

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**Delivering multiple benefits through SLM of d**

[Basic Data](#_Toc1)

[Overall Ratings](#_Toc2)

[Development Progress](#_Toc3)

[Implementation Progress](#_Toc4)

[Critical Risk Management](#_Toc5)

[Adjustments](#_Toc6)

[Ratings and Overall Assessments](#_Toc7)

[Gender](#_Toc8)

[Social and Environmental Standards](#_Toc9)

[Communicating Impact](#_Toc10)

[Partnerships](#_Toc11)

[Annex - Ratings Definitions](#_Toc12)

# Basic Data

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 5054 |
| GEF ID | 5327 |
| Title | Securing multiple ecosystems benefit through SLM in the productive but degraded landscapes of South Africa |
| 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 |

|  |
| --- |
| **Project Description** |
| South Africa places a high premium on the role of land and the constituent ecosystems in the quest for a green economy . 80% of the land is used for agriculture and subsistence livelihoods; 11% of it (12.76 million ha) has arable potential, while majority (69%) is used for grazing: 82% of the 12.76 million ha of cultivated land is under commercial agriculture, most of it rainfed. About six million people depend on agriculture for their livelihoods; nearly a million of them employed as farm workers. The smallholder agricultural sector provides employment for an additional 1.3 million households. Indeed, about 43% of South AfricaÔÇÖs 46 million people live in rural areas and depend on natural resources to sustain livelihoods . Despite the importance of land and its ecosystems, South Africa is however prone to land degradation, currently exacerbated by human activities that disturb the delicate but dynamic equilibrium between soils, vegetation, and climate. According to WWF (2209), South African soils are extremely vulnerable to degradation and have low recovery potential; more than 5 million hectares (more than double the size of Kruger National Park) of cultivated lands are already seriously acidified. This is a serious problem in the Karoo, the Albany thickets and the Olifants catchment, three of the nine biomes (Map in Annex 1) the country depends on for economic development. The 3 biomes currently exhibit signs of degradation of critical ecosystem services. In these bilomes, land degradation is due to improper soil management practices, cultivation of unsuitable soils, improper management of cultivated crop land, deforestation and extensive removal of natural vegetation (including over-exploitation of vegetation for domestic use), overgrazing, alteration of surface/subsurface flow and inappropriate water abstraction. Consequences of degradation in these areas are reduced quantity and quality of water available to both nature and people, reduction of soil moisture content, disrupted water flow regimes, reduced recharge of groundwater table, increased sediments and pollutants in fresh water bodies, and low capacity of wetlands to buffer flooding and pollution, particularly in the Olifants. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Contacts** | |
| UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Adviser | Ms. Phemo Karen Kgomotso (phemo.kgomotso@undp.org) |
| Programme Associate | Ms. Hiwot Gebremeskel (hiwot.gebremeskel@undp.org) |
| Project Manager | Mr. Lehman Lindeque (lehman.lindeque@undp.org) |
| CO Focal Point | Ms. Janice Golding (janice.golding@undp.org) |
| GEF Operational Focal Point | Mr. Zaheer Fakir (Zfakir@environment.gov.za) |
| Project Implementing Partner | Ms. Skumsa Mancotywa (smancotywa@environment.gov.za) |
| Other Partners | Mr. Hein Lindemann (HeinL@daff.gov.za) |

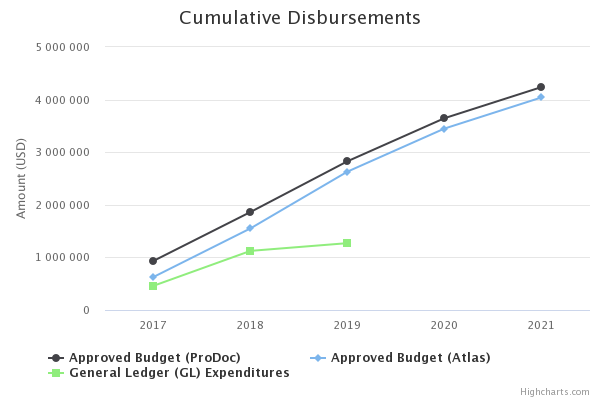
# Overall Ratings

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

# Development Progress

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **Project Objective**  **To strengthen the enabling environment for the adoption of knowledge-based SLM models for land management and land/ecosystem rehabilitation in support of the green economy and resilient livelihoods through capacity building, improved governance and financial incentives demonstrated in the Karoo, Eastern Cape and Olifants** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Capacity strengthening to enhance cross-sector enabling environment | Score: 2 (some initial awareness has been raised on SLM models for land management and land/ecosystem rehabilitation) | *(not set or not applicable)* | Score: 4 (knowledge has been effectively transferred through workshops, multi-stakeholder dialogue, a national platform on SLM, a capacity-building and development programme and practical implementation of SLM practices across three landscapes) | The work in year 1 of the SLM Project were focussed mainly on: 1. identifying and engaging stakeholders and partners within the different project landscapes and also on a national level 2. Doing comprehensive baseline assessments in the different project landscapes to understand the Socio-ecological System within the landscape, the level of land degradation and options for SLM and restoration of degraded landscapes, 3. Based on a problem tree for each landscape, develop a Theory of Change and select best pathway based on interaction with stakeholders and the details of baseline assessments. Please note considering progress reports, the work in the Olifants landscape has started from scratch whereas the work in the Karoo and Eastern Cape landscapes are on-going work started during previous projects or interventions. | Project implementation gained momentum in year 2 of the project. With base line assessments mostly completed, the Responsible Parties focused on building and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders, engaging with land users and traditional authorities to ensure buy-in and ownership in the design and implementation of SLM practices at landscape level. The baseline assessments was focused mainly around understanding the Socio-Ecological System in each project landscape. This include baseline assessments of the physical environment, but also from the social and economical context, trying to gain a better understanding of the drivers and actors in land degradation and SLM in the respective landscapes. In selected cases demonstration and implementation of SLM technologies have started in certain landscapes (Baviaans, Machubeni and Karoo). Training of stakeholders also gained momentum, especially in the Machubeni and Karoo landscapes. Machubeni training focused on soil conservation works, agro-grassing and for the Karoo landscape an Integrated Farm Planning and Management Course was developed in close collaboration with farmers, government extension and soil conservation officials and private agricultural training companies as well as a representative from a Government Agricultural College, Grootfontein in the Karoo. At national level the project also increase visibility by participating in key government and private meetings, workshops and conferences related to biodiversity planning and management (DEFF, the old DEA) and Natural Resource Management (DAFF). The key is the involvement in UNCCD National Coordinating body and branch level strategic planning meeting with the Implementing Partner DEA. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **Economically viable, climate-smart land/ecosystem rehabilitation and management practices operationalised across 53,900 hectares of the Karoo, Eastern Cape and Olifants landscapes (with potential for upscaling to cover 150,000 hectares)** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Area of degraded land under improved SLM practices in three landscapes | - Karoo: 500,000 hectares of degraded land    - Olifants: 41,300 hectares of degraded land  - Eastern Cape: 11,733 hectares of degraded land | *(not set or not applicable)* | - Karoo: At least 150,000 hectares under SLM practices      - Olifants: 16,000 hectares under SLM practices    - Eastern Cape: 1,300 ha under SLM practices | Karoo landscape (EWT): Progress to date: 1. Extensive interaction, interviews and surveys with landowners in landscape, both commercial and communal farmers towards identifying best practices for rangeland management in Karoo 2. Trailing methods for assessing veld and ecosystem condition using drones 3. Assessing progress on restoration sites to be integrated into best practice guidelines  4. Ecological baseline assessment of Sak and Krom Rivers 39% complete 5. Surveyed and interview 20 commercial farmers on use of incentives to achieve SLM 6. Complete draft manual "Best practice guidelines for sustainability and restoration in the Nama Karoo, South Africa"  7. Report on SLM challenges for emerging landowners completed 8. Appealed environmental authorisation in respect of Uranium Mining in Karoo 9. Held a Restoration Strategy Workshop to identify critical landscapes for restoration 10. Completed second guideline "Grazing Options for the Nama Karoo" 11. Inputs towarda the Biodiversity Mapping for the Northern Cape 12. "Participlan" engagements with emerging farmers to increase production and adopt SLM 13. Developed practical implementation plan for the SLM Champion Model to be used in the adoption of SLM practices in the landscape. Three SLM Champions farmers were identified. 14. Discussions with commercial banks on co-funding to support and sustain Small Grants Initiative in the Karoo      Olifants landscape (CSIR):  Please note that the Olifants landscape is the only new project for the SLM Project. In all the other landscapes, the GEF Funded SLM Project build on existing projects and previous interventions. Progress to date: 1. Appointed 2 MSc and 2 PhD students to work on project 2. Received ethical clearance from CSIR to proceed with project 29/9/2018. 3. Completed two stakeholder engagement workshops 4. The following Baseline reports are 80% completed: Long-term stakeholder engagement, Hydrological context, Ecological context, socio-economic context, Governance and Institutions and land degradation mapping. Climate change projections report for area is 60% completed.  5. A draft communication strategy for the Olifants catchment has been developed as well.    Eastern Cape Landscape (Rhodes University): Progress to date: 1. Complete stakeholder analysis for Machubeni 2. Hold Inception Workshop to introduce project in Machubeni. 3. Baseline assessment for Machubeni completed 4. Develop Theory of Change with Machubeni community 5. Complete land degradation assessment and rehabilitation planning 6. Identification and initial contact with key government departments 6. Draft project and rehabilitation plan for improved rangeland management 7. Complete detail agrograssing plan for 1300 ha in Machubeni 8. Complete draft farming calendar for both pastoral and crop farming activities 9. Literature review on current theory and practice in Conservation Agriculture 10. Partners identified for training in livelihoods diversification 11. Develop strategy for voluntary advisory group at Machubeni 12. Identify key resources and local stewards, conduct livelihoods assessments 13. Mapping degradation and identification of drivers 14. Developed draft framework for a participatory monitoring, reflection, evaluation and learning (PMRLE) programme for the SLM Project 15. Implementation of baseline monitoring for evaluating rehabilitation impacts on communal farms | EWT: Karoo  Identify cost-effective SLM rangeland and restoration practices in the Karoo – 90 % complete  Two best practice manuals completed and peer reviewed, one on rangeland management and one on rehabilitation in the Karoo. Translated also in Afrikaans – main language spoken in Karoo landscape  Stakeholder engagement for implementing SLM – 50 % complete, ongoing activity  2 Planning and implementation meetings with institutional stakeholders  Engagement with relevant local municipalities – letters sent to relevant line function departments to introduce the project  High level delegation, including Premier of Northern Cape and Departmental and Local Municipality staff visited project landscape 28 November 2018 to discuss potential project involvement  PSC and PMU team and members of UNDP had field visit to Karoo landscape 28 – 31 May 2019. Both Commercial (Champion farmers) and communal farmers were involved in the site visits and discussions.    Baseline assessment of the bio-physical socio-ecological and economic status of two conservancies to develop a Karoo specific SLM and M&E protocol and catchment restoration priorities – 90% complete  Draft document reviewing the socio-economic factors affecting SLM in Nama Karoo complete  Partnership established with Conservation South Africa on management of municipal commonages – Completed technical exchange visit to commonage farmers in Kamieskroon 19 – 22 November 2018 on rangeland management in commonages  Ecological condition of 20 riverine confluences in two project catchments assessed and report completed  Comprehensive survey-based report describing barriers towards adopting SLM and possible context specific solutions still in preparation 70% complete.  Report on general veld condition on selected farms in the landscape and effectiveness of restoration techniques (S Todd) Completed 100%  Completed pre-course assessment for Integrated Farm Planning and Management Course for potential course participants (13 male and 10 female) from Loxton commonage (100%)  Drone monitoring on 8 SLM Project sites in the landscape as well as fixed point photography (Ongoing activity 50% complete)  Protocol / methodology for fine scale monitoring of vegetation cover and condition, vegetation structure (height) using drone-borne multi-spectral cameras developed  Identify critical landscapes and appropriate measures for landscape rehabilitation – 80 % complete.  3 SLM Champion Farmers has been identified and agreements signed with them. These agreements are a Memorandum of Understanding between EWT the RP for the Karoo landscape and the 3 identified Champion Framers and formalize their roles and responsibilities and "Champion SLM Farmers".  Farm audit and SLM self-assessment scorecard has been developed – 13 self-evaluation surveys with Integrated Farm Management and Planning Course participants and 2 Champion SLM Farmers completed    CSIR Olifants:  Stakeholder analysis 100% completed  Report on engagement with tribal authorities  Three workshops has been held as part of a series of stakeholder engagement workshops planned for this landscape.  Selection of sustainable land management options 90% complete  Draft report completed (100%) on best bet technologies to use in SLM interventions and possible field testing/demonstration areas  Selection of Sustainable Land Management Options completed in close collaboration with key stakeholders and local community (Workshop report)  On site demonstration of SLM practices 15% complete  On site demonstration of SLM Practices is greatly delayed and will commence at the start of the rainy season again (Oct/Nov 2019)  Progress with SLM interventions at demonstration sites:  a) Agroforestry: The household survey commenced in June 2019 and will be completed in August 2019. 42 out of 98 household have been surveyed.  b) Fodder production: Project team is investigating the use of rainwater harvested to supplement fodder production  c) Contours: Will commence in next reporting period  d) Spatial planning: Will commence in next reporting period  Project team identified, mapped and narrated illegal sand mining activities in the Lepellane catchment and gave through to Department of Environmental Affairs and Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for action  Selection of intervention site 100% completed (demonstration site) – for implementation/demonstration of short-listed SLM interventions in landscape.  Development of a typology of Smallholder Farming in Greater Sekhukhune District 80% completed – identification of homogenous group of farmers to guide implementation and out scaling of SLM practices in landscape    Rhodes University Eastern Cape:  Agrograssing and land rehabilitation training and implementation in Machubeni 40% completed – led by Land Conservation Activists (LCA) Group, Machubeni – Champions in land rehabilitation (Rain water tank installation, micro-nursary development for vetiver and grass plugs, agro-grazing plan developed.  Monthly meetings of LCA Group – community buy-in and ownership  Draft Land rehabilitation guidelines document developed 60% complete  Erosion control work by LCA groups – in all 5 project villages spend 2 days per week implementing erosion control structures in new areas and maintaining interventions that were implemented during 2018 and early 2019  Draft rehabilitation manual for erosion control developed  Conservation climate smart agriculture (CA) training & implementation Machubeni 55% completed  Training completed for 25 Machubeni CA Home Garden Champions (HGC’s) and 5 CA Youth Group on introductory CA techniques and First Aid Training  CA development and implementation – Each HGC received from project seedlings and rainwater tank to start drip irrigation and to demonstrate SLM practices related to CA – Monitoring of CA implementation ongoing  Complete report on current crop farming practices and recommendations for supporting CA  The RU team established firmer relations with the Amanzi for Food Project (AFP)- a local project implementing community-based agroecology/conservation agriculture near King Williams Town; see website at: http://amanziforfood.co.za/ The purpose of this engagement is to share information, knowledge and experience and to allow both parties to participate in each others capacity building activities.    Livelihoods resilience – vulnerability assessment and measures for improving resilience 30% complete  Two tools for vulnerability assessment have been identified and training provided in use of tools. Training was provided to GEF 5 project staff at Rhodes University. Number of men/women attending course was not indicated.  Networking and partnership between GEF 5 SLM project and Climate Systems Analysis Group (CSAG) at University of Cape Town to use Eastern Cape landscape as case study for a government funded project on climate smart agricultural systems.  Review report developed on baseline livelihoods data for Machubeni and recommendations for filling gaps.  Rangeland management training on simple grazing management systems and the importance of veld rest to Machubeni Livestock Farmers and Extension Officers, implementation 50% completed (more courses will be presented in future)  Conduct sheep farmers training on sheep production principles in close collaboration with Wood Growers Association for sheep farmers of Machubeni. Complete baseline data on livestock numbers to support planning of improved grazing and livestock management. Grazing areas map in process of finalization.  Networking and partnerships with Meat Naturally Ltd completed to develop conservation agreements to implement grazing-resting model in landscape and support livestock auctions to reduce animal numbers and pressure from grazing. Activities following from partnership will be ongoing.  Complete final model for improved rangeland livestock management for Machubeni in collaboration with community stakeholders (70  M&E implementation of participatory system for SLM hubs 30% completed  Investigating two apps that can support field-based monitoring of SLM Hub activities.  Monitoring Land Conservation Champions (LCA), a community conservation group in Machubeni, specializing on erosion control. Erosion control interventions report were developed  Draft Participatory Monitoring Evaluation Reflection and Learning (PMERL) case study plan developed for Machubeni (70% completed) Once completed it will be used by other landscapes as an example to develop SLM related monitoring and evaluation plans at landscape level.  Literature survey on local based monitoring theory completed  An introductory session on fixed point photography as a tool for monitoring land rehabilitation interventions was held with Macubeni Land Conservation Champions (LCAs).  A workshop was held with the LCA group to identify monitoring indicators that they feel important for monitoring impacts of land rehabilitation (erosion control) interventions at Macubeni. These indicators were incorporated into the PMERL Plan for Macubeni |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Increased knowledge and institutional capacity of DEA, DAFF, DWA, relevant departments and local communities to reduce degradation from livestock and crop production and to restore currently degraded lands through the application of knowledge-based land management practices** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Increased capacity of government officials, restoration practitioners and other stakeholders related to SLM practices as measured by capacity assessment scorecard | Score: 2 (there is some capacity for design and implementation of SLM practices, but this is nascent) | *(not set or not applicable)* | Score: at least 4 (there is widespread but not comprehensive capacity for design and implementation of SLM practices) | 1. Establish a web based data and GIS based portal for SLM project 2. Training workshop Karoo Landscape on Approaches to engage landowners in Adopting SLM practices. Land user engagement tool was developed from the workshop outcomes 3. EWT developed email survey to assess the institutional capacity within Government Departments and other organisational stakeholders to assess capacity in respect of SLM 4. Educational programme with learners in Loxton Karoo on importance of animal welfare and care 5. Emerging Farmers from Karoo landscape attend Drought Information Work Session presented by western Cape Department of Agriculture. 6. Co-development of Integrated Farm Management and Planning workshop as basis for applying for Small Grants and to ensure SLM integrated in farm management and planning. 7. Consultant appointed to conduct government capacity assessments and partners for training in SLM 8. Planning content for SLM Training course by Rhodes University | EWT: Karoo  Six Information sharing, training and capacity building events to address barriers towards SLM – 30 % complete: Details are as follows  4 Emerging farmers have sheep rams tested by state vet  Stock selection training day attended by 27 farmers  11 Famers, 1 extension officer and 1 state veterinarian attend an ewe herd reproduction course (consist of a series of modules) in partnership with National Wool Growers Association.  Permaculture course for 13 participants from Loxton 5 – 9 November 2018  First Integrated Farm Management and Planning Course presented 25 Feb 2019 – 1 March 2019 in close collaboration with Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. 10 Emerging farmers, 4 Extension officers attend course  8 AGRISETA learners (youth) doing National Certificate: Animal Production are hosted in the Karoo Landscape. The online courses are conducted by i3A and funded by AgriSeta. Five students are based in Loxton and three in Nieuwoudtville.  Create awareness, coordinate technical and extension support to farmers to implement SLM in project landscape and participate in Biodiversity Stewardship Programme (Improved rangeland management in 50 000 ha) - 10 % complete. Initiated Biodiversity Stewardship negotiations with one farmer - 30 000 ha. If a farmer agree to join Governments Stewardship Programme, the land is legally protected, the land user also need to develop a management plan for the stewardship area and all of this is positive contributions towards SLM.  Five interviews on social and environmental barriers as well as farmers goals and aspirations were conducted with Loxton Commonage farmers and five draft Small Grant Proposals were submitted in line with their SLM challenges and needs. (20 March 2018) to the EWT.  Three Krom River farmers who are managing five land reform farms are submitting three SGP proposals. To date 11 proposals are in process of development for Karoo Landscape.  The EWT is working closely with the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform in the Northern Cape and also closely with LandCare Officials from the Provincial Departments in Western and Northern Cape Provinces.  Seven articles published in popular media on project related activities and interventions, mainly the training and capacity building activities with farmers.  3 presentations at Arid Zone Ecology Forum 2018: 1) Towards rapid veld condition assessment - Comparing results of in situ vs remote sensing; 2) Nama Karoo restoration evaluation; 3) The possible use of servitudes to secure habitat and drive SLM in key resource areas. Once critical riverine habitat is conserved through servitude, it will allow for the better management and conservation of this land.  Promotional materials on Karoo for Ever initiative and to promote SLM principles: SLM Jackets, Lanyards, Licence disk holders, branded notebooks and pens, thermal coffee mugs  Chitter Chatter (Nov 2018 Issue, its a local newspaper for Loxton): 1) Showing off livestock for sustainable farming; 2) Unravelling the Mystery of Riverine Rabbit behavior; 3) Opening up the world of technology (e-learning centre article). Facebook notice of publication reached 2 674 people. Instagram (7 Nov 2018): Permaculture photos and text; Facebook (9 Nov 2018): Permaculture photos and text, reached 1 923 people; Facebook (5 Dec 2018): e-learning centre - general and Grade 7 learners receiving certificates (computer course completed).  Two SLM videos were developed for the Karoo landscape  Detail guide to diversification in arid areas - 5 % complete  Draft Diversification Approach for the Karoo has been developed  CSIR Olifants:  Stakeholder analysis completed  Specialist baseline reports on the hydrology, ecology, socio-economic, enabling environment, climate and land degradation in the Lepellane catchment completed.  Land degradation mapping 50% completed -completed development of Land Degradation Risk assessment – actual WOCAT land degradation and SLM assessment need to be completed July 2019  Rhodes University: Eastern Cape  Government engagement for collaboration 40% completed  Host local Government stakeholder collaboration workshop – plan way forward for integration of GEF 5 Machubeni Project into local Integrated Development Plan (IDP)  The RU team have initiated a partnership with the Office of the Premier (OTP), EC and FAO. The main purpose of these partnerships are for political buy-in into project activities (OTP) and knowledge and information exchange.  RU team met with DRDAR Land Care Directorate to discuss possible technical and financial support of land management and rehabilitation activities at Macubeni  Capacity assessment methodology and planning (led by Rhodes – for all 3 SLM Project landscapes) 40% complete  Capacity assessment scorecard developed and tested by all three Responsible Parties – Capacity assessments for mid-way through project implementation will be conducted in Q3 2019.  Government technical support through Masibambisane Multistakeholder Forum (MMF) – 50% Completed  4 MMF multi-stakeholder meetings were held. Dept of Rural Development and Agriculture expressed excitement over progress of the project regarding community engagement and participation.  See report on the Multi Stakeholder Forum structure and purpose  Environmental education at Machubeni Project Schools – 40% completed  During 2-4 April 2019 an Enviro Education week was held for Machubeni GEF 5 Enviro Schools and environmental club was established at each school. Learners start engaging in SLM activities such as gardening, training their dogs and caring for animals, composting, planting trees and teaching others.  Natural resources management groups set-up and operational 50% completed  Two day bookkeeping course was held for local MMF Forums to support their organizational development towards improved resource governance. See summary report on participatory mapping of key resources and eco-infrastructure.  Consolidation of data on land degradation and key resources map 40% completed  Baseline information database is currently being created summarizing existing information on the Macubeni landscape: natural resources, livelihoods activities, demographics and more. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 3**  **Enabling environment for promoting rehabilitation of degraded land through carbon sequestration (including accessing and capitalising on carbon markets and the preparation of MRV documentation) in the Eastern Cape strengthened** | | | | | | |
| **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 hectares of restored spekboomveld in the Baviaanskloof | 9,081 hectares of degraded spekboomveld | *(not set or not applicable)* | 9,081 hectares of degraded spekboomveld | 1. Complete baseline carbon stocks assessments 2. Stakeholder engagement and livelihood diversification strategy for Baviaans 3. Stakeholder engagement and ecosystem rehabilitation plan for Baviaans 4. Complete baseline ecological functioning and vegetation assessments 5. Draft Rehabilitation plan completed for communal farms and planting protocols for spekboom 6. Implementation of baseline vegetation monitoring | Rhodes University in close collaboration with Living Lands and World Wildlife Fund (WWF)  Rehabilitation implemented on 800 ha in Baviaanskloof 30% completed  LivingLands continued thicket veld rehabilitation implementation totaling 64 ha of erosion control efforts on both communal farms, Tchnuganoo and Sewefontein, and 10 ha of revegetation has been completed on Tchnuganoo farm.  Improved planting protocols 70% completed  Draft 1 of Revegetation (Spekboom) planting protocol completed  Continued field work for data collection on planting protocol experiment  Training manual on land rehabilitation 100% completed  Training manual to guide thicket veld rehabilitation training of communal land owners in the Baviaanskloof has been completed  Draft rehabilitation plan for Baviaans 95% completed  LivingLands received comments back from GEF5 RU team on the thicket rehabilitation action plan for the Baviaanskloof communal farms.  LivingLands are busy processing the comments and edits to prepare the final document in Q3 2019  Engagement and implementation plan for supporting and diversifying livelihoods 30% completed  Engagement with two communal farms Sewefontein and Tchnuganoo and update stakeholder analysis report |
| Existence of a government-endorsed, simplified methodology for calculation of certified emissions reductions/carbon credits from spekboomveld restoration | Existence of a government-endorsed, simplified methodology for calculation of certified emissions reductions/carbon credits from spekboomveld restoration | *(not set or not applicable)* | Government endorses a simplified methodology for calculation of certified emissions reductions/carbon credits from spekboomveld restoration | 1. Draft literature review on carbon offsetting methodologies 2. Work towards new carbon stocks methodology (50% complete) 3. Government engagement for uptake of new methodology 4. Work on development of new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP's) for carbon baseline assessments 30% completed 5. On going scientific coordination of carbon offsetting related activities | New carbon stocks methodology – 90% completed  Progress report on new carbon methodology with remote sensed imagery (D Harris). The development of the methodology is completed.  Government engagement for uptake of new carbon methodology 40% completed  Facilitated DEA/DHEST meeting around soil carbon, timelines established for interaction with DEA and other line departments, develop and presented a proposal for funding and implementing soil carbon model. This activity is ongoing since carbon tax only started in June 2019 and the process is new to all.The methodology is accepted by the Department of Environmental Affairs but still need to be discussed and explained to Treasury.  Carbon stocks baseline 95% complete  Field carbon stocks measurements for degraded spekboom thicket on communal farms are complete, final data analyses are being completed and carbon stocks report for Baviaanskloof spekboom thicket will be submitted in Q3 2019    Final Standard operating Procedures for baseline sampling of carbon in sub-tropical thicket completed  Carbon offsetting project design document (PDD) 20% complete  Conducted an initial scoping of potential carbon offsetting bundling options toward the development of guidelines for project partners to ensure project readiness in the Baviaanskloof- options were scoped and initial guidance provided on site to LivingLands NGO, Baviaanskloof as the project partner.    Developed go/no go and risks document for 200 ha carbon planting toward carbon offsets for Baviaanskloof.    Agreed on the approach to move forward in the project area with the carbon offsetting business case.    See 200 ha Planting Options Summarized with Risks Baviaanskloof    Literature review completed of carbon offsetting methodologies    Evaluate existing institutions for assessing green economy 70% completed    1) Living Lands conducted a survey of institutions currently operative in the Baviaanskloof. The results are being processed and will be reported on Q3 2019. The information which has been gathered so far indicates that the current institutions in Baviaanskloof are not ready for formal business strategies such as the carbon offsetting market. |
| Number of land users signing MoUs to form a Baviaanskloof Programme of Activities/Grouped Project | No land users in the Baviaanskloof are currently part of a Programme of Activities/Grouped Project | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 30 land users in the Baviaanskloof sign an MoU to participate as proponents in a Programme of Activities/Grouped Project | 1. Stakeholder engagement for livelihood and rehabilitation completed 2. Summary of known existing community projects and institutions | Carbon offsetting project design document (PDD) 20% complete. No farmers has yet sign an agreement. Living Lands is in the process to determine potential carbon accrual in order to convince farmers to become part of the Grouped Project. Due to the failure of previous carbon projects in the Baviaanskloof, farmers are very skeptical towards the long commitment (20 years) and the eventual potential benefit.  Conducted an initial scoping of potential carbon offsetting bundling options toward the development of guidelines for project partners to ensure project readiness in the Baviaanskloof- options were scoped and initial guidance provided on site to LivingLands NGO, Baviaanskloof as the project partner.    Developed go/no go and risks document for 200 ha carbon planting toward carbon offsets for Baviaanskloof.    Agreed on the approach to move forward in the project area with the carbon offsetting business case.    See 200 ha Planting Options Summarized with Risks Baviaanskloof    Literature review completed of carbon offsetting methodologies    Evaluate existing institutions for assessing green economy 70% completed    1) LivingLands conducted a survey of institutions currently operative in the Baviaanskloof. The results are being processed and will be reported on Q3 2019. The information which has been gathered so far indicates that the current institutions in Baviaanskloof are not ready for formal business strategies such as the carbon offsetting market. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 4**  **Financing and governance frameworks strengthened to support the adoption of SLM approaches** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| SLM practices are mainstreamed into national and sub-national strategies for development and land-use planning | There is currently little integration of SLM practices into national and sub-national strategies for development and land-use planning. Where these do exist, they are seldom based on up-do-date scientific knowledge on SLM best practices and do not always incorporate a diverse range of stakeholder priorities. | *(not set or not applicable)* | A strategy for integrating SLM into development and land-use planning has been developed and implemented at the national and sub-national levels. | 1. PMU has engaged with national stakeholders DEA and DAFF around the issue. Draft Work Packages have been developed for Outcome 4. Discussions are underway with potential consultants and to secure co-funding from DEA NRM Programme. 2. Communication with SANBI on GEF project with similar deliverables | National level:  The plan is to engage with different government, non-government and research initiatives around land degradation and SLM to share knowledge and to ensure the SLM project activities slot into excising initiatives to avoid duplication and work towards more synergy and coordination. This is an ongoing process and in the reporting period, the following engagements were done: Project engagement with mainly Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform as well as Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries.  Landscape level:  Project engagement with Provincial Departments of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform as well as Environmental Affairs and Nature Conservation. Responsible Parties also communicate and engage with local municipalities in project landscape.  “Partnerships for SLM change” This is a PMU driven initiative together with RP’s, DEA and DAFF to involve private sector more in out scaling of SLM at national level, within and beyond boundaries of project landscapes. This is an ongoing process and recent engagements include:  • Small scale cattle farmer development in the Free State with Sernic Group, in close collaboration with I3A a private Training Company and Department of Agriculture LandCare Programme.  • Building SLM principles into Agricultural High School curriculum together with Department of Education in Free State and Sernic Group.  • Key technical stakeholder for SIZA (Sustainability Initiative of South Africa), a platform to ensure ethical and environmentally sustainable trade.  • Technical and strategic inputs towards Groot Marico Biosphere Reserve.  Main engagement and inputs towards year 3, 4 and 5 of project implementation |
| SLM objectives are mainstreamed into public expenditure, agricultural subsidies and land reform incentives | Current agricultural and related policies do not incentivise the implementation of SLM practices. Consequently, land users are unable to take advantage of opportunities for implementation of SLM practices in currently degraded landscapes. | *(not set or not applicable)* | A comprehensive set of policy recommendations that mainstream long-term SLM objectives into policies related to inter alia agriculture, rangeland management, biodiversity, soil and water conservation and land reform. | 1. Project Manager was actively involved in development of country targets for land degradation neutrality as part of UNCCD Obligations. PM serves on NRM Committee for DAFF and MAREP working group of DEA were SLM and land rehabilitation issues are discussed. 2. Discussion are underway to create a SLM platform for South Africa, considering existing structures and governance already in place. | PMU and certain Responsible Parties are involved/members of the following SLM and Land Degradation related Forums to promote SLM principles through these forums:  • UNCCD National Coordinating Body  • National Natural Resource Management Working Group for Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform  • Reference Group Member for DEA: Working for Land Rehabilitation Programme  • Steering Committee member for Tsitsa Project, DEA: NRM’s biggest land rehabilitation project in the country (Eastern Cape)  Main inputs foresee for year 4 and 5 of project implementation. These are ongoing activities and forums through which the state of land degradation could be better understand, and related SLM activities could be introduces, prioritized or shared to ensure we make bigger movement towards addressing the land degradation problem through partnerships and knowledge exchange. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |

# Implementation Progress



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 29.99% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 44.95% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 1,271,155 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 100,000 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 4,237,900 |
| Co-financing | 40,521,790 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | Apr 23, 2013 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Jul 1, 2015 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Apr 22, 2017 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Mar 3, 2017 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Oct 22, 2019 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Jan 22, 2022 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Apr 22, 2022 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | *(not set or not applicable)* |

|  |
| --- |
| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)** |
| 2018-12-05 |

# Critical Risk Management

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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**

|  |
| --- |
| **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.** |
| Inception workshop for SLM project completed and mid-term evaluation is planned for October/November 2019. |

|  |
| --- |
| **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.** |
| As above. |

|  |
| --- |
| **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 project is on track with its milestones and has not had any delays. The MTR will be conducted before the end of 2019 (Nov/Dec). |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **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 is on track and certain project Outcomes experience some delays of difficulties. Outcome 1 is all about the implementation and demonstration of SLM demonstration in the three project landscapes (Olifants, Eastern Cape and Karoo). Progress in all three landscapes are slow considering the target to get 117 000 ha under SLM practices. To ensure adoption of SLM Practices it implies land users/farmers need to adopt SLM Practices. This is a slow process and considering economic and drought challenges in most of the landscapes during the past 18 months, it remain a challenge. The building of strong partnerships, the use of Champion Farmers in peer to peer learning and the implementation of the Small Grants allocated for SLM implementation and out-scaling will all help with achieving the set targets for Outcome 1. The involvement of government related restoration activities into the project landscapes through the Working For and LandCare programs, remain a challenge. The landscapes I am most worried about is Olifants and Karoo, mainly because the land under SLM targets for these two catchments are unrealistically high. This will be addressed during the Mid-Term Review due end 2019.    Outcome 2 is progressing very well. The only difficulty is it is a bid uncoordinated. The completion of the Capacity and Skills assessment scorecards by end 2019 will help to have a better understanding of capacity building needs at different levels and for different stakeholder groups. The capacity building strategy will better guide training and capacity building during the last two years of project implementation. Involvement of government officials and participation of especially local and provincial government officials in capacity building activities, remain a challenge.  There is a delay with the design and implementation of the project website but with the appointment of the Project Assistant in June 2019, more time and resources will be available to attend to the website.    Outcome 3 is progressing. The main achievement is the completion of the new carbon methodology and the restoration work which started in the project landscape. One of the main challenges is the involvement of the two communal farms in the area, especially Sewefontein. They are very unstructured and uncoordinated and in many cases divided in two opposite camps with regard to involvement in the GEF 5 SLM Project. Living Lands together with Rhodes University, the RP, is working hard to gain their confidence and put governance structures in place to ensure the long term sustainability of our interventions. Another concern is getting 30 farmers to sign agreements towards a Group Project for carbon sequestration. Farmers are very negative towards the process, the long time frame and the uncertainty about the potential income generated. Another positive aspect which will help the project was the approval of carbon tax in June 2019.    Very limited progress was made with Outcome 4. Attention will be given to this towards the end of 2019 and the remaining two years of project implementation towards 2022.    In general, project expenditure is slow and behind schedule. During May/June 2019 individual workshops was held between the UNDP PMU and each responsible party to have a look at the progress to date and what deliverables are needed according to the Project Document. This was to focus activities towards what was really important and required as well as looking towards strategies for fast tracking delivery. All three Responsible Parties also believe in establishing and maintaining good working relationships with land users and stakeholders on the ground if you want to implement and outscale SLM. This takes time and without these ownership and acceptance by land users, implementation and long term maintenance of conservation measures and initiatives are doomed.    Working and involving key line function departments and local municipalities in the project landscapes remain a challenge. Without proper community and stakeholder involvement, project will not be able to reach its targets in a sustainable way. The main strategy towards accelerated delivery revolve around focusing more on activities directly related to what is required in the project document, better alignment with existing SLM Projects and Programmes, especially existing government projects (building on current initiatives and knowledge) and bigger Private Sector involvement. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Moderately Satisfactory | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The project is on track to delivery the AWP 2019, pending sound NEX advancement management from PMU for Q3 and Q4. Strong working relationships are now in place for stakeholders to play their roles, and all the procedures and project rules, including the designated project roles and responsibilities are fortified and well understood.There is a very high likelihood that late mobilisation of the small grants facility will hold back the delivery gains of this project by the time of project closure. Hereto, the PMU is responding to this risk by making every effort now to fast-track the planning and setting-up of this critical, high volume work stream (draft proposal for the facility is currently in circulation for stakeholder inputs). I concur with Project Manager's DO Rating of Moderately Satsifactory, because the project is on track to achieve its end-of-project objectives and targets by year-end with perhaps only minor shortcomings. | |
| **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** | *(not set or not applicable)* | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | This is the 2nd PIR for this project and progress towards DO and IP progress are both rated as MS because at this point in implementation, the project is judged to be on track towards achieving its objective, with minor shortcomings. During this reporting period, the project has gained momentum and further expanded on the investments made in the initial year of implementation, namely baseline assessments. Important data has been generated through these assessments, and this information will shape the design of project interventions to address land degradation and promote restoration in the three project sites. The project has continued to invest time and effort in mobilizing and building stakeholder capacity to participate in the design of project interventions, and although this is a challenging process, where often divergent views hamper progress and agreement towards implementing certain actions, it is recognised as an important part of the process of building coalitions for sustainable land management.    Landscape level activities are progressing well, with each of the landscape-level partners conducting key activities that mobilise farmers and land users to identify areas of intervention on combating land degradation that are most relevant to the local context, identifying capacity gaps for participation, decision-making, design, adoption and implementation of landscape-level interventions that can effectively enhance ecosystems, and reduce drought and climate change induced risks and vulnerability at community level. The project is supporting the training and capacity building of farmers and other land users to address land degradation by implementing soil and water conservation activities and landscape restoration. Training has focused on practical skills for farmers and land users, such as soil conservation works, agro-grassing and Integrated Farm Planning and Management, conservation climate smart agriculture. Farmers, government extension and soil conservation officials and private agricultural training companies as well as a representative from a Government Agricultural College were involved in designing some of the training programs. The project continues to engage governance structures at all levels: landscape, local and municipal authority as well as national level, to raise awareness about mainstreaming SLM into development planning.    The project has generated significant knowledge and several useful tools for implementing SLM and restoration interventions in key landscapes. In the Karoo site, two best practice manuals on rangeland management and rehabilitation in the Karoo have been completed and peer reviewed and translated into the main local language (Afrikaans). Joint PSC, PMU and UNDP field visits to the Karoo have been conducted, involving commercial (Champion farmers) and communal farmers. MOUs are being signed with champion farmers to recognise their efforts and motivate them to continue to raise awareness and demonstrate the benefits of investing in SLM. In other sites Champions in land rehabilitation and conservation agriculture Home Garden Champions are also being identified and recognised.    The project is also facilitating the use of technology to conduct landscape monitoring, notably drone monitoring on 8 SLM Project sites in the landscape as well as fixed point photography and has developed a protocol/methodology for fine scale monitoring of vegetation cover and condition, vegetation structure (height) using drone-borne multi-spectral cameras. Work is progressing to identify critical landscapes and appropriate measures for landscape rehabilitation.  In all sites, appropriate SLM interventions are being identified for implementation and field demonstrations have been initiated. SLM interventions at demonstration sites include: agroforestry, fodder production, contours building and spatial planning. Draft Land rehabilitation guidelines have been developed and nearing completion. Training is being conducted for home garden champions and youth groups on introductory conservation agriculture techniques and First Aid Training.    Work in the Easter Cape on thicket restoration is particularly important for facilitating key actions on increased beneficiation from landscape restoration, specifically on access to carbon markets. This work is designed to facilitate rehabilitation of 9,081 hectares of degraded spekboomveld. As reported in the previous period, baseline carbon stocks assessments have been completed and government is being engaged on the new methodology, for approval and uptake.    Recent developments with the approval of carbon tax in June 2019 will give this work impetus, although organizing 30 land users to sign an agreement towards restoring thicket landscapes under specific strict guidelines is challenging and slow. The proposal for carbon offsetting project is 20% complete.    Despite the challenges faced with the work on carbon offsetting and carbon benefits, progress is underway to effect key landscape level interventions that will build local level capacity and momentum for investing in SLM and to also build capacities for income generation by land users from the adoption of land use practices that have the potential to generate ecosystem services such as water for crop production, flood retention, wildlife conservation and soil carbon benefits.    The project is preparing for an MTR, and although cumulative delivery is at 30%, implementation progress is moderately satisfactory because the bulk of the activities that are currently under implementation are not resource intensive (in financial terms) but once completed, will have laid the foundation for landscape level SLM and restoration activities. For instance, once appropriate landscape interventions have been identified and agreed with communities, farmers and land users, small grants will then be disbursed to key land user groups or CBOs to implement these interventions. Overall, progress is Moderately Satisfactory. | |

# 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.

|  |
| --- |
| **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)* |

|  |
| --- |
| **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: Yes |
| Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes |
| Not applicable: No |

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

|  |
| --- |
| **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 set or not applicable)* |

|  |
| --- |
| **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.** |
| As part of the Country Office’s UNDP bid for the Gender Equality Seal 2019, the gender programme manager and programme officer have been supporting the SLM project with mainstreaming gender throughout the project. This has included hosting two gender sensitization training sessions for responsible parties, and a site visit to the Eastern Cape and the Karoo to assess how a gender responsive approach has been adopted. The gender team, in collaboration with the project management team and the responsible parties, have developed a gender action plan and gender analysis across the three project sites. Given the complexities of the social dynamics in the three sites (poverty, substance abuse, gender based violence, low levels of economic activity etc), there is a greater awareness now amongst responsible parties that gender, as well as other socio-economic factors and power dynamics, must be considered in the implementation of the project to ensure that sustainable land management measures are sustained beyond the project life cycle. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.** |
| As a consequence of gender sensitization training, there is a greater awareness now amongst responsible parties that gender, as well as other socio-economic factors and power dynamics, must be considered in the implementation of the project to ensure that sustainable land management measures are sustained beyond the project life cycle. |

# 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.

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

|  |
| --- |
| **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)* |

|  |
| --- |
| **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 |

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

|  |
| --- |
| **SESP:** [SLM Annexure 9\_Signed SES Template.pdf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5054/213766/1679060/1679369/SLM%20Annexure%209_Signed%20SES%20Template.pdf)  **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)* |

|  |
| --- |
| **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 |

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

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

|  |
| --- |
| **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 applicable |

# Communicating Impact

|  |
| --- |
| **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.)** |
| The “Securing multiple ecosystems benefit through SLM in the productive but degraded landscapes of South Africa” work towards changing the trajectory of getting more land users to adopt SLM Practices and by doing that, address land degradation problems, reduce vulnerability, especially towards climate change and increase resilience of especially rural agricultural communities.  The project approach is to first gain a proper understanding of the underlying socio-ecological and environmental environment rural communities are living in and how it relates to land degradation and the adoption or lack of willingness to adopt to more sustainable practices. This understanding is then used to address very specific needs and requirements of communities and land users within the landscapes to co-design with them appropriate and sustainable solutions.  Ultimately, the project aim with these solutions to demonstrate ways and means to reduce the costs of ecological restoration in South Africa and increase the productivity of the land. In many cases, this requires an innovative approach to SLM, challenging the status quo. One example used in all the project landscapes is the concept of Champion SLM farmers and the way we use them in peer-to-peer learning, demonstration and mentoring. This concept was recently adopted by the National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development to address problems of rangeland degradation in all the major biomes of the country.  To improve people’s lives, those who manage the land need to do something different, move away from unsustainable land management towards more sustainable, climate smart practices. This is only possible when a willingness towards a more sustainable solution exist, land users have the awareness, capacity, resources and alternatives available to take informed decisions, make a difference and move towards a more sustainable path through implementation. This is not possible without investing heavily on human capital through capacity building, training and encouragement. The project will further build capacity for the integration of SLM into development planning. This will include developing tools for the analysis of vulnerability and the development of innovative SLM interventions. |

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

|  |
| --- |
| **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.** |
| 1. http://www.za.undp.org/content/south\_africa/en/home/presscenter/articles/2017/03/24/inception-workshop-for-securing-multiple-ecosystem-benefits-through-sustainable-land-management-slm-project.html  2. http://www.za.undp.org/content/south\_africa/en/home/operations/projects/environment\_and\_energy/securing-multiple-ecosystems-benefit-through-sustainable-land-ma.html  3. https://www.ru.ac.za/environmentalscience/research/  4. http://www.eims.co.za/2017/11/09/getting-to-the-root-of-sustainable-land-management-in-the-nama-karoo/  5. http://www.greenagri.org.za/blog/upcoming-project-sustainable-land-management-in-the-nama-karoo/  6. http://blog.worldagroforestry.org/index.php/2017/09/17/integrated-approaches-multifunctional-landscapes-connecting-ldn-biodiversity-climate-change/ |

# 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?** |
| Yes |

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with UN Volunteers?** |
| Yes |

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

|  |
| --- |
| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [PIMS 5054 South Africa Revised CEO End Request 8 June 2015.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5054/213766/1679047/1679356/PIMS%205054%20South%20Africa%20Revised%20CEO%20End%20Request%208%20June%202015.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.** |
| Department of Environmental Affairs which is now under the new administration called Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF). DEFF is the lead agency for the SLM project under the Chief Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation. The problem with the Biodiversity and Conservation Chief Directorate is limited capacity and time to attend to project matters. This result in the Implementing partner not attending all project or landscape site visits, its difficult to arrange functional meetings with them due to limited time and capacity. This has an impact on the strategic involvement of the Implementing partner in project related activities and delay in approvals or when comments or feedback is needed. There are other DEFF Branches and Chief Directorates who also have a direct and indirect link to SLM related project activities. Our involvement is mainly with DEFF: NRM Programmes who implement environmental restoration projects. This relationship is good with regular communication, sharing of information, involvement and feedback. The main constraint is the limited capacity and time of UNCCD Focal point to get more involved in the project and also to allow the project to become more involve in UNCCD related work. No or very little co-funding was directly allocated through DEA to the SLM Project landscapes.    Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, which is now called Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform (DARDLR): Although the project is mainly implemented on agricultural land, the DARDLR is involved in project activities, but mainly in a technical advisory capacity. But they also have limited capacity and the DARDLR also have very limited budget to help with field work, attend workshops, training etc. The project is supposed to have a very good and direct link to the LandCare Programme, but we struggle to formally work at landscape level together on projects and the main reason for that is government is paying communities for doing restoration work and the GEF project don’t pay for labor, it is expected as an in-kind contribution. The PMU is also attending from time to time Natural Resource Management related meetings at DARDLR.    Provincial agricultural departments: The project has a strong relationship and is working hard to maintain good relationships with provincial departments of agriculture in the four provinces the project is working in, Limpopo, East, West and Northern Cape. The key stakeholders at provincial level is the extension service, soil conservation service, LandCare section and in some provinces also the research component. Some of the main challenges to maintain good working relationships with provincial departments of agriculture is the high turn-over rate of staff, a problem with willingness to get involved in project activities, in some cases a lack of capacity and experience, but willingness a bigger problem. In many cases, the sharing of information and knowing who is doing what can also improve. In many cases, there is commitment at functional level, but no commitment at management level in provincial Departments of Agriculture.    Provincial Conservation Departments: The project has only a working relationship with Northern Cape Conservation Department and they are closely involved in the Karoo Landscape through EWT. The relationship is good and healthy with mutual exchange of knowledge and information.    District and local municipalities: Considering the Project Document, district, but more so local municipalities are supposed to be our key stakeholders for the SLM project, but these are the stakeholders we struggle with the most. They don’t respond to communication, high turn-over in staff and no commitment towards the environment. Most municipalities in South Africa are very poorly manage and that results in attending to basic service delivery issues rather than environmental issues. The responsible parties has changed tactics and try to visit municipal offices, identify an official and work with him/her as champion.    Endangered Wildlife Trust, Rhodes University and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research are all implementing partners to the SLM project. They are all very committed and during the past year, they start working together more closely as a team, supporting each other and sharing information and knowledge among each other. The introduction of annual Project managers Meeting did help in this regard. An issue the PMU is aware off and keep a close eye on is the number of resources, especially human resources the Responsible Parties have on the ground for project implementation. EWT, for involvement of their limited staff in other projects and CSIR, due to resignations, are of concern in this regard.    Local NGO’s, CBO’s and local user groups: In this regard Rhodes University in the Eastern Cape landscape, followed by EWT in the Karoo is taking the lead. Rhodes University is really setting the pace involving local community groups in project related activities and setting up forums related to SLM. Involvement of local NGO’s, CBO’s and local user groups will strengthen with the roll out and implementation of the Small Grants Component of the SLM Project during year 3 4 and 5 of project implementation.    Agricultural Research Council: They are a key stakeholder in the Olifants landscape and sub-contracted by CSIR. ARC in general struggle with capacity, especially with a lot of experienced researchers resigning or retiring. The cost structure for ARC like CSIR, are very expensive making it even more difficult to use and involve them in project related activities compared to institutions like NGO’s (EWT) and Universities (Rhodes University).  Both Living Lands and to a lesser degree WWF-SA are involved in the delivery of Outcome 3 of the SLM Project. They are working closely with Rhodes University since the Baviaanskloof project landscape falls within the Eastern Cape. These stakeholders are only involved in Outcome 3 activities and might also be engaged in activities related to Outcome 4 towards the second half of the SLM Project.    The PMU is working more and more with Private Companies and Private SLM initiatives under the “SLM Partnerships for Change” project initiative. This involve private partnerships related to SLM within, but also outside the project landscapes. The main reason for fostering these partnerships is realizing the importance of involving the private sector to ensure long term sustainability of SLM interventions. |

# 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.