

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**Swaziland Protected Landscapes Programme**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 4932 |
| GEF ID | 5065 |
| Title | Strengthening the National Protected Areas System of Swaziland |
| Country(ies) | Eswatini, Eswatini |
| 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** |
| This project satisfies the requirements for GEF financing by directly addressing the primary goal of the Biodiversity (BD) focal area strategy, namely: ÔÇ£the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the maintenance of ecosystem goods and servicesÔÇØ. In particular, the project will address strategic objective one (SO1): ÔÇ£Improve Sustainability of Protected Area SystemsÔÇØ. Secondary gains from the project are expected to address two further BD strategic objectives indirectly, namely, to mainstream biodiversity in production landscapes and to integrate Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) obligations into national planning processes through enabling activities.    The project strategy takes an integrated approach, in linking its primary focus to protected area sustainability in the biodiversity focal area to indirectly addressing strategic approaches in the two related focal areas of land degradation (LD) and climate change (CC). |

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| **Project Contacts** | |
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| Project Implementing Partner | Cliff Dlamini (ceo@sntc.org.sz) |
| Other Partners | *(not set or not applicable)* |

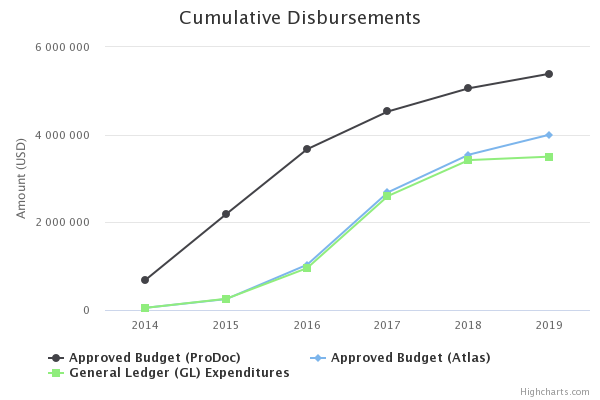
# Overall Ratings

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| Overall DO Rating | Moderately Unsatisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Moderately Unsatisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | Moderate |

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **To effectively expand, manage and develop Swaziland’s protected area network in order to adequately protect the biodiversity and landscapes of the country.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Legally protected PA network increased. | Current baseline of 3.9% of the country. | *(not set or not applicable)* | PA system covers at least 6%. | Target not on Track- Progress towards meeting this target continues to face challenges brought about by the uncertainties within the current legislative environment. However, within these confines, the project has been able to raise biodiversity conservation awareness. Through this awareness building and support, Five (5) chiefdoms: Luzelweni, Ndinda, Mvembili, Velezizweni and Shewula) have committed land of a total area of 6767.89ha towards formal protection. In total, these new PAs make a contribution of about 0.39% towards the target. The project is currently working towards helping these communities develop guidelines for the management of these areas for biodiversity conservation. If these are formally gazetted, they will bring the current legal PA network to 4.54% which currently stands at 4.15%. The project target is off track.  The level progress is at (including new PAs) is at 32%. | Target on Track: legally protected PA network now at 4.26% after the gazettement of five (5) PAs in 2015 and the declaration of RAMSAR sites (Hawane Dam and Nature Reserve, Van Eck Dam, and Sand River Dam) in the PA network database. This was facilitated by Eswatini National Trust Commission (ENTC) which is the project implementing partner.  The protected area network will increase after the proclamation of the Lubombo Man and Biosphere Reserve which was proclaimed by United Nations Educational, Scientific Cultural Organisations (UNESCO) in June 2019. The total area of the Lubombo Man and Biosphere reserve is 109, 301 hectare including areas from community conservation areas and private farms conservation areas. The Man and Biosphere reserve will qualify under the Other Effective Area Based Conservation management and will help increase the protected area network in the country. The concept of the man and biosphere reserve was recommended by the mid-term review.  The level of progress is at 71%. |
| Number of capacity building programmes developed for improved PA management. | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 3 PA capacity building programmes to improve the management and operations of PAs | Target in progress- The PAs Financial Sustainability Report has been completed informing on the development of capacity building programmes critical for strengthening financial performance of the PAs. The process of engaging a consultant to develop the capacity building programs is currently ongoing, after being suspended in 2017, due to the difficulty in attracting suitable candidates. Some Capacity building for SNTC Staff has however been initiated through the training of the Conservation Management Unit on the Spatial monitoring and reporting Tool (SMART) Program, training of Senior Management on Leadership, training of SNTC Middle Management on a Management Development Program and training of SNTC, Swaziland Game Ranchers SGRA members on Law enforcement, training of SNTC game ranchers on Weapon Handling and law enforcement. A number of other programs have been developed to enhance  management of conservation areas: these are : Community-based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM), Sustainable Land Management (SLM), Wetland Management. The project target is on track. | Target in progress- Two (2) capacity building programmes were developed for ENTC. These are:  i. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Programme (which covered topics on GIS introduction and SMART GIS),  ii. Law enforcement programme (which cover asset protection and weapon handling, and a training on basic rangers' functions.  Terms of reference for a capacity development programme on Protected Areas Management have been developed and are complete. These are aimed at effective protected areas management and will entail (i) training of personnel from ENTC, private PAs, NGOs, Swazi Nation Land Protected Areas (SNL PAs) management staff, and (ii) Training of personnel from ENTC, Private PAs, NGOs, SNL PAs staff on customer care, marketing, branding and financial management.  The level of progress is at 65%. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **Knowledge-based management platform operationalised at the National and regional levels to address current and emerging threats to PAs and biodiversity conservation.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Number of biodiversity field surveys. | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 6 PA and 3 landscape level biodiversity surveys carried out | Target Achieved. Five (5) biodiversity surveys were completed for fish, mammals, insects, birds, herpetofauna and Flora in three (3) landscapes (Malolotja, Ngwempisis & Lubombo) covering nine (9) priority PAs. A comparability analysis ranked these PAs according to their biodiversity importance. This has been achieved. The project target has been achieved.  Progress at 100% | Target Achieved. Nine (9) PAs and three (3) landscape level biodiversity surveys were conducted. These surveys are partly feasibility studies as they inform the project on biodiversity worthy areas. Also, the study provides information on areas that require urgent attention, in terms of biodiversity conservation as it highlights the unprotected areas containing endangered species which are prone to extinction. The SNPAS project uses the survey results in prioritising investments/areas and also to ascertain if what was identified in the project document development stage is still the same and no interventions or alteration of species has happened over the years. This study will also contribute in the overall biodiversity status of the country as the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs works on updating biodiversity status of the country. It will also be used as a reference to compare the areas which have been surveyed courtesy of the project against other geographical areas of the country to know temporal variations and distributions of different species. It will also be used as a reference for future studies and as a benchmark for this project so that future surveys would use these results to assess any changes in species constitution and total amount of species. The project target in this aspect has been achieved.  Progress is at 133%.. |
| Number of information management systems at regional and national level. | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1 GIS-based knowledge and information management system. | Target on Track- One (1) GIS based knowledge and information management system has been developed and is functional. It is accessible on the URL: www.swazibiodiversity.com.  Collection of data and information for uploading from various stakeholders is still ongoing. Data from the biodiversity surveys, land and vegetation cover, land-use assessments has been uploaded. The information system is now partly managed by SNTC as the full rights have not yet been received from the consultant. A GIS Coordinator has been recruited to manage the Unit, ensuring sustainability of the project results. This GIS Coordinator is funded by SNTC. A SMART program for law enforcement has also been initiated through this Unit and has led to better monitoring of patrols in SNTC Parks helping to monitor poaching trends, and other ecological trends/or incidences in the Parks. The project target is on track. The progress is at 95%. | Target Achieved- One (1) GIS based knowledge and information management system has been developed and is functional. It is accessible on the URL: www.swazibiodiversity.com    Collection of data and information for uploading from various stakeholders is still ongoing. This is information which has been collected by other stakeholders over the years, in areas within the project area and outside the project area. This will be used to map, using remote sensing, spatial variation of different species of interest. It will also be used for tourism purposes to show which species are available from which areas. Also, since ENTC houses the GIS Database Unit, which was established courtesy of the SNPAS Project, the data from various sources and stakeholders will be consolidated and subsequently shared for the benefit of the country and the world to appreciate the biodiversity status of the country.    Data from the biodiversity surveys, land and vegetation cover, land-use assessments have been uploaded. Efforts to have the information system fully managed by ENTC has been started and this activity has been budgeted for in 2019 work plan and budget. The GIS coordinator who is manning the GIS is funded by ENTC which is a classical example of co-funding by the Implementing partner (IP).  The progress is at 100%. |
| Number of landscape-based management plans. | None. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 4 landscape-based management plans. | Target is on Track- One  (1) landscape-based management plan has been completed for the Ngwempisi cluster. Landscape planning has also been facilitated through the development of Chiefdom Development Plans in some project communities. Work under the plans has led to the rehabilitation and protection of 20 wetlands (150 ha) for improvement of ecosystem management. PA-specific management plans have been developed for three (3) existing SNTC PAs (Malolotja, Mlawula and Mantenga). The project target is on track. The progress level is 50%. | Target is on Track- One Landscape Plan has been completed, The Lubombo Landscape Plan two others, (Ngwempisi and Malolotja) are in progress of development. The Lubombo Landscape Plan served as the main input to the development of the Lubombo Biosphere Reserve which was subsequently proclaimed by UNESCO in June 2019. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Achieved** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Landscape approach operationalised and leads to expansion of PA network.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Number of informal PAs established as National PAs. | None | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 4 informal PAs gazetted and managed as National PAs. | Target is on Track- Three (3) informal PAs (Dombeya, Mbuluzi and Mhlatuze Wilds) initiated applications for gazettment of their areas under the Game Act. They have a combined total of 3246.96ha, accounting for 0.19% of the country's coverage. These entities have benefited from the project with catalytic funding of E400, 000.00 each to contribute torwards management and strengthening of their parks. The project was developed in anticipation of the passing of the SNTC Amendment Bill which would provide more categories for gazzettment. However, the delays in the passing of the Bill as well as delays in gazettment under Game Act continue to hamper the progress in this regard. Despite these challenges however, the current formal PA network was increased to 4.15%, following the gazzettment process for 5 PLOs in 2015 (Phophonyane Conservacy, Lubuyane Nature Reserve, Mantinit Nature Reserve, Libetse Nature Reserve and Lomati Nature Reserve) under the SNTC Act (currently the Amendement Bill). The process of gazetting these PAs was re-initiated by SNTC in most of these PAs at the time of development of the initial project PIF, in anticipation of the SNPAS project that would further provide support in strengthening the PAs. Four of these PAs have been supported by the project with fencing in 2017 in an effort to begin strengthening activities. Initial monitoring visits of these sites had shown that most of them did not have clearly marked boundaries and hence were being compromised by human settlements and unsustainable harvesting of wood. The fencing has therefore helped to clearly demarcate their boundaries and strengthen efforts to manage them as PAs. The project target is on track. | Target is on Track- Three (3) informal PAs (Dombeya, Mbuluzi and Mhlatuze Wilds), practicing game conservation, made applications for gazettement of their areas under the Game Act. The project supported these areas and were requested to gazette to ensure that they remain committed to game management even after project closure. If private landowners are not encouraged to gazette, there is no certainty that they will stick to game management when other competing and more economic opportunities arise.  Applications were sent to the ministry for review by the portfolio minister, after which they will be taken to parliament for deliberation.    These areas have a combined total of 3,246.96ha, accounting for 0.19% of the country's coverage. |
| Number of new PAs gazetted and operationalised. | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 6 new PAs are established, gazetted and managed for biodiversity conservation. | Target in progress - Five Chiefdoms have allocated land as new conservation areas. These have been clearly marked and demarcated through the Chiefdom Development Plans and they amount 6767.89 ha, accounting for 0.39% of the country's total coverage. the project is currently assisting these communities to develop guidelines for the management of their conservation areas for conservation. One (1) of these chiefdoms ( Shewula) after being assisted by the project to develop applications for gazetting requests, has submitted the requests to relevant authorities. The project target is on track. The progress is at 40%. | Target in progress- Five informal PAs have been gazetted and three RAMSAR sites added to the PA network. Two (2) Chiefdoms being Shewula and Mambane have also submitted requests for gazettement under the ENTC Act. The Jilobi Community Sibebe Community (Granite Rock formation) have also submited a letters of intent to gazette the Jilobi forest and the Sibebe monument. This was as a results of the effort by the project to mobilize them for gazettement as per the Project Document  Needs assessment for the five (5) gazetted PAs was carried out in the reporting period. This was done to determine respective gaps which the project could fill as part of strengthening of protected areas. The findings were prioritised according to project's interests and they will be incorporated in the 2020 Annual Work Plan.  The progress is at 80%. |
| Number of streamlined PA and landscape management structures and standards developed | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 3 streamlined landscape management structures and management plans implemented based on international conservation standards. | Target on Track- The Lubombo landscape clusters have a fully developed landscape management structure through the Lubombo conservancy which is a body responsible for the coordination of all biodiversity conservation issues in the clusters. Landscape management structure for the Ngwempisi cluster where four chiefdoms (Ntfungula, Velezizweni, KaZulu, KaNdinda) and two PAs (Mantini and Wide Horizons) are currently being set up. Efforts to develop them into a conservancy are underway. The project target is on track. Progress level is at 40%. | Target on track- one landscape management structure has been developed in the form of Lubombo Conservancy. The concerted effort gave birth to the Lubombo Biosphere Reserve Programme.    The Ngwempisi and Malolotja Management Structures will be finalized after completion of the Landscape Management Plans.  The progress is at 60%. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 3**  **Strengthening PA functioning through improved Conservation management and Operational support for existing and new PAs including both formal and informal PAs.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Number of training programmes developed | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 8 programmes on PA management, planning, administration, marketing, customer care, conflict resolution, reporting, monitoring, policing and enforcement in PAs, ecotourism development and management, CBNRM practices and sustainable financing management and at least a third of the participants should be women. | Target on Track- Four (4) training programs have been undertaken by SNTC in the following areas: policing and enforcement in PAs, conflict resolution, anti-poaching, and GIS (including the SMART program). A CBNRM plan has been developed under the Landscapes consultancy. A GIS manual has been developed for SNTC to run the GIS unit under the SNPAS project. Community participation and continuous learning is being enabled through the Chiefdom Development Plans (CDP) process. The project target is on track. The progress level is at 50%. | Target on Track- Four (4) training programs have been undertaken by ENTC in the following areas: policing and law enforcement in PAs, conflict resolution, anti-poaching, and GIS (including the SMART program). This has culminated in a reduction of incidences of poaching and human-wildlife conflicts with communities neighbouring the respective protected areas. A CBNRM plan has been developed under landscape consultancy. A GIS manual has been developed for ENTC to run the GIS unit under the SNPAS project. Community participation and continuous learning was enabled through the Chiefdom Development Plans (CDP) process. The project target is on track.  The progress level is at 50% |
| Number of invasive alien species control programmes. | None. | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 1 sustainable control programme per PA management category (SNTC, BGP, Private, Community). | Target on Track- Five (5) pilot projects for IAPS control for informal PAs (Phophonyane, Mbuluzi, Dombeya, Mhlatuze Wilds and Wide Horizons) and one (1) community projects at Shewula have been developed. The projects are focused on Siam weed and lantana. One (1) IAPS control programme for SNTC park (Mlawula) where 660 ha of IAPS were cleared.  A Black Wattle Control program has been initiated in Luzelweni Chiefdom and other species removal at Malolotja Nature Reserve. The project target is on track.  The progress level is at 50%. | Target Achieved-  ENTC: Three (3) IAPS control programme for ENTC parks where 1,000 ha (Mlawula 660, Malolotja 320 and Mantenga 20) were cleared. The tools used were handed to ENTC to control and clear new occurrences.    Private PAs: Pilot projects for IAPS control for Private PAs (Phophonyane, Mbuluzi, Dombeya, Mhlatuze Wilds and Wide Horizons) were implemented. Part of the seed funding was channeled to purchase of equipment to control subsequent occurrences.    Community:  A community project at Shewula was developed. The project supported by purchasing the clearing equipment/tools. Eswatini Environmental Authority (EEA) supported with control chemicals.    The progress level is at 100%. |
| Number of conservation infrastructure or equipment programmes. | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 1 conservation infrastructure or equipment programme per PA management category (SNTC, BGP, Private, Community). | Target on Track- The following Infrastructure and equipment have been supplied in three categories:  SNTC:  Rehabilitation of 29km road Infrastructure; provision 84km fencing; rehabilitation of 6 chalets.  Private PAS:  9 PAS (formal and Informal) have been supported in the following areas:  Rehabilitation of campsite; IAPS control; SLM; 43,7km fencing.  Community;  150ha Wetlands were fenced with 25.16km of fencing material;  Rehabilitation of 8 chalets, viewing decks, ablution blocks for Shewula Mountain Camp; 13 km fencing and portable water supply for Mhlumeni Bush camp. The project target is on track.  The progress level is at 60%. | Target on Track-Five (5) Infrastructure and equipment programmes have been implemented across the PA Management Categories detailed as follows:  ENTC PAs:  Rehabilitation of 2.9 km road infrastructure; rehabilitation of 84 km fence at Malolotja Nature Reserve; Rehabilitation of a 15 km section of Mlawula Nature Reserve boundary fence.    Private PAs:  (i) Procured fencing material for Mantini Game Reserve (10 km), Libetse Nature Reserve (7 km), Lubuyane River Reserve (8 km) and Phophonyane Conservancy (10 km).  (ii) Catalytic Seed funding was disbursed to five (5) informal PAs ; 1. Rosecraft procured 1.8 km of fence, employed casual labors and rehabilitated their access road. 2. Dombeya Game Reserve procured fire fighting equipment 3. Mbuluzi Game Reserve: purchased ranger satellite camp equipment. 4. Mhlathuze wilds procured fencing material. 5. Mhlosinga Nature Reserve procured fencing material.    Community:  (i) 190 ha of wetlands were fenced with 42 km of fencing material.  (ii) Shewula Mountain Camp and Nature Reserve: Rehabilitation of eight (8) chalets, two viewing decks, ablution block, pave-way, kitchen and conference room; 18.5 km fencing of Shewula Mountain Camp and Nature Reserve;  (iii) Mhlumeni Bush Camp: 13 km fencing and Installation of potable water supply system.    The progress level is at 70%. |
| Number of ecotourism infrastructure, product development or marketing programmes. | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 1 ecotourism infrastructure, product development or marketing programme per PA management category (SNTC, BGP, Private, Community). | Target on Track- One (1) product development has been achieved for PLO through introduction of game species in Dombeya Game Reserve and the construction and rehabilitation of a day visitor camp in Mbuluzi Game Reserve.  In addition there has been strengthening of existing products for enhanced marketing of eco-tourism, namely SNTC museum eco-tourism and Mantenga Cultural Village presentation. The project Target is on track.  The progress is at 40%. | Target on Track -  Two (2)ecotourism infrastructure programme for ENTC were developed. These were: Rehabilitation of the Mantenga Nature Reserve Tourism Reception including installation of Boom-gates for access control of visitors into the reserve    One (1) ecotourism infrastructure programme for Private PAs was developed M for Mbuluzi Game Reserve (Upgraded camping site).    As part of the development of Community Eco Tourism Products, Business Plans have been completeed for five (5) Ecolodges.    The progress is at 60%. |
| Number of Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) programs developed. | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 4 CBNRM co-ordinators employed and capacitated, and at least 2 sustainable CBNRM programs developed. | Target on Track- Two (2) CBNRM Coordinators are in the current employ of the project (this follows resignation of 2), which has been followed by community mobilization process leading to the development of the Chiefdom Development Plans. These plans informed CBNRMs for two Chiefdoms, Luzelweni and Velezizweni leading to implementation of the natural resources management programs. The project target is on track. The progress level is at 50%. | Target on Track- Two (2) CBNRM Coordinators are currently employed by the project. As part of supporting implementtaion of landscape plans and CBNRM programmes eight (8) CBNRM champions will be identified and engaged at chiefdom level within the three landscapes.  Three (3) sustainable CBNRM programmes have been developed and these were:  (i) Agro Forestry Programme - Fruit Tree Growing promoted in three (3) landscapes these are Ngwempisi Cluster ( six chiefdoms), Malolotja Cluster (one chiefdom) and Mkhaya West Cluster (one chiefdom). (ii) Wetland Rehabilitation program where 190Ha have been rehabiliated.  (iii) Black wattle Removal program at the Ngwempisi cluster with a total of 42 ha has been cleared.This wattle removal project also provided employment for men and women of Luzelweni who earned on average $126 per month each.    The progress level is at 70%. |
| **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): | 64.91% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 64.91% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 3,498,816 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 150,000 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 5,390,000 |
| Co-financing | 23,600,000 |

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| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | Nov 15, 2012 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Jul 2, 2014 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Oct 3, 2014 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Jul 5, 2013 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Dec 12, 2018 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | Dec 12, 2018 |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Oct 1, 2020 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Dec 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)** |
| 2019-05-02 |
| 2018-10-18 |
| 2019-04-12 |

# Critical Risk Management

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

# 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 |

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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.** |
| key delays were experienced in the implementation of the 2018 activities following the MTR which recommended that the project needed to realign activities to the orignal objectives of the project through the development of an acceleration plan. |

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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.** |
| The mid-term review was conducted on schedule and made recommendations for the project to make significant adjustments in order to re-align the project with the initial objective as it was judged to have somewhat deviated from its original intentions. This corrective action took long to complete and the project lost some time during the latter part of the reporting year (i.e. early 2019) while addressing these matters. Implementation is now back on track and the project is expected to make up for some of the lost following the re-alignment exercise. |

# 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 | Project implementation during the reporting period has been low because the 2018 annual work plan and budget was not fully implemented following recommendations from the MTR to discontinue with the work plan. The MTR conducted between July and October 2018, established that project progress towards the Objective, Project Implementation, Adaptive Management and Sustainability to be moderately satisfactory. The MTR recommended that major changes are needed to project implementation. Recommendations focus on re-alignment of the project with delivery of the GEF-approved objectives and outputs through a process that will focus on strengthening the indicator/target framework and refining the articulation of some outputs and then developing a comprehensive and over-arching plan for delivery. They also focus on improving project implementation and management arrangements and adopting corrective action and adaptive strategies to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness, transparency and accountability while establishing strong and lasting partnerships for effective delivery. The project was therefore classified as one in ‘transition and re-adjustment’ for the period January to June 2019. This was to allow for development of effective measures to strengthen institutional ownership and promote long term sustainability.    In light of the MTR recommendations, UNDP CO with support from the Regional Technical Advisor engaged the project team, the Implementing Partner and Government to make adjustments in the management and governance structures in order to improve prospects for sustainability. A part-time Technical Advisor was engaged to facilitate preparation of the project acceleration strategy and plan effective January 2019 and preparation of landscape management plans. In addition, the Country Office secured technical assistance through detailed assignment arrangement towards streamlining project governance framework, programming and alignment of project resources and operations in accordance with UNDP/GEF policies and procedures.    To strengthen social and environmental safeguards, the project has prepared environment and social management plans (ESMPs) for sites where ecotourism infrastructure are to be developed. In the coming year, a consolidated and revised ESMP including stakeholder feedback and response mechanism will be developed. In order to address the capacity gaps (operational risk) in aligning project implementation with approved document and established policies and procedures, recruitment of an experienced programme specialist in management of GEF financed projects has been initiated.    There has also been a delay of Amendment of ENTC bill which would have allowed for gazzement of more protected area. This was an assumption made during the development of project document. The project would adopt the use of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECM) as per the recommendation of the MTR.    Lastly, the project activities were suspended following MTR process. The Recovery/Acceleration Plan, which was recommended by the MTR, is being developed after which activities would resume. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Moderately Satisfactory | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | Project implementation during the reporting period has been low following recommendations from the MTR. Notwith standing, the project has completed preparation of the integrated landscape plan for Lubombo Landscape during the reporting period. The plan which utilised knowledge generated in previous years contributed to development of the Biosphere Reserve Proposal that was approved by the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme.    The MTR conducted between July and October 2018, established that project progress towards the Objective, Project Implementation, Adaptive Management and Sustainability to be moderately satisfactory. Notwithstanding, progress towards results for Component 1 was found to be satisfactory, performance in Component 3 was rated as Moderately Satisfactory while component 2 was rated as moderately unsatisfactory. The MTR recommended that major changes are needed to project implementation. Recommendations focus on re-alignment of the project with delivery of the GEF-approved objectives and outputs through a process that will focus on strengthening the indicator/target framework and refining the articulation of some outputs and then developing a comprehensive and over-arching plan for delivery. They also focus on improving project implementation and management arrangements and adopting corrective action and adaptive strategies to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness, transparency and accountability while establishing strong and lasting partnerships for effective delivery. The project was therefore classified as one in ‘transition and re-adjustment’ for the period Jan-June 2019. This was to allow for development of effective measures to strengthen institutional ownership and promote long term sustainability.    In light of the MTR recommendations, UNDP CO with support from the Regional Technical Advisor engaged the project team, the Implementing Partner and Government to make adjustments in the management and governance structures in order to improve prospects for sustainability. A part-time Technical Advisor was engaged to facilitate preparation of the project acceleration strategy and plan effective Jan 2019 and preparation of landscape management plans. In addition, the Country Office secured technical assistance through detailed assignment arrangement towards streamlining project governance framework, programming and alignment of project resources and operations in accordance with UNDP/GEF policies and procedures.    To strengthen social and environmental safeguards, the project has prepared environment and social management plans (ESMPs) for sites where ecotourism infrastructure are to be developed. In the coming year, a consolidated and revised ESMP including stakeholder feedback and response mechanism will be developed. In order to address the capacity gaps (operational risk) in aligning project implementation with approved document and established policies and procedures, recruitment of an experienced programme specialist in management of GEF financed projects has been initiated. | |
| **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 Unsatisfactory | Moderately Unsatisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The DO rating for the project is Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU), an improvement om the last reporting year, due largely to the corrective actions that the project has undertaken following the MTR (concluded August 2018), which found he project to have somewhat deviated from its project objective. Implementation progress is also rated as MU since implementation was stalled during the bulk of this reporting period, and the project took a significant amount of time working on putting in place corrective actions, and these were finally concluded in July 2019. In essence hardly any activities were conducted during the ten months following the MTR, except for the preparation of an Acceleration Plan or Recovery Plan through the services of a Strategic Technical Advisor engaged in January 2019. More than half of the project funds have been expended to achieve less than half of key project outputs and outcomes.    Following extensive discussions with the PMU and the PSC/Board in June 2019 a focused workplan was agreed in order to maximise the remaining project budget and time to steer the project back towards the initial objective. It is expected that in the next reporting period, significant improvements will have been made and the project will be a lot closer to achieving its overall objective. There are also significant early risks to the sustainability of the project’s achievements. These stem from weak integration of the project into the operations of the key agencies responsible for protected areas and biodiversity conservation; gaps in the legislative and policy framework (relating to protected areas, wetland management, control of invasive alien species, land policy, and tourism); constraints on the national fiscus; weak alignment with broader programmes that have related objectives; and current weaknesses in the stakeholder partnerships that the project has built (or not built).    Nonetheless, as reported in the previous reporting period, a large volume of work has been undertaken, and a high level of commitment is demonstrated by the SNPAS project team, partners and stakeholder community. The project has generated some ‘legacy products’ and has delivered some tangible benefits through successful local-scale pilots, but much of the work has been process-orientated, without measurable contribution to the project’s core outcomes and objective.    Due to challenges with the policy and legal framework for establishment of PAs, the project’s focus on establishing protected areas has been refocusing to pursue the IUCN categorization of ‘OECM – Otherwise Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures’ in order to recognise landscape level efforts to conserve biodiversity and ecosystems in those landscapes. A key achievement attributable to the project is the proclamation of the Lubombo Man and Biosphere Reserve UNESCO in June 2019. The Reserve covers 109, 301 hectares including areas under community conservation and private farms. The project also supported the preparation of Chiefdom Development Plans for community landscapes, including biodiversity hotspots which could also qualify as OECMs. The Chiefdom Development Plans have generated some important outputs, including: high quality biodiversity data; vegetation and land-cover maps and other technical products; a Protected Area Financial Sustainability Strategy; and an equipped GIS lab and GIS-based data-sharing portal – these contribute significantly to strengthening knowledge-based planning, development and management of the protected area (PA) estate. However, the data has not been synthesised into a national-level assessment, and the GIS-platform is still not fully operational (due to problems with administration rights).  Regarding capacity building, the project supported the development of a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Programme (which covered topics on GIS introduction and SMART GIS), and a law enforcement programme (which cover asset protection and weapon handling, and a training on basic rangers' functions, targeting the Eswatini National Trust (ENTC). Training for various stakeholders on PA management is also planned.    The project has supported some isolated community activities, including wetland restoration and fencing, de-bushing/removal of invasive alien species, introduction of the SMART patrolling system in 3 national parks), and these provide important models for consolidation, replication and scaling-up in future. These have facilitated benefits where they were conducted but have had no high-level (e.g. policy) or landscape level impact. Plans to support ecotourism facilitate development have been halted to put in place safeguards measures to manage potential risks that may arise from these developments. | |

# 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: Yes |
| Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes |
| Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes |
| Not applicable: No |

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| **Atlas Gender Marker Rating** |
| **GEN2:** gender equality as significant objective |

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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.** |
| The wetland fencing and rehabilitation programme which started in 2017 has resulted in healthy wetland ecosystems that provide goods and services to men and women. Through the wetland program 154 women from five (5) chiefdoms Mvembili (65) in the Malolotja cluster, Khalangilile(30) , Ka-zulu(7) and Ntondozi(12) in the Ngwempisi Cluster and Elukhetseni(21) in the Lubombo Cluster have been able to access the wetland vegetation from which they make grass mats and sell for an income. As a result, the women are able to earn up to $12 210 equivalent annually from the sale of grass mats. The majority of these beneficiaries are unemployed women who now have alternative income streams while also preserving indigenous skills in hadcraft making. These women have reported that their newly found alternative source of income has improved their livelihoods. In addition, 24 households have benefited from a water supply system based on the restored wetlands. This has been provided in partnership with ESWADE in the Mphini Chiefdom of the Ngwempisi Cluster. ESWADE provided co-financing to purchase water harvesting equipment that helped the community set up a system that facilitates harvesting water from the wetland. As a result, women get clean water from a well-protected source free from the livestock trampling which they suffered in the past. The community members, mostly women, use this wetland water for washing and other domestic uses. This demonstrates that the wetland rehabilitation programme has directly empowered women economically while at the same time providing ecosystem services of water storage and filtration. Though both men and women participated in the fencing and rehabilitation of these wetlands, it has been women who have taken the opportunity to attempt to generate income from various kinds of wetland vegetation.    Through the wattle tree removal and control program implemented in partnership with Montigny at Luzelweni (Ntfungulu) Chiefdom in the Ngwempisi Cluster, eighteen (18) local laborers of whom 33% are women have received employment. This has enabled employed men and women of Luzelweni to earn an average of $126 per month each and restoring 42ha of land. |

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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.** |
| Through the wattle tree removal and control program implemented in partnership with Montigny at Luzelweni (Ntfungulu) Chiefdom in the Ngwempisi Cluster, eighteen (18) local laborers of whom 33% are women have received employment. This has enabled employed men and women of Luzelweni to earn an average of $126 per month each and restoring 42ha of land. Although cutting down of trees and dragging logs has been considered as a physically challenging job in an industry that is almost exclusive to males, the project ensured that women were afforded the opportunity to get employed in this particular community project. Two (2) supervisors were chosen during this program of which one (1) was male and the other was female. The six (6) women hired over a period of four (4) months. In a community hard hit by unemployment, this was a life changing intervention that served as a demonstration of how efforts to conserve and restore nature can provide income for local people.    During the above mentioned wattle removal and control program in Luzelweni (Ntfungulu) where six (6) women were empowered with wattle removal skills and employment, the community witnessed restoration of lost grazing area through clear felling of invasive black wattle trees. This program has essentially improved range lands which will in turn improve livelihoods with the anticipated boost to livestock feed. Healthy range lands are a sign of improved biodiversity, which is a key achievement of the SNPAS project. |

# 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 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.** |
| n/a |

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| **SESP:** [PIMS 4932 \_ Annex 1 ESSP.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4932/213681/1708921/1710497/PIMS%204932%20_%20Annex%201%20ESSP.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.** |
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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.** |
| Yes |

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| **If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.** |
| n/a |

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| **4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential )?** |
| Yes |

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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.** |
| Communities in the landscapes have raised concerns over delayed construction of ecotourism infrastructure and product development. The delay has been due to the need to undertake due diligence (site specific social and environmental safeguards) before on ground investments are made. In addition, potential complaints may arise because some of the earlier planned infrastructure investments may not be implemented based on the feasibility studies and MTR recommendations even though expectations were previously raised with stakeholders particularly during the Chiefdom Development Plan Process. Project intends to mitigate these potential complaints by engaging and mobilizing the relevant communities on MTR recommendations particularly on re-prioritizing community infrastructure projects. |

# 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.)** |
| Mary Dlamini aged 67 with 6 dependents and a member of Khalangilile Wetland Women group can now be able to meet the basic needs of her household as a result of income generated from selling of wetland vegetation since 2018. This was as a result of her participation in protecting and rehabilitation of Khalangilile wetland with support from the project. In 2018 she harvested 35 bundles of wetland vegetation which she sold at $375 and in 2019 she was able to receive income equivalent to $718 from sale of wetland vegetation bundles. The wetland fencing and rehabilitation programme which started in 2017 has resulted in healthy wetland ecosystems that provide goods and services to men and women. Through the wetland program 154 women from five (5) chiefdoms Mvembili (65) in the Malolotja cluster, Khalangilile(30) , Ka-zulu (7) and Ntondozi (12) in the Ngwempisi Cluster and Elukhetseni (21) in the Lubombo Cluster have been able to access the wetland vegetation from which they make grass mats and sell for an income. As a result, the women are able to collectively earn a total of up to $12 210 equivalent annually from the sale of grass mats. The majority of these beneficiaries are unemployed women who now have alternative income streams while also preserving indigenous skills in handcraft making. These women have reported that their newly found alternative source of income has improved their livelihoods. In addition, 24 households have benefited from a water supply system based on the restored wetlands. This has been provided in partnership with ESWADE in the Mphini Chiefdom of the Ngwempisi Cluster. ESWADE provided co-financing to purchase water harvesting equipment that helped the community set up a system that facilitates harvesting water from the wetland. As a result, women get clean water from a well-protected source free from the livestock trampling why they suffered in the past. The community members, mostly women, use this wetland water for washing and other domestic uses. This demonstrates that the wetland rehabilitation programme has directly empowered women economically while at the same time providing ecosystem services of water storage and filtration. Though both men and women participated in the fencing and rehabilitation of these wetlands, it has been women who have taken the opportunity to attempt to generate income from various kinds of wetland vegetation.    Through the wattle tree removal and control program implemented in partnership with Montigny at Luzelweni (Ntfungulu) Chiefdom in the Ngwempisi Cluster, eighteen (18) local laborers of whom 33% are women were employed. This has enabled employed men and women of Luzelweni to earn an average of $126 per month each and restoration of 42ha of land. Although cutting down of trees and dragging logs has been considered as a physically challenging job in an industry that is almost exclusive to males, the project ensured that women were afforded the opportunity to get employed in this particular community project. Montigny helped the Chief (forest owner) to hire Two (2) supervisors, one (1) was male and the other was female. The timber from the harvested wattle, generated income to the value of $457.    Another highlight in the reporting period is the submissions of letters of intent to gazette, after being helped by the project , for Jilobi Forest, Shewula Nature Reserve and Sibebe Monument. |

**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.** |
| a. https://www.facebook.com/SNPAS2020/  b. https://www.facebook.com/Strengthening-the-National-Protected-Areas-System-of-Swaziland-SNPAS-458560657662159/  c. https://www.travelandleisure.com/travel-news/unesco-adds-18-new-sites-to-biosphere-reserves-network  d. https://www.getaway.co.za/travel-news/unesco-makes-lubombo-a-biosphere-reserve/ |

# 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.

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

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| **Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?** |
| No |

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

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

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

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| **Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?** |
| No |

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| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [PIMS 4932 Swaziland Protected Areas CEO-ER FOR RE-SUBMISSION 27 JUNE 2014.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4932/213681/1675974/1676263/PIMS%204932%20Swaziland%20Protected%20Areas%20CEO-ER%20FOR%20RE-SUBMISSION%2027%20JUNE%202014.doc) |
| **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.** |
| Stakeholder Engagement Plan  The highlight of the reporting period was the acceptance of the Lubombo Biosphere reserve by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) secretariat. UNESCO seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture. UNESCO's programmes contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals defined in Agenda 2030, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015. The Lubombo Biosphere reserve encompasses the Lubombo Landscape management plan in it. The preparation of the Lubombo Management plan involved a robust and detailed stakeholder engagement. The following stakeholder were involved in the preparation of the Lubombo management plan;  a. Eswatini National Trust Commission (ENTC): The preparation of the landscape management plan was spearheaded by the ENTC as the implementing partner for the project. The ENTC provided leadership and coordination role for the preparation, completion and submission of the Lubombo Biosphere reserve.  b. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) country office: The UNESCO country office provided guidance, technical input and resources of hosting of workshops, meetings and conferences during the preparation of the Lubombo Biosphere reserve dossier. The country office also helped with the submission of the application.  c. Civil Society Organisations/Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs): Lubombo conservancy and Eco Lubombo Organisation provided technical input during the preparation of the application dossier.  d. Ministry of Tinkhundla and Development (MTAD): The MTAD is the custodian of development in the country, during the preparation of the dossier the pledged and provided the services of three (3) offices to mobilize and organize community meetings.  e. Ministry of Tourism and Environmental affairs (MTEA): The MTEA through the department of forestry and climate change provided technical backstopping through attendance of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings and by providing an officer to foresee that all environmental issues are addressed in the dossier and meeting all Global Environmental Facility requirements through the GEF focal person.  f. ESwatini Tourism Authority (ETA): The ETA provided technical input and technical backstopping through attendance to the PSC meetings.  g. ESwatini Environmental Authority (EEA): The EEA has provided technical support during the preparation of the document and technical backstopping through attendance to the PSC meetings.  h. Regional Administrator office: The regional administrator office was responsible of mobilizing and calling Traditional chiefs joint meetings so that chiefs contributed in one voice in the document.  i. Silulu Royal Holdings (SRH): The Silulu Royal holdings are responsible for managing royal farms in the landscape and the SRH was responsible for negotiating with royalty and determining the different land uses in the farms.  j. Siteki Municipality Council (SMC): The SMC was responsible for mobilizing people in the urban settlement and also providing technical input in preparation the document for submission. The SMC also provided platform for the secretariat of the Lubombo Biosphere reserve to engage with the urban settlements for them to make a contribution in the Lubombo Landscape management plan.  k. All Out Africa Foundation: The All Out Africa Foundation provided technical input in the determination of the ecological corridors when making the Lubombo Biosphere reserve. They also provided technical input in the preparation of the document. The All Out Africa Foundation also provided ecological and eco-tourism data to the secretariat of the Lubombo Biosphere reserve for addition in the preparation of the document.  l. Rural Communities: The rural communities provided technical input and indigenous knowledge in national stakeholders’ workshops. The rural communities also contribution by mobilizing their members and taking their views for submission to the preparation of the document.  m. ESwatini Game Ranchers Association (ESGRA): ESGRA members contributed their farms to be part of the Lubombo Biosphere reserve and also provided technical backstopping in attending the PSC meetings  n. University of ESwatini (UNESWA): UNESWA provided technical backstopping during attendance to the PSC meetings and also being part of the biosphere reserve secretariat.  o. Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy (MNRE): The secretariat received digital information (Cadastral maps) from the surveyor general for inputting in the preparation of the biosphere reserve map. They also provided technical backstopping in attending the PSC meetings.  p. Small Enterprises Development Company (SEDCO): SEDCO helped in the preparation of the Shewula and Mhlumeni business plan which contributed in the preparation of the document for the Lubombo Biosphere Reserve.  q. National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA): The NDMA has provided technical support to the project during the community mobilization activities. Communities were trained on disaster preparedness during the development of the sustainable livelihood development strategies which informed the business plans by SEDCO  r. Project Steering Committee (PSC): The PSC provided technical input during the preparation of the document. It also provided technical backstopping during its meetings.    Community engagements have been facilitated through the Chiefdom Development Planning process. The process has been used as a tool to sensitise communities about biodiversity conservation across target communities. The CDP process also allowed the community to plan development within the context of biodiversity conservation. The CDP process also helped identify gaps and set up proper governance structures for the management of natural resources at community level. These structures include Chiefdom Development Committees, Community Trusts and Natural Resource Management Committees that were further trained and empowered to promote the management of biodiversity within communities. More importantly, the Seven (7) CDPs developed by the Project are in three (3) landscapes; one (1) in Lubombo, one (1) Malolotja and five (5) in Ngwempisi and resulted in six (6) of these Chiefdoms' documenting their intent to set apart 7,050.41 Ha of land to conservation. More than the intent to conserve this land, the CDP process allowed the communities to effectively plan for development in areas adjacent to their proposed PAs to ensure that all land uses planned for do not conflict with nature conservation in the long run. These CDPs are a consented joint plan by the community and its leadership Information gathered from CDPs form the basis of knowledge and data needed to compile landscape management plans that are the project’s key output. The common vision and key messages from the Ngwempisi Cluster will be be extrapolated to form an accurate objective for the landscape during the development of the integrated Ngwempisi landscape management plan.    In collaboration with ESWADE the project has successfully developed a sustainable land management program at Ka-Ndinda Chiefdom in the Ngwempisi Cluster where a donga with a 1.8 km perimeter has been fenced off, gabions constructed and trees planted inside the perimeter. This intervention lead to this site being chosen to host this year’s UNCCD commemoration day on the 4th July 2019. Moreover, this donga or erosion site had cut off the community’s access road and was fast encroaching on homestead compounds and therefore this was a much needed intervention in which the project was proud to help ESWADE with community mobilization and coordination of this program. |

# 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.