Project Document

Project Title: Restoring Landscapes in South Africa (ReLISA): Nature-based solutions for climate, biodiversity and people

Project objective
Enhanced provision of vital ecosystem services, and improved livelihoods of local communities and farmers by creating the enabling conditions to restore and conserve degraded savanna, grassland and thicket areas in strategic water catchment and other pre-identified priority areas.

Executive Summary

The UNEP-led ReLISA consortium was formed in response to a *2020 IKI Country Call for South Africa on Land Use and Climate Change Mitigation – Taking Action*. The overall aim of the ReLISA project is to make the economic case for landscape-level restoration and create the conditions for a just transition of South Africa's land-use sector, to adapt to climate change and address biodiversity loss while improving livelihoods of rural communities and farmers. This will be achieved through biophysical/economic assessments as inputs to planning restoration activities, leveraging private sector investment through pre-feasibility studies and project development, on-the-ground implementation at landscape level for thicket, grassland and savanna biomes, and dissemination and communication.

Making the economic case for ecosystem restoration aligns with Goal B of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: "Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored, supporting the achievement of sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050".

Proposed project outcomes include: (1) restoration incentives and policies aligned with political priorities, economic costs/benefits and desired distributional impact; (2) enhancement of the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system for South Africa's land-use sector; (3) increased donor and private sector funding for restoration activities; (4) increased resilience against climate change and improved livelihoods through securing hydrological services to downstream/urban populations; and (5) restoration models for thicket, grassland and savanna applied.

The project will contribute to UNEP's work on nature action. Specifically, it contributes to the economic and social analysis to develop sustainable pathways for halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem integrity (PoW Outcome 2A) and sustainable management of nature being adopted and implemented in development frameworks (PoW Outcome 2B). The project is part of the "Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity" programme coordination project (PCP) and it contributes specifically to the PCP Programme Outcome 1: Enhanced conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of natural and productive terrestrial, marine, coastal and freshwater ecosystems, as well as Programme Outcome 2: Mobilised finance and investment for conservation, restoration, and sustainable use, including for IPLCs.

The analytical grounding for the project is based on UNEP's comparative advantage on the economics of nature, valuation of ecosystem services and techniques for prioritization of ecosystem restoration interventions based on cost-benefit analysis, following earlier UNEP-led

work on natural capital accounting[1] that has been appreciated by the Government of South Africa (GoSA) and was instrumental in the successful pre-selection of the project by BMUV.

The sustainability of the project is ensured through its strong focus on developing a diverse array of viable restoration business models appropriate for the different tenure and land ownership circumstances in degraded landscapes of the three biomes and making restoration at scale investible for private sector impact investors. The models can be replicated and upscaled during and after the project lifetime, and this will be supported through targeted dissemination, as well as implementation that demonstrates the business case for restoration. Strengthening the capacities of key stakeholders and restoration champions (e.g., farmers implementing restoration on their land), complementing private finance through other funding options (e.g., a Green Climate Fund concept note) and establishing structures for innovative mechanisms such as water funds are further means to ensure the sustainability of ReLISA outputs and outcomes.

Cleared by: Tim Kasten Director, Policy and Programme Division Signature: Date: 23 / 02 /2024	**Approved by:** Susan Gardner Director, Ecosystems Division Signature: Date: 29 / 02 /2023
Date of Project Review Committee (PRC): 27/11/2023 Date of final PRC report issuance: 13/12/2023	

[1] https://www.unep.org/fr/node/29672

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AF	Adaptation Fund
ARC	Agricultural Research Council
BMUV	Das Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (German for "Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety, and Consumer Protection")
BTR	Biennial Transparency Review
C4ES	C4 EcoSolutions
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBAs	Critical Biodiversity Areas
COGTA	Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPA	Critical Protected Areas
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DALRRD	Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
DHWAS	Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
DPME	Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation
EKZNW	Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife
ELSAA	Essential Life Support Action Areas
ESSF	Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework
EWT	Endangered Wildlife Trust
FPIC	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German for “German Agency for International Cooperation”)
GoSA	Government of South Africa
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IKI	International Climate Initiative
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
ISRIC	International Soil Reference and Information Centre
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (German for "Reconstruction Credit Institute")
LADA	Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands project
LEDET	Limpopo Department of Economic Development

LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality
LULUCF	Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry
MTPA	Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency
MRV	Measurement, Reporting, and Verification
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NBA	National Biodiversity Assessment
NBI	National Biodiversity Initiative
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCA	Natural Capital Accounting
NCWSA	National Council of Women of South Africa
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NFEPA	National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPAES	National Protected Area Expansion Strategy
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
PAGE	The Partnership for Action on Green Economy
PPP	Project Preparation Phase
ReLISA	Restoring Landscapes in South Africa
RWM	Rural Women's Movement
SADC	The Southern African Development Community
SAEON	South African Environmental Observation Network
SAGHOS	South African Geological Hazards Observation System (SAGHOS
SANBI	South African National Biodiversity Institute
SAWID	South African Women in Dialogue
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SPARC	South African Geological Hazards and Resource Consultants
SWSA	Strategic Water Source Areas
TEEB	The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity
TEN	The Economics of Nature
ToC	Theory of Change
UN RC	UN Resident Coordinator
UNCT	UN Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

WHO	World Health Organization
WESSA	Wildlife & Environment Society of South Africa
WRSC	Waterberg Research Support Centre
WRC	Water Research Commission
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
ZUG	Zukunft – Umwelt – Gesellschaft (German for “Future – Environment – Society”)

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Project Summary

Table 1: Project Information

1. **Identification**	Insert IPMR no.:		Insert Umoja no.:			
2. Medium-Term Strategy	*Check all that apply: 2018-2021 ☐ 2022-2025 ☒*					
3. Project Number	*Insert Project Number (40 characters max.)* UNEP Project Identification Numb					
4. Project Title	Restoring Landscapes in South Africa (ReLISA): Nature-based solutions for climate, biodiversity and people					
5. Division or Regional Office managing project	Ecosystems Division					
6. Project Manager	*Salman Hussain*	*P4*	*Head a.i., The Economics of Nature (TEN) Unit*	*The Economics of Nature Unit, Ecosystems Division*	XB	40% for project duration
7. Other members of project team	*William Speller*	*P3*	*Programme Management Officer (TEN)*	*The Economics of Nature Unit, Ecosystems Division*	XB	60% for project duration
	Khushboo Ugandamal	*P2*	*Finance and Budget Officer (TEN)*	*The Economics of Nature Unit, Ecosystems Division*	XB	50% for project duration
	Edwina Matano	*G6*	*Admin Assistant (TEN)*	*The Economics of Nature Unit, Ecosystems Division*	XB	50% for project duration
	Meseret Zemedkun	*P5*	*Head, South African Country Office*	*Regional Office for Africa*	EF	5% for project duration
8. Supervisor of Project Manager	*Doreen Robinson*	*D1*	*Head of Biodiversity and Land Branch*	*Biodiversity and Land Branch, Ecosystems Division*	*EF*	5% for project duration
9. Person(s) who formulated the ProDoc	*Salman Hussain*	*P4*	*Head a.i., The Economics of Nature (TEN) Unit*	*The Economics of Nature Unit, Ecosystems Division*	*XB*	40% for project duration
10. Person(s) responsible for reporting in IPMR	*William Speller*	*P3*	*Programme Management Officer (TEN)*	*The Economics of Nature Unit, Ecosystems Division*	XB	60% for project duration

11. Fund Manager	*Rakhee Shah*	*P3*	*Fund Management Officer*	*Ecosystem s Division*	*EF*	5% for project duration
12. Type/Location	*Global (if no involvement of specific countries or regions) ☐ Regional ☐ National ☒*					
13. Region(s)	*Africa ☒ Asia and the Pacific ☐ Europe ☐ Latin America and the Caribbean ☐ North America ☐ West Asia ☐*					
14. Country(ies)	*South Africa*					
15. UNSDCF alignment	*Strategic priority of the Cooperation Framework 4: Climate resilience and sustainably managed natural resources;* *Outcome 4.1:* By 2025, South Africa is on a just transition to a low-carbon society and vulnerable and marginalised communities adapt and are more resilient to adverse effects of climate change *Outcome 4.2* By 2025, natural resources are managed and utilised sustainably for improved livelihoods, health and well-being of vulnerable communities.					
16. Programme(s) of Work	2022/23					
17. Subprogramme(s)	*Climate Action ☐ Nature Action ☒ Chemicals and Pollution Action ☐ Science-Policy ☐ Environmental Governance ☐ Finance and Economic Transformations ☒ Digital Transformations ☐*					
18. PoW Outcome(s)	*☒ Outcome 2A: An economically and socially sustainable pathway for halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem integrity is established.* *☒ Outcome 2B: Sustainable management of nature adopted and implemented in development frameworks.*					
19. Outcome indicator(s)	**N. (ii)** Number of financial, public- and private sector entities whose financial decisions and risk management frameworks take biodiversity and ecosystem services into consideration, and the increase in financial flows towards ecosystem management as a result of UNEP support. **N**.**(iii)** Number of countries and national, regional, and subnational authorities and entities that incorporate, with UNEP support biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches into development and sectoral plans, policies and processes for the sustainable management and/or restoration of terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas. **F&E (ii)** Number of business alliances, principles, practices, standards or frameworks established or adopted with UNEP support to enhance environmental sustainability.					
20. PoW Direct Outcome(s)	**2.2** Public and private-sector financial flows contribute to improved ecosystem management. **2.6** Full costs and benefits of human activity are accounted for and internalized in decision- making. **2.7** Natural assets are valued monitored and sustainably managed.					
21. Programme Coordination Project	**Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity**					
22. Most relevant SDG target(s)	SDG 15 (15.1, 15.3, 15.8, 15.9, 15.a), SDG 6 (6.6), SDG 13 (13.1)					
23. Other Divisions/Regional Offices involved	ROA, South Africa Country Office					
24. Project Executing Partner(s)	*Council for Scientific and Industrial Research* *Endangered Wildlife Trust* *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)* *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)*			*21-11.2019* *14-10-2021*		

25. XB Sponsors (cash and in-kind)	*Check all that apply: Government ☒ Strategic Corporate Partners (EU, GEF) ☐ Private sector ☐ NGO ☐ Other UN entities ☐*
26. Project alignment with UNEP's COVID-19 strategic response	Project is aimed at a transformational change for nature and people in South Africa (Block 2) specifically through the restoration of degraded ecosystems (Block 2A). COVID-19_Building Blocks_20200415-F.c
27. Publications and communication products	*Will the project produce publications and/or communication products? Yes ☒ No ☐* *If yes, please indicate the typology:* *☐ Flagship and Spotlight/Series* *X Technical Reports* *☐ Technical Guideline or manual* *☐ Guideline, handbook, manual, toolkits* *X Educational materials* *☐ Project Report and host country agreements etc* *X Working Paper and Policy Briefs* *☐ Serial publications such as yearbooks, annual and biennial reports* *Has the concept been submitted to the Publications dashboard? Yes ☐ No X* UNEP Publications Workflows and App

Table 2: Project Duration

Total duration in months (number): 60	**Expected start date: (01/02/2024)**	**Expected end date: (31/01/2029)**
Expected Mid-Term Review or Evaluation date (if project is of 4 years or more duration): (06/2026)	**Expected Terminal Evaluation date: (01/2029)**	

Table 3: Budget Summary

Type of funding	Source of funding	Details	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
Cash	Environment Fund (EF) activity budget		-	-	-	-			-
	Regular Budget (RB) activity budget		-	-	-	-			-
	TOTAL EF/RB BUDGET		-	-	-	-			-
	Extra Budgetary Funding (XB) (posts + non-post + Programme Support Cost (PSC))	IKI	2,924,407	2,864,365	2,792,359	2,491,315	2,203,349	213,776	13,489,571
		PSC IKI (13 %)	380,173	372,367	363,007	323,871	286,435	27,791	1,753,644

	TOTAL XB BUDGET		3,304,580	3,236,732	3,155,365	2,815,186	2,489,785	241,567	15,243,215
In Kind	Environment Fund post costs								-
	Regular Budget post costs								
	Other (include name of donor)								
	TOTAL IN-KIND BUDGET		-	-	-	-	-		-
TOTAL SECURED BUDGET			3,304,580	3,236,732	3,155,365	2,815,186	2,489,785	241,567	15,243,215
TOTAL PLANNED BUDGET (secured + unsecured)			3,304,580	3,236,732	3,155,365	2,815,186	2,489,785	241,567	15,243,215
1% UN Levy									152,432
TOTAL BUDGET			3,304,580	3,236,732	3,155,365	2,815,186	2,489,785	241,567	**15,395,647**
Allocation to Regional Offices			-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 4: Division and Regional Office budget

Regional budget	Office/ Division	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
	Africa	0	0	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
	Europe	0	0	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
	Asia and the Pacific	0	0	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
	West Asia	0	0	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
	Latin America and the Caribbean	0	0	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
	North America						
Divisional budget	Early Warning Assessment	0	0	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
	Industry and Economy	0	0	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
	Ecosystems	3,304,580	3,236,732	3,155,365	2,815,186	241567	15,395,647
	Law	0	0	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
	Communications	0	0	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Table 5: Budget for monitoring, reporting and evaluation

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
Performance Assessment	Mid-term evaluation or review		Conducted and paid by IKI			
	Terminal evaluation or review				Conducted and paid by IKI	
Monitoring and reporting						

Table 6: Typology of project interventions:

Type	Sub-type	Direct	Enabling	Influencing
A. Intergovernmental process	Conference and secretariat services			X
	MEAs			X

Type	Sub-type	Direct	Enabling	Influencing
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge	Scientific networks and publications /Strategic and Science-based policy analysis	X		
	Coalitions and platforms		X	
	Seminars, workshops, webinars and training events	X		
	Technical materials (guidelines, tools, methodologies, standards)	X		
	Databases and substantive digital materials			X
C. Technical support, capacity building and advisory services	Policy and regulatory development to mainstream environmental sustainability in decision-making	X		
	Demonstration and pilot testing innovative solutions and technologies (includes support to Parties of MEAs)	X		
	Scaling up activities with partners such as international organizations, UNCTs, think tanks.		X	
D. Advocacy and Outreach	Outreach programmes and special events	X		
	Information materials (press briefs, paper, audio-visual, web, social media)	X		

1. Project Justification

1.1 Problem and Situation Analysis

Land degradation has been highlighted as one of the major causes of the loss of ecosystem services and has been defined by the IPCC as a negative trend in land conditions caused by both direct and indirect human-induced processes. This results in long term reductions or losses of biological productivity, ecological integrity and/or value to humans. Large areas in key biomes are currently degraded in South Africa due to overuse and increasingly due to climate change. Climate variability and weather extremes such as prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall and increased temperature variability are already having profoundly negative effects on South Africa's water and vegetation quality and availability, often leading to the intensification of soil erosion, desertification, and land degradation, amplifying the challenges that ecosystems are faced with. Large-scale efforts to restore degraded lands are therefore needed to restore the services that ecosystems provide, by adapting to climate change (especially with regards to water resources), addressing biodiversity loss, and tackling high per capita GHG emissions whilst enhancing the resilience and livelihoods of poorer rural communities.

Overstocking with livestock over the past 150 years has been a key driver of land degradation. Historical and ongoing land use practices, including unsustainable livestock and game farming as well as the clearing of vegetation, have stripped the land of its natural cover, and disrupted previously well-functioning ecosystems in South Africa. Irresponsible mining techniques have led to the degradation of vast land areas, soil fertility loss and contamination from mine waste, contributing to environmental damage. Poor agricultural practices on the other hand, such as inappropriate irrigation methods, excessive tilling and an overreliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides have also contributed significantly to soil degradation and erosion. Historical land policies in the Apartheid era resulted in segregated land tenure systems for different racial groups which led to extreme population pressure on certain areas, causing overgrazing, soil erosion and unsustainable practices. The rapid industrialization of agricultural and manufacturing processes including the use of heavy machinery, chemical inputs and poor irrigation methods resulted in the prioritization of short-term economic gains over environmental preservation. The cumulative effect has been to greatly reduce carbon stocks, livestock and wildlife carrying capacity, biodiversity, infiltration of rainwater into aquifers, and the baseflow of rivers.

This large-scale degradation is furthered by bush encroachment and massive alien invasive plant spreading in the focus biomes (i.e., savanna, grassland, and thicket). Invasive plant species disrupt ecosystems, outcompeting native vegetation and altering soil composition, thus further exacerbating land degradation across the country. A growing population and rising poverty levels have also resulted in mounting pressures

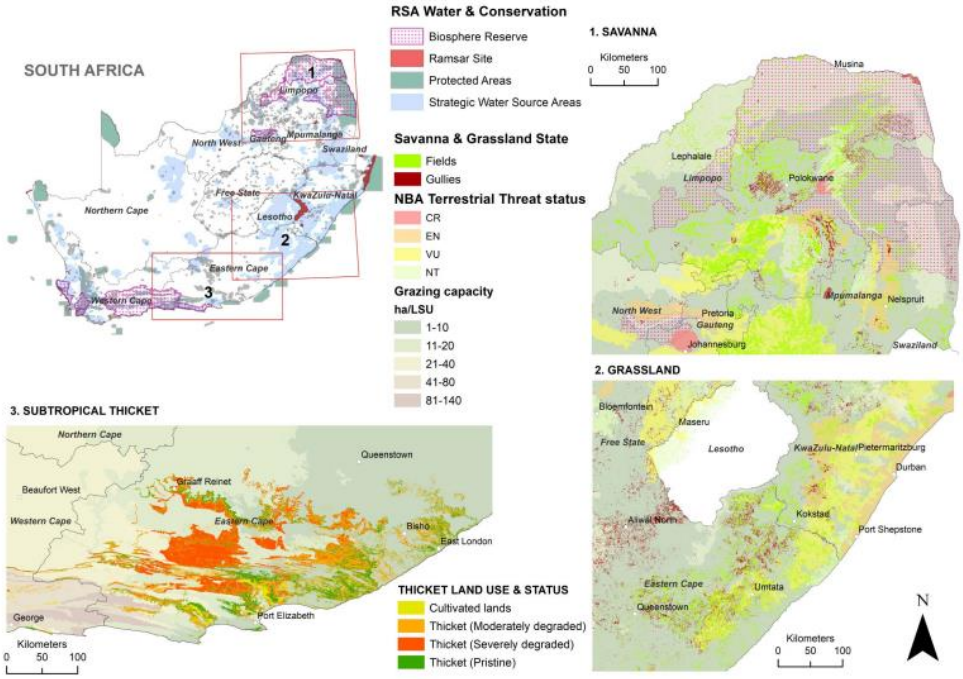
on natural resources and landscapes, as rapid urbanization, infrastructure development and vegetation clearance for agriculture and fuelwood further leads to land degradation and soil erosion by diminishing vegetation cover thus rendering the soil susceptible to erosion, leading to loss of topsoil and a decline in soil fertility. Furthermore, limited law enforcement has reduced stewardship and willingness among those who live on and/or utilize the lands to maintain it sustainably. Urbanization, poverty and corruption however are examples of land degradation causes that will not be tackled by ReLISA per se.

The impacts of decades of overuse are significant and affect millions of hectares (Map 1). Consequently, large parts of the rural and downstream populations suffer from increased vulnerability to climate change impacts, in particular droughts. Climate variability and weather extremes are already having profoundly negative effects on South Africa's water quality and availability, with significant impacts on the economy, jobs, and livelihoods. In the past five years, intense dry periods have threatened national food security, led to extreme water shortages, and reduced agricultural yields and farmer incomes. Land degradation over millions of hectares of grassland, savannah, and thicket, as well as on cultivated lands, further intensify these impacts.

Rural communities and land users in agro-ecological systems have a particularly high dependency on well-functioning ecosystems, and currently their resilience to climate change impacts is very low. The need for restoration to address both environment and livelihood/equity matters, especially in rural areas of the country, was thrown into sharp relief by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to more than 3 million job losses and almost half of all South African households having insufficient food. Restoration is part of 'Building Back Better'.

The gender analysis conducted during the PPP (see Annex 8) revealed various barriers to women's participation in restoration in South Africa, including: 1) limited access to land and resources; 2) lower access to finance; 3) lack of representation and participation; 4) cultural norms and values; 5) gender-based violence, harassment, safety and security; 6) limited networking and mentorship opportunities; 7) lack of recognition of women's contributions; 8) socioeconomic Inequalities and vulnerabilities; and 9) disproportionate impact of climate change and biodiversity on women. These barriers impact upon the project primarily because the leveraging of investment in restoration requires engagement and negotiation with landowners – both private individuals and communities. To the extent that those individuals are principally men and communities are governed by male-dominated power structures, restoration might not meet women's differentiated concerns. In addition, to the extent that women are underrepresented, due to cultural norms and/or socioeconomic vulnerabilities, in decision-making fora, there is a risk that restoration activities search to entrench unequal power structures and limited women's voice in decision-making. Finally, failure to address land degradation, climate change and biodiversity loss perpetuates the disproportionate impact upon women.

Map 1: Extent of degradation across savannah, grassland and thicket biomes, South Africa



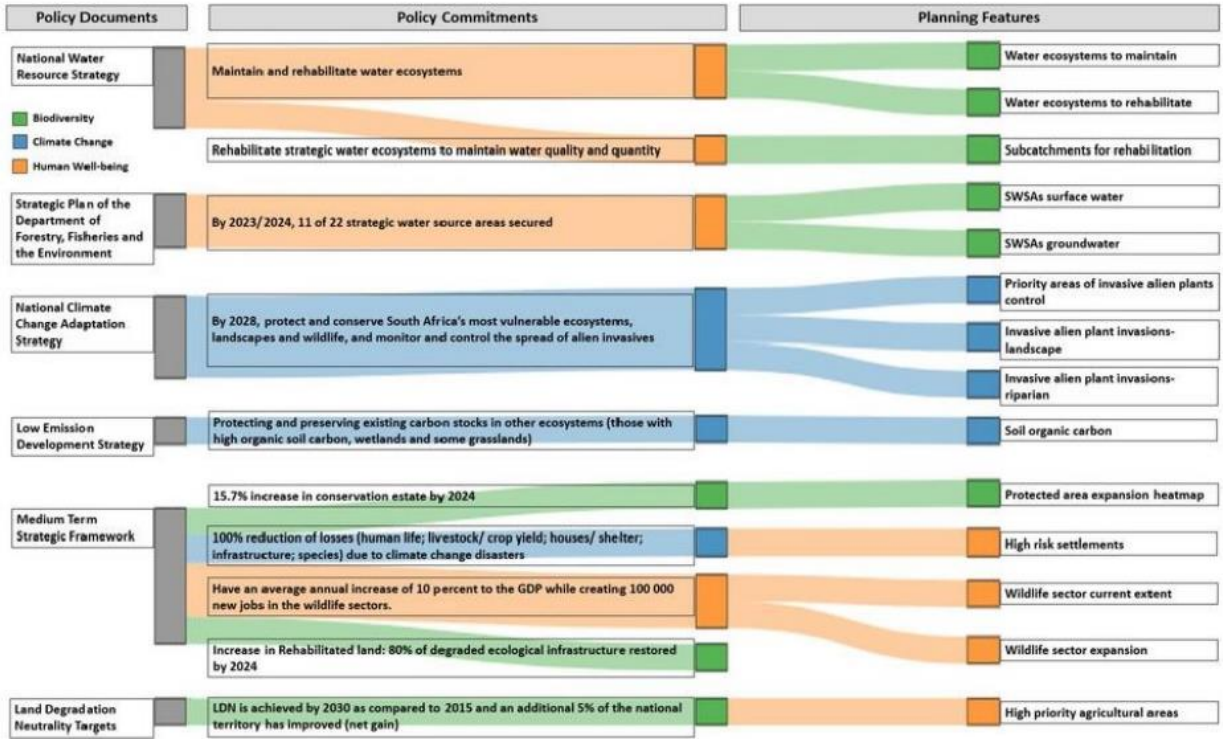
Source: 'Summary review of previous and ongoing work in South Africa to prioritise geographic areas for ecosystem restoration' prepared by G. Pence for TEN Unit, UNEP.

The Government of South Africa is committed to addressing land degradation and pursuing ecosystem restoration. As part of South Africa's recent 'Essential Life Support Action Areas' (ELSAA) mapping project, a policy analysis was undertaken to identify where national government has made commitments to nature-based solutions (implicitly or explicitly). Seventeen national policies, plans, and strategies potentially fitting this definition, from a variety of sectors, were first reviewed and then prioritised in consultation with project stakeholders, including government. These 10 priority policy commitments are shown in **Figure 1** along with the policy documents they originate from, and the planning features used in the spatial analysis to represent them. This ELSAA project policy analysis clearly highlights the fact that ecosystem restoration is a priority for South Africa across a range of sectors and strategies.

The National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998) dedicates an entire section to the topic of "duty of care and remediation of environmental damage" (Section 28), wherein measures required to rectify pollution or degradation of the environment may include measures to "remedy the effects of the pollution or degradation".

In spite of such worthy commitments by the Government of South Africa, so far restoration interventions have only begun at the scale of thousands of hectares, and not at the scale of millions of hectares required to contribute to adapt effectively to climate change, address the pertinent water crisis, and address biodiversity loss, whilst enhancing the resilience and livelihoods of rural communities in a gender-responsive manner. Existing resources of project partners and donors are not sufficient to restore degraded landscapes at the scale needed for the transformational change of South Africa's land-use sector and achieve its NDC, LDN and NBSAP targets.

Figure 1. Relationship among policy documents, priority commitments, and spatial planning features selected for inclusion in the ELSAA analysis (graphic copied with permission from UNDP (2021).



Source: 'Summary review of previous and ongoing work in South Africa to prioritise geographic areas for ecosystem restoration' prepared by G. Pence for TEN Unit, UNEP.

Most restoration initiatives are limited in scope, uncoordinated and have been initiated by government agencies or NGOs, with only limited involvement of the private sector. Reasons include:

- A lack of awareness of commercial impacts and dependencies on ecosystems, and a lack of understanding of the cause-effect relationship of land use practices and the impact thereof on ecosystem services and production;
- Opportunities for bankable restoration activities being 'off the radar' (such as value chain development for sustainably produced goat meat and venison, eco-tourism, non-timber forest products (NTFP) and other commodities, and projects for voluntary carbon market projects, which could fund the upscaling of thicket or grassland restoration); and
- Coordination failures leading to 'locked-into' pathways - moving away from what the main actors (government, civil society, communities, private sector) need to do to coordinate effectively towards large-scale restoration, including the appropriate presentation of applicable and suitable sustainable land management (SLM) options and deliverables to communities and land users.

Technical, financial and policy bottlenecks need to be addressed comprehensively to allow for the transformative change of South Africa's land use sector that the Government of South Africa (GoSA) aspires to, leveraging different financial mechanisms and laying the ground for the ecological restoration at landscape level of the biomes in scope for the current project (grasslands, thicket, and savannas), while recognizing socio-cultural context and land tenure systems.

Silo solutions hinder effective collaboration and limit opportunities for synergies and sustainable, scalable solutions. Furthermore, the lack of sustainable financing of conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources limits tangible positive change on the ground. As such, enhanced governance arrangements and effective mobilization of funds for on-the-ground implementation of restoration solutions is considered key to effectively addressing degradation and the loss of biodiversity and vital ecosystem services.

Given the geographically widespread nature of land degradation in South Africa, several attempts have been made to prioritize areas for restoration by the GoSA and other agencies. As part of the ReLISA PPP, UNEP has undertaken a systematic review of ongoing work to map ecosystem loss and modification, or condition, at a national scale, relative to a natural state, and in consideration of ecosystem composition, structure and function, as well as socio-economic factors that may influence the viability and desirability of restoration on particular sites. Key initiatives reviewed are summarised in Table 7.

In addition, as part of the Project Preparation Phase (PPP) of ReLISA a preliminary criteria-based assessment was undertaken to determine priority sites for implementation during the main project phase. The following criteria were considered:

- Implementation Readiness
    - Alignment with National Restoration Priorities and Existing Projects
    - Presence of existing & relevant government programme project
    - Presence of existing conservation sector (protection or restoration) initiatives
- Ecological Value or Benefit ("nature return")
    - Biodiversity importance
    - Ecological infrastructure importance (especially for water security)
- Social Value or Benefit ("social return")
    - Subsistence Use Resource and Poverty Index
- Economic Value or Benefit ("financial return")
    - Financial return-on-investment or Net economic benefit of restoration
- Potential for leverage and upscaling: Security of Investment or Sustainability Outlook
    - Outlook for scaling and sustaining (holistic) gains beyond current protected areas
    - Potential for private sector investment or other funding pathways
- Implementation Risk(s)
    - Balance of lightly (to moderately) degraded versus severely degraded land or Catchment-scale restoration potential
    - Presence of land with uncertain tenure

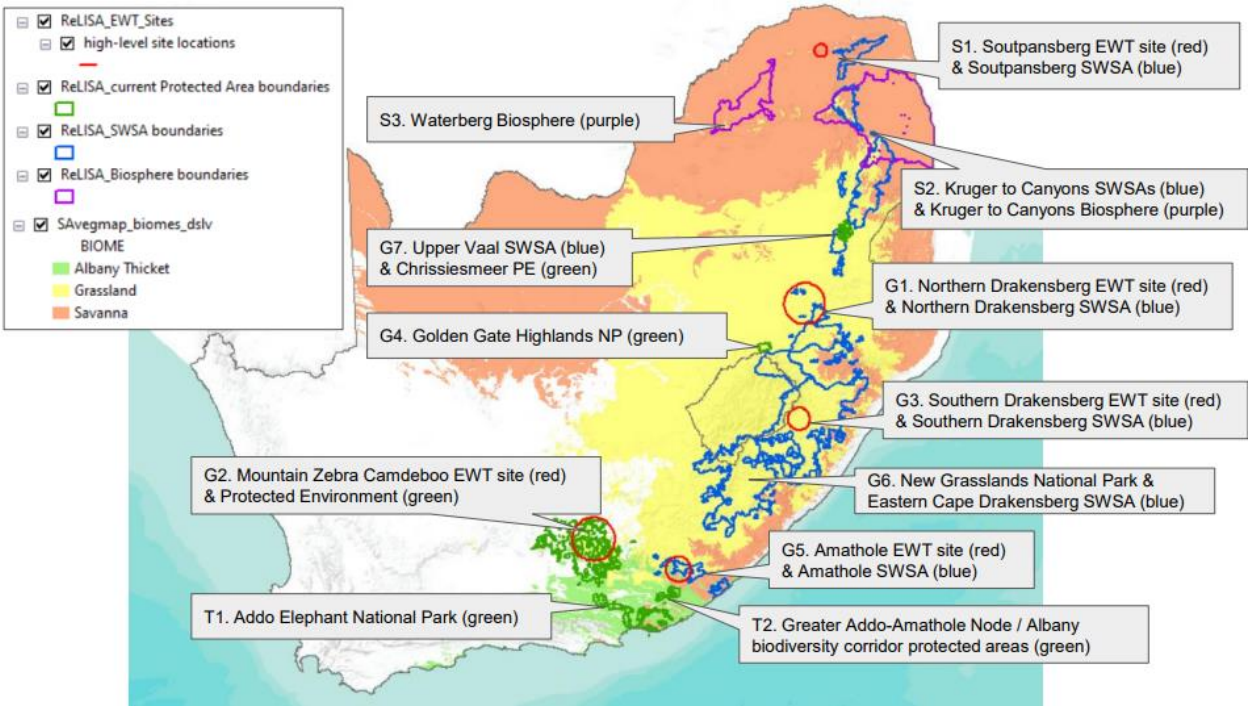
The results of this systematic review and criteria-based assessment of sites have been shared and discussed with stakeholders at the national workshop (15-16 May 2023) to inform site selection. UNEP and ReLISA consortium partners have undertaken extensive stakeholder consultation during the PPP in general and the country mission in particular, including consultations with local actors – communities, landowners, protected area managers, local authorities etc. – at the proposed sites (see Stakeholder Engagement section for full details).

Table 7: Key initiatives and priorities

Overall priorities most relevant to ecosystem restoration	Intervention-specific priorities	Sector-specific and ecosystem service-specific priorities	Other potentially useful data for site prioritisation
● ELSAA: Essential Life Support Action Areas project ● EbA: Ecosystem-based Adaptation Action Plan and Priority Mapping project ● LADA: Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands project ● SWSA: Strategic Water Source Areas (various projects) ● DFFE's Natural Resource Management (NRM) integrated prioritisation approach ● GCF Eco-DRR: Green Climate Fund Eco-Disaster Risk Reduction project	• Working for Water • Working for Wetlands • Working on Fire • Working for Ecosystems • Working for Land • Working for the Coast • Working for Forest	Water (Priorities for water security and/or freshwater biodiversity) • Strategic Water Source Area (SWSA) delineation, downscaling, and prioritising for action • National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (NFEPA) • National Biodiversity Assessment (NBA, 2018): River & Wetland data • Essential Life Support Action Areas (ELSAA) project, layers representing national commitments to protecting freshwater ecosystems and water sources • Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) project, water ecological infrastructure layers Carbon • Venter et al. 2021 • DFFE (various especially ISRIC) Agriculture • High potential agricultural areas (DALRRD) • Grazing priority areas (in prep by DALRRD) • Rangelands (EbA project layer) Forestry • Exit areas (state land) Biodiversity and Biodiversity Economy • NPAES: National Protected Area Expansion Strategy • CBAs: Critical Biodiversity Areas • KBAs: Key Biodiversity Areas • National Biodiversity Assessment (NBA, 2018): • SPARC: Species protection priorities in the face of climate change • SANBI: Crop wild relative priorities for in situ conservation • ELSAA project biodiversity heatmap • EbA project biodiversity resilience layer • EbA project nature-based tourism layer • ELSAA project wildlife economy expansion models • DFFE: Biodiversity Economy Nodes Climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation • SPARC: Velocity of climate change and protected area expansion given climate scenarios • GreenBook • South African Geological Hazards Observation System (SAGHOS) Atlas	● Natural Capital Accounts for Protected Areas and SWSAs ● Census: Population and demographic data ● Land tenure: Traditional council (communal) lands ● National Climate Change Response Database

The result of this consultation is a longlist of proposed project sites which has been endorsed at the Pretoria ReLISA national workshop (15-16 May 2023) by the political partners in the GoSA for implementation during the main project phase, as indicated in Map 2. Table 8 below provides an overview of qualitative results covering alignment with national restoration priorities, implementation readiness, ecological value and social value for the long-listed sites.

Map 2: Long-listed sites for restoration interventions during Main Project Phase, as endorsed by GoSA.



Source: 'Summary review of previous and ongoing work in South Africa to prioritise geographic areas for ecosystem restoration' prepared by G. Pence for TEN Unit, UNEP.

Table 8: Qualitative results of the preliminary assessment of ReLISA long-list focal areas.

	Focal Area / Long-list Site	Alignment with National Restoration Priorities			Implementation Readiness		Ecological Value	Social Value	
		EbA Project	ELSAA Project	SWSA Assessment	Presence of conservation sector	Presence of NRM	ELSAA biodiversity & Ecological Infrastructure heatmap	Subsistence Use Resource & Poverty Index	Population density
S1	Soutpansberg	Top 14 (eastern half)	High	Soutpansberg	Yes, EWT	Yes, medium	High	High	High
S2	Kruger to Canyons	Top 14	High	Wolkberg (Top 11)	Yes, TNC	Yes, medium	High	High	High
S3	Waterberg	Not a top priority	High	Waterberg (Top 11)	Yes, SANP	Yes, medium	Medium-High	Medium	Medium
G1	Northern Drakensberg	Top 54	Medium-High	N. Drakensberg (Top 11)	Yes, WildTrust	No	Medium	High	Low
G2	Mountain Zebra - Camdeboo	Top 54 (western half)	High	None	Yes, SANP & EWT	Yes, medium-low	Medium	Medium-Low	Low
G3	Southern Drakensberg	Top 14	High	S. Drakensberg (Top 11)	Yes, WWF	Yes, medium-high	High	High	Medium-High
G4	Golden Gate Highlands	Not a top priority	High	Maloti Drakensberg (Top 11)	Yes, SANP	Yes, medium	High	High	Medium
G5	Amathole	Top 54	High	Amathole (Top 11)	Yes, EWT	Yes, medium	High	Medium-High	Medium
G6	New Grasslands Park	Top 14	High	E.Cape Drakenberg (Top 11)	Yes, SANP	Yes, medium-low	High	Very High	Medium
G7	Upper Vaal	Top 54	HIgh	Upper Vaal	Yes	No	High	Very High	Medium
T1	Addo	Not a top priority	Medium-High	None	Yes, SANP	Yes, medium	Low	Low	Low
T2	Albany Corridor	Top 14	Medium-High	None	Yes	Yes, medium-low	Medium	Low	Low

2. Intervention Strategy

2.1 Project Description

ReLISA focuses on removing technical, financial and policy bottlenecks for the transformative change of South Africa's land use sector, with a focus on leveraging different financial mechanisms and laying the ground for the ecological restoration at landscape level in the target biomes (grasslands, thicket, and savanna), while recognising the socio-cultural context and land tenure systems.

By prioritizing key water catchment areas, the project will immediately help address climate change mitigation and adaptation (upstream and downstream) by securing the future provision of vital ecosystem services and biodiversity, while recognising the multiple values that societies place on nature and its benefits (cf. Media Release: IPBES Values Assessment - Decisions Based on Narrow Set of Market Values of Nature Underpin the Global Biodiversity Crisis | IPBES secretariat)

The proposed activities across national, jurisdictional and local levels aim to upscale locally adapted, proven and replicable on-the-ground activities and best land use practices through different value chains (e.g. sustainably produced crops, fruits and vegetables, meat, mohair & wool, mitigation projects for voluntary carbon markets). This will be complemented by efforts to tap into other funding opportunities (e.g. focusing on protected areas and more challenging restoration opportunities, the 'high-hanging fruit'). The selected longlist of sites within each biome will serve as blueprints for further upscaling in other

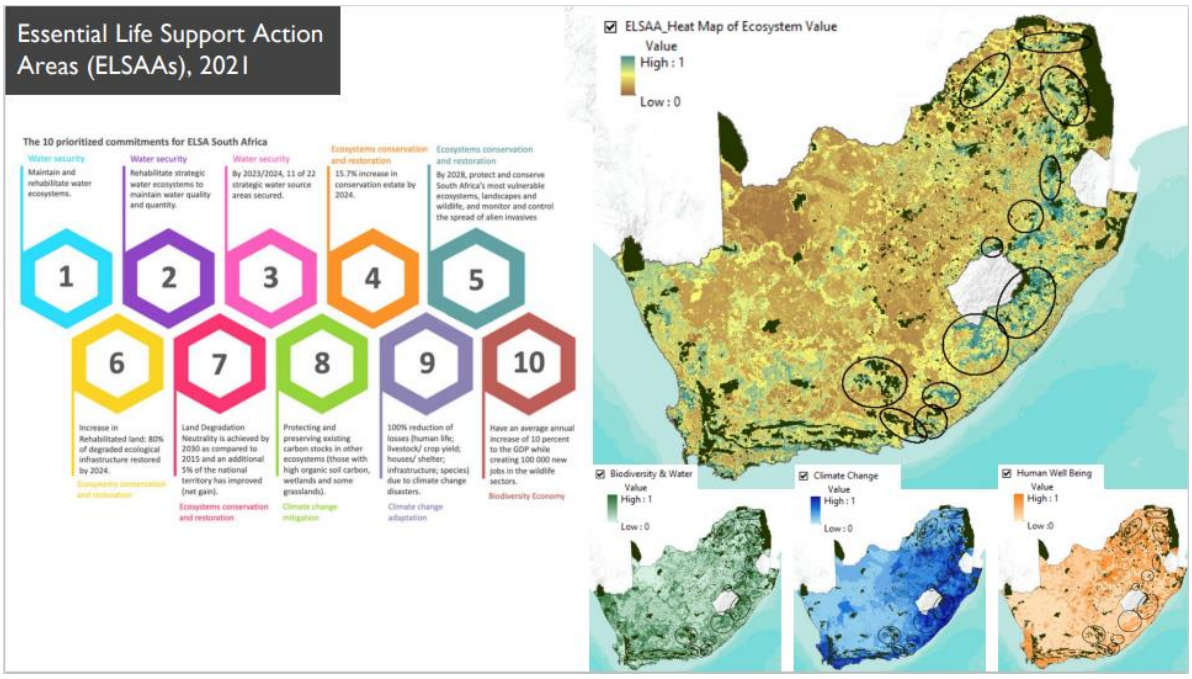
landscapes in these biomes across South Africa. This upscaling will be promoted through a range of targeted dissemination activities with a view to achieving transformational change not only in the environmental sphere but also with substantial benefits to communities and their living standards, taking a gender-responsive approach throughout in accordance with the Gender Annex conducted during the PPP.

Existing resources of project partners and donors are not sufficient to restore degraded landscapes at the scale needed for the transformational change of South Africa's land-use sector and achieve its NDC, LDN and NBSAP targets. The project will demonstrate the economic viability of SLM models and mobilize significant private sector resources during its lifetime, but catalytic IKI funding is needed to develop the models, demonstrate their viability and to propagate implementation at scale.

The **geographic focus** for interventions has been determined based on discussions with the GoSA and other stakeholders. The decision to focus on grasslands, savannah and thicket biomes was discussed with DFFE during the formulation of the project concept and endorsed at meetings. A long-list of potential sites was derived during the PPP based on desk-based review of existing work to prioritise geographic areas for ecosystem restoration, stakeholder consultation with landowners, communities and reserve managers at proposed sites, and wider stakeholder consultation at the national workshop held on 15-16 May 2023.

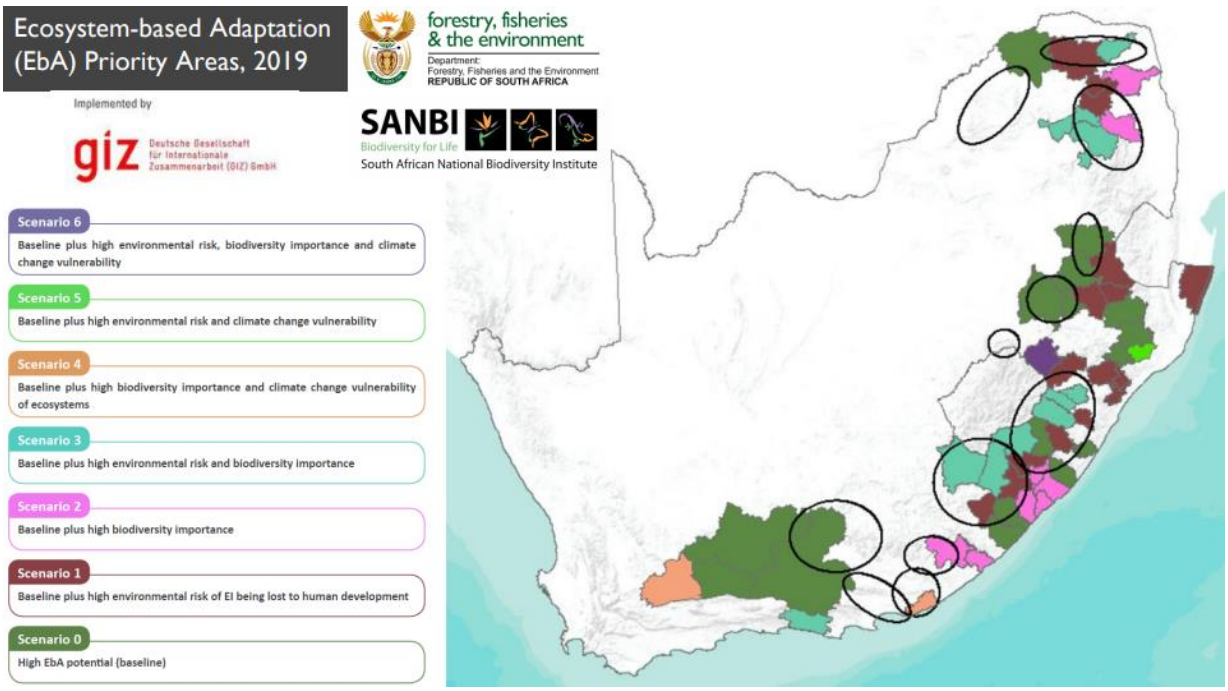
These focal areas can be overlayed with existing national ecosystem restoration prioritization exercises to reveal the geographic alignment. Maps 3-5 show the overlap of ReLISA long-listed sites with the a) Essential Life Support Action Areas Heatmap of Ecosystem Value (UNDP, DFFE, SANBI and Biodiversity Finance Initiative); b) DFFE's Ecosystem-based Adaptation Priority Areas; and c) National Strategic Water Source Areas.

Map 3: ReLISA sites alignment with Essential Life Support Action Areas Heatmap of Ecosystem Value



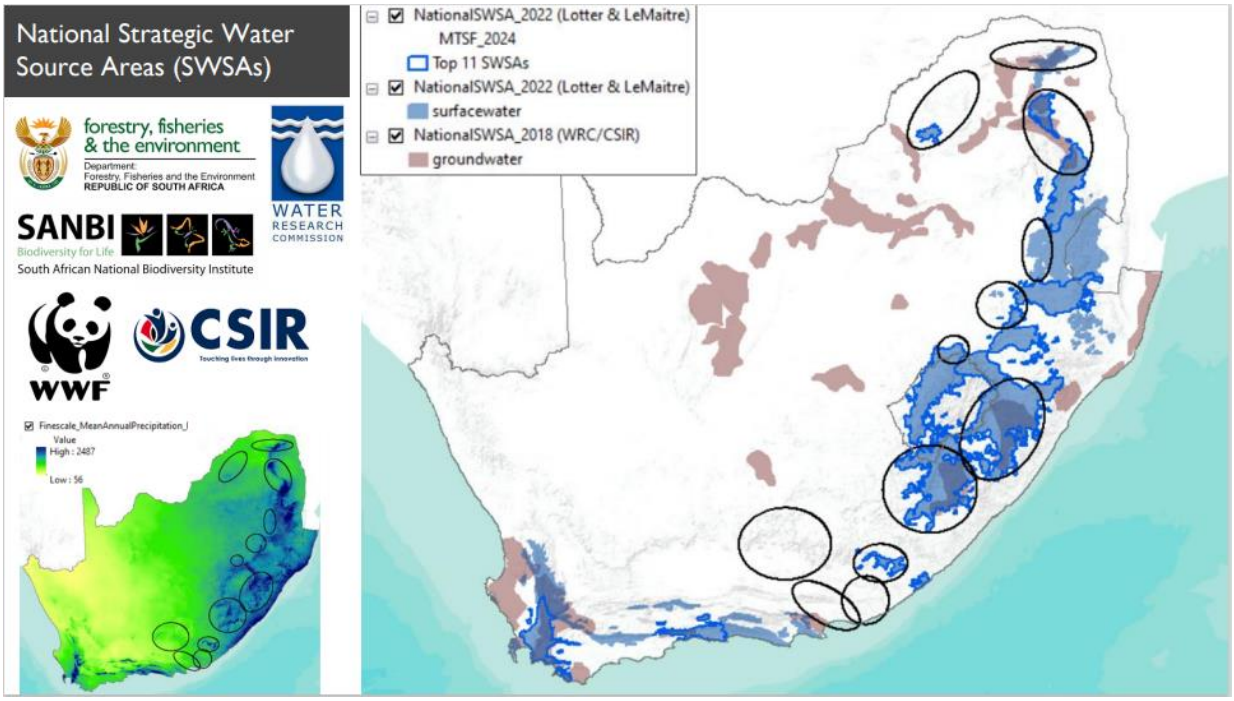
Source: 'Summary review of previous and ongoing work in South Africa to prioritise geographic areas for ecosystem restoration' prepared by G. Pence for TEN Unit, UNEP.

Map 4: ReLISA sites alignment with Ecosystem-based Adaptation Priority Areas



Source: 'Summary review of previous and ongoing work in South Africa to prioritise geographic areas for ecosystem restoration' prepared by G. Pence for TEN Unit, UNEP.

Map 5: ReLISA sites alignment with National Strategic Water Source Areas



Source: 'Summary review of previous and ongoing work in South Africa to prioritise geographic areas for ecosystem restoration' prepared by G. Pence for TEN Unit, UNEP.

Subsequently, Map 6 below provides an overview of a Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands carried out by WOCAT and the LADA Secretariat between 2008-2012, while Map 7 gives an overview of global priority areas for ecosystem restoration, to showcase the degree of degradation as well as the priority areas for restoration across the various regions of the country in comparison to the ReLISA long-listed sites.

Map 6: Overview of global priority areas for ecosystem restoration according to various criteria

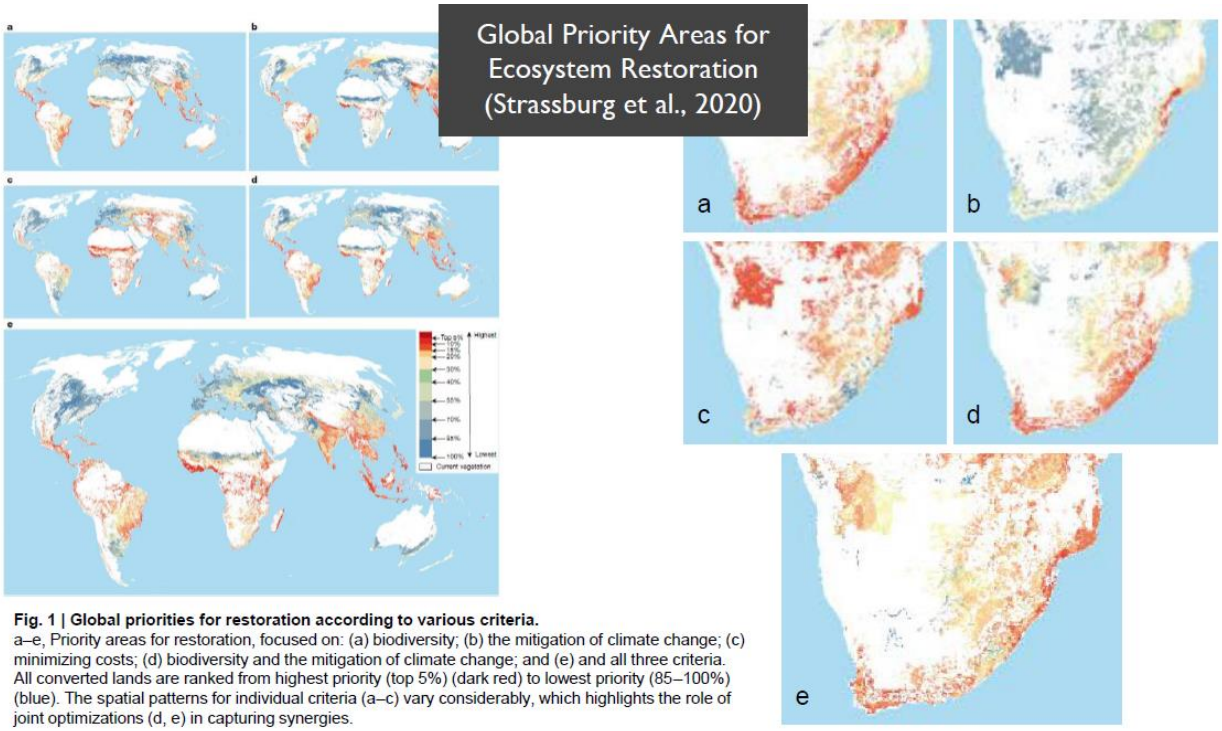
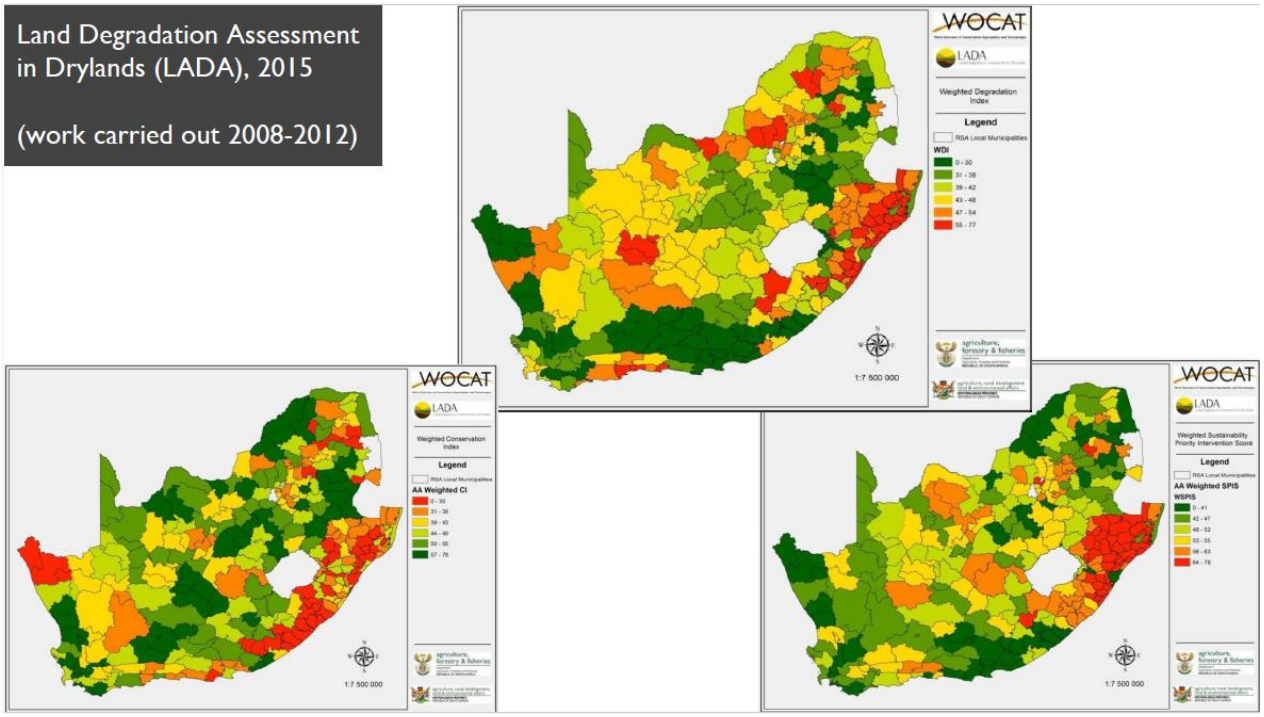


Fig. 1 | Global priorities for restoration according to various criteria.
a–e, Priority areas for restoration, focused on: (a) biodiversity; (b) the mitigation of climate change; (c) minimizing costs; (d) biodiversity and the mitigation of climate change; and (e) and all three criteria. All converted lands are ranked from highest priority (top 5%) (dark red) to lowest priority (85–100%) (blue). The spatial patterns for individual criteria (a–c) vary considerably, which highlights the role of joint optimizations (d, e) in capturing synergies.

Source: Strassburg et al., 2020, from the summary review of previous and ongoing work in South Africa to prioritise geographic areas for ecosystem restoration' prepared by G. Pence for TEN Unit, UNEP.

Map 7: Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA), 2015



Source: WOCAT and LADA, work carried out 2008-2012.

2.2 Theory of change

The **root cause** of why approaches to counter land degradation have not reached the scale needed to reverse degradation and restore the vital ecosystem services the selected biomes provide is firstly the prevalence of silo solutions which hinder effective collaboration and limit opportunities for synergies and sustainable, scalable solutions, and secondly the lack of a long-term commitment to sustainable financing, particularly from the private sector.

At the project core are several **assumptions** that shape the ReLISA project and value proposition. Firstly, restoration solutions with a proven track record exist and can effectively restore extensive landscapes beyond the project's lifespan if the interventions are well managed and maintained to ensure their effectiveness. Secondly, the focus on mobilizing both catalytic and implementation finance will unlock the potential benefits of restoration, but there is a need to refine comprehensive restoration strategies and to diversify and enhance the underlying business models. As such, enhanced governance arrangements and effective mobilization of funds for on-the-ground implementation of restoration solutions is considered key for effectively addressing degradation and the loss of biodiversity and vital ecosystem services. ReLISA will focus its resources on priority strategic areas, but final implementation will rely on the willingness and ability of land users and communities for the successful implementation, long term maintenance and upscaling of conservation measures. These assumptions serve as the foundation upon which the project's framework is constructed and it is through the interaction of these elements that ReLISA envisions achieving transformative and lasting restoration of the designated landscapes.

The alignment between ReLISA's goals and the priorities of the South African government adds a high-level strategic dimension to the project to ensure the sustainability of the outputs described below. The anticipated outcomes of restoration linked to water, biodiversity and livelihoods within the identified strategic water catchment areas resonate well with the government's agenda. Furthermore, the aim to leverage investments through the Voluntary Carbon Market, sustainable value chains, and innovative mechanisms such as payments for water benefits will receive substantial government backing.

ReLISA has four interconnected principal outputs:

1. Output I will explore options for and develop viable restoration strategies for the three biomes, considering environmental and societal aspects, as well as applying a gender responsive approach. Closing data gaps and aiming to improve South Africa's MRV system and impact monitoring will be integral components in developing the envisioned restoration strategies.

2. Output II on leveraging restoration finance is closely linked to the first output as the restoration strategies and planning serve as the blueprint and evidence needed for attracting private sector investments and other funding sources. This output enhances the project's capacity to upscale the restoration efforts.

3. Output III on direct landscape-level interventions is contingent upon the previous two outputs: applying the strategies and tapping into new restoration investments (particularly from the private sector) enable direct landscape-level interventions and on-the-ground implementation. Stakeholder dialogues will be critical to the project overall to ensure safeguard compliance (FPIC).

4. Output IV on dissemination and outreach aims to channel the information gathered from the above-mentioned outputs into target-specific knowledge products to be disseminated both nationally and internationally to raise awareness and invite stakeholder engagement and collaboration.

The ex-ante assessment of landscape opportunities as well as the activities related to the identification of technical, financial and political bottlenecks for implementation of preferred scenarios and landscape restoration strategies, will together help identify financial and institutional gaps. Together with the identification of priority sites for interventions, this information and deeper understanding of the financial and institutional gaps will be used among the consortium partners for all work related to the direct implementation of restoration activities, to co-design with key stakeholders' tailor-made restoration strategies at the landscape level. Furthermore, the work on business models and investment incubation will make use of pre-feasibility studies for business models on different restoration approaches. These interventions and assessments will also provide a useful understanding towards financial and institutional gaps to further inform other areas of work more directly involved in actual restoration activities.ReLISA is designed to tackle a multitude of human, social and natural drivers contributing to land degradation, by creating an enabling environment while advocating for and facilitating the adoption of SLM practices. These practices are amongst other things geared towards reducing erosion, enhancing soil health and improving water retention capacities across diverse landscapes. Integral to this effort will be the training and education of farmers on sustainable techniques, empowering them with knowledge and skills vital for implementing practices that nurture healthy ecosystems. Moreover, ReLISA will work on the control and removal of invasive alien plant species, recognizing their detrimental impact on native biodiversity and ecosystems. ReLISA will also focus on raising awareness, capacity building, and fostering community involvement among stakeholders around the importance of ecosystem services and sustainable land management practices. In parallel, ReLISA will actively collaborate with policymakers to establish and enforce supportive policies and regulations that promote sustainable land management approaches. To ensure the effectiveness of these endeavours, ReLISA will also be committed to enhancing the national MRV system to better be able to track progress.

As such, the outcome of restoring and conserving the degraded landscapes in the pre-identified priority areas will lead to an enhanced provision of a range of ecosystem services as well as improved livelihoods of local communities and farmers. Furthermore, by ensuring a transformational, gender-responsive approach, the long-term impact of ReLISA will be to contribute to South-Africa’s sustainable economic development, land degradation neutrality, climate and biodiversity targets and global development goals.

Figure 2: ReLISA Problem Tree

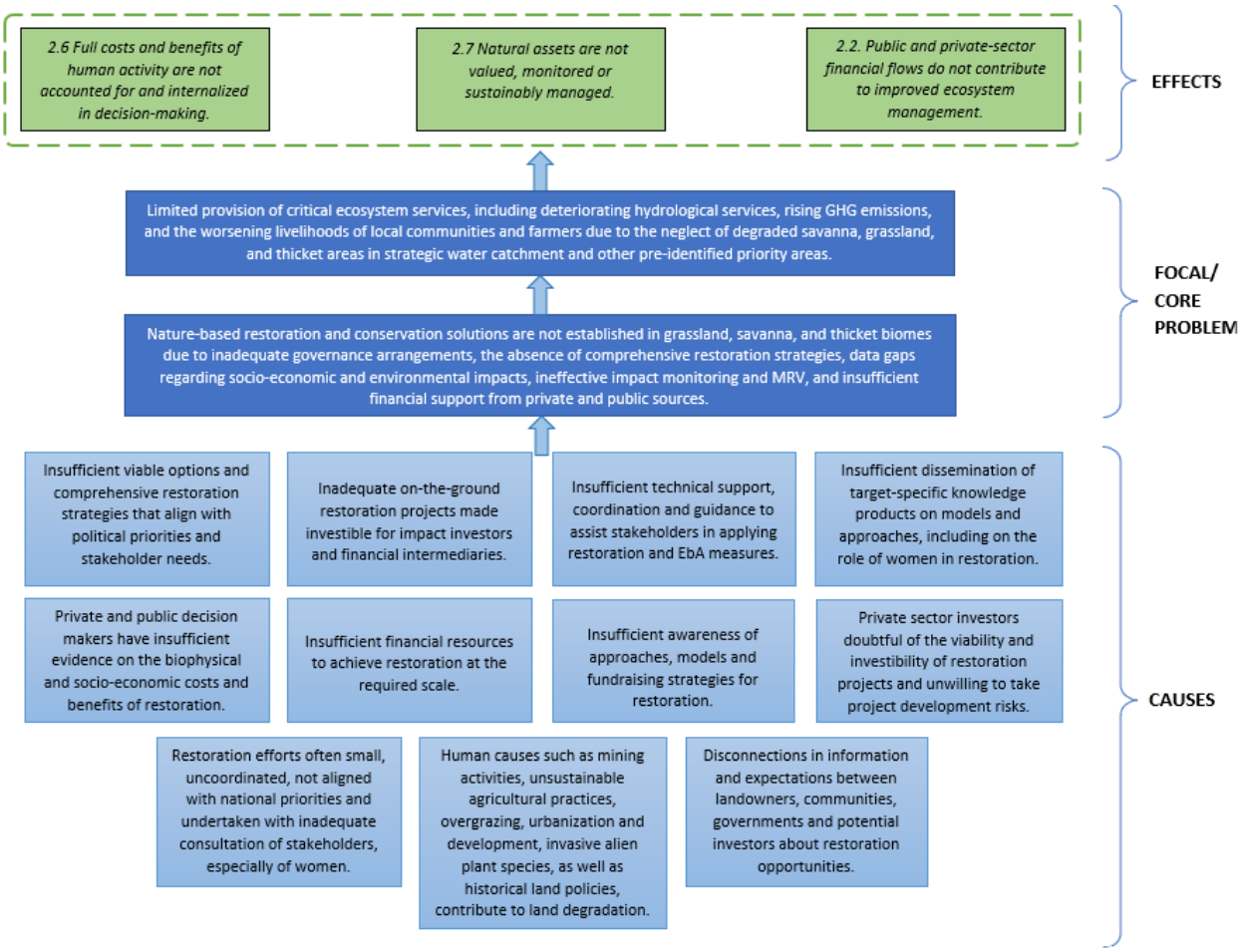
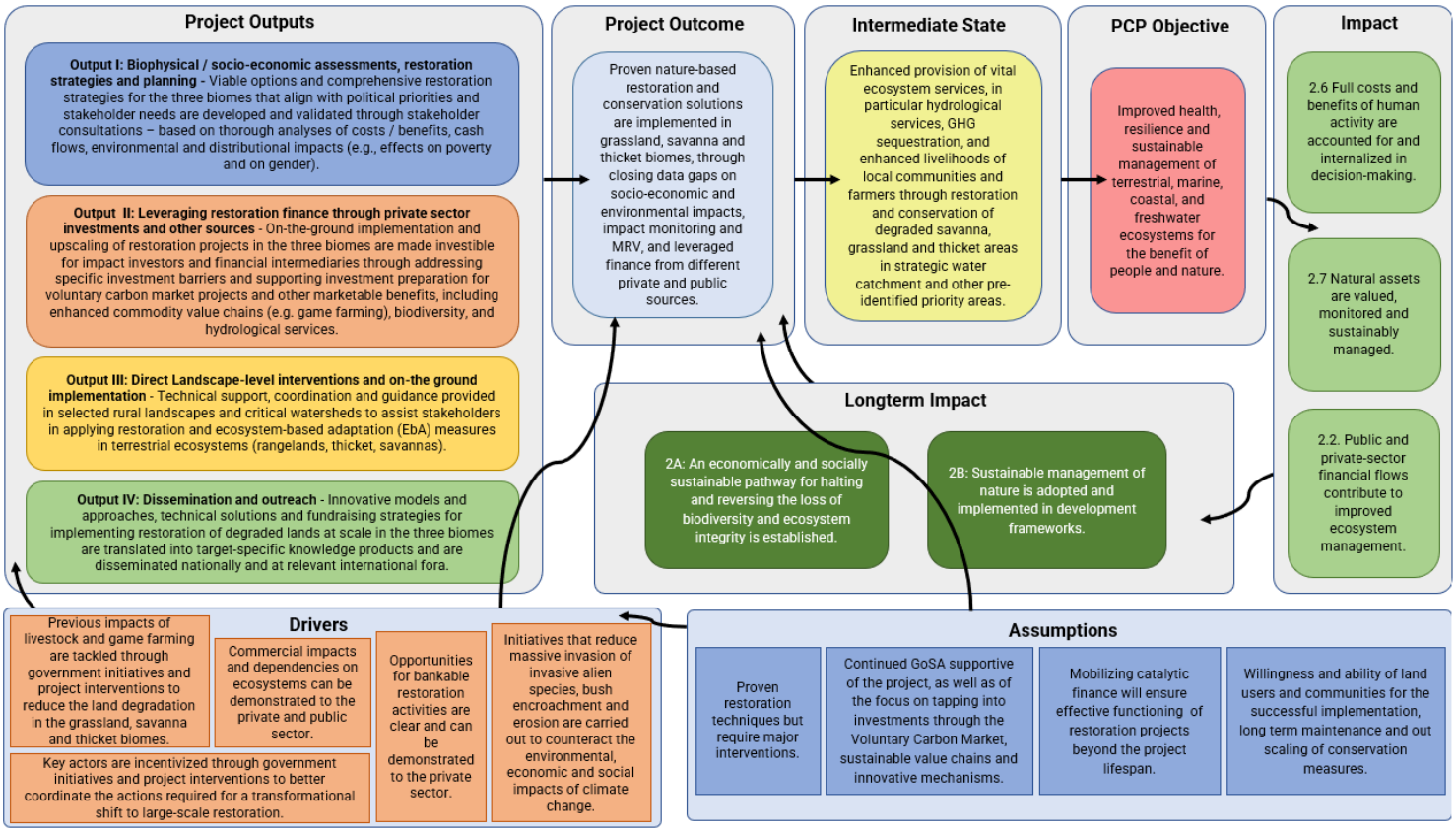


Table 9 - Problem Tree, proposed intervention strategies

Root causes	Proposed intervention strategies
Private and public decision makers have insufficient evidence on the biophysical and socio-economic costs and benefits of restoration.	The project will enhance the evidence base that assists with planning of restoration decisions by a) carrying out natural capital assessment for potential target sites (Activity I.3), b) disseminating the findings to key public decision-makers (Activity I.6), c) enhancing South Africa's measurement, reporting and verification system, d) closing site- and project-specific information gaps (e.g. regarding soil carbon, water and biodiversity impacts (Activity II.4). These Activities are geared towards providing evidence on the environmental, social, and economic cost and benefits of alternative approaches to and sites for restoration that can help to inform both public and private decision-making.
Restoration efforts often small, uncoordinated, not aligned with national priorities and undertaken	The project will extend work undertaken during the PPP to stock-take existing restoration activities and prioritization exercises in consultation with national authorities (Activity I.1). The project is aimed at facilitating large-scale restoration plans through the development of overall funding strategies for biome-level

with inadequate consultation of stakeholders, especially of women	restoration (Activity I.5) and operational plans for selected priority areas through a gender-responsive consultation process (Activity I.4) and on-going cross-sectoral dialogues at biome and/or landscape level to ensure a coordinated approach to implementation (Activity III.1).
Insufficient financial resources to achieve restoration at the required scale.	Some funding from the project will be used on direct implementation of restoration activities and sustainable land management through protected area expansion, invasive alien clearing (Activities III.1, III.2, III.3, III.4, III.7). The core focus, however, is using donor funding to create the conditions for massive upscaling of investment in restoration. Activities II.1-II.5 focus on making restoration projects in the three biomes investable for impact investors and financial intermediaries by removing investment barriers, and supporting investment preparation (pre-feasibility studies, draft project design documents, assessing certifiability etc.) to support voluntary carbon market projects, and the derivation of other marketable benefits from enhanced commodity value chains, biodiversity credits and payments for hydrological ecosystem services. In addition, under Activity III.5, a Water Fund will be developed which will provide for water users investment in community-led restoration projects, creating another source of funding. Finally, a concept note will be developed for a publicly funded adapted grant program for the restoration of savannahs.
Private sector investors doubtful of the viability and investibility of restoration projects and unwilling to take project development risks.	As described above, the project will strengthen the evidence base for private sector investors on the benefits of restoration, to provide confidence of materiality. In addition, the early project development risks are borne by the project to develop 'oven-ready' bankable investment projects.
Disconnections in information and expectations between landowners, communities, governments, and potential investors about restoration opportunities.	The project is premised on bringing together different stakeholders to ecosystem restoration in South Africa, through annual national workshops, site-level consultations, green tech exchanges, investor roadshows and roundtables, cross-sectoral dialogues at biome/landscape level, all of which serves to break down information barriers and foster greater collective collaboration on ecosystem restoration, in line with national and local priorities.
Lack of awareness of approaches, models, and fundraising strategies for restoration, including the role of women.	UNEP will lead a package of communication, dissemination, and outreach activities, focused on highlighting best-practice models and approaches to restoration, technical solutions and fundraising strategies, and an awareness raising campaign on the role on women in restoration. All this will be linked to the UN Decade Digital Hub and knowledge platforms, publicised via the UNEP website and presented a major international and national policy fora.

Figure 3: Schematic Representation of the Theory of Change



Submissions to IKI require development of a Results Framework and Theory of Change in accordance with IKI guidelines. While differing slightly to the UNEP requirements, this is shared below for reference and additional context.

Long term Impact Through the transformational, gender-responsive, large-scale restoration of biomes relevant to South Africa's land use sector this project contributes to the country's sustainable economic development, land degradation neutrality, climate and biodiversity targets and global development goals (SDGs, UNFCCC Paris Agreement, CBD Global Biodiversity Framework, UNCCD and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration). **Impact / Intermediate State** Enhanced provision of vital ecosystem services, in particular hydrological services, GHG sequestration, and enhanced livelihoods of local communities and farmers through restoration and conservation of degraded savanna, grassland and thicket areas in strategic water catchment and other pre-identified priority areas.			
Outcome Proven nature-based restoration and conservation solutions are implemented in grasslands, savannas and thicket biomes, through closing data gaps on socio-economic and environmental impacts, impact monitoring and MRV, and leveraging finance for upscaling from different private and public sources.			
Ind. 0.1 100,000 ha of degraded areas in grasslands, savannas and thicket biomes are under restoration in strategic key water catchments.		Ind. 0.2 Restoration and conservation of the three biomes is upscaled through mobilizing 25 million € of 3rd party funding (private sector and suitable multilateral funding programs).	
Output I: **Biophysical / socio-economic assessments, restoration strategies and planning** Viable options and comprehensive restoration strategies for the three biomes that align with political priorities and stakeholder needs are developed and validated through stakeholder consultations – based on thorough analyses of costs / benefits, cash flows, and environmental and distributional impacts (e.g. effects on poverty and on gender).	**Output II:** **Leveraging restoration finance through private sector investments and other sources** On-the-ground implementation and upscaling of restoration projects in the three biomes are made investible for impact investors and financial intermediaries through addressing specific investment barriers and supporting investment preparation for Voluntary Carbon Market projects and other marketable benefits, including enhanced biodiversity, increases in freshwater quality and quantity, and enhanced community involvement.	**Output III:** **Direct landscape-level interventions and on-the-ground implementation** Restoration and conservation of selected landscapes in the identified priority areas of the three biomes through coordination, need- and opportunity-based technical and legal support and facilitation of stakeholder dialogues.	**Output IV:** **Dissemination and outreach** Innovative models and approaches, technical solutions and fundraising strategies for implementing restoration of degraded lands at scale in the three biomes are translated into target-specific knowledge products and are disseminated nationally and at relevant international fora.
Ind. I.1 A model for the costs and benefits, as well as the social, economic and ecological impacts of restoration of degraded areas in the three biomes to quantify impacts and investment needs, is developed and presented to stakeholders and relevant political authorities.	Ind. II.1 11 scoping and 6 feasibility studies for potential private sector-financed restoration in priority sites of the three biomes have been conducted and presented to interested investors.	Ind. III.1 One new biosphere reserve of 70,000 ha is established in the grassland biome of the Northern Drakensberg Strategic Water Source Area (SWSA) and sustainably managed with private sector finance from the VCM.	Ind. IV.1 Project objectives and outcomes disseminated at 5 national and 5 international relevant restoration fora — e.g., the Global Landscapes Forum, side events of UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD meetings or other conferences.

Ind. I.2 Viable biome-specific business models for restoration (including description of direct and indirect beneficiaries and disaggregated by sex and poverty levels) are identified and compiled into upscaling strategies for the three biomes, and validated through stakeholder consultations with involvement of government, academia, landowners and investors.	Ind. II.2 Privately financed projects are implemented through investible restoration projects and investor matching for the savanna, grassland and thicket biomes on a total area of 30,000 ha.	Ind. III.2 The establishment of 1 novel water fund is supported through a thorough feasibility study and modelling of geo-referential explicit impacts on hydrological services, biodiversity and carbon benefits through restoration.	Ind. IV.2 Three national conferences are organized and facilitated in South Africa to present the restoration solutions and promote upscaling beyond the project priority areas and project lifetime.
Ind. I.3 Number of national reports done by the GoSA on GHG and on LULUCF mitigation that use the endorsed and enhanced MRV system.	Ind. II.3 A GCF concept note focusing on upscaling of existing restoration projects and CC adaptation through restoration is developed in consultation agreement with the GoSA and submitted to the GCF board.	Ind. III.3 Willing local land users and restoration champions in the three priority biomes are supported technically and financially in their efforts of implementing, upscaling or maintaining proven conservation approaches and technologies to ensure an improvement in their overall level of sustainability on 18 000 hectares in all three biomes combined.	Ind. IV.3 A suite of 20 communication products (infographics, policy briefs, radio broadcasts, podcasts, etc.) that advocate for the upscaling of investment in restoration in South Africa developed and launched.
		Ind III.4 A responsible party for implementation of direct land rehabilitation appointed that is >50% female owned and/represented.	Ind. IV.4 A 'Women in Restoration' video series developed and launched.
Safeguards indicator 0.1 a) Number of persons applying herbicide who undergo accredited training; b) Number of persons who attend orientation sessions on precautions required where herbicide are used			

The outcomes and outcomes are underpinned by activities, indicator, and milestones as per the IKI required structure and are as follows:

Outcome: *Proven nature-based restoration and conservation solutions are implemented in grasslands, savannas and thicket biomes, through closing data gaps on socio-economic and environmental impacts, impact monitoring and MRV, and leveraging finance for upscaling from different private and public sources.*

Indicators for the outcome:

Outcome indicator 0.1:		
100,000 ha of degraded areas in grasslands, savannas and thicket biomes are under restoration in strategic key water catchments.		
Unit	Baseline (start of project)	Target value
ha	0	100,000 (end of project)
Means of verification and a description of the procedure (data sources, data collection, measurement methods etc.)		
Project design documents (PDDs), GIS maps, legal documents		

Outcome indicator 0.2:		
Restoration and conservation of the three biomes is upscaled through mobilizing USD 25 million of 3rd party funding (private sector and suitable multilateral funding programs).		
Unit	Baseline (start of project)	Target value
USD	0	25,000,000 (end of project)
Means of verification:		
PDDs, investor commitments, approved GCF concept note or other documentation		

Output I: Biophysical / socio-economic assessments, restoration strategies and planning

Viable options and comprehensive restoration strategies for the three biomes that align with political priorities and stakeholder needs are developed and validated through stakeholder consultations – based on thorough analyses of costs / benefits, cash flows, and environmental and distributional impacts (e.g. effects on poverty and on gender).

Indicators for output I:

Indicator I.1:		
A model for the costs and benefits, as well as the social, economic and ecological impacts of restoration of degraded areas in the three biomes to quantify impacts and investment needs, is developed and presented to stakeholders and relevant political authorities.		
Unit	Baseline (start of project)	Target value and planned date of attainment
Study	0	1 (2 yrs. after project start)
Means of verification:		
Documented model, Minutes of stakeholder meetings		

Indicator I.2:		
Viable biome-specific business models for restoration (including description of direct and indirect beneficiaries and disaggregated by sex and poverty levels) are identified and compiled into upscaling strategies for the three biomes, and validated through stakeholder consultations with involvement of government, academia, landowners and investors.		
Unit Strategy document	Baseline (start of project) 0	Target value and planned date of attainment 3 (2 yrs. after project start)
Means of verification: Documented strategies, minutes of stakeholder meetings		

Indicator I.3:		
GHG emissions data that is produced is used within SAs GHG emissions inventory and other reporting on LULUCF mitigation.		
Unit GHG inventory reports	Baseline (start of project) 0	Target value and planned date of attainment 1 (5^{th} year of the project)
Means of verification: Links to the reports		

Activities corresponding to output I:

Activity (A I.1)

Stocktaking on restoration planned/carried out to date (extension from the work carried out in the PPP) and identification of entry points and opportunities in the selected priority areas, including assessment of (i) the current state of degradation, (ii) potential for enhancing key ecosystem services from restoration activities, (iii) potential for private sector investment, (iv) alignment with national priorities, (v) implementation readiness, (vi) ecological need, (vii) social and gender impacts, (viii) implementation costs, and (ix) implementation risks. (lead: UNEP; contributing: all partners).

Activity (A I.2)

Develop an initial suite of costed needs for gap-filling on biophysical, social (gender-responsive) and economic evidence to make the business case for restoration in the three biomes. The proposals will be initially screened by entities working with the private sector to assess the extent to which the new evidence would enhance opportunities for private sector leverage of restoration options. (lead: UNEP; contributing: CSIR, C4ES, Unique, UNESCO).

Activity (A I.3)

Carry out restoration opportunity / natural capital accounting assessments for selected target sites: modelling and measurement of impacts of restoration on carbon sequestration, hydrological ecosystem services and biodiversity. (lead: UNEP; contributing: CSIR, C4ES, Unique, UNESCO).

Activity (A I.4)

Develop and then refine operational plans for selected priority sites and carry out comprehensive consultations with stakeholders at all levels (including communities and farmers, civil society groups, national and sub-national government, private sector actors) to determine: (1) appropriate restoration activities; (2) the roles and responsibilities of actors involved; (3) governance arrangements; (4) implementation scenarios, and (5) risk assessment and mitigation strategies. (lead: UNEP; contributing: all partners).

Activity (A I.5)

Develop and then refine overall funding strategies for biome-level restoration. Each will include GIS mapping, potential impacts, restoration protocols, and gender-responsive socio-economic analyses, consultations, recommendations for addressing risks and bottlenecks, and scenario analyses. (lead: UNEP; contributing: all partners).

Activity (A I.6)

Dissemination of the results of economic assessment of restoration using Natural Capital Assessment. Dissemination to National Treasury, Ministry of Finance, NCA Strategic Advisory group and other stakeholders to support the 10-year National NCA Strategy and promote NCA as a tool for holistic decision-making on ecosystem restoration and sustainable natural resource management. (UNEP only).

Activity (A I.7)

Enhance South Africa's MRV system for the land sector and the existing digital platform managed by SAEON. This includes enhancing the exchange of information between different stakeholders, showcasing flagship restoration initiatives, and linking the MRV system with the UN Decade Information hub (the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration). (lead: CSIR; contributing: C4ES, EWT).

Activity (A I.8)

Outcomes of project restoration activities are made available to and feed into the national GHG inventory and other relevant reports, including the BTR and NDC reporting under the UNFCCC, CBD NBSAP and UNCCD reports. (CSIR only).

Milestones corresponding to output I:

Milestone I.1:

Stocktaking reports on lessons learned from restoration activities in the three biomes and on extant data, methods and results on making the economic case for restoration are completed.

Milestone I.2:

Initial operational plans and funding strategies are developed and presented to relevant authorities, stakeholders and interested investors.

Milestone I.3:

Enhancements to South Africa's existing MRV system and GHG inventory are finalized and results feed into relevant international reports of the GoSA.

Milestone I.4:

Year 5 biome-level consultation with stakeholders on ReLISA lessons learned and project sustainability on options for restoration upscaling under ReLISA in the three biomes is completed.

Milestone I.5:

The Government of South Africa has adopted country-specific emission factors for the land use sector and uses them in one national GHG inventory reports and other relevant reporting on LULUCF mitigation in South Africa.

Milestone I.6:

MRV system and GHG inventory endorsed.

Output II: Leveraging restoration finance through private sector investments and other sources

On-the-ground implementation and upscaling of restoration projects in the three biomes are made investible for impact investors and financial intermediaries through addressing specific investment barriers and supporting investment preparation for Voluntary Carbon Market projects and other marketable benefits, including enhanced commodity value chains (e.g., game farming), biodiversity, and hydrological services.

Indicators for output II:

Indicator II.1:		
11 scoping and 6 feasibility studies for potential private sector-financed restoration in priority sites of the three biomes have been conducted and presented to interested investors.		
Unit	Baseline (start of project)	Target value and planned date of attainment
Studies	0	11 / 6 (Q4 of year 5)
Means of verification: Final scoping and feasibility studies		

Indicator II.2:		
Privately financed projects are implemented through investible restoration projects and investor matching for the savanna, grassland and thicket biomes on a total area of 30,000 ha.		
Unit	Baseline (start of project)	Target value and planned date of attainment
ha	0	30,000 (end of project)
Means of verification: Draft PDs or MoUs with interested investors, including maps and locations.		

Indicator II.3:		
A GCF concept note focusing on CC adaptation through restoration is developed in consultation agreement with the GoSA and submitted to the GCF board.		
Unit	Baseline (start of project)	Target value and planned date of attainment
concept note	0	1 (Q4 of year 4)

Means of verification: Final concept note, Feedback by SANBI, the elected accredited entity, GCF communications

Activities corresponding to output II:

Activity (A II.1)

Initial sex-disaggregated mapping of private sector stakeholders in each of the three biomes, and on-going updates to this mapping. (lead: C4ES / Unique; contributing: EWT, UNDP, UNESCO).

Activity (A II.2)

Conduct 11 pre-feasibility studies for potential investments through different restoration approaches in grassland, savanna and thicket. These will include assessment of investment barriers, and certifiability for carbon sequestration / biodiversity benefits (VCS / CCBS). (lead: C4ES / Unique; contributing: EWT, UNDP, UNESCO).

Activity (A II.3)

Develop 6 bankable, privately financed restoration investment projects for the three biomes. This includes in-depth feasibility assessments drafting project design documents, assessing certifiability, identification of risks and risk mitigation strategies, designing MRV and impact monitoring systems etc. (lead: C4ES / Unique; contributing: CSIR, EWT, UNDP, UNESCO).

Activity (A II.4)

Close site- and project specific investment-relevant knowledge gaps (e.g. regarding soil carbon, water and biodiversity impacts). (lead: C4ES / Unique; contributing: CSIR, EWT, UNDP, UNESCO).

Activity (A II.5)

Match bankable projects & investors through green tech exchanges, roadshows and roundtables with potential investors, agricultural finance providers and other financial institutions. (lead: C4ES / Unique; contributing: UNESCO).

Milestone corresponding to output II:

Milestone II.1:

11 pre-feasibility studies conducted for potential investment projects across the three biomes (end of year 4).

Milestone II.2:

At least 6 bankable, privately financed restoration investment projects developed for the three biomes (end of year 5).

Output III: Direct Landscape-level interventions and on-the ground implementation

Technical support, coordination and guidance provided in selected rural landscapes and critical watersheds to assist stakeholders in applying restoration and ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) measures in terrestrial ecosystems (rangelands, thicket, savannas).

Indicators for output III:

Indicator III.1:		
One new biosphere reserve of 70,000 ha is established in the grassland biome of the Northern Drakensberg Strategic Water Source Area (SWSA) and sustainably managed with private sector finance from the Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM).		
Unit	Baseline (start of project)	Target value and planned date of attainment
Biosphere reserve	0	1 (Q1 of year 5)
Means of verification: Legal documents, maps, MoU with selected investor.		

Indicator III.2:		
The establishment of 1 novel water fund is supported through a thorough feasibility study and modeling of geo-referential explicit impacts on hydrological services, biodiversity and carbon benefits through restoration.		
Unit	Baseline (start of project)	Target value and planned date of attainment
water fund	0	1 (Q4 of year 5)
Means of verification: Legal documents, maps, modelling results.		

Indicator III.3:		
Willing local land users and restoration champions in the three priority biomes are supported technically and financially in their efforts of implementing, upscaling or maintaining proven conservation approaches and technologies to ensure an improvement in their overall level of sustainability on 18 000 hectares in all three biomes combined.		
Unit	Baseline (start of project)	Target value and planned date of attainment
Hectares	0	18,000 (end of project)
Means of verification: Legal documents, maps, modelling results		

Indicator III.4:		
A responsible party for implementation of direct land rehabilitation appointed that is >50% female owned and/represented.		
Unit	Baseline (start of project)	Target value and planned date of attainment
Responsible party contracted	0	1 (end of project)

Means of verification: Contract with party

Activities corresponding to output III:

Activity (A III.1)

Facilitation of on-going gender-responsive cross sectoral dialogues at a biome and/or at landscape level, with suitable Responsible Parties for implementation of direct land rehabilitation activities in savanna, grassland and thicket biomes to ensure coordination and tap opportunities for upscaling job creation through avoiding, reducing and reversing land degradation. (lead: UNDP; contributing: all).

Activity (A III.2)

Grasslands protected area expansion - secure high biodiversity and water catchment areas in at least 3 priority landscapes including the development of cross-sectoral regional restoration plans for Northern Drakensberg, Soutpansberg and Amathole. (lead: EWT; contributing: C4ES, Unique, UNDP).

Activity (A III.3)

Establish a new grasslands Biosphere reserve in the Northern Drakensberg. (lead: EWT; contributing: C4ES, Unique, UNDP, UNESCO).

Activity (A III.4)

Implement pilot restoration measures and trainings including on alien plant clearing and habitat restoration in the Northern Drakensberg and the Soutpansberg. (lead: EWT; contributing: CSIR, UNDP, UNESCO).

Activity (A III.5)

Grassland/savanna: design and implement a Water Fund in at least one savanna Biosphere Reserve and for the planned grassland Biosphere Reserve in the Northern Drakensberg and support targeted demonstration restoration actions in Kruger to Canyons, Waterberg and Magaliesberg Biosphere Reserves. (lead: UNESCO; contributing: CSIR, C4ES, Unique, EWT, UNDP).

Activity (A III.6)

Develop a concept note for a publicly funded adaptation grant program for restoration of savannas, identify a suitable accredited entity and coordinate with relevant authorities of the GoSA (e.g. GCF concept note or adaptation fund). (lead: UNEP; contributing: UNESCO, C4ES, Unique).

Activity (A III.7)

Savanna: support expansion of a (core and/or buffer) Biosphere Reserve area to increase landscape integrity and management capacity and development of landscape indicators for BR to monitor landscape integrity, build monitoring capacity, and coordinate with relevant authorities to create a suitable gender-responsive enabling environment for sustainable management. (lead: UNESCO; contributing: CSIR, UNDP, C4ES, Unique, EWT).

Activity (A III.8)

Thicket: use, manage and enhance existing pilot and demonstration sites to identify cost-reduction potentials, hone restoration protocols for different landscapes and increase Return on Investment. (lead: C4ES, Unique; contributing: C4ES and Unique only).

Activity (A III.9)

Track progress towards sustainability and increased levels of resilience through gender-responsive participatory monitoring and evaluation and ensure continuous improvement through reflection and learning. (lead: UNDP; contributing: CSIR, EWT)

Milestone corresponding to output III:

Milestone III.1:

A new grassland Biosphere Reserve in the Northern Drakensberg is established.

Milestone III.2:

A concept note for public funding (e.g. GCF, Adaptation Fund or GEF) is developed, Accredited Entity identifies and proposal submitted.

Output IV: Dissemination and outreach

Innovative models and approaches, technical solutions and fundraising strategies for implementing restoration of degraded lands at scale in the three biomes are translated into target-specific knowledge products and are disseminated nationally and at relevant international fora.

Indicators for output IV:

Indicator IV.1:		
Project objectives and outcomes disseminated at 5 national and 5 international relevant restoration fora — e.g., the Global Landscapes Forum, side events of UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD meetings or other conferences.		
Unit conferences / events	Baseline (start of project) 0	Target value and planned date of attainment 10 (Q4 of year 5)
Means of verification: Agendas, event documentation		

Indicator IV.2:		
Three national conferences are organized and facilitated in South Africa to present the restoration solutions and promote upscaling beyond the project priority areas and project lifetime.		
Unit conferences	Baseline (start of project) 0	Target value and planned date of attainment 3 (end of project)
Means of verification: Agendas, event documentation		

Indicator IV.3:
A suite of 20 communication products (infographics, policy briefs, radio broadcasts, podcasts, etc.) that advocate for the upscaling of investment in restoration in South Africa developed and launched.

Unit	Baseline (start of project)	Target value and planned date of attainment
communication products	0	20 (Q4 or year 4)
Means of verification: infographics, policy briefs, radio broadcasts, podcasts		

Indicator IV.4: A 'Women in Restoration' video series developed and launched.		
Unit	Baseline (start of project)	Target value and planned date of attainment
Videos	0	3 (Q1 of year 4)
Means of verification: Videos launched online		

Activities corresponding to output IV:

Activity (A IV.1)

Undertake a gender-responsive communications needs assessment to identify audiences, outlets, modes and to plan the suite of communications products (Activity IV.4) and knowledge hub (IV.3). (lead: UNEP; contributing: all partners will provide input).

Activity (A IV.2)

Develop and then keep up-to-date a project website that is a portal for methods and applications, best practice, lessons learned etc. (lead: UNEP; contributing: all partners will provide input).

Activity (A IV.3)

Establish a restoration knowledge hub: collate data, reports and published papers - disseminate and share lessons learned from the South African restoration and EbA experiences through the UN Restoration Decade's digital hub, the UN Decade Task Force on Best Practices and coordination with similar initiatives globally. (lead: UNEP; contributing: all partners will provide input).

Activity (A IV.4)

Develop a suite of gender-responsive communications products (infographics, policy briefs, radio broadcasts, podcasts etc.) that advocates for the upscaling of investment in restoration in South Africa (lead: UNEP; contributing: all partners will provide input).

Activity (A IV.5)

Produce a video series on ecosystem restoration in South Africa including 'women in restoration' videos. (lead: UNEP; contributing: all).

Activity (A IV.6)

Disseminate project objectives and outcomes in national and international policy fora, e.g. the Global Landscapes Forum, or side events of UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD meetings. (lead: UNEP; contributing: all).

Milestone corresponding to output IV:

Milestone IV.1:

Project website created and launched.

Milestone IV.2:

Video series on ecosystem restoration in South Africa including 'women in restoration' videos launched.

Milestone IV.3:

Project objectives and outcomes disseminated at 5 national and 5 international policy fora, e.g. the Global Landscapes Forum, or side events of UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD meetings.

2.3 Stakeholders

When the call for proposals was released in 2020, UNEP engaged in initial discussions with the GoSA as well as colleagues from UNEP-South Africa and the UN Country Team to gather ideas in order to begin designing the initial concept note while ensuring their interests and considerations were incorporated into early-stage planning and avoiding the duplication of efforts. Furthermore, UNEP consulted with potential partners with the aim of forming a strong consortium to submit a project proposal to IKI. After multiple meetings with different partner organizations, a consortium was formed of organizations with extensive experience in the landscapes, as well as existing relationships with stakeholders in the three biomes. In addition to joining forces with two other UN organizations i.e. UNDP and UNESCO, three locally based organizations were contracted i.e. CSIR (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research), C4ES (C4 Eco Solutions) and EWT (Endangered Wildlife Trust), as well as a German based entity Unique, which is expert in attracting private investment in restoration.

The locally based partners have been working for a varying number of years in the relevant project landscapes.

The EWT has been working in South Africa since 1973 and has extensive experience and active ongoing relationships with stakeholders, landowners and communities in the Soutpansberg, Northern Drakensberg and Amatola regions where activities will take place. These areas are also strategic geographic imperatives for the organisation which implies a long-term focus. The EWT has secured essential water resources by empowering local communities and private landowners to use a range of tools to safeguard the origin of water (river catchments, estuaries, wetlands and grasslands), and thus has years of experience in establishing formal protected areas and engaging local communities to ensure that they benefit from ecosystem services, while reducing impacts on natural systems. Furthermore, the EWT recently organized a workshop on introducing Biodiversity Stewardship in the Western Soutpansberg covering the importance of Soutpansberg mountain, challenges, Sustainable Soutpansberg Initiative, Biodiversity Stewardship, benefits to landowners, alignment with the broader framework etc. which attracted many local community members. During the PPP phase, the EWT's grassroots team consulted many of the local stakeholders in each area and due to their previous experiences, they have a strong grasp of the needs (social and environmental) in the areas.

The EWT will develop regional restoration plans in each of the focal areas with municipal and government structures, relevant stakeholders, and communities, and will endeavour to have these plans adopted within formally recognised planning structures which will then necessitate allocation of budget and resources. These planning exercises will also be valuable in terms of building a broad-based consensus and human capacity around restoration issues, priorities and approaches. Much of the work will also focus on the identification and development of sustainability models which lead to continued funding or benefits that demonstrate the intrinsic value of restoration activities.

The CSIR is a leading scientific and technology research organisation that researches, develops, localises, and diffuses technologies to accelerate socio-economic prosperity in South Africa. CSIR has worked across the country since 1945 and has developed strong relationships with various organizations regionally and abroad, as well as government departments, e.g. DFFE, SANBI, SAEON and other multinational agencies. CSIR draws expertise from diverse research fields to provide integrated solutions and interventions to support a broad range of national development programmes, as set out in the National Development Plan (NDP).

The third locally based partner, C4ES, works on designing and implementing climate change, conservation and biodiversity projects in both the private and public sectors across the country and other developing countries. C4ES's approach is based on robust scientific and socio-economic data, supported by comprehensive stakeholder consultations and community engagements. This approach ensures that all aspects of the project align with national priorities and meet the most urgent needs of the targeted communities and ecosystems. C4ES and the other consortium partner focusing on the private sector, i.e. the German based entity Unique, have a strong track record of successful engagement with the private sector spanning over decades. Furthermore, Anthony Mills, the founder and CEO of C4ES, has been working on the restoration of thicket, grassland and savannas in South Africa with private sector landowners and potential investors for over twenty years.

Furthermore, UNESCO has been developing a network of 'Biosphere Reserves', with 10 sites in South Africa. The South African biosphere reserves are managed by NGOs who work on mobilising and coordinating stakeholders from government, civil society and the private sector at the landscape level. As such, these partners have managed to develop trust and strong relationships on the ground with stakeholders, from government representatives and private businesses to rural communities, farmers, and local landowners across all three biomes. This will be useful to build upon in terms of engaging with stakeholders who are likely to be involved or impacted by the project activities.

Upon pre-selection, the Consortium consulted with representatives from the GoSA to refine the project scope. In June 2021, the consortium had a virtual meeting with DFFE during which the project proposal was presented and clarifications to uncertainties that arose were given, while discussions took place around how best to align with national priorities while also avoiding the duplication of efforts. The consortium then engaged in a series of virtual meetings to define the PPP and pinpoint the respective activities that the partners intended to focus on during the project implementation phase. Upon approval, the PPP consequently took place between November and July 2023 during which the consortium assessed and validated the Theory of Change, assured the appropriateness of the proposed sites for restoration interventions, conducted a preliminary assessment of risks and mitigation strategies, identified options for early integration of private sector actors, and coordinated with political partners to align with national policies. A multitude of meetings took place during this phase, both internal and external, to further pinpoint project activities, potential partners and stakeholders etc.

A key part of the PPP was also the country mission which took place 15-25th May with representatives from each of the seven partner organizations. During the country mission, the consortium finalized the project design based on government priorities and existing projects, stakeholder needs and priorities (including community and private sector), implementation risks, and the potential for leverage and upscaling. The mission started with the ReLISA National Workshop which was organized in Pretoria at the CSIR International Convention Center, welcoming representatives from relevant government Ministries and agencies, NGOs, research institutions and others from both the public and private sector across the region to attend and agree upon the project design, target regions and links to national priorities.

Following the workshop, the consortium travelled through six South-African provinces to explore the potential priority sites in the three biomes – grasslands, savannah, and thicket - that have been proposed. During the site visits, efforts were aimed at identifying challenges, key indicators, and measurable variables that could be used to determine the type of restoration needed within each

landscape. The purpose was also for the consortium to gain an understating of the biome features to conceptualize the baseline of each landscape and the historical background of the land management or land use. It was also critical to develop an understanding of the relationship between the stakeholders in the sites and their landscapes within the three biome settings, as a prerequisite for sustainable implementation of the restoration project and the economic benefits/investment potential. The consortium engaged with a wide range of different stakeholders in the provinces, including farmers, biosphere reserve managers, rural communities, researchers and government representatives, to gain meaningful insights from owners and users of the land on which restoration projects might take place over the course of the project lifespan (see Table 11 above for a list of key stakeholders that have been involved in discussions thus far). Furthermore, gaining a thorough understanding of the source of degradation and the economic potential of the sites was important, and their possible contribution to a sustainable biodiversity, carbon and water market scaled at the landscape level.

The South Africa-based consortium partners (UNDP, Endangered Wildlife Trust, C4EcoSolutions and CSIR) have been engaging with local communities for decades. During the PPP and field visits to all three biomes in scope in May 2023, there was extensive dialogue with the intended primary beneficiaries. These consortium partners have been involved with numerous donor-funded restoration projects, as well as collaborating with the government on its own restoration programs which have a strong emphasis on targeting vulnerable and poor communities through job-creation restoration projects. ReLISA intends to build upon these previous and ongoing projects and experiences. Training and awareness raising activities are set out in Output 3.

In addition, engagement with private sector landowners, during the PPP, in the grasslands and savannas was undertaken on the field trip and via project partners. UNESCO for example, engaged in discussions around potential opportunities to collaborate with private landowners, and farmer associations/groupings, such as the Magaliesberg Biosphere reserve and the work on Far2Conserve work as well as the Kloof ecosystems project around restoration activities, and scalable potential linked to nature-based solutions. Also during the PPP, C4ES and Unique engaged with tens of private landowners in the thicket biome. Six landowners, covering ~8000 hectares have signed options agreements with C4ES's sister company AfriCarbon, to have their land restored through planting spekboom cuttings. C4ES and AfriCarbon have already self-invested and implemented pilot plantings on four of the farms. C4ES also had extensive discussions, during the PPP, with a landowner in the grasslands of the Eastern Cape on a farm of 4000 hectares, near Camdeboo National Park. The landowner is extremely interested in large-scale restoration, financed through the generation of carbon credits using a Verra methodology like VM0042.

With regards incentives to restore and protect degraded areas, the underlying philosophy of ReLISA is to develop and implement long-term sustainable solutions for land degradation problems or to implement Sustainable Land Management (SLM) at scale. This is in essence what Output 2 ('Leveraging restoration finance through private sector investments and other sources') is primarily concerned with. Also, the Water fund proposed under Output 3 ('Direct landscape-level interventions and on-the-ground implementation') is designed to incentivize long-term sustainable solutions at landscape level rather than incentive hand-outs or temporally job-creation programs that usually come to an end as soon as the funding stops or the project ends.

The identification of project priority areas and subsequent project activities has used all available information not only on environmental issues, but also on socio-economic issues including vulnerable and poor communities, land tenure problems etc. In this regard, the UNDP "Maps for Nature-Positive Action" ELSAA Maps, have been very useful (see Figure 1 and Table 7 for further details on ELSAA). Furthermore, the government of South Africa has a very strong focus of their restoration activities on

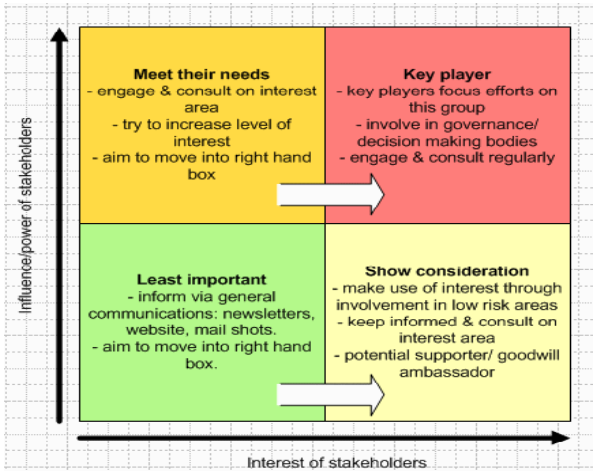
the vulnerable poor and marginalized. ReLISA does not want to duplicate efforts but rather focus on new and creative ways to demonstrate sustainable land restoration at scale. Working only with the vulnerable poor and marginalized people limits the probability of achieving project targets, especially hectares under SLM. The intended restoration approach therefore in the different project biomes as well as the choice of SLM technologies proposed, will include a balanced spectrum of land users and we will make each one has a voice and are recognized in the process.

UNDP has been actively involved in the development of the Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Tool which measures progress towards sustainability and also captures awareness, willingness, social inclusion as well as biophysical data and financial data, allowing people to measure their progress over time. The SLM tool clarifies the benefits stemming from incorporating sustainable land management practices on their lands, in a way that is easy for the local farmers to understand. This development facilitates increased collaboration and knowledge sharing between researchers, farmers, local landowners and others and will also be incorporated into the project where possible. Setting up and maintaining good working relationships with landowners and farmers to improve their land management techniques is key, as many are reluctant to work directly with the government, and as such, the SLM tool could be useful in terms of overcoming this potential challenge.

Looking forward, ReLISA will continue to take an open and consultative approach in the main project phase through a Project Steering Committee (PSC), which will include representation from various national authorities including DFFE, SANBI, DPME and COGTA, and will also ensure an equal representation of women as appropriate as well as a gender focal point. Annual stakeholder workshops will also take place to ensure a continued transparent relationship between the consortium and the many stakeholders involved and impacted by the project. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) developed in collaboration with DPME, will also guide implementation in line with Government priorities. The majority of ReLISA project activities will also focus or depend upon stakeholder consultations such as e.g. the following: Activity 1.2 will involve consulting private sector entities; Activity 1.4 will involve consulting stakeholders at all levels around the development of operational plans; Activity 1.6 will involve consulting key NCA stakeholders, Activity 2,1 will involve mapping private-sector stakeholders which will require consultations; Activity 2.5 will involve roundtables with potential investors and private sector stakeholders; Activity 3.1 will involve on-going cross sectoral dialogues with various stakeholders for implementation of land rehabilitation activities, Activity 3.6 will involve coordination with relevant national authorities; Activity 4.1 will involve a gender-responsive communications and needs assessment which will necessitate stakeholder consultations, and Activity 5.5 on producing the women in restoration video series will also involve extensive stakeholder consultations. Furthermore, stakeholder consultations will also be an important component in terms of developing the intended protected area expansions, new grasslands BR and Water Funds. Women's organizations and networks will also be engaged, such as: the Women's Agricultural Union, who advocate for the inclusion of women in agriculture and land-related activities, providing grassroots perspectives and advocacy support; South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID) which is a network of women's organizations and individuals working to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in South Africa; Rural Women's Movement (RWM) that focuses on the rights and needs of rural women in South Africa; GenderLinks which is an NGO working on gender equality and women's rights in Southern Africa providing research, training, and advocacy on gender-related topics; National Council of Women of South Africa (NCWSA) which is a historic organization dedicated to advancing the rights and interests of women in South Africa; Department of Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities which addresses gender issues and women's empowerment; as well as the Department of Social Development which deals with social welfare and community development.

In summary, the consortium has had extensive stakeholder consultations prior to the start of ReLISA, is presently engaging in discussions with a broad array of different stakeholders and will continue

throughout the project lifespan to work very closely with stakeholders of all genders to ensure ReLISA captures the priorities and concerns of all who are likely to impact or be impacted by the project.



A-High power, /high interest over the project= Key player

B-High power/ low interest over the project =Meet their needs

C-Low power/ high interest over the project= Show consideration

D-Low power /low interest over the project= Least important

Table 10: Stakeholder analysis

Stakeholders[2]	**Explain the power they hold over the project results or implementation and their level of interest in the project**	**Explain their participation in project design and how their concerns are addressed by the project**[3]	**Explain the potential roles & responsibilities in project implementation**	**Explain how they will be engaged**	**Explain the changes in behaviour or condition expected through implementation of the project**[4]
Type A: High power / high interest = Key player					
Project Steering Committee members: - The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) - Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) - Department of Cooperative Governance	Representatives from DFFE, DPME, COGTA and SANBI will all sit on the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and thus have a substantial influence over the project. Their interests and priorities have been and will continue to be a key cornerstone of ReLISA.	The PSC will ensure effective communication between the ReLISA consortium, the donor and key authorities of the GoSA, informing the Government about activities, and progress, and being informed about relevant policies and priorities. This will ensure alignment with government priorities as well as	Their role will be to provide political steer for the scope of work and mainstreaming project results. The partners in the PSC will be regularly updated and informed about project activities, progress, and events, while also updating the consortium about relevant policies, priorities and initiatives and exploring	Direct engagement by consortium partners. Regular communication, online and in person meetings	The PSC partners actively support creating the enabling conditions for a just transition of South Africa's land use sector. This can be done through changing regulations and creating incentives linked to landscape restoration and carbon markets. Improved coordination and consultation

2 Where possible include names, position and contact information.
3 The full project design process needs to be explained in Annex E.
4 Project outcome(s) presented in the Logframe should capture the expected change in behaviour or condition illustrated here.

and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) - The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)		the avoidance of duplication of other projects and initiatives.	linkages to other relevant projects.		across sectors and ministries is also anticipated.
Other National Authorities: - Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) - Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation (DHWAS) - Limpopo Dept of Economic Development (LEDET) - Statistics South Africa - National Planning Commission - The National Treasury - The Presidency - Ministry of Finance - Natural Capital Accounting Strategic Advisory Group	The scope of this project – creating economic conditions for restoration on pastoral, agricultural lands, the development of carbon markets and water funds, enhancing the data and statistical basis for decision-making – cuts across the purview of many line Ministries and national authorities and bodies.	Initial meetings have taken place regarding involvement in the project and how the listed authorities can support project development through data, research, political support, and overall project steer. These entities were part of the stakeholder workshop in Pretoria.	The National Authorities will help inform and connect the consortium with previous and ongoing activities in the three biomes, to help make the case for restoration.	Direct engagement by consortium partners. Attendance at annual stakeholder consultation workshops.	The National Authorities actively support creating the enabling conditions for a just transition of South Africa's land use sector through effective restoration at scale. Improved coordination and consultation across national authorities is also anticipated.
Provincial Governments: - Limpopo Provincial Government - Mpumalanga Provincial Government - North-West Provincial Government - Gauteng Provincial Government - Kwazulu-Natal Provincial Government - Free State Provincial Government - Eastern Cape Provincial Government	The provincial governments have legislative and executive authority in their own spheres including agriculture and environmental affairs. ReLISA will therefore collaborate with the governments in the designated regions including the following provinces: Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North-West, Gauteng, Kwazulu-Natal, Free State, and Eastern Cape.	Limited participation in project design to date, but meetings will be scheduled once the project has kicked off and final selection of sites is endorsed by the PSC.	Provincial governments will help inform and connect the consortium with previous and ongoing activities in the three biomes, to help make the case for restoration.	Direct engagement by consortium partners. Attendance at annual stakeholder consultation workshops	The Provincial Governments actively support creating the enabling conditions for a just transition of South Africa's land use sector through effective restoration at scale. This can be done through changing provincial regulations and creating incentives linked to landscape restoration and carbon markets. Improved coordination and consultation across provincial governments is also anticipated.

Businesses / Private Sector Investors Energy companies, mining companies, food and beverage companies etc.	A high level of interest is anticipated from private sector companies interested in mitigating their carbon emissions, achieving sustainability goals, and participating in emissions trading or offsetting programs. A key part of the project is attracting private sector funding and so thoroughly involving these stakeholders is critical to project success. Energy companies, industrial manufacturers, transportation, and logistics companies, as well as mining companies, food and beverage companies etc. looking to transition to cleaner energy sources and reduce their carbon footprints could be potential investors in restoration activities, carbon markets and water funds.	Businesses and private sector investors will be consulted with to understand their specific investment barriers and in that way structure the project, so it supports investment preparation for voluntary carbon market projects and other marketable benefits, including enhanced commodity value chains (e.g., game farming), biodiversity, and hydrological services.	Inclusion in meetings and workshops, to understand their concerns and interests while ensuring their active support and financial investments in project activities linking to restoration, water funds and carbon markets. These local companies are often dependent on well-functioning natural resources, with a high interest in offsetting emissions as part of their business strategies, and so strong collaboration is anticipated.	Direct engagement by local consortium partners on the ground (mainly EWT, C4ES, UNESCO and UNDP). Bankable projects & investors will be matched through green tech exchanges, roadshows and roundtables with potential investors, agricultural finance providers and other financial institutions. Attendance at annual stakeholder consultation workshops.	Increased investments in restoration activities, carbon markets and water funds, and overall, more sustainable use of natural resources.
Rural / Local Communities	The activities must be adopted at the local level to achieve the landscape level restoration transformation. Various rural communities have already been consulted with (prior to and during the PPP) and will continue to be involved throughout the project implementation.	As ReLISA aims to improve rural livelihoods and create job opportunities, rural communities have been/will be invited to meetings and workshops to better understand and include their needs vis-à-vis the local opportunities and threats to land degradation. Rural communities will also share	The communities will be involved in activities linked to the implementation of pilot restoration measures. Communities will be invited to participate in meetings and workshops to ensure that their needs and interests are included in the project design and implementation.	Direct engagement by local consortium partners on the ground (mainly EWT, C4ES and UNDP). Attendance at annual	Rural communities support and adapt to changes in regulations and incentives. They continue to/begin applying restoration and ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) measures in the three biomes for more sustainable use of natural resources.

		their ongoing challenges and opportunities linked to gender, which will be incorporated into the project design.	Involvement in the planned restoration knowledge hub is also anticipated.	stakeholder consultation workshops.	
Largescale Landowners / Farmers	ReLISA aims to create a sustainable transition in the South African land use sector. The uptake of this change depends on this group as well as the private sector and others. It is therefore critical to fully engage the landowners and farmers throughout the project as much of the restoration will occur on the land they own and manage.	As ReLISA aims to improve rural livelihoods and create job opportunities, landowners and farmers will provide useful inputs on their needs, challenges and opportunities. Landowners and farmers will support, help design and partake in workshops around land restoration measures as well as trainings on alien plant clearing and habitat restoration in the three biomes. In this way, their knowledge and concerns will be integrated into the project design. Understanding what farmers need in order to participate in restoration schemes is a crucial element of project design.	Local land users, restoration farmers and "champion farmers" will be engaged throughout the project through land restoration activities including trainings and the implementation of pilot restoration measures. Technical, capacity and financial support will be offered in efforts to implement, upscale and maintain conservation approaches to ensure an improved level of sustainability. Involvement in the planned restoration knowledge hub is also anticipated and the 'Women in Restoration' video series will also raise the profile of women's roles and contributions to restoration.	Direct engagement by local consortium partners on the ground (mainly EWT, C4ES and UNDP). Attendance at annual stakeholder consultation workshops.	Landowners and farmers support and adapt to changes in regulations and incentives. They continue to/begin applying restoration and ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) measures in the three biomes. Improved coordination and consultation between farmers and landowners is also anticipated.
Protected Area / Biosphere Reserve managers	A high level of interest is anticipated from protected area and biosphere reserve staff in terms of increased efforts towards sustainable land use across the country as well as the creation of a new biosphere reserve in Northern Drakensberg.	Protected area and Biosphere Reserve staff support, help design and partake in workshops around land restoration measures as well as training sessions on alien plant clearing and habitat restoration in the three biomes. In this way, their knowledge and concerns will be integrated into the project design.	They will be involved in designing and implementing a Water Fund as well as supporting targeted demonstration restoration actions in specified regions. They will also support the work on the expansion of a (core and/or buffer) Biosphere Reserve area, using their knowledge and contacts with	Direct engagement by local consortium partners on the ground (mainly EWT, UNESCO, UNDP). Attendance at annual stakeholder	Improved coordination and consultation between protected area and biosphere reserve managers is also anticipated.

	Biosphere managers are crucial stakeholders in the development of water funds.		relevant authorities. Involvement in the planned restoration knowledge hub is also anticipated.	consultation workshops.	
Biodiversity economy value-chain participants: - Meat Naturally - Herding for Health - Game ranching industry - Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA) - Etc.	High interest is anticipated from these stakeholders as they benefit from ecosystem restoration through enhanced stocking capacity, markets for sustainable meat etc.	These stakeholders will help with the development of sustainable biodiversity economy business models, for example by connecting ranchers adopting restoration measures with premium markets for sustainable meat, or the development of eco-tourism on restoration sites.	Partners in the development of site-specific restoration strategies, in particular ensuing those strategies take account of biodiversity economy business opportunities.	Direct engagement by local consortium partners on the ground (mainly EWT and C4ES).	Improved economic, business and job creation opportunities arising from restoration activities.
Type B: High power / low interest over the project = Meet their needs					
Research Community - Nelson Mandela University - Stellenbosch University - University of free State - Rhodes University - Waterberg Research Support Centre (WRSC) - Lapalala Wilderness School	ReLISA aims to provide new and compelling evidence for a transformation of South Africa's land use sector. Research institutes will help make the case for restoration in the three biomes by closing investment-relevant knowledge gaps (e.g. on soil carbon, water, and biodiversity impacts). This will be steered by UNEP and developed through partners and other in-country research entities.	Some universities will be contracted but this is yet to be determined. Involvement will depend on the nature of the research entity. Participation may involve data collection, tracking benefit and impacts on the landscapes etc.	Work on carrying out the research that provides evidence to support the land use change.	The research entities will be contracted and thus have specific deliverables etc. C4ES will principally collaborate with the selected universities.	The research entities understand and agree the need for inter-disciplinary research to provide compelling evidence for policy change, and are equipped via the applications in the current project to provide this evidence
State-owned research and conservation institutions - SANParks - Water Research Commission (WRC) - South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON)	These entities have expertise that can be drawn upon for implementation of technical components of the project.		Research and conservation institutions will help inform and connect the consortium with previous and ongoing activities in the three biomes, to help make the case for restoration. Involvement in the planned restoration	Direct engagement by consortium partners.	Better data access and higher quality analytical underpinning for restoration interventions.

- Water Research Commission (WRC) - Agricultural Research Council (ARC)			knowledge hub is also anticipated.		
Type C: Low power / high interest over the project = Show consideration					
Civil Society Groups - Conservation Outcomes (CO) - The Nature Conservancy - Living Lands - Women's Agricultural Union - SAWID - RWM - GenderLink - NCWSA - Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA)	Low power over project results but can assist in mainstreaming activities and results to a broader audience within relevant sectors.	Consulted as part of project design and will be part of the ongoing conversation during implementation to ensure expertise is heard and the interests of communities and groups they represent are considered (including all genders).	No direct role in implementation, but consultation.	Consortium partners will engage with Civil Society Groups via for instance participation in webinars and workshops. Attendance at annual stakeholder consultation workshops.	Project implementation reflects wider diversity of experience and expertise on approaches to restoration in selected landscapes.
Other International Development Agencies: - GIZ - WWF - IUCN - BioFin	Low power over project results but can assist in making linkages to other ongoing projects.	Consulted as part of project design and will be part of the ongoing conversation during implementation to ensure expertise is heard synergies with other projects maximized.	Sharing lessons learned and best practices with similar projects to foster collaboration and avoid duplication of efforts.	The consortium will consult with the organizations to ensure synchronization of efforts. Attendance at annual stakeholder consultation workshops.	Improved synergy between ReLISA and other ongoing projects to ensure alignment with priorities of GoSA.
Type D: Low power / low interest over the project = Least important					

Table 11: Specific Stakeholders involved in ReLISA

Stakeholder Group	Name/affiliation of current contacts	Role in the project
Type A: High power / high interest = Key player		
Government	Mohlago Flora Mokgohloa, Deputy Director General, Biodiversity and Conservation Branch, DFFE	Member, Project Steering Committee
	Barney Kgope, Director of the Biodiversity Risk Management department, DFFE	Member, Project Steering Committee
	Ayefeli Mudau, Project Coordinator, DFFE	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Asivhanzhi Makhale, DFFE	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Fhatuwani Munyai, LEDET	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Brian Morris, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA)	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Robert Nkuna, Director General, DPME	Member, Project Steering Committee
	Zakhele Mdlalose, DPME	Participant in stakeholder consultations, discussion of MoU between DPME and UNEP.
	Mbulelo Tshangama, director general, COGTA	Member, Project Steering Committee
	Lydia Bosoga, DALRRD	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Eleanor Van den Berg-McGregor, Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA)	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Ishmael Makwaebae, SANPARKS	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Jeff Manual, SANPARKS	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Natasha Wilson, SANPARKS	Participant in stakeholder consultations
Other National Authorities	Joe De Beer, Deputy Director General - Economic Statistics, StatsSA	Participant in stakeholder consultations – key stakeholder for natural capital assessments
	Shonisani Munzhedzi, Chief Executive Officer, SANBI	Member, Project Steering Committee

	Aimee Ginsburg, Natural Capital Accounting Project Manager, SANBI	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Deshni Pillay, Chief Director: Biodiversity Information and Policy Advice, SANBI	Participant in stakeholder consultations
Business / Private Sector	Richard Laburn, Silicon Kruger	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Garth Barnes, National Business Initiative (NBI)	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Kyra Lunderstedt, Sustainable Finance Coalition	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	James Blignaut, Restory	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Etienne Ernst, Nimeng Investments	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Sarah Bentley, North Swaka Trust	Participant in stakeholder consultations
Farmers	William Webbs, farmer, Glen Allan, Vrede	Participant in stakeholder consultations and welcomed the consortium to his farm during the fieldtrip
	Rick Dyln, farmer, Wilge Protected Environment	Participant in stakeholder consultations and welcomed the consortium to his farm during the fieldtrip
	Doen Joubert, farmer, Kirkwood	Participant in stakeholder consultations and welcomed the consortium to his farm during the fieldtrip
	Johannes de Lange, farmer, Skulpaddorp farm, Strathsomers Estate	Participant in stakeholder consultations and welcomed the consortium to his farm during the fieldtrip
	Harry Haneys, B Harris Farming	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Shane Nelson, farmer, Hemelsvlakte spekboom nursery, Koedoespoort	Participant in stakeholder consultations and met the consortium at the spekboom nursery during the fieldtrip Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Philip Dixie, farmer, Hemelsvlakte spekboom nursery, Koedoespoort	Participant in stakeholder consultations and met the consortium at the spekboom nursery during the fieldtrip Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Rodney Johnson, Outlook Estate	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Mark Andersen, private farmer	Participant in stakeholder consultations

	Warwick Tarboton, farmer & professor	Participant in stakeholder consultations and presented an overview of the Nyl River floodplain to the consortium during the field trip
Biosphere Reserve	Belinda Cooper, Magaliesberg Biosphere	Participant in stakeholder consultations and showed the consortium around the BR during the field trip
	Andrew Murray, Magaliesberg Biosphere	Participant in stakeholder consultations and showed the consortium around the BR during the field trip
	Laeticia, Waterberg Biosphere Reserve	Participant in stakeholder consultations, met with the consortium during the field trip
	Nicholas Theron, Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Oldrich van Schaltwyk, Bahiti Game Reserve	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	John Roumarin, Leshiba Wilderness	Participant in stakeholder consultations
Research Community	Genevieve Pence, Conservation Planning, Strategy and Impact	Research consultant during PPP
	Danie Brink, Dean of the Faculty of AgriSciences, Stellenbosch University	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Julia Harper, University of Stellenbosch	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Wendy Stone, University of Stellenbosch	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Vicent Ralph Clarke, University of Free State	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Richard Fynn, Okavango Research Institute	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Craig Hutton, Sustainability and Resilience Institute, University of Southampton	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Margaret Wolff, Rhodes University	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Alastair Potts, Nelson Mandela University	Participant in stakeholder consultations, and showed the consortium around the thicket sites during the field trip
	Richard Fynn, Okavango Research Institute	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Bonani Madikizela, Water Research Commission	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Channing Arndt, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Craig Hutton, Sustainability and Resilience Institute, University of Southampton	Participant in stakeholder consultations

	Marilize Greyling, Waterberg Research Support Centre (WRSC) Prof Craig Hutton, Sustainability and Resilience Institute, University of Southampton	Participant in stakeholder consultations
NGOs	Sarah Frazee, CEO, MeatNaturally	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Ruan de Wet, MeatNaturally	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Fayez Tembon, Wildlife & Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA)	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Ingrid Coetzee, ICLEI	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Jacques van Rooyen, Herding for Hope	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Justin Grid, Living Lands	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Andrew Takawira, Global Water Partnership (GWP)	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Louise Stafford, The Nature Conservancy	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Sarah Bentley, North Swaka Trust	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Thomas van Viegen, Natural Capital Finance Alliance	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Carina Pienaar, BirdLife South Africa	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Susan Wishart, Wildbird Trust	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Esther May, GIZ SA	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Gregor Schmorl, GIZ SA	Participant in stakeholder consultations
Local Communities	Mashudu Makhokha, Director of Lapalala Wilderness School	Participant in stakeholder consultations and welcomed the consortium to the Lapalala Wilderness School
	Ca 20 landowners of Moepel farms in Marakele	Participants in stakeholder consultations during the field trip
	Freddy Seboni, Kranspoort C.P.A.	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	M Khariva, Khariva C.P.A.	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Chief Khariva, Khariva C.P.A.	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Lucky Sionge, Mathshisevhe	Participant in stakeholder consultations

	Repson, Mathshisevhe	Participant in stakeholder consultations
Other	Jessica Suppli, German Embassy	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Oda Mühr, Germany Embassy	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Jan Coetzee, WWF	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Melisa Mawhenge, IUCN	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Thembisa Jordaan, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZNW)	Participant in stakeholder consultations

2.4 Project Management Risks[5]

Project Management Risks have been identified and described as follows:

Table 12: Description of project management risks

Risk Description/ Analysis		Category	(I) Impact Severity (1-5)	(L) Likelihood (1-5)	(I x L) Overall Risk rating	Risk Management Strategy & Actions[6]	By When/ Whom?
1.	Change of government in 2024 after the project has started and already engaged stakeholders	Political	3	3	9	Start the stakeholder engagement at the technical level since those stakeholders usually continue from one government to the next.	From project start i.e. Feb 2024, Salman Hussain
2.	Restoration business models are not attractive to investors	Economic, Political	3	3	9	Focus on different income streams and business models, including payments for carbon and water, but also relevant alternative value chains such as game farming.	From project start i.e. Feb 2024, Salman Hussain
3.	Negative Voluntary Carbon Markets developments	Economic, Political	3	1	3	Focus on different income streams and business models, including payments for water benefits, but also relevant alternative value chains such as game farming.	From project start i.e. Feb 2024, Salman Hussain
4.	Farmers and communities cannot be convinced to change BAU practices	Economic, Other	1	3	3	Early identification of and partnering with local champions; focus on inclusive business models and proof of concept for the respective models in the three biomes.	From project start i.e. Feb 2024, Salman Hussain
5.	Insufficient buy-in of policy makers and local authorities	Political	3	4	12	Early-on integration of all relevant political partners at different policy	From project start i.e. Feb

5 Please refer to the Project Risk Management section of the Programme Manual

6 Risk management strategies need to be reflected as activities in the workplan and related budget, and when necessary through specific outputs in the logframe.

						levels through consultations and transparent flows of information.	2024, Salman Hussain
6.	Insufficient interest in Water Funds	Economic, Data and Information	1	4	4	Deliberate approach to address this risk by supporting water funds with high probability of interest: one water fund that has already been launched, with a positive feasibility study and initial funding; and to support a second water fund to be established in a catchment that provides water to Gauteng, South Africa's economic hub, with expected high interest.	From project start i.e. Feb 2024, Salman Hussain
7.	A disconnect among consortium partners working solely on work packages they are responsible for and not contributing sufficiently towards overarching projects aims and objectives	Organization	1	3	3	Early agreement on roles and responsibilities among consortium partners and clear communication on what is expected from different consortium partners for different activities. Change management to react continuously to changing project circumstances.	From project start i.e. Feb 2024, Salman Hussain
8.	Risk that project activities contribute to the entrenchment of existing gender inequalities that preclude women's participation in restoration decision-making	Gender-responsiveness	1	3	3	Full implementation of gender action plan that includes strategies to consult with women and ensure participation in project decisions; specific activities targeting training of women and communication of women's role in restoration.	From project start i.e. Feb 2024, Salman Hussain
9.	Risk that selected project priority intervention areas/sites for land rehabilitation do not coincide with political priorities or government's priority areas for investment	Political	2	2	4	Early-on integration of all relevant political partners to explain method used for selection of long - and short list of project sites. Project needs to demonstrate the extent to which existing work on priority sites for intervention has been included in the selection of sites.	From project start i.e. Feb 2024, Salman Hussain

10.	The project fails to ensure the long-term sustainability and maintenance of conservation measures implemented in the different project landscapes after project closure	Economic, Administrative	3	3	9	Project beneficiaries need to take ownership for land rehabilitation from the planning phase onwards. The project needs to invest in an enabling environment and sufficient resources for continuation, outscaling, and maintenance of conservation measures after project closure. Clear exit strategy for each project landscape where land rehabilitation actions will take place.	From project start i.e. Feb 2024, Salman Hussain
11.	Considering the number of donor projects, government investment, and involvement of private sector and NGOs in land rehabilitation in South Africa, the risk might arise that the project will do more of the same and not be creative and innovative enough to come up with more long-term sustainable solutions towards land degradation problems	Economic, Organization	2	4	8	Early identification of existing and completed projects and programs in the different project landscapes and investment to determine key lessons learned and how it could benefit the ReLISA Project to ensure the continuous improvement of land rehabilitation efforts and synergies with existing projects and programs.	From project start i.e. Feb 2024, Salman Hussain
12.	Risk that landowner and relevant governmental cooperation and buy-in to apply for and authorize the establishment of a new biosphere reserve is lacking	Political	3	4	12	Building on existing relationships with landowners and relevant political partners and their early-on integration into the process through consultations and transparent flows of information.	From project start i.e. Feb 2024, Salman Hussain
13.	Risk of legislative changes affecting the project's viability, such as a national framework regulating voluntary carbon markets, legislation affecting security of land tenure such as expropriation of land within priority intervention areas	Political, Economic	2	2	4	Staying abreast of planned legislative and political changes affecting the project and proactive project management and communication with relevant stakeholders.	From project start i.e. Feb 2024, Salman Hussain

2.5. Environmental and Social Safeguard Risks

Refer also to Section 5.2 in main IKI submission project document: Environmental and social risk analysis and safeguards measures.

This project and all its activities are geared towards and guided by the objective to enhance and restore critical habitats for biodiversity and to ensure a sustainable provision of key ecosystem services (especially regulating ecosystem services such as GHG mitigation and hydrological services, and to ensure mitigation of climate change and enhanced resilience of communities to climate change. The main aim of ReLISA is to make the economic case for landscape-level restoration and create the conditions for a just transition of South Africa's land-use sector by restoring degraded key biomes (grasslands, savannas, thicket). All Outcomes are therefore designed around contributing to the improvement of the environment and remedying previous environmental damage in the degraded regions. This will involve the protection and enhancement (restoration) of GHG sinks, notably in grassland, savannah and thicket biomes. Effective restoration at scale contributions to South Africa's efforts to meet its obligations under the UNFCCC. The project will increase donor and private sector funding for restoration by inter alia measuring carbon sequestration potential and developing bankable projects for investment in mitigation and facilitating investor access to voluntary carbon markets. The project will support the expansion of protected areas, undertake restoration in existing protected areas including removal of invasive alien species and, rehabilitation of degraded habitat, support the establishment of a new biosphere reserve, and enhance on-farm agrobiodiversity, all of which contributes to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Hydrological modelling to assess the availability of freshwater under a Business-as-Usual scenario as compared with a with-restoration alternative will contribute evidence to support restoration as a component of Disaster Risk Reduction strategy given South Africa's water crisis. Accordingly, UNEP expects the project to make a positive contribution to the three dimensions of the triple planetary crisis (pro-nature, pro-climate, pro-pollution outcomes) and as such SS 1 and SS 2, are scored as 1/1/Low.

There is some limited risk associated with SS 3 vis-à-vis the use of herbicides. As part of the removal of woody invasive plants, herbicides are applied to cut stumps to prevent regrowth. EWT plans to use Kaput 100 Gel - Triclopyr / Picloram in IAP clearing sites. This poses human health risks of poisoning if swallowed, as well as irritation to skin and eyes. This poses environmental impacts as Triclopyr has toxic implications for aquatic environments and does not breakdown rapidly in soil.

Mitigation measures include:

- Mixing with an applicator (normally mineral oil) and colour dye. The dye allowed applicators to see where poison has been applied and minimises the risk of double application or omission.
- Using the gel form means that spillages are less likely to occur as opposed to liquid herbicides. Gel is mixed already reducing the risks associated with mixing. The application is to cuts stump and ringbarking only, no foliar spray. Due to the gel, it is less likely to produce aerosol droplets that can be inhaled or release in the environment, this reduces contamination of protective wear and gloves.

The following safety precautions will be followed:

- Herbicides will only be applied by accredited, trained personnel.
- All herbicide applicators will wear personal protective gear including face shields, protective garments, and gloves.
- Herbicides to be locked away if not in use.
- Cleaning materials to be kept on site if there is a spillage.

- Every team will have a qualified first aider with training that includes dealing with accidental exposure to pesticide.
- Herbicide applicators will undergo annual medical check-ups.

The following operational procedures will be put in place:

- Herbicides will not be used near riparian areas in summer when there may be heavy rainstorms.
- Empty herbicide containers will be disposed of at a facility that is capable of handling it.
- Brushes will be regularly disposed of along with the containers above.
- If using an alternate herbicide that requires mixing, a spill sheet will first be placed on the ground under the mixing area to protect the environment from any accidental spills.
- All herbicide equipment will be kept in a separate, sealable box, to avoid contaminating other equipment or spilling during transportation.

An additional safeguards indicator has been incorporated into project design and the Results Framework:

<table>
<tr><td colspan="3">Safeguards indicator 0.1:

a) Number of persons applying herbicide who undergo accredited training
b) Number of persons who attend orientation sessions on precautions required where herbicide are use</td></tr>
<tr><td>Unit

Persons</td><td>Baseline (start of project)

0</td><td>Target value (end of project)

a) 20 (whereof 60% would be female)
b) 50 (whereof 60% would be female)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Means of verification:

Accreditation certificates, Attendance lists at orientation sessions.</td></tr>
</table>

The project takes a gender-responsive approach to ecosystem restoration through consultation on restoration sites and approaches, measurement of the differentiated gendered impacts and inclusion in site-specific restoration plans, and communication and dissemination of the role of women in restoration. The project seeks to assess the stakes and benefits of local and indigenous communities and ensure they benefit meaningfully from the proposed restoration measures – in the spirit of a "just transition" that leaves no one behind. The project will not acquire lands, nor develop or promote activities that imply a displacement. Private sector-financed investible restoration projects will be developed based on FPIC principles, and only on areas where tenure and land use rights are established. Extensive stakeholder consultation has been a part of project preparation and will continue to be during the main project phase. The analytical approach for the project will assess the costs and benefits of different approaches to ecosystem restoration, including assessment of social and socio-economic indicators, gender and inclusivity to ensure no one is left behind and that there is an opportunity for all affected (or potentially affected) stakeholders to voice their concerns for and/level of support for different policy interventions. Accordingly, SS 4, SS 5, SS 6 and SS 7 are scored as 1/1/Low.

Regarding SS8, there is a limited risk related to occupational health and safety concerning the pilot restoration measures, (e.g. related to the removal of alien invasive species on demonstration or the management of pilot sites), where personnel are required to undertake field-work manual labour. This is mitigated in that such activities are conducted by professional organisations with extensive experience in on-the-ground restoration activities which will ensure that only properly trained workers and staff members implementing the respective, potentially harmful activities.

A. Summary of the Safeguards Risk Triggered

Safeguard Standards Triggered by the Project	Impact of Risk (1-5)	Probability of Risk (1-5)	Significance of Risk (L, M, H) *Please refer to the matrix below*
SS 1: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	1	1	L
SS 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks	2	2	L
SS 3: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	2	2	L
SS 4: Community Health, Safety and Security	2	1	L
SS 5: Cultural Heritage	1	1	L
SS 6: Displacement and Involuntary Resettlement	1	1	L
SS 7: Indigenous Peoples	2	2	L
SS 8: Labor and working conditions	2	2	L

3. Results Targeted

3.1 Logical Framework

Table 13: UN Environment Programme Logical Framework

Project Objective: Enhanced provision of vital ecosystem services, and improved livelihoods of local communities and farmers by creating the enabling conditions to restore and conserve degraded savanna, grassland and thicket areas in strategic water catchment and other pre-identified priority areas.		**Relevant Programme of Work Outcomes:** *Insert the Outcome(s) and indicator(s) from the Programme of Work to which this project directly contributes*			**Subprogramme**: *Check all that apply:* *Climate Action* ☐ *Nature Action* ☒ *Chemicals and Pollution Action* ☐ *Science-Policy* ☐ *Environmental Governance* ☐ *Finance and Economic Transformations* ☐ *Digital Transformations* ☐
1. Project Outcome	**Indicators**	**Relevant PoW Outcome(s) and indicator(s)**	**PCP outcome**	**Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators** **UNSDCF outputs and indicators**	**Outcome risks**
Proven nature-based restoration and conservation solutions are implemented in grasslands, savannas and thicket biomes, through closing data gaps on socio-economic and environmental impacts, impact monitoring and MRV, and leveraging finance for upscaling from different private and public sources.	Indicator 0.1: 100,000 ha of degraded areas in grasslands, savannas and thicket biomes are under restoration in strategic key water catchments. Baseline: 0 ha Target: 100,000 ha	Outcome 2A: An economically and socially sustainable pathway for halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem integrity is established. Outcome 2B: Sustainable management of nature adopted and implemented in development frameworks.	Programme Outcome 1: Enhanced conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of natural and productive terrestrial, marine, coastal and freshwater ecosystems.	SDG 15 (15.1, 15.3, 15.8, 15.9, 15.a), SDG 6 (6.6), SDG 13 (13.1) UNSDCF Outcome 4.1: By 2025, South Africa is on a just transition to a low-carbon society and vulnerable and marginalised	Risk: Insufficient buy-in of policy makers and local authorities. Risk minimisation strategy: Early-on integration of all relevant political partners at different policy levels through consultations and transparent flows of information. Risk: Change of government in 2024 after the project has started and already engaged stakeholders. Risk minimisation strategy: Start the stakeholder engagement at the technical level since those stakeholders usually continue from one government to the next. Risk: Risk of legislative changes affecting the project's viability, such as a national framework

				communities adapt and are more resilient to adverse effects of climate change. *UNSDCF Indicator* 4h. Percentage of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystem types that are well protected (domesticated indicator).	regulating voluntary carbon markets, legislation affecting security of land tenure such as expropriation of land within priority intervention areas. Risk minimisation strategy: Staying abreast of planned legislative and political changes affecting the project and proactive project management and communication with relevant stakeholders. Risk: Risk that landowner and relevant governmental cooperation and buy-in to apply for and authorise the establishment of a new biosphere reserve is lacking. Risk minimisation strategy: Building on existing relationships with landowners and relevant political partners and their early-on integration into the process through consultations and transparent flows of information.
	Indicator 0.2: Restoration and conservation of the three biomes is upscaled through mobilizing USD 25 million of 3rd party funding (private sector and suitable multilateral funding programs). Baseline: 0 Target: 250,000USD	Outcome 2A: An economically and socially sustainable pathway for halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem integrity is established. Outcome 2B: Sustainable management of nature adopted and implemented in development frameworks.	Programme Outcome 2: Mobilised finance and investment for conservation, restoration, and sustainable use, including for IPLCs.	*SDG 15 (15.1, 15.3, 15.8, 15.9, 15.a),* *SDG 6 (6.6),* *SDG 13 (13.1)* UNSDCF Outcome 4.2: By 2025, natural resources are managed and utilised sustainably for improved livelihoods, health and well-being of vulnerable communities	

Project outcome milestones	Milestone attainment date[7]
M I.1: Stocktaking reports on lessons learned from restoration activities in the three biomes and on extant data, methods and results on making the economic case for restoration are completed. (Ind. I.1 and Ind. II 1)	*30 September 2024*
M I.2: Initial operational plans and funding strategies are developed and presented to authorities and stakeholders as described in the stakeholder analysis and interested investors. (Ind. I.1 and Ind. II 1)	*31 March 2025*
*M I.3: Enhancements to South Africa's existing MRV system and GHG inventory are finalized in a participatory manner with the GoSA and a GHG emission reduction and carbon sequestration baseline is established for the project sites (*Ind. I.3)	*31 December 2026*
*M I 4 MRV system and GHG inventory endorsed (*Ind. I.3)	*31 December 2027*
*M I.5: The GoSA uses the endorsed enhanced MRV system and GHG inventory to develop reports on GHG emissions and LULUCF mitigation (*Ind. I.3)	*31 December 2028*
*M I.6: Year 5 biome-level consultation with stakeholders on ReLISA lessons learned and project sustainability on options for restoration upscaling under ReLISA in the three biomes is completed. (*Ind. I.2 and *Ind. III.3)*	*31 December 2028*
M II.1: 11 pre-feasibility studies conducted for potential investment projects across the three biomes. (Ind. II.1)	*31 December 2027*
M II.2: At least 6 bankable, privately financed restoration investment projects developed for the three biomes. (Ind. II.1 and Ind. II.2)	*31 December 2028*
*M III.1: Feasibility assessment conducted for the establishment of a Water Fund in the selected landscapes (*Ind. III.2)	*30 June 2025*
*M III.2: Water Fund is established (*Ind. III.2)	*31 December 2028*
M III.3: A new grassland Biosphere Reserve in the Northern Drakensberg is established. (Ind. III.1)	*31 March 2028*
M III.4: A concept note for public funding (e.g. GCF, Adaptation Fund or GEF) is developed, Accredited Entity identifies and proposal submitted. (Ind. II.3)	*31 March 2028*
*M III. 5: Appointment of responsible parties for implementation of direct land rehabilitation (*Ind III.4)	*31 March 2028*
M IV.1: Project website created and launched. (Ind. IV.3)	*30 September 2024*
M IV.2: Video series on ecosystem restoration in South Africa including 'women in restoration' videos launched. (Ind. IV.4)	*31 March 2027*
M IV.3: Project objectives and outcomes disseminated at 5 national and 5 international policy fora, e.g. the Global Landscapes Forum, or side events of UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD meetings. (Ind. IV.1 and Ind. IV.2)	*31 December 2028*

7 1 per reporting period: June and December of each year

2. Project Outputs	Indicators	Relevant PoW Direct Outcome(s)	Relevant SDG target(s) and indicators	Output risks
Output I: Biophysical / socio-economic assessments, restoration strategies and planning Viable options and comprehensive restoration strategies for the three biomes that align with political priorities and stakeholder needs are developed and validated through stakeholder consultations – based on thorough analyses of costs / benefits, cash flows, and environmental and distributional impacts (e.g. effects on poverty and on gender).	Indicator I.1 A model for the costs and benefits, as well as the social economic and ecological impacts of restoration of degraded areas in the three biomes to quantify impacts and investment needs, is developed and presented to stakeholders and relevant political authorities. Baseline: 0 Target: 1 (2 yrs. after project start) Indicator I.2 Viable biome-specific business models for restoration (including description of direct and indirect beneficiaries and disaggregated by sex and poverty levels) are identified and compiled into upscaling strategies for the three biomes, and validated through stakeholder consultations with involvement of government, academia, landowners and investors. Baseline: 0 Target: 3 (2 yrs. after project start) Indicator I.3Number of national reports done by the GoSA on GHG and on LULUCF mitigation that use the endorsed and enhanced MRV system. Baseline: 0 Target: 1	2.2 Public and private-sector financial flows contribute to improved ecosystem management. 2.6 Full costs and benefits of human activity are accounted for and internalized in decision-making. 2.7 Natural assets are valued, monitored and sustainably managed.	*SDG 15 (15.1, 15.3, 15.8, 15.9, 15.a),* *SDG 13 (13.1)*	Risk: A disconnect among consortium partners working solely on work packages they are responsible for and not contributing sufficiently towards overarching projects aims and objectives. Risk minimisation strategy: Early agreement on roles and responsibilities among consortium partners and clear communication on what is expected from different consortium partners for different activities. Change management to react continuously to changing project circumstances. Risk: Risk that selected project priority intervention areas/sites for land rehabilitation does not coincide with political priorities or government's priority areas for investment. Risk minimisation strategy: Early-on integration of all relevant political partners to explain method used for selection of long - and short list of project sites. Project need to demonstrate extent to which existing work on priority sites for intervention has been included in selection of sites. Risk: Risk that project activities contribute to the entrenchment of existing gender inequalities that preclude women's participation in restoration decision-making. Risk minimisation strategy: Full implementation of gender action plan that includes strategies to consult with women and ensure participation in project decisions; specific activities targeting training of women and communication of women's role in restoration.

<u>Output II: Leveraging restoration finance through private sector investments and other sources</u> On-the-ground implementation and upscaling of restoration projects in the three biomes are made investible for impact investors and financial intermediaries through addressing specific investment barriers and supporting investment preparation for Voluntary Carbon Market projects and other marketable benefits, including enhanced biodiversity, increases in freshwater quality and quantity, and enhanced community involvement.	<u>Indicator II.1</u> 11 scoping and 6 feasibility studies for potential private sector-financed restoration in priority sites of the three biomes have been conducted and presented to interested investors. Baseline: 0 Target: 11 scoping and 6 feasibility studies <u>Indicator II.2</u> Privately financed projects are implemented through investible restoration projects and investor matching for the savanna, grassland and thicket biomes on a total area of 30,000 ha. Baseline: 0 Target: 30,000ha <u>Indicator II.3</u> A GCF concept note focusing on upscaling of existing restoration projects and CC adaptation through restoration is developed in consultation agreement with the GoSA and submitted to the GCF board. Baseline: 0 Target: 1	2.2 Public and private-sector financial flows contribute to improved ecosystem management. 2.6 Full costs and benefits of human activity are accounted for and internalized in decision-making. 2.7 Natural assets are valued, monitored and sustainably managed.	*SDG 15 (15.1, 15.3, 15.8, 15.9, 15.a),* *SDG 6 (6.6),* *SDG 13 (13.1)*	Risk: Restoration business models are not attractive to investors. Risk minimisation strategy: Focus on different income streams and business models, including payments for carbon and water, but also relevant alternative value chains such as game farming. Risk: Negative Voluntary Carbon Markets developments. Risk minimisation strategy: Focus on different income streams and business models, including payments for water benefits, but also relevant value chains as game farming. Risk: Farmers and communities cannot be convinced to change BAU practices. Risk minimisation strategy: Early identification of and partnering with local champions; focus on inclusive business models and proof of concept for the respective models in the three biomes. Risk: A disconnect among consortium partners working solely on work packages they are responsible for and not contributing sufficiently towards overarching projects aims and objectives. Risk minimisation strategy: Early agreement on roles and responsibilities among consortium partners and clear communication on what is expected from different consortium partners for different activities. Change management to react continuously to changing project circumstances. Risk: Risk that selected project priority intervention areas/sites for land rehabilitation does not coincide with political priorities or government's priority areas for investment. Risk minimisation strategy: Early-on integration of all relevant political partners to explain method

				used for selection of long - and short list of project sites. Project need to demonstrate extent to which existing work on priority sites for intervention has been included in selection of sites. Risk: Risk that project activities contribute to the entrenchment of existing gender inequalities that preclude women's participation in restoration decision-making. Risk minimisation strategy: Full implementation of gender action plan that includes strategies to consult with women and ensure participation in project decisions; specific activities targeting training of women and communication of women's role in restoration. Risk: The project fails to ensure the long term-sustainability and maintenance of conservation measures implemented in the different project landscapes after project closure. This will result in a fading or decreasing level of positive impact on the state of land management and livelihoods of beneficiaries. Risk minimisation strategy: Project beneficiaries need to take ownership for land rehabilitation from the planning phase onwards. The project needs to invest in an enabling environment and sufficient resources for continuation, out scaling and maintenance of conservation measures after project closure. Clear exit strategy for each project landscape where land rehabilitation actions will take place. Risk: Considering the number of donor projects, government investment and involvement of private sector and NGOs in land rehabilitation in South

				Africa, the risk might arise that the project will do more of the same and not being creative and innovative enough to come up with more long-term sustainable solutions towards land degradation problems. Risk minimisation strategy: Early identification of existing and completed projects and programmes in the different project landscapes and investment to determine key lessons learned and how it could benefit the ReLISA Project to ensure continues improvement of land rehabilitation efforts and synergies with existing projects and programmes.
<u>Output III: Direct landscape-level interventions and on-the-ground implementation</u> Restoration and conservation of selected landscapes in the identified priority areas of the three biomes through coordination, need- and opportunity-based technical and legal support and facilitation of stakeholder dialogues.	<u>Indicator III.1</u> One new biosphere reserve of 70,000 ha is established in the grassland biome of the Northern Drakensberg Strategic Water Source Area (SWSA) and sustainably managed with private sector finance from the VCM. Baseline: 0 Target: 1 <u>Indicator III.2</u> The establishment of 1 novel water fund is supported through a thorough feasibility study and modeling of geo-referential explicit impacts on hydrological services, biodiversity and carbon benefits through restoration. Baseline: 0 Target: 1 <u>Indicator III.3</u> Willing local land users and restoration champions in the three priority biomes are supported technically and financially in their efforts of implementing, upscaling or maintaining	2.6 Full costs and benefits of human activity are accounted for and internalized in decision-making. 2.7 Natural assets are valued, monitored and sustainably managed.	*SDG 15 (15.1, 15.3, 15.8, 15.9, 15.a),* *SDG 6 (6.6),* *SDG 13 (13.1)*	Risk: Farmers and communities cannot be convinced to change BAU practices. Risk minimisation strategy: Early identification of and partnering with local champions; focus on inclusive business models and proof of concept for the respective models in the three biomes. Risk: Insufficient interest in Water Funds. Risk minimisation strategy: Deliberate approach to address this risk by supporting water funds with high probability of interest: one water fund that has already been launched, with a positive feasibility study and initial funding; and to support a second water fund to be established in a catchment that provides water to Gauteng, South Africa's economic hub, with expected high interest. Risk: A disconnect among consortium partners working solely on work packages they are responsible for and not contributing sufficiently towards overarching projects aims and objectives. Risk minimisation strategy: Early agreement on roles and responsibilities among consortium partners and clear communication on what is expected from different consortium partners for

	proven conservation approaches and technologies to ensure an improvement in their overall level of sustainability on 18 000 hectares in all three biomes combined. Baseline: 0 Target: 18,000ha <u>Indicator III.4</u> A responsible party for implementation of direct land rehabilitation appointed that is >50% female owned and/represented. Baseline: 0 Target: 1 responsible party contracted			different activities. Change management to react continuously to changing project circumstances. Risk: Risk that selected project priority intervention areas/sites for land rehabilitation does not coincide with political priorities or government's priority areas for investment. Risk minimisation strategy: Early-on integration of all relevant political partners to explain method used for selection of long - and short list of project sites. Project need to demonstrate extent to which existing work on priority sites for intervention has been included in selection of sites. Risk: Risk that project activities contribute to the entrenchment of existing gender inequalities that preclude women's participation in restoration decision-making. Risk minimisation strategy: Full implementation of gender action plan that includes strategies to consult with women and ensure participation in project decisions; specific activities targeting training of women and communication of women's role in restoration. Risk: The project fails to ensure the long term-sustainability and maintenance of conservation measures implemented in the different project landscapes after project closure. This will result in a fading or decreasing level of positive impact on the state of land management and livelihoods of beneficiaries. Risk minimisation strategy: Project beneficiaries need to take ownership for land rehabilitation from the planning phase onwards. The project needs to invest in an enabling environment and sufficient

				resources for continuation, out scaling and maintenance of conservation measures after project closure. Clear exit strategy for each project landscape where land rehabilitation actions will take place. Risk: Considering the number of donor projects, government investment and involvement of private sector and NGOs in land rehabilitation in South Africa, the risk might arise that the project will do more of the same and not being creative and innovative enough to come up with more long-term sustainable solutions towards land degradation problems. Risk minimisation strategy: Early identification of existing and completed projects and programmes in the different project landscapes and investment to determine key lessons learned and how it could benefit the ReLISA Project to ensure continues improvement of land rehabilitation efforts and synergies with existing projects and programmes.
<u>Output IV: Dissemination and outreach</u> Innovative models and approaches, technical solutions and fundraising strategies for implementing restoration of degraded lands at scale in the three biomes are translated into target-specific knowledge products and are disseminated nationally and at relevant international fora.	<u>Indicator IV.1</u> Project objectives and outcomes disseminated at. 5 national and 5 international relevant restoration fora — e.g., the Global Landscapes Forum, side events of UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD meetings or other conferences. Baseline: 0 Target: 5 national and 5 international conferences <u>Indicator IV.2</u> Three national conferences are organized and facilitated in South Africa to present the restoration solutions and promote upscaling beyond the project priority areas and project lifetime.	2.2 Public and private-sector financial flows contribute to improved ecosystem management. 2.6 Full costs and benefits of human activity are accounted for and internalized in decision-making.	*SDG 15 (15.1, 15.3, 15.8, 15.9, 15.a),* *SDG 6 (6.6),* *SDG 13 (13.1)*	Risk: A disconnect among consortium partners working solely on work packages they are responsible for and not contributing sufficiently towards overarching projects aims and objectives. Risk minimisation strategy: Early agreement on roles and responsibilities among consortium partners and clear communication on what is expected from different consortium partners for different activities. Change management to react continuously to changing project circumstances. Risk: Risk that selected project priority intervention areas/sites for land rehabilitation does not coincide with political priorities or government's priority areas for investment.

	Baseline: 0 Target: 3 <u>Indicator IV.3</u> A suite of 20 communication products (infographics, policy briefs, radio broadcasts, podcasts, etc.) that advocate for the upscaling of investment in restoration in South Africa developed and launched. Baseline: 0 Target: 20 <u>Indicator IV.4</u> A 'Women in Restoration' video series developed and launched. Baseline: 0 Target: 1	2.7 Natural assets are valued, monitored and sustainably managed.		Risk minimisation strategy: Early-on integration of all relevant political partners to explain method used for selection of long - and short list of project sites. Project need to demonstrate extent to which existing work on priority sites for intervention has been included in selection of sites. Risk: Risk that project activities contribute to the entrenchment of existing gender inequalities that preclude women's participation in restoration decision-making. Risk minimisation strategy: Full implementation of gender action plan that includes strategies to consult with women and ensure participation in project decisions; specific activities targeting training of women and communication of women's role in restoration.

4. Relevance

4.1. Relevance to the UNEP Programme of Work

This project in the Nature Action Subprogramme aims to contribute to ecosystem restoration in South Africa by upscaling investment, notably by the private sector, through creating the conditions for a just transition of South Africa's land-use sector, and to make the economic case for restoration through mobilizing investment at scale, while recognizing the socio-cultural, economic and land tenure context. The resultant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and enhanced ability of rural communities and downstream water users to adapt to climate change will also contribute to the Climate Action Subprogramme.

Table 14 - Contributions of the project towards PoW Outcomes, Outcome indicators, PoW Direct Outcomes, SDGs

Subprogramme(s)	***Climate Action*** ☒ ***Nature Action*** ☒☐ ***Chemicals and Pollution Action*** ☐ ***Science-Policy*** ☐ ***Environmental Governance*** ☐ ***Finance and Economic Transformations*** ☐ ***Digital Transformations*** ☐
PoW Outcomes	☒ *Outcome 2A: An economically and socially sustainable pathway for halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem integrity is established.* This is the core value proposition of the project. Socio-economic evidence is generated to support the upscaling of investment in ecosystem restoration that supports the just transition of South Africa's land-use sector, to adapt to climate change and address biodiversity loss while improving livelihoods of rural communities and farmers. ☒ *Outcome 2B:* Sustainable management of nature adopted and implemented in development frameworks. The projects aims to support South Africa's development frameworks in their activities and ambitions related to the sustainable management of nature. The project involves enhancement of South Africa's Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system and project results will feed into the national GHG inventory and Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) under the UNFCCC.
Outcome indicator(s)	**N. (ii)** Number of financial, public- and private sector entities whose financial decisions and risk management frameworks take biodiversity and ecosystem services into consideration, and the increase in financial flows towards ecosystem management as a result of UNEP support. UNEP will mainstream valuation tools to assess the costs and benefits of ecosystem restoration into national authorities engaged with natural capital accounting (Activity I.6). **N.(iii)** Number of countries and national, regional, and subnational authorities and entities that incorporate, with UNEP support biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches into development and sectoral plans, policies and processes for the sustainable management and/or restoration of terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas. UNEP will mainstream valuation tools to assess the costs and benefits of ecosystem restoration into national authorities engaged with natural capital accounting (Activity I.6).

	F&E (ii) Number of business alliances, principles, practices, standards or frameworks established or adopted with UNEP support to enhance environmental sustainability The project is aimed at developing bankable restoration opportunities and matching them to investors in order to increase the flow of private sector finance for restoration in the selected landscapes (Output II).
PoW Direct Outcome(s)	*2.2 Public and private-sector financial flows contribute to improved ecosystem management.* The project is aimed at developing bankable restoration opportunities and matching them to investors in order to increase the flow of private sector finance for restoration in the selected landscapes. *2.6 Full costs and benefits of human activity are accounted for and internalized in decision-making.* This is the key analytical comparative advantage that UNEP brings to the table – through experience in economic valuation, the economic and social benefits of pro-nature alternatives are estimated and used to incentivize decisions for investment in restoration. *2.7 Natural assets are valued, monitored and sustainably managed.* The project aims to fills gaps in the evidence base for restoration by valuing ecosystem service (notably biodiversity, carbon and hydrological services) and undertaking natural capital assessment for selected target sites based on measurement and modelling of these benefits of restoration.
Most relevant SDG target(s) and indicator(s)	*SDG 15 (15.1, 15.3, 15.8, 15.9, 15.a), SDG 6 (6.6), SDG 13 (13.1)* The project focuses on ecosystem restoration and hence contributes to various targets of Goal 15: Life on Land, specifically the conservation and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems (15.1), reducing land degradation (15.3), removal of invasive alien species (15.8), integration of ecosystem values in national planning (15.9) and mobilizing finance in service of the goal (15.a). In addition, the project is focused on restoration and maintenance of fresh water hydrological ecosystem services through the development of water funds (6.6). The enhancement of ecosystem services will contribute positively to South Africa's ability to adapt to climate change, in particular providing resilience to drought (13.1).

The analytical grounding for the project is based on **UNEP's comparative advantage** on the economics of nature, valuation of ecosystem services and techniques for prioritization of ecosystem restoration interventions based on cost-benefit analysis, following earlier ground-breaking and acclaimed work in South Africa that has been appreciated by GoSA and was instrumental in the successful pre-selection of the project by IKI. UNEP is partnering with six other renowned local and international organizations with complementary expertise in on-the-ground implementation of restoration activities in South Africa (EWT, UNESCO and UNDP), development of water funds (UNESCO), measurement, reporting and verification (CSIR), and leveraging private sector investment in restoration (C4EcoSolutions and Unique) to form a strong consortium for implementation.

4.2. Relevance to Regional, National or Subnational Priorities

Effective restoration at scale contributes to environmental commitments and aspirations inter alia the Paris Agreement and South Africa's NDC and NBSAP targets for the land-use sector, as well as a multitude of national and subnational strategies and policy targets such as the DFFE Strategic Plan, National Water Resources Strategy, EbA implementation plan, National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan, the UN Decade of Restoration, and the Bonn Challenge. Many of these plans and strategies make up a core component of South Africa's approach to combating climate change, biodiversity loss, and enabling a long-term, just transition to a climate-resilient society and economy. The project will contribute to meeting the National Land Degradation Neutrality targets by avoiding and reversing land degradation in key biomes – savanna, grasslands, and thicket - while EbA approaches will increase soil quality, clean water and food and enhance biodiversity. The project will also catalyse financial investments in ecological infrastructure to enhance resilience and ensure societal benefits in a gender-responsive manner.

Given the geographically widespread nature of land degradation in South Africa, several attempts have been made to prioritise areas for restoration by the GoSA and other agencies. As part of the ReLISA PPP, UNEP has undertaken a systematic review of ongoing work to map ecosystem loss and modification, or condition, at a national scale, relative to a natural state, and in consideration of ecosystem composition, structure and function, as well socio-economic factors that may influence the viability and desirability of restoration on particular sites (see Annex). A long-list of potential sites was derived during the PPP based on desk-based review of existing work to prioritise geographic areas for ecosystem restoration, stakeholder consultation with landowners, communities and reserve managers at proposed sites, and wider stakeholder consultation at the national workshop. These focal areas have been overlayed with existing national ecosystem restoration prioritization exercises to reveal the geographic alignment and discussed with the stakeholders and endorsed by DFFE during the national workshop.

The project is aligned with the fourth pillar of South Africa's United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (Cooperation Framework) 2020-2025 which is focused on Climate resilience and sustainably managed natural resources. The project will contribute to the Framework's aim to "accelerate South Africa´s just transition to a low-carbon society and strengthen climate change resilience of vulnerable and marginalised communities and improve efficient and environmentally-sound management and utilisation of natural resources."

4.3. South-South and Triangular Cooperation

There are no direct mechanisms for south-south or triangular cooperation included in the project design and this is not a key element of the project. Nevertheless, the results and methodologies for measuring ecosystem restoration impacts and opportunities will be disseminated widely, including through the UN Decade Knowledge Hub, which will facilitate other countries' engagement with the project.

5. Implementation Arrangements

5.1 Project management and governance

The organigram below in Figure 4, summarizes UNEP's proposal for key personnel hired within UNEP for the current project. There will be others who are hired by Implementing Partners, e.g., researchers, specialists on science-policy translation, business engagement etc. in each of the two countries in scope, but these are not included under Key Personnel below. The individuals named below may of course change owing to career progression etc.

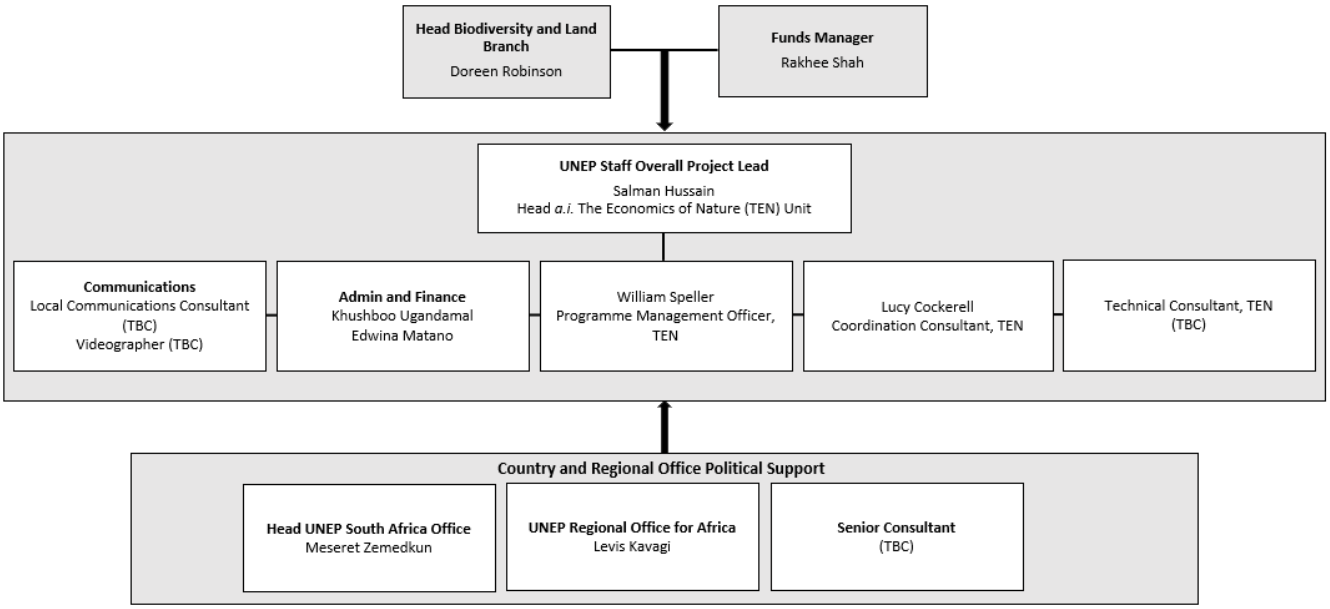


Figure 4: Organigram of UNEP's proposal for key personnel hired within UNEP for ReLISA

The **UNEP staff overall project lead** is Salman Hussain, Head a.i. of the Economics of Nature Unit. He would be the main liaison point for UNEP with BMUV and the IKI Secretariat and would be responsible for overall project delivery and reporting.

Salman Hussain has extensive experience in managing large projects concurrently. Since joining UNEP in 2014, he has been project lead for the following: (i) *ca.* 5 million USD NORAD-funded Advancing Natural Capital Accounting (ANCA) project; (ii) a 4 million EUR EU-funded project on TEEB Country implementation; (iii) UNEP lead for a UNDESA-led 7 million EUR EU-funded project on Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project (NCAVES); (iv) a 4 million EUR IKI-funded TEEBAgriFood project; and (v) a 8.5 million EUR on-going EU-funded project on TEEBAgriFood implementation.

Doreen Robinson (Head. Biodiversity and Land Branch) is Salman Hussain's First Reporting Officer, and the fund manager is Rakhee Shah.

Within TEN Unit, William Speller would act as programme management officer for the project, facilitating the implementation of UNEP-led activities and coordinating the inputs from Consortium partners, to be supported by a Technical Consultant to be hired by the project. Lucy Cockerell will act as Coordination Consultant, arranging and minuting intra-Consortium meetings, Project Steering Committee meetings and leading reporting to IKI and internally. Admin and finance support is provided by a Finance and Budget Officer, Khushboo Ugandamal, and an Admin Assistant, Edwina Matano. These staff members will have various duties including the following: develop, process, and monitor all contracts with consultants and Implementing Partners; develop and submit financial donor reports; organize travel and venue hire for meetings; and assist the overall project lead on budgeting. UNEP anticipates hiring a full-time communications consultant to undertake and lead communications-related activities under Output IV as well as supervise the videographer, also to be hired, who will film and produce the video series on ecosystem restoration in South Africa including 'women in restoration' series.

UNEP Regional and Country Offices will provide political support, specifically: Meseret Zemedkun (Head, UNEP South Africa Office); Levis Kavagi (UNEP Regional Office for Africa); and a senior consultant to be recruited with the UNEP South Africa office. These UNEP colleagues will link the project with the UN Resident Coordinators (RC) and UN Country Teams (UNCT), and as appropriate with the regional UN Development Cooperation Office and the Regional Economic Commissions vis-à-vis joint UN processes and, most importantly, maintain contact and buy-in from political partners with the Government of South Africa for the project, providing linkages to evolving government programs.
The national governance structure includes the establishment of a national project steering committee.

The **Project Steering Committee** will consist of high-level members representing major key stakeholders actively involved in the planned activities at national level. The NPSC will be responsible for:

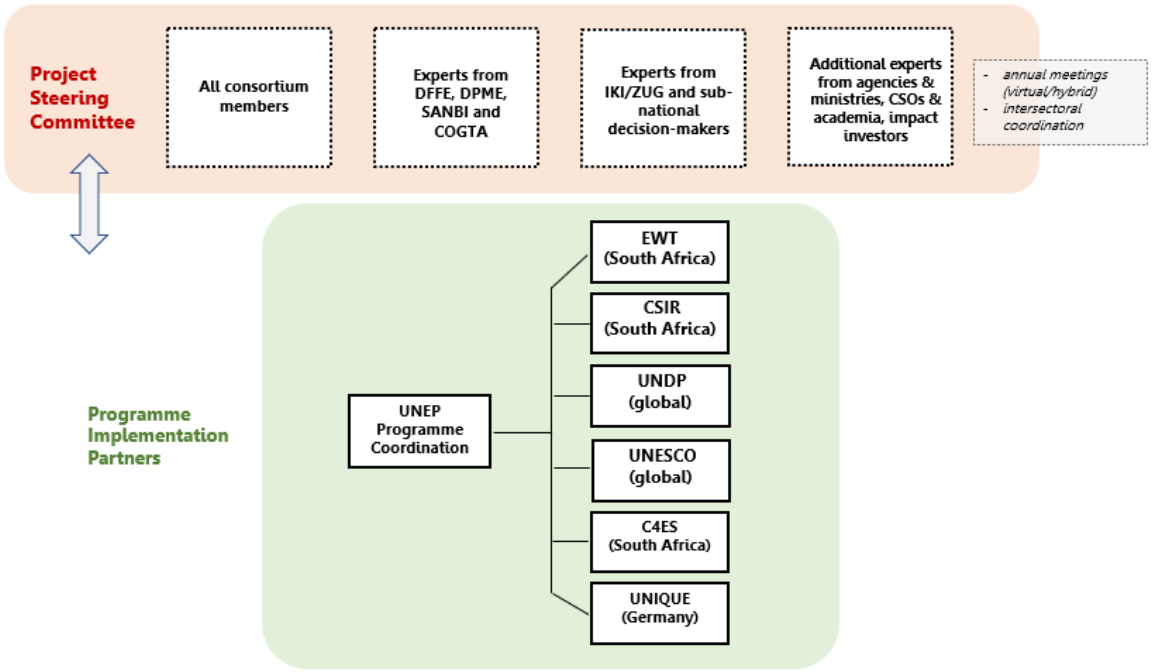
- Providing general oversight and guidance to the project to ensure credibility of methodology and alignment of content with national policies,
- Monitoring national-level activities
- Review methodological and results summary reports
- Advice the project implementation team on implementation problems at national level and suitable modifications to the subsequent work plans
- Supporting the mainstreaming of the results in the decision-making process in the country at national and subnational level.

UNEP will coordinate both intra-consortium exchanges as well as communications with the Steering Committee members. The Steering Committee will be established with the project kick off and meet at least annually. It serves to ensure effective two-way communication between the ReLISA consortium, the donor and key authorities of the Government of South Africa, informing the Government about activities, progress, and events, and being informed about relevant policies and priorities. Thus, it will include senior project staff located in the UNEP Pretoria Office, DFFE and other government institutions, as well as BMUV/IKI and external partners via. Two representatives from DFFE, Barney Gkope (Director of the Biodiversity Risk Management department) and Flora Mokgohloa Mohlago (Deputy Director General, Biodiversity and Conservation Branch) will be part of the PSC, as well as Shonisani Munzhedzi (CEO of SANBI), Robert Nkuna (Director General, DPME) and Mbulelo Tshangama (Director General, COGTA). Regular ReLISA-wide monthly meetings will be held with all consortium partners. At national and subnational levels, key policy stakeholders (ministries and relevant agencies) will be invited to join the Project Steering Committee and nominate focal points which will be regularly updated and informed about project activities and progress. A balanced gender representation will be ensured on the PSC, and a gender focal point will also be appointed to ensure the prevention of gender-discrimination and

contribution to gender justice in project implementation. The lead for project coordination at national level is with UNEP whereas other partners will facilitate coordination with regional policy stakeholders in the selected jurisdictions. IKI (through ZUG) and BMUV will be invited for an active involvement throughout the entire project. Membership of the Project Steering Committee is to be discussed and agreed with BMUV-IKI and with DFFE.

5.2 Partners

As overall project lead, UNEP assumes responsibility for overall coordination and achieving the project outcomes. UNEP will coordinate both intra-consortium exchanges as well as communications with the Steering Committee members. The steering committee will be established with the project kick off and meet at least annually, but also demand-based. It serves ensuring an effective two-way communication between the ReLISA consortium, the donor and key authorities of the Government of South Africa: Informing the Government about activities, progress, and events, and being informed about relevant policies and priorities. Thus, it will include senior project staff located in the UNEP Pretoria Office, DFFE and other government institutions, as well as BMUV/IKI and external partners via. Regular ReLISA-wide monthly meetings will be held with all consortium partners. See Figure 5 below on the ReLISA consortium structure.



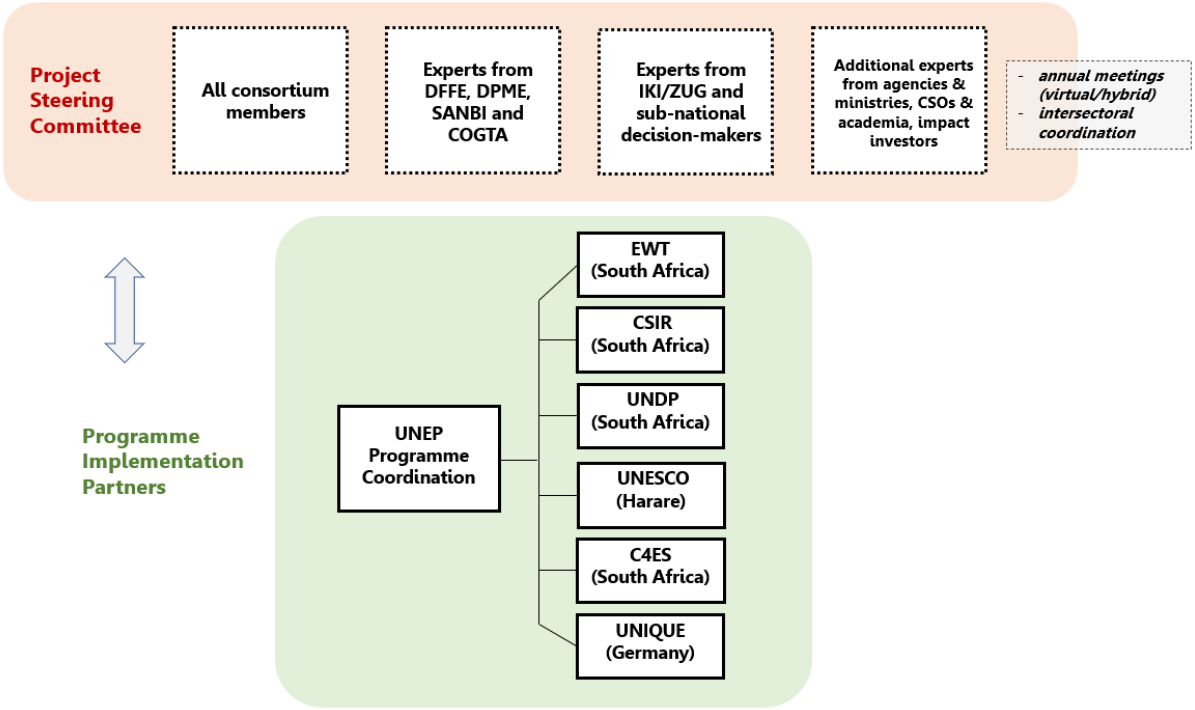


Figure 5: ReLISA consortium structure

At national and subnational levels, key policy stakeholders (ministries and relevant agencies) will be invited to join the Project Steering Committee and nominate focal points which will be regularly updated and informed about project activities and progress. The lead for coordination at national level is with UNEP whereas other partners will facilitate coordination with regional policy stakeholders in the selected jurisdictions. IKI (through ZUG) and BMUV will be invited for an active involvement throughout the entire project. Membership of the Project Steering Committee is to be discussed and agreed with BMUV-IKI and with DFFE, and will include membership from DFFE, SANBI, DPME and COGTA. In addition, the National Treasury and the Presidency will be invited to be part of the Steering Committee. We will also invite the Secretariat of climate change desk of the SADC to be part of the Steering Committee.

There are four Outputs. Output 1 ('Biophysical / socio-economic assessments, restoration strategies and planning') will be coordinated by UNEP. The first part of the Output descriptor ('Viable options and comprehensive restoration strategies for the three biomes that align with political priorities and stakeholder needs are developed and validated through stakeholder consultations') will involve all partners, deepening and concretizing the outcomes of extensive and on-going consultations with stakeholders which started in the PPP. The second component of Output 1 ('analyses of costs / benefits, cash flows, environmental and distributional impacts (e.g. effects on poverty and on gender)' is to be coordinated by UNEP with further technical inputs on modelling and science-policy translation from CSIR, C4ES and Unique. The MRV component of Output 1 (c.f. Activities 1.7 and 1.8) is led by CSIR, with other partners providing peer review and steer vis-à-vis evolving on-the-ground project needs.

Output II ('Leveraging restoration finance through private sector investments and other sources') is led by C4ES and Unique via contracts with UNDP. There will be a strong link with the natural capital assessments in Output 1 which provide new and compelling evidence for restoration finance. Partners working on-the-ground with communities and other stakeholders (EWT, UNDP, and UNESCO) will

provide inputs on the viability of and any risks vis-à-vis safeguarding associated with options for leveraging private sector investment.

Output III ('Direct Landscape-level interventions and on-the ground implementation') will be led by ReLISA partners working in the three biomes (EWT, C4ES, UNDP, UNESCO) with inputs from all partners. UNDP will work across all three biomes through the contracting of Responsible Parties for implementation of direct land rehabilitation. In the grasslands biome, EWT will be working with UNESCO to establishment of a new Biosphere Reserve (BR) in the grasslands of the Northern Drakensberg and implementing restoration activities in three geographic regions, the Soutpansberg, the Northern Drakensberg and the Amathole region in the Eastern Cape. UNESCO will design and implement a Water Fund in at least one savanna Biosphere Reserve and support targeted demonstration restoration actions in Kruger to Canyons, Waterberg and Magaliesberg Biosphere Reserves. In the thicket, C4ES will coordinate the management and enhancement of existing pilot and demonstration sites to identify cost-reduction potentials and hone restoration protocols for different landscapes which can then be rolled out biome-wide. For each biome, UNEP will convene a consortium-level meeting on at least a bimonthly basis to coordinate activities across partners.

To secure project sustainability, Activity III.6 is on the development of a concept note for a publicly funded adaptation grant program. This activity will be led by UNEP with inputs from all partners.

Output IV (Dissemination and outreach) will be led by UNEP. The role of UNEP is to provide some of the content (e.g., on natural capital assessment) and to provide the structure for and process management pertaining to Output IV; all partners will contribute dissemination and outreach material. Through the TEEB and PAGE initiatives, for example, UNEP has experience in the development of educational materials, guidance documents and e-learning courses, and connections with academic institutions. UNEP is leading the communications element of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and so UNEP's lead on Output IV provides scope to link the project to the UN Decade communications strategy, and link to events and outreach material.

Table 15: Partners' information

Partner	Expertise/ strength	Agreed roles / responsibilities in project implementation	Date of UNEP Partnership Committee approval/ Due diligence process
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)	The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, commonly (CSIR), is a world-class African research and development organisation established through an Act of Parliament in 1945. The CSIR undertakes directed, multidisciplinary research and technological innovation that contributes to accelerate socio-economic prosperity in South Africa and so the improved quality of life of South Africans. The organisation plays a key role in supporting public and private sectors through directed research that is aligned with South Africa's priorities, the organisation's mandate and its science, engineering and technology competences.	The role of CSIR will be (1) to lead on developing and implementing improvements in the Government of South Africa's Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and impact monitoring to support international reporting for voluntary carbon markets and co-benefits, and (2) to contribute empirical evidence and technical expertise on carbon, hydrological, biodiversity, and economic modelling to help make the case for public and private sector upscaling of restoration activities in the thicket, savanna and grasslands biomes. Focus will be on biophysical and economic assessments and direct landscape level interventions spinoffs for accelerated investment in restoration initiatives. CSIR will support interactions between the project partners and the government of South Africa and other key stakeholders. CSIR will also support the dissemination and communication for the project.	*21-11.2019*
Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)	The EWT is among South Africa's largest, and most established, national conservation nongovernmental organisations. Founded in 1973, EWT is a non-profit organisation, with an expanding footprint throughout southern and East Africa, focusing on the conservation of threatened species and ecosystems. EWT achieves this by implementing impact-driven research and conservation action programmes, implementing projects that address the threats facing species, and supporting sustainable natural resource management. As a public benefit organisation, the EWT communicates the principles of sustainable living through awareness programmes to the broadest possible constituency, for the benefit of all. EWT has developed a unique operational structure to achieve its Mission and objectives – meeting conservation goals through the work of specialist thematic programmes, designed to maximise impact in the field and enhance the development of skills and capacity. EWT stakeholders include national and provincial	The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) is a local partner focused on grassroots project implementation of the ReLISA project. EWT has been protecting habitat and species for more than 50 years. EWT's focus will be on the realisation of Output 3 with a specific emphasis on strategic water source areas and climate change adaptation. EWT's teams are locally based and have existing relationships in each of the geographic areas they work in. The organisation has expertise in sustainable land management, restoration and the use of legal mechanisms to secure land for improved management leading to improved climate change adaptation. EWT will be driving the establishment of a new Biosphere reserve in the grasslands of the Northern Drakensberg and implementing restoration activities in three geographic regions, the Soutpansberg, the Northern Drakensberg and the Amathole region in the Eastern Cape. EWT will identify and pilot innovative measures with landowners and communities to sustain restoration	*14-10-2021*

	government, other NGOs, landowners, local communities, farm workers, conservancies, academia and industry. The EWT also acts as a public watchdog, taking government and industry to task for decision-making that does not meet sustainability criteria. EWT is focused on direct conservation action and achieving efficient impact on the ground towards the conservation of threatened and endemic species and habitats to the benefit of all people.	activities in these areas improving the long-term impact of the project. EWT's work will enhance climate change resilience in the grasslands of South Africa.	
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	UNDP has decades of experience supporting countries to take action on climate change. With their partners, UNDP has helped people and communities in over 140 countries to mitigate emissions and adapt to climate impacts. Throughout UNDP's experience, they have learned that climate change actions must be inclusive, gender-responsive, and prioritize the poorest and most vulnerable. The Paris Agreement has laid out the path for the world to work together and it is now our responsibility to take those steps and achieve those ambitions. We must now work with all members of society to take bold and ambitious action.	UNDP will be responsible for direct Landscape-Level interventions and on-the-ground implementation of Sustainable Land Management and land rehabilitation activities. Willing local land users and restoration champions in the three priority biomes will be supported technically and financially in their efforts of implementing, upscaling or maintaining proven conservation approaches and technologies to ensure an improvement in their overall level of sustainability. Considering UNDP's knowledge and experience of implementing projects of this nature in South Africa, UNDP will appoint suitable Responsible Parties in the three priority biomes to do the actual on-the-ground implementation. In support of the appointed Responsible Parties, the UNDP project team will focus on providing project management and technical support, coordination between different work packages and stakeholder dialogue. Considering UNDP's global footprint and experience in 170 countries working with various issues related to the sustainable management of land and human development, this provides an important source of knowledge and expertise available to the project team.	*n.a.*
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	UNESCO was established in 1945, with its HQ in Paris. The first Natural Sciences programme was the 'Drylands Programme'. Today, the Natural Sciences Sector has 3 Divisions, respectively dealing with Ecological and Earth sciences; Hydrology; and Science Policy and capacity building in sciences. In Africa, the organisation has 5 regional offices, including the Harare Regional Office for Southern Africa. This multisectoral office has more than 100 staff members based in the subregion and manages more than $100M	UNESCO, in the context of its Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) and its Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB), will support restoration in three existing Biosphere Reserves (BR) in the savanna biome and in one planned grassland BR.	*n.a.*

	in funding. The Natural Sciences unit in Harare currently has 12 staff members, including 3 international staff who have each worked in multiple UNESCO offices, with backgrounds in hydrology, engineering, and environmental management. The unit currently manages a portfolio of $8.5M including projects in DRR; Climate Change; Transboundary Groundwater Management; Biosphere Reserves; Science, Technology and Innovation Policy. The natural sciences unit also provides technical support to other sectors, notably Natural Heritage and Education for Sustainable Development. UNESCO has an Antenna office in South Africa with 2 Natural Science positions.	A Water Fund will be operationalised in at least one BR, whereby downstream private and public water users provide sustainable financing for landscape restoration activities towards improvement of water quality/quantity. UNESCO will further work with CSIR on developing landscape-wide sustainability indicators for Biosphere Reserves, such as an Index of Watershed Integrity; work with C4ES/Unique and CSIR on measuring the quantitative impact of the Water Fund investments; provide technical support to EWT on the nomination of the proposed grassland BR; and work with C4ES/Unique and UNDP in identifying alternative funding mechanisms for restoration in savanna BR. These actions will further build capacity of BR to function as model sites for sustainable development and will be used to strengthen the network of 11 BR at national level and in the wider network of more than 700 BR, of which UNESCO provides the secretariat. UNESCO will also develop and negotiate a funding proposal with at least one global funding mechanism (GCF/AF) to attract additional public funding for landscape restoration in Biosphere Reserves.	

C4 EcoSolutions	C4 EcoSolutions is a consulting company based in Cape Town, South Africa. C4ES's primary work involves the design and implementation of climate change, conservation and biodiversity projects in both the private and public sectors. The four C's in the company's name represent the four focal areas, namely: Climate, Community, Conservation and Carbon. The diverse skill set amongst the C4ES team of professionals - including climate science, ecology, geography, economics and social science - enables the team to integrate these four focal areas into their projects. C4ES's approach is firmly based on robust scientific and socio-economic data, supported by comprehensive stakeholder consultations and community engagements. This approach ensures that all aspects of the project align with national priorities and meet the most urgent needs of the targeted communities and ecosystems. C4ES undertakes work with a great sense of responsibility to the communities receiving funding, the biodiversity being conserved, and the global taxpayers and/or private investors funding the interventions. In addition to C4ES's work designing climate change adaptation and mitigation projects for numerous international agencies and the governments of a wide range of developing countries, C4ES is deeply involved in the restoration of thicket and grassland ecosystems in South Africa. Through this work, C4ES has developed considerable expertise in the ecology of spekboom and thicket; carbon accounting in ecosystems; the bundling of projects to create economies of scale; and the carbon market.	C4ES and Unique are leading the on-the-ground implementation and upscaling of restoration projects in the three biomes by making these projects investible for financial intermediaries and impact investors (Output II). This will be achieved by addressing specific investment barriers, such as data gaps on benefits (Act II.4) and limited awareness among investors (Act II.5). Moreover, C4ES and Unique will support the investment preparation of projects for the voluntary carbon market and other marketable benefits through the preparation of 11 pre-feasibility studies exploring different restoration approaches in the three biomes and assessing investment barriers (Act II.2). Following the pre-feasibility studies, C4ES and Unique will lead the development of 6 bankable, privately financed restoration investment projects (Act II.3). Input from these studies will contribute to the development of an investment strategy for the three biomes (Act I.5). Under Activity II.4 and across the project, C4ES and Unique will contribute to closing knowledge gaps. This involves: i) data collection at the site level, including soil carbon and water and biodiversity impacts (Act II.4, Act III.5); ii) providing information on ongoing restoration initiatives, in particular in the thicket biome (Act I.1); and iii) supporting project partners to develop a suite of parameters for strengthening biophysical, social and economic evidence (Act I.2). Data from C4ES/Unique-led activities will provide input for the dissemination and outreach activities planned under this project (Output IV) and will support the development of proposals for other funding modalities (Output III). C4ES and Unique will connect investment-ready projects with investors through initiatives such as green technology exchanges, roadshows and roundtables (Act II.5). This activity will showcase flagship restoration initiatives in South Africa, contributing to knowledge dissemination to various stakeholders beyond the private sector (Act I.7).	*n.a. – not directly contracted by UNEP*

Unique land use GmbH	Unique land use GmbH is based with its headquarters in Freiburg / Germany. Since its foundation in 1998, Unique provides technical support to both government- and private sector-driven sustainable land use projects in Sub Saharan Africa. Unique is a technical implementation partner of the AFR100 initiative, with a focus on developing and implementing innovative approaches and business models for site-adapted land restoration solutions, agroforestry systems, and sustainable commodity production. Development cooperation partners include the IKI, World Bank, IFC, GIZ, KFW and a large number of private investors and financial intermediaries. and implements large development cooperation projects (on behalf of GIZ and KfW. Unique has an extensive track-record related to proposed ReLISA project activities (see www.unique-landuse.de).	Unique is together with C4ES a consortium partner focused on business model development for effective restoration in the three biomes and private sector-based upscaling on-the-ground. Key activities and contributions include the assessment of restoration opportunities, supporting the collection of reliable information regarding the economic and environmental impacts (esp. related to GHG mitigation, hydrological services and biodiversity) of restoration models for natural capital accounting and the development of investible projects and biome-level restoration strategies, mobilization of additional finance and revenue streams for farmers and communities.	*n.a. – not directly contracted by UNEP*

5.3 Resource Mobilization

The UNEP-led ReLISA consortium was pre-selected among the competing submissions responding to the IKI call and invited by IKI on 25 October 2022 to undertake a Project Preparation Phase (PPP) to develop a full proposal. BMUV provided EUR 441,867 funding which was disbursed across the implementing partners for the PPP from Nov 2022 until July 2023. The current project proposal is to be submitted to the International Climate Initiative (IKI) with a funding request for 14,558,133 for the main project phase i.e. a total of 15 million EUR across the PPP and main project phase. The project design has been discussed intensively with IKI and BMUV and representatives from both organisations participated in the country mission during the PPP.

5.4 Cost-effectiveness

The following measures/choices in project design contribute to the cost-effectiveness of the project:

- Engagement of local implementing partners: four out of seven Consortium partners are based in South Africa – UNDP South Africa, CSIR, EWT and C4ES – keeping the cost of travel as well as daily rates for staff low compared to international partners. UNESCO is also represented by its regional office in Harare.
- UNEP will hire technical, program management and communications personnel to be based in South Africa for project implementation.
- The size and cost of staff is commensurate with the nature of the intervention and UNEP's role, which includes leading on numerous technical and substantive activities, delivering all communications and knowledge management activities, as well as coordinating political engagement, financial and narrative reporting for the entire Consortium, and the mainstreaming of results. UNEP staff are required in addition to the aforementioned locally based personnel to ensure the successful fulfilment of these responsibilities for an important UNEP donor.

5.5 Budget and Staff Alignment

Project	Restoring Landscapes in South Africa (ReLISA): Nature-based solutions for climate, biodiversity and people
LogFrame Element	L4
Version	Initial

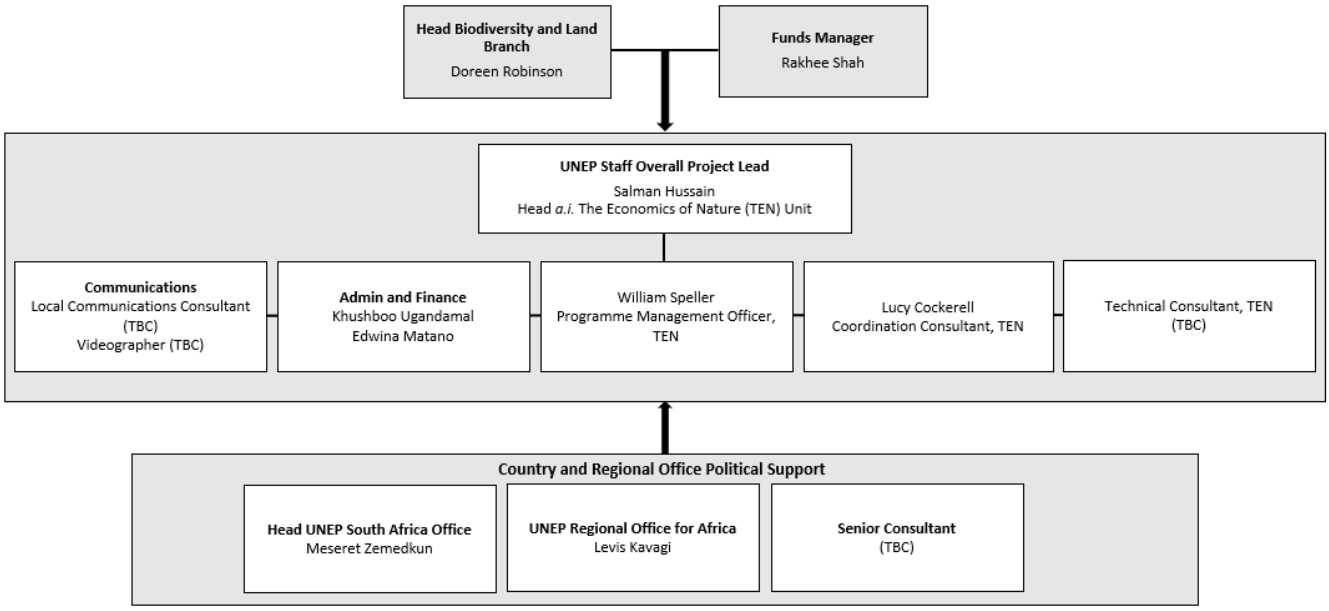
Outcome	Activity	CLASS	2024 Amount	2025 Amount	2026 Amount	2027 Amount	2028 Amount	2029 Amount	Grand Total
Outcome 1 Proven nature-based restoration and conservation solutions are implemented in grasslands, savannas and thicket biomes, through closing data gaps on socio-economic and environmental impacts, impact monitoring and MRV, and leveraging finance for upscaling from different private and public sources.		**Total**	**3,304,580**	**3,236,732**	**3,155,365**	**2,815,186**	**2,489,785**	**241,567**	**15,243,215**
Outcome 1		STAFF PERSONNEL	477,125	520,500	520,500	520,500	520,500	43,375	**2,602,500**
Outcome 1		TRAVEL	51,500	51,500	51,500	51,500	51,500		**257,500**
Outcome 1		CONTRACT SERVICE	24,583	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	417	**125,000**
Outcome 1		OPERAT OTH COSTS							
Outcome 1		SUPPL COM MATER							
Outcome 1		EQUIP VEH FURNIT							
Outcome 1		TRANSFER/ GRANT TO IP	2,371,199	2,267,365	2,195,359	1,894,315	1,606,349	169,984	**10,504,571**
Outcome 1		GRANTS OUT							
Outcome 1		IP-PSC							
Outcome 1		UN-PSC	380,173	372,367	363,007	323,871	286,435	27,791	**1,753,644**

NB: Donor Budget is in EUR, this has been converted to USD using the XR 1.05

5.6 Monitoring Plan and Reporting

Progress will be monitored against the Gannt chart on a bimonthly basis. Adaptation measures that need to be applied to address any delays in project implementation will need to be considered on a case-by-case basis. For instance, if the formalities of contracting an in-country research entity tasked to provide the economic evidence is delaying project progress, UNEP may consider finding an alternative. The decision will be taken by the project manager with inputs from the project team, including UNEP colleagues in the sub-Regional Office of Southern Africa. Monitoring of outputs and outcomes will be gender sensitive.

The organizational arrangement for reporting is based on the organigram copied (for ease of reference) below:



The 'core team', i.e. UNEP Staff Overall Project Lead, Communications, Admin and Finance, Programme Management Officer and TEN Consultants, will meet on a monthly basis to review progress against each indicator, as well as the project assumptions, management and safeguard risks.

Although the ultimate responsibility for achieving targets set out in Indicators lies with the UNEP Staff Overall Project Lead, the day-to-day monitoring will be assigned to individual team members. Meetings will also be held at least quarterly with Country and Regional Office Political Support colleagues to discuss (i) any slippage re: achieving targets, (ii) any new opportunities and threats vis-à-vis achieving the targets set. If there is a possibility of non-compliance/non-achievement of targets this will be flagged to the Head Biodiversity and Land Branch.

Externally, there are Steering Committee meetings planned for the project duration. As is the case for the intra-UNEP meetings, the StComm will be presented and asked to comment on any slippage in

achieving results (and suggest mitigation measures), and also to proffer guidance on new political opportunities and threats.

UNEP is charged with responsibility across the Consortium and will schedule bimonthly calls to receive updates on progress, implementation challenges and discuss solutions. The activities of partner organisations are governed by contracts with UNEP (UN-to-UN Agreements and Project Cooperation Agreements) which will include clear timelines for delivery and reporting. Regular bilateral dialogues will be held with each partner to discuss (i) any slippage re: achieving targets, (ii) any new opportunities and threats vis-à-vis achieving the targets set.

The budget for monitoring and reporting is embedded within personnel costs of the responsible staff hired by UNEP for project implementation, in particular the coordination consultant, and the technical consultant, political engagement consultant and communications consultant hired through the UNEP South Africa office and stationed in Pretoria.

Table 16. Indicator Tracking Tool

Indicators and assumptions	Indicator definition and unit of measurement	Data collection methods and sources	Frequency and schedule	Person(s) responsible	Information use and audience
Outcome 1: *Proven nature-based restoration and conservation solutions are implemented in grasslands, savannas and thicket biomes, through closing data gaps on socio-economic and environmental impacts, impact monitoring and MRV, and leveraging finance for upscaling from different private and public sources.*					
Output I*: Biophysical / socio-economic assessments, restoration strategies and planning* *Viable options and comprehensive restoration strategies for the three biomes that align with political priorities and stakeholder needs are developed and validated through stakeholder consultations – based on thorough analyses of costs / benefits, cash flows, and environmental and distributional impacts (e.g. effects on poverty and on gender).*					
Indicator 0.1: *100,000 ha of degraded areas in grasslands, savannas and thicket biomes are under restoration in strategic key water catchments.*	Baseline: 0 Target value: 100,000ha	Project design documents (PDDs), GIS maps, legal documents	Data will be collected bi-annually	Salman Hussain	Policy Makers at sub national and national level, as well as academia, landowners, the private sector, and other stakeholders. Data will be used for monitoring and evaluation and for reporting to the donor.
Indicator I.1 *A model for the costs and benefits, as well as the social, economic and ecological impacts of restoration of degraded areas in the three biomes to quantify impacts and investment needs, is developed and presented to stakeholders and relevant political authorities.*	Baseline: 0 Target value: 1 study	Documented model, minutes of stakeholder meetings	Data will be collected bi-annually.	Salman Hussain	Policy Makers at sub national and national level, as well as academia, landowners, the private sector, and other stakeholders.

					Data will be used for monitoring and evaluation and for reporting to the donor.
Indicator I.2 *Viable biome-specific business models for restoration (including description of direct and indirect beneficiaries and disaggregated by sex and poverty levels) are identified and compiled into upscaling strategies for the three biomes, and validated through stakeholder consultations with involvement of government, academia, landowners and investors.*	Baseline: 0 Target value: 3 strategy documents	Documented strategies, minutes of stakeholder meetings.	Data will be collected bi-annually.	Salman Hussain	Policy Makers at sub national and national level, as well as academia, landowners, the private sector, and other stakeholders. Data will be used for monitoring and evaluation and for reporting to the donor.
Indicator I.3 *Number of national reports done by the GoSA on GHG and on LULUCF mitigation that use the endorsed and enhanced MRV system.*	Baseline: 0 Target value: 1 GHG inventory	Links to the reports	Data will be collected bi-annually.	Salman Hussain	Government stakeholders at sub national and national level. Data will be used for monitoring and evaluation and for reporting to the donor.
Output II: *Leveraging restoration finance through private sector investments and other sources.* *On-the-ground implementation and upscaling of restoration projects in the three biomes are made investible for impact investors and financial intermediaries through addressing specific investment barriers and supporting investment preparation for Voluntary Carbon Market projects and other marketable benefits, including enhanced biodiversity, increases in freshwater quality and quantity, and enhanced community involvement.*					
Indicator 0.2: *Restoration and conservation of the three biomes is upscaled through mobilizing 25 million € of 3rd party funding (private sector and suitable multilateral funding programs).*	Baseline: 0 Target value: 25,000,000 USD	PDDs, investor commitments, approved GCF concept note or other documentation.	Data will be collected bi-annually.	Salman Hussain	Government stakeholders at sub national and national level. Data will be used for monitoring and evaluation and for reporting to the donor.
Indicator II.1 *11 scoping and 6 feasibility studies for potential private sector-financed restoration in priority sites of the three biomes have been*	Baseline: 0 Target value: 11/6 studies	Final scoping and feasibility studies.	Data will be collected bi-annually.	Salman Hussain	Private sector investors and academia. Data will be used for monitoring and

conducted and presented to interested investors.					evaluation and for reporting to the donor.
Indicator II.2 *Privately financed projects are implemented through investible restoration projects and investor matching for the savanna, grassland and thicket biomes on a total area of 30,000 ha.*	Baseline: 0 Target value: 30,000ha	Draft PDs or MoUs with interested investors, including maps and locations.	Data will be collected bi-annually.	Salman Hussain	Private sector investors and government stakeholders. Data will be used for monitoring and evaluation and for reporting to the donor.
Indicator II.3 *A GCF concept note focusing on upscaling of existing restoration projects and CC adaptation through restoration is developed in consultation agreement with the GoSA and submitted to the GCF board.*	Baseline: 0 Target value: 1 concept note	Final concept note, Feedback by SANBI, the elected accredited entity, GCF communications.	Data will be collected bi-annually. Direct work on this indicator will begin in Q1 2026, and the intended completion date is Q1 2028	Salman Hussain	Policy Makers at sub national and national level, as well as academia, landowners, the private sector, and other stakeholders. Data will be used for monitoring and evaluation and for reporting to the donor.
Output III*: Direct landscape-level interventions and on-the-ground implementation* *Restoration and conservation of selected landscapes in the identified priority areas of the three biomes through coordination, need- and opportunity-based technical and legal support and facilitation of stakeholder dialogues.*					
Indicator III.1 *One new biosphere reserve of 70,000 ha is established in the grassland biome of the Northern Drakensberg Strategic Water Source Area (SWSA) and sustainably managed with private sector finance from the VCM.*	Baseline: 0 Target value: 1 biosphere reserve	Legal documents, maps, MoU with selected investor.	Data will be collected bi-annually. Direct work on this indicator is intended to begin in Q4 2024 and end at the end of the project lifespan.	Salman Hussain	Policy Makers at sub national and national level, as well as academia, landowners, the private sector, and other stakeholders. Data will be used for monitoring and evaluation and for reporting to the donor.
Indicator III.2 *The establishment of 1 novel water fund is supported through a thorough feasibility study and modeling of geo-referential*	Baseline: 0 Target value: 1 water fund	Legal documents, maps, modelling results.	Data will be collected bi-annually. Direct work	Salman Hussain	Policy Makers at sub national and national level, as well as academia,

explicit impacts on hydrological services, biodiversity and carbon benefits through restoration.			on this indicator is intended to begin in Q1 2025 and end at the end of the project lifespan.		landowners, the private sector, and other stakeholders. Data will be used for monitoring and evaluation and for reporting to the donor.
Indicator III.3 *Willing local land users and restoration champions in the three priority biomes are supported technically and financially in their efforts of implementing, upscaling or maintaining proven conservation approaches and technologies to ensure an improvement in their overall level of sustainability on 18 000 hectares in all three biomes combined.*	Baseline: 0 Target value: 18,000ha	Legal documents, maps, modelling results	Data will be collected bi-annually.	Salman Hussain	Farmers and landowners. Data will be used for monitoring and evaluation and for reporting to the donor.
Indicator III.4 *A responsible party for implementation of direct land rehabilitation appointed that is >50% female owned and/represented.*	Baseline: 0 Target value: 1 responsible party contracted	Contract with party	Data will be collected bi-annually.	Salman Hussain	Policy Makers at sub national and national level, as well as academia, landowners, the private sector, and other stakeholders. Data will be used for monitoring and evaluation and for reporting to the donor.
Output IV: *Dissemination and outreach* *Innovative models and approaches, technical solutions and fundraising strategies for implementing restoration of degraded lands at scale in the three biomes are translated into target-specific knowledge products and are disseminated nationally and at relevant international fora.*					
Indicator IV.1 *Project objectives and outcomes disseminated at 5 national and 5 international relevant restoration fora — e.g., the Global Landscapes Forum, side events of UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD meetings or other conferences.*	Baseline: 0 Target value: 10 conferences / events	Agendas, event documentation	Data will be collected bi-annually.	Salman Hussain	Policy Makers at sub national and national level, as well as academia, landowners, the private sector, and other stakeholders. Data will be

					used for monitoring and evaluation and for reporting to the donor.
Indicator IV.2 *Three national conferences are organized and facilitated in South Africa to present the restoration solutions and promote upscaling beyond the project priority areas and project lifetime.*	Baseline: 0 Target value: 3 conferences	Agendas, event documentation	Data will be collected bi-annually. Starting during the final Q of 2024, preparations for the conferences will start taking place and will continue until the end of the project lifespan.	Salman Hussain	Policy Makers at sub national and national level, as well as academia, landowners, the private sector, and other stakeholders. Data will be used for monitoring and evaluation and for reporting to the donor.
Indicator IV.3 *A suite of 20 communication products (infographics, policy briefs, radio broadcasts, podcasts, etc.) that advocate for the upscaling of investment in restoration in South Africa developed and launched.*	Baseline: 0 Target value: 20 communications products	Infographics, policy briefs, radio broadcasts, podcasts	Data will be collected bi-annually.	Salman Hussain	Policy Makers at sub national and national level, as well as academia, landowners, the private sector, and other stakeholders. The communications products are also intended to reach those with low literacy levels or disabilities. Data will be used for monitoring and evaluation and for reporting to the donor.
Indicator IV.4 *A 'Women in Restoration' video series developed and launched.*	Baseline: 0 Target value: 3 videos	Videos launched online	Data will be collected bi-annually. The	Salman Hussain	Policy Makers at sub national and national level, as well as academia,

			milestone to complete the video series by is Q1 2027.		landowners, the private sector, and other stakeholders. Data will be used for monitoring and evaluation and for reporting to the donor.

6. Digital Transformation, Communication, and Learning

6.1 Digital Transformation

The project involves a) application of state-of-the-art methodologies for the measurement the ecosystem service benefits provided by restoration through innovative methods to assess carbon, biodiversity and hydrological services, including innovative methods to assess biodiversity impacts such as eco-acoustics and e-DNA, and b) enhancement to South Africa's Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system for the land sectors and digital platform that will improve South Africa's reporting to international environment conventions. The dissemination of knowledge from the project will be through the solution of the UN Decade Digital Hub.

6.2 Communication strategy

The project will establish a permanent communication strategy with relevant agencies and government authorities to inform about progress, activities and discuss challenges. For reaching different national, local and international target audiences a communications strategy will determine the suite of communications products that reflect: (i) the range and expectations of the different stakeholder groups and potential change agents, (ii) links to on-going initiatives/web-based platforms, (iii) appropriate choice of language(s), and (iv) cultural sensitivities. The Communications Consultant to be hired in the UNEP South Africa office will have responsibility for implementation of the strategy and products, including info-graphics, podcasts, radio, videos and web-articles. A 'Women in Restoration' video series will raise the profile of women's role and contribution to restoration in South Africa though identification of champions. The project website (relisa.org) will be used to promote and disseminate information on the project, linking to the social media platforms of Consortium partners, including cross-posting on UN Decade on Restoration. A project website, housed under unep.org, will be developed and maintained.

The Project Steering Committee will be represented by different key agencies of the South African government and, combined with annual national stakeholder events, serve the visibility within South African policymaking. Results of the project will be presented at international fora such as UNFCCC and CBD COPs, Global Landscapes Forum and others, and will be disseminated through the UN Decade Digital Hub.

The budget for communications includes two communications consultants – a Communications Officer and a Videographer based in UNEP South Africa Office.

In addition, external services will be used for three separate consultancies:

1. Consultancy service to apply data generated by the project to produce infographics on the project sites and impacts. (US$50,000)
2. Consultancy service to design the relisa.org website and provide updates throughout the life of the project, and Activity IV.3 - establishment of restoration knowledge hub. (US$50,000)
3. Consultancy service to develop suite of communications materials for project dissemination (US$72,500)

Table 17: Communications Budget Summary

Communications consultant (UNEP South Africa office) - Under the direct supervision of the Programme Management Officer, the consultant would be responsible for steering and delivering	$300,000 (full-time for 5 years)

Activities IV.1 to IV.5, including guiding the development of communications products, ensuring project visibility, implementing the knowledge management plan and maintaining the project website.	
Videographer (home-based) - filming and production of video series in Activity IV.5 and filming of national workshop events.	$100,000 (1/3 time for 5 years)
Consultancy service to apply data generated by the project to produce infographics on the project sites and impacts	$50,000
Consultancy service to design the relisa.org website and provide updates throughout the life of the project, and Activity IV.3 - establishment of restoration knowledge hub	$50,000
Consultancy service to develop suite of communications materials for project dissemination	$72,500

6.3 Data, Information and Knowledge Management

ReLISA will generate significant knowledge of use in South Africa and globally, in particular with regard to economic value of ecosystem benefits (e.g., carbon, hydrological, biodiversity related services) and the means and modes of engaging the private sector for upscaling investment in restoration.

Project results and progress will be disseminated through the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Digital Hub which will provide flows of information among stakeholders from research, policy and practice; peer-to-peer learning and experience exchange; a platform for restoration practitioners (individuals, groups and communities, with a specific focus on indigenous peoples, farmers, women and youth) to connect with each other and with investors, the general public, and funders; compendiums of best practices in different ecosystems; guidance for increasing the resilience of restored ecosystems under climate change, and a tracking of current and past ecosystem restoration initiatives across the world.

This content will also be compiled on the dedicated ReLISA.org website. Stakeholders engaged through the duration of the project will be informed of these mechanisms to engage with project learnings and developments in restoration in South Africa and globally. The annual stakeholder workshops offer targeted opportunities to engage stakeholder with the strategy.

In addition, the following measures constitute the knowledge management strategy:

- A Communications Consultant to be hired by UNEP will be designated project knowledge management focal point to ensure the successful implementation of the knowledge management strategy.
- The Project Steering Committee will also have a designated knowledge management focal point and knowledge management will be a standing agenda item at PSC meetings.
- Cooperation with IKI-South Africa Interface and attendance at annual networking events.
- Transmission of knowledge to relevant South African ministries through the PSC and annual stakeholder workshops

- Maintenance of a list of active projects and actors – their associated goals and targets and potential synergy with ReLISA – for knowledge exchange who would be invited to annual consultations and engaged with on an ad hoc basis.

6.4 Evaluation Plans

According to the standardized Agreement between UNEP and the IKI donors (pls see the section 2.e in the attached agreement template) UNEP is obliged to undertake an internal audit (by UNEP) only. Having consulted with the UNEP Evaluation Office, it has been decided that UNEP will not conduct a separate mid-term evaluation but will provide input to and review the BMUV evaluations. As such, a mid-term evaluation and final review will be commissioned by BMUV/ZUG with separate budget will thus not be budgeted as part of the project budget.

7. Project Sustainability

7.1. Sustainability

The sustainability of the project is ensured through it's strong focus on developing a diverse array of viable restoration business models approriate for the different tenure and land ownership circumstances in degraded landscapes of the three biomes, and making restoration at scale investible for private sector impact investors. The models can be replicated and upscaled during and after the project lifetime, and this will be supported through targeted plattforms and dissemination, as well as pilot measures and closed knowledge gaps relevant for impacts financed by investors and donor organizations. Strengthening the capacities of key stakeholders and restoration champions (e.g. farmers implementing restoration on their land), complementing private finance through other funding options (e.g. a GCF concept note) and establishing structures for innovative mechnisms such as water funds are further means to ensure the sustainability of ReLISA outputs and outcome.

SADC will be engaged via the Head of the UNEP Southern Africa Office. This will contribute to achieving the project exit strategy. The SADC context will also be very important in terms of thorough South-South learning and uptake of the models by the other SADC members. Furthermore, all biosphere reserves in South Africa have recently been given training on writing funding proposals. This provides a range of opportunities to continue to implement projects, which provides an incentive for land-users to stay involved since strong performers will be preferred to be assisted with any new funds (funding upscaling of successful restoration projects is preferred to refunding failed projects).

Significant GoSA ownership and commitment to the project is evidenced by their active participation in project conception and design, the selection of sites, and their stated request for a MoU between DPME and UNEP to guide project implementation. This is indicative of a GoSA approach that perceives ReLISA as a part of a longer-term strategy for ecosystem restoration in South Africa, as aligned with government priorities and the UNSDCF. The UNSDCF for South Africa, however, is scheduled to end in 2025, and as such. via the MOU and the discussions held with DPME, it will be ensured that lessons learned and best practices stemming from ReLISA will contribute to the development of the next iteration of the forthcoming cooperation framework. The UN Country Team has been engaged in project conception and stakeholder consultation.

7.2. Uptake

A key innovation of the project is leveraging significant private sector investment for on-the-ground ecosystem restoration. The project will conduct scoping and feasibility studies, assessments of investment barriers and access potential finance sources through different business models, including carbon markets as well as climate, community and biodiversity (CCB) certification. The development of bankable projects and matching those with investors through roadshows and green tech exchanges will be based on comprehensive information on the biodiversity and ecosystem service impacts of different restoration models. In doing so, ReLISA will contribute to a transformation in the potential finance available for restoration in South Africa by making the economic case and facilitating derivation of pecuniary benefits from restoration in a pioneering manner. Such a science-based approach will provide a basis for upscaling beyond the project lifetime, with less dependence on public funding.

Coupled with this is the application of state-of-the-art methodologies for the measurement the ecosystem service benefits provided by restoration through innovative geo-spatial methods to assess carbon, biodiversity and hydrological services, including innovative methods to assess biodiversity impacts such as eco-acoustics and e-DNA, as well as enhancement to South Africa's Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system for the land sectors and digital platform that will improve

South Africa's reporting to international environment conventions. The dissemination of knowledge from the project will be through the solution of the UN Decade Digital Hub.

7.3. Replicability

The selected landscapes will serve as blueprints for further upscaling in other landscapes in South Africa, and promoted through different and targeted dissemination activities, with a view to achieving transformational change not only in the environmental sphere, but also with substantial benefits to communities and their living standards.

8. Additional Information

Annex A. Completed ProDoc Checklist

ProDoc Section	Project Manager	Head of Branch	PRC
Project Summary Table 1: Project Information Table 2: Project Duration Table 3: Budget Summary Table 4: Division and regional office budget Table 5: Budget for monitoring, reporting and evaluation Table 6: Typology of project interventions	X		
1. Project Justification 1.1 Problem and Situation analysis	X		
2. Intervention Strategy 2.1 Project Description	X		
2.2 Theory of Change	X		
2.3 Stakeholders	X		
2.4 Project Management Risks	X		
2.5 Environmental and Social Safeguard Risks	X		
3. Results Targeted 3.1 Logical Framework	X		
3.2 Activities and Workplan Summary	X		
4. Relevance 4.1 Relevance to the UN Environment Programme	X		
4.2 Relevance to Regional, National or Subnational Priorities	X		
4.3 South-South and Triangular Cooperation	X		
5. Implementation Arrangements 5.1 Governance	X		
5.2 Partners	X		
5.3 Resource Mobilization	X		
5.4 Cost-effectiveness	X		
5.5 Budget and Staff Alignment	X		
5.6 Monitoring Plan and Reporting	X		
6. Communication and Learning 6.1 Communication strategy	X		
6.2 Information and Knowledge Management	X		
6.3 Evaluation Plans (including confirmation of the evaluation budget from the Evaluation Office)	X		
7. Project Sustainability 7.1 Sustainability (Exit strategy)	X		
7.2 Uptake	X		
7.3 Replicability	X		

Additional Information Annex A ProDoc Checklist	X		
Annex B Budget/ Proof of Secured Funds	X		
Annex C Detailed Project Workplan	X		
Annex D Environmental Social and Economic Review Note	X		
Annex E Design Process	X		
Annex F. Draft Donor Agreements			
Annex G. Gender Marker Self-Assessment	X		
Annex H Spatial Data Management Checklist	X		
Annex I Terms of Reference	X		
Annex J Stakeholder Response Mechanism	X		
Annex K Stakeholder Engagement Plan	X		
Annex L Project Beneficiaries	X		
Annex M South-South and Triangular Cooperation			

Annex B. Budget /Proof of Secured Funds

Project	Restoring Landscapes in South Africa (ReLISA): Nature-based solutions for climate, biodiversity and people
LogFrame Element	L4
Version	Initial

Outcome	Activity	CLASS	2024 Amount	2025 Amount	2026 Amount	2027 Amount	2028 Amount	2029 Amount	Grand Total
Outcome 1 Proven nature-based restoration and conservation solutions are implemented in grasslands, savannas and thicket biomes, through closing data gaps on socio-economic and environmental impacts, impact monitoring and MRV, and leveraging finance for upscaling from different private and public sources.		**Total**	**3,304,580**	**3,236,732**	**3,155,365**	**2,815,186**	**2,489,785**	**241,567**	**15,243,215**
Outcome 1		STAFF PERSONNEL	477,125	520,500	520,500	520,500	520,500	43,375	**2,602,500**
Outcome 1		TRAVEL	51,500	51,500	51,500	51,500	51,500		**257,500**
Outcome 1		CONTRACT SERVICE	24,583	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	417	**125,000**
Outcome 1		OPERAT OTH COSTS							
Outcome 1		SUPPL COM MATER							
Outcome 1		EQUIP VEH FURNIT							

Outcome 1		TRANSFER/GRANT TO IP	2,371,199	2,267,365	2,195,359	1,894,315	1,606,349	169,984	**10,504,571**
Outcome 1		GRANTS OUT							
Outcome 1		IP-PSC							
Outcome 1		UN-PSC	380,173	372,367	363,007	323,871	286,435	27,791	**1,753,644**

NB: Donor Budget is in EUR, this has been converted to USD using the XR 1.05

Annex C. Detailed Project Workplan

Table 18: Project Workplan

Annex 1 - Gantt chart on the project schedule	
Project title	Restoring Landscapes in South Africa (ReLISA): Nature-based solutions for climate, biodiversity and people"
Project number	21_III_121_ZAF_M_Restoring Landscapes In South Africa (ReLISA)

Color coding
Outcome (overarching project goal)
Time frame output (specific project goal)
Time frame activity
Milestones

Year		**2024**				**2025**				**2026**				**2027**				**2028**				**2029**			
	Goals and activities	**Feb-Mar**	**Q2**	**Q3**	**Q4**	**Q1**	**Q2**	**Q3**	**Q4**	**Q1**	**Q2**	**Q3**	**Q4**	**Q1**	**Q2**	**Q3**	**Q4**	**Q1**	**Q2**	**Q3**	**Q4**	**Q1**	**Q2**	**Q3**	**Q4**
Outcome	**Proven nature-based restoration and conservation solutions are implemented in grassland, savanna and thicket biomes, through closing data gaps on socio-economic and environmental impacts, impact monitoring and MRV, and leveraged finance from different private and public sources.**																								

Output I: Biophysical / socio-economic assessments, restoration strategies and planning	**Viable options and comprehensive restoration strategies for the three biomes that align with political priorities and stakeholder needs are developed and validated through stakeholder consultations – based on thorough analyses of costs / benefits, cash flows, environmental and distributional impacts (e.g.. effects on poverty and on gender).**																									
Activity I.1	Stocktaking on restoration planned/carried out to date (extension from the work carried out in the PPP) and identification of entry points and opportunities in the selected priority areas, including assessment of (i) the current state of degradation, (ii) potential for enhancing key ecosystem services from restoration activities, (iii) potential for private sector investment, (iv) alignment with national priorities, (v) implementation readiness, (vi) ecological need, (vii) social and gender impacts, (viii) implementation costs, and (ix) implementation risks.																									
Activity I.2	Develop an initial suite of costed needs for gap-filling on biophysical, social (gender-responsive) and economic evidence to make the business case for restoration in the three biomes. The proposals will be initially screened by entities working with the private sector to assess the extent to which the new evidence would enhance opportunities for private sector leverage of restoration options.																									
Activity I.3	Carry out restoration opportunity / natural capital accounting assessments for selected target sites: modelling and measurement of impacts of restoration on carbon sequestration, hydrological ecosystem services and biodiversity.																									
Activity I.4	Develop and then refine operational plans for selected priority sites and carry out comprehensive consultations with stakeholders at all levels (including communities and farmers, civil society groups, national and sub-national government, private sector actors, women's organisations) to determine: (1) appropriate restoration activities; (2) the roles and responsibilities of actors involved; (3) governance arrangements; (4) implementation scenarios, and (5) risk assessment and mitigation strategies.																									

Activity I.5	Develop and then refine overall funding strategies for biome-level restoration. Each will include GIS mapping, potential impacts, restoration protocols, and gender-responsive socio-economic analyses, consultations, recommendations for addressing risks and bottlenecks, and scenario analyses.																										
Activity I.6	Dissemination of the results of economic assessment of restoration using Natural Capital Assessment. Dissemination to National Treasury, Ministry of Finance, NCA Strategic Advisory group and other stakeholders to support the 10-year National NCA Strategy and promote NCA as a tool for holistic decision-making on ecosystem restoration and sustainable natural resource management.																										
Activity I.7	Enhance South Africa's MRV system for the land sector and the existing digital platform managed by SAEON. This includes enhancing the exchange of information between different stakeholders, showcasing flagship restoration initiatives, and linking the MRV system with the UN Decade Information hub (the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration).																										
Activity I.8	Outcomes of project restoration activities are made available to and feed into the national GHG inventory and other relevant reports, including the BTR and NDC reporting under the UNFCCC, CBD NBSAP and UNCCD reports.																										
Milestone I.1.	Stocktaking reports on lessons learned from restoration activities in the three biomes and on extant data, methods and results on making the economic case for restoration are completed.			x																							
Milestone I.2	Initial operational plans and funding strategies are developed and presented to authorities, stakeholders and interested investors.					x																					
Milestone I.3.	Enhancements to South Africa's existing MRV system and GHG inventory are finalized in a participatory manner with the GoSA and a GHG emission reduction and carbon sequestration baseline is established for the project sites												x														
Milestone I.4	MRV system and GHG inventory endorsed.																x										

Milestone I.5	The GoSA uses the endorsed enhanced MRV system and GHG inventory to develop reports on GHG emissions and LULUCF mitigation.																					x						
Milestone I.6	Year 5 biome-level consultation with stakeholders on ReLISA lessons learned and project sustainability on options for restoration upscaling under ReLISA in the three biomes is completed.																					x						
Output II: Leveraging restoration finance through private sector investments and other sources	**On-the-ground implementation and upscaling of restoration projects in the three biomes are made investible for impact investors and financial intermediaries through addressing specific investment barriers and supporting investment preparation for voluntary carbon market projects and other marketable benefits, including enhanced commodity value chains (e.g. game farming), biodiversity, and hydrological services.**																											
Activity II.1	Initial sex-disaggregated mapping of private sector stakeholders in each of the three biomes, and on-going updates to this mapping.																											
Activity II.2	Conduct 11 pre-feasibility studies for potential investments through different restoration approaches in grassland, savanna and thicket. These will include assessment of investment barriers, and certifiability for carbon sequestration / biodiversity benefits (VCS / CCBS).																											
Activity II.3	Develop 6 bankable, privately financed restoration investment projects for the three biomes. This includes in-depth feasibility assessments drafting project design documents, assessing certifiability, identification of risks and risk mitigation strategies, designing MRV and impact monitoring systems etc.																											
Activity II.4	Close site- and project specific investment-relevant knowledge gaps (e.g. regarding soil carbon, water and biodiversity impacts).																											
Activity II.5	Match bankable projects & investors through green tech exchanges, roadshows and roundtables with potential investors, agricultural finance providers and other financial institutions.																											
Milestone II.1.	11 pre-feasibility studies conducted for potential investment projects across the three biomes.																	x										
Milestone II.2	At least 6 bankable, privately financed restoration investment projects developed for the three biomes.																					x						

Output III: Direct Landscape-level interventions and on-the ground implementation	**Technical support, coordination and guidance provided in selected rural landscapes and critical watersheds to assist stakeholders in applying restoration and ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) measures in terrestrial ecosystems (rangelands, thicket, savannas).**																										
Activity III.1	Facilitation of gender-responsive on-going cross sectoral dialogues at a biome and/or landscape level and with suitable Responsible Parties for implementation of direct land rehabilitation activities in savanna, grassland and thicket biomes to ensure coordination and tap opportunities for upscaling job creation through avoiding, reducing and reversing land degradation.																										
Activity III.2	Grasslands protected area expansion - secure high biodiversity and water catchment areas in at least 3 priority landscapes including the development of cross-sectoral regional restoration plans for Northern Drakensberg, Soutpansberg and Amathole.																										
Activity III.3	Establish a new grasslands Biosphere reserve in the Northern Drakensberg.																										
Activity III.4	Implement pilot restoration measures and trainings including on alien plant clearing and habitat restoration in the Northern Drakensberg and the Soutpansberg.																										
Activity III.5	Grassland/savanna: design and implement a Water Fund in at least one savanna Biosphere Reserve and for the planned grassland Biosphere Reserve in the Northern Drakensberg and support targeted demonstration restoration actions in Kruger to Canyons, Waterberg and Magaliesberg Biosphere Reserves.																										
Activity III.6	Develop a concept note for a publically funded adaptation grant program for restoration of savannas, identify a suitable accredited entity and coordinate with relevant authorities of GoSA (e.g. GCF concept note or adaptation fund).																										
Activity III.7	Savanna: support expansion of a (core and/or buffer) Biosphere Reserve area to increase landscape integrity and management capacity and development of landscape indicators for BR to monitor landscape integrity, build monitoring capacity, and coordinate with relevant authorities to create a suitable enabling environment for sustainable management.																										

Activity III.8	Thicket: use, manage and enhance existing pilot and demonstration sites to identify cost-reduction potentials, hone restoration protocols for different landscapes and increase Return on Investment.																									
Activity III.9	Track progress towards sustainability and increased levels of resilience through gender-responsive participatory monitoring and evaluation, and ensure continuous improvement through reflection and learning																									
Milestone III.1	Feasibility assessment conducted for the establishment of a Water Fund in the selected landscapes.						x																			
Milestone III.2	Water Fund is established.																					x				
Milestone III.3	A new grassland Biosphere Reserve in the Northern Drakensberg is established.																	x								
Milestone III.4	A concept note for public funding (e.g. GCF, Adaptation Fund or GEF) is developed, Accredited Entity identifies and proposal submitted.																	x								
Milestone III.5	Appointment of responsible parties for implementation of direct land rehabilitation.																	x								
Output IV: Dissemination and outreach	**Innovative models and approaches, technical solutions and fundraising strategies for implementing restoration of degraded lands at scale in the three biomes are translated into target-specific knowledge products and are disseminated nationally and at relevant international fora.**																									
Activity IV.1	Undertake a gender-responsive communications needs assessment to identify audiences, outlets, modes and to plan the suite of communications products (Activity IV.4) and knowledge hub (IV.3).																									
Activity IV.2	Develop and then keep up-to-date a project website that is a portal for methods and applications, best practice, lessons learned etc.																									
Activity IV.3	Establish a restoration knowledge hub: collate data, reports and published papers - disseminate and share lessons learned from the South African restoration and EbA experiences through the UN Restoration Decade's digital hub, the UN Decade Task Force on Best Practices and coordination with similar initiatives globally.																									
Activity IV.4	Develop a suite of communications products including infographics, policy briefs, radio broadcasts, podcasts etc. that advocates for the upscaling of investment in restoration in South Africa.																									

Activity IV.5	Produce a video series on ecosystem restoration in South Africa including 'women in restoration' videos.																											
Activity IV.6	Disseminate project objectives and outcomes in national and international policy fora, e.g. the Global Landscapes Forum, or side events of UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD meetings.																											
Milestone IV.1.	Project website created and launched			x																								
Milestone IV.2	Video series on ecosystem restoration in South Africa including 'women in restoration' videos launched													x														
Milestone IV.3	Project objectives and outcomes disseminated at 5 national and 5 international policy fora, e.g. the Global Landscapes Forum, or side events of UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD meetings.																					x						

Annex D. Safeguard Risk Identification Form (SRIF)

Section 1: Project Overview

Identification	*Insert Project ID# from Programme Framework Table*
Project Title	Restoring Landscapes in South Africa
Managing Division	Ecosystems
Type/Location	National
Region	Africa
List Countries	South Africa
Project Description	The UNEP-led ReLISA consortium was formed in response to a *2020 IKI Country Call for South Africa on Land Use and Climate Change Mitigation – Taking Action*. The UN Resident Coordinator requested a one-UN submission. A consortium was formed that included UNDP and UNESCO, the former focusing on Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and the latter on water funds in the savannah biome. The three UN partners were complimented by Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the largest R&D organization in Africa, the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) which assists communities and landowners in applying on-the-ground restoration particularly in the grasslands biome, and two entities (Unique and C4EcoSolutions) that work directly with the private sector to leverage impact. The UNEP-led ReLISA consortium was pre-selected among the competing submissions responding to the IKI call and invited by IKI on 25 October 2022 to undertake a Project Preparation Phase (PPP) to develop a full proposal. The overall aim of the ReLISA project is to make the economic case for landscape-level restoration and create the conditions for a just transition of South Africa's land-use sector, to adapt to climate change and address biodiversity loss while improving livelihoods of rural communities and farmers. This will be achieved through biophysical/economic assessments as inputs to planning restoration activities, leveraging private sector investment, on-the-ground implementation at landscape level for thicket, grassland and savanna biomes, and dissemination and communication. Making the economic case for ecosystem restoration aligns with Goal B of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: "Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored, supporting the achievement of sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050". Proposed project outcomes include: (1) restoration incentives and policies aligned with political priorities, economic costs/benefits and distributional impact; (2) enhancement of the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system for South Africa's land-use sector; (3) increased donor and private sector funding for restoration activities; (4) increased resilience against climate change and improved livelihoods through securing hydrological services to downstream/urban populations; and (5) restoration models for thicket, grassland and savanna applied. The project will contribute to UNEP's work on nature action and climate action. Specifically, it contributes to the economic and social analysis to develop sustainable pathways for halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem integrity (PoW Outcome 2A), and sustainable management of nature being adopted and implemented in development frameworks (PoW Outcome 2B). The project is part of the "Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity" programme coordination project (PCP) and it contributes specifically to the PCP Programme Outcome 1: Enhanced conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of natural and productive terrestrial, marine, coastal and freshwater ecosystems, as well as Programme

	Outcome 2: Mobilised finance and investment for conservation, restoration, and sustainable use, including for IPLCs.
Relevant Subprogramme	Nature Action
Estimated duration of project	60 months
Estimated cost of the project	15 million EUR.
Name of the UNEP project manager responsible	Salman Hussain, Head a.i. the Economics of Nature Unit, Ecosystems Division
Funding Source(s)	International Climate Initiative (IKI) have pre-selected UNEP to lead the implementing consortium.
Executing/Implementing partner(s)	UNEP is leading a consortium of seven implementing partners; UNDP; UNESCO; Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the largest R&D organization in Africa, the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) which assists communities and landowners in applying on-the-ground restoration particularly in the grasslands biome, and two entities (Unique and C4EcoSolutions)
SRIF submission version	No previous submission
Safeguard-related reports prepared so far (*Please attach the documents or provide the hyperlinks*)	• ***Feasibility report [ ]*** • ***Gender Action Plan [X]*** ***Per IKI template Annex 8* to full IKI submission** • ***Stakeholder Engagement Plan [X]*** **Per Annex K to this UNEP ProDoc** • ***Safeguard risk assessment or impact assessment [X]*** **Per main IKI Project Document** • ***ES Management Plan or Framework [ ]*** • ***Indigenous Peoples Plan [ ]*** • ***Cultural Heritage Plan [ ]*** • ***Others*** _____

Section 2: Safeguards Risk Summary

B. Summary of the Safeguards Risk Triggered

Safeguard Standards Triggered by the Project	Impact of Risk[8] (1-5)	Probability of Risk (1-5)	Significance of Risk (L, M, H) *Please refer to the matrix below*
SS 1: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	1	1	L
SS 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks	2	2	L
SS 3: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	2	2	L
SS 4: Community Health, Safety and Security	2	2	L
SS 5: Cultural Heritage	1	1	L

8 Refer to UNEP Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (ESSF): Implementation Guidance Note

to assign values to the Impact of Risk and the Probability of Risk to determine the overall significance of Risk (Low, Moderate or High).

SS 6: Displacement and Involuntary Resettlement	1	1	L
SS 7: Indigenous Peoples	2	2	L
SS 8: Labor and working conditions	2	2	L

This project and all its activities are geared towards and guided by the objective to enhance and restore critical habitats for biodiversity and to ensure a sustainable provision of key ecosystem services (especially regulating ecosystem services such as GHG mitigation and hydrological services, and to ensure mitigation of climate change and enhanced resilience of communities to climate change. The main aim of ReLISA is to make the economic case for landscape-level restoration and create the conditions for a just transition of South Africa's land-use sector by restoring degraded key biomes (grasslands, savannas, thicket). All Outcomes are therefore designed around contributing to the improvement of the environment and remedying previous environmental damage in the degraded regions. This will involve the protection and enhancement (restoration) of GHG sinks, notably in grassland, savannah and thicket biomes. Effective restoration at scale contributions to South Africa's efforts to meet its obligations under the UNFCCC. The project will increase donor and private sector funding for restoration by inter alia measuring carbon sequestration potential and developing bankable projects for investment in mitigation and facilitating investor access to voluntary carbon markets. The project will support the expansion of protected areas, undertake restoration in existing protected areas including removal of invasive alien species and, rehabilitation of degraded habitat, support the establishment of a new biosphere reserve, and enhance on-farm agrobiodiversity, all of which contributes to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Hydrological modelling to assess the availability of freshwater under a Business-as-Usual scenario as compared with a with-restoration alternative will contribute evidence to support restoration as a component of Disaster Risk Reduction strategy given South Africa's water crisis. Accordingly, UNEP expects the project to make a positive contribution to the three dimensions of the triple planetary crisis (pro-nature, pro-climate, pro-pollution outcomes) and as such SS 1, SS 2, SS 3 are scored as 1/1/Low.

The project takes a gender-responsive approach to ecosystem restoration through consultation on restoration sites and approaches, measurement of the differentiated gendered impacts and inclusion in site-specific restoration plans, and communication and dissemination of the role of women in restoration. The project seeks to assess the stakes and benefits of local and indigenous communities and ensure they benefit meaningfully from the proposed restoration measures – in the spirit of a "just transition" that leaves no one behind. The project will not acquire lands, nor develop or promote activities that imply a displacement. Private sector-financed investible restoration projects will be developed based on FPIC principles, and only on areas where tenure and land use rights are established. Extensive stakeholder consultation has been a part of project preparation and will continue to be during the main project phase. The analytical approach for the project will assess the costs and benefits of different approaches to ecosystem restoration, including assessment of social and socio-economic indicators, gender and inclusivity to ensure no one is left behind and that there is an opportunity for all affected (or potentially affected) stakeholders to voice their concerns for and/level of support for different policy interventions. Accordingly, SS 4, SS 5, SS 6 and SS 7 are scored as 1/1/Low.

Regarding SS8, there is a limited risk related to occupational health and safety concerning the pilot restoration measures, (e.g. related to the removal of alien invasive species on demonstration or the management of pilot sites), where personnel are required to undertake field-work manual labour. This is mitigated in that such activities are conducted by professional organisations with extensive experience in on-the-ground restoration activities which will ensure that only properly trained workers and staff members implementing the respective, potentially harmful activities.

C. ESS Risk Level -

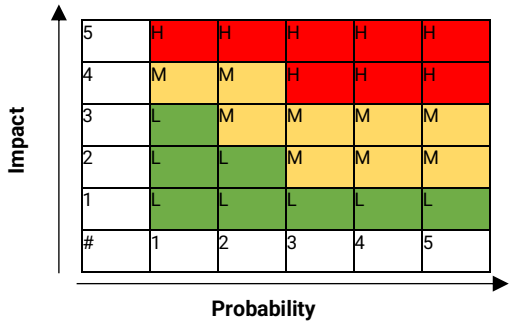
Refer to the UNEP ESSF (Chapter IV) and the UNEP's ESSF Guidelines.

Low risk ☐

Moderate risk ☐

High risk ☐

Additional information required ☐



D. Development of SRIF and Screening Decision

Prepared by

Name: _____ Date: _____

Screening review by

Name: _____ Date: _____

Cleared

Signature

E. Safeguard Review Summary (by the safeguard team)

F. Safeguard Recommendations (by the safeguard team)

- No specific safeguard action required ☐
- Take Good Practice approach ☐
- Carry out further assessments (e.g., site visits, experts' inputs, consult affected communities, etc.) ☐
- Carry out impact assessments (by relevant experts) in the risk areas and develop management framework/plan ☐
- Consult Safeguards Advisor early during the full project development phase ☐
- Other _____

Section 3: Safeguard Risk Checklist

Screening checklist	Y/N/ Maybe	Justification for the response
Guiding Principles		

GP1 Has the project analyzed and stated those who are interested and may be affected positively or negatively around the project activities, approaches or results?	Y	As part of the ReLISA PPP, UNEP has undertaken a systematic review of ongoing work to map ecosystem loss and modification, or condition, at a national scale, relative to a natural state, and in consideration of ecosystem composition, structure and function, as well as socio-economic factors that may influence the viability and desirability of restoration on particular sites. Key initiatives reviewed are summarised in Table 7 of the main document.
		
		In addition, as part of the Project Preparation Phase (PPP) of ReLISA a preliminary criteria-based assessment was undertaken to determine priority sites for implementation during the main project phase. The following criteria were considered:
		
		• Implementation Readiness
		  ○ Alignment with National Restoration Priorities and Existing Projects
		  ○ Presence of existing & relevant government programme project
		  ○ Presence of existing conservation sector (protection or restoration) initiatives
		• Ecological Value or Benefit (“nature return”)
		  ○ Biodiversity importance
		  ○ Ecological infrastructure importance (especially for water security)
		• Social Value or Benefit (“social return”)
		  ○ Subsistence Use Resource and Poverty Index
		• Economic Value or Benefit (“financial return”)
		  ○ Financial return-on-investment or Net economic benefit of restoration
		• Potential for leverage and upscaling: Security of Investment or Sustainability Outlook
		  ○ Outlook for scaling and sustaining (holistic) gains beyond current protected areas
		  ○ Potential for private sector investment or other funding pathways
		• Implementation Risk(s)
		  ○ Balance of lightly (to moderately) degraded versus severely degraded land or Catchment-scale restoration potential
		  ○ Presence of land with uncertain tenure

			The results of this systematic review and criteria-based assessment of sites have been shared and discussed with stakeholders at the national workshop (15-16 May) to inform site selection. UNEP and ReLISA consortium partners have undertaken extensive stakeholder consultation during the PPP in general and the country mission in particular, including consultations with local actors – communities, landowners, protected area managers, local authorities etc. – at the proposed sites (see Stakeholder Engagement section for full details). The result of this consultation is a longlist of proposed project sites which has been endorsed at the Pretoria ReLISA national workshop (15-16 May 2023) by the political partners in the GoSA for implementation during the main project phase, as indicated in Map 2.
GP2	Has the project identified and engaged vulnerable, marginalized people, including disabled people, through the informed, inclusive, transparent and equal manner on potential positive or negative implication of the proposed approach and their roles in the project implementation?	Y	Extensive stakeholder consultation as described in Annex K
GP3	Have local communities or individuals raised human rights or gender equality concerns regarding the project (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	N	The stakeholder consultation undertaken has part of the PPP has underscored the importance of ReLISA will continue to take an open and consultative approach. Numerous project activities are consequently geared towards stakeholder consultation and the equal representation of women. The majority of ReLISA project activities will also focus or depend upon stakeholder consultations such as e.g. the following: Activity 1.2 will involve consulting private sector entities; Activity 1.4 will involve consulting stakeholders at all levels around the development of operational plans; Activity 1.6 will involve consulting key NCA stakeholders, Activity 2,1 will involve mapping private-sector stakeholders which will require consultations; Activity 2.5 will involve roundtables with potential investors and private sector stakeholders; Activity 3.1 will involve on-going cross sectoral dialogues with various stakeholders for implementation of land rehabilitation activities, Activity 3.6 will involve coordination with relevant national authorities; Activity 4.1 will involve a gender-responsive communications and needs assessment which will necessitate stakeholder consultations, and Activity 5.5 on producing the women in restoration video series will also involve extensive stakeholder consultations. Furthermore, stakeholder consultations will also be an important component in terms of developing the intended protected area expansions, new grasslands BR and Water Funds.
GP4	Does the proposed project consider gender-balanced representation in the design and implementation?	Y	ReLISA takes a gender-responsive approach to ecosystem restoration through consultation on restoration sites and approaches, measurement of the differentiated gendered impacts and inclusion in site specific restoration plans, and communication and dissemination of the role of women in

		restoration. A thorough gender analysis has been conducted in accordance with the IKI requirements and guidelines (Gender Annex). Project activities are thus designed to not only prevent perpetuation of the status quo but to proactively contribute towards a positive transformation. Gender Mainstreaming in project activities include: • Appoint a Gender Focal Point for UNEP South Africa, responsible for preventing gender discrimination and promoting gender justice. • Ensure gender balance on the PSC to prevent gender discrimination and promote gender justice. Include the Gender Focal Point on the PSC. • Promote gender balance in workshops and collect gender-disaggregated data on stakeholder participation. Include gender issues in national stakeholder consultations. • Provide gender-responsive training tailored to women's needs and knowledge. • Engage women's organizations and networks for grassroots perspectives and advocacy support. • Amplify women's knowledge in land management and ecosystem restoration through communication products, including a 'women in restoration' video series, where women's contributions to restoration is highlighted. • Incorporate gender responsiveness into the communications strategy to reach female audiences. • Share lessons learned for engaging women in restoration through the knowledge hub. • Map private sector stakeholders by gender to inform restoration investment projects. • Conduct gender-responsive cross-sector dialogues for land rehabilitation, with at least one majority-owned responsible party. • Include a gender-responsive approach in core analytical work, including data gaps, operational plans and funding strategies. • Collect gender-disaggregated data for monitoring progress and assessing gender disparities. • Integrate gender-inclusive practices into governance and management especially in protected area expansion and BR establishment. Mitigate gender-based violence risks, harassment and workplace discrimination through institutional gender architectures.

GP5	Did the proposed project analyze relevant gender issues and develop a gender responsive project approach?	Y	The gender analysis conducted during the PPP (see Annex 8) revealed various barriers to women's participation in restoration in South Africa, including: 1) limited access to land and resources; 2) lower access to finance; 3) lack of representation and participation; 4) cultural norms and values; 5) gender-based violence, harassment, safety and security; 6) limited networking and mentorship opportunities; 7) lack of recognition of women's contributions; 8) socioeconomic Inequalities and vulnerabilities; and 9) disproportionate impact of climate change and biodiversity on women. These barriers impact upon the project primarily because the leveraging of investment in restoration requires engagement and negotiation with landowners – both private individuals and communities. To the extent that those individuals are principally men and communities are governed by male-dominated power structures, restoration might not meet women's differentiated concerns. In addition, to the extent that women are underrepresented, due to cultural norms and/or socioeconomic vulnerabilities, in decision-making fora, there is a risk that restoration activities search to entrench unequal power structures and limited women's voice in decision-making. Finally, failure to address land degradation, climate change and biodiversity loss perpetuates the disproportionate impact upon women. ReLISA takes a gender-responsive approach to ecosystem restoration through consultation on restoration sites and approaches, measurement of the differentiated gendered impacts and inclusion in site specific restoration plans, and communication and dissemination of the role of women in restoration. A thorough gender analysis has been conducted in accordance with the IKI requirements and guidelines (Gender Annex). Project activities are thus designed to not only prevent perpetuation of the status quo but to proactively contribute towards a positive transformation. Gender Mainstreaming in project activities include: • Appoint a Gender Focal Point for UNEP South Africa, responsible for preventing gender discrimination and promoting gender justice. • Ensure gender balance on the PSC to prevent gender discrimination and promote gender justice. Include the Gender Focal Point on the PSC. • Promote gender balance in workshops and collect gender-disaggregated data on stakeholder participation. Include gender issues in national stakeholder consultations. • Provide gender-responsive training tailored to women's needs and knowledge. • Engage women's organizations and networks for grassroots perspectives and advocacy support. • Amplify women's knowledge in land management and ecosystem restoration through communication products, including a 'women in restoration' video series, where women's contributions to restoration is highlighted.

			• Incorporate gender responsiveness into the communications strategy to reach female audiences. • Share lessons learned for engaging women in restoration through the knowledge hub. • Map private sector stakeholders by gender to inform restoration investment projects. • Conduct gender-responsive cross-sector dialogues for land rehabilitation, with at least one majority-owned responsible party. • Include a gender-responsive approach in core analytical work, including data gaps, operational plans and funding strategies. • Collect gender-disaggregated data for monitoring progress and assessing gender disparities. • Integrate gender-inclusive practices into governance and management especially in protected area expansion and BR establishment. Mitigate gender-based violence risks, harassment and workplace discrimination through institutional gender architectures.
GP6	Does the project include a project-specific grievance redress mechanism? If yes, state the specific location of such information.	Y	IKI Stakeholder Grievance Mechanism as described in Annex J
GP7	Will or did the project disclose project information, including the safeguard documents? If yes, please list all the webpages where the information is (or will be) disclosed.	Y	The project website (as part of the main UNEP website) is to be developed after project inception and will include this information
GP8	Were the stakeholders (including affected communities) informed of the projects and grievance redress mechanism? If yes, describe how they were informed.	Y	Stakeholder inclusion based on FPIC principles (free, prior and informed consent) is a main project principle of ReLISA, and will be addressed through thorough, comprehensive and inclusive consultations for all relevant project activities. For any grievances and complaints, all stakeholders will be made aware of the **IKI independent complaint mechanism** via: • Kick-off meetings • Publication of link and explanation on the planned project website, relisa.org • Inclusion of a slide in the standard ReLISA project slide deck and presented at all stakeholder events, consultations and meetings • Include in terms of reference of the Project Steering Committee the responsibility to make stakeholders aware of the mechanism

		In addition, UNEP, as Consortium lead, will make stakeholders aware of (UNEP's Stakeholder Response Mechanism which provides the opportunity for people who believe they have been adversely affected by activities that are implemented or executed as part of UNEP-funded projects and programmes to submit complaints directly to UNEP, through an Independent Office for Stakeholder Safeguard-related Response (the IOSSR). The SRM provides a platform to receive and address complaints in a timely and culturally appropriate manner and adhere to the following requirements: • identify potential breaches of the Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (ESSF) policies and procedures in UNEP-funded projects and programmes; • work proactively as a neutral third party with complainants and other parties to resolve concerns and disputes concerning ESSF-related issues; • operate in a transparent, effective manner, maintaining records and keeping complainants informed as cases are considered and addressed; • ensure the mechanism is accessible to stakeholders (at no cost) and clearly advertised (including contact information); and • give due regard to confidentiality of complainant's identity and information and take appropriate and timely measures to minimize the risk of retaliation to complainants.
GP9 Does the project consider potential negative impacts from short-term net gain to the local communities or countries at the risk of generating long-term social or economic burden?9	Y	The core value proposition of the project is that once the true value of nature is accounted then those short term impacts that appear on first inspection to be economically sensible (but impactful) are not chosen owing to the evidence that UNEP provides. As such the project aims to address the root cause of this short-termism.
GP10 Does the project consider potential partial economic benefits while excluding marginalized or vulnerable groups, including women in poverty?	Y	See the response to GP9 – analyses include distributional outcomes and any that negatively impact on marginalized or vulnerable groups are not recommended by UNEP.
Safeguard Standard 1: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Sustainable Natural Resource Management		
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
1.1 conversion or degradation of habitats (including modified habitat, natural habitat	N	The project is aimed at restoration of degraded habitats.

9For example, a project may consider investing in a commercial shrimp farm by clearing the nearby mangrove forest to improve the livelihood of the coastal community. However, long term economic benefit from the shrimp farm may be significantly lower than the mangroves if we consider full costs factoring safety from storms, soil protection, water quality, biodiversity and so on.

	and critical natural habitat), or losses and threats to biodiversity and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services?		
1.2	adverse impacts specifically to habitats that are legally protected, officially proposed for protection, or recognized as protected by traditional local communities and/or authoritative sources (e.g. National Park, Nature Conservancy, Indigenous Community Conserved Area, (ICCA); etc.)?	N	Quite the opposite – the project aims at expanded protected areas
1.3	conversion or degradation of habitats that are identified by authoritative sources for their high conservation and biodiversity value?	N	Again the reverse – the project enhances (and never worsens) biodiversity outcomes
1.4	activities that are not legally permitted or are inconsistent with any officially recognized management plans for the area?	N	No analysis will include illegal activity and indeed the scenarios make the case for e.g. reduced illegal deforestation
1.5	risks to endangered species (e.g. reduction, encroachment on habitat)?	N	No analysis would include encroachment or indeed incentives/spillovers that might unintentionally lead to encroachment
1.6	activities that may result in soil erosion, deterioration and/or land degradation?	N	Project seeks the reverse – enhancements to soil quality e.g. through better rangeland management
1.7	reduced quality or quantity of ground water or water in rivers, ponds, lakes, other wetlands?	N	Project seeks the reverse – increasing water access through land restoration and water funds
1.8	reforestation, plantation development and/or forest harvesting?	N	No policy scenarios include plantations and indeed the scenarios selected make the case to shift from such activities
1.9	support for agricultural production, animal/fish production and harvesting	Y	In the sense of improving the grazing capacity through land restoration
1.10	introduction or utilization of any invasive alien species of flora and fauna, whether accidental or intentional?	N	The reverse – project includes invasive clearing

1.11	handling or utilization of genetically modified organisms?	N	Out of scope
1.12	collection and utilization of genetic resources?	N	Out of scope
Safeguard Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks			
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:			
2.1	improving resilience against potential climate change impact beyond the project intervention period?	Y	Increasing financial flows to land restoration beyond the life of the project
2.2	areas that are now or are projected to be subject to natural hazards such as extreme temperatures, earthquakes, extreme precipitation and flooding, landslides, droughts, severe winds, sea level rise, storm surges, tsunami or volcanic eruptions in the next 30 years?	Y	Project seeks in increase resilience of landscapes and communities to disaster risk
2.3	outputs and outcomes sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change (e.g. changes in precipitation, temperature, salinity, extreme events)?	N	Project seeks to increase resilience to climate change
2.4	local communities vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and disaster risks (e.g. considering level of exposure and adaptive capacity)?	Y	Project seeks to increase resilience to climate change among these communities
2.5	increases of greenhouse gas emissions, black carbon emissions or other drivers of climate change?	N	CC would be reduced, not accelerated
2.6	Carbon sequestration and reduction of greenhouse emissions, resource-efficient and low carbon development, other measures for mitigating climate change	Y	This is a project aim which is assessed via technical modelling

Safeguard Standard 3: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
3.1 the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?	N	Out with scope of the project
3.2 the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	Maybe	The clearing of invasive alien plants will result in generation of solid biomass waste of cleared and bushes. The process for dealing with this biomass depends on circumstances, conditions on site and the implementation plans that would be agreed between ReLISA Consortium partners and those undertaking restoration on the ground and the site owners/managers. A general principle in the IAP clearing is that smaller trees/shrubs would be cleared first, as this is less intensive than removing large trees, and are critical to slowing the spread of IAPs. The biomass from small shrub/tree removal could be left on site and/or composted. It could also be used in the regular backburning as part of fire management on grassland sites. Larger trees could be chipped, sold for firewood and /or charcoaled depending on the preferred approach of the landowner/community. Each site would have to present a proposed approach for biomass waste management to Consortium implementing partners for review before implementation begins.
3.3 the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous materials and/or chemicals?	N	Out with scope of the project
3.4 the use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs? (e.g. DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the Montreal Protocol, Minamata Convention, Basel Convention, Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention)	N	Out with scope of the project
3.5 the application of pesticides or fertilizers that may have a negative effect on the environment (including non-target species) or human health?	Y	As part of the removal of woody invasive plants, herbicides are applied to cut stumps to prevent regrowth. EWT plans to use Kaput 100 Gel - Triclopyr / Picloram in IAP clearing sites. This poses human health risks of poisoning if swallowed, as well as irritation to skin and eyes. This poses environmental impacts as Triclopyr has toxic implications for aquatic environments and does not breakdown rapidly in soil. Mitigation measures include:

		- Mixing with an applicator (normally mineral oil) and colour dye. The dye allowed applicators to see where poison has been applied and minimises the risk of double application or omission. - Using the gel form means that spillages are less likely to occur as opposed to liquid herbicides. Gel is mixed already reducing the risks associated with mixing. The application is to cuts stump and ringbarking only, no foliar spray. Due to the gel, it is less likely to produce aerosol droplets that can be inhaled or release in the environment, this reduces contamination of protective wear and gloves. The following safety precautions will be followed: - Herbicides will only be applied by accredited, trained personnel. - All herbicide applicators will wear personal protective gear including face shields, protective garments, and gloves. - Herbicides to be locked away if not in use. - Cleaning materials to be kept on site if there is a spillage. - Every team will have a qualified first aider with training that includes dealing with accidental exposure to pesticide. - Herbicide applicators will undergo annual medical check-ups. The following operational procedures will be put in place: - Herbicides will not be used near riparian areas in summer when there may be heavy rainstorms. - Empty herbicide containers will be disposed of at a facility that is capable of handling it. - Brushes will be regularly disposed of along with the containers above. - If using an alternate herbicide that requires mixing, a spill sheet will first be placed on the ground under the mixing area to protect the environment from any accidental spills. - All herbicide equipment will be kept in a separate, sealable box, to avoid contaminating other equipment or spilling during transportation.
3.6 significant consumption of energy, water, or other material inputs?	N	The clearing of invasive alien plants will result in generation of solid biomass waste of cleared and bushes. The process for dealing with this biomass depends on circumstances, conditions on site and the implementation plans that would be agreed between ReLISA Consortium partners and those undertaking restoration on the ground and the site owners/managers. A general principle in the IAP clearing is that smaller trees/shrubs would be cleared first, as this is less intensive than removing large trees, and are critical to slowing the spread of IAPs. The biomass from small shrub/tree removal could be left on site and/or composted. It could also be used in the regular backburning as part of fire management on grassland sites. Larger trees could be chipped, sold for firewood and /or charcoaled

		depending on the preferred approach of the landowner/community. Each site would have to present a proposed approach for biomass waste management to Consortium implementing partners for review before implementation begins.
Safeguard Standard 4: Community Health, Safety and Security		
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
4.1 the design, construction, operation and/or decommissioning of structural elements such as new buildings or structures (including those accessed by the public)?	No	This would be out with scope
4.2 air pollution, noise, vibration, traffic, physical hazards, water runoff?	No	The reverse would apply, e.g. air pollution (PM2.5) reduced
4.3 exposure to water-borne or other vector-borne diseases (e.g. temporary breeding habitats), communicable or noncommunicable diseases?	No	Changes in farming practices would reduce such exposure
4.4 adverse impacts on natural resources and/or ecosystem services relevant to the communities' health and safety (e.g. food, surface water purification, natural buffers from flooding)?	No	The reverse – policy scenarios enhance ecosystem service provisioning
4.5 transport, storage use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. fuel, explosives, other chemicals that may cause an emergency event)?	Yes	Yes, though only to a limited extent, the demonstration sites and management of waste from invasive alien clearing would involve the handling of fuel and chemicals. This will be conducted by expert entities selected as part of the Consortium and in line with their full protocols.
4.6 engagement of security personnel to support project activities (e.g. protection of property or personnel, patrolling of protected areas)?	No	Out with scope of project
4.7 an influx of workers to the project area or security personnel (e.g. police, military, other)?	No	No such influx is likely or anticipated
Safeguard Standard 5: Cultural Heritage		

Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
5.1 activities adjacent to or within a Cultural Heritage site?	No	None of the proposed project sites and activities within them impinge on Cultural Heritage sites
5.2 adverse impacts to sites, structures or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or to intangible forms of cultural heritage (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)?	No	None of the proposed project sites and activities within them impinge on such sites, structures or objects
5.3 utilization of Cultural Heritage for commercial or other purposes (e.g. use of objects, practices, traditional knowledge, tourism)?	No	None of the proposed project sites and activities within them would use Cultural Heritage per se
5.4 alterations to landscapes and natural features with cultural significance?	No	Out with project scope at proposed sites
5.5 significant land clearing, demolitions, excavations, flooding?	No	Out with project scope at proposed sites
5.6 identification and protection of cultural heritage sites or intangible forms of cultural heritage	No	Out with project scope at proposed sites
Safeguard Standard 6: Displacement and Involuntary Resettlement		
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
6.1 full or partial physical displacement or relocation of people (whether temporary or permanent)?	No	Out with project scope at proposed sites
6.2 economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to assets affecting for example crops, businesses, income generation sources)?	No	The reverse – project will aim to provide local sustainable livelihoods
6.2 involuntary restrictions on land/water use that deny a community the use of resources	No	This could be an unintended consequence of creation of new biosphere reserves and water funds. The project partner, however, is UNESCO which has decades of experience and a procedures and practices to minimise such risks c.f.: https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/tgbr_en.pdf

	to which they have traditional or recognizable use rights?		
6.3	risk of forced evictions?	No	This would not be permitted
6.4	changes in land tenure arrangements, including communal and/or customary/traditional land tenure patterns (including temporary/permanent loss of land)?	No	Out with project scope at proposed sites
Safeguard Standard 7: Indigenous Peoples			
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:			
7.1	areas where indigenous peoples are present or uncontacted or isolated indigenous peoples inhabit or where it is believed these peoples may inhabit?	No	Out with project scope at proposed sites
7.2	activities located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No	Out with project scope at proposed sites
7.3	impacts to the human rights of indigenous peoples or to the lands, territories and resources claimed by them?	No	Out with project scope at proposed sites
7.4	the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No	Out with project scope at proposed sites
7.5	adverse effects on the development priorities, decision making mechanisms, and forms of self-government of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	No	Out with project scope at proposed sites
7.6	risks to the traditional livelihoods, physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	No	Out with project scope at proposed sites
7.7	impacts on the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the	No	Out with project scope at proposed sites

	commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices?		
Safeguard Standard 8:Labor and working conditions			
8.1	Will the proposed project involve hiring or contracting project staff ?	Yes	See Organigram UNEP will hire a communications officer, technical officer, videographer and coordination consultant in addition to existing UNEP staff. These would be covered by UN conditions of service, as would any staff hired by UNDP and UNESCO through the project. In addition, Consortium partners who hire staff to implement their activities are bound by and adhere to the Basic Conditions of Employment Act [No.75 of 1997] as well as their own internal labour guidelines.
If the answer to 8.1 is yes, would the project potentially involve or lead to:			
8.2	working conditions that do not meet national labour laws or international commitments (e.g. ILO conventions)?	No	All implementing partners are bound by and adhere to the Basic Conditions of Employment Act [No.75 of 1997] as well as their own internal labour guidelines.
8.3	the use of forced labor and child labor?	No	UN conditions of service would be met. All implementing partners are bound by and adhere to the Basic Conditions of Employment Act [No.75 of 1997] as well as their own internal labour guidelines.
8.4	occupational health and safety risks (including violence and harassment)?	Yes	UN conditions of service would be met. All implementing partners are bound by and adhere to the Basic Conditions of Employment Act [No.75 of 1997] as well as their own internal labour guidelines. There is some risks associated with the application of chemicals, as mentioned in 3.5, alongside the mitigation measures to minimise risk to employees. The EWT places great emphasis on workplace safety and will ensure that measures described above are adhered to and implemented. It over a decade's experience in using these substances responsibly. South Africa has well developed regulations for ensuring health and safety and the Endangered Wildlife Trust has the stated objective to protect habitat and species and as such will ensure that all precautions are met to avoid environmental harm.
8.5	the increase of local or regional unemployment?	No	Only a handful of staff/consultants hired
8.6	suppliers of goods and services who may have high risk of significant safety issues related to their own workers?	No	No suppliers would be contracted

8.7 unequal working opportunities and conditions for women and men	No	The UN organisations, UNEP, UNDP, and UNESCO have all established policies and initiatives related to gender mainstreaming, gender equality, and combating gender-based discrimination and harassment. These policies are part of the broader UN commitment to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. Gender mainstreaming handbooks also exist to integrate gender perspectives into policies, programs and activities. The UN agencies also have gender focal points responsible for ensuring that gender is considered in all aspects of work. The UN Gender and Equality Policy aims to eliminate gender-based discrimination across the UN system and ensure equal opportunities and treatment of all staff regardless of gender. The UN entities also have codes of conduct and ethics that prohibit gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment. UN staff must undergo training and capacity building programs to raise awareness about gender issues, sexual harassment etc. and confidential reporting mechanisms are in place for staff to report incidents that may occur, to protect the rights and privacy of the individuals. Accountability measures also exist, and investigations are conducted in the case of an incident, and appropriate disciplinary actions are taken when deemed necessary. CSIR has a sexual harassment policy wherein each manager takes responsible steps to create and maintain an environment free of sexual harassment. Appropriate awareness and training programs on sexual harassment are also provided, in addition to additional sick leave and adjustment to the working environment. Psycho-support mechanisms are also established to deal with psychological and social consequences. Grievances and complaints not resolved internally may be referred to the CCMA and or Labour courts. All complaints pertaining to sexual harassment and or victimization and intimidation may be lodged to Human Resources managers, managers of supervisors, or Employee Relations officers. Then, with due allowance to the seriousness of the complaint, the matter is referred to the Employee Relations office as soon as possible who then conducts a preliminary investigation to determine whether reasonable grounds exist to support the allegations, after which the necessary steps to address the complaint are then taken. Furthermore, Employee Relations may also submit proposals to Group Executive Human Capital where any challenges emanating from the complaints as a result of the alleged sexual harassment could not be resolved. CSIR also has a Women's Forum which comprises all women at CSIR and aims to support CSIR in efforts to attract, build the pipeline of, retain, develop and grow the female population in the organisation. EWT has a workplace harassment policy aiming to promote a workplace free of harassment, sexual favours, intimidation, and victimization, where management and employees respect one

		another's integrity, dignity, privacy, and the right to equality within the EWT. The policy aims to educate EWT staff on workplace harassment, provides guidelines and procedures for managing harassment complaints, ensures that employees, volunteers, and clients are treated with respect and dignity, and create an enabling and barrier-free workplace that is non-sexist and non-discriminatory. Employees may have the right to institute private civil and criminal proceedings against the offender, use the EWT's formal Grievance procedure to report alleged harassment, approach the HR manager informally, and see that the matter is investigated. The complainant may follow either a formal or informal procedure when reporting harassment. In the formal procedure, the complaint is reported to the HR manager in writing, after which EWT investigates the incident and then the appropriate action will be taken. In addition, EWT also has a Safeguarding Policy aiming to prevent harm to individuals and the abuse of human rights by protecting the health, well-being and rights of individuals, particularly vulnerable groups. The aim is to demonstrate the EWT's commitment to safeguarding individuals and to ensure that all Staff act appropriately in response to any concern regarding the abuse of a Vulnerable Person. The policy explains how to recognize abuse, lists prohibited behaviours, explains safeguarding concerns if staff receive an allegation of abuse or if they witness any abuse, and how to raise a complaint or concern to the Human Resources department. Furthermore, the EWT also has a Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policy which aims to ensure that their culture, systems, programmes, and projects are grounded in principles of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion and that the human benefits flowing from their conservation efforts are distributed impartially, regardless of peoples' race, social or socioeconomic status, gender, culture, or other attributes. C4ES has a Gender Agenda Guide outlining how and to what extent gender and cultural sensitivity should be integrated into their projects, as there are many nuances to engagement with stakeholders and communities. The guide covers considerations to take in stakeholder consultations, the importance of investing in women and women's empowerment, developing gender-responsive indicators, suggestions of practices to support gender equality, and more. Unique has a Code of Conduct which provides binding rules of conduct for Unique works AG, its subsidiaries and for all its employees. It is stated that Unique's work is made possible through cooperative, trusting, and respectful working relationships within the company and with their partner companies and organizations. Unique bases its actions on ethical values and principles, in particular integrity, respect for human dignity, transparency, and non-discrimination with regard to religion, ideology, gender, and ethnicity or other identities. Unique rejects corruption and bribery and promotes transparency, accountability, and responsible

		leadership. Unique rejects any form of discrimination and employees are assessed and promoted exclusively according to their abilities and performance. Applicants receive full equality of opportunity. Unique is committed to taking appropriate and preventive measures to protect against discrimination. Furthermore, Unique also has a sexual harassment policy where it is stated that they are committed to providing a safe environment for all employees, free from discrimination of any kind and from harassment at work, including sexual harassment. Unique operates a zero-tolerance policy for any form of sexual harassment in the workplace. All incidents are treated seriously, and any allegations of sexual harassment are promptly investigated, and treated with respect and in confidence. A gender policy is also currently under development. Specific Policies: United Nations System-Wide Action Plan. UNDP: Workplace Harassment and Abuse of Authority; Gender Equality Seal Role of the GFT; Gender Focal Team ToR; Gender Mainstreaming made easy handbook for programme staff; Guidance note for mainstreaming gender in UNDP projects; UNDP Gender Equality Strategy UNESCO: Gender Scoping Report UNEP: Gender Policy; Gender Market Guidelines; Gender Environment Kit; Gender Assessment and Action Plan CSIR: Sexual Harassment Policy; Unfair Discrimination Policy EWT: Safeguarding Policy; Workplace Harassment Policy; Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy C4ES: Gender Agenda Guide Unique: Code of Conduct, Sexual harassment policy

Annex E. Design Process

When the call for proposals was released in 2020, UNEP engaged in initial discussions with the GoSA as well as colleagues from UNEP-South Africa and the UN Country Team to gather ideas in order to begin designing the initial concept note while ensuring their interests and considerations were incorporated into early-stage planning and avoiding the duplication of efforts. Furthermore, UNEP consulted with potential partners with the aim of forming a strong consortium to submit a project proposal to IKI. After multiple meetings with different partner organizations, a consortium was formed of organizations with extensive experience in the landscapes, as well as existing relationships with stakeholders in the three biomes. In addition to joining forces with two other UN organizations i.e. UNDP and UNESCO, three locally based organizations were contracted i.e. CSIR, C4ES and EWT, as well as a German based entity Unique, which is expert in attracting private investment in restoration.

The locally based partners have been working for a varying number of years in the relevant project landscapes.

EWT has been working in South Africa since 1973 and has extensive experience in the Soutpansberg and Northern Drakensberg where activities will take place. EWT has secured essential water resources by empowering local communities and private landowners to use a range of tools to safeguard the origin of water (river catchments, estuaries, wetlands and grasslands), and thus has years of experience in establishing formal protected areas and engaging local communities to ensure that they benefit from ecosystem services, while reducing impacts on natural systems. Furthermore, EWT recently organized a workshop on introducing Biodiversity Stewardship in the Western Soutpansberg covering the importance of Soutpansberg mountain, challenges, Sustainable Soutpansberg Initiative, Biodiversity Stewardship, benefits to landowners, alignment with the broader framework etc. which attracted many local community members.

CSIR has worked across the country since 1945 and has developed strong relationships with various organizations regionally and abroad, as well as government departments, e.g. DFFE, SANBI, SAEON and other multinational agencies.

The third locally based partner, C4ES, works on designing and implementing climate change, conservation and biodiversity projects in both the private and public sectors across the country and other developing countries. C4ES's approach is based on robust scientific and socio-economic data, supported by comprehensive stakeholder consultations and community engagements. This approach ensures that all aspects of the project align with national priorities and meet the most urgent needs of the targeted communities and ecosystems.

Furthermore, UNESCO has been developing a network of 'Biosphere Reserves', with 10 sites in South Africa. The South African biosphere reserves are managed by NGOs who work on mobilising and coordinating stakeholders from government, civil society and the private sector at the landscape level. As such, these partners have managed to develop trust and strong relationships on the ground with stakeholders, from government representatives and private businesses to rural communities, farmers, and local landowners across all three biomes. This will be useful to build upon in terms of engaging with stakeholders who are likely to be involved or impacted by the project activities.

Upon pre-selection, the Consortium consulted with representatives from the GoSA to refine the project scope. In June 2021, the consortium had a virtual meeting with DFFE during which the project proposal was presented and clarifications to uncertainties that arose were given, while discussions took place around how best to align with national priorities while also avoiding the duplication of efforts. The consortium then engaged in a series of virtual meetings to define the PPP and pinpoint the respective activities that the partners intended to focus on during the project implementation phase. Upon approval, the PPP consequently took place between November and July 2023 during which the consortium assessed and validated the Theory of Change, assured the appropriateness of the

proposed sites for restoration interventions, conducted a preliminary assessment of risks and mitigation strategies, identified options for early integration of private sector actors, and coordinated with political partners to align with national policies. A multitude of meetings took place during this phase, both internal and external, to further pinpoint project activities, potential partners and stakeholders etc.

A key part of the PPP was also the country mission which took place 15-25th May with representatives from each of the seven partner organizations. During the country mission, the consortium finalized the project design based on government priorities and existing projects, stakeholder needs and priorities (including community and private sector), implementation risks, and the potential for leverage and upscaling. The mission started with the ReLISA National Workshop which was organized in Pretoria at the CSIR International Convention Center, welcoming representatives from relevant government Ministries and agencies, NGOs, research institutions and others from both the public and private sector across the region to attend and agree upon the project design, target regions and links to national priorities.

Following the workshop, the consortium travelled through six South-African provinces to explore the potential priority sites in the three biomes – grasslands, savannah, and thicket - that have been proposed. During the site visits, efforts were aimed at identifying challenges, key indicators, and measurable variables that could be used to determine the type of restoration needed within each landscape. The purpose was also for the consortium to gain an understating of the biome features to conceptualize the baseline of each landscape and the historical background of the land management or land use. It was also critical to develop an understanding of the relationship between the stakeholders in the sites and their landscapes within the three biome settings, as a prerequisite for sustainable implementation of the restoration project and the economic benefits/investment potential. The consortium engaged with a wide range of different stakeholders in the provinces, including farmers, biosphere reserve managers, rural communities, researchers and government representatives, to gain meaningful insights from owners and users of the land on which restoration projects might take place over the course of the project lifespan (see Table 11 above for a list of key stakeholders that have been involved in discussions thus far). Furthermore, gaining a thorough understanding of the source of degradation and the economic potential of the sites was important, and their possible contribution to a sustainable biodiversity, carbon and water market scaled at the landscape level.

UNDP has been actively involved in the development of the Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Tool which measures progress towards sustainability and also captures awareness, willingness, social inclusion as well as biophysical data and financial data, allowing people to measure their progress over time. The SLM tool clarifies the benefits stemming from incorporating sustainable land management practices on their lands, in a way that is easy for the local farmers to understand. This development facilitates increased collaboration and knowledge sharing between researchers, farmers, local landowners and others and will also be incorporated into the project where possible. Setting up and maintaining good working relationships with landowners and farmers to improve their land management techniques is key, as many are reluctant to work directly with the government, and as such, the SLM tool could be useful in terms of overcoming this potential challenge.

Looking forward, ReLISA will continue to take an open and consultative approach in the main project phase through a Project Steering Committee (PSC), which will include representation from various national authorities including DFFE, SANBI, DPME and COGTA, and will also ensure an equal representation of women as appropriate as well as a gender focal point. Annual stakeholder workshops will also take place to ensure a continued transparent relationship between the consortium and the many stakeholders involved and impacted by the project. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) developed in collaboration with DPME, will also guide implementation in line with Government priorities. The majority of ReLISA project activities will also focus or depend upon stakeholder consultations such as e.g. the following: Activity 1.2 will involve consulting private sector entities; Activity 1.4 will involve consulting stakeholders at all levels around the development of operational plans; Activity 1.6 will

involve consulting key NCA stakeholders, Activity 2,1 will involve mapping private-sector stakeholders which will require consultations; Activity 2.5 will involve roundtables with potential investors and private sector stakeholders; Activity 3.1 will involve on-going cross sectoral dialogues with various stakeholders for implementation of land rehabilitation activities, Activity 3.6 will involve coordination with relevant national authorities; Activity 4.1 will involve a gender-responsive communications and needs assessment which will necessitate stakeholder consultations, and Activity 5.5 on producing the women in restoration video series will also involve extensive stakeholder consultations. Furthermore, stakeholder consultations will also be an important component in terms of developing the intended protected area expansions, new grasslands BR and Water Funds. Women's organizations and networks will also be engaged, such as: the Women's Agricultural Union, who advocate for the inclusion of women in agriculture and land-related activities, providing grassroots perspectives and advocacy support; South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID) which is a network of women's organizations and individuals working to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in South Africa; Rural Women's Movement (RWM) that focuses on the rights and needs of rural women in South Africa; GenderLinks which is an NGO working on gender equality and women's rights in Southern Africa providing research, training, and advocacy on gender-related topics; National Council of Women of South Africa (NCWSA) which is a historic organization dedicated to advancing the rights and interests of women in South Africa; Department of Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities which addresses gender issues and women's empowerment; as well as the Department of Social Development which deals with social welfare and community development.

In summary, the consortium has had extensive stakeholder consultations prior to the start of ReLISA, is presently continuing to engage in discussions with a broad array of different stakeholders and will continue throughout the project lifespan to work very closely with stakeholders of all genders to ensure ReLISA captures the priorities and concerns of all who are likely to impact or be impacted by the project.

Annex F. Draft Donor Agreements

Not Available.

Annex G. Gender Marker Self-Assessment

Please refer to the criteria table below to assess the gender marker code of your project. A short explanation is needed to justify the code that your project deserves. For more information about the Gender Marker, please refer to the Briefs available on:
https://wecollaborate.unep.org/display/GENDER/Gender?preview=/17793784/30146590/UNEP_GenderMarker_2PagerSeries.zip

Code	Meaning	Criteria
0	Gender-blind	*Gender relevance is evident but not at all reflected in the project document.*
1	Gender partially mainstreamed	*Gender is reflected in the context, implementation, logframe, **OR** the budget*
2a	Gender well mainstreamed	*Gender is reflected in the context, implementation, logframe, **AND** the budget*
2b	Targeted action on gender	*The main purpose of the project is to advance gender equality.*
N/A	Not applicable	*A gender analysis reveals that the project does not have direct interactions with and/or impacts on people, therefore, gender is considered not applicable.*

Suggestion by Project Manager: Code 2a

ReLISA takes a gender-responsive approach to ecosystem restoration through consultation on restoration sites and approaches, measurement of the differentiated gendered impacts and inclusion in site specific restoration plans, and communication and dissemination of the role of women in restoration. A thorough gender analysis has been conducted in accordance with the IKI requirements and guidelines (Gender Annex). Project activities are thus designed to not only prevent perpetuation of the status quo but to proactively contribute towards a positive transformation. Gender Mainstreaming in project activities include:

- Appoint a Gender Focal Point for UNEP South Africa, responsible for preventing gender discrimination and promoting gender justice.
- Ensure gender balance on the PSC to prevent gender discrimination and promote gender justice. Include the Gender Focal Point on the PSC.
- Promote gender balance in workshops and collect sex-disaggregated data on stakeholder participation. In data collection forms other options than male/female e.g. male/female/non-binary/prefer not to say, will also be included and such responses will be documented. Also include gender issues in national stakeholder consultations.
- Provide gender-responsive training tailored to women's needs and knowledge.
- Engage women's organizations and networks for grassroots perspectives and advocacy support.
- Amplify women's knowledge in land management and ecosystem restoration through communication products, including a 'women in restoration' video series, where women's contributions to restoration is highlighted.
- Incorporate gender responsiveness into the communications strategy to reach female audiences.
- Share lessons learned for engaging women in restoration through the knowledge hub.
- Map private sector stakeholders by gender to inform restoration investment projects.
- Conduct gender-responsive cross-sector dialogues for land rehabilitation, with at least one majority-owned responsible party.
- Include a gender-responsive approach in core analytical work, including data gaps, operational plans and funding strategies.
- Collect sex-disaggregated data for monitoring progress and assessing gender disparities.
- Integrate gender-responsive practices into governance and management especially in protected area expansion and BR establishment.
- Mitigate gender-based violence risks, harassment and workplace discrimination through institutional gender architectures.

Specific budgeted items for gender-responsiveness are as follows:

Videographer – USD 100,000 [tasked to produce 'Women in Restoration' series]

Technical Consultant (UNEP South Africa office) – USD 10,000 – estimate 10% of time on development and implementation of Project Gender Action Plan, which would be included in the TOR for this position.

Coordination Consultant (remote) – USD 25,000 – estimate 10% of time on development and implementation of Project Gender Action Plan, which would be included in the TOR for this position.

Communications Consultant – USD 30,000 – estimate 10% of time on development and implementation of communications plan and deliverables assigned to ensuring gender-responsiveness, which would be included in the TOR for this position.

UNDP Responsible Party – USD 250,000 – as part of Activity (A III.1) UNDP will appoint one majority female-owned Responsible Party for implementation of direct land rehabilitation activities in savanna, grassland and thicket biomes to ensure coordination and tap opportunities for upscaling job creation

through avoiding, reducing and reversing land degradation. This appointment is enshrined in indicator III.4.

Annex H. Data and Digital Transformation Checklist

Self-screening checklist[10]	Y/N or #	Comment / Explanation
1. Digital Transformation		
Check all of the digital transformation pathways used by the project to deliver outcomes: a) Data, analytics, or digital twins b) Cloud or edge computing c) Artificial intelligence / machine learning d) Earth observation, drones or sensors e) Blockchain or distributed ledgers f) Internet of Things g) Virtual reality / extended reality h) Behavioral incentives including nudging, gamification, leaderboards, feedback loops, etc i) Awareness raising through social media j) Mobile applications / and dedicated websites k) Other: _____	A, B, J	Project activities involve collation and analysis of large datasets on geospatial mapping of ecosystem services. Awareness of restoration will be raised through a communications outreach
How many of the core project outputs are digital in nature (e.g. data, analytics, software, algorithms, platforms, applications)?	2	Output 1 is primarily related to developing data to make the economic case for restoration. Output 4 on dissemination will be primarily through digital means.
Does the project respect the principles for digital development? If not, explain why.	Yes	To be reflected in the development of the comms strategy plan.
Will a human-centered design approach be used to design the digital outputs? If not, explain why.	Yes	To be reflected in the development of the comms strategy plan.
2. Environmental Data Management		
What kind of data will the project produce? (survey, behavioral insights, environmental quality data statistics, maps, multi-media) ?		Maps, measures of ecosystem services.
All maps, web maps and geospatial data portals resulting from the project adhere to UN Map Rules. For more info please see: (https://wecollaborate.unep.org/display/WESR/UN+Basemap+files)	Yes	
All maps, web maps and geospatial data portals resulting from the project are reviewed and approved by WESR Unit (Science Division).	Yes	
Will project data be managed in machine-readable format (CSV, JSON, XML, etc.)?	Yes	
Will the data have an adequate set of metadata including the method, data source, description, data license, reference system, etc.?	Yes	
Which UN official languages will the metadata be provided in?		English
Will public data produced by the project comply with the 'FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship' ?	Yes	
Will the project collect gender-disaggregated data or conduct gender-disaggregated analysis? Can this be used to measure how gender equality can be successfully integrated in an environmental project to generate improved outcomes?	Yes	See annex G on gender
Will the project utilize SDG data, indicators and targets to help track, predict and accelerate SDG progress?	No	
Will a database be prepared to manage the data generated/collected in the project?	Yes	

Self-screening checklist[10]	Y/N or #	Comment / Explanation
How much of the project data will be accessible to relevant stakeholders (all, subset or none)? Explain		Subset
Will the data produced by the project be relevant to UN country teams and Common Country Assessment processes ?	Yes	
How will the public data be licensed?	n/a	
Will the data be backed up?	Yes	
Will the project use a corporate ICT service solution or an external provider?		Corporate
Will the data produced by the project be made available on the World Environment Situation Room?	Yes	
Can the data produced by the project be easily visualized and integrated into social media communications and public outreach ?	Yes	
Will the data produced by the project be made available on an Application Programming Interface?	No	
Will the data produced by the project be showcased or made available on another data platform?	Yes	UN Decade Restoration Hub
Can the data produced by the project be used to measure how gender equality can be successfully integrated in an environmental project to generate improved outcomes?	Yes	
Have sufficient HR and financial resources been allocated for data management and archiving in the project budget?	Yes	Included in the budgets for research partners
3. Data Privacy and Security Risks		
Will the data collection process pose substantial risk (privacy reasons, sensitive data, difficult environments, political implications, etc.)?	No	
Does any data collected by the project contain personally identifiable information (PII) – if so, explain how will this be managed ?	No	
Do any of the project partners need to comply with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (EU GDPR)? Has a GDPR-compliant strategy been adopted ?	No	
Will storing of the project data by private companies, UNEP, or other project partners pose substantial risk?	No	
Will the data and associated database have sufficient information security measures and be regularly backed up?	No	
If yes for the questions above, has the risk information been shared among stakeholders and has the mitigation measure been discussed and agreed?		

Annex I. Terms of Reference

The current Terms of Reference for the Project Lead reflect his role as TEEB Coordinator. No additional training requirements specific to the needs of this IKI project are envisioned for him or for other key project team members as they are currently funded by and engaged on the TEEBAgriFood implementation under EU funding which has similar requirements vis-à-vis technical inputs and results-based management.

Annex J. Stakeholder Response Mechanism

Stakeholder inclusion based on FPIC principles (free, prior and informed consent) is a main project principle of ReLISA, and will be addressed through thorough, comprehensive and inclusive consultations for all relevant project activities. For any grievances and complaints, all stakeholders will be made aware of the **IKI independent complaint mechanism** via:

- Kick-off meetings

- Publication of link and explanation on the planned project website, relisa.org
- Inclusion of a slide in the standard ReLISA project slide deck and presented at all stakeholder events, consultations and meetings
- Include in terms of reference of the Project Steering Committee the responsibility to make stakeholders aware of the mechanism

In addition, UNEP, as Consortium lead, will make stakeholders aware of (UNEP's Stakeholder Response Mechanism which provides the opportunity for people who believe they have been adversely affected by activities that are implemented or executed as part of UNEP-funded projects and programmes to submit complaints directly to UNEP, through an Independent Office for Stakeholder Safeguard-related Response (the IOSSR).

The SRM provides a platform to receive and address complaints in a timely and culturally appropriate manner and adhere to the following requirements:

- identify potential breaches of the Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (ESSF) policies and procedures in UNEP-funded projects and programmes;
- work proactively as a neutral third party with complainants and other parties to resolve concerns and disputes concerning ESSF-related issues;
- operate in a transparent, effective manner, maintaining records and keeping complainants informed as cases are considered and addressed;
- ensure the mechanism is accessible to stakeholders (at no cost) and clearly advertised (including contact information); and
- give due regard to confidentiality of complainant's identity and information and take appropriate and timely measures to minimize the risk of retaliation to complainants.

Contact information (expand as necessary):

UNEP Project Manager	
Name:	*Salman Hussain*
Tel. number:	*+41 766911370*
Email address:	*Salman.hussain@un.org*
Partner 1	
Partner name:	*IKI – International Climate Initiative*
Contact person name:	
Tel. number:	
Email address:	*iki-complaints@z-u-g.org*
Partner 2	
Partner name:	
Contact person name:	
Tel. number:	
Email address:	
Location(s) where stakeholders can get project and/or grievance information	

Annex K. Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Table 19: Stakeholder analysis (identical to Table 10)

Stakeholders[11]	Explain the power they hold over the project results or implementation and their level of interest in the project	Explain their participation in project design and how their concerns are addressed by the project[12]	Explain the potential roles & responsibilities in project implementation	Explain how they will be engaged	Explain the changes in behaviour or condition expected through implementation of the project[13]
Type A: High power / high interest = Key player					
Project Steering Committee members: - The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) - Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) - Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) - The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)	Representatives from DFFE, DPME, COGTA and SANBI will all sit on the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and thus have a substantial influence over the project. Their interests and priorities have been and will continue to be a key cornerstone of ReLISA.	The PSC will ensure effective two-way communication between the ReLISA consortium, the donor and key authorities of the GoSA, informing the Government about activities, and progress, and being informed about relevant policies and priorities. This will ensure alignment with government priorities as well as the avoidance of duplication of other projects and initiatives.	Their role will be to provide political steer for the scope of work and mainstreaming project results. The partners in the PSC will be regularly updated and informed about project activities, progress and events, while also updating the consortium about relevant policies, priorities and initiatives and exploring linkages to other relevant projects.	Direct engagement by consortium partners. Regular communication, online and in person meetings	The PSC partners actively support creating the enabling conditions for a just transition of South Africa's land use sector. This can be done through changing regulations and creating incentives linked to landscape restoration and carbon markets. Improved coordination and consultation across sectors and ministries is also anticipated.
Other National Authorities: - Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)	The scope of this project – creating economic conditions for restoration on pastoral, agricultural lands, the development of carbon markets	Initial meetings have taken place regarding involvement in the project and how the listed authorities can support project development through data, research, political	The National Authorities will help inform and connect the consortium with previous and ongoing activities in the three biomes, to help make the	Direct engagement by consortium partners. Attendance at annual stakeholder consultation workshops.	The National Authorities actively support creating the enabling conditions for a just transition of South Africa's land use

11 Where possible include names, position and contact information.
12 The full project design process needs to be explained in Annex E.
13 Project outcome(s) presented in the Logframe should capture the expected change in behaviour or condition illustrated here.

- Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation (DHWAS) - Limpopo Dept of Economic Developme nt (LEDET) - Statistics South Africa - National Planning Commissio n - The National Treasury - The Presidency - Ministry of Finance - Natural Capital Accounting Strategic Advisory Group	and water funds, enhancing the data and statistical basis for decision-making – cuts across the purview of many line Ministries and national authorities and bodies.	support and overall project steer. These entities were part of the stakeholder workshop in Pretoria.	case for restoration.		sector through effective restoration at scale. Improved coordination and consultation across national authorities is also anticipated.
Provincial Governments: - Limpopo Provincial Government - Mpumalang a Provincial Government - North-West Provincial Government - Gauteng Provincial Government - Kwazulu-Natal Provincial Government - Free State Provincial Government - Eastern Cape Provincial Government	The provincial governments have legislative and executive authority in their own spheres including e.g. agriculture and environmental affairs. ReLISA will therefore collaborate with the governments in the designated regions including the following provinces: Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North-West, Gauteng, Kwazulu-Natal, Free State, and Eastern Cape.	Limited participation in project design to date, but meetings will be scheduled in once the project has kicked off and final selection of sites is endorsed by the PSC.	Provincial governments will help inform and connect the consortium with previous and ongoing activities in the three biomes, to help make the case for restoration.	Direct engagement by consortium partners. Attendance at annual stakeholder consultation workshops	The Provincial Governments actively support creating the enabling conditions for a just transition of South Africa's land use sector through effective restoration at scale. This can be done through changing provincial regulations and creating incentives linked to landscape restoration and carbon markets. Improved coordination and consultation across

					provincial governments is also anticipated.
Businesses / Private Sector Investors Energy companies, mining companies, food and beverage companies etc.	A high level of interest is anticipated from private sector companies interested in mitigating their carbon emissions, achieving sustainability goals and participating in emissions trading or offsetting programs. A key part of the project is attracting private sector funding and so thoroughly involving these stakeholders is critical to project success. Energy companies, industrial manufacturers, transportation and logistics companies, as well as mining companies, food and beverage companies etc. looking to transition to cleaner energy sources and reduce their carbon footprints could be potential investors in restoration activities, carbon markets and water funds.	Businesses and private sector investors will be consulted with to understand their specific investment barriers and in that way structure the project, so it supports investment preparation for voluntary carbon market projects and other marketable benefits, including enhanced commodity value chains (e.g. game farming), biodiversity, and hydrological services.	Inclusion in meetings and workshops, to understand their concerns and interests while ensuring their active support and financial investments in project activities linking to restoration, water funds and carbon markets. These local companies are often dependent on well-functioning natural resources, with a high interest in offsetting emissions as part of their business strategies, and so strong collaboration is anticipated.	Direct engagement by local consortium partners on the ground (mainly EWT, C4ES, UNESCO and UNDP). Bankable projects & investors will be matched through green tech exchanges, roadshows and roundtables with potential investors, agricultural finance providers and other financial institutions. Attendance at annual stakeholder consultation workshops.	Increased investments in restoration activities, carbon markets and water funds, and overall more sustainable use of natural resources.
Rural / Local Communities	The activities must be adopted at the local level to achieve the landscape level restoration transformation.	As ReLISA aims to improve rural livelihoods and create job opportunities, rural communities have been/will be	The communities will be involved in activities linked to the implementation of pilot restoration	Direct engagement by local consortium partners on the ground (mainly	Rural communities support and adapt to changes in regulations and incentives.

	Various rural communities have already been consulted with (prior to and during the PPP) and will continue to be involved throughout the project implementation.	invited to meetings and workshops to better understand and include their needs vis-à-vis the local opportunities and threats to land degradation. Rural communities will also share their ongoing challenges and opportunities linked to gender, which will be incorporated into the project design.	measures. Communities will be invited to participate in meetings and workshops to ensure that their needs and interests are included in the project design and implementation. Involvement in the planned restoration knowledge hub is also anticipated.	EWT, C4ES and UNDP). Attendance at annual stakeholder consultation workshops.	They continue to/begin applying restoration and ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) measures in the three biomes for more sustainable use of natural resources.
Largescale Landowners / Farmers	ReLISA aims to create a sustainable transition in the South African land use sector. The uptake of this change depends on this group as well as the private sector and others. It is therefore critical to fully engage the landowners and farmers throughout the project as much of the restoration will occur on the land they own and manage.	As ReLISA aims to improve rural livelihoods and create job opportunities, landowners and farmers will provide useful inputs on their needs, challenges and opportunities. Landowners and farmers will support, help design and partake in workshops around land restoration measures as well as trainings on alien plant clearing and habitat restoration in the three biomes. In this way, their knowledge and concerns will be integrated into the project design. Understanding what farmers need in order to participate in restoration schemes is a crucial element of project design.	Local land users, restoration farmers and "champion farmers" will be engaged throughout the project through land restoration activities including trainings and the implementation of pilot restoration measures. Technical, capacity and financial support will be offered in efforts to implement, upscale and maintain conservation approaches to ensure an improved level of sustainability. Involvement in the planned restoration knowledge hub is also anticipated and the 'Women in Restoration' video series will	Direct engagement by local consortium partners on the ground (mainly EWT, C4ES and UNDP). Attendance at annual stakeholder consultation workshops.	Landowners and farmers support and adapt to changes in regulations and incentives. They continue to/begin applying restoration and ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) measures in the three biomes. Improved coordination and consultation between farmers and landowners is also anticipated.

			also raise the profile of women's roles and contributions to restoration.		
Protected Area / Biosphere Reserve managers	A high level of interest is anticipated from protected area and biosphere reserve staff in terms of increased efforts towards sustainable land use across the country as well as the creation of a new biosphere reserve in Northern Drakensberg. Biosphere managers are crucial stakeholders in the development of water funds.	Protected area and Biosphere Reserve staff support, help design and partake in workshops around land restoration measures as well as training sessions on alien plant clearing and habitat restoration in the three biomes. In this way, their knowledge and concerns will be integrated into the project design.	They will be involved in designing and implementing a Water Fund as well as supporting targeted demonstration restoration actions in specified regions. They will also support the work on the expansion of a (core and/or buffer) Biosphere Reserve area, using their knowledge and contacts with relevant authorities. Involvement in the planned restoration knowledge hub is also anticipated.	Direct engagement by local consortium partners on the ground (mainly EWT, UNESCO, UNDP). Attendance at annual stakeholder consultation workshops.	Improved coordination and consultation between protected area and biosphere reserve managers is also anticipated.
Biodiversity economy value-chain participants: - Meat Naturally - Herding for Health - Game ranching industry - Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA) - Etc.	High interest is anticipated from these stakeholders as they benefit from ecosystem restoration through enhanced stocking capacity, markets for sustainable meat etc.	These stakeholders will help with the development of sustainable biodiversity economy business models, for example by connecting ranchers adopting restoration measures with premium markets for sustainable meat, or the development of eco-tourism on restoration sites	Partners in the development of site specific restoration strategies, in particular ensuing those strategies take account of biodiversity economy business opportunities.	Direct engagement by local consortium partners on the ground (mainly EWT and C4ES).	Improved economic, business and job creation opportunities arising from restoration activities.
Type B: High power / low interest over the project = Meet their needs					
Research Community	ReLISA aims to provide new and compelling evidence for a	Some universities will be contracted but this is yet to be	Work on carrying out the research that provides	The research entities will be	The research entities understand and agree the

- Nelson Mandela University - Stellenbosch University - University of free State - Rhodes University - Waterberg Research Support Centre (WRSC) - Lapalala Wilderness School	transformation of South Africa's land use sector. Research institutes will help make the case for restoration in the three biomes by closing investment-relevant knowledge gaps (e.g. on soil carbon, water, and biodiversity impacts). This will be steered by UNEP and developed through partners and other in-country research entities.	determined. Involvement will depend on the nature of the research entity. Participation may involve data collection, tracking benefit and impacts on the landscapes etc.	evidence to support the land use change.	contracted and thus have specific deliverables etc. C4ES will principally collaborate with the selected universities.	need for inter-disciplinary research to provide compelling evidence for policy change, and are equipped via the applications in the current project to provide this evidence
State-owned research and conservation institutions - SANParks - Water Research Commission (WRC) - South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON) - Water Research Commission - Agricultural Research Council (ARC)	These entities have expertise that can be drawn upon for implementation of technical components of the project.		Research and conservation institutions will help inform and connect the consortium with previous and ongoing activities in the three biomes, to help make the case for restoration. Involvement in the planned restoration knowledge hub is also anticipated.	Direct engagement by consortium partners.	Better data access and higher quality analytical underpinning for restoration interventions.
Type C: Low power / high interest over the project = Show consideration					
Civil Society Groups - Conservation Outcomes (CO) - The Nature Conservancy - Living Lands	Low power over project results but can assist in mainstreaming activities and results to a broader audience within relevant sectors.	Consulted as part of project design and will be part of the ongoing conversation during implementation to ensure expertise is heard and the interests of communities and groups they	No direct role in implementation, but consultation.	Consortium partners will engage with Civil Society Groups via for instance participation in webinars and workshops.	Project implementation reflects wider diversity of experience and expertise on approaches to restoration in selected landscapes.

- Women's Agricultural Union - SAWID - RWM - GenderLink - NCWSA - Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA)		represent are considered (including all genders).		Attendance at annual stakeholder consultation workshops.	
Other International Development Agencies: - GIZ - WWF - IUCN - BioFin	Low power over project results but can assist in making linkages to other ongoing projects.	Consulted as part of project design and will be part of the ongoing conversation during implementation to ensure expertise is heard synergies with other projects maximized.	Sharing lessons learned and best practices with similar projects to foster collaboration and avoid duplication of efforts.	The consortium will consult with the organizations to ensure synchronization of efforts. Attendance at annual stakeholder consultation workshops.	Improved synergy between ReLISA and other ongoing projects to ensure alignment with priorities of GoSA.
Type D: Low power / low interest over the project = Least important					

Table 20: Specific Stakeholders involved in ReLISA (identical to Table 11)

Stakeholder Group	Name/affiliation of current contacts	Role in the project
Type A: High power / high interest = Key player		
Government	Mohlago Flora Mokgohloa, Deputy Director General, Biodiversity and Conservation Branch, DFFE	Member, Project Steering Committee
	Barney Kgope, Director of the Biodiversity Risk Management department, DFFE	Member, Project Steering Committee
	Ayefeli Mudau, Project Coordinator, DFFE	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Asivhanzhi Makhale, DFFE	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Fhatuwani Munyai, LEDET	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Brian Morris, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA)	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Robert Nkuna, Director General, DPME	Member, Project Steering Committee
	Zakhele Mdlalose, DPME	Participant in stakeholder consultations, discussion of MoU between DPME and UNEP.

	Mbulelo Tshangama, Director General, COGTA	Member, Project Steering Committee
	Lydia Bosoga, DALRRD	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Eleanor Van den Berg-McGregor, Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA)	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Ishmael Makwaebae, SANPARKS	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Jeff Manual, SANPARKS	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Natasha Wilson, SANPARKS	Participant in stakeholder consultations
Other National Authorities	Joe De Beer, Deputy Director General - Economic Statistics, StatsSA	Participant in stakeholder consultations – key stakeholder for natural capital assessments
	Shonisani Munzhedzi, Chief Executive Officer, SANBI	Member, Project Steering Committee
	Aimee Ginsburg, Natural Capital Accounting Project Manager, SANBI	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Deshni Pillay, Chief Director: Biodiversity Information and Policy Advice, SANBI	Participant in stakeholder consultations
Business / Private Sector	Richard Laburn, Silicon Kruger	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Garth Barnes, National Business Initiative (NBI)	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Kyra Lunderstedt, Sustainable Finance Coalition	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	James Blignaut, Restory	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Etienne Ernst, Nimeng Investments	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Sarah Bentley, North Swaka Trust	Participant in stakeholder consultations
Farmers	William Webbs, farmer, Glen Allan, Vrede	Participant in stakeholder consultations and welcomed the consortium to his farm during the fieldtrip
	Rick Dyln, farmer, Wilge Protected Environment	Participant in stakeholder consultations and welcomed the consortium to his farm during the fieldtrip
	Doen Joubert, farmer, Kirkwood	Participant in stakeholder consultations and welcomed the consortium to his farm during the fieldtrip
	Johannes de Lange, farmer, Skulpaddorp farm, Strathsomers Estate	Participant in stakeholder consultations and welcomed the

		consortium to his farm during the fieldtrip
	Harry Haneys, B Harris Farming	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Shane Nelson, farmer, Hemelsvlakte spekboom nursery, Koedoespoort	Participant in stakeholder consultations and met the consortium at the spekboom nursery during the fieldtrip Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Philip Dixie, farmer, Hemelsvlakte spekboom nursery, Koedoespoort	Participant in stakeholder consultations and met the consortium at the spekboom nursery during the field trip Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Rodney Johnson, Outlook Estate	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Mark Andersen, private farmer	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Warwick Tarboton, farmer & professor	Participant in stakeholder consultations and presented an overview of the Nyl River floodplain to the consortium during the field trip
Biosphere Reserve	Belinda Cooper, Magaliesberg Biosphere	Participant in stakeholder consultations and showed the consortium around the BR during the field trip
	Andrew Murray, Magaliesberg Biosphere	Participant in stakeholder consultations and showed the consortium around the BR during the field trip
	Laeticia, Waterberg Biosphere Reserve	Participant in stakeholder consultations, met with the consortium during the field trip
	Nicholas Theron, Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Oldrich van Schaltwyk, Bahiti Game Reserve	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	John Roumarin, Leshiba Wilderness	Participant in stakeholder consultations
Research Community	Genevieve Pence, Conservation Planning, Strategy and Impact	Research consultant during PPP
	Danie Brink, Dean of the Faculty of AgriSciences, Stellenbosch University	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Julia Harper, University of Stellenbosch	Participant in stakeholder consultations

	Wendy Stone, University of Stellenbosch	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Vicent Ralph Clarke, University of Free State	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Richard Fynn, Okavango Research Institute	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Craig Hutton, Sustainability and Resilience Institute, University of Southampton	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Margaret Wolff, Rhodes University	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Alastair Potts, Nelson Mandela University	Participant in stakeholder consultations, and showed the consortium around the thicket sites during the field trip
	Richard Fynn, Okavango Research Institute	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Bonani Madikizela, Water Research Commission	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Channing Arndt, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Craig Hutton, Sustainability and Resilience Institute, University of Southampton	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Marilize Greyling, Waterberg Research Support Centre (WRSC) Prof Craig Hutton, Sustainability and Resilience Institute, University of Southampton	Participant in stakeholder consultations
NGOs	Sarah Frazee, CEO, MeatNaturally	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Ruan de Wet, MeatNaturally	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Fayez Tembon, Wildlife & Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA)	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Ingrid Coetzee, ICLEI	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Jacques van Rooyen, Herding for Hope	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Justin Grid, Living Lands	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Andrew Takawira, Global Water Partnership (GWP)	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Louise Stafford, The Nature Conservancy	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Sarah Bentley, North Swaka Trust	Participant in stakeholder consultations

	Thomas van Viegen, Natural Capital Finance Alliance	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Carina Pienaar, BirdLife South Africa	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Susan Wishart, Wildbird Trust	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Esther May, GIZ SA	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Gregor Schmorl, GIZ SA	Participant in stakeholder consultations
Local Communities	Mashudu Makhokha, Director of Lapalala Wilderness School	Participant in stakeholder consultations and welcomed the consortium to the Lapalala Wilderness School
	Ca 20 landowners of Moepel farms in Marakele	Participants in stakeholder consultations during the field trip
	Freddy Seboni, Kranspoort C.P.A.	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	M Khariva, Khariva C.P.A.	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Chief Khariva, Khariva C.P.A.	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Lucky Sionge, Mathshisevhe	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Repson, Mathshisevhe	Participant in stakeholder consultations
Other	Jessica Suppli, German Embassy	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Oda Mühr, Germany Embassy	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Jan Coetzee, WWF	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Melisa Mawhenge, IUCN	Participant in stakeholder consultations
	Thembisa Jordaan, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZNW)	Participant in stakeholder consultations

When the call for proposals was released in 2020, UNEP engaged in initial discussions with the GoSA as well as colleagues from UNEP-South Africa and the UN Country Team to gather ideas in order to begin designing the initial concept note while ensuring their interests and considerations were incorporated into early-stage planning and avoiding the duplication of efforts. Furthermore, UNEP consulted with potential partners with the aim of forming a strong consortium to submit a project proposal to IKI. After multiple meetings with different partner organizations, a consortium was formed of organizations with extensive experience in the landscapes, as well as existing relationships with stakeholders in the three biomes. In addition to joining forces with two other UN organizations i.e. UNDP and UNESCO, three locally based organizations were contracted i.e. CSIR, C4ES and EWT, as well as a German based entity Unique, which is expert in attracting private investment in restoration.

The locally based partners have been working for a varying number of years in the relevant project landscapes.

EWT has been working in South Africa since 1973 and has extensive experience in the Soutpansberg and Northern Drakensberg where activities will take place. EWT has secured essential water resources by empowering local communities and private landowners to use a range of tools to safeguard the origin of water (river catchments, estuaries, wetlands and grasslands), and thus has years of experience in establishing formal protected areas and engaging local communities to ensure that they benefit from ecosystem services, while reducing impacts on natural systems. Furthermore, EWT recently organized a workshop on introducing Biodiversity Stewardship in the Western Soutpansberg covering the importance of Soutpansberg mountain, challenges, Sustainable Soutpansberg Initiative, Biodiversity Stewardship, benefits to landowners, alignment with the broader framework etc. which attracted many local community members.

CSIR has worked across the country since 1945 and has developed strong relationships with various organizations regionally and abroad, as well as government departments, e.g. DFFE, SANBI, SAEON and other multinational agencies.

The third locally based partner, C4ES, works on designing and implementing climate change, conservation and biodiversity projects in both the private and public sectors across the country and other developing countries. C4ES's approach is based on robust scientific and socio-economic data, supported by comprehensive stakeholder consultations and community engagements. This approach ensures that all aspects of the project align with national priorities and meet the most urgent needs of the targeted communities and ecosystems.

Furthermore, UNESCO has been developing a network of 'Biosphere Reserves', with 10 sites in South Africa. The South African biosphere reserves are managed by NGOs who work on mobilising and coordinating stakeholders from government, civil society and the private sector at the landscape level. As such, these partners have managed to develop trust and strong relationships on the ground with stakeholders, from government representatives and private businesses to rural communities, farmers, and local landowners across all three biomes. This will be useful to build upon in terms of engaging with stakeholders who are likely to be involved or impacted by the project activities.

Upon pre-selection, the Consortium consulted with representatives from the GoSA to refine the project scope. In June 2021, the consortium had a virtual meeting with DFFE during which the project proposal was presented and clarifications to uncertainties that arose were given, while discussions took place around how best to align with national priorities while also avoiding the duplication of efforts. The consortium then engaged in a series of virtual meetings to define the PPP and pinpoint the respective activities that the partners intended to focus on during the project implementation phase. Upon approval, the PPP consequently took place between November and July 2023 during which the consortium assessed and validated the Theory of Change, assured the appropriateness of the proposed sites for restoration interventions, conducted a preliminary assessment of risks and mitigation strategies, identified options for early integration of private sector actors, and coordinated with political partners to align with national policies. A multitude of meetings took place during this phase, both internal and external, to further pinpoint project activities, potential partners and stakeholders etc.

A key part of the PPP was also the country mission which took place 15-25th May with representatives from each of the seven partner organizations. During the country mission, the consortium finalized the project design based on government priorities and existing projects, stakeholder needs and priorities (including community and private sector), implementation risks, and the potential for leverage and upscaling. The mission started with the ReLISA National Workshop which was organized in Pretoria at the CSIR International Convention Center, welcoming representatives from relevant government Ministries and agencies, NGOs, research institutions and others from both the public and private sector across the region to attend and agree upon the project design, target regions and links to national priorities.

Following the workshop, the consortium travelled through six South-African provinces to explore the potential priority sites in the three biomes – grasslands, savannah, and thicket - that have been proposed. During the site visits, efforts were aimed at identifying challenges, key indicators, and measurable variables that could be used to determine the type of restoration needed within each landscape. The purpose was also for the consortium to gain an understating of the biome features to conceptualize the baseline of each landscape and the historical background of the land management or land use. It was also critical to develop an understanding of the relationship between the stakeholders in the sites and their landscapes within the three biome settings, as a prerequisite for sustainable implementation of the restoration project and the economic benefits/investment potential. The consortium engaged with a wide range of different stakeholders in the provinces, including farmers, biosphere reserve managers, rural communities, researchers and government representatives, to gain meaningful insights from owners and users of the land on which restoration projects might take place over the course of the project lifespan (see Table 11 above for a list of key stakeholders that have been involved in discussions thus far). Furthermore, gaining a thorough understanding of the source of degradation and the economic potential of the sites was important, and their possible contribution to a sustainable biodiversity, carbon and water market scaled at the landscape level.

UNDP has been actively involved in the development of the Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Tool which measures progress towards sustainability and also captures awareness, willingness, social inclusion as well as biophysical data and financial data, allowing people to measure their progress over time. The SLM tool clarifies the benefits stemming from incorporating sustainable land management practices on their lands, in a way that is easy for the local farmers to understand. This development facilitates increased collaboration and knowledge sharing between researchers, farmers, local landowners and others and will also be incorporated into the project where possible. Setting up and maintaining good working relationships with landowners and farmers to improve their land management techniques is key, as many are reluctant to work directly with the government, and as such, the SLM tool could be useful in terms of overcoming this potential challenge.

Looking forward, ReLISA will continue to take an open and consultative approach in the main project phase through a Project Steering Committee (PSC), which will include representation from various national authorities including DFFE, SANBI, DPME and COGTA, and will also ensure an equal representation of women as appropriate as well as a gender focal point. Annual stakeholder workshops will also take place to ensure a continued transparent relationship between the consortium and the many stakeholders involved and impacted by the project. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) developed in collaboration with DPME, will also guide implementation in line with Government priorities. The majority of ReLISA project activities will also focus or depend upon stakeholder consultations such as e.g. the following: Activity 1.2 will involve consulting private sector entities; Activity 1.4 will involve consulting stakeholders at all levels around the development of operational plans; Activity 1.6 will involve consulting key NCA stakeholders, Activity 2,1 will involve mapping private-sector stakeholders which will require consultations; Activity 2.5 will involve roundtables with potential investors and private sector stakeholders; Activity 3.1 will involve on-going cross sectoral dialogues with various stakeholders for implementation of land rehabilitation activities, Activity 3.6 will involve coordination

with relevant national authorities; Activity 4.1 will involve a gender-responsive communications and needs assessment which will necessitate stakeholder consultations, and Activity 5.5 on producing the women in restoration video series will also involve extensive stakeholder consultations. Furthermore, stakeholder consultations will also be an important component in terms of developing the intended protected area expansions, new grasslands BR and Water Funds. Women's organizations and networks will also be engaged, such as: the Women's Agricultural Union, who advocate for the inclusion of women in agriculture and land-related activities, providing grassroots perspectives and advocacy support; South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID) which is a network of women's organizations and individuals working to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in South Africa; Rural Women's Movement (RWM) that focuses on the rights and needs of rural women in South Africa; GenderLinks which is an NGO working on gender equality and women's rights in Southern Africa providing research, training, and advocacy on gender-related topics; National Council of Women of South Africa (NCWSA) which is a historic organization dedicated to advancing the rights and interests of women in South Africa; Department of Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities which addresses gender issues and women's empowerment; as well as the Department of Social Development which deals with social welfare and community development.

In summary, the consortium has had extensive stakeholder consultations prior to the start of ReLISA, is presently continuing to engage in discussions with a broad array of different stakeholders and will continue throughout the project lifespan to work very closely with stakeholders of all genders to ensure ReLISA captures the priorities and concerns of all who are likely to impact or be impacted by the project.

Annex L. Project Beneficiaries

The main and primary beneficiaries are **rural communities and farmers** in selected degraded landscapes and critical watersheds (upstream), as well as urban populations and communities dependent on secured water provision (downstream). They will benefit directly through increased resilience to climate change impacts, secured provision of vital ecosystem services and enhanced sustainable livelihoods (employment and diversified income). Extensive consultation with these groups was conducted during the PPP. Furthermore, the Water Funds will provide a grants mechanism for restoration, either through a grant from the trust fund for which private landowners can apply, or through facilitation of direct funding by donors for a specific restoration project. In addition to restoration, the project provides temporary employment and skills development for local communities. The funded projects will be required to improve water quality/quantity downstream, benefiting a range of water users in the landscape and beyond. During the ReLISA project, potential proponents will be supported to design fundable proposals, to ensure water benefits and sustainability of the proposed land-use, including assessment of economic sustainability for the landowners to ensure that the restoration is maintained.

National level and provincial **government agencies** will benefit from needs-based policy and policy implementation support for their environmental and socio-economic targets. Better data, new technologies and innovative investment models, capacity building and tools for planning, implementation and monitoring will provide meaningful elements for achieving national and international policy targets related to restoring degraded biomes. Benefitting agencies include DFFE (Branches: Climate change and Air Quality; Biodiversity & Conservation; Natural Resource Management); Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation (DHWAS); Cooperative Governance (COGTA); Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD); Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME); and the National Planning Commission.

State-owned **research and conservation institutions**, especially the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), SANParks, the Water Research Commission (WRC) and the South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON), will benefit through the provision of refined ecosystem restoration protocols and business models that increase the sustainability and efficacy of their conservation interventions.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and academia / universities will benefit from the publicly available tools, pilots (which can be used for strengthening the data / research basis) and targeted knowledge products, education and teaching materials.

Impact funds and other **private sector investors** benefit in that they are to be provided viable business models, technical barriers are to be removed and a pipeline of bankable investment opportunities for sustainable commodity production and carbon sequestration for voluntary carbon markets are to be developed, subject to transparent monitoring and impact reporting.

Annex M. South-South and Triangular Cooperation

There are no direct mechanisms for south-south or triangular cooperation included in the project design and this is not a key element of the project. Nevertheless, the results and methodologies for measuring ecosystem restoration impacts and opportunities will be disseminated widely, including through the UN Decade Knowledge Hub, which will facilitate other countries' engagement with the project.

Annex N: Relevance to National and Regional UN Common Programming Processes (UNDS Reforms)

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework guidance

The new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework ("Cooperation Framework" or UNSDCF)[14] guidelines emphasize the primacy of the Cooperation Framework in articulating government expectations of the UN development system and in driving major UN development system contributions at the country level. United Nations entity-specific country programmes are derived from the Cooperation Framework, not vice versa.

Guiding Principles
UNEP projects should adopt an integrated and multidimensional programming approach in line with the "five P's" of the 2030 Agenda — people, prosperity, planet, peace and partnerships.
UNEP projects should, as their primary goal, promote environmental sustainability as a means of ensuring the lasting protection of the planet and its natural and cultural resources, supporting inclusive and sustained economic growth, ending poverty in all its dimensions and enhancing human well-being.
UNEP, like all UN entities, is expected to apply the guiding principles — Leaving no one behind[15], Human Rights-Based Approach to Development, Gender equality and women's empowerment, resilience, Sustainability and Accountability — in the design and implementation of their interventions at country and regional levels.

Screening checklist	**Y/N/Maybe**	**Comment and or justification for the response (please provide answers to each question)**
Relevance to UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework or Opportunity/ Issue based Coalitions and or Priorities of the Regional Collaborative Platforms (RCPs)		
Has UNEP regional, subregional and/or country office covering the countries involved being consulted and part of the formulation process? Have they provided substantive comments to the proposed project document and its implementation strategy?	**Y**	Yes, UNEP South Africa Head has been intimately involved in project design and stakeholder consultation and participated in the Country Mission.
Has the Resident Coordinator of the countries involved being informed about the proposed project?	**Y**	UNRC invited to attended stakeholder workshop.
Does the proposed project support the UN vision in alignment with the national vision?	**Y**	Strategic priority of the Cooperation Framework 4: Climate resilience and sustainably managed natural resources;

14 https://unsdg.un.org/resources/united-nations-sustainable-development-cooperation-framework-guidance

15 The UNSDG Operational Guide for UNCTs on Leaving No One Behind supports RCs and the UN development system in integrating this principle

	Outcome 4.1: By 2025, South Africa is on a just transition to a low-carbon society and vulnerable and marginalised communities adapt and are more resilient to adverse effects of climate change Outcome 4.2 By 2025, natural resources are managed and utilised sustainably for improved livelihoods, health and well-being of vulnerable communities.
Is the proposed project contributing to the challenge(s) and gap(s) identified in the Common Country Analysis (CCA)?	Strategic priority of the Cooperation Framework 4: Climate resilience and sustainably managed natural resources;
Is the proposed project in full alignment with and supports the delivery of the Results/Outcome Areas of the Cooperation Framework?	Strategic priority of the Cooperation Framework 4: Climate resilience and sustainably managed natural resources; Outcome 4.1: By 2025, South Africa is on a just transition to a low-carbon society and vulnerable and marginalised communities adapt and are more resilient to adverse effects of climate change Outcome 4.2 By 2025, natural resources are managed and utilised sustainably for improved livelihoods, health and well-being of vulnerable communities.
What is/are the Cooperation Framework indicators that the proposed project will contribute to?	Strategic priority of the Cooperation Framework 4: Climate resilience and sustainably managed natural resources; Outcome 4.1: By 2025, South Africa is on a just transition to a low-carbon society and vulnerable and marginalised communities adapt and are more resilient to adverse effects of climate change Outcome 4.2 By 2025, natural resources are managed and utilised sustainably for improved livelihoods, health and well-being of vulnerable communities.
Are the proposed project SDGs indicators aligned/linked to those in the Cooperation Framework that supports and enables to the country(ies) to address SDG priorities and gaps? Or for regional approach, Opportunity/ Issue based Coalitions and or Priorities of the Regional Collaborative Platforms (RCPs).	SDG 15 (15.1, 15.3, 15.8, 15.9, 15.a), SDG 6 (6.6), SDG 13 (13.1)
What environmental topic, theme or area is the proposed project covering and or focusing on?	Ecosystem Restoration
Will the proposed project be implemented in partnership, coordination or jointly with another UN agency(ies)?	UNDP and UNESCO.

Does the proposed project position its budget in the larger context of SDG financing?	No.
Is the proposed project part the work of the results groups at country level? (for projects with regional approach, is the proposed project part of regional priorities defined by the Opportunity/ Issue based Coalition)?	No
Has the proposed project considered the Human Based Approach and will it promote and protect human rights and environmental rights?	Yes
Will the proposed project be in full alignment with and directly support the delivery of the Results/Outcome/Priority Areas of a regional Opportunity/ Issue based Coalition?	UNEP co-leads OIBC 4 for Africa region on climate change and natural resources.