officials (EIA and CME Sections), DEA National (IEMS Capacity and Support) and SANBI (Invasive species programme and BLU members). Further sessions are planned for June 2018. Through our engagement with various stakeholders, SANBI has realised that stakeholders’ understanding of how CBAs are determined and how they should be implemented is limited. An interesting question raised by local municipal staff, which also has value to EIA staff, was if SANBI has developed a cost benefit analysis process that guides decision making in instances where a site has been identified for both conservation and socio economic purposes.    SANBI has also presented on the same issue at the IAIASA conference in August 2017 and again it was beneficial to understand how IEM stakeholders understand CBAs and to address some of their issues in the presentation. The EIA Officer from DARDLEA has incorporated biodiversity information within 5 Basic Assessment Reports, 3 Scoping and EIA Reports and 2 Mast EIA Applications.    The following stewardship capacity development interventions have been undertaken:  1. Training on management plans: two sessions held November 2017 and Feb 2018. Training held in Cape Town and Pretoria. 83 participants in total of which Males: 43 and Females: 40  2. Legal capacity building training: One session held at Kruger National Park on 19 April 2018. 42 participants of which Males: 25 and Females: 17.    Output 1.2.3: This target will be achieved by implementing an EIA checklist at the beginning of the project and again at the end. SANBI has drafted a number of versions of the checklist. It requires one last stakeholder engagement session before it is finalisation. In the last reporting period, biodiversity priorities have been considered/ incorporated in three Section 24G applications (one of which was a mining application). A 24G application needs to be completed when an illegal development has happened and applicants apply to pay a fine and to rectify damage to the environment. | 1.2.1 SANBI had engaged stakeholders regarding the BLU EIA Training Course and finalised the scope of content for this project. The focus of the course is to improve the uptake of biodiversity priorities into EIAs. A draft of the materials is currently under review. An application has been made to the International Association of Impact Assessment South Africa 2019 Conference to present the course as a pre-conference course in August 2019, which has been approved.    A training workshop for Western Cape provincial regulatory officials was hosted by CapeNature in March 2019. Officials from Cape Town and George branches of DEA&DP actively participated and were assisted in interrogating the practical use of the provincial Biodiversity Spatial Plan to support the decision making process. Officials noted the benefit of understanding the process used to determine Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) and ESAs. A mutual decision by both parties was reached for more regular information sharing and on-going dialogue toward improved uptake of biodiversity priorities in decision making.  The capacity development material for how biodiversity can be incorporated into spatial development tools for town planners has been completed, as well as the capacity development material for IDP Managers. The main purpose of this training is to provide planners and IDP managers with practical training in terms of how they can better incorporate biodiversity into their day to day activities. With regard to the capacity development material for planners, these are awaiting external review by the CSIR before the training material can feed into the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform’s online Spatial Planning and Land Use Management training portal.  1.2.2 The Environmental Management component undertook three capacity development sessions in June, September and October 2018. The purpose of the capacity development sessions is to improve the capacity of EIA practitioners to effectively incorporate biodiversity information in environmental assessment processes. There were 22 participants at the session held on 27 June 2018 in uMgungundlovu District Municipality. Participants in this session were from the KZN Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and uMgungundlovu District Municipality and the local municipalities. The second session was in Amatole District on 18 September 2018, with 18 participants at this session. Participants in this session were from the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT). The third session was held on 18 October 2018 in in Ehlanzeni District. This session was facilitated through IAIAsa’s Mpumalanga branch. Participants were Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs) and specialists from various consulting companies, Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA), Mpumalanga Tourisms and Parks Agency (MTPA) and Ehlanzeni District Municipality and local municipalities.  In December 2018 a training workshop for Biodiversity Specialists was hosted by CapeNature staff with Botanical and Freshwater specialists from the Western Cape in attendance. An outcome of the workshop was an improved common understanding of planning methodology and key informants used. Questions about the legal standing of the WCBSP resulted in strong support from the specialists for the WCBSP to have more “legal teeth”. The WCBSP is due to be codified in the Western Cape Biodiversity Bill which will elevate its status. Additionally, there is ongoing individual written and verbal communication with EAPs during the commenting processes about the importance of using the WCBSP to inform assessment of impacts on biodiversity.  Planning and Land Use Management Component  In Ehlanzeni:  • Capacitated Mnisi Traditional authority during the EbA workshop convened by Conservation South Africa held from 4 to 5 October 2018 on CBAs and particularly wetland and sensitive environments as traditional authorities have a tendency to demarcate household stands on floodplains and wetlands.  • Capacitated district and local municipality town planners on integrating biodiversity into SPLUMA processes at the Greater Kruger Land Use workshop held on 31 October to 01 November 2018. Town planners from DRDLR, COGTA, EDM, CoM, BLM and Mopani DM, Maruleng LM and Ba-Phalaborwa LM were in attendance.  • IDP Managers from District and local municipalities training on 17 May 2019 in Nelspruit on biodiversity and Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs)  In uMgungundlovu:  • On 14 June 2018, hosted an information sharing session with unemployed Environmental Graduates about Environmental Programmes and the different types of funding that they can access.  • Capacitated the new IDP Manager of uMshwathi LM on 14 August 2018 on biodiversity priorities and integrating these into the municipal processes.  • Conducted an Ecological Infrastructure Workshop to the District and Local Municipal Planners on 26 September 2018.  • In partnership with uMgungundlovu Stakeholder Forum, Ondlunkulu (wives of Traditional Leaders) were capacitated on Integrated Environmental Management and Ecological Infrastructure on 30 October 2018  • Capacity development for Community Development Workers (CDWs) from the KZN Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) was held on 26 November 2018 in partnership with uMngeni Resilience Project.  • Conducted a one on one capacity development session with Mkhambathini Town Planner looking at the newly developed SDF in comparison with the previous one, specifically looking at biodiversity mainstreaming and the impact of the project’s intervention to Municipal Planning.  • Conducted a capacity development session with Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Local Municipality on Ecological Infrastructure and the EI Challenge Fund Project proposed for iMpendle LM on 20 February 2019.  1.2.3 The Biodiversity Checklist has been developed. An array of stakeholders has made input into the checklist, including Cape Nature, MTPA and SANBI's Biodiversity Planning Team. SANBI is in the process of designing the implementation of the checklist.  Work is set to commence soon on inputting into a number of existing Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement (CME) training initiatives:  -DARDLEA and DEA&DP CME Road shows  -National EMI Training Course  -DEA&DP Prosecutor Training  The project appointed botanist in DEA&DP has begun developing a training programme on the ecology of the Cape Winelands which is being refined for broader use and potentially similar tools will be developed by MTPA for DARDLEA (CME)  The project Quarterly Planning Meetings has enabled one on one engagement between CapeNature land use scientists and DEA&DP Legal Compliance officials. As a result there has been a fast tracking of assessment of cases of non-compliance in the CWDM area with particular emphasis on unauthorised clearing of vegetation for agriculture.  The Botanist and Specialist Environmental Officer have completed EMI basic training and will be designated as Grade 2 EMIs once results are made available (July 2019). To date, the botanist has assisted other EMI officers with in-field assessments of biodiversity and has participated in an external training course and conducted an in-house training session for DEA&DP Staff to highlight biodiversity issues and explain botanical site-investigation protocols. 5 Awareness Raising Events have been conducted including at: National Compliance Forum and WG6 as well as at the local Upper Breede Collaboration Group forum and a "Farmers Information Day" held with SAPPO and the WC:DoA. Capacity building has included assisting Criminal investigations by reviewing 2 botanical reports and compiling a specialist review for their use. Researched and compared two conflicting botanist reports for a case for Criminal Investigations, including a Findings Report for their consideration.  Compiled and submitted an affidavit to support a case opened by Criminal Investigations. |
| Indicator 1.3: Municipal land use planning frameworks in two target District Municipalities incorporate biodiversity criteria    - Number of IDPs where environmental layer of SDF is SPLUMA compliant    - SPLUMA complaint LUMS which contribute to improved land use regulation | Zero at project start - SPLUMA is promulgated but has not come into force yet - only tracking from project inception Zero at project start - SPLUMA is promulgated but has not come into force yet - only tracking from project inception | *(not set or not applicable)* | - 6 IDPs with environmental layers in the SDFs that are SPLUMA compliant  - 1,741,937 ha under improved land use regulation through SPLUMA complaint LUMS in 6 local municipalities | Output 1.3.1: The development of the environmental layer is still underway. This process is being undertaken in partnership with the Department of Environmental Affairs and the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. There has been much robust engagement with the various stakeholders on this tool, which has led to the project partners deciding to move the end date of the project to March 2019 to ensure that all the stakeholder views are adequately taken into consideration.    Output 1.3.2: 1 SDF under development in UMDM = Umshwati Local Municipality SDF is being developed through project funds in UMDM.    Within EDM, Bushbuckridge and Nkomazi SDFs have also been developed and both are compliant with the Biodiversity Criteria  Within CWDM, SDFs for 3 local municipalities have been reviewed and input given to drive the inclusion of biodiversity priorities during the reporting period. Additionally, input has been given on the national guidelines for minimum standards for SDFs.    Output 1.3.3: Criteria to review LUMS has been completed. The Review of UMDM LUMS has been completed and the ones for EDM is underway. Through the project, SANBI is supporting the development of the City of Mbombela land use scheme.    Output 1.3.4: In CWDM: the project supports municipalities to foreground biodiversity considerations in order to safeguard their ecological infrastructure via, inter alia, the appropriate placement of engineered infrastructure such as dams and electric power lines. CapeNature participates in the Brandvlei Dam Expansion Steering Committee and has an ongoing commitment to robust engagement with the national electric power supplier, Eskom, particularly in relation to the location of transmission lines and monitoring of compliance with Environmental Management Plans that accompany authorisations. This is an ongoing challenge. | 1.3.1: The draft environmental layer for Spatial Development Frameworks went out for public comment in May 2019 after a 6-month delay in securing approval from the Minister of Environmental Affairs. The commenting period closed at the end of June 2019 after which comments will be incorporated before finalising the environmental layer.  CapeNature provided input regarding the Biodiversity Status of most of the 30 local municipalities in the Western Cape into DEA&DP’s IDP/LGMTEC engagement process.  1.3.2: To date 3 of the 6 IDPs have environmental layers updated/completed. These include Umshwati, Nkomazi and Bushbuckridge. Work is underway with the following municipalities: Umgeni, uMgungundlovu District, Ehlanzeni District, Mbombela, Drakenstein, Cape Winelands District and Breede Valley. It is important to note that municipalities update their spatial priorities within their own time-frames and as such the project is dependent on the relevant municipalities commencing these processes before we are able to engage.    In addition, the project reviewed and commented on the Mpumalanga provincial SDF, ensuring that biodiversity priorities are embedded at a provincial level. Support has also been provided outside of the project districts to 3 local municipalities in Gert SibandeDistrict. Participated in Mpumalanga provincial spatial working group to ensure that the Biodiversity Spatial Plan is considered in planning instruments, such as the Mpumalanga Housing development plan.    1.3.3: Biodiversity inputs have been incorporated into the Land Use Management Schemes of the following local municipalities: Thaba Chweu, Nkomazi, Mkhambathini, and Drakenstein. This amounts to 1,204,500 ha under improved land use regulation against a target of 1,741,937 ha. It is anticipated that the project target will be exceeded as the project is currently working with the following local municipalities: Mshwati, Mpofana, Impendle, and Mbombela on their Land Use schemes. Again, these are municipal planning processes which are outside the control of the project; we can only engage once the local municipality has commenced with the process.    1.3.4: A reviews of both the EDM and UMDM Disaster Management Plans has been conducted with the view understanding what the gaps are with regards to how risk is managed for natural disasters. Key to this is advising the municipalities on the types of activities that can be undertaken with regards to rehabilitation and maintenance of ecological infrastructure to better aid in Disaster Risk Reduction. The feedback has been shared with the relevant municipalities and plans are underway to develop appropriate projects in Ehlanzeni DM to address this.    The foregrounding of Biodiversity Priorities within the municipal decision making process for Cape Winelands District Municipality has been promoted via participation in a provincially run CWDM SDF steering committee and via formal written input in response to the draft CWDM SDF. At the local municipal level formal input was provided on the Drakenstein Environmental Management Framework and SDF and the Breede Valley SDF. Meetings with town planners working on behalf of local municipalities on feasibility assessments for development nodes have also been undertaken with a view to advising on the best configuration of these nodes. |
| Indicator 1.4: At least one new funding mechanism in place, increasing resource allocation    - Percentage increase in resources allocated to biodiversity management    - Number of jobs (including temporary and permanent jobs) created in target municipalities to support ecosystem restoration and maintenance | - Zero in both target Districts    - EDM = 6    UDM = 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | - 50% increase in resources allocated to biodiversity management  - 600 jobs (including temporary and permanent jobs) created in target municipalities to support ecosystem restoration and maintenance | Output 1.4.1: The Midterm review recommended that the criteria for the Ecological Infrastructure Challenge Fund be amended to allow for natural resource management projects and not just ecological infrastructure linked to built infrastructure projects. New criteria was developed and approved at the December 2017 Project Steering Committee meeting. Since then, R 4.9 Million worth of projects have been developed, a number of which have been reviewed and funding committed to.    The Umgeni Mthunzima Wetland Stream Project has been awarded funding from the Department of Environmental Affairs’ Natural Resource Management Programmes so work is expected to commence within the next quarter. The BLU project funding of R1,1 mil will be augmented by R5,8 mil NRM funding and R 750k of Umgeni Water funding. This landmark project will demonstrate how investment in EI can support built infrastructure as the wetland to be rehabilitated is currently supporting an over committed water treatment facility. With the rehabilitation of the wetland it is expected that its water purification capacity will be improved which will have a positive impact on the quality of water in Midmar Dam.    SANBI has partnered with the Table Mountain Fund for projects within the CWDM to support project development and implementation as SANBI does not have capacity within the area.    All outstanding outputs with regards to the national water pricing strategy will be taken up by the new SANBI GEF 6 Project (Ecological Infrastructure for Water Security Project)  CapeNature implements a number of large public sector funded job creation environmental benefit projects. 38 new jobs have been created in the CWDM via the nationally funded Youth Environmental Services Programme and, via the BLU project, engagement with project participants toward improved environmental awareness at a community level has been initiated. | Outputs with regards to the National Water Pricing Strategy has been on hold for much of the project as DWS has not made any progress in this regard. This work is being taken forward through the GEF 6 Ecological Infrastructure for Water Security Project.    The EI Challenge Fund is fully operational and funds have been allocated to six projects in three district municipalities. Two projects are at an advanced stage of implementation, with a further two projects having just commenced implementation. Contracting has been delayed on the remaining two projects, but these are expected to get underway soon. To date 234 jobs have been created either directly through the project or as a result of resources leveraged through project interventions. It is anticipated that by the end of the project a total of 644 jobs would have been created.  The six projects are as follows:  Bushbuckridge Donga Rehabilitation Project: Rehabilitation of dongas and construction of gabions  This project focuses on the rehabilitation of dongas along the Motlamogatsane / Klein Sand River as well as the construction of gabions in the area. The dongas have developed as a result of a lack of storm water control infrastructure linked to the road crossing the river and this has led to the erosion of the road edges leading to high velocity inflow of water into the river. The project will rehabilitate the damage caused by erosion, which will improve the status and functioning of the freshwater ecosystem, improve water quality and quantity as well as enhance public safety through the installation of disaster risk prevention infrastructure. The project has been contracted and implementation has commenced.    Mpophomeni-Mthinzima Wetland Stream Project: Rehabilitate degraded wetlands to restore function of stream near Waste Water Treatment Plant  The Mpophomeni-Mthinzima Ecological Infrastructure project in uMgeni Local Municipality aims to improve the quality and quantity of water flowing into the Midmar Dam. The project focuses on the restoration and maintenance of wetlands and riparian zones in order to improve water security for those dependent on water related services from the Midmar dam. In addition, the project also aims to reduce the cost of managing Midmar Dam and the production of potable water. Implementation has been delayed due to contractual issues.    Ceres Mountain Fynbos Nature Reserve: Invasive Alien Plant Clearing  The Witzenberg Local Municipality Invasive Alien Plant Clearing project aims to clear and remove invasive alien plants within the Ceres Mountain Fynbos Nature Reserve thereby contributing towards improved ecological condition and the restoration of ecosystem services which were lost as a result of alien plants infestation. Implementation commenced in 2018 with the project set to be concluded by end 2019.    Baynespruit River Project: Invasive Alien Plant clearing & construction of floating wetlands to restore functioning of river  The Msunduzi Local Municipality’s Baynespruit river rehabilitation project aims to restore the functioning of the Baynespruit River by clearing of invasive alien plant species along the tributary buffer and planting of indigenous trees after the alien plants have been removed. The project goal is to enhance river health and water quality, improve the ecological functioning as well as the quality of life for local residents. Implementation has been delayed due to delays in the signing of contractual agreements.    Mbombela Stadium Wetland Rehabilitation Project: Rehabilitation of degraded wetland around Stadium  The Mbombela rehabilitation project aims to rehabilitate the Mbombela Stadium Wetland area. This entails the rehabilitation of eroded slopes, re-vegetation of the seasonal and temporal zones of the wetland, the introduction of a variety of indigenous plants to the flat areas of the temporal and seasonal zones of the wetland and the control of erosion on water causes. Contracting has been completed and work has commenced.    Breedekloof Wine & Tourism: Invasive Alien Plant Clearing project  This project aims is to clear Critical Biodiversity Areas (Aquatic) in the Holsloot River from any invasive alien plants and with the specific focus on the river riparian zone in the upper catchment. The project objective is to a) Raise awareness and ensuring ownership among landowners to improve the general conditions of ecological infrastructure, b) Clear a minimum of 58ha of adult invasive alien plants from the Holsloot riparian zone and create jobs in the process, and c) Create employment for seasonal workers affected by the recent drought. Implementation commenced in 2018 with the project set to be concluded by end 2019.    Lessons learned from implementing the EI Challenge Fund include:  - Any intervention aimed at encouraging municipal uptake of EI projects needs to include the provision of project design and implementation support as well as capacity development so that the municipalities can take this work forward into the future.  - There needs to be a minimum level of financial controls in place within the target municipality to support the implementation of EI projects. Due diligence needs to be conducted not just at the district level, but at the local municipal level as well where implementation of EI projects would necessarily occur.  - The length of time taken to get projects started once they had been approved. Experience has shown that it takes about two years from the time the project proposal is completed for work to start on the ground. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Conservation and Sustainable use of Biodiversity on Private and Communal Land** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Indicator 2.1: New biodiversity stewardship agreements cover 62,464 ha of biodiversity priority areas    Ha of biodiversity priority areas secured: – X Ha under negotiation    - X Ha submitted for declaration    - X Ha declared | Amathole - 0 ha    Cape Winelands - 4,118 ha    Ehlanzeni - 7,900 ha    uMgungundlovu -10,500 ha | *(not set or not applicable)* | 62 464 ha (new) of biodiversity priority areas secured  - 20 000 Ha under negotiation  - 14 495 Ha submitted for declaration  - 27 969 Ha declared | Total under negotiation: 24 993.  Total submitted for declaration: 5 263 ha.  Total declared: 5 703 ha  These totals are made up as follows: In the AMD, a 242ha site underwent public participation, it was not supported by DMR and was subsequently not declared. The sites below were assessed, reviewed and are under negotiation considered for declaration: Milton 194 (647.2ha) and Sompondo (2755.1ha) is considered for Nature Reserve Status. The respective landowners are contemplating the proposed status and ECPTA awaits responses. The shapefiles for these properties were submitted to DMR for mineral assessment.    In EDM, declared - Four nature reserves declared (4 406 ha).  Submitted - surveying completed for 5 KLF forestry reserves (5021 ha) that have been submitted to DAFF to start public participation process.  In negotiation (total 19 400ha) - continued negotiations around Blyde NR expansion of 16 000 ha. Additional sites under negotiation include Schoemanskloof (2000 ha), Lydenburg south (800 ha) and Eli vd Merwe (600 ha). | Ha declared to date:  4 513 ha (four Nature Reserves and one Protected Environment)  Ha submitted for declaration: 5 021 ha (five KLF forestry reserves under government gazette NOTICE 210 OF 2019)  Ha under negotiation: 62 563  This target is behind schedule for a number of reasons:  - The length of the negotiation phase with the landowner cannot be prescribed and some land owners need more time to feel comfortable with committing to a long term conservation agreement. When working with communities, the process takes even longer due to inherent complexities of community structures and legal nature of the contracts. Communities also need enough time to feel comfortable with this commitment.  - The legal processes required to declare a site requires the legal support from the provincial conservation agency as well as the buy-in and support from the relevant MEC. Most provincial conservation agencies are under capacitated to address the full extent of the legal requirements, in addition the MECs often are resistant to signing declaration agreements due to political pressure and a lack of understanding of the biodiversity stewardship process and the significant conservation and development gains that can be achieved.  - Conflict with mining priorities: The pre-declaration phase includes a spatial planning process which identifies priority biodiversity areas on the smallest area of land necessary to meet as many conservation goals as possible. This means that the biodiversity stewardship is not land hungry. The mining sector is unfortunately not able to provide a similar spatial analysis to identify mining priorities. Stewardship land with any mining potential is therefore subjected to additional approvals that fall outside of the prescribed public participation process as indicated in the National Protected Areas Act.    In the biodiversity stewardship Policy space, a number of successes have been achieved including the completion of the National Biodiversity Stewardship Guideline which has been endorsed by DEA’s WG1. The second National Biodiversity Stewardship Conference was convened in October 2018 with a strong focus on biodiversity stewardship with communities, looking at the opportunities and challenges within this space. The conference was well attended with over 100 delegates including community representatives, NGOs and government departments including DEA and DRDLR.  Through the efforts of the project DEA has now included the development of a National Biodiversity Stewardship Policy onto its medium term work plan.  Completed and disseminated the Biodiversity Stewardship for Communities Fact-sheet to communicate links between biodiversity stewardship and rural development. The fact sheet provides two example case studies of communities in the biodiversity stewardship programme. |
| Indicator 2.2: Biodiversity management plans that reflect gazetted norms and standards for 3 medicinal plant species and 1 priority ecosystem in place    - Number of Biodiversity Management Plans for threatened and highly traded medicinal species (BMP:S)    - Number of Biodiversity Management Plans for priority ecosystem (BMP:E) | 1 BMP:S for a medicinal plant species (Pelargonium Sidoides)    Zero BMP:E exist | *(not set or not applicable)* | - 3 new BMP:S  - 1 BMP:E | Output 2.2.1: The Scoping process for three BMP:S was concluded and three medicinal species identified for the development of BMPs. The development process will be taken forward in the next reporting period. In addition, a resource assessment for Aloe Ferox is underway in contribution to the development of a Non-Detriment Finding by the Scientific Authority.    Output 2.2.2: potential for development of a BMP:E supporting development of restoration strategy that includes entire Blyde Catchment (2428 km2) needs to be explored. | 2.2.1 This work is progressing slower than anticipated. A scoping process concluded last year identified 5 medicinal plant species in Mpumalanga which could benefit from the development of a Biodiversity Management Plan. These species are:  • Bowiea volubilis  • Alepidea cordifolia  • Warburgia salutaris  • Haworthiopsis limifolia var.arcana / glaucophylla  • Dioscorea sylvatica  A resource assessment of these species is set to commence shortly, after which the BMP:S will be developed.  In addition, a resource assessment for Aloe Ferox is being updated towards supporting a non-detriment finding for the species under CITES.    2.2.2:This work is progressing slower than anticipated. A process has now been put in place to identify a preferred site using the recently released set of national KBAs as a point of departure. It is anticipated that these processes will get underway shortly. |
| Indicator 2.3:    - Number of ha of priority biodiversity areas under better land & natural resource management practices implemented by private and communal land owners    - Biodiversity considerations integrated into production sectors | Monitoring baseline:    Amathole – 0 ha    Cape Winelands – 22,924 ha    Ehlanzeni - 0 ha    uMgungundlovu – 4,704 ha      Codes of practice/ certification standards exist for forestry, wine and red meat commercial sectors    Baseline for fruit - 0    Baseline for sugar - 0    Baseline for forestry - 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | - 161 000 ha (new) under better land & natural resource management practices  - Biodiversity considerations integrated into 3 (new) production sectors for communal/ small growers (fruit, sugar, small scale forestry)  - 30% of fruit producers from the target district comply with codes of practice/certification standards (SIZA)  - 100% of commercial and small scale sugar producers in the target district comply with codes of practice/ certification standards (SUSFarms)  - 20% of small grower/communal foresters from the target district comply with codes of practice/ certification standards | Output 2.3.1: In negotiation: 28 191.  Under better management: 118 136.    In ADM, Qeto (2191.4ha) is considered for a Biodiversity Agreement, which if agreed to by the landowner will result in better land management.    In EDM, developing detailed restoration strategy and management plan for the lowveld plantation portion of Blyde NR (total 16 000ha). In addition, development of management plan for BRCNR (22 000 ha) underway with management plan set to be completed within the next quarter.    In CWDM, thirteen landowner agreements have been signed resulting in 15,900 ha secured. In addition, in Robertson (Landowners Association agreement signed) representing: 8,656 ha.  WWF Conservation Champion farm Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.: 29 for the year (since June 2017) to update EMPS and track progress.    In uMDM, hectares under better management achieved for sugar using SUSFARMS = 87,580 ha. The end of project target was 55 000 ha). Forestry: 6000 ha for the area under the Ozwathini mentorship.    Output 2.3.2: CWDM Fruit: SIZA Enviro standard is now available on the platform with approximately 200 new members using the Enviro SAQ. This is roughly 5% of total industry and 20% of the SIZA membership base. The target is expected to be reached by end of 2019 (30% of fruit producers within CWDM).  4 grower days within the target region was undertaken. 181 participants were in attendance of which 165 were female and 16 were male. These sessions were held across the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Western Cape and KZN and focuses on introductory sessions on the SIZA Environmental module on the platform.    uMDM Forestry: 326 growers, 48 certified  14% of small growers under certification. And 1945 training moments within the LIMA project which took place in the Ozwathini area infield or the local church hall. The training covered the following topics: Business Management, Site Requirements, Crop Selection, Land Preparation, Establishment, Maintenance, Nutrition, Pests and Disease, Weeding, Irrigation, Harvesting, Record Keeping, Marketing, Infrastructure and Equipment, Governance, Risk Management, First Aid, Chainsaw Use and Herbicide Application. A total of 195 participants participated in the training courses of which 127 were females and 68 were males. Some of the organisations involved in the training include LIMA, NOSA (https://www.nosa.co.za/about/our-story/about-nosa/), Husqvarna (Chainsaw company), and the project’s mentor, Gilbert Plant.    SUGAR: SUSFARMS Progress Tracker formally endorsed by BONSUCRO. Adopted and supported by 342 growers in target area representing 87,580 hectares.  262 Land Use plans (the end of project target is 300)  100% of commercial growers in the target region are using SUSFARMS (having completed it once) - with 99% of 2015-2016. Progress Tracker data submitted to date, and 87% of 2016-2017 Progress Trackers submitted.  Rural Horizon platform: content was developed, piloted and simplified. Gaining momentum now in 2018.    Time and resources have been focused on using learnings/content to feed in to multi-stakeholder E-Learning Platform which is going to be tested in July 2018.    Retailer Dialogue hosted late 2017 with interest in developing an entry level standard but no retailer targets set at this stage.  The Land Use Planner has compiled 3 LUPs for Small Scale Growers (SSG) areas, as follows: Mathulini (757ha), Hlatikulu 1 (57.6ha) and Hlatikulu 2 (319ha). This is a total of 1133ha under SSG cane.    The SUSFARMS Progress Tracker is currently being revised and will include filter questions so that the content will be applicable to SSGs. This will be tested with growers in mid-2018. SUSFARMS topics are incorporated into SSG training days conducted by Illovo Sugar and SASRI. An opportunity has emerged with Coca-Cola Beverages Africa (CCBA) to plan SSG specific projects for long-term sustainability. A SSG Task Team has been set up with key members of the SUSFARMS Collaboration to draft a proposal to identify projects, deliverables, timeframes and funding requirements to ensure that SSG cane production is profitable, socially compliant and environmentally responsible. | 2.3.1 This target is on track with 108 384Ha under better management and a further 71 502 Ha under negotiation.  In Ehlanzeni: the Blyde restoration strategy is focused on Byde NR at present. The final draft of BRCNR management plan is available and is being reviewed by MTPA.  The Low-veld plantation restoration strategy is nearing completion and will guide restoration activities by NRM teams in this landscape into the future. The Kaapsehoop (Berlin) cluster management plan is being finalised. The Blyde cluster management plan draft is currently available and will be reviewed in the coming months.    Amatole: Draft Management Plans have been developed for approximately 9000ha of sites.    Cape Winelands (Fruit): Number of landowner agreements signed: 18 with 38,498 ha under better management. In the Ceres area: the Waboomsberg Conservancy is a registered conservancy with Cape Nature and represents 4 properties combined to 6,336 ha under better management.  Robertson Breederiver Conservancy has an established (updated) Landowners Association Constitution and is representative of 16,000ha under better management. There is planning to extend the boundary of the Conservancy with WWF Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo funding to secure future positions but all the landowner engagements on happening now.  The Robertson Protected Environment has had a number of landowners’ reconsider so it now represents 3,978ha. There is also a new group of landowners that have approached WWF to set up a PE or Nature Reserve in the Koue Bokkeveld/Twee River area which represents approximately 7,342 hectares. The properties have recently gone through the Cape Nature Review process and has been approved.    2.3.2 FRUIT: The SIZA Environmental standard has been positively adopted with over 800 Self-Assessment Questionnaires completed on the online platform. This means that 43% of the 1855 SIZA members have decided to add the SIZA Environmental module to their sustainability reporting - even though there is now an additional cost added to their membership fee if they select the Enviro module (R600 per annum). This does not seem to have affected the positive interest/commitment.  Of the total fruit industry, this represents roughly 25% (FruitSA figures of 3200 producers) which is on track to meeting the end of project target of 30%.  WWF-SA led the successful development of the social and environmental (ESG) criteria of the Solidaridad’s “Farming solution” which is a mobile phone application that guides smallholder farmers to improve productivity for high value horticultural products while paying attention to the Environmental and Social safeguards related to their farming practices. The “Farming Solution” will be used to conduct baseline studies and to support about 750 smallholder farmers (under the SWITCH AFRICA GREEN project) in the provinces of the Eastern Cape, Western Cape, Mpumalanga and Gauteng to ensure that targeted smallholder farming communities improve food security while farming responsibly.    SUGAR: the SUSFARMS Progress Tracker has been adopted and supported by 342 growers representing 87,580 ha and all growers in the target area (100% farmers target achieved).  Land Use plans have been completed for 358 farm parcels, exceeding the end of project target of 300. Land Use Plans have also been compiled for a total of 1633ha under Small Scale Growers (SSG) cane. The SSG Task Team set up within the SUSFARMS Collaboration will serve to strengthen sustainability within the SSG cane sector, through identification of suitable projects, sufficient funding and ongoing management thereof. The Coordinator is also working closely with Illovo’s NFG (New Freehold Growers) extension officer to join for farm visits. The Coordinator attended training in June on the Fairtrade Certification system - this was held with representatives from two SSG Cooperatives which are currently Fairtrade accredited. This gave the Coordinator valuable insight into the different and challenging circumstances of SSG sugarcane production, which will be used in the update of SUSFARMS Version 4.  100% of Progress Trackers for period 2017-18 has been received. SA Sugar Research Institute is able to track annual improvements using their Extraction Database tool.    FORESTRY: the process to develop and an independent South African certification standard and system that could be endorsed by the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification system (PEFC) was completed, with the South African Forestry Assurance Scheme (SAFAS) receiving endorsement from the PEFC in November 2018. The primary objective of setting up an independent standard is to provide timber growers in South Africa with an alternative certification system to the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) that enables the certification of small-scale timber growers and gives them more flexibility and security in the marketplace. Since the endorsement of the Scheme, there have been delays in securing an appropriate body to undertake the third-party auditing of certification under SAFAS. An independent auditing body has now been confirmed and it is anticipated that the auditing process get underway by the end of October 2019, where after a number of producers will be certified using the innovative group/landscape certification mechanism made possible through PEFC. 1 NCT Field day with Amatimatolo community undertaken. |
| Indicator 2.4: At least one funding mechanism or tax incentive in place for biodiversity stewardship    - Amendments made to existing tax incentives for biodiversity    - Number of land owners using tax incentives | Income tax deductions for biodiversity conservation are provided for under section 18A of the Income Tax Act      Zero land owners have signed conservation stewardship contracts and made use of current tax incentives | *(not set or not applicable)* | - Biodiversity tax incentives amended  - 5 land owners make use of tax incentives  - Guidelines for tax consultants developed | Output 2.4.1: Currently exploring National Treasury’s conditional grant as a financial mechanism for resourcing Biodiversity stewardship. The formation of an Endowment fund is still being considered but requires some careful crafting.    Output 2.4.2: Additional tax incentive currently under development; technical outline in draft form; additional models currently in formulation; negotiations with Treasury underway; Treasury acknowledged willingness to amend the Income Tax Act again based on success of the first, new and effective tax incentive.    Output 2.4.3: Corporate Conservation Collaboration finalised to allow for additional tax practitioner skills within the sector to afford accessibility to more landowners; tax incentive utilisation from 2016/7 remains intact and annual roll-over of the incentive in tax return concluded easily; BDS Guideline includes detailed information on current tax incentives/ Fact sheets and summaries for tax incentives available online.    Online resources remain; national annual tax training provided; additional legal assistance provided on tax and stewardship templates; more detailed tax assistance provided on a case by case basis at sites across the country.    28 capacity building sessions around the tax work were undertaken across the following areas: East London, Hoedspruit, Midmar, Pretoria, Johannesburg, Cape Town, Nieuwoudtville, KwaZulu Natal: Salt Rock, Polokwane, Cambridge- UK, Howick, Santiago-Chile, Skukuza and Nairobi-Kenya. The focus of these sessions ranged from providing tax training for stewardship officers, presentation and tax updates; and tax training - legal and tax technical.    In Nairobi, Kenya a presentation and tax update was provided and lessons learnt from SA were shared.    Treasury is also a key focal group and discussions with them included the provision of updates and detailed tax discussion and planning of SARS interpretation note. Organisations who attended the capacity building sessions include ECPTA, ECPTA biodiversity Stewardship Forum, K2C, Lowveld PA Group, MTPA, LEDET, SANParks and landowners, Biodiversity Stewardship KZN Forum participants, Treasury, DEA senior level staff, BLSA staff, SARS and DEA, DENC, LEDET, 2017 National Biodiversity Stewardship Conference participants, David Attenborough Conservation Building - all stakeholders/ RSPB, Biodiversity Stewardship Technical Working Group, NBBN Indaba - business and biodiversity stakeholders, KZN Symposium attendees, MAREP participants, BioFin Workshop participants, ILCN Global Congress participants, Wits Seminar attendees and the Kenyan PPA and tax delegation. | 2.4.1: The project has been working with the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) which aims at reduce the finance gap required to implement priority actions identified in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). Through ongoing engagements with DEA, who are implementing the international UNDP Biodiversity Finance Initiative, Biodiversity Stewardship has been included in the South African BIOFIN project which is currently preparing for the implementation of phase two. The BIOFIN financing strategy recognises biodiversity stewardship's central role in ensuring the success of a number of other finance solutions identified. Preliminary inputs into Phase 2 entails a fiscal financing grant that does not require additional funding from a constrained national fiscal environment but makes the case for redirecting existing Environment financial resources towards biodiversity stewardship, which has the capacity to meet a number of environmental objectives and contribute to the development agenda of the country.  Also drawing from the BLU project's activities, a second solution looks at ramping up tax incentives in support of financing investment in biodiversity.    2.4.2: After the successful creation of South Africa's first effective tax incentive for biodiversity conservation, its inclusion in national legislation, and its detailed testing at pilot sites across the country, the Government of South Africa and the Fiscal Benefits Project lead, Candice Stevens, received the inaugural Pathfinder Award for Innovation in Protected and Conserved Area Financing and Resourcing at the Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties in 2018.  Tax incentive on Section (37) D successfully implemented with two qualifying landowners. A meeting was convened with National Treasury to discuss development of a new incentive - 37(C)(3).  Enhanced accessibility to the effective tax incentive has been made possible through the provision of tax extension services to qualifying biodiversity stewardship sites whereby additional landowners are receiving access to expert tax practitioners allowing them to utilise the section 37D tax deduction. All provinces have been engaged and a full inventory of applicable tax sites has been compiled.  2.4.3: Additional tax extension support has enabled more land owners to access the section 37D incentive.  - Tax sites with tax returns pending: three  - Formally engaged tax sites: six (of which one is a community site).  - Pending engagement tax sites: six    It is anticipated that this target will be exceeded.    All provinces have been engaged and a full inventory of applicable tax sites has been compiled. Training opportunities continue on an ad hoc/per request basis. Training requirements were successfully achieved in year one and year two of the project. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |

# Implementation Progress



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| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 63.73% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 63.73% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 5,211,594 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 100,000 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 8,177,730 |
| Co-financing | 50,653,616 |

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| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | Nov 15, 2012 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Jul 7, 2014 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Mar 10, 2015 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Mar 26, 2015 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Dec 1, 2017 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | Nov 30, 2017 |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Jan 1, 2020 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Mar 31, 2020 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)** |
| 2018-11-29 |
| 2019-05-14 |

# Critical Risk Management

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| Current Types of Critical Risks | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |
| N/A | N/A |

# Adjustments

**Comments on delays in key project milestones**

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| **Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| Not applicable this reporting period. |

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| **Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| The IP has engaged the PSC and PMU on an extension request. A letter of Request will be sent by the IP once a clearer understanding of the 2019 delivery is gained. |

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| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| There are no delays for any key project milestones in this reporting period. The project is scheduled to conduct a terminal evaluation in the next reporting period. An extension is likely to be requested by the Implementing Partner. |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

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| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Moderately Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | Good progress has been made during the past year towards bedding down project activities and achieving the project targets. The results have however been mixed, with some activities from the annual work plan not being fully achieved. Aspects of the project has progressed exceedingly well; with the sugar and fruit standards work being well taken up by the respective value chains, ensuring much needed sustainability and ownership beyond the project. In addition, good progress has been made with the environmental management and planning and land use management components of the project, despite much of this work being outside the control of the project and not subject to the project's timelines. This has especially been the case with the biodiversity protocols and environmental layer activities, which were impacted by a 6-month delay in securing the necessary ministerial approvals as a result of cabinet changes.    As we move towards the last year of project implementation, the slow progress being made towards securing the project's Biodiversity Stewardship targets remains a concern and has been highlighted at PSC level. reasons for the slow progress with the declarations of sites are documented elsewhere in the report.    The Theory of Change undertaken during 2018 and early 2019 has provided a much needed repositioning of the project, and included a reformulation of the project's risk matrix. The risk matrix has indicated that while there are no critical risks to the project, there are a number of moderate risks affecting implementation. the TOC exercise has also been really helpful in rethinking the Biodiversity Stewardship programme of work not only for the project, but nationally. The project will regularly work with the TOC and update it as implementation continues.    Developed out of the TOC and the MTR recommendations, a communication plan has been developed and which was recently presented at the PSC in May 2019. Procurement is underway to action elements of the plan - including producing short videos, writing case studies and articles for popular media.    The project has initiated, under advisement from the PSC, a request for time extension of 12 months on the project. further work is underway towards finalising the submission for the time extension, which is motivated by the slow progress with the Biodiversity Stewardship work as well as extra time being needed to bed down elements of the environmental management and planning components of the project. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Moderately Satisfactory | Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The IP, SANBI, has been a tried and tested UNDP-GEF project partner for many years. Its usual excellent consistency in the implementation of this project, as well as previous UNDP-GEF projects, was not evident in the delivery of the PIR reporting period. The 2019 workplan of this project was hampered by a leadership crisis following the resignation of the CEO as well as the IP focal point responsible for overseeing the implementation of the project. To this end, the Project is overall dated as Moderately Satisfactory because it is on track to achieve its development targets, but this is unlikely to be achieved by the time of project closure. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **GEF Operational Focal point** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Implementing Partner** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Other Partners** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser** | Moderately Satisfactory | Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | This is the 4th PIR for this project, and it is rated as Moderately Satisfactory for DO and Satisfactory IP progress. In this reporting period, the project gained significant momentum towards on key project outputs and outcomes and is well on track to achieve its overall objective, and in some cases the targets have been exceeded, but the project still faces minor delays and is off-track on some key outcomes, specifically work under outcome 2, related to negotiation and emplacement of new biodiversity stewardship agreements, hence the rating of MS.    The project’s objective is to ‘enhance the sustainable and effective conservation of globally significant biodiversity in South Africa through exploring, piloting and implementing innovative mechanisms and approaches to mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into the regulation and management of land and resource use in the landscape at the municipal scale’. This is to be achieved through two outcomes: Outcome 1 - Land and Natural Resource Use Management, Regulation, Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement; and Outcome 2 - Conservation and Sustainable use of Biodiversity on Private and Communal Land.    Progress under Outcome 1 is on-track and has gained significant moment in this reporting period. The project has worked with municipalities across South Africa, to mainstream considerations for protection of biodiversity and key biodiversity areas when land use planning decisions are made. The agricultural sector in particular has been targeted as a key area for the project interventions, but so has the water sector, although progress is this sector still remains slow.    Municipalities across South Africa are faced with the challenge of low capacity for integration of environmental consideration into decision-making on land use decisions and lack the practical tools to operationalize integrated land use planning. The project has therefore filled a significant gap in this regard, by providing support for collaboration platforms to be established to facilitate joint action among different land use planners, land managers and decision-makers working in different sectors of the government to come together on a periodic basis to share information, offer training on respective mandates and encourage collaborative decision making.    In the Cape Winelands for instance, a cooperation agreement has been signed between several governance and decision-making structures, including government institutions, private sector and NGOs to facilitate joint and participatory decision-making around the clearance of indigenous vegetation. These platforms have facilitate an alignment between provincial procedures with the requirements of national legislation and improve compliance levels.  The project has also supported to strengthen biodiversity inputs and considerations into the EIA process, by providing support to formally review (screen) 135 development applications in the Cape Winelands District Municipality to ensure they appropriately incorporate biodiversity conservation elements. As part of this process, support was provided to develop an EIA Screening Tool, through support from the CSIR, for use by the Department of Environmental Affairs. The screening tool allows for applicants to screen their sites for environmental sensitivities before deciding to develop these sites. Four biodiversity protocols, namely, Aquatic, Terrestrial, Plant and Animal Protocols, have been developed and these have been gazetted for public comment, following approval at ministerial level.    The project is also supporting SANBI to engage the National Environment Management Act to more systematically mainstream biodiversity conservation into the water sector licensing process, for specific sites that are considered to be ecologically sensitive, such as the Northern Drakensberg (KZN), Ekangala (Mpumalanga and KZN), and Boland (Western Cape) SWSAs to ensure that developments in these sites are strictly regulated.    Guidelines have also been developed for thicket ecosystem management and restoration and these are currently undergoing review. Other municipal level protocols, guidelines and operating procedures for environmental assessment have been reviewed to assess their legal robustness and there is evidence that there has been a significant improvement in the way their conditions for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation have been articulated.  Under outcome 2, the project is supporting the negotiation to bring community and privately-owned land under biodiversity stewardship agreements. So far only 4,513 ha have been declared (four Nature Reserves and one Protected Environment), 5,021 ha have been submitted for declaration (five KLF forestry reserves under government gazette NOTICE 210 OF 2019) and 62,563 ha are under negotiation, out of a targeted 62 464ha, including some priority areas being considered for Nature Reserve status. Even though at this stage of implementation not a significant amount of land has been brought under stewardship agreements, the extensive consultation and negotiation process has yielded awareness and action towards more sustainable management of land and ecosystems in these landscapes and where the process has succeeded in declaration of land as protected or under sustainable management, significant investments have been made by land owners towards conserving biodiversity or engaging in biodiversity-friendly land use and production practices through the development of Biodiversity Management Plans, restoration plans, codes of practice and certification standards by agro-businesses operating in these landscapes and an overall increased level of compliance with agreed codes of conduct and industry standards.    Impressive results have been achieved in the area of tax incentives for improved biodiversity management in production landscapes. Tax incentive on Section (37) D has been successfully implemented following extensive discussions and negotiations with the National Treasury to discuss development of a new incentive - 37(C)(3). This will facilitate increased access to effective tax incentives for qualifying biodiversity stewardship sites.    The project is supporting complex work throughout various sectors of the South African economy, and challenges are expected, and if successful, will also trigger transformative action towards mainstreaming biodiversity into key agricultural production sectors. Having SANBI as an Implementing Partner of the project is particularly strategic for influencing policy changes in key sectors as it is mandated to facilitate access to biodiversity data, generate information and knowledge, build capacity, provide policy advice, showcase and conserve biodiversity.    Cumulative project delivery is at 64%. This is a significant improvement from the previous reporting period, and the project has operationalized the guidance from the MTR and RTA to boost its implementation capacity. It is evident that monitoring and reporting capacity has also been strengthened among the project management unit, as demonstrated through the improved quality of this year’s report. In light of this, Implementation Progress has been rated as Satisfactory.    The project is scheduled to conclude in early 2020, but it is clear that more work needs to be conducted to advance many of the initial investments that have been made, and since a significant budget remains, an extension is recommended to provide opportunity for the project to continue to support key areas that have the potential for replication and scaling up, and that can also trigger policy development and reforms. Most importantly, sustained engagement with the municipal level authorities to strengthen their capacity for mainstreaming biodiversity into land use decision-making will be key during the extension period The RTA will work closely with the CO and the PMU to prepare a workplan for the remaining period that focus on these low hanging fruits to build integrate sustainability into decision-making process and coordination structures that can continue to champion the innovative actions and investments that have been generated through the support from the project. | |

# Gender

**Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

This information is used in the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP-GEF Annual Gender Report, reporting to the UNDP Gender Steering and Implementation Committee and for other internal and external communications and learning.  The Project Manager and/or Project Gender Officer should complete this section with support from the UNDP Country Office.

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| **Gender Analysis and Action Plan:** *not available* |
| **Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):** |
| Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: No |
| Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: No |
| Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: No |
| Not applicable: Yes |

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| **Atlas Gender Marker Rating** |
| **GEN1:** some contribution to gender equality |

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| **Please describe any experiences or linkages (direct or indirect) between project activities and gender-based violence (GBV). This information is for UNDP use only and will not be shared with GEF Secretariat.** |
| not applicable |

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| **Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.**    **Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.** |
| Certification and Sector Standards: In the forestry sector, the project promotes forest certification amongst private farmers and communities and gender equality is part of the both the FSC certification standard and the South African Forestry Assurance Scheme. Certification ensures that forestry organizations comply with the legislation to address gender equality. This could impact the workplace on private farms and the gender relationships in communities. In rural communities, however this is more difficult due to the fundamental patriarchy found in the power structures of the tribal authorities.  The sector standards for fruit and sugar also promotes compliance with the legislation to address gender equality.    Ecological Infrastructure Challenge Fund: The Mid Term review of the BLU Project recommended that the criteria for the Ecological Infrastructure Challenge Fund be amended to allow for natural resource management projects. When the criteria was expanded, the project undertook to more explicitly indicate that the projects submitted for should specifically target a minimum percentage of women. Across the projects supported, 50% of people employed have been women.    SANBI's recruitment policies, which comply with the relevant legislation as it relates to gender equality, and with the institution working to maintain employment equity, has resulted in a predominantly female staff complement. Of the 16 team members working on the project (includes staff employed by the project, staff seconded to the project as well as interns) only four are male. As a result there has been and continues to be significant empowerment of women, especially young women in the early stages of their career through capacity development activities and exposure to projects and areas of work that promote their skills development and overall growth. |

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| **Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.** |
| n/A |

# Social and Environmental Standards

**Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)**

The Project Manager and/or the project’s Safeguards Officer should complete this section of the PIR with support from the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP-GEF RTA should review to ensure it is complete and accurate.

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| **1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?** |
| No |

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| **If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during project implementation please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.** |
| No |

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| **If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **SESP:** [ESSP Checklist final.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4719/213515/1669794/1670075/ESSP%20Checklist%20final.docx)  **Environmental and Social Management Plan/Framework:** *not available* |
| **For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **3) Have any required social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared in the reporting period? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.** |
| No |

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| **If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential )?** |
| No |

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| **If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

# Communicating Impact

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| **Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people’s lives.**  **(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)** |
| Environmental Management: This work focusses on improving biodiversity mainstreaming within land use regulation processes. If these mechanisms could reduce the impact on biodiversity and improve its persistence within the landscape then this would enable ecosystems to provide environmental services such as fresh air, water, food, protection from disaster risk areas, etc. to be delivered in a way that would sustain our daily lives. The environmental management stakeholders have been working on a communication message which explains in simple terms what we do and what our work contributes towards: strengthened capacity to embed biodiversity considerations into enforceable land use decision making processes in order to allow for healthy and resilient landscapes that supports agricultural yields, water provision and a better quality living environment for all.    Awareness programmes have resulted in increased broader knowledge of and understanding of biodiversity in the region and the legal requirements to apply for permits (as well as the consequences of unlawful actions and non-compliance). This emphasises the need for sustainable development within the agricultural sector in the region. The project has also resulted in a more clearly defined portal for complaints around illegal clearing of indigenous vegetation in the Cape Winelands (with the officers having earned the nickname &quot;Starsky and Hutch&quot; for their investigative follow-through).    Through the EI Challenge Fund and associated leveraged activities, unemployed women and youth are being provided with employment and skills development    Biodiversity Stewardship: The challenging environment of insecurity around ownership of land has brought a new narrative in to the stewardship &quot;business case&quot;. In some areas (e.g. Robertson) there has been some landowners deciding to sell and therefore pulling out of stewardship negotiations. In other areas, mining pressures has brought willing landowners in to Stewardship as a strong legal mechanism to protect their land from mining. By providing technical support to these various groups of landowners, this project has given the knowledge over to the real true stewards of their land - to better understand the value and what is possible in terms of legal protection. By setting up Landowner Associations this also allows groups of landowners to be empowered beyond the technical support timeframe offered by the project team members.    After the successful creation of South Africa's first effective tax incentive for biodiversity conservation, its inclusion in national legislation, and its detailed testing at pilot sites across the country, the Government of South Africa and the Fiscal Benefits Project lead, Candice Stevens, received the inaugural Pathfinder Award for Innovation in Protected and Conserved Area Financing and Resourcing at the Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties in 2018. This globally unique finance solution for protected areas on private and communally owned land is creating a new finance stream to ensure protected area expansion as well as financial sustainability for the management of the most important areas for biodiversity conservation. Additionally, the tax efficiency that is provided through this tax deduction boosts commercial businesses associated with protected areas, enabling them to be more sustainable, productive, and beneficial to local economies.    In the forestry sector, the project was a significant part of developing the South African Forestry Assurance Scheme, which is a National certification scheme which has now been endorsed by the PEFC (Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification). This system is recognized as being more appropriate for small-scale forestry. The project has also played a key role in the development and testing of the Risk-Based Approach to certification in South Africa. This approach has been picked up by the FSC International community and forms a major part of their New Approaches Initiative into exploring ways to make certification more accessible to smallholders. A sound working relationship has been developed with the Department of Water and Sanitation and the project is working together with DWS to make space in their policy framework for the hydrological modelling tool developed to be integrated which could impact on how DWS determines water allocations.    The project is also working closely with the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (National and in KZN) to use the SAFAS standard and Risk Assessment Approach to evaluate some of their plantations. In particular, the project conducted an audit against the SAFAS standard using the risk assessment approach on the KWA-Gubeshe plantations, owned by DAFF on tribal authority land. The purpose was to identify risks to sustainability as DAFF is in the process of handing the plantations back to the community. This report is being used to inform DAFF's strategy and SAFAS is working with DAFF to design a process that will allow DAFF to support the community towards sustainable management of the plantations as a resource for the community.    In Sugar and Fruit sectors: Extreme weather events across the country (drought in Western Cape, storms in KZN etc.) have provided a very obvious illustration of where a shift to more sustainable farming practices can build the farms’ resilience, especially when committed to over the long term and at catchment level (such as SUSFARMS). These provide perfect case studies to support the requirements within the standards and make the link between these requirements (alien clearing plan, water measurement, natural habitat conservation etc.) and effective farm management ever more clear. The advisory support that this project allows in terms of technical support to understand and implement these standards/guidelines, as well as specific biodiversity stewardship support and land-owner/legal entity co-ordination has been invaluable in the negotiation process of the landscape level approach to stewardship in the Ceres area. |

**Knowledge Management, Project Links and Social Media**

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| **Please describe knowledge activities / products as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement /Approval.**    **Please also include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, blogs, photos stories (e.g. Exposure), Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file lirbary' button in the top right of the PIR.** |
| 2018 - 2019 PIR    ACROSS THE PROJECT:  (1) BLU newsletters produced during reporting period:  - Edition 1 of 2019 sent out 14 June 2019 - https://www.sanbi.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/BLU-NEWSLETTER- 1st-Edition-for-2019.pdf  - Q1:2018 sent out 3 December 2018 - https://www.sanbi.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Quarter-4-2018-  Biodiversity-and-Land-Use-Project-Newsletter.pdf    (2) ‘GEF 5 Projects hosts joint site visit’ - https://www.sanbi.org/news/gef-5-projects-host-joint-site-visit/    (3) SANBI Science Newsletter, ‘Mainstreaming Biodiversity into land-use regulation and management at the municipal  scale’ - https://www.sanbi.org/science/mainstreaming-biodiversity-into-land-use-regulation-and-management-at-the- municipal-scale/    (4) BLU concludes midterm review - https://www.sanbi.org/news/blu-concludes-midterm-review/    COMPONENT 1:  (1) ‘Cape Nature and Biodiversity Specialists Information session 4th December 2018, Kirstenbosch’ -  https://www.sanbi.org/news/capenature-hosts-biodiversity-specialists-information-sharing-session/    (2) ‘Protecting Indigenous vegetation in the Cape Winelands’ - https://www.sanbi.org/news/protecting-indigenous-  vegetation-in-the-cape-winelands/    (3) ‘Bankrupt bush: notice to declare’ - https://www.sanbi.org/news/bankrupt-bush-to-be-listed-indicator-of-bush-  encroachment/    (4) A brochure outlining common farm activities that typically require environmental authorisation was produced by  CapeNature and printed with BLU project funding. The brochure was shared with implementing partners at the  quarterly planning meeting of 16 and 17 April. It can be shared electronically if required.    (5) ‘Fire starters: Patch Mosaic Burning in the Grasslands Biome’ - https://www.sanbi.org/news/fire-starters-patch-  mosaic-burning-in-the-grassland-biome/    (6) Large A0 size municipal maps of the Biodiversity Spatial Plan Map of Priority Areas have been printed and  distributed to local municipal officials.    (7) ‘Rare peatlands confirmed in the upper Klaserie and Sand catchments’ - https://www.sanbi.org/news/rare-peatlands-  confirmed-in-the-upper-klaserie-and-sand-catchments/    (8) CapeNature has worked with DEA&DP and NGO Living Lands on developing a product to support the mainstream  uptake of the BSP.    (9) The project was presented at the 2018 International Society of City and Regional Planners in Norway whereby  Sagwata Manyike presented a paper titled: Incorporating Climate Change Resilience into Spatial Development Tools  in South Africa”. An article was done and placed in the BLU newsletter 1st Edition for 2019 as well as on the SANBI  website: https://www.sanbi.org/news/south-african-case-study-on-climate-change-and-biodiversity-planning-in-  norway/    (10) SANBI Tsevhi: 1st Quarter Edition, 2018, Human Capital Development Programmes, page 16 – ‘Thobile Nyathi’s BLU  secondment to DARDLEA’.    (11) SANBI Tsevhi: 1st Quarter Edition, 2018, Human Capital Development Programmes, page 17 – ‘Rosina Masango  BLU’s secondment’.    COMPONENT 2  (1) ‘ILCN Steering Committee member steps down’ - https://www.sanbi.org/news/ilcn-steering-committee-member-  steps-down/    (2) ‘First BDS legal reference group convened’ - https://www.sanbi.org/news/first-biodiversity-stewardship-legal-  reference-group-convened/    (3) Completed Biodiversity Stewardship for Communities Factsheet to communicate links between biodiversity  stewardship and rural development. The fact sheet provides two example case studies of communities in the  biodiversity stewardship programme.    (4) Convened 2nd National Biodiversity stewardship Conference, from the 9-11 October 2018 which saw over 100  people in attendance. https://www.sanbi.org/news/sanbi-hosts-2nd-successful-annual-biodiversity-stewardship-  conference/    (5) The Biodiversity Stewardship Guideline has been finalised and endorsed for implementation by the Working Group 1  in April 2019.    (6) ‘Enhancing partnerships to conserve and expand the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve’ -  https://www.sanbi.org/news/enhancing-partnerships-to-conserve-and-expand-the-blyde-river-canyon-nature-  reserve/    (7) ‘Biodiversity Stewardship Community enhances capacity’ - https://www.sanbi.org/news/biodiversity-stewardship-  community-enhances-capacity/    (8) The film on Ozwathini: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t\_1eynPXZP0    (9) Article: SA Forestry Magazine: November 2018 – ‘PEFC Endorsement - good news for South Africa’ and BLU  newsletter - https://www.sanbi.org/news/south-african-forestry-certification-standard-achieves-pefc-endorsement/    (10) Article: SA Forestry Magazine: May 2019 – ‘The role of mentorship; Gilbert Plant’ -  http://saforestryonline.co.za/articles/the-role-of-mentorship/    (11) Article: SA Forestry Magazine: May 2019 – ‘Planting of Pepper Bark Trees Warburgia salutaris at Ozwathini’.    (12) Article: South African Forestry Assurance Scheme (SAFAS) web page - https://www.forestry.co.za/safas/    (13) Presentations: Coordinator presented a paper at the Biodiversity planning forum 2019: Planning for hydrological  security in the forestry and agricultural sectors: a hydrological model for a strategic risk-based approach to  delineation and buffering of wetlands. Authors: Richard Lechmere-Oertel (Biodiversity Planning & Management),  Bruce Scott-Shaw (Naturestamp) and Steven Germishuizen (African Environmental Services)    (14) ‘Treasury accepts proposal to create additional biodiversity tax incentive’.  https://www.sanbi.org/uncategorized/treasury-accepts-proposal-to-create-additional-biodiversity-tax-incentive/    (15) Pathfinder Award Media Coverage   - https://www.sanbi.org/news/south-africas-biodiversity-tax-incentive-receives-special-  commendation-at-pathfinder-award-2018/   - https://community.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/b/martinharper/posts/lessons-from-south-africa-using-tax-incentives-for-  protected-areas   -https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/SAgovernmentreceive\_internationalawardonbiodiversitytaxincentives   - http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/programmes-and-initiatives/pathfinder-award-for-innovation-in-nature-  conservation\_winners.html?fbclid=IwAR00SXlwXaN4N0ws1wxzLZVzqypoa8pd\_FtRXK3H8fk6O-sYK41xlhmKU0c   - www.iucn.org/news/protected-areas/201811/supporting-protected-areas-across-boundaries-balkans-prespa-ohrid-  nature-trust-wins-2018-pathfinder-award   https://www.birdlife.org.za/about-us/our-organisation/media-releases   https://www.birdlife.org/worldwide/news/local-global-birdlife-un-biodiversity-conference-egypt    (16) Coverage on first biodiversity tax incentives:   - BirdLife International Newsletter. 2017. South Africa gets first biodiversity tax incentive. News Summary -  04/12/2017.   - Conect @ Biodiversidade Em Foco – Newsletter. 2017. No. 4. 15 - 21 de Abril de 2017.   - International Land Conservation Network Newsletter. 2017. First ever biodiversity tax incentive used in South Africa.   - De Kocks B. 2017. South Africa Gets Its First Biodiversity Tax Incentive. Birding Southern Africa. Birding News and  Resources. http://birdingsa.co.za/articles/south-africa-gets-its-first-biodiversity-tax-incentive/   - SANBI Science Newsletter. 2017. South Africa gets its first biodiversity tax incentive. Volume 4 Issue 2.   - Stevens C. 2017. Tax Alert! African Birdlife 5(5): 64   - Stevens C. 2017. Tax incentive a novel approach to biodiversity finance. AgriOrbit Website.  https://agriorbit.com/tax-incentive-novel-approach-biodiversity-finance/.   - The Stivardr: Specialist Group on Privately Protected Areas and Nature Stewardship Newsletter. 2017. South Africa  gets its first biodiversity tax incentive. July 2017 Newsletter.   - https://view.joomag.com/grassroots-august-2017-issue-3/0503486001494831836   - Tax Practitioner Profile: Candice Stevens http://www.taxtalk.co.za/HomeLayout?page=1   - UNEP/Green Fiscal Policy: greenfiscalpolicy.org/countries/south-africa-gets-first-biodiversity-tax-incentive/   - Power Forum: http://powerforum.co.za/topic/1459-south-africas-biodiversity-tax-incentives-fiscal-benefits-project- 2017/    (17) ‘SUSFARMS collaboration wins Bonsucro Award’ – https://www.sanbi.org/news/susfarms-collaboration-wins-2nd-place-at-bonsucro-inspire-awards/    (18) ‘SIZA achieves 100% equivalence in SAI FSA Benchmark’ - https://www.sanbi.org/news/siza-achieved-a-hundred-  percent-equivalence-in-sai-fsa-benchmark/    (19) WWF-SA: Publications in the Dropbox folder (SUSFARMS articles (2), Water Conservation report & Poster, SIZA  Standard documents & resources, SUSFARMS Progress Tracker version 4, Media statements on the SIZA  benchmarking process, BONSUCRO endorsement protocol, Fynbos Poster in draft format) several case studies  currently in draft format.      2017 - 2018 PIR:  COMPONENT 1  (1) The main publication related to the project is the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan Handbook (ISBN: 978-0-621-45456-7) the design and layout of which funded by the project. It is available electronically on http://bgis.sanbi.org/Projects/Detail/194. Hardcopies are being disseminated as part of the role out of the project.    (2) Additionally, working in collaboration with the provincial environmental authority, CapeNature is working in partnership with NGO Living Lands for the duration of 2018/19 to produce summary publications that promote the update of the spatial plan as best practice in biodiversity conservation land use plan    COMPONENT 2  (1) Regarding the SAFAS development: saforestryonline.co.za, http://www.forestry.co.za/forest-certification/, https://www.facebook.com/forestrysouthafrica/, https://www.facebook.com/Sawmilling-South-Africa-1532595096957895/    (2) The project interventions with the Ozwathini community is showcased in a short film: 'In search of sustainable landscapes' https://www.youtube.com/results?search\_query=Ozwathini .    (3) Biodiversity stewardship web page has been developed on the SANBI Advisor web page. Contains BDS information and tax information. http://biodiversityadvisor.sanbi.org/industry-and-conservation/biodiversity-stewardship/    (4)Media related to the national biodiversity stewardship conference  - The event press releases (pre and post event)  - The event news article (SANBI, SKEP & CAPE news published)  - Link to SANBI Flickr Album of the event: ttps://www.flickr.com/photos/152548658@N03/albums/72157689123434416  - Link to event images on SANBI Facebook page -  https://www.facebook.com/SouthAfricanNationalBiodiversityInstitute/photos/a.794988267200073.1073741827.794664  043899162/1159221104110119/?type=3&theater  - Links to event on SKEP Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/pg/SKEP-Succulent-Karoo-Ecosystem-Programme-  166484863430580/photos/?tab=album&album\_id=1487047421374311  - An article to the DEA Enviro Quarterly (unsure if it got published, it was feature in the December publication)    (5) Publications in the Dropbox folder (Water Conservation report & Poster, SIZA Standard documents & resources, SUSFARMS Progress Tracker version 4, Media statements on the SIZA Benchmarking process, BONSUCRO endorsement protocol) several case studies currently in draft format. |

# Partnerships

**Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagment**

Please select yes or no whether the project is working with any of the following partners. Please also provide an update on stakeholder engagement. This information is used by the GEF and UNDP for reporting and is therefore very important!  All sections must be completed by the Project Manager and reviewed by the CO and RTA.

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with any Civil Society Organisations and/or NGOs?** |
| Yes |

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?** |
| Yes |

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with the Private Sector?** |
| Yes |

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?** |
| No |

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with UN Volunteers?** |
| No |

|  |
| --- |
| **Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?** |
| Yes |

|  |
| --- |
| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [PIMS 4719 GEF5 CEO Endorsement FOR RE-SUBMISSION- 24 JUNE 2014.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4719/213515/1669791/1670082/PIMS%204719%20GEF5%20CEO%20Endorsement%20FOR%20RE-SUBMISSION-%2024%20JUNE%202014.docx) |
| **Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as documented at CEO endorsement/approval (see document below). If any surveys have been conducted please upload all survey documents to the PIR file library.** |
| Working in partnership is central to the successful implementation of the Biodiversity and Land Use Project. Partnerships between different government departments as well as partnerships between government and NGO partners have contributed to meaningful implementation during the past year. Of specific interest:    The project has worked with National Treasury for the development of a second tax incentive using Section 37 (c) (3) of the Income Tax Act.    The second National Stewardship conference, convened in October 2018, saw DEA, DRDLR, SANBI and NGO partners contribute to the convening of the event and the development of a robust programme.    DMR's engagement with the conservation sector remains a challenge, with both the Biodiversity Stewardship work as well as the Strategic Water Source Areas work being dependent on DMR's participation. it is hoped that the planned SEA for the Mpumalanga Highveld will work towards improving these relations.    Within the environmental management work, active partnerships have been developed with provincial EIA and compliance and enforcement departments and other organs of state to improve compliance monitoring as well as decision making. |

# Annex - Ratings Definitions

**Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

**Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.