

Closure Stage Quality Assurance Report

Form Status: Approved

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Overall Rating: | Satisfactory |
| Decision: | |
| Portfolio/Project Number: | 00079954 |
| Portfolio/Project Title: | Improving Management Effectiveness of The Protected Area |
| Portfolio/Project Date: | 2014-01-01 / 2022-06-30 |

Strategic

Quality Rating: Exemplary

1. Did the project pro-actively identified changes to the external environment and incorporated them into the project strategy?

- ☒ 3: *The project team identified relevant changes in the external environment that may present new opportunities or threats to the project's ability to achieve its objectives, assumptions were tested to determine if the project's strategy was valid. There is some evidence that the project board considered the implications, and documented the changes needed to the project in response. (all must be true)*
- ☐ 2: The project team identified relevant changes in the external environment that may present new opportunities or threats to the project's ability to achieve its objectives. There is some evidence that the project board discussed this, but relevant changes did not fully integrate in the project. (both must be true)
- ☐ 1: The project team considered relevant changes in the external environment since implementation began, but there is no evidence that the project team considered these changes to the project as a result.

Evidence:

The baseline for the national protected area (PA) footprint had to be revised. The new baseline figure of 9,910,695 ha (corrected national footprint as at project inception on 29 June 2015) has been approved by the PSC, pending approval by the RTA. The end of project target should be revised to 10 107695 ha. To date, the project has contributed 121 278 of the 197 000 ha.

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| # | File Name | Modified By | Modified On |
|---|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | SAPROTECTEDAREAEXPANSIONSTRATEGY_10619_301 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/SAPROTECTEDAREAEXPANSIONSTRATEGY_10619_301.docx) | evan.jacobs@undp.org | 12/2/2021 2:57:00 PM |

2. Was the project aligned with the thematic focus of the Strategic Plan?

- ☒ **3: The project responded to at least one of the development settings as specified in the Strategic Plan (SP) and adopted at least one Signature Solution . The project's RRF included all the relevant SP output indicators. (all must be true)**
- ☐ 2: The project responded to at least one of the developments settings¹ as specified in the Strategic Plan. The project's RRF included at least one SP output indicator, if relevant. (both must be true)
- ☐ 1: While the project may have responded to a partner's identified need, this need falls outside of the UNDP Strategic Plan. Also select this option if none of the relevant SP indicators are included in the RRF.

Evidence:

By focusing on protected biodiversity areas, the project responds to accelerating structural transformation for development as well as promoting nature-based solutions for a sustainable planet.

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Relevant**Quality Rating: Highly Satisfactory**

3. Were the project's targeted groups systematically identified and engaged, with a priority focus on the discriminated and marginalized, to ensure the project remained relevant for them?

- ☐ 3: Systematic and structured feedback was collected over the project duration from a representative sample of beneficiaries, with a priority focus on the discriminated and marginalized, as part of the project's monitoring system. Representatives from the targeted groups were active members of the project's governance mechanism (i.e., the project board or equivalent) and there is credible evidence that their feedback informs project decision making. (all must be true)
- ☒ 2: *Targeted groups were engaged in implementation and monitoring, with a priority focus on the discriminated and marginalized. Beneficiary feedback, which may be anecdotal, was collected regularly to ensure the project addressed local priorities. This information was used to inform project decision making. (all must be true to select this option)*
- ☐ 1: Some beneficiary feedback may have been collected, but this information did not inform project decision making. This option should also be selected if no beneficiary feedback was collected
- ☐ Not Applicable

Evidence:

Diverse populations within the identified protected areas are taken into consideration, predominantly those congregated in and around the main settlements in the region with high unemployment levels. Many of the groups are reliant on government grants, and supplement their livelihoods with resources harvested from the surrounding community resource areas e.g. firewood, medicinal plants, food and building materials.

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4. Did the project generate knowledge, and lessons learned (i.e., what has worked and what has not) and has this knowledge informed management decisions to ensure the continued relevance of the project towards its stated objectives, the quality of its outputs and the management of risk?

- ☒ *3: Knowledge and lessons learned from internal or external sources (gained, for example, from Peer Assists, After Action Reviews or Lessons Learned Workshops) backed by credible evidence from evaluation, corporate policies/strategies, analysis and monitoring were discussed in project board meetings and reflected in the minutes. There is clear evidence that changes were made to the project to ensure its continued relevance. (both must be true)*
- ☐ 2: Knowledge and lessons learned backed by relatively limited evidence, drawn mainly from within the project, were considered by the project team. There is some evidence that changes were made to the project as a result to ensure its continued relevance. (both must be true)
- ☐ 1: There is limited or no evidence that knowledge and lessons learned were collected by the project team. There is little or no evidence that this informed project decision making.

Evidence:

A KM approach was developed with the beginning of the ELI consultancy in January 2020 and shared with all project partners. It was decided to develop a project website that would serve as a resource hub for the project accessible even after the project has come to an end. The website, URL (<http://www.gef5p.a.org>) is currently in progress and will be launched shortly (a trial of website can be accessed via <https://dev.webgap.co.za/gef-5?bypass=review>). It was further decided to compile quarterly newsletters to share experiences and lessons learnt with project partners and their stakeholders.

Project sites captured and disseminated best practices and lessons learnt through monthly, quarterly and ad hoc reporting instruments.

Internally: internal newsletters shared via email or put up at on notice boards for staff with no access to emails, one-on-one discussions, and discussion of relevant topics in agency internal meetings.

Externally: Facebook posts, E-newsletter articles, in person engagements (in support of relationship building), regional management and stakeholder meetings, annual events such as the Biodiversity Stewardship Forum (stakeholders from all over the country).

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| # | File Name | Modified By | Modified On |
|---|--|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | GEF-5ProtectedAreaNewsletter3rdEdition_10619_304 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/GEF-5ProtectedAreaNewsletter3rdEdition_10619_304.html) | evan.jacobs@undp.org | 12/1/2021 11:51:00 AM |
| 2 | GEF-5ProtectedAreaNewsletter2ndEdition_10619_304 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/GEF-5ProtectedAreaNewsletter2ndEdition_10619_304.html) | evan.jacobs@undp.org | 12/1/2021 11:51:00 AM |
| 3 | 10.2305-IUCN.CH_2021PARKS-27-1en_Marnewick_et_al_10619_304 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/10.2305-IUCN.CH_2021PARKS-27-1en_Marnewick_et_al_10619_304.pdf) | evan.jacobs@undp.org | 12/1/2021 11:51:00 AM |

5. Was the project sufficiently at scale, or is there potential to scale up in the future, to meaningfully contribute to development change?

- ☒ 3: *There was credible evidence that the project reached sufficient number of beneficiaries (either directly through significant coverage of target groups, or indirectly, through policy change) to meaningfully contribute to development change.*
- ☐ 2: While the project was not considered at scale, there are explicit plans in place to scale up the project in the future (e.g. by extending its coverage or using project results to advocate for policy change).
- ☐ 1: The project was not at scale, and there are no plans to scale up the project in the future.

Evidence:

An assessment during 2021 was done to see how well the framework had been integrated. An audit of adaptive management capability within CapeNature indicated that generally the capability exists. Areas of improvement include financial and human resource capacity to implement planning, management, monitoring and evaluation at the appropriate scales, and adequate knowledge management systems.

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| # | File Name | Modified By | Modified On |
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| 1 | 10.2305-IUCN.CH_.2021PARKS-27-1en_Marnewick_et_al_10619_305 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/10.2305-IUCN.CH_.2021PARKS-27-1en_Marnewick_et_al_10619_305.pdf) | evan.jacobs@undp.org | 12/2/2021 3:02:00 PM |

Principled**Quality Rating: Highly Satisfactory**

6. Were the project's measures (through outputs, activities, indicators) to address gender inequalities and empower women relevant and produced the intended effect? If not, evidence-based adjustments and changes were made.

- ☒ 3: *The project team gathered data and evidence through project monitoring on the relevance of the measures to address gender inequalities and empower women. Analysis of data and evidence were used to inform adjustments and changes, as appropriate. (both must be true)*
- ☐ 2: The project team had some data and evidence on the relevance of the measures to address gender inequalities and empower women. There is evidence that at least some adjustments were made, as appropriate. (both must be true)
- ☐ 1: The project team had limited or no evidence on the relevance of measures to address gender inequalities and empowering women. No evidence of adjustments and/or changes made. This option should also be selected if the project has no measures to address gender inequalities and empower women relevant to the project results and activities.

Evidence:

The main achievements in this reporting cycle for the project were:

1. Capacity building of GEF-5 PA project and agencies staff in gender mainstreaming
2. Amending the UNDP reporting template to make it more gender responsive
3. Communicating career journeys of women in conservation

The gender analysis conducted in 2018 and gender mainstreaming interventions implemented under the ELI consultancy contributed to challenging gender inequalities and discrimination. Through the above mentioned results the awareness of the importance of gender equality was raised and staff have been conscientized. However, the impact on changed norms, values and power structures is difficult to assess.

The majority of women in project positions and in service providers appointed under the GEF-5 PA Project has certainly weighted the norms and power structures towards female project leads at the ground level. Again, the real impact and if this will be transformative in the longer term is difficult to determine.

The extent to which project agencies have responded to the above results varies. While most of the agencies apply their employment equity policy to address gender issues, some lead by example.

Additional achievements and progress at agency level:

- CapeNature established an internal Gender Mainstreaming Working Group and is in the process of developing a Gender Mainstreaming Strategy.
- K2C tried to address the different needs of men and women in terms of their attendance of an online train-the-trainers course as well as a boot camp, accommodating female members' responsibility towards family care. They also made an effort toward changing norms and challenging gender inequalities through a workshop for men on positive role modelling.

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| # | File Name | Modified By | Modified On |
|---|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | FInalExpandedProtectedAreasProjectgenderanalysisreportJune2018._1__10619_306 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/FInalExpandedProtectedAreasProjectgenderanalysisreportJune2018._1__10619_306.pdf) | evan.jacobs@undp.org | 12/2/2021 3:03:00 PM |

7. Were social and environmental impacts and risks successfully managed and monitored?

- ☐ 3: Social and environmental risks were tracked in the risk log. Appropriate assessments conducted where required (i.e., Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for High risk projects and some level of social and environmental assessment for Moderate risk projects as identified through SESP). Relevant management plan(s) developed for identified risks through consultative process and implemented, resourced, and monitored. Risks effectively managed or mitigated. If there is a substantive change to the project or change in context that affects risk levels, the SESP was updated to reflect these changes. (all must be true)
- ☒ 2: *Social and environmental risks were tracked in the risk log. Appropriate assessments conducted where required (i.e., Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for High risk projects and some level of social and environmental assessment for Moderate risk projects as identified through SESP). Relevant management plan(s) developed, implemented and monitored for identified risks. OR project was categorized as Low risk through the SESP.*
- ☐ 1: Social and environmental risks were tracked in the risk log. For projects categorized as High or Moderate Risk, there was no evidence that social and environmental assessments completed and/or management plans or measures development, implemented or monitored. There are substantive changes to the project or changes in the context but SESP was not updated. (any may be true)

Evidence:

The first draft of the Greater Kruger Socioeconomic Impact model and Annual Report was completed. A core advisory team reviewed the draft and is due to be updated. The 2nd draft will be circulated to PA and tourism operators for another review and final input

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| # | File Name | Modified By | Modified On |
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| 1 | PIMS4943_SESP_Jan242019TCNTinputs_10619_307 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/PIMS4943_SESP_Jan242019TCNTinputs_10619_307.docx) | evan.jacobs@undp.org | 12/1/2021 12:01:00 PM |

8. Were grievance mechanisms available to project-affected people and were grievances (if any) addressed to ensure any perceived harm was effectively mitigated?

- ☒ 3: Project-affected people actively informed of UNDP's Corporate Accountability Mechanism (SRM/SECU) and how to access it. If the project was categorized as High or Moderate Risk through the SESP, a project -level grievance mechanism was in place and project affected people informed. If grievances were received, they were effectively addressed in accordance with SRM Guidance. (all must be true)
- ☐ 2: Project-affected people informed of UNDP's Corporate Accountability Mechanism and how to access it. If the project was categorized as High Risk through the SESP, a project -level grievance mechanism was in place and project affected people informed. If grievances were received, they were responded to but faced challenges in arriving at a resolution.
- ☐ 1: Project-affected people was not informed of UNDP's Corporate Accountability Mechanism. If grievances were received, they were not responded to. (any may be true)

Evidence:

No grievances were report during this reporting period

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| # | File Name | Modified By | Modified On |
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| 1 | PIMS4943_SESP_Jan242019TCNTinputs_10619_308 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/PIMS4943_SESP_Jan242019TCNTinputs_10619_308.docx) | evan.jacobs@undp.org | 12/1/2021 12:01:00 PM |

Management & Monitoring

Quality Rating: Satisfactory

9. Was the project's M&E Plan adequately implemented?

- ☒ 3: *The project had a comprehensive and costed M&E plan. Baselines, targets and milestones were fully populated. Progress data against indicators in the project's RRF was reported regularly using credible data sources and collected according to the frequency stated in the Plan, including sex disaggregated data as relevant. Any evaluations conducted, if relevant, fully meet decentralized evaluation standards, including gender UNEG standards. Lessons learned, included during evaluations and/or After-Action Reviews, were used to take corrective actions when necessary. (all must be true)*
- ☐ 2: The project costed M&E Plan, and most baselines and targets were populated. Progress data against indicators in the project's RRF was collected on a regular basis, although there may be some slippage in following the frequency stated in the Plan and data sources was not always reliable. Any evaluations conducted, if relevant, met most decentralized evaluation standards. Lessons learned were captured but were used to take corrective actions. (all must be true)
- ☐ 1: The project had M&E Plan, but costs were not clearly planned and budgeted for, or were unrealistic. Progress data was not regularly collected against the indicators in the project's RRF. Evaluations did not meet decentralized evaluation standards. Lessons learned were rarely captured and used. Select this option also if the project did not have an M&E plan.

Evidence:

The project details manageable outputs and outcomes in a comprehensive work plan that details indicators and targets in an achievable timeline.

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| # | File Name | Modified By | Modified On |
|---|--|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | CopyofUNDPAnnualWorkPlanNarrativefor2021-Jan-Dec2021at15000exchangerate_8808_111_10619_309 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/CopyofUNDPAnnualWorkPlanNarrativefor2021-Jan-Dec2021at15000exchangerate_8808_111_10619_309.xlsx) | evan.jacobs@undp.org | 12/1/2021 12:38:00 PM |

10. Was the project's governance mechanism (i.e., the project board or equivalent) function as intended?

- ☐ 3: The project's governance mechanism operated well, and was a model for other projects. It met in the agreed frequency stated in the project document and the minutes of the meetings were all on file. There was regular (at least annual) progress reporting to the project board or equivalent on results, risks and opportunities. It is clear that the project board explicitly reviewed and used evidence, including progress data, knowledge, lessons and evaluations, as the basis for informing management decisions (e.g., change in strategy, approach, work plan.) (all must be true to select this option)
- ☒ 2: *The project's governance mechanism met in the agreed frequency and minutes of the meeting are on file. A project progress report was submitted to the project board or equivalent at least once per year, covering results, risks and opportunities. (both must be true to select this option)*
- ☐ 1: The project's governance mechanism did not meet in the frequency stated in the project document over the past year and/or the project board or equivalent was not functioning as a decision-making body for the project as intended.

Evidence:

Mechanisms, roles, and responsibilities are clearly defined with the necessary TORs attached to the project document

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| No documents available. | | | |

11. Were risks to the project adequately monitored and managed?

- ☐ 3: The project monitored risks every quarter and consulted with the key stakeholders, security advisors, to identify continuing and emerging risks to assess if the main assumptions remained valid. There is clear evidence that relevant management plans and mitigating measures were fully implemented to address each key project risk and were updated to reflect the latest risk assessment. (all must be true)
- ☒ 2: *The project monitored risks every year, as evidenced by an updated risk log. Some updates were made to management plans and mitigation measures.*
- ☐ 1: The risk log was not updated as required. There was may be some evidence that the project monitored risks that may affected the project's achievement of results, but there is no explicit evidence that management actions were taken to mitigate risks.

Evidence:

Three main risks have been identified in Prodoc: 1) Sufficient budget, 2) limited capacity, 3) management capacity building required. Potential barriers and mitigation measures have been described in body of Prodoc but minimal information has been supplied in Risk Log.

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| # | File Name | Modified By | Modified On |
|---|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | ImprovingManagementEffectivenessofTheProtectedAreaSection2_8808_113_10619_311 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/ImprovingManagementEffectivenessofTheProtectedAreaSection2_8808_113_10619_311.pdf) | evan.jacobs@undp.org | 12/2/2021 3:08:00 PM |

Efficient**Quality Rating: Highly Satisfactory**

12. Adequate resources were mobilized to achieve intended results. If not, management decisions were taken to adjust expected results in the project's results framework.

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

Evidence:

The design of intervention sites and the engagement of conservation agencies in the planning process provided a cost-effective solution of combining and integrating new protected areas.

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13. Were project inputs procured and delivered on time to efficiently contribute to results?

- ☐ 3: The project had a procurement plan and kept it updated. The project quarterly reviewed operational bottlenecks to procuring inputs in a timely manner and addressed them through appropriate management actions. (all must be true)
- ☒ 2: *The project had updated procurement plan. The project annually reviewed operational bottlenecks to procuring inputs in a timely manner and addressed them through appropriate management actions. (all must be true)*
- ☐ 1: The project did not have an updated procurement plan. The project team may or may not have reviewed operational bottlenecks to procuring inputs regularly, however management actions were not taken to address them.

Evidence:

The project was impacted by Covid-19 during various levels. Delivery of hectares was impacted under Output 1 due to restrictions on human movements, travel and prohibited gatherings. The implementation of meetings for negotiations, public participation, Community property associations' (CPAs) meetings and elections were put on hold to comply with safety regulations. There were also delays in accessing of electronic systems by government officials working from home and filling of critical positions (Legal Unit at DFFE) and suspended procurement activities which affected delivery in all outputs of the project. The efficiency in transfer of declaration documents to high ranking officials (Minister of DFFE, MEC of EC) and other administrative processes resulted in delays in processing of the transfer/vesting of properties and endorsement of declaration applications. Efforts were made to mitigate for further delays where possible through initiating online platforms for meetings and for community training (KNP Beneficiation Scheme Projects under component 3), as well as resuming all activities during lower lockdown risk levels.

In relation to the Covid-19 delays, the project applied for an no-cost extension of 6 months, which was recently granted by UNDP. Therefore, the project closure date of 30 June 2021 was extended to 31 December 2021. The project has been in constant communication with the UNDP and a decision was made to undertake regular monthly bilateral meetings between SANParks and UNDP CO, in order to facilitate smooth close-out of the project. Due to the changes in the project timelines, a request was made by the project to the UNDP CO at the first bilateral meeting, to move the end date of the Terminal Evaluation to 30 November 2021. A motivation letter was sent to UNDP CO and the response from their RBA Office is pending. The PMU has started working on the TETORs including the Co-financing analysis from the partners as part of the requirement. The advertising for the TE is planned for the end of July 2021.

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14. Was there regular monitoring and recording of cost efficiencies, taking into account the expected quality of results?

- ☒ 3: *There is evidence that the project regularly reviewed costs against relevant comparators (e.g., other projects or country offices) or industry benchmarks to ensure the project maximized results delivered with given resources. The project actively coordinated with other relevant ongoing projects and initiatives (UNDP or other) to ensure complementarity and sought efficiencies wherever possible (e.g. joint activities.) (both must be true)*
- ☐ 2: The project monitored its own costs and gave anecdotal examples of cost efficiencies (e.g., spending less to get the same result,) but there was no systematic analysis of costs and no link to the expected quality of results delivered. The project coordinated activities with other projects to achieve cost efficiency gains.
- ☐ 1: There is little or no evidence that the project monitored its own costs and considered ways to save money beyond following standard procurement rules.

Evidence:

As previously reported in the last PIR, the end target for this indicator has been met, and exceeded. The land acquisition cost per hectare for the PA expansion land secured through the GEF 5 project is effectively zero, as the land was not secured through purchase. Land secured through stewardship & partnership arrangements rather, than land purchase

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Effective

Quality Rating: **Needs Improvement**

15. Was the project on track and delivered its expected outputs?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Evidence:

The project was impacted by Covid-19 during various levels. Delivery of hectares was impacted under Output 1 due to restrictions on human movements, travel and prohibited gatherings. The implementation of meetings for negotiations, public participation, Community property associations' (CPAs) meetings and elections were put on hold to comply with safety regulations. There were also delays in accessing of electronic systems by government officials working from home and filling of critical positions (Legal Unit at DFFE) and suspended procurement activities which affected delivery in all outputs of the project. The efficiency in transfer of declaration documents to high ranking officials (Minister of DFFE, MEC of EC) and other administrative processes resulted in delays in processing of the transfer/vesting of properties and endorsement of declaration applications. Efforts were made to mitigate for further delays where possible through initiating online platforms for meetings and for community training (KNP Beneficiation Scheme Projects under component 3), as well as resuming all activities during lower lockdown risk levels.

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| # | File Name | Modified By | Modified On |
|---|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | CopyofUNDPAnnualWorkPlanNarrativefor2021-Jan-Dec2021at15000exchangerate_8808_111_10619_315 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/CopyofUNDPAnnualWorkPlanNarrativefor2021-Jan-Dec2021at15000exchangerate_8808_111_10619_315.xlsx) | evan.jacobs@undp.org | 12/2/2021 3:20:00 PM |

16. Were there regular reviews of the work plan to ensure that the project was on track to achieve the desired results, and to inform course corrections if needed?

- ☐ 3: Quarterly progress data informed regular reviews of the project work plan to ensure that the activities implemented were most likely to achieve the desired results. There is evidence that data and lessons learned (including from evaluations /or After-Action Reviews) were used to inform course corrections, as needed. Any necessary budget revisions were made. (both must be true)
- ☒ 2: *There was at least one review of the work plan per year with a view to assessing if project activities were on track to achieving the desired development results (i.e., outputs.) There may or may not be evidence that data or lessons learned were used to inform the review(s). Any necessary budget revisions have been made.*
- ☐ 1: While the project team may have reviewed the work plan at least once over the past year to ensure outputs were delivered on time, no link was made to the delivery of desired development results. Select this option also if no review of the work plan by management took place.

Evidence:

The project implemented 100% of the 2020 funds, and there was a delay in the implementation of the 2021 funds. This was due to a delay by the UNDP and SANParks in resolving the balance of funds available in the project. Further, delays were due to the exchange rate losses during Quarter 1, resulting in the need to adjust the budget and revise the work plan.

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17. Were the targeted groups systematically identified and engaged, prioritizing the marginalized and excluded, to ensure results were achieved as expected?

- ☐ 3: The project targeted specific groups and/or geographic areas, identified by using credible data sources on their capacity needs, deprivation and/or exclusion from development opportunities relevant to the project's area of work. There is clear evidence that the targeted groups were reached as intended. The project engaged regularly with targeted groups over the past year to assess whether they benefited as expected and adjustments were made if necessary, to refine targeting. (all must be true)
- ☒ 2: *The project targeted specific groups and/or geographic areas, based on some evidence of their capacity needs, deprivation and/or exclusion from development opportunities relevant to the project's area of work. Some evidence is provided to confirm that project beneficiaries are members of the targeted groups. There was some engagement with beneficiaries in the past year to assess whether they were benefiting as expected. (all must be true)*
- ☐ 1: The project did not report on specific targeted groups. There is no evidence to confirm that project beneficiaries are populations have capacity needs or are deprived and/or excluded from development opportunities relevant to the project area of work. There is some engagement with beneficiaries to assess whether they benefited as expected, but it was limited or did not occurred in the past year.
- ☐ Not Applicable

Evidence:

Diverse populations within the identified protected areas are taken into consideration, predominantly those congregated in and around the main settlements in the region with high unemployment levels. Many of the groups are reliant on government grants, and supplement their livelihoods with resources harvested from the surrounding community resource areas e.g. firewood, medicinal plants, food and building materials.

List of Uploaded Documents

| # | File Name | Modified By | Modified On |
|---|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | UNDPConsolidatedReportGEF5PA_Quarter3_2020_8808_104_10619_317 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/UNDPConsolidatedReportGEF5PA_Quarter3_2020_8808_104_10619_317.docx) | evan.jacobs@undp.org | 12/2/2021 3:26:00 PM |

Sustainability & National Ownership**Quality Rating: Satisfactory**

18. Were stakeholders and national partners fully engaged in the decision-making, implementation and monitoring of the project?

- ☒ **3: Only national systems (i.e., procurement, monitoring, evaluation, etc.) were used to fully implement and monitor the project. All relevant stakeholders and partners were fully and actively engaged in the process, playing a lead role in project decision-making, implementation and monitoring. (both must be true)**
- ☐ 2: National systems (i.e., procurement, monitoring, evaluation, etc.) were used to implement and monitor the project (such as country office support or project systems) were also used, if necessary. All relevant stakeholders and partners were actively engaged in the process, playing an active role in project decision-making, implementation and monitoring. (both must be true)
- ☐ 1: There was relatively limited or no engagement with national stakeholders and partners in the decision-making, implementation and/or monitoring of the project.
- ☐ Not Applicable

Evidence:

During the project preparation phase, an extensive Stakeholder Analysis and consultation process was undertaken to identify key stakeholders and assess their roles and responsibilities in the context of the project and receive their inputs.

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19. Were there regular monitoring of changes in capacities and performance of institutions and systems relevant to the project, as needed, and were the implementation arrangements⁸ adjusted according to changes in partner capacities?

- ☐ 3: Changes in capacities and performance of national institutions and systems were assessed/monitored using clear indicators, rigorous methods of data collection and credible data sources including relevant HACT assurance activities. Implementation arrangements were formally reviewed and adjusted, if needed, in agreement with partners according to changes in partner capacities. (all must be true)
- ☒ 2: *Aspects of changes in capacities and performance of relevant national institutions and systems were monitored by the project using indicators and reasonably credible data sources including relevant HACT assurance activities. Some adjustment was made to implementation arrangements if needed to reflect changes in partner capacities. (all must be true)*
- ☐ 1: Some aspects of changes in capacities and performance of relevant national institutions and systems may have been monitored by the project, however changes to implementation arrangements have not been considered. Also select this option if changes in capacities and performance of relevant national institutions and systems have not been monitored by the project.
- ☐ Not Applicable

Evidence:**List of Uploaded Documents**

| # | File Name | Modified By | Modified On |
|---|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | SanParks-Spotchecks2020_10619_319 (http://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAForDocuments/SanParks-Spotchecks2020_10619_319.pdf) | evan.jacobs@undp.org | 12/2/2021 3:30:00 PM |

20. Were the transition and phase-out arrangements were reviewed and adjusted according to progress (including financial commitment and capacity).

- ☐ 3: The project's governance mechanism regularly reviewed the project's sustainability plan, including arrangements for transition and phase-out, to ensure the project remained on track in meeting the requirements set out by the plan. The plan was implemented as planned by the end of the project, taking into account any adjustments made during implementation. (both must be true)
- ☒ 2: *There was a review of the project's sustainability plan, including arrangements for transition and phase-out, to ensure the project remained on track in meeting the requirements set out by the plan.*
- ☐ 1: The project may have had a sustainability plan but there was no review of this strategy after it was developed. Also select this option if the project did not have a sustainability strategy.

Evidence:

The PMU and CO will meet monthly through to project closure to agree on solutions for bottlenecks. The work plan for the extension period (01 July - 31 December 2021) is concise and clear, and highly achievable. The Tracking Tools and the cofinance materialisation require monitoring. No new major activities will take place during the extension period. The terminal Evaluation will be commissioned well in advance of project operational closure

List of Uploaded Documents

| # | File Name | Modified By | Modified On |
|-------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| No documents available. | | | |

QA Summary/Final Project Board Comments

The project demonstrated to be of high quality and continues to be on the right track to achieve its planned results.