THE GLOBAL WILDLIFE PROGRAM
KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM
2020

LED BY
WORLD BANK GROUP

SUPPORTED BY
gef
A Global Partnership on Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development

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ADB, CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL, IUCN, UNDP, UNEP, WWF, CITES, TRAFFIC, WCS, WILDAID
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The diversity of life that keeps this planet in balance is ever-changing but over the past few decades, it has become increasingly threatened. Habitat fragmentation and wildlife crime are decimating wildlife populations. Poaching, trafficking, and demand for wildlife are undermining conservation and jeopardizing efforts to develop economic opportunities for communities that live around protected areas. In 2020, the conflicts and interdependencies between human and natural systems were further highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic, exacerbating threats to biodiversity and creating a need to creatively adapt conservation approaches and build-in resilience.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) in 2015, during the sixth GEF replenishment cycle, responded to the international call for action to combat illegal wildlife trade by launching the Global Wildlife Program (GWP), a global partnership on wildlife conservation and crime prevention for sustainable development. The World Bank was selected as the lead agency to coordinate the national projects in the program and to promote knowledge sharing and collaboration among GEF implementing agencies, national executing partners, and conservation organizations. Following its expansion during the seventh GEF replenishment cycle, the GWP comprises 37 national projects across 32 countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean with an investment of $230 million in GEF financing and $1.3 billion in co-financing, making it one of the largest GEF programmatic investments in biodiversity conservation.

The GWP national projects aim to prevent the extinction of known threatened species and promote wildlife-based economies so that local communities benefit from and are partners in wildlife conservation. The global coordination grant aims to promote knowledge sharing and collaboration among GEF implementing agencies, national executing partners, and conservation organizations. Following its expansion during the seventh GEF replenishment cycle, the GWP comprises 37 national projects across 32 countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean with an investment of $230 million in GEF financing and $1.3 billion in co-financing, making it one of the largest GEF programmatic investments in biodiversity conservation.

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This report provides an overview of the GWP approach to addressing the drivers of wildlife population decline and showcases the breadth and depth of activities implemented by the GWP projects at the global, regional, and national levels. It features the analytical work paving the way for global dialogue on wildlife conservation and shares useful resources and lessons learned from across the GWP.

The GWP highlights the many ways in which wildlife is important to people and countries whether that be culturally, socially, ecologically, or economically. In Latin America, where the jaguar is a symbol of national and cultural identity for many communities and revered among many indigenous populations, the GWP projects are promoting human-jaguar coexistence and exploring ways to improve ecological connectivity between jaguar habitats. In Asia, where the tiger and the Asian elephant are keystone and umbrella species whose conservation enables the protection of forests and rivers and underpins vital ecosystem services, GWP projects are improving planning and governance for integrated landscape management, along with strengthening law enforcement and actions to reduce demand for illegal wildlife products. In Africa, where wildlife-based tourism represents over one-third of travel and tourism revenue and wildlife contributes significantly to poverty reduction, GWP projects are strengthening anti-poaching measures at critical sites and enabling community-based natural resource management to improve sustainable livelihood options.
The COVID-19 pandemic has seriously impacted projects and countries in their efforts to promote conservation and sustainable development. The role of the animal-human interface in zoonotic disease transmission renewed global attention on illegal wildlife trade and its impacts on human health. There have been wide-ranging adverse impacts on the global economy, poverty, community livelihoods, and conservation. Specifically, protected area budgets that were already suffering from funding shortages now have to also cope from the collapse of the tourism industry which contributed the majority of conservation revenues. GWP projects had to adapt to the changing circumstances as travel restrictions and national lockdowns delayed the delivery of project activities and new threats put at risk the achievement of project outcomes. Experiences and lessons from responding to COVID-19 are discussed in detail in this report and provide useful accounts of the situation on the ground.

As efforts to recover commence and continue, countries will need stronger collaboration and guidance to stay on track and achieve sustainable development goals. Regional and global cooperation, partnerships with the private sector and civil society, uptake of new innovations and technology, and an emphasis on inclusive recovery strategies will be essential. The GWP recognizes the value of wildlife as a natural and economic asset in rebuilding our future and we are committed as a global partnership that conserves wildlife and critical habitats, combats wildlife crime, promotes wildlife-based economies, and contributes to socioeconomic recovery to move forward together.

We are thankful to our partners for the leadership and perseverance shown in these times and look forward to continued collaboration.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADB</td>
<td>Asian Development Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>AML</td>
<td>Anti-Money Laundering</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBNRM</td>
<td>Community-Based Natural Resource Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CI</td>
<td>Conservation International</td>
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<tr>
<td>CITES</td>
<td>Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species Of Wild Fauna And Flora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COP</td>
<td>Community of Practice</td>
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<td>GEF</td>
<td>Global Environment Facility</td>
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<td>GWP</td>
<td>Global Wildlife Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>HWC</td>
<td>Human-Wildlife Conflict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KM</td>
<td>Knowledge Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCWC</td>
<td>International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEO</td>
<td>Independent Evaluation Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILM</td>
<td>Integrated Landscape Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISR</td>
<td>Implementation Status and Results Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMO</td>
<td>International Maritime Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERPOL</td>
<td>International Criminal Police Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IUCN</td>
<td>International Union for Conservation of Nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IWT</td>
<td>Illegal Wildlife Trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METT</td>
<td>Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M&amp;E</td>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBT</td>
<td>Nature-Based Tourism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFTP</td>
<td>Non-Forest Timber Product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Nongovernmental Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>Protected Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIR</td>
<td>Project Implementation Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMU</td>
<td>Project Management Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPG</td>
<td>Project Preparation Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPP</td>
<td>Public-Private Partnership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC</td>
<td>Program Steering Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEP</td>
<td>United Nations Environment Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNODC</td>
<td>United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBE</td>
<td>Wildlife-Based Economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCS</td>
<td>Wildlife Conservation Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCO</td>
<td>World Customs Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>WWF</td>
<td>World Wildlife Fund</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Global Wildlife Program (GWP) is a partnership of 32 countries, international and national organizations, and local partners working collaboratively to conserve wildlife and promote wildlife-based economies. The GWP addresses growing threats to wildlife and sustainable development, such as poaching, wildlife trafficking, human-wildlife conflict (HWC), and insufficient sustainable livelihoods opportunities for local communities. Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) with an investment of $230 million, and leveraging $1.3 billion in co-financing, the GWP includes 37 national projects across Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean and a global grant that supports knowledge exchange and learning.

The GWP projects cover globally significant ecosystems and major biomes, and collectively aims to improve management of 55 million hectares (including over 150 protected areas) and conserve a range of species, including many flagship species threatened by illegal wildlife trade (IWT). These include African elephants, rhinos, pangolins, jaguars, tigers, snow leopards, and great apes, and endemic species such as Borneo orangutans, Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzees, and South African abalones.
Operationally, the GWP includes two phases. Phase I launched in June 2015 with a grant of $131 million from the GEF’s sixth replenishment period (GEF-6) and consisted of 20 projects across 19 countries in Asia and Africa (see section 4 for project descriptions). This also included a $7 million GWP GEF-6 global coordination grant, comprising a $5 million grant led by the World Bank on knowledge management and coordination, and a $2 million grant led by the United Nations.
Development Programme (UNDP) on maritime trafficking of wildlife. In June 2019, the GEF Council formally approved the second phase of the GWP under the GEF-7 replenishment with a $98 million grant across 17 additional projects, expanding the program to an additional 13 countries (see section 5 for project descriptions). See map 1.1. Phase II includes a $9 million global coordination grant led by the World Bank. The information on the countries in the GWP is provided in table 1.1.
# TABLE 1.1 List of GWP National Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>GEF phase</th>
<th>Total grant amount (US$, millions)</th>
<th>GEF implementing agency</th>
<th>Executing partner(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>Conservation of Snow Leopards and Their Critical Ecosystem in Afghanistan</td>
<td>GEF-6</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>WCS; National Environment Protection Agency; Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>Strengthen Management and Climate Change Resilience in Angola’s Conservation Areas for Sustainable Development</td>
<td>GEF-7</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>CI</td>
<td>Angola National Institute for Biodiversity and Protected Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>Enhancing Jaguar Corridors and Strongholds Through Improved Management and Threat Reduction</td>
<td>GEF-7</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, Forest Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into the Tourism Sector in Bhutan</td>
<td>GEF-7</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Tourism Council of Bhutan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>Managing the Human-Wildlife Interface to Sustain the Flow of Agro-Ecosystem Services and Prevent Illegal Wildlife Trafficking in the Kgalagadi and Ghanzi Drylands</td>
<td>GEF-6</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism; Ministry of Agriculture; Kgalagadi/Ghanzi Councils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Cambodia Sustainable Landscape and Ecotourism Project</td>
<td>GEF-7</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>Integrated and Transboundary Conservation of Biodiversity in the Basins of Cameroon</td>
<td>GEF-6</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>Chad Local Development and Adaptation Project (ALBIÄ)</td>
<td>GEF-7</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment and Fisheries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo, Dem. Rep.</td>
<td>Kabobo-Luama Protected Area Landscape Management</td>
<td>GEF-7</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development; WCS; Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo, Rep.</td>
<td>Strengthening the Management of Wildlife and Improving Livelihoods in Northern Republic of Congo</td>
<td>GEF-6</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>Ministry of Forest Economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>Integrating Landscape Considerations in Wildlife Conservation, with Emphasis on Jaguars</td>
<td>GEF-7</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>WCS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Enhanced Management and Enforcement of Ethiopia’s Protected Area Estate</td>
<td>GEF-6</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission; Ethiopia Wildlife Conservation Authority; Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabon</td>
<td>Wildlife and Human-Elephant Conflict Management</td>
<td>GEF-6</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>National Agency of National Parks; General Directorate of Wildlife and the Protection of Nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>Securing Livelihoods, Conservation, Sustainable Use and Restoration of High Range Himalayan Ecosystems (SECURE) Himalayas</td>
<td>GEF-6</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>Strengthening Conservation and Resilience of Globally Significant Wild Cat Landscapes Through a Focus on Small Cat and Leopard Conservation</td>
<td>GEF-7</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>UNDP/WWF</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Combating Illegal and Unsustainable Trade in Endangered Species in Indonesia</td>
<td>GEF-6</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment and Forestry (Directorate General of Law Enforcement on Environment and Forestry)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The GWP project Integrated and Transboundary Conservation of Biodiversity in the Basins of the Republic of Congo was closed by the UNDP Administrator in November 2020 and is therefore not shown in this table.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>GEF phase</th>
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<th>Executing partner(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Catalyzing Optimum Management of Natural Heritage for Sustainability of Ecosystem, Resources and Viability of Endangered Wildlife Species (CONSERVE)</td>
<td>GEF-7</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment and Forests, Directorate General of Natural Resources Conservation and Ecosystem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Combating Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trafficking in Kenya through an Integrated Approach</td>
<td>GEF-6</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>Sustainable Management of Conservation Areas and Improved Livelihoods to Combat Wildlife Trafficking in Madagascar</td>
<td>GEF-7</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>UNEP</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>Lower Shire Valley Landscape Project, part of the Shire Valley Transformation Program I</td>
<td>GEF-6</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy, and Mining; Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Water Development; African Parks Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>Community-Based Natural Resource Management that Resolves Conflict, Improves Livelihoods, and Restores Ecosystems throughout the Elephant Range</td>
<td>GEF-6</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Ministry of the Environment, Sanitation, and Sustainable Development; Mali Elephant Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Building Institutional and Local Capacities to Reduce Wildlife Crime and Enhance Protection of Iconic Wildlife in Malaysia</td>
<td>GEF-7</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>Strengthening the Conservation of Globally Threatened Species in Mozambique through Improving Biodiversity Enforcement and Expanding Community Conservancies around Protected Areas</td>
<td>GEF-6</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>National Agency for Conservation Areas; Gorongosa Restoration Project; and WCS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>Integrated Approach to Proactive Management of Human-Wildlife Conflict and Wildlife Crime in Hotspot Landscapes in Namibia</td>
<td>GEF-7</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>Improved Management Effectiveness of Gashaka-Gumti and Yankari Protected Areas to Conserve Threatened Wildlife Species, Build a Wildlife Economy, and Enhance Community Benefits</td>
<td>GEF-7</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>Strengthening Governance and Capacity for Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade in Pakistan</td>
<td>GEF-7</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>IUCN</td>
<td>Ministry of Climate Change; WWF, IUCN; provincial wildlife departments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>Conservation of Wildcats and Prey Species Through Public-Private Partnerships and Human-Jaguar Conflict Management in Panama</td>
<td>GEF-7</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>UNEP</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment; Yaguará Panamá Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>Combating Environmental Organized Crime in the Philippines</td>
<td>GEF-6</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>ADB</td>
<td>Biodiversity Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Strengthening Institutions, Information Management, and Monitoring to Reduce the Rate of Illegal Wildlife Trade in South Africa</td>
<td>GEF-6</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>UNEP</td>
<td>Department of Environment, Forests, and Fisheries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Project</td>
<td>GEF phase</td>
<td>Total grant amount (US$, millions)</td>
<td>GEF implementing agency</td>
<td>Executing partner(s)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Catalyzing Financing and Capacity for the Biodiversity Economy around Protected Areas</td>
<td>GEF-7</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>UNEP/World Bank</td>
<td>Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries; South African National Biodiversity Institute; National Prosecuting Authority; South African National Parks; iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Reducing Human Wildlife Conflict Through an Evidence-Based and Integrated Approach in Southern Africa</td>
<td>GEF-7</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>UNEP</td>
<td>Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>Combating Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade in Tanzania through an Integrated Approach</td>
<td>GEF-6</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Wildlife Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade, focusing on Ivory, Rhino Horn, Tiger and Pangolins in Thailand</td>
<td>GEF-6</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation; Royal Thai Police; IUCN; TRAFFIC; TRACE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>Strengthening Partnerships to Protect Endangered Wildlife in Vietnam</td>
<td>GEF-6</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project</td>
<td>GEF-6</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture; Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Forestry Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>Strengthening Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management and Climate-Smart Landscapes in the Mid to Lower Zambezi Region of Zimbabwe</td>
<td>GEF-6</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The GWP brings together national efforts in a collaborative global program that facilitates connection across borders and the sharing of experiences, lessons, and best practices. Initially focused on reducing poaching, trafficking, and demand for illegal wildlife products under GEF-6, the program focus under GEF-7 is broadened to include targeted attention on recognizing the values of wildlife for sustainable development. In this way, the four pillars of the GWP focus on (i) the conservation of wildlife and habitats (including PAs) and their protection from poaching and other threats, (ii) the development of resilient wildlife-based economies and local livelihoods that recognize the value of wildlife and promote human-wildlife coexistence, (iii) combating IWT and strengthening legal frameworks and law enforcement responses, and (iv) reducing demand for illegal wildlife products, disrupting markets and changing behaviors across illegal supply chains. See figure 1.1.

The global coordination grant supports a knowledge platform that brings together project teams to facilitate knowledge exchange, sharing of lessons learned, and accelerating the uptake of tools and resources that support the implementation and achievement of project activities. The knowledge platform also supports coordination between national projects including bilateral and regional events, promotes donor coordination, strengthens partnerships, and creates communications assets that raise awareness on wildlife conservation across a wide range of audiences. The occurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic and other allied issues have reemphasized the need for diversification, adaptation, and innovation to deliver the objectives of the program and projects and the GWP is responding to the needs of the projects in an adaptive and evolving manner.

**FIGURE 1.1 GWP Framework and Evolution from GEF-6 to GEF-7**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>GEF-6 Framework</th>
<th>GEF-7 Framework</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REDUCE POACHING</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conserve Wildlife and Habitats</td>
<td>Conservation management plans implemented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote Wildlife-based Economies</td>
<td>Improved policies and regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combat Wildlife Crime</td>
<td>Policy and regulatory frameworks enhanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce Demand and Disrupt Markets</td>
<td>Targeted awareness campaign delivered</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conserved areas enable biodiversity economy

- Increased patrol
- Increased financing for PAs
- Private sector partnerships created
- Increased PA coverage

Empowered communities/private sector combat illicit activities

- Policy and regulatory frameworks enhanced
- Improved data sharing and intelligence gathering mechanisms
- Innovative law enforcement tools implemented

Effective law enforcement disrupts demand

- Targeted awareness campaigns delivered
- Online behavior of wildlife sales tracked

Global Biodiversity Conserved
Livelihoods for Local Communities Improved
Resilience Enhanced

Report Outline

This report summarizes the results and achievements of the GWP during the past year.

- **Section 2** describes the overall progress achieved by the program to date.
- **Section 3** presents the results of the GWP global coordination grant.
- **Section 4** highlights the progress and accomplishments of the GEF-6 GWP national projects.
- **Section 5** introduces the national projects that joined the GWP under GEF-7.
- **Section 6** discusses the challenges, adaptive management, and lessons emerging across the GWP, including the many ways in which GWP projects adapted to COVID-19 impacts in 2020.
Despite significant impacts and disruptions from COVID-19 across much of 2020, collectively GWP national projects have made important contributions towards combating poaching, trafficking, and demand for illegal wildlife products. Here are 10 of the GWP’s top achievements in 2020, aggregated from GEF-6 national project implementation reports and with examples from the projects.
33 sites with strengthened anti-poaching measures

Zero elephants poached for a second year in a row in Niassa Special Reserve in Mozambique.
Poachers in Lengwe National Park and Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve in Malawi apprehended by Community Policing Committees and convicted in court.
20 game scouts in Zimbabwe trained on a community ranger course.
1,300 snares found and destroyed in Indonesia and 1,200 in Zimbabwe.

Over 15,000 people benefiting from community development initiatives

Short-term employment for tree planting for 5,434 people in Afghanistan.
1,436 community members in Ethiopia trained in natural resources management.
2,520 people benefited from community development programs in Mozambique, such as tree plantation, bee keeping, and electric fences for crop protection.
2,671 households in the Republic of Congo benefited from agroforestry and cultured cocoa micro-projects.

89 community-based natural resources management groups created and/or supported

64 Biodiversity Management Committees created and trained in the Biodiversity Act 2002 in India.
16 Natural Resources Management Committees in Mozambique revitalized in Gorongosa National Park and 2 registered in Niassa Special Reserve.
7 Community Resource Boards supported to develop their constitution using new guidelines in Zambia.

10 integrated landscape management plans developed and 16 more under development

2 integrated landscape plans developed for Chebera Churchura National Park and Babile Elephant Sanctuary in Ethiopia.
8 corridor management plans completed in Gabon.
An integrated landscape plan in Botswana under development using the Land Use Conflict Identification System.
Mbire district plan in Zimbabwe updated to incorporate biodiversity.

7 inter-agency coordination mechanisms established to combat wildlife crime

Inter-agency antipoaching committee formed in Botswana.
National environmental crime unit for Ethiopia and IWT regional task forces established in Southern Nations, Nationalities and People’s Region and the Somali region.
Anti-Poaching Coordination Center established in Mozambique’s Magude district.
Memorandums of understanding developed between the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) and Philippines Port Authority and between BMB and Cebu Port Authority.
**SECTION 2: GWP’S KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

### 6. **5 databases and systems** for digitization and collation of data established or strengthened

- Wildlife data digitized in the Wildlife Crime Database Centre in Uttarakhand State, India.
- Computerized criminal records management system in Congo operationalized.
- Database developed in Ethiopia for confiscated raw ivory and ivory products in collaboration with the Elephant Protection Initiative and Stop Ivory.

### 7. **32 joint law enforcement operations** conducted (at subnational, national, or transnational level)

- 6 on-the-ground anti-crime operations held in Mozambique involving multiple agencies.
- 12 joint patrols in Gabon’s Mayumba and Congo’s Conkouati-Douli National Parks.

### 8. **10 new or revised legal instruments**


### 9. **2 market research studies**

- One market study conducted on marine turtles and the blue-naped parrot in the Philippines.
- Market research conducted in Thailand on consumption of wild meat.

### 10. **30 awareness campaigns**

- Campaign conducted in Afghanistan’s Wakhan community raising awareness for snow leopards.
- “Indonesia Says No! to Illegal Wildlife Trade” national campaign successfully launched.
- Digital posters on penalties under Thailand’s new Wildlife Animal Reservation and Protection Act 2020 disseminated.
- 15 social media awareness campaigns launched in India to target national-level audiences.
- 8 awareness raising campaigns implemented by Local Management Consultative Committees in Gabon.

**Note:** Data was aggregated from GEF-6 national project implementation reports for 2019–2020. Examples from national projects are not exhaustive. More information can be found in the GEF-6 national project progress pages.
Since 2016, the GWP global coordination grant Coordinate Action and Learning to Combat Wildlife Crime has enhanced coordination among stakeholders, supported the preparation of project activities and monitoring of national project outcomes, and developed a knowledge management (KM) platform to exchange learning and experiences. The four pillars of the global grant are:

- **Coordination.** Increase collaboration and leverage partner and donor resources.
- **Strengthen Partnerships.** Enhance International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) partner capabilities and support capacity building of the maritime sector to tackle crime across the IWT supply chain.
- **Knowledge Management and Communications.** Foster new integrated approaches, methodologies, technologies, and learning among the national projects to successfully combat wildlife crime.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation.** Support preparation and implementation of national projects, track progress and outcomes, and prepare annual reports.

**Component 1: Coordination**

Component 1 aims to strengthen collaboration among the GWP implementing agencies, national projects, and the international donor community.

**NATIONAL COORDINATION**

In 2020, the GWP organized four online regional coordination meetings (Africa and Asia) with the 20 national project teams in the GEF-6 to discuss updates on their progress and share challenges and technical and knowledge needs. The GWP also organized four regional onboarding calls (anglophone Africa, francophone Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean) for GEF-7 projects in the project preparation stage.
Going forward, the regional coordination meetings for national projects will be merged across GEF-6 and GEF-7. Given the large number of projects, the GWP will use virtual tools and creative formats to facilitate networking and knowledge exchange between the projects.

PROGRAM STEERING COMMITTEE

The GWP organized regular program steering committee (PSC) meetings in 2020 to discuss project updates and obtain input from PSC members on key program and project issues. Meetings were held in March, June, and September.

DONOR COORDINATION

In 2020, the GWP organized three meetings with the international donors that are working on combating IWT. This included participation in the Wildlife Forum at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, D.C., in January and two virtual discussions held in May and November. The May meeting convened donors engaged in IWT coordination efforts to brainstorm on potential short-term and longer-term impacts of COVID-19. The discussion focused on Africa and highlighted how the pandemic has affected national and regional strategies to build and grow wildlife economies and various donor-supported project and programs. Nature-based tourism was mentioned as an important component of protected area authority and community conservancy revenues that, in many cases, covers a large share of their operational costs. In November, the donor group provided updates on current and planned activities, and the GWP team shared information on a study underway on collaborative management of conservation areas.
Component 2: Strengthen Partnerships

This component aims to strengthen partnerships with key actors working on combating IWT.

INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME

The GWP team has continued to collaborate with ICCWC, a group of five intergovernmental organizations that works to support national wildlife law enforcement agencies and subregional and regional networks. The ICCWC partners are the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Secretariat, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank, and the World Customs Organization (WCO). In January 2020, the World Bank, GWP, and ICCWC hosted the Wildlife Forum in Washington, D.C. This was followed by a strategic planning meeting of representatives from the partner organizations on activities that will shape implementation of ICCWC’s Strategic Programme 2016–2020 and future efforts under the ICCWC Vision 2030.

With support from the United Kingdom Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the World Bank has supported targeted countries to better understand their money laundering and terrorist funding risks related to environmental crimes. This was done through the development of a new module, “Environmental and Natural Resources Crimes,” included in the World Bank National Risk Assessment Tool. The environmental crimes risk assessments of Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, and Zimbabwe were completed.

The following ICCWC and ICCWC partner publications have been published: World Wildlife Crime Report: Trafficking in Protected Species, ICCWC Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs), and Scaling Back Corruption: A Guide on Addressing Corruption for Wildlife Management Authorities. See links below.

World Wildlife Crime Report 2020: Trafficking in Protected Species

ICCWC Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs)

Scaling Back Corruption: A Guide on Addressing Corruption for Wildlife Management Authorities
MARITIME SECTOR

Targeted work on seaports implicated in IWT under the global coordination grant is led by UNDP, in partnership with TRAFFIC, UNODC, WildAid, and members of the United for Wildlife Transport Task Force. While activities at ports were heavily impacted by COVID-19, key progress in 2020 included:

- An online course for port stakeholders (private sector and government agencies) to improve awareness, prevention, and detection of IWT was developed and rolled out in collaboration with the Institute for Chartered Shipbrokers.
- International Maritime Organization (IMO) member states approved a proposal submitted by the government of Kenya with support from UNDP to develop guidelines to prevent IWT in maritime shipping supply chains.
- The UNDP received a $2 million grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to broaden existing maritime trafficking efforts under the GWP. The funds will allow for more targeted capacity development, awareness raising, private sector engagement in seaports in Kenya and Tanzania, and inclusion of the Kampala dry port in Uganda.

Component 3: Knowledge Management and Communications

The KM component of the global coordination grant aims to scale up best practices, leverage lessons learned from exchanges, and drive innovation. The World Bank leads the design, development, and deployment of a KM platform to promote efficiency and learning among program stakeholders. The process for generating resources includes obtaining national project feedback through surveys, finding experts to put together the best research available on selected themes, and sharing this information through events, workshops, and communications. KM products and events in 2020 were as follows:

**KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS**

- **Tools and Resources for Nature-Based Tourism report and e-book** (September 2020). Nature-based tourism can support biodiversity conservation, poverty alleviation, and economic growth. The implementation of nature-based tourism and safeguarding of underlying natural assets depends on context-specific conditions and requires continuous learning from previous efforts. Many GWP national projects use nature-based tourism to fund conservation and engage communities. This report is a comprehensive review of the tools, resources, institutions, and platforms available to help nature-based tourism practitioners prepare, implement, and monitor projects. It is accompanied by an interactive e-book currently housing 350 resources and counting. New nature-based tourism resources can be submitted for inclusion in the e-book via this link. Total downloads: 2,041.

- **Guide for Implementing Community-Based Electric Fences for the Effective Mitigation of Human-Elephant Conflict** (September 2020). Human-elephant conflict is a major conservation, socioeconomic, and political issue over most of the African and Asian elephant range states. Conventional attempts at its mitigation by limiting elephants to protected areas have been largely ineffective in virtually all these regions. Community-based electric fencing can be one tool in landscapes where people and elephants exist together outside of designated protected areas. This guide aims to assist countries participating in the GWP to address human-elephant conflict and explore ways for coexistence between humans and elephants, with a focus on electric fences. Also available in French. Total downloads: 2,358.
**Countering Wildlife Trafficking Through Kenya’s Seaports.** This paper, led by UNDP, TRAFFIC, and USAID, provides essential information on wildlife trafficking via Kenya’s seaports, mainly the Port of Mombasa and its role in wildlife trafficking. The analysis formed the basis of discussions at the “2019 Mombasa Port Stakeholders Workshop to Combat Wildlife Trafficking,” supported by GWP partners. The paper also provides key information on trafficking routes and concealment methods that have been used to move illicit wildlife products from and via Kenya to consumer countries.

**IN-PERSON EVENTS**

- **Wildlife Forum** (January 2020). The GWP organized the Wildlife Forum in collaboration with ICCWC. Over 150 participants joined thematic discussions, presentations, and panels showcasing key governance, economics, trade, and technological issues that affect wildlife crime. Donors, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and other U.S.-based implementing partners shared information and discussed strengthening partnerships to promote sustainable development and combat wildlife crime. The forum informed ICCWC’s future strategic planning.

**VIRTUAL EVENTS**

- **GWP Annual Conference.** Every year, the GWP hosts a conference at which government stakeholders, project partners, and subject experts exchange ideas, encourage collaboration, and support project design and implementation. The fourth GWP Annual Conference was held from December 1–3, 2020. Because of COVID-19-related travel restrictions and health concerns, the conference was delivered in a virtual format, on Zoom, for the first time. Representatives from 28 GWP countries attended technical sessions, expert presentations, interactive working groups, and networking sessions. These were complemented by videos from project teams and the use of digital tools and platforms such as polls, word clouds, and virtual feedback walls to engage participants. Conference proceedings can be found [here](#).
Webinars. The GWP organized six webinars this year and co-promoted six other webinars through partnerships with USAID, WWF, and the World Bank’s Planet Reboot series. See lists of GWP webinars in appendix B.

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

A key component of GWP’s KM efforts is the establishment of targeted communities of practice (CoPs), aimed at facilitating collective, accelerated learning and enhancing collaboration among stakeholders. The two themes the GWP has piloted for CoPs are described below.

Nature-Based Tourism CoP

The nature-based tourism CoP is an online platform that is currently available only to World Bank staff and projects. However, knowledge products delivered for the CoP are shared with all GWP stakeholders, and ways to increase partnership with GWP partners will be explored under GEF-7.

JOURNAL ARTICLE: “Framework for Sustainable Recovery of Tourism in Protected Areas”

As project teams work to support clients in designing COVID-19 recovery strategies that have positive environmental benefits, the GWP team put together a framework focused on three priorities for the protected area tourism sector:

- Protecting the natural asset
- Growing and diversifying the business
- Sharing the benefits widely

The article proposes recommendations for how countries can consider building back greener and increasing the resilience of the tourism sector. Read the article here.
FEATURE STORY: “The Journey Back to Recovery—Resources to Develop Tourism Sustainably.”

Nature-based tourism, the largest global, market-based contributor to financing protected area systems, has been severely affected by the pandemic. For governments and tourism operators looking to rebuild the nature-based tourism sector, this story offers resources and tools that could support their efforts. Read the story [here](#).

Human-Wildlife Conflict CoP

More than 70 percent of GWP projects address human-wildlife conflict through a broad range of on-the-ground interventions. The HWC CoP is an external CoP in partnership with the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Human-Wildlife Conflict Task Force (IUCN SSC HWC Task Force). The CoP aims to help build capacity of GWP countries in HWC mitigation and prevention as well as promotion of coexistence. The Task Force is the key partner for this initiative. An expert advisory group, it aims to support professionals working on HWC by providing interdisciplinary guidance, resources, and capacity building. The IUCN HWC Task Force is also the focal point for the IUCN motion 117, “Addressing human-wildlife conflict: fostering a safe and beneficial coexistence of people and wildlife,” approved in September 2020. The motion calls on IUCN members, governments, and other parties to recognize HWC as a growing global issue that requires holistic and collaborative solutions.

The first international conference on HWC and coexistence, scheduled for April 2020 in partnership with the IUCN SSC HWC Task Force and the Martin School, University of Oxford, was postponed due to the pandemic. It is now proposed for 2022.
COMMUNICATIONS

The GWP’s communication strategy aims to increase awareness of the GWP and reach a broad audience to promote projects, products, and partners. This includes showcasing activities taking place across the 32 GWP countries, the knowledge resources that the GWP global grant curates, and raising awareness on conservation and sustainable development. In 2020, the GWP redesigned its website to include thematic focus areas and developed three newsletters (48 percent average open rate, double the industry average of 24 percent), three blogs and feature stories (average 1,200 views), three reports, three videos on Instagram, one e-book on nature-based tourism, and one infographic. Additionally, social media messages were promoted on World Wildlife Day, International Day of Biodiversity, and World Ranger Day.

BOX 3.1

GWP Blogs and Feature Stories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Views</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Why We Need to Invest in Conflict Resolution for Better Biodiversity</td>
<td>1,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcomes, November 2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Green Economic Recovery for South Asia, May 2020</td>
<td>1,681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risking Lives to Protect Wildlife and Wildlands: Stories from Rangers in the Field, July 2020</td>
<td>1,102</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


BOX 3.2

GWP Videos on Instagram

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Views</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World Wildlife Day 2020</td>
<td>4,855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Wetlands Day 2020</td>
<td>6,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Ranger Day 2020</td>
<td>6,626</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On **Biodiversity Day (May 22, 2020)**, the GWP created a social media package for youth on the importance of biodiversity. The infographic was viewed 556 times.

Click to see the infographic.


**Communications Training.** The GWP conducted a virtual training series called “Conservation Storytelling” for the project teams from Asia. The training covered four topics: communications principles, using data to tell stories, using photos to tell stories, and GWP country project presentations to facilitate peer-to-peer learning. Participants rated the training highly. On average, 40 members from project teams across GWP Asia attended the meeting (figure 3.2). The final report can be found [here](#).

![Image of infographic](image)

**FIGURE 3.2** Number of Participants Trained under the GWP Conservation Storytelling Workshop.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 2</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 3</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 4</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The redesign of the GWP website makes it easier for users to find resources and publications by theme. In 2020, the website received 8,831 visits from 6,178 unique visitors from around the world (see figures 3.3 and 3.4).

**FIGURE 3.3** GWP Unique Website Views, 2020–21

![Graph showing website views by month and page]  
*Source: World Bank.*

**FIGURE 3.4** Geosegmentation of Views on the GWP Website

![Pie chart showing geosegmentation of website views]  
*Source: World Bank.*
Component 4: Monitoring and Evaluation

The coordination project has developed and deployed a monitoring system specifically tailored to track progress of the GWP. The system aggregates national-level project data and qualitative information to report on progress, inform program decisions, facilitate adaptive management measures, support other coordination components, and guide the national projects’ implementation. The GWP has three tools for monitoring and evaluation for the GEF-6 projects: (i) a GWP-tailored tracking tool, (ii) project results frameworks, and (iii) an annual qualitative review. GEF-7 national projects will report against GEF core indicators but will not be required to adopt a GWP tracking tool. The GWP coordination platform will develop and deploy a targeted monitoring and evaluation system for GEF-7 projects that builds off existing GEF reporting and results frameworks.

The GWP conducted its annual qualitative review at the end of 2020. The GWP coordination team has synthesized the reporting so far, along with project results reported to GEF as part of annual project reporting. Results are presented in section 2 of this report. The GWP tracking tool will be submitted at midterm for GEF-6 national projects, a number of which are expected during 2021 as project midterm reviews are completed. Also see the GWP 2019 Knowledge Platform Report.
Next Phase of GWP Global Coordination

In June 2021, the GEF-6 global grant will close and the next phase of the GWP coordination will begin. Led by the World Bank, the GEF-7 GWP global coordination project will support both GEF-7 national projects and the ongoing GEF-6 national projects.

The GEF-7 coordination grant is arranged around the two key technical pillars of the GEF-7 GWP—combating IWT and promoting wildlife-based economies—along with program coordination (see figure 3.5). The first pillar will support national projects to combat IWT and works at the global level through targeted attention on governance, donor coordination and demand reduction. It will share tools and knowledge resources and mobilize ICCWC partners to help national projects achieve their outcomes. The wildlife for sustainable development pillar will support countries to explore wildlife-based land uses such as supporting recovery of the wildlife tourism sector and adequately valuing wildlife in their national accounts and policies. The GEF-7 GWP global coordination project will help participating countries develop diversified, resilient wildlife-based enterprises and implement policies that foster conservation-compatible development. This will be done through analyses that show the economic value of protected areas and wildlife for national and local economies and promotion of collaborative partnerships between local communities, the government, private sector, tourism agencies, and other relevant partners.

FIGURE 3.5  GEF-7 GWP Global Coordination Grant Pillars

Note: M&E = monitoring and evaluation; PPP = private-public partnership; WBE = wildlife-based economy.
SECTION 4

PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS
OF GEF-6 NATIONAL PROJECTS

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ZIMBABWE ..................................................................... 62
Objective: To strengthen conservation of the snow leopard and its critical ecosystem in Afghanistan through a holistic and sustainable landscape approach that addresses existing and emerging threats.

**Project Sites:** Wakhan National Park (WNP) in Afghan Pamirs and Hindu Kush  
**Species Focus:** Snow leopards  
**Grant Amount:** $2.9 million  
**Executing Partner:** WCS, National Environment Protection Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock  
**GEF Implementing Agency:** United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
**Project Manager:** Mujtaba Bashari (mbashari@wcs.org)  
**Project Start:** September 2019  
**Scheduled Completion:** July 2022

The project is mobilizing local communities around WNP to conserve snow leopards and their habitats through livelihood opportunities such as tree planting, a community ranger program, and construction of predator-proof corrals.

**PROGRESS**

- Due to project-supported awareness activities, the retaliatory killing of snow leopards has ceased. Local communities instead report sightings and damage to local authorities and the WCS, the project’s executing partner. To reduce livestock predation, the project constructed three communal predator-proof corrals and rehabilitated four existing communal corrals and 198 household corrals. Snow leopards caught in corrals have been released unharmed.

- The SMART system was operationalized, accompanied by training of front-line staff. A manual and reporting format were developed to facilitate predation incident surveys and reporting. The project deployed 35 new camera traps to strengthen wildlife monitoring capacity within the WNP.

- The Protected Area Committee, the co-management governance system and main decision-making body for the WNP, was established and comprises local communities and government agencies.

- Thirteen afforestation plots, covering 90 hectares of alluvial lands, were set up in and around 13 villages of the WNP, where more than 600,000 local willow stakes were planted.

- The project supported the community ranger program with 30 rangers spread across seven teams: a dedicated team each for Little Pamir and Big Pamir, four snow leopard ranger teams, and one team for the WNP and its buffer zone.

Afforestation of an alluvial fan near Aobgarch Village, WNP.
WCS Snow Leopard Team member scanning for wild ungulates in Pikut Valley, Wakhan National Park.
Botswana

Managing the Human-Wildlife Interface to Sustain the Flow of Agro-Ecosystem Services and Prevent Illegal Wildlife Trafficking in the Kgalagadi and Ghanzi Drylands

Objective: To promote an integrated landscape approach to managing Kgalagadi and Ghanzi drylands for ecosystem resilience, improved livelihoods, and reduced conflicts between wildlife conservation and livestock production.

The Kgalagadi and Ghanzi Drylands Ecosystems Project (KGDEP) is implementing recommendations to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement to combat wildlife crime and is reviewing the National Anti-Poaching Strategy.

PROGRESS

- Through the KGDEP, the government is reviewing and updating the National Anti-Poaching Strategy to enable a coordinated approach to address illegal wildlife crime.
- A capacity needs assessment of law enforcement agencies and communities to combat poaching and other illegal wildlife activities was completed in February 2020. Assessment results are being shared with law enforcement agencies to determine where resources are most needed. Recommendations include:
  - Setting up a Joint Operations Center in Gaborone
  - Building technical capacity and acquiring new equipment to improve arrest, prosecution, and conviction rates
  - Reducing the number of pending cases related to wildlife crime
  - Reducing wildlife deaths related to poaching (including poisoning)
- The KGDEP launched a charcoal production project for the four-village BORAVAST Community Resource Management Trust. See box 4.1.
- Members of three communities attended workshops on strategies to reduce HWC. Workshops were organized with the help of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks.
- Fire management training and the formation of response teams for four villages were organized with the Department of Forestry and Range Resources.
- The development approach to the Integrated Landscape Use Management Plan (ILUMP) was readjusted. To strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration, stakeholders will now manage different components of the ILUMP formulation process. As a prerequisite, in March 2020, 20 district technical officers (nine female) were trained in the KGDEP Technical Reference Group on Land Use Conflict Identification System. This tool will help to identify appropriate wildlife corridor areas as the ILUMP is developed.
Box 4.1
Use of an Invasive Species for Sustainable Charcoal Production

The BORAVAST Trust uses the prosopis plant, an invasive species in southern Kgalagadi, to produce charcoal and livestock fodder to keep the weed under control. Fifteen community charcoal producers (nine female) have been trained on production, grading, and packaging processes (packaging and sales are on-going). The Local Enterprise Authority provides technical support and training on management (human resources and financial), record keeping, and marketing; it also supports the hiring of a professional manager. These projects help provide rural income and employment and encourage women’s participation in productive activities, while also controlling the species for the benefit of the rangeland.

BORAVAST production team.

© Lebogang Tlhaloso / UNDP.
Cameroon

Integrated and Transboundary Conservation of Biodiversity in the Basins of Cameroon

Objective: To strengthen the conservation of globally threatened species in Cameroon by improving biodiversity enforcement, resilience, and management.

Project Sites: Boumba Bek National Park, Nki National Park, Mengame Gorilla Sanctuary, Dja Biosphere Reserve, and Ngoyla Wildlife Reserve
Species Focus: Elephants, lowland gorillas, pangolins, chimpanzees
Grant Amount: $3.9 million
Executing Partner: Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP
Project Manager: Gilbert Ndzomo (gilbert.ndzomo@undp.org)
Start Date: December 2017

PROGRESS

- Field activities were suspended at the field level in March 2019 due to a UNDP Social and Environmental Compliance Unit (SECU) investigation. On February 8, 2021, the UNDP Administrator’s Decision on the SECU Case noted that UNDP, in close consultation with the Government of Cameroon and GEF, had decided to reformulate the project to address the findings and recommendations of the SECU report. The suspension will be lifted should the reformulated project be approved by the GEF Council.
**Ethiopia**

**Enhanced Management and Enforcement of Ethiopia's Protected Area Estate**

**Objective:** To build Ethiopia’s capacity for biodiversity conservation through increased effectiveness of protected area management and implementation of measures to reduce illegal wildlife trade and poaching.

**Project Sites:** Omo National Park, Mago National Park, Chebera Chuchura National Park, Bable Elephant Sanctuary, and Kafta Shiraro National Park

**Species Focus:** Elephants, big cats

**Grant Amount:** $7.3 million

**Executing Partner:** Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission; Ethiopia Wildlife Conservation Authority; Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute

**GEF Implementing Agency:** UNDP

**Project Manager:** Arega Mekonnen (aregaa3@gmail.com)

**Project Website:** https://ethiopias-elephants.com/project-sites/

**Project Start:** March 2018

**Scheduled Completion:** October 2023

The Ethiopia project supported the revision of the national Wildlife Act to enable stricter punishment for wildlife crimes, measurably improved the capacity of law enforcement agencies to address IWT, and finalized management plans for several protected areas.

**PROGRESS**

- The project supported revisions to the Wildlife Act, which is awaiting parliamentary approval. Once approved, revisions will allow for stricter sentencing for wildlife crimes.
- Two IWT regional task forces in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples’ Region and the Somali region were established in 2019. In 2020, the project supported capacity building training for the task forces and continues to support operations for effectively controlling wildlife crime within the regions.
- The Environmental Crime Unit—a multiyear project—was launched. The unit is composed of relevant government agencies, law enforcement agencies, and NGOs.
- The project worked on enhancing capacity and cooperation among law enforcement agents for effective control of wildlife crimes. Capacity of government agencies on IWT control has increased by 20 percent across all possible scores at national and site levels (as measured by a customized UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard).
- With support from the Elephant Protection Initiative and Stop Ivory, a database was developed at the Ethiopia Wildlife Conservation Authority headquarters for all confiscated raw ivory and ivory products.
- A storehouse for confiscated wildlife products at Chebera Chuchura National Park was established.
- Following the Elephant Protection Initiative guidelines, Ethiopia has adopted a Gold Standard storage and management system for wildlife products.
- General management plans for Chebera Chuchura and Mago National Parks were developed and approved. Now there are three management plans, including for Kafta Shiraro National Park. The management plan for Omo National Park is being drafted.
Two integrated landscape management (ILM) plans were developed and approved for project sites covering 50,000 hectares in Chebera Chuchura National Park and Babile Elephant Sanctuary. ILM activities encourage and increase local communities’ active participation in conservation.

To support local communities with the development of small sustainable enterprises, 26 business associations were established in five project sites, and 1,436 people (51 percent female) received training.

Chebera National Park.
**Gabon**

**Wildlife and Human-Elephant Conflict Management**

**Objective:** Reduce elephant poaching and human-elephant conflicts in the target zones.

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**Project Sites:** Moukalaba Doudou National Park, Loango National Park, Mayumba National Park, and Waka National Park

**Species Focus:** Elephants

**Grant Amount:** $9.1 million

**Executing Partner:** National Agency of National Parks and General Directorate of Wildlife and the Protection of Nature

**GEF Implementing Agency:** World Bank

**Project Coordinator:** Olivier Ondo Assame (ondo.assame@gmail.com)

**Project Start:** January 2017

**Scheduled Completion:** December 2021

---

The Gabon project has established the country’s first wildlife genetic analysis laboratory and data collection protocol and is partnering with neighboring countries on combating IWT.

**PROGRESS**

- Gabon’s first wildlife genetic analysis laboratory and a national data collection protocol were established. A computer server and database have been set up, and data collectors received training on data related to human-elephant conflicts (including observation of elephant damage, GPS locations, victim identification, and amount and costs of damage).

- Gabon has initiated a partnership with Cameroon, which seeks to use the project-funded genetic laboratory to determine the geographic origins of a seizure of 628 kilograms of ivory made in October 2020 in Ambam, in the Ntem Valley Department in South Cameroon.

- More than 441,000 hectares are now under enhanced biodiversity protection and registered an improvement in protected area management effectiveness, as measured by the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool.

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Motorized barge to patrol the Ngounié River and help local communities to cross.

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Ndindi electrical fence, near Mayumba Park.
Eco-guards from the National Parks Agency trained on anti-poaching efforts.
India

Securing Livelihoods, Conservation, Sustainable Use and Restoration of High Range Himalayan Ecosystems (SECURE)

Himalayas

**Objective:** To promote the sustainable management of alpine pastures and forests in the high range Himalayan ecosystems that secures conservation of globally significant wildlife, including endangered snow leopard and their habitats, ensure sustainable livelihoods and mitigate illegal trade in wildlife.

**Project Sites:** Changthang landscape in the Union Territory of Ladakh; Lahaul-Pangi and Kinnaur landscapes in the State of Himachal Pradesh; Gangotri-Govind and Darma Byans landscapes in the State of Uttarakhand; and Khangchendzonga and Upper Teesta landscape in the State of Sikkim

**Species Focus:** Snow leopards and associated species; medicinal and aromatic plants

**Grant Amount:** $11.5 million

**Executing Partner:** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

**GEF Implementing Agency:** UNDP

**Contact:** Vedant Rastogi (vedant.rastogi@undp.org)

**Project Start:** July 2019

**Scheduled Completion:** December 2024

The SECURE Himalaya Project is preparing landscape-level participatory management plans in the Himalayan landscapes and is strengthening community and government capacity to mitigate IWT and HWC.

**PROGRESS**

- Launched in October 2019, the Snow Leopard Population Assessment for India is the world’s first methodology for counting snow leopards. Government staff and community members are being trained in participatory snow leopard monitoring, including 41 participants (five women) in Uttarakhand. See box 4.2 for more details.

- Technology-based interventions are being adopted to mitigate IWT and HWC. These promote better management through accurate data collection and enhanced monitoring. Infrared-based animal detection devices were installed in Uttarakhand and are in progress in Sikkim to prevent animal encroachment in village areas.

- Baseline assessments of the status of wildlife crime and IWT were developed for all project-related SECURE landscapes, including information on traded species, quantity and intensity of trade, and trade hotspots and routes.

- Documentation of the biodiversity of high-altitude Himalaya is a challenge due to the unavailability of trained human resources to undertake field surveys. To address this, the project, in association with the State Biodiversity Boards of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim, have trained 50 parataxonomists to assist the biodiversity boards and the forest and wildlife departments in monitoring key wildlife species (including the snow leopard) and documenting biodiversity in high-altitude landscapes.

- Landscape-level participatory management strategies and plans in SECURE Himalaya landscapes are being prepared. WWF, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment, and Wildlife Institute of India have identified high conservation value areas covering 5,000 hectares across six project landscapes. Proposals are being developed to designate some of these areas for enhanced protection under relevant national laws.
• An interstate agreement between all snow leopard range states and union territories of India to mitigate wildlife crime and illegal trade was developed; the agreement is under review by central and state governments. The agreement would strengthen regional cooperation, capacity building, cross-learning, and reduction in demand of products of wildlife origin.

• Review and strengthening of training materials for relevant line departments, including customs, police, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, and judiciary, is ongoing. With the Government of India’s Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, and with technical assistance from TRAFFIC and the Wildlife Trust of India, the project is developing customized landscape-specific training modules (forensic analysis and reporting) and awareness materials.

• Mass awareness campaigns were implemented on HWC to address the increasing incidences of bears and other wildlife entering towns and roads during the pandemic.

• Ten women from project villages in the Gangotri landscape of Uttarakhand participated in a 15-day course in basic mountaineering and guiding skills. Participants are now eligible to access government employment generation schemes.

• Training programs are being developed to strengthen the response to zoonotic diseases and to sensitize and build capacity of frontline government officials and local communities to promote implementation of One Health approaches.

“The parataxonomist training conducted by the SECURE Himalaya project was a very good learning experience. We received knowledge on many technical areas, like how to identify plants, the diversity of different forest types in the Himalayan region, and proper methods for the collection of specimens. It will help us in promoting nature-based tourism and enhancing local knowledge about plant biodiversity in my area.”

Ms. Kala, youth parataxonomist
**BOX 4.2**

**Snow Leopard Population Assessment of India**

The Snow Leopard Population Assessment of India (SPAI) protocol was officially launched in October 2019 and is the world’s first methodology for monitoring and assessing snow leopard populations. It was prepared under the SECURE Himalaya project, led by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in partnership with the Wildlife Institute of India and Nature Conservation Foundation.

Phase 1 of SPAI comprises state-level efforts to stratify potential snow leopard habitats. In Phase 2, camera-trap or genetic-based sampling will be implemented in good, moderate, and poor habitats for snow leopards, as identified in Phase 1. Estimates from all the snow leopard range states and union territories will contribute to a national-level estimate for snow leopard and prey populations. In Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, activities are underway for the state-level assessments. Fifty-two individual snow leopards have been recorded across 10 sites in Himachal Pradesh. With the Wildlife Institute of India, participatory monitoring protocols for snow leopards and associated species are being developed in both states, focusing on training communities to conduct snow leopard monitoring.

Snow leopard in Ladakh.

© Siddarth Nair / SECURE Himalaya.

Mountaineering guide training in Uttarakhand.

© Ummed Singh / SECURE Himalaya.
Objective: To reduce the volume of unsustainable wildlife trade and the rate of loss of globally significant biodiversity in Indonesia and East and Southeast Asia.

Project Sites: National level; northern Sumatra and northern Sulawesi

Species Focus: Sumatran rhinos, Sumatran tigers, Sumatran elephants, anoa, babirusas, black-crested macaques

Grant Amount: $7.0 million

Executing Partner: Ministry of Environment and Forestry (Directorate General of Law Enforcement on Environment and Forestry)

GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

Project Manager: Achmad Pribadi (achmad.pribadi@undp.org)

Project Start: March 2018

Scheduled Completion: November 2023

The Indonesia Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade (CIWT) project is developing a national strategy and action plan on CIWT and is strengthening law enforcement and prosecution capacity.

PROGRESS

● To strengthen efforts to tackle online wildlife trade, a command center and operation room was set up for the Directorate General of Law Enforcement on Environment and Forestry. Installation of an operation room in Surabaya, East Java Province, is in progress.

● A background study was initiated for the forthcoming National Strategy and Action Plan for Combating Illegal and Unsustainable Trade in Endangered Wild Animals.

● The Wildlife Crime Law Enforcement Task Force in North Sumatra Province was created. It includes the North Sumatra Law Enforcement Agency, Regional Natural Resources and Conservation Agency, Indonesian Council of Religious Scholars, Customs, and local NGOs.

● Standard operating procedures (SOPs) were compiled for forest rangers and national protected area management officers on how to handle primates, reptiles, birds, and other mammals.

● With the Indonesian Institute of Sciences, SOPs were developed for collecting and handling biological material from wild animals and plants by morphological and DNA analysis.

● A study was launched to determine the economic value of the 25 most traded species in Indonesia, using models such as market price method, willingness-to-pay method, and cost-based approach. This serves as a reference for judges and prosecutors during IWT cases.

● The Directorate of Forest Protection conducted four snare removal patrols in Gunung Leuser National Park, Bogani Nani Wartabone National Park, Aceh, and Riau, resulting in the destruction of 1,286 mesh snares. According to government data, the number of prosecuted IWT cases has increased from 51 in 2016 to 65 in 2019.

● The project partnered with local NGOs to deliver HWC mitigation training in Aceh; a community-based IWT training in West Java; and a community-based patrol training in slow loris habitats, also in West Java. A workshop on beekeeping as a potential livelihood source was held in East Aceh Regency.
“The Economic Value Assessment of Wildlife Species background study is a breakthrough in combating illegal wildlife trade in Indonesia.”

Dr. Rasio Ridho Sani, Director-General of Law Enforcement on Environment and Forestry, Ministry of Environment and Forestry

BOX 4.3

Tourist Village of Tanjungsari
“Friends of Loris”

Social mapping on livelihood alternatives has been conducted in Tanjungsari Village, Sadanaya subdistrict, Ciamis Regency, West Java Province. This village borders the Gunung Sawal Wildlife Reserve. The Sustainable Livelihood Analysis and Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, and Threat Analysis recommended establishing Desa Wisata Tanjungsari “Sahabat Kukang” (Tourist Village of Tanjungsari “Friends of Loris”) as an alternative livelihood. With support from an NGO, a community-based patrolling system was developed and a social media platform was established to educate people on slow lorises.

Rehabilitation of slow lorises.
Kenya

Combating Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trafficking in Kenya through an Integrated Approach

Objective: To combat poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking in Kenya through an integrated approach.

Project Sites: Maasai Mara and Tsavo Conservation Area landscapes

Species Focus: Elephants, rhinos, buffaloes, giraffes

Grant Amount: $3.8 million

Executing Partner: Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife

GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

Project Manager: Fahd Al-Guthmy (falguthmy@gmail.com)

Project Start: July 2019

Scheduled Completion: July 2024

The project is reassessing baselines and refining activities to better support communities and conservancies as they rebuild nature-based tourism and other livelihoods in the wake of COVID-19.

PROGRESS

- The project start has been delayed, in part from the prolonged duration in project compliance to the government fiduciary and administrative requirements on the programming development assistance into the national economy.

- In response to COVID-19 impacts, the planned project interventions will be tailored to build the capacity of communities and conservancies to restart their livelihood activities and enterprises in compliance with national pandemic regulations for the wildlife conservation and tourism sectors. The project will also explore alternatives to vehicles and aircraft patrols, such as drones, for the vast Tsavo parks.
Maasai Mara wildebeest migration.
Malawi

Lower Shire Valley Landscape Project, part of the Shire Valley Transformation Program I

Objective: To provide access to reliable gravity-fed irrigation and drainage services, secure land tenure for smallholder farmers, and strengthen management of wetlands and protected areas in the Shire Valley.

Project Sites: Lengwe National Park, Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve, Majete Wildlife Reserve, Matandwe Forest Reserve, Elephant Marshes Proposed Sustainable Use Wetland Reserve, Thyolo Escarpment Reforestation, and Thambani Forest Reserve

Species Focus: Elephants, nyalas, hippos, buffaloes, big cats

Grant Amount: $5.6 million

Executing Partner: Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy, and Mining; Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Water Development; African Parks Network

GEF Implementing Agency: World Bank

Contact: William Mgoola (wmgoola@yahoo.co.uk)

Website: www.svtp.gov.mw

Project Start: December 2014

Scheduled Completion: December 2023

The Lower Shire Valley Landscape Project is improving protected area management, expanding a wildlife corridor, and supporting collaborative efforts to prosecute wildlife crime.

PROGRESS

- In both cases where communities living around Lengwe National Park and Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve reported that two buffaloes had been poached, the Community Policing Committees apprehended the poachers and brought them to the Department of National Parks and Wildlife for prosecution. The poachers were taken to court and convicted.

- Communities are implementing livelihood and conservation activities, such as tree nursery management, village forest area management, commercial fruit tree nursery management, community fisheries management, goat rearing, and beekeeping, among others. Fifty-eight percent of all project beneficiaries are from marginalized groups, including women and youth.

- The first phase of the corridor study between Lengwe National Park and Majete Wildlife Reserve was completed. Findings indicate a potential corridor between the two protected areas. Stakeholder consultations are underway.

Rangers with new uniforms and tents in Lengwe National Park.
“The material support from the Lower Shire Valley Landscape Project will assist in ensuring efficiency in the way our staff work. As a ministry, we will continue working on protecting wildlife in collaboration with communities around the protected areas.”

Dr. Michael Usi, Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Culture

New commercial tree nursery at Tiyanjane Club in Traditional Authority Tengani, Nsanje District.
Mali

Community-Based Natural Resource Management that Resolves Conflict, Improves Livelihoods, and Restores Ecosystems throughout the Elephant Range

Objective: Protect Mali’s elephants in key sites and enhance the livelihoods of the local communities that live along the migration route to reduce human-elephant conflict.

Project Sites: Lake Banzena protected area and Gourma Reserve

Species Focus: Elephants

Grant Amount: $4.1 million

Executing Partner: Ministry of the Environment, Sanitation, and Sustainable Development; Mali Elephant Project

GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

Agency Contact: Oumar Tamboura (oumar.tamboura@undp.org)

Project Manager: Amadou Sow (amadsogmail@yahoo.fr)

Project Start: September 2020

Scheduled Completion: November 2024

In light of Mali’s complex insecurity situation, a risk reassessment mission was undertaken in March that resulted in an action plan detailing steps to launch the project safely.

PROGRESS

- A security and safeguard assessment was completed in March 2020 to guide activity planning and resulted in an action plan for the safe launch and implementation of the project.
- An inception workshop was held in 2020, and the project team is on board.
- On-the-ground implementation will start once the steering committee approves the annual work plan for 2021.

Elephants feeding while people cut branches as an easy way to feed their goats, but which causes great damage to the tree ("abusive cutting").

“The Gourma Elephant Biosphere Reserve, located in the Sahelian zone between the three administrative regions (Timbuktu, Mopti, and Gao), is one of the most important ecosystems in Mali in terms of biodiversity. In the Gourma area, there are many conflicts over natural resources between humans and elephants.”

Mme. Bernadette Keita, Minister of Environment, Sanitation, and Sustainable Development

© WILD Foundation.
“This project will work at national, regional, and local levels to support government capacity to fight wildlife crime, protect the Gourma elephants from poaching, and support local communities in collective resource management. These sustainable resource management systems act at the local level to protect elephant habitats while restoring the wider ecosystem and providing livelihood benefits.”

Dr. Susan Canney, Director of the Mali Elephant Project

Elephants at a waterhole in the Gourma.

© WILD Foundation.
Mozambique

Strengthening the Conservation of Globally Threatened Species in Mozambique through Improving Biodiversity Enforcement and Expanding Community Conservancies around Protected Areas

Objective: To strengthen the conservation of globally threatened species through implementation of the Conservation Areas Act (improving biodiversity enforcement and expanding protected areas through community conservancies and targeted rural development action).

Project Sites: Gorongosa National Park (Gorongosa-Marromeu Complex), Niassa Special Reserve, Pungue-DingueDingue Community Conservancy, Northern Rift Valley Community Conservancy, and Cheringoma Sub-Complex of Conservancies

Species Focus: Elephants, rhinos, cheetahs, leopards

Grant Amount: $15.8 million

Executing Partner: National Agency for Conservation Areas (ANAC), Gorongosa Restoration Project (GRP), WCS

GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

Project Manager: Lolita Hilario Fondo (lolita.hilario@undp.org)

Start Date: March 2018

Scheduled Completion: March 2025

The project engaged and built capacity of local communities for HWC mitigation, restoration of degraded landscapes, and promotion of sustainable livelihoods.

- In Gorongosa National Park, 16 natural resources management committees (NRMCs) were revitalized at the regulado level. Training sessions on the roles and responsibilities of NRMCs, conservation law, activity planning and reporting, financial management, governance and leadership, the GRP management plan, and conservancies were delivered to community members, traditional leaders, and government officials.

- Five community nurseries were established in Tambarara, Canda, Sadjunjira, Mucombezi, and Nhamacolomo communities. Maintenance materials and equipment were distributed and communities received technical assistance.

- In Niassa Special Reserve (NSR), 25 communities were identified and organized into five NRMCs distributed across four regulados. Six community development committees were created to assist in the implementation of NSR’s sustainable development program.

- A fire response team was created and deployed. It conducted a cold burn process in select areas in NSR, which reduces the amount of biomass in the area and thus the intensity of any future fires.

- ANAC established an anti-poaching coordination unit in Magude district of Maputo province to combat wildlife crime and IWT in a coordinated manner.

- In NSR, 5,978 different types of traps and 740 kilograms of bush meat was seized from 17 poaching camps, 10 illegal logging camps, 21 illegal mining camps, and 28 illegal fishing sites.
**BOX 4.4**

**Human-Wildlife Coexistence Strategies in Gorongosa and Niassa**

Competition over water resources often leads to HWC and is also a major cause of water-borne disease; thus, mitigating conflict is an important activity for the project. In Gorongosa National Park, the team is hiring six community-based coexistence collaborators who are all women. Twelve women candidates were selected and are currently undergoing training and evaluations. The conservation team built and launched a new customized HWC Field App on Blackview smartphones that the team utilizes in the field for real-time data collection on conflict incidents, activities implemented, and regular monitoring of existing mitigation activities. These data will later be used in Earth Ranger alongside real-time elephant movement data for monitoring and operational purposes.

An interdepartmental human-wildlife coexistence coordination team was set up within Gorongosa Restoration Project (GRP). In Niassa, an HWC team was created and deployed in February 2020 in Mecula town to improve the HWC response to affected communities. This team works together with the local administration to respond to HWC incidents.

HWC mitigation activities also included setting up a hotline for the local communities to report conflict incidences as they occur, establishing incident reports and a registry system, updating maps of HWC hotspots, and installing electric fencing and green fences in productive agriculture areas. For example, GRP is supporting the installation of 400 beehives at elephant crossings. Fifteen women collaborators will take ownership of them and operate elephant-proof fences while producing income-generating profits from honey.
The Philippines

Combating Environmental Organized Crime in the Philippines

**Objective:** To combat environmental organized crime in the Philippines through legal and institutional reforms, capacity building in the full law enforcement chain, and to reduce demand for illegal wildlife and wildlife parts.

**Project Sites:** Metro Manila, region 7 (Cebu), region 13

**Species Focus:** Marine turtles, blue-naped parrots

**Grant Amount:** $1.8 million

**Executing Partner:** Biodiversity Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (BMB-DENR)

**GEF Implementing Agency:** Asian Development Bank (ADB)

**Project Manager:** Mary Jean Caleda (mjac.iwt@gmail.com)

**Project Start:** October 2018

**Scheduled Completion:** December 2023

“...The bureau hosts several foreign-assisted projects. This project stands out for its success in mainstreaming its policy, capacity building, and demand reduction and CEPA outputs into regular government programs and processes, and its continuous efforts in ensuring that whatever gains achieved are continued and sustained.”

Theresa Tenazaas, Attorney, OIC Chief, Wildlife Resources Division and Head, Legal Unit, BMB-DENR

The project focused on supporting the revision and adoption of wildlife strategies and legislation and transitioning to remote implementation and online training in the face of the pandemic.

**PROGRESS**

- In addition to legislative action to amend the Republic Act (RA) 9147, or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001, there is also an ongoing review and update of the 16-year-old Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9147. This is a parallel move to include appropriate amendments to the Wildlife Act into the updated IRR if the amendment bill is not enacted into law.

- The Basic Wildlife Law Enforcement Training (BWLE), initially planned for in-person, has been converted to a webinar format in close collaboration with field offices. Webinars will pilot modules on introductions to controlled delivery, anti-money laundering, and protocol on safety inspection of wildlife.

- The development of a self-paced online version of the BWLE Training Course was initiated, which will enable participants to use the ADB eLearn portal until the government executing agency develops its e-learning portal.

- An electronic system for CITES Permits (eCITESPH) is being improved, in coordination with DENR. Activities are being aligned with the government’s initiative toward a national single window system for trade facilitation.

- A communication, education, and public awareness (CEPA) strategy and action plan is being prepared based on results from consumer research. The project has continued strategizing for the CEPA campaign with the expectation that the pandemic will continue until the end of the project. The CEPA strategy will give added attention to online/social media campaign because of quarantine restrictions.
“One or two agencies are relatively powerless to defeat the powerful, well-organized transnational crime syndicates. However, by working together, we can ensure greater success.”

Ricardo Calderon, Former DENR OIC Assistant Secretary for Climate Change and Concurrent Director, BMB
Republic of Congo

Strengthening the Management of Wildlife and Improving Livelihoods in Northern Republic of Congo

Objective: To increase the capacity of the forest administration, local communities, and indigenous peoples to co-manage forests.

The project continues to implement support for community livelihoods and is making progress setting up a criminal records management system and revising wildlife legislation.

PROGRESS

- Income-generating activities were developed for the benefit of local communities and indigenous peoples bordering protected areas and forest concessions. Activities included implementation of 106 cultured cocoa micro-projects and 1,000 agroforestry micro-projects; support for 250 beekeeping households; establishment of 25 village savings and credit groups; and recruitment of an NGO to support the activities of the 118 community-based economic interest groups that were set up.

- Five boreholes around Ntokou-Pikounda National Park were constructed. Construction of four storage facilities for agricultural products and rehabilitation of another facility is in progress.

- Training and support were provided for community tourism development activities at Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park, including for administrative and land procedures and site development for tourist accommodation. Seventy-eight kilometers of access road to the park were also rehabilitated. Promotional materials including a short film on the park were produced.

- A canine unit of four sniffer dogs and three dog handlers began field missions to combat IWT. It led to the seizure of 13 yellow-backed duikers, five dwarf crocodiles, and one mantled guereza monkey in Ouesso.

- A computerized criminal records management system (CRMS) is being operationalized with the recruitment of a software development specialist and support of a joint ministerial task force.

- A revision of the 2008 law on wildlife and protected areas has been drafted and is undergoing review.
- A sub-regional wildlife crime workshop in the Congo Basin led to the establishment of a wildlife crime and information exchange platform and the launch of an initiative to set up a sub-regional database (using the Wildlife Enforcement Monitoring System, or WEMS). The Japan Institute of Science and Technology and the Central African Forestry Commission are engaged to set up the WEMS database.

- WWF signed a delegated management agreement for the day-to-day management of Ntokou-Pikounda National Park.

Five boreholes were drilled around the riverside villages of the Ntokou-Pikounda National Park, including in Mokouangou.

© Project team / GWP Republic of Congo.
South Africa

Strengthening Institutions, Information Management, and Monitoring to Reduce the Rate of Illegal Wildlife Trade in South Africa

**Objective:** To fight against illegal wildlife trade through institutional strengthening, improved information management and monitoring (and collaboration at an international level), thereby influencing the supply system at local (protected area), national (South Africa), and regional levels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Sites:</th>
<th>Kruger National Park</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Species Focus:</strong></td>
<td>Elephants, rhinos, big cats</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grant Amount:</strong></td>
<td>$4.9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Executing Partner:</strong></td>
<td>Department of Environment, Forests, and Fisheries</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GEF Implementing Agency:</strong></td>
<td>UNEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Manager:</strong></td>
<td>Mercedes Marele (<a href="mailto:mmarele@environment.gov.za">mmarele@environment.gov.za</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Start:</strong></td>
<td>November 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scheduled Completion:</strong></td>
<td>May 2025</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The project is in the implementation phase and conducting stakeholder meetings and preassessments of the CITES e-permitting system.

**PROGRESS**

- The project management unit has been staffed, with the Project Steering Committee and Inter-Agency Oversight Committee onboard. Memoranda of agreement with project partners (SANParks, Peace Parks Foundation, South African National Biodiversity Institute) have been signed.
- Field-level cluster meetings were held with stakeholders and mapping of communities were started with two implementing partners, the Southern African Wildlife College and Peace Parks Foundation.
- Preassessment of the CITES electronic permitting system has started in parts of the country. The objective is to assess the infrastructure (computers, servers) of selected provinces and their ability to implement and deploy the system.

“The project is about liberating wildlife and building resilient green communities from the people up!”

Dr. Moscow Marumo, Programme Manager of Community Development, Peace Parks Foundation

Community consultation with the Bende-Mutale Women’s Agricultural Group in the broader Makuya area, in the northern cluster.

© Project team / GWP South Africa.
SANParks female Environmental Monitors on fence patrol in the Sabie River / Sabie Sands Wildtuin area, in the south-central cluster.
Tanzania

Combating Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade in Tanzania through an Integrated Approach

Objective: To combat poaching and the illegal wildlife trade in Tanzania through an integrated approach.

Project Sites: Target ecological zones of Ruaha-Rungwa, Selous north, Selous south, Burigi-Biharamulo–Rubondo, Serengeti southwest, Serengeti northeast, Kilimanjaro, Tarangire and Manyara, Katavi–Rukwa–Mahale, and Moyowosi-Ugalla

Species Focus: Elephants, lions

GEF Grant Amount: $5.6 million

Executing Partner: Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Wildlife Division

GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

Project Manager: Theotimos Rwegasira (theotimos.rwegasira@mailasili.go.tz)

Project Start: November 2020

Scheduled Completion: December 2025

The project has prepared a roadmap for implementation in 2021, taking on board adaptive management measures to respond to the impacts of COVID-19, and is collecting intelligence information to prepare for strengthening of anti-poaching operations.

PROGRESS

- The Tanzania IWT project document was officially signed in July 2020.
- In August 2020, the project management team met at the Manyara National Park Headquarters and established the project management unit and project steering committee (PSC). The meeting endorsed a preliminary six-month budget to implement initial activities, including convening the inception workshop and the first PSC meeting.
- A project inception workshop was held at Tanzania Forestry Research Institute in Morogoro in December 2020. The objective was to gather partners and stakeholders, inform them of the project status, and officially initiate inception activities.
- The first meeting of the PSC was held in December 2020, at which roles, responsibilities, and composition of the PSC were clarified and endorsed.
- An in-depth environmental and social safeguards risk assessment will be initiated and proactive safeguards and risk management plans are being developed.
- Project activities are expected to begin in 2021 in accordance with the finalized annual workplan and budget.

“The natural resources of Tanzania provide a major support to the national economy, with the tourism industry contributing about 25 percent of the foreign earning and creating about 1.5 million jobs directly and indirectly.”

Dr. Aloyce Nzuki, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Inception Workshop, Morogoro, December 7, 2020

Elephants in Ruaha.
Ruaha ecosystem in dry season.

© Gregoire Dubois.

Lion, Tanzania.

© Project team / GWP Tanzania.
Thailand

Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade, focusing on Ivory, Rhino Horn, Tiger and Pangolins in Thailand

**Objective:** To reduce the trafficking of wildlife (focusing on elephant ivory, rhinoceros horns, tigers, and pangolins) in Thailand through enhanced enforcement capacity and collaboration and targeted behavior change campaigns.

**Project Sites:** National focus

**Species Focus:** Elephants, rhinos, pangolins, tigers

**Grant Amount:** $4.0 million

**Executing Partner:** Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), Royal Thai Police, IUCN, TRAFFIC, TRACE

**Implementing Agency:** UNDP

**Project Manager:** Rattaphon Pitakthepsombat (rattaphon.pitakthepsombat@undp.org)

**Project Start:** November 2018

**Scheduled Completion:** November 2023

The project is setting up and strengthening institutional mechanisms and collaborative platforms to combat IWT.

**PROGRESS**

- The findings of the 2019 ICCWC Indicator Framework Assessment have been used to tailor capacity building activities, which continued through 2020.
- The Thailand wildlife enforcement network (WEN) was reactivated. Its organizational structure, role, and functions were revised, and the addition of law enforcement agency committees was proposed. Pending ministry-level approval, these revisions can help Thailand WEN become an effective national-level wildlife enforcement network.
- The Wildlife Crime Unit at the DNP was established in February 2020 to improve its response to IWT.
- The DNP intends to adopt an analytical information intelligence (IBM i2) database and analysis software to strengthen sharing of wildlife crime information and intelligence, with technical support and training from the project and WCS. WCS is in discussion to provide training on species identification skills and tools, such as the WildScan app of CITES-listed species.
- Campaigns were designed and developed to raise awareness about the Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act 2019. Key visuals were shared with IWT partners and displayed on 300 digital screens at passenger check-in counters at Don Mueang and Suvarnabhumi international airports, with Airports of Thailand. The online campaigns generated public interest and social media engagement.
“Illegal wildlife crimes monitoring at the borders has been a challenge as it is constrained by the lack of coordination and shared information across agencies at different levels, and cooperation from local communities, exacerbated by complicated laws and procedures across agencies. I am so excited to join the UNDP/GEF IWT project as the head of the demo sites activities because the project focuses coordination among relevant law enforcement agencies and communities at the provincial level to tackle this illicit crime. This will enable us to plan better to detect and arrest traffickers before they go past the borders.”

Nuwat Leelapata, Director of Wildlife Check Point, CITES Wildlife Check Point Unit, DNP
Vietnam

Strengthening Partnerships to Protect Endangered Wildlife in Vietnam

Objective: To strengthen the legal and regulatory framework, and the related implementation capacity for the protection of threatened wildlife.

Project Site: National focus
Species Focus: Primates, turtles, gaurus, Edwards’s pheasants; demand reduction of endangered species prioritized for protection regulated by Vietnamese government, including elephants, pangolins, tigers, rhinos
Grant Amount: $3.0 million
Executing Partner: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
GEF Implementing Agency: World Bank
Contact: Nguyen Thi Van Anh (nguyenvananh.bca@gmail.com)
Project Start: July 2019
Scheduled Completion: December 2023

The project contributed to the amendment of the Law on Environment 2020, which is critical for protecting endangered species, and implemented targeted research, training, and strategic communications activities.

PROGRESS

- Reviews and consultations generated technical inputs to support the revision and amendment of several laws in Vietnam. A landscape management approach and biodiversity considerations were integrated into the revised Law on Environment 2020, approved by the government in November 2020.
- Inputs were provided to the development of Directive 29/CT-TTg on urgent measures for managing wildlife in the context of COVID-19.
- With the partner Asian Turtle Program, training was given to law enforcement staff, including environmental police, forest rangers, and protected area management units, to strengthen capacity to protect endangered turtles.
- Demand reduction activities were implemented, including the creation of communications products to raise awareness about wildlife trade and consumption in the context of COVID-19. Technical inputs were also provided to Vietnam Television during the production of several documentaries and talk shows, focusing on the threats to wild birds, and COVID-19 and wildlife consumption risks.
- The Honoring Award was initiated for organizations or individuals who significantly contributed to wildlife conservation during 2010 to 2020.

“In 2020, the project has fulfilled its plan and regularly communicated with the project steering committee and other partners on biodiversity news with updates on the hunting, trading, and transport of wildlife, as well as the release of rescued species to the natural habitats.”

Mr. Tran The Lien, Head of the Office of the Vietnam Administration of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Member of the Project Steering Committee

Consultation workshop to provide inputs to the amendments of wildlife laws.

© Project team, GWP Vietnam.
Law enforcement training.
Zambia

Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project

Objective: To improve landscape management and increase the flow of benefits for targeted rural communities in the Eastern Province.

Project Sites: Lukusuzi National Park and Luambe National Park
Species Focus: Elephants and lions
Grant Amount: $8.1 million
Executing Partner: Ministry of Agriculture, and Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Forestry Department
GEF Implementing Agency: World Bank
Contact: Tasila Banda (tasilabanda.ziflp@gmail.com)
Project Start: January 2018
Scheduled Completion: August 2022

The Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project (ZIFLP) is supporting on-the-ground activities to improve landscape management and increase environmental and economic benefits for targeted rural communities in the Eastern Province.

PROGRESS

- Solar-powered seasonal agricultural fences were installed in eight areas in the Lumimba Game Management Area (GMA) to reduce crop raiding and damage by elephants. The fences are used during the growing season and removed and stored for use in the next season. Thirty-four community members (31 men and three women) were trained on fence maintenance and management.

- The Department of National Parks was supported to enter into an agreement with a partner to develop sustainable wildlife management initiatives that can benefit rural communities living adjacent to Lukusuzi and Luambe National Parks and the surrounding GMAs.

- The general management plan for Luambe National Park, which defines guidelines around resource preservation and visitor use, has been developed; it is awaiting ministerial approval.

- Support was provided for infrastructure, equipment, and technology, such as rugged phones, in Luambe and Lukusuzi National Parks.

- A total of 1,173 field operations, which included 528 day patrols and two cross-border operations, was carried out in three protected areas, resulting in 149 arrests. The operations resulted in the seizure of two leopard skins, one pangolin and one pangolin skin, 17 kilograms of elephant bones, 190 kilograms of assorted game meat, and 178 kilograms of elephant ivory.

- Through the Ministry of Agriculture, 2.5 million agro-forestry seedlings were raised and are being distributed to farmers for the 2020/21 planting season.

- A total of 478 metal silos were fabricated and distributed to farmer field schools in 239 agriculture camps in the project’s area of influence. The objective is to address postharvest loss due to lack of adequate storage facilities.

- Thirty-six percent of the farmers in the project have adopted CSA practices and nearly 50,000 hectares of agriculture land have been brought under CSA practices, resulting in increase in crop yields.
The Department of Forestry, with project support, initiated three additional forest reserve management plans, now totaling 13 management areas in development. This represents 104,246 hectares of forest land area to be under sustainable forest management. The management plans will be adopted after their review.

Four learning experiences were held, involving 14 districts teams and 11 community forest management groups (CFMGs) with a total of 67 participants. As a result, six CFMGs managing 14,472 hectares of forest land area developed management plans and applied for the transfer of user rights, which were granted.

A total of 435 farmers were trained in the use of Assisted Natural Regeneration to restock degraded forest areas at household or farmstead level. The Forest Department supplied them with indigenous tree seedlings to restock their forests.

Agro-forestry seedling distribution.

Installation of solar-powered seasonal agricultural fences.
Zimbabwe

Strengthening Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management and Climate-Smart Landscapes in the Mid to Lower Zambezi Region of Zimbabwe

Objective: To promote an integrated landscape approach to managing wildlife resources, carbon, and ecosystem services in the face of climate change in the protected areas and community lands of the Mid to Lower Zambezi Regions of Zimbabwe.

Project Sites: Mbire, Muzarabani, and Northern Part of Hurungwe; Mana Pools; Charara, Chewore, Sapi, Hurungwe, Dande, and Doma safari areas

Species Focus: Elephants, lions, buffaloes

Grant Amount: $12.0 million

Executing Partner: Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry

GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

Project Manager: Chipangura Chirara (chipangura.chirara@undp.org)

Project Start: September 2018

Scheduled Completion: August 2024

The Zimbabwe project has increased anti-poaching capacity, supported partners affected by COVID-19, and reached agreement with communities to form six new community wildlife conservancies.

PROGRESS

- The Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority’s (ZMPWA) budget has been severely affected by the loss in tourism revenues from COVID-19. To address the rise in poaching exacerbated by COVID-19, additional equipment, rations, and fuel were provided to the ZPWMA. The purchase of four boats and two drones to patrol the Zambezi River, which is a major point for cross-border poaching, was also initiated.

- To combat illegal fishing in Lake Kariba and the Zambezi River, which divide Zimbabwe and Zambia and are livelihood sources for nearby communities, nine park rangers and six staff from the Zimbabwe National Army received training to become certified coxswains with anti-poaching skills. This training was conducted in partnership with ZPWMA.

- The review process for the Parks and Wildlife Act will be accelerated within COVID-19 restrictions. Consultations have revealed the need for a national Human-Wildlife Conflict Management Policy, which will be developed concurrently.

- With the support and coordination of the project, IWT seizures in the project area have increased 20 percent from baseline, and arrests and successful prosecutions have risen 376 percent and 439 percent, respectively.

- The consultations process with communities on establishing community-based wildlife management (CBWM) has been concluded. Communities in all six proposed community wildlife conservancies agreed to form trusts to run the conservancies, and boundaries have been marked. A cumulative 141,875 hectares are now under CBWM.

- A small grants component was set up to generate community livelihood options, such as beekeeping, community gardening, and provision of clean water for drinking and irrigation, to help reduce pressures on natural resources. Four NGOs have been awarded grants so far to implement these initiatives.
A consultancy was commissioned on a Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Action Plan that will identify key strategies, actions, indicators, and targets for improving gender equality and women’s empowerment under the project.
## SECTION 5

**INTRODUCTION TO GEF-7 NATIONAL PROJECTS**

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Objective: To improve the management of national parks in targeted Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) in southern Angola and strengthen the resilience of local communities and ecosystems to climate change.

Project Sites: Luengue-Luiana National Park (part of the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area) and Iona National Park (part of the Iona-Skeleton Coast Transfrontier Conservation Area)

Species Focus: African buffaloes, African elephants, African penguins, African wild dogs, Cape gannets, cheetahs, Damara terns, leopards, lions, ostriches, white rhinos

Grant Amount: $14.8 million

Executing Partner: Angola National Institute for Biodiversity and Protected Areas

GEF Implementing Agency: Conservation International

Government Contact: Giza Gaspar-Martins (gizagm@gmail.com)

Agency Contact: Charity Nalyanya (cnalyanya@conservation.org)

Expected Start Date: July 2021

PROJECT COMPONENTS

- Strengthening the resilience of local communities to climate change in targeted TFCAs.
- Improving conservation area management and wildlife conservation in targeted TFCAs.
- Enhancing the technical and institutional capacity of climate change and conservation institutions.
- Facilitating project monitoring, knowledge management, and sharing of lessons learned.

PROGRESS

- This project was GEF CEO endorsed in June 2021 and is preparing for implementation.
This project supports Angola’s transition to a resilient economy and low carbon pathway. This project builds on past and ongoing climate change and conservation initiatives, promotes entrepreneurship and ecotourism in conservation areas, and strengthens public-private partnerships.

Her Excellency Paula Francisco,
Secretary of State for Environment,
Ministry of Culture Tourism and Environment

Blue wildebeest at Luengue-Luiana National Park, Angola.

© Miguel Xavier.
Objective: To secure jaguar corridors and strengthen the management of jaguar conservation units through reduction of current and emerging threats, development of sustainable wildlife economy, and enhanced regional cooperation.

Project Sites: Central Corridor, Northern Biological Corridor, and Southern Corridor
Species Focus: Jaguars
Grant Amount: $1.2 million
Executing Partner: Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, Forest Department
GEF Implementing Agency: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Government Contact: Dr. Kenrick W. Williams (ceo@environment.gov.bz)
Agency Contact: Diane Wade (diane.wade@undp.org)
Expected Start Date: August 2021

PROJECT COMPONENTS
- Conserving wildlife and habitats.
- Promoting a more wildlife-friendly economy.
- Combating wildlife crime and unsustainable hunting.
- Coordinating and enhancing knowledge.

PROGRESS
- This project was GEF CEO approved in May 2021 and is preparing for implementation.
“A priority of our government is to strengthen implementation of key actions relating to the protection and reduction of pressures on cornerstone species such as the jaguar, which is endemic and native to this region and is embedded and woven into the cultural and economic fabric of Belize. This project will allow for the enabling environment and activities to meet these critical national objectives.”

Dr. Kenrick W. Williams, CEO, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
Bhutan

Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into the Tourism Sector in Bhutan

Objective: Model ecotourism development mainstreams biodiversity conservation into the tourism sector in Bhutan.

Project Sites: Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary, Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary, and surrounding landscapes

Species Focus (flagship species for ecotourism): Red pandas, black-necked cranes, Ludlow’s Bhutan Glory butterflies, golden langurs, golden mahseers, birds

Grant Amount: $4.9 million

Executing Partner: Tourism Council of Bhutan

GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

Government Contact: Pema Bazar (pbazar@gnhc.gov.bt)

Agency Contact: Chimi Rinzin (chimi.rinzin@undp.org)

Expected Start Date: July 2021

“Our project will demonstrate long-term conservation gains through the management of co-benefits and trade-offs, premised on our development philosophy of Gross National Happiness. It forms an integral part of our ‘Tourism Flagship Programme’ to promote Bhutan as an exclusive high-end travel destination.”

Rinchen Wangdi, Director and GEF Operational Focal Point, Gross National Happiness Commission

PROJECT COMPONENTS

● Enabling and coordinated policy and institutional framework for ecotourism and wildlife conservation.

● Demonstration of innovative and diversified ecotourism landscapes that support human-wildlife coexistence.

● Ecotourism capacity, promotion, knowledge management, and monitoring and evaluation.

PROGRESS

● This project was GEF CEO endorsed in June 2021 and is preparing for implementation.

Red panda, Bhutan.

© Sonam Wangdi / Department of Forests and Park Services, Bhutan.
Local community members of Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary celebrate biocultural diversity, Bhutan.
Objective: To improve protected areas’ management and promote ecotourism opportunities and non-timber forest product value chains in the Cardamom Mountains-Tonlé Sap (CMTS) landscape.

Project Sites: Cardamom Mountains-Tonlé Sap Landscape (CMTS). Sites include Tonle Sap Biosphere Multiple Use Area, Phnom Sankos Wildlife Sanctuary, Central Cardamom Mountains National Park, Phnom Aural Wildlife Sanctuary, Southern Cardamom Mountains National Park, Tatai Wildlife Sanctuary, Cardamom Biodiversity Corridor, Phnom Kulen National Park, Kirirom National Park, Dong Peng Multiple Use Area, Botum Sakor National Park, Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary, Samlaut Multiple Use Area, Koh Kapik, and associated islets

Grant Amount: $4.4 million
Executing Partner: Ministry of Environment
GEF Implementing Agency: World Bank
Project Manager: Khin Mengkheang (mengkheang.khin@gmail.com)
Agency Contacts: Maurice Andres Rawlins (mrawlins1@worldbank.org); Gayatri Kanungo (gkanungo@worldbank.org)
Start Date: May 14, 2020

PROJECT COMPONENTS

- Strengthening capacity for protected areas’ landscape planning and management.
- Strengthening opportunities for ecotourism and non-timber forest product (NTFP) value chains.
- Project management, coordination, and monitoring and evaluation.

PROGRESS

- Seven working groups on protected area zoning and management have been established. The consultation process for PA zoning has been finalized for three PAs.
- Boundary demarcation for five community protected areas (CPAs) has been completed; full legalization process has been finalized for four of those, which includes developing policy guidelines and by-laws, forming management structures, and developing management plans.
- The law enforcement strategy and action plan will be rolled out in 2021.
- Three law enforcement orientation training courses have been held for officials of the Administration for Nature and Conservation and other relevant officials at national and subnational levels, and with local communities.
- Six NTFPs have been studied and pre-selected for value chain development: blue mussels, mud crabs, cardamom, wild honey, softwood Acacia, and bamboo/rattan. See box 5.1 for more details.
- Two national ecotourism forums (2020 and early 2021) were hosted.
- A detailed study on public-private partnerships for conservation-compatible economic activities in the project area has been finalized and will be published in spring 2021.
- The 10th National Forum on Natural Resources Protection and Conservation under the theme “Enhancing Local Food Production to Attract Tourists” was organized in July 2020.
- A report titled Enabling Ecotourism Development in Cambodia was prepared on the issues and challenges relating to this sector in Cambodia. It suggests that developing ecotourism can create jobs for rural areas and produce the revenues needed to help manage Cambodia’s extensive protected area network.
Cardomom Mountains.
Box 5.1

Creating Conservation-Compatible Economic Activities in the Cardamom Mountains of Cambodia

Income streams for communities in the Cardamom Mountains include rice, fruit trees, and root crops. Communities collect NTFPs, such as bamboo, rattan, and resin, but collecting has been reduced over time and is typically demand-led through specific buyers. Illegal forest activities, such as logging and hunting, make up a proportion of income for some forest communities or surrounding villages. In general, poorer community members use the forest to cover medical expenses and food deficits, and richer community members use it to increase wealth and buy assets. These activities have been reinforced during the COVID-19 crisis because forests continue to be important safety nets for communities.

Conservation-compatible economic opportunities are an important complement to jobs from ecotourism and NTFP value chains and are critical for income diversification for rural communities in the Cardamom Mountains. The project adopts a structured market systems development approach to help better organize existing NTFPs and conservation-compatible economic activities, develop new NTFPs and livelihood activities, and improve the skills and capacities of rural communities.

**NTFP: Blue mussels.**

The project has studied and selected six products for value chain development: blue mussels, mud crabs, cardamom, wild honey, softwood acacia and bamboo/rattan. These products can provide communities with conservation-compatible alternatives to unsustainable extractive livelihoods. Blue mussel aquaculture, for example, is estimated to generate around $1,200 per household per year, presenting a lucrative and sustainable form of income. Acacia trees not only can be a good source of local income and protected area financing, they can also be planted in highly degraded areas and be used for intercropping with agricultural crops.

The next steps are to develop guidelines for the implementation of the value chains, engage with private sector actors to establish public-private partnerships, and engage with NGOs that will be supporting the value chain development.

---

“The Cardamom Mountains are one of the last great wilderness regions of mainland Southeast Asia, blanketing much of Southwest Cambodia in rainforest. An area of outstanding natural beauty and astonishing biodiversity, it offers significant potential for the development of sustainable ecotourism for adventurous and environmentally conscious travelers who want to venture off the beaten track.”

H.E Khieu Borin, Director General of the General Directorate of Local Community, Ministry of Environment, and Project Director of the Sustainable Landscape and Ecotourism Project, at the 10th National Forum on Natural Resources Protection and Conservation, July 31, 2020
Objective: To improve the management of natural resources and the livelihood of populations in selected climate vulnerable areas in and around the Ouadi Rimé and Ouadi Achim (OROA) Reserve in Chad.

**Project Site:** Ouadi Rimé-Ouadi Achim Game Reserve  
**Species Focus:** Dama gazelles, oryxes, addax gazelles, striped hyenas, and ostriches in the reserve; elephants at national level  
**Grant Amount:** $4.5 million  
**Executing Partner:** Ministry of Environment and Fisheries  
**GEF Implementing Agency:** World Bank  
**Government Contact:** Abakar Ibrahim Mikail (abakarmikail@yahoo.fr)  
**Implementing Partner Contact:** John Watkin (johnw@saharaconservation.org)  
**Agency Contact:** Aurelie Rossignol (arossignol@worldbank.org)  
**Start Date:** September 22, 2020

Reintroduction of addax gazelles in OROA, Chad.

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**PROJECT COMPONENTS**

- Sustainable natural resources management and protected areas.
- Promoting diversified, resilient, sustainable livelihoods.
- Project management, coordination, and monitoring.

**PROGRESS**

- The Project Coordination Unit (PCU) team was established on October 15, 2020 and has since developed an action plan, work plan, and annual budget for 2021.
- Within the framework of wildlife protection, terms of reference have been developed to produce:
  - Inventory of national environmental laws, specifically pertaining to wildlife
  - Five-year capacity building plan for the Directorate of Legal Affairs and Litigation of the Ministry of Environment and Fisheries
  - Five-year information and awareness plan on biodiversity conservation-related policies in the national judicial system
- The PCU is finalizing the agreement for the delegated management of investments in OROA, to be signed in spring 2021 with Sahara Conservation Funds.
- The project officially launched in early 2021, supported with the broadcast of a 3D video, which can be viewed at [https://wbgvr.org/Albia](https://wbgvr.org/Albia).

“As we—humans—encroach on animal habitats, using that land for agriculture, mining, cities, we are destroying natural buffer zones distancing humans from animals. This project represents a great opportunity in restoring such a buffer zone and conserving natural resources and sustaining livelihood in and around Ouadi Rimé-Ouadi Achim Wildlife Reserve in Chad.”

Maria Sarraf, Practice Manager for Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy for West Africa Region, World Bank
“Sustainable wildlife management and restoring the habitat for wildlife species are today more important than ever.”

Brahim Mahamat Djamaladine, Minister of Environment and Fisheries

The video of the official signing of the project in June 2020 can be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hyl0uNZdU0Q

© A. Rossignol / World Bank.
Democratic Republic of Congo

Kabobo-Luama Protected Area Landscape Management

Objective: Strengthen the management of the Kabobo-Luama protected area landscape and enhance conservation of endangered species for local sustainable development and global biodiversity benefits.

Project Sites: Kabobo Wildlife Reserve, Luama-Katanga Hunting Reserve, and Ngandja Natural Reserve

Species Focus: Bongo antelopes, buffaloes, chimpanzees, red colobuses, elephants

Grant Amount: $3.7 million


GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

Implementing Partner Contacts: Ben Balongelwa (b.balongelwa@gmail.com); Deo Kujirakwinja (dkujirakwinja@wcs.org)

Agency Contact: Charles Wasikama (charles.wasikama@undp.org)

Expected Start Date: June 2021

PROJECT COMPONENTS

- Institutional capacity for landscape management and biodiversity conservation.
- Enhanced protected area management and reduced poaching of key species.
- Improved livelihoods.
- Mainstreaming of safeguards and knowledge management.

PROGRESS

- This project was GEF CEO endorsed in June 2021 and is preparing for implementation.

“The Kabobo Wildlife Reserve is of great use to us [the communities] for the protection of our heritage against the destruction of habitats by outsiders, but also for the protection of our cultural sites and our places of communion with our ancestors.”

Ngoyi Miketo Kasomoyo, Chief of Miketo Village

“Understand that the conservation of protected areas is not only about protecting species and habitats but also about ensuring local development and guaranteeing the involvement of the different actors in finding solutions to social and ecological problems.”

Dr. Cosma Wilungula, Director General, ICCN
Red colobus.

© Shutterstock.
Ecuador

Integrating Landscape Considerations in Wildlife Conservation, with Emphasis on Jaguars

**Objective:** Jaguars and associated wildlife and habitats are conserved in critical landscapes across Ecuador.

**Project Sites:** Esmeraldas landscape, Andean-Amazon Foothills landscape, and Southern Amazon/Condor-Kutukú mountain ranges landscape

**Species Focus:** Jaguars

**Grant Amount:** $1.8 million

**Executing Partner:** WCS

**GEF Implementing Agency:** UNDP

**Government Contact:** Glenda Ortega (glenda.ortega@ambiente.gob.ec)

**Executing Partner Contact:** Sebastian Valdivieso (svaldivieso@wcs.org)

**Expected Start Date:** June 2021

“In Ecuador, the GWP project will allow us to advance the conservation of jaguars at different scales and with multiple actors. We will work with the national environmental authority, local communities, and other key stakeholders to reduce threats to the jaguar and to change the negative perceptions that put the species at risk. But above all, we are going to work to strengthen the governance of natural resources to ensure the conservation of jaguars and other species that share the same ecosystems in the long term.”

Sebastián Valdivieso, Program Director, Ecuador, Wildlife Conservation Society

© Gaío Zapata-Ríos / WCS.
India

Strengthening Conservation and Resilience of Globally Significant Wild Cat Landscapes Through a Focus on Small Cat and Leopard Conservation

**Objective:** Secure populations and habitats of wild cats that are facing habitat degradation and fragmentation, human-wildlife conflict, poaching and illegal trade in priority landscapes of northern, north-eastern, and western India.

**Project Sites:** Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Pakke Tiger Reserve, Eagle Nest Wildlife Sanctuary, Sessa Orchid Sanctuary, Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, and surrounding landscapes

**Species Focus:** Small wild cats

**Grant Amount:** $4.5 million

**Executing Partner:** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

**GEF Implementing Agency:** UNDP and WWF

**Government Contact:** Mr. Soumitra Dasgupta (adgfwl-mef@nic.in)

**Agency Contact:** Ruchi Pant (ruchi.pant@undp.org); Dipankar Ghose (dghose@wwfindia.net)

**Expected Start Date:** July 2021

**PROJECT COMPONENTS**

- Enabling policy, planning, and institutional framework for wild cat conservation.
- Strengthened management and protection of wild cat landscapes.
- Community stewardship and human-wildlife coexistence in wild cat landscapes.
- Partnerships, knowledge management, and monitoring and evaluation.

**PROGRESS**

- This project was GEF CEO endorsed in June 2021 and is preparing for implementation.
Indonesia

Catalyzing Optimum Management of Natural Heritage for Sustainability of Ecosystem, Resources and Viability of Endangered Wildlife Species (CONSERVE)

**Objective:** Strengthen management of multiple use landscapes to enhance biodiversity conservation, generate sustainable land-use and livelihood practices, and address illegal wildlife trade.

**Project Sites:** Jantho Nature Reserve, Jantho Nature Recreation Park, Seblat Nature Recreation Park, Moyo Nature Recreation Park, Moyo Hunting Park, and biological landscapes

**Species Focus:** Sumatran elephants, Sumatran tigers, yellow-crested cockatoos

**Grant Amount:** $6.3 million

**Executing Partner:** Ministry of Environment and Forests, Directorate General of Natural Resources Conservation and Ecosystem

**GEF Implementing Agency:** UNDP

**Government Contact:** Indra Exploitasia (exploitasia@yahoo.com)

**Agency Contacts:** Iwan Kurniawan (iwan.kurniawan@undp.org); Muhammad Yayat Afianto (muhammad.afianto@undp.org)

**Expected Start Date:** August 2021

**PROJECT COMPONENTS**

- Strengthened management and protection of multiple use landscapes for the conservation of key threatened species.
- Enhanced site-based enforcement and monitoring of sustainable use of wildlife resources.
- Improved private sector and community engagement and diversified financing for biodiversity conservation across the selected landscapes.
- Upscaling/replication of project approaches at national and regional level.

**PROGRESS**

- This project was GEF CEO endorsed in June 2021 and is preparing for implementation.

“Wildlife is a part of biodiversity, which provides a life support system essential for human beings. Conserving it means protection, preservation, and sustainable utilization, as well as raising awareness of the importance of biodiversity conservation. CONSERVE is expected to support preservation optimizing management of natural heritage and endangered species in Indonesia. In the next five years, the project will demonstrate the legacy and sustainability of wildlife and its benefits to biodiversity.”

Indra Exploitasia, Director of Biodiversity Conservation, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Directorate General of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation
Sumatran elephant, Indonesia.
Objective: Conservation of biodiversity in Madagascar through strengthened management of the New Protected Areas (Category V), with active engagement by communities, and enforcement to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade and poaching.

Project Sites: Behara-Tranomaro New Protected Area, Angavo New Protected Area, and Sud-Ouest Ifotaky New Protected Area
Species Focus: Lemurs, tortoises, baobabs, dry spiny forest
Grant Amount: $6.3 million
Executing Partner: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
GEF Implementing Agency: UNEP
Government Contact: Ms. Seheno Ramanantsoa (andras.seheno@gmail.com)
Task Manager: Victoria Luque (victoria.luque@un.org)
Expected Start Date: January 2022

“...The project aims to conserve terrestrial biodiversity by strengthening the management of three of Madagascar’s newly created protected areas. Effective co-management with local communities will be at the core of these efforts to enable sustainable development. This project is critical to the Government of Madagascar’s sustainable development goals and has been designed with an integrated approach to conserve biodiversity, improve livelihoods, and reduce wildlife trafficking.”

Ms. Seheno Ramanantsoa, Head Department of Protected Areas Governance, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development

PROJECT COMPONENTS
- National policy and institutional frameworks to address wildlife and forest crime and develop new protected areas (NPAs).
- Management effectiveness of three selected NPAs.
- Community engagement and poverty reduction for effective NPA management.
- Knowledge management, gender empowerment, and monitoring and evaluation.

PROGRESS
- This project was GEF CEO endorsed in June 2021 and is preparing for implementation.
Village life, Madagascar.

Verreaux’s sifaka in southwest Ifotaky, Madagascar.

© Christine Lippai.
Malaysia

Building Institutional and Local Capacities to Reduce Wildlife Crime and Enhance Protection of Iconic Wildlife in Malaysia

**Objective:** Building institutional and local capacities to reduce wildlife crime and enhance protection of iconic wildlife in Malaysia.

**Project Sites:** Taman Negara National Park, Belum-Temengor Forest Complex, Endau-Rompin National Park, Maliau Basin Conservation Area, Ulu Sebuyau National Park, and Sedilu National Park

**Species Focus:** Malayan tigers, Bornean orangutans, Bornean bantengs

**Grant Amount:** $7.1 million

**Executing Partner:** Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources

**GEF Implementing Agency:** UNDP

**Government Contact:** Liew Pei Shi (liew@ketsa.gov.my)

**Agency Contact:** Gan Pek Chuan (pek.chuan.gan@undp.org)

**PROJECT COMPONENTS**

- Strengthen institutional capacities to combat wildlife crime and reduce poaching of iconic wildlife species at the national level.
- Conserve the Malayan tiger and its habitats in the Malaysian Peninsula.
- Conserve the Bornean orangutan and its habitats in the protected areas of Sarawak.
- Conserve the Bornean banteng and its habitats in Sabah.

**PROGRESS**

- Full-sized project is currently under preparation with a series of stakeholder consultation sessions and field visits to the project sites. It will be submitted for GEF CEO endorsement in late 2021. Details are subject to change until final endorsement.

"The success of combating wildlife and forest crime relies on the collaboration of related enforcement agencies. The Operasi Bersepadu Khazanah anti-poaching task force, an alliance between the DWNP and the Royal Malaysian Police, is one of the platforms that the GWP will support to combat wildlife crime and reduce poaching in the Malayan tiger habitats."

Dato’ Abdul Kadir bin Abu Hashim, Director General, DWNP, Peninsular Malaysia
Malayan tiger, Malaysia.
Namibia

Integrated Approach to Proactive Management of Human-Wildlife Conflict and Wildlife Crime in Hotspot Landscapes in Namibia

Objective: To incentivize wildlife conservation through proactive management of human-wildlife conflict and wildlife crime, and delivery of wildlife-based benefits to rural communities in three hotspot landscapes.

**Project Sites:** Etosha National Park, North-West (Kunene) Region, Bwabwata-Mudumu National Park complex, and associated communal conservancies

**Species Focus:** Elephants, rhinos

**Grant Amount:** $6.2 million

**Executing Partner:** Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism

**GEF Implementing Agency:** UNDP

**Government Contact:** Bennett Kahuure (bennett.kahuure@met.gov.na)

**Agency Contact:** Martha Naanda (martha.naanda@undp.org)

**Expected Start Date:** October 2021

**PROJECT COMPONENTS**

- Management, prevention, and mitigation of HWC.
- Combating wildlife crime and protecting wildlife populations.
- Building the wildlife-based economy to promote coexistence.
- Knowledge management, stakeholder coordination, and monitoring and evaluation.

**PROGRESS**

- This project was GEF CEO endorsed in June 2021 and is preparing for implementation.

“An integrated approach to managing human-wildlife conflict and wildlife crime is key to the conservation of Namibia’s high value species—ultimately contributing to the national goals of ensuring biodiversity conservation, environmental sustainability, and the achievement of inclusive and equitable growth.”

Bennett Kahuure, Director, Department of Parks and Wildlife Management, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism

Community field guide in PalmWag Concession, Kunene Region, Namibia.

© Mandy Cadman / UNDP.
Wildlife in Etosha National Park, Namibia.

Leopard, Namibia.

Wildlife in Etosha National Park, Namibia.
Nigeria

Improved Management Effectiveness of Gashaka-Gumti and Yankari Protected Areas to Conserve Threatened Wildlife Species, Build a Wildlife Economy, and Enhance Community Benefits

**Objective:** To improve the management effectiveness of Nigeria’s protected area estate and enable the development of a nature-based tourism product that enhances wildlife protection and supports local livelihoods.

**Project Sites:** Gashaka-Gumti National Park and Yankari Game Reserve

**Species Focus:** Elephants, West African lions, Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzees

**Grant Amount:** $3.5 million

**Executing Partner:** Ministry of Environment

**GEF Implementing Agency:** UNDP

**Government Contact:** Emmanuel Bebiem (emmabebiem@gmail.com)

**Agency Contact:** Muyiwa Odele (muyiwa.odele@undp.org)

**PROJECT COMPONENTS**

- Policies, systems, and institutional capacities for conserving wildlife and enhancing habitat resilience.
- Incentives and systems for promoting wildlife-based economies, community benefits, and participation in combating wildlife crimes.
- Learning, knowledge management, and monitoring and evaluation for adaptive management.

**PROGRESS**

- Full-sized project is currently under preparation and will be submitted for GEF CEO endorsement in late 2021. Details are subject to change until final endorsement.

“The GWP project in Gashaka-Gumti National Park will support the strengthening of the National Park Service law and address issues of human-wildlife conflicts. It will also promote wildlife conservation and sustainable development by putting in place modalities to combat illicit trafficking in wildlife, and incorporate wildlife tourism into the tourism architecture of the park.”

Dr. Ibrahim Musa Goni, Conservator General, National Park Service
National Park Service rangers on parade, Nigeria.

© NPS.

Elephants, Nigeria.

© WCS.
Pakistan

Strengthening Governance and Capacity for Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade in Pakistan

Objective: To curb poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Pakistan.


Species Focus: Indian pangolins, snow leopards, brown bears, black bears, Saker falcons, peregrine falcons, marine turtles, freshwater turtles

Grant Amount: $2.7 million

Executing Partners: Ministry of Climate Change, WWF, IUCN, provincial wildlife departments

GEF Implementing Agency: IUCN

Government Contact: Ms. Naheed Shah Durrani (secretarymocc@gmail.com)

Agency Contacts: Anshuman Saikia (Anshuman.saikia@iucn.org); Mahmood Akhtar Cheema (mahmood.cheema@iucn.org)

PROJECT COMPONENTS

- Strengthen regulatory frameworks and interagency coordination to address poaching and illegal wildlife trade.
- Build institutional capacities and establish facilities to detect, prevent, and control wildlife crime.
- Reduce poaching and illegal trade of key wildlife species by at least 50 percent in five high priority sites.
- Improve awareness, knowledge management, and monitoring mechanisms to curb poaching and illegal wildlife trade.

PROGRESS

This full-sized project seeks to strengthen wildlife conservation in Pakistan by reducing poaching, trade, and trafficking of wildlife. It is currently under preparation and will be submitted for GEF CEO endorsement in 2021. Details are subject to change until final endorsement.

“Along with habitat destruction, the illegal wildlife trade is a major global threat to biodiversity. Pakistan has not escaped this threat and is faced with complex challenges related to illegal trade, poaching, and trafficking. Freshwater and marine turtles, lizards, pangolins, bears, and snow leopards are among the many species that are being impacted. The Government of Pakistan is committed to reducing this illegal trade and is strengthening its regulatory frameworks in collaboration with conservation organizations and local communities.”

Ms. Naheed Shah Durrani, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change
Saker falcon, Pakistan. © M. Anes Shahzad / IUCN.

Soft-shelled freshwater turtle parts confiscated at the Port of Karachi, Pakistan. © Javed Mahar/ Sindh Wildlife Department.

Objective: To strengthen jaguar conservation capacity and connectivity between core protected areas in the Chagres National Park-Darien National Park complex.

Project Sites: Chagres National Park, Darien National Park, Narganá Wildlife Protected Area, and cattle ranches surrounding the Darien National Park

Species Focus: Jaguars

Grant Amount: $1.8 million

Executing Partners: Ministry of Environment and Yaguará Panamá Foundation

GEF Implementing Agency: UNEP

Government Contact: Shirley Binder (shirley@miambiente.gob.pa)

Agency Contact: Thais Narciso (thais.narciso@un.org)

Project Manager: Ricardo Moreno (rmorenopan@gmail.com)

Expected Start Date: May 2021

PROJECT COMPONENTS

- Conserve jaguar and prey species through connectivity promotion and human-wildlife conflict management.
- Generate scientific knowledge, build national capacity, and promote regional commitments on wildcat conservation.

PROGRESS

- This project was GEF CEO approved in May 2021 and is preparing for implementation.

“What we do in Panama to reverse the critical situation of the species is crucial since the Isthmus of Panama is the natural land bridge that maintains connectivity between the large populations of jaguars across the American continent. With this important project we will focus on ensuring connectivity through multispecies corridors; orienting private environmental offsetting programs to restore critical habitats; implementing solutions to reduce conflict between humans and wildlife; and promoting wildlife-based economies. This will be an extraordinary opportunity to show how the alliances for sustainable development between government, private initiative, scientific organizations, and local communities can enhance the benefits associated with the conservation of the jaguar as an iconic symbol of Latin American biodiversity.”

Shirley Binder, National Director of Protected Areas and Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment
Evidence of jaguar poaching, Panama.

© Yaguará Panamá Foundation.
**South Africa**

Catalyzing Financing and Capacity for the Biodiversity Economy around Protected Areas

**Objective:** To strengthen South Africa’s capacity to combat illegal wildlife trade and improve protected areas and landscape management for increased community benefits.

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**Project Sites**

**Pillar 1:** Targeted protected areas with rhinos and national-level work

**Pillar 2:** Greater Addo to Amathole Node in the Eastern Cape Province, Greater Kruger-Limpopo Node in Limpopo Province, and Greater-iSimangaliso Node in KwaZulu-Natal Province

**Species Focus:** African elephants, black and white rhinos, cycads, South African abalones

**Grant Amount:** $13.4 million

**Executing Partners:** Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries; South African National Biodiversity Institute; National Prosecuting Authority; South African National Parks; and iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority

**GEF Implementing Agencies:** UNEP and World Bank

**Government Contacts:** Frances Craigie (fcraigie@environment.gov.za); Simon Malete (SMalete@environment.gov.za)

**Agency Contacts:** Jane Nimpamya (jane.nimpamya@un.org); Nathalie Johnson (njohnson@worldbank.org)

**Expected Start Date:** June 2021

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**PROJECT COMPONENTS**

- Consolidate and increase compliance and enforcement with wildlife-related legislation.
- Enhance forensic and scientific support services linked to wildlife trafficking investigations.
- Establish specialized prosecution and court capacity to focus on wildlife trafficking.
- Build biodiversity economy nodes for community stewardship and livelihoods.
- Grow the biodiversity economy nationally to enhance communities’ stake in wildlife conservation.

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**PROGRESS**

- This project was GEF CEO endorsed on March 2021 and is preparing for implementation.
Objective: To create an enabling environment and evidence-based approach on mitigating the effects of human-wildlife conflict in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

**Project Sites:** To be confirmed

**Species Focus:** Elephants

**Grant Amount:** $3.4 million

**Executing Partner:** Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries

**GEF Implementing Agency:** UNEP

**Government Contact:** Sydney Nkosi (shnkosi@environment.gov.za)

**Agency Contact:** Jane Nimpamya (jane.nimpamya@un.org)

**PROJECT COMPONENTS**
- Strengthening the management of elephants in South Africa.
- Reduced human-wildlife conflict in South Africa.
- Harmonized and coordinated management of elephants and human-wildlife conflict in Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

**PROGRESS**
- This full-sized project is under preparation and will be submitted for GEF CEO endorsement in 2021. Details are subject to change until final endorsement.
SECTION 6: CHALLENGES, ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT, AND LESSONS LEARNED

Project Challenges and Responses

As outlined in this report, most GEF-6 projects are now underway and making strides toward their development objectives. As implementation proceeds, projects are also observing challenges that threaten to impede or delay the delivery of project activities. Adapting and responding to such challenges is a standard part of the project cycle—and sharing and learning from this adaptive management is an important part of the GWP knowledge base.

Figure 6.1 briefly summarizes the range of challenges and responses reported by GWP projects in 2020. Chief among these was the sudden and wide-ranging suite of impacts associated with the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, ranging from lockdowns and social distancing restrictions, to protected area revenue and local livelihood disruptions. These impacts were significant in their own right and exacerbated existing challenges as pandemic-related restrictions stretched across much of 2020. GWP projects adapted quickly in response, shifting work plans and methods of engagement with communities and project partners. Their experiences and lessons from responding to COVID-19 are discussed in detail later in this section.

BUILDING DIVERSIFIED, RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS

Clear livelihood opportunities that align to community interests are critical. Some projects have reformulated proposed livelihood activities to better match community preferences and interests. Ensuring that livelihood activities result in materialized economic benefits will help to meet community expectations and retain interest in conservation. Securing the benefits from a wildlife-based economy, including putting in place enabling public-private partnerships, will be a focus of the GEF-7 coordination grant.

Over two-thirds of GWP projects include activities to mitigate human-wildlife conflict, and a noted challenge with these is the absence of a standardized and formal system for responding to HWC. Some projects have addressed this by adopting technology. In India, the project team has built an application whereby communities can immediately report an HWC incidence by taking a photo and
sending it via SMS to local authorities. This action can help communities receive compensation in a timely manner and reduce the risk of retaliatory killing of problem wildlife.

ENGAGING AND EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Recognizing the critical importance of engaging and empowering indigenous peoples and local communities in wildlife conservation, most GWP projects are working closely with local communities.

Projects note the importance of getting the right governance structures in place to underpin effective partnerships with communities. For example, the Zimbabwe project team is working with local government and municipalities to apply community-based natural resource management guidelines and strategies to improve community engagement and governance. Mozambique embedded training into the revitalization of 16 Natural Resources Management Committees (NRMCs), which helped build confidence, trust, and coordination between community and NRMC members and highlighted the benefits of engaging community across the entire process. Many other projects have helped formalize community engagement through the development of community trusts and institutions. GWP projects increasingly recognize and prioritize community and stakeholder engagement from the outset of planning activities.

Many GWP projects are working to conserve globally significant ecosystems and wildlife habitats. Some are helping to establish or expand protected areas, which can lead to risks of physical or economic displacement of local communities. There are important lessons from not adequately identifying these risks or fully engaging local and indigenous communities in project planning and implementation. In November 2020, the UNDP-supported GWP Republic of Congo project was cancelled by the UNDP Administrator following a UNDP Social and Environment Compliance Unit (SECU) investigation that showed that the rights of the Baka communities were not fully considered during project development and implementation in line with UNDP’s Social and Environment Safeguards policy. The UNDP is restructuring the suspended GWP project in Cameroon to address the findings and recommendations of a parallel SECU investigation and report, and the suspension will be lifted should the reformulated project be approved by the GEF Council.

The GWP recognizes the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities to use and manage natural resources. In this context, core GWP knowledge needs include improving project team and local partner awareness and capacities to adhere to agency social and environmental safeguards requirements, along with sharing tools to effectively empower and engage local communities and indigenous peoples. During the 2020 GWP Annual Conference, a session on good project design and implementation discussed safeguards, and indigenous peoples specialists shared their expertise with project teams on the ongoing process of securing “free, prior and informed consent” (FPIC) and improving the interface between law enforcement personnel and local communities. The GWP Mali project can share lessons from the extensive security and safeguard assessment it completed during 2020 to ensure that potential environmental, social, and safety risks associated with conflict and insecurity in the Gourma area were accurately identified and mitigated prior to the commencement of field-based activities. This attention on social and environmental safeguards, and the engagement and empowerment of local communities and indigenous peoples as partners in conservation and sustainable development, will continue across the GEF-7 coordination project, recognizing the close interdependence of communities and wildlife.

WORKING EFFECTIVELY IN REMOTE LANDSCAPES

As in Mali, many GWP projects are working in remote landscapes that pose challenges for project implementation. These range from seasonal inaccessibility to project teams, lack of cellular connectivity that impedes surveillance in remote or heavily forested areas, and logistical challenges
of monitoring biodiversity in vast landscapes with low population densities. Projects are adapting a range of measures in response. Afghanistan aligns its work plans to fit within the seasonal calendars of local communities, avoiding busy times when households are focused on subsistence agriculture and livestock raising to enhance the potential for their engagement. India has addressed the logistical difficulties of traveling to remote Himalayan landscapes by training local community members as parataxonomists to conduct biodiversity monitoring.

**STRENGTHENING CROSS-SECTOR AND CROSS-AGENCY COLLABORATION**

Conservation is not done in isolation, so collaboration between sectors is important. Many GWP projects have achieved early success by adopting integrated landscape management strategies and stakeholder coordination platforms. A challenge lies in engaging all sectors and partners in planning development and, subsequently, on-the-ground implementation. To address this, Botswana has empowered stakeholders to lead different parts of the development of its integrated landscape management plan, facilitating harmony and collaboration among sectors and increasing the potential for effective implementation and resourcing once the plan is adopted.

Similarly, coordination and engagement across sectors will underpin effective law enforcement responses. While the GWP has now supported the establishment of law enforcement coordination mechanisms in six countries, these gains have not come without considerable effort and some delays. Projects note the importance of bringing together all wildlife conservation and law enforcement agencies to collaboratively discuss and agree upon law enforcement coordination mechanisms, and that limited experience in implementing such mechanisms and lack of relationships can hamper sharing of information and coordinated operations. Projects are intensifying their efforts on securing this cross-agency engagement and cooperation. The GWP’s partnership with ICCWC can offer lessons and technical guidance on best practices in national law enforcement coordination and cross-border/regional enforcement collaboration.

**IMPROVING LEGAL FRAMEWORKS**

Projects are working to manage the lengthy timeframes in securing government approvals for legal review. The Philippines government is progressing two legislative review options in parallel to allow for the amendment of subsidiary regulations if the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001 amendment bill is not adopted. Vietnam has engaged NGOs, conservation organizations, and businesses in the review of legislation to provide different perspectives for discussion and inform drafting instructions.
### COVID-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operational delays and disruptions</td>
<td>Revise and reprofile work plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disrupted conservation financing and livelihoods</td>
<td>Adjust budgets to respond to short-term funding gaps/shiftin priorities and contribute to COVID-19 recovery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shifts in IWT supply chains and changes in illegal markets</td>
<td>Adopt virtual tools and technologies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Focus on building resilience as part of COVID-19 recovery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absence of or weak local governance structures</td>
<td>Prioritize and include community engagement in activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient community capacity to engage in project activities</td>
<td>Engage communities in project planning, co-creation, awareness raising, and capacity development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shifting community dynamics that result in lack of trust or conflict within communities</td>
<td>Collaboratively develop and apply guidelines for community governance and engagement processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community resistance to PA boundary demarcation processes</td>
<td>Develop and capacitate formal community engagement and governance mechanisms such as community trusts and institutions, and co-management systems for PAs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political pressure via local elected officials</td>
<td>Engage indigenous peoples and local community experts to contribute to planning and problem resolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender gaps that inhibit women’s full and equal participation in wildlife protection</td>
<td>Use project grievance redress mechanisms to address any concerns or grievances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Strengthen engagement with local initiatives and NGOs that work on women’s advancement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LIVELIHOOD DIVERSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absence of standardized, formal system for responding to HWC and providing compensation</td>
<td>Develop systematic responses to HWC to replace ad hoc measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufficiently scoped livelihood activities that require reformulation to ensure they can be effectively deployed</td>
<td>Develop viable sustainable livelihood generation options that align to community preferences and perceptions of value, and revisit as needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High beneficiary enthusiasm means that community demand cannot be met with available resources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceived lack of value of forest species reduces community interest in livelihood options such as agroforestry and restoration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited community understanding of conservation practices and potential benefits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(continued on page 105)
SECTION 6: CHALLENGES, ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT, AND LESSONS LEARNED

### LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

**Challenges**
- Limited/insufficient engagement of some sectors in the implementation of integrated landscape management plans
- Multi-agency engagement can delay activities as each is subject to own processes and decrees

**Responses**
- Engage and empower stakeholders in multisector planning processes to build relationships and cross-sector partnership

---

### WORKING IN REMOTE, VOLATILE LANDSCAPES

**Challenges**
- Limited, restricted access to project landscapes
- Seasonal priorities of local communities restrict community interest/potential to engage in biodiversity conservation
- Logistical difficulties and costs of monitoring large and inaccessible habitats
- Poor cellular/satellite connectivity impedes remote surveillance and engagement of local communities
- Lack of availability of local expertise to conduct ecological monitoring

**Responses**
- Account for seasonal access restrictions and community priorities in work planning
- Use new technology such as drones and high-resolution satellite imagery to support monitoring and surveillance
- Use virtual tools and technologies for stakeholder engagement
- Train local communities to take on technical roles
- Conduct safety and security assessments that reflect the scale and severity of risks in project landscapes and develop holistic and inclusive risk management plans

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### LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

**Challenges**
- Lengthy timeframes for review and approval of new and amended laws
- Restructuring of national land use laws affects project activities
- Gaps in existing legislation challenge clear definition of penalties for wildlife offenses
- Risk of corruption at conviction stage

**Responses**
- Allow long lead times for legal processes while ensuring regular communication and follow-up with relevant offices
- Identify and pursue alternative drafting options
- Engage stakeholders in legal review processes to gather opinions and build consensus
- Assess potential impacts of new/revised laws on project landscapes and beneficiaries, and revise project activities and approaches as needed

(continued on page 106)
### LAW ENFORCEMENT

#### Challenges
- Lack of knowledge and capacity among law enforcement agencies on protected area management and wildlife crime
- Lengthy timeframes to agree on mandates/roles/mechanisms for effective interagency cooperation on combating wildlife crime
- Limited experience in implementing interagency law enforcement coordination
- Lack of information exchange on wildlife crime
- Uncoordinated law enforcement operations that need to be harmonized
- Engaging all potential law enforcement partners, including airport authorities
- Building trust and relationships with communities on wildlife law enforcement

#### Responses
- Use the development of overarching strategies and policies to provide general principles and build high-level political support for cross-agency engagement and coordination
- Establish formal coordination mechanisms and invest in their effective operation
- Provide ample time and opportunities for cross-agency discussions to define and agree on coordination mechanisms
- Build from officer-level relationships as examples of cross-agency coordination
- Establish formal information exchange protocols and platforms
- Involve all stakeholders, including communities adjacent to PAs, in anti-poaching activities
- Ensure that human rights considerations and the needs and interests of all affected parties are built into training programs for law enforcement personnel, and that risks to the occupational safety and health of law enforcement officers (state or community) are adequately addressed

### DATA

#### Challenges
- Lack of data/information to support development of economic valuation of traded wildlife species

#### Responses
- Adjust processes to recognize/account for data limitations
- Collate different sources of data and extrapolate from other information as needed

### EMERGING OR SHIFTING THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY

#### Challenges
- Rise in artisanal gold mining leading to habitat destruction and increased risk of poaching
- Displacement of elephants by armed groups increases potential for HWC
- Increased wildlife poaching and forest crimes linked to COVID-19

#### Responses
- Revise project risk assessments and risk mitigation plans on a regular basis
- Review and revise project approaches and work plans as needed to account for shifting threats

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Note: HWC = human-wildlife conflict; IWT = illegal wildlife trade; NGO = nongovernmental organization; PA = protected area.
Adaptive Management in Response to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected GWP projects in 2020. Projects were challenged by a diverse range of impacts, including operational disruptions due to government lockdowns and social distancing restrictions, escalated threats of wildlife poaching, and lost protected area revenue and community livelihoods as the pandemic stalled economic activity, halted travel, and disrupted international trade. Impacts are visible at varying scales—from individual project sites to global changes in illegal wildlife trade supply chains—and have exposed a range of risks, and in places opportunities, to strengthen approaches and political support for wildlife conservation.

GWP projects provided regular updates on the challenges in project implementation resulting from COVID-19. Figure 6.2 summarizes the diverse range of impacts reported in projects’ 2020 qualitative reports, broadly classified into operational types and those affecting protected area management, communities, and IWT supply chains.

**OPERATIONAL IMPACTS**

From early in 2020, projects started to experience operational delays and disruptions as the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the globe. Many in-person activities, such as stakeholder consultations, trainings, and workshops, were postponed as social distancing prevailed, with all projects reporting the postponement of stakeholder consultations and workshops. Many teams could not visit project sites due to government movement restrictions and health and safety concerns, disrupting the delivery of a wide range of scheduled activities including M&E baseline and midterm assessments.

**FIGURE 6.2** Impacts of the Pandemic Reported by GEF-6 Projects under Implementation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPERATIONAL IMPACTS</th>
<th>IMPACTS TO PA MANAGEMENT</th>
<th>IMPACTS TO COMMUNITIES</th>
<th>IMPACTS TO IWT SUPPLY CHAIN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Training, consultations, workshops postponed</td>
<td>Loss of tourism revenues</td>
<td>Loss of jobs and livelihoods</td>
<td>Shift to online markets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inability to visit project sites</td>
<td>Increased poaching</td>
<td>Increased human-wildlife conflict</td>
<td>Enhanced political support for strong regulations and enforcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field activities halted</td>
<td>Increased area needing patrols</td>
<td>Social networks disrupted</td>
<td>Closure of air/seaports stopping supply, leading to reduced seizures/confiscations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M&amp;E activities reduced</td>
<td>Increased unsustainable use of natural resources</td>
<td>Increased food insecurity</td>
<td>Market restrictions/closure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurement delays</td>
<td>Reduced PA budgets, staff furloughs, etc.</td>
<td>Increased burden on women</td>
<td>Disrupted supply chains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immediate health and safety challenges</td>
<td>Reduced patrolling and law enforcement</td>
<td>Disrupted information flows</td>
<td>Reduced law enforcement attention due to COVID-19 prioritization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced government liaison due to COVID-19 response prioritization</td>
<td>Increased deforestation/forest offenses</td>
<td>Migration from urban to rural areas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher transaction costs</td>
<td>Reduced poaching/pressure on PAs</td>
<td>Community patrolling impacted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-financing impacted</td>
<td></td>
<td>Increased inequality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Numbers of projects impacted**

- **15 projects** for Operational Impacts
- **10 projects** for Impacts to PA Management
- **10 projects** for Impacts to Communities
- **6 projects** for Impacts to IWT Supply Chain

*Note: Darker shaded cells indicate a greater number of projects identifying that as an impact.*

*Numbers of projects indicated are the total number of projects reporting observed impacts under that specific theme.*
Projects revised their annual work plans to account for procurement delays, rescheduled activities, and evaluated how to deliver scheduled project activities under a COVID-19 operating scenario. Projects adopted virtual tools and technologies to help. For example, Indonesia used online meetings to collaborate with local organizations and regional offices of the Ministry of Environment and Forests on field activities, with the project team providing remote support. In addition to using webinars for training and knowledge exchange, the Philippines adjusted its proposed in-person capacity development program to a self-paced online training course on law enforcement that will be offered through the ADB eLearn Platform. Projects also adopted protection measures to ensure the health and safety of project teams, communities, and local implementing partners. For example, Mozambique adapted World Health Organization guidelines to the local context for the safety of all project stakeholders, outlining general mitigation measures that partners are implementing to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in conservation areas and among staff.

GEF-7 projects under preparation adapted virtual measures for stakeholder consultations and field visits as COVID-19 restrictions hit midway through project development, in many cases forcing shifts in project design and delays in project preparation and implementation timeframes. The GWP coordination team also adapted to online formats, successfully hosting the GWP Annual Conference and a conservation storytelling and communications workshop online.

**IMPACTS ON PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT**

One of the most hard-hit sectors by COVID-19 globally was the travel and tourism industry, and over half of GWP projects reported loss of tourism revenues. Many protected areas (and local communities living within and adjacent to them) depend heavily upon tourism for operating and management costs. Government lockdowns and the closure of borders and air travel wiped out these revenues, resulting in slashed protected area budgets and the need for staff reductions and furloughs. These changes affected important tasks like ranger patrolling and surveillance, and reduced capacities to detect and deter increasing threats to protected areas. Forty percent of projects reported an increased threat of poaching, either an opportunistic response by organized poaching gangs to reduced tourist presence and patrolling, or increased localized poaching and forest offenses as economic hardship and urban-to-rural migration forced people to turn to wildlife for income and food.

In response, projects put in place alternative arrangements to prop up protected area financing and management. Some projects, such as in Zimbabwe and Ethiopia, adjusted site-based law enforcement and diverted additional resources into patrolling and procurement of remote surveillance equipment to strengthen anti-poaching activities (see box 6.1). Kenya is in its initial stages of tailoring planned activities to build the capacity of communities and conservancies to resume livelihoods in compliance with national COVID-19 regulations for wildlife conservation and tourism. In response to increased poaching threats, the project is exploring patrolling alternatives, such as the use of vehicles and aircrafts for the vast Tsavo Parks. Some projects contributed to short-term COVID-19 recovery efforts at project sites.

The disruption of global tourism affected GEF-7 projects under development, many of which focus on tourism and other wildlife-based economic activities as a source of sustainable livelihoods that can promote biodiversity conservation. Faced with the newly understood risks of relying on international tourism as a sole source of conservation revenue, project approaches and activities evolved. For example, Bhutan added domestic and virtual tourism to increase resilience of tourism-dependent sites and livelihoods, as well as wildlife economic opportunities beyond tourism. The project will also support reskilling of tour guides as trekking and biodiversity guides and increasing the digitization of the tourism sector so it can operate more efficiently as it recovers. Namibia adjusted project activities to help rebuild nature-based tourism in community conservancies. It also promoted longer-term
BOX 6.1

GWP Project Responses to Increased Poaching Threat in Protected Areas in Zimbabwe and Ethiopia

In Zimbabwe, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in increased poaching in the project area, including in protected areas such as Mana Pools. Destruction of habitat occurred because of increased artisanal mining in some sections of the protected area, exacerbated by the worsening economic conditions. The absence of tourists increased the risk of poaching and meant larger areas needed patrols compared to the pre-pandemic period. In response, the project developed an adaptive management plan to enable Zimbabwe Parks & Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA) to increase patrolling capacity. As budgets were cut, the project provided additional equipment, rations, and fuel to continue patrolling efforts, and the project supported the purchase of four boats and two drones to enhance surveillance and law enforcement capacity. The boats will be used to patrol the Zambezi River front, which is at the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe and a major area for cross-border poaching incursions. With the increased patrolling effort, more than 1,200 wire snares were discovered in the project area.

Similarly, in Mago National Park, Ethiopia, eight elephants were killed on May 27, 2020, as poachers took advantage of the lockdown restrictions and reduced frequency of patrolling. The project is being implemented in a high-risk environment with sophisticated IWT operations, and the pandemic brought little pause to the poaching of big cats and elephants in areas close to settlements and wildlife trafficking routes. In response, the project helped protected area managers develop adaptive strategies to deter and detect poaching while ensuring the health and safety of staff. The project developed safety protocols such as thresholds on patrolling size, social distancing measures, and provision of handwashing and sanitizing facilities and personal protective equipment so site-based law enforcement activities could continue. The project also collaborated with relevant agencies to roll out preventive measures and awareness generation activities in accordance with COVID-19 rules and regulations set by the government.

The longer-term disruptive impacts of COVID-19, especially on conservation financing and jobs, risk to exacerbate threats to biodiversity in project landscapes, requiring an enhanced focus on risk management and mitigation strategies, and the identification of diversified, more resilient strategies for protected area management and community livelihoods.

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IMPACTS ON COMMUNITIES

Around 60 percent of GWP projects reported loss of community jobs and livelihoods as an impact of COVID-19. This was particularly felt by communities heavily dependent on tourism revenue and allied activities. Projects also reported an increase in human-wildlife conflict during the pandemic. For example, in India, human-bear encounters increased during the lockdown along with increased incidences of wild animals venturing out of protected areas to buffer zones, roads, and highways. In Zimbabwe, the pandemic made it challenging to respond to HWC incidents in a timely manner due to shortage of patrol rations, vehicles, and fuel. Similarly, Belize reported an increase in retaliatory killings due to the inability of government staff to visit HWC sites during the lockdown. Namibia observed vulnerability of both human and wildlife populations due to weakened capacity to respond to and manage incidences of HWC, and potential shortfalls in funds available for HWC compensation schemes. Other reported impacts on communities included disrupted community social networks, increased food insecurity (in turn driving increased risk of subsistence poaching in some sites), and higher burdens on women due to loss of jobs in the informal economy, unpaid caregiving duties, and increased domestic work.

Projects responded by adjusting planned livelihood activities and community engagement strategies. Afghanistan addressed disrupted livelihoods by engaging communities in afforestation and the construction of predator-proof corrals to protect livestock from snow leopards. These activities, through daily wages, provided income to participating households. Zambia installed solar fences to reduce crop damage by elephants, and trained community members, including women, in the installation and management of these seasonal agricultural fences.

In India, the project implemented mass awareness campaigns on HWC using posters, car bumper stickers, films, and radio programs. The project also adopted a multipronged strategy in response to COVID-19 that included targeted assessment of impacts in project landscapes, realignment of livelihood plans and development of adaptive strategies, integration of wildlife-health linkages in awareness raising on IWT, and application of One Health approaches (see box 6.2).

Some projects addressed the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 faced by many women. In India, the decline of tourism meant that local artisans, craftspeople, and weavers were unable to sell their products. The project conducted capacity building workshops and a buyer-seller event with 73 rural women participants. From this, the women launched a new craft brand and developed work plans for upskilling and procuring better equipment. Recognizing that economic disruptions from COVID-19 could increase demand on forest resources, the Indonesia GEF-7 project will target its livelihood and business planning activities toward vulnerable populations, including women in high-risk areas. Other projects, such as in Zimbabwe, have pointed to women’s vulnerability to increased HWC incidents due to their roles in agriculture and food and water provision, and the need to prioritize their involvement in natural resource management.

IMPACTS ON IWT SUPPLY CHAINS

Closed borders, cancelled flights, and shipping and customs backlogs disrupted illegal supply chains and smuggling routes. Around a third of GWP projects reported an observed shift of IWT from physical markets to online platforms, likely driven by bans and restrictions on physical wildlife markets and lockdown measures. To help law enforcement respond to increased online selling and trading of illegal wildlife products, the Philippines is developing a tool based on machine learning algorithms to harvest social media data and identify online illegal trade incidents in a timely manner.
On the positive side, over a third of projects reported increased political support for enhanced regulations and enforcement of IWT as understanding of the potential zoonosis risks from wildlife trade and consumption grew. Gabon banned the consumption and sale of bats and pangolins. In Vietnam, the government released a directive calling for strengthened enforcement of rules governing wildlife trade and consumption. Recognizing the dual threat to conservation and human health, Thailand adapted its demand reduction program to include targeted market research on the

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**BOX 6.2**

Adaptation to COVID-19 in India Through Landscape Impact Assessments and Integration of One Health Approaches into Landscape Management

In India, the pandemic affected the implementation of many project activities under the GEF-6 SECURE project, including stakeholder consultations, training and capacity building, community-based surveillance and monitoring of wildlife, and addressing HWC, IWT, and habitat degradation. As the wide-reaching impacts of the pandemic became clear, the project conducted detailed situational analyses of the effects of COVID-19 on local communities in each of the four Himalayan project landscapes. Tourism emerged as a particularly vulnerable sector, along with handloom and handicraft industries. Increased unemployment due to the return of migrant workers to rural communities was another cause for concern due to lack of jobs in rural areas. Pressure on natural resources, including on forests, also increased due to disruption of liquefied petroleum gas supply.

In response, the project realigned the livelihood activities (digitization of off-farm sectors such as handicraft and tourism) and introduced employment generation schemes for returnee migrants and local youth as the beneficiaries in the project broadened. The new work plan will focus on supporting sustainable tourism and capacity development of local communities adversely affected by the pandemic. It has also helped link farmer and producer groups with leading banks for financial support. The findings of the project’s COVID-19 analyses informed the implementation of the respective state government economic recovery packages at the landscape level.

To strengthen the response to zoonotic diseases and increase preparedness and response to future disease outbreaks, the project is developing programs to train, sensitize, and build capacity of frontline government officials and local communities and raise awareness of the wildlife-human health linkages. The project is also helping to establish collaborative multi-stakeholder and digital platforms to promote a One Health approach in landscape management. It is completing rapid assessments in project landscapes to assess at-risk species and identify potential hotspots to inform appropriate landscape management measures to prevent and manage zoonosis risk. Overall, these activities aim to support the government’s efforts to identify, pilot, and scale up best practices in response to zoonotic diseases.
extent of illegal wild meat consumption. Thailand also leveraged cash co-financing from UNDP to conduct sampling at wildlife markets to better detect potential zoonotic disease transfer risks and inform project awareness raising efforts.

Projects noted how the enhanced attention on wildlife due to the pandemic provided an opportunity to strengthen IWT legislation, advocate for mainstreaming of wildlife conservation in other sectors, and raise public awareness of threats to wildlife.

Looking Forward

The achievements and lessons learned from GWP national projects provide illuminating examples of how countries are addressing difficult crises, triggered or exacerbated by COVID-19. Countries will need stronger collaboration and more guidance and knowledge to tackle these challenges. Regional and global cooperation, partnerships with the private sector and civil society, higher uptake of new innovations and technology, and an emphasis on green and inclusive recovery strategies will be vital to countries achieving their intended outcomes.

As the GWP enters its next phase, and the GEF-7 tranche of projects commence implementation, its commitment to helping countries conserve wildlife and critical habitats is bolstered by a strengthened focus on developing sustainable and resilient wildlife-based economies. The global awareness of the interconnections between people and wildlife, and of the need for a healthy and green recovery that reduces the risk of future pandemics, are opportunities that the GWP will build on to secure long-term conservation outcomes, diversified local livelihoods, and human-wildlife coexistence.

The GWP coordination team will integrate the experiences and emerging needs of projects into future knowledge management plans under the GEF-7 coordination grant so that the GWP can continue to coordinate and support countries in their ambitions to combat wildlife crime, conserve habitats, and build greener economies.
## APPENDIX A

### STATUS OF PROJECT OUTCOMES OF THE GLOBAL COORDINATION GRANT (GEF-6)

**Project objective:** Create and implement an effective coordination and knowledge platform for the GEF-funded Global Wildlife Partnership on *Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project components</th>
<th>Project outcomes</th>
<th>Expected outputs</th>
<th>Status in Last Progress Review (November 2018 to December 2019)</th>
<th>Current Status (Jan 2020 to Dec 2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Component 1: Program coordination</td>
<td>Outcome 1: Enhanced coordination among program stakeholders</td>
<td>Minutes of annual meetings approved</td>
<td>Four PSC meeting minutes were completed and shared</td>
<td>Three PSC meeting minutes were completed and shared</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Conference proceedings of annual meeting in Zambia (November 2018) approved and shared</td>
<td>Conference proceedings of Virtual Annual Conference (December 2020) shared</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Conference proceedings of annual meeting in South Africa (November 2019) shared</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Donor portfolio review report published</td>
<td>Donor coordination efforts continued this year with the launch of the donor working group sessions where donors shared their IWT portfolio highlights</td>
<td>GWP organized three events with donors in 2020, including the Wildlife Forum and two virtual meetings. The first was on COVID-19 impacts and the second shared progress on an analysis and toolkit for public-private partnerships/collaborative management models for conservation</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Donor funding database designed</td>
<td>Donor working group collectively developed 20 case studies and 10 story maps</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Database filled with donor data</td>
<td>An in-person meeting with donors was held at CITES CoP18 in Geneva in August 2019</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Indicators and targets:**

1.1 GWP national country and international donor coordination roundtable (IDCR) established

Yes, donor roundtable further led to donor working groups and the updated donor analysis

Yes, established. Donor coordination efforts continue with regular meetings of donors
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project components</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategic partnerships</td>
<td>Outcome 2: Enhanced coordination amongst International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) partners to support institutional capacity efforts to fight trans-national organized wildlife crime</td>
<td>ICCWC Indicator Framework deployed</td>
<td>Indicator Framework deployed in three countries (Kenya, the Philippines, and Thailand)</td>
<td>Preparatory work for the Indicator Framework was undertaken for Ecuador, Peru, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Madagascar, and Nigeria. The Indicator Framework expert workshops for these countries is expected in 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Staff trained in anti-corruption and anti-money laundering (AML) Staff trained inter-agency enforcement operations</td>
<td>Expanding Technical Assistance on AML and Environmental Crime, including the development and implementation of an Environmental Crime Risk Assessment module (part of the national risk assessment); module applied in five countries (Madagascar, Cote d’Ivoire, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Cameroon)</td>
<td>Environmental Crime Risk Assessment module was applied in the Central Africa Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Mozambique, Namibia, Ethiopia, and Uganda</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Best practice ports incentive scheme developed Anti-trafficking monitoring system for ports developed Container clearance systems and facilities upgraded, with relevant training provided Training provided for inter-agency and South-South cooperation Awareness campaigns conducted amongst maritime industry stakeholders regarding i) negative impacts of illegal wildlife trade and penalties for involvement and ii) benefits of helping to combat IWT Transnational port liaison offices established Toolkit for strengthening IWT law enforcement capacity at ports created</td>
<td>Combating maritime trafficking activities are underway by UNDP, including completion of two port stakeholder workshops: Dar es Salaam (57 participants) and Mombasa (75 participants) Agreement signed between UNODC and UNDP to build capacity of JPCUs at Mombasa and Dar es Salaam, and establish, train, and mentor a JPCU at Zanzibar Port, as well as connecting African and Asian JPCUs via ContainerComm and exchange visit program Introduction of automated risk profiling software (RiskPro) to Dar es Salaam JPCU, with first training for 10 officers completed GWP sponsors new category in Asia Environmental Law Enforcement Awards to open eligibility for African-Asian cooperation on fighting wildlife crime</td>
<td>Recommendations of the Dar es Salaam Port Stakeholder Workshop and World Port Sustainability Project proposal to fight wildlife trafficking have been presented to the Port Improvement Committee for implementation PortMATE assessment/monitoring system developed and applied at three ports in Philippines and ports/border posts in DRC Training and mentoring underway by UNODC-WCO Container Control Program (CCP) for joint port control units in Dar es Salaam and Mombasa. 18 officers (17% women) successfully completed the CCP advanced trainings on CITES, wildlife crime intelligence, and automatic risk profiling Equipment provision and initial training underway for a new joint port control unit in Zanzibar Awareness campaigns for port-based workers are under development by WildAid and will be delivered in 2021 at three ports</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>An online course for port stakeholders to improve awareness, prevention, and detection of IWT has been developed and rolled out in collaboration with the Institute for Chartered Shipbrokers. 51 representatives from 36 government and private sector organizations completed the course in December 2020. This will form part of a toolkit for strengthening best practice approaches for combating IWT at ports</td>
<td>Communication measures established amongst relevant agencies and other industry stakeholders</td>
<td>One publication on <em>Countering Wildlife Trafficking through Sea Ports in Tanzania</em></td>
<td>A total of 6,580 people were reached through communication activities to raise awareness about wildlife trafficking through ports, its negative impacts, and measures to combat this transnational crime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Crime Risk Assessment module applied in five countries</td>
<td>Wildlife Forum with ICCWC held in January 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support for the development of a UN massive open online course (MOOC) on IWT, and the inclusion of a new category in the Asia Environmental Law Enforcement Awards to reflect Africa-Asia cooperation on combating wildlife crime</td>
<td>GWP again supported an Africa-Asia cooperation award in the Asia Environmental Law Enforcement Awards, but due to a lack of submissions an award was not given</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baselines for seizures have been established at Dar es Salaam, Mombasa, and Zanzibar ports based on TRAFFIC’s data</td>
<td>Seaports: two seizures by Mombasa joint port control unit (15 tons on Aloe gum) in 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>No seizures at these ports in 2018 and 2019; three seizures were made in these cities in 2018, which increased to six in 2019</td>
<td>National projects: Tracking of seizures for many projects will be reported through submission of GWP mid-term tracking tools in 2021</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Some GWP national projects are reporting on seizures under the GWP Tracking Tool</td>
<td>Updates will be reported via project midterm reviews</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Indicators and targets:**

2.1 Number of ICCWC-supported initiatives

- **Environmental Crime Risk Assessment module applied in five countries**
- **Wildlife Forum with ICCWC held in January 2020**

2.2 Number of UN-wildlife supported initiatives

- **Support for the development of a UN massive open online course (MOOC) on IWT, and the inclusion of a new category in the Asia Environmental Law Enforcement Awards to reflect Africa-Asia cooperation on combating wildlife crime**
- **GWP again supported an Africa-Asia cooperation award in the Asia Environmental Law Enforcement Awards, but due to a lack of submissions an award was not given**

2.3 Number of seizures

- **Baselines for seizures have been established at Dar es Salaam, Mombasa, and Zanzibar ports based on TRAFFIC’s data**
- **No seizures at these ports in 2018 and 2019; three seizures were made in these cities in 2018, which increased to six in 2019**
- **Some GWP national projects are reporting on seizures under the GWP Tracking Tool**
- **Updates will be reported via project midterm reviews**
- **Seaports: two seizures by Mombasa joint port control unit (15 tons on Aloe gum) in 2020**
- **National projects: Tracking of seizures for many projects will be reported through submission of GWP mid-term tracking tools in 2021**
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge Management and communications (WB)</td>
<td>Outcome 3: Establishment of a knowledge exchange platform to support Program stakeholders</td>
<td>Biannual GWP Meetings conducted</td>
<td>Nine coordination calls per region have been organized</td>
<td>Eight coordination calls were organized: four coordination calls (two each for Asia and Africa) for GEF-6 projects and four onboarding coordination calls (one per region) for GEF-7 projects</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>GWP Annual Meeting held in South Africa</td>
<td>GWP Virtual Annual Conference was held in December</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Virtual sessions organized</td>
<td>10 webinars organized, with average participation of 90 participants</td>
<td>Six webinars were hosted by the GWP, and GWP partnered with other institutions for six additional webinars</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Study tours completed</td>
<td>No study tours were conducted in 2019</td>
<td>Due to COVID-19, no study tours were conducted this year</td>
<td>Conservation Storytelling &amp; Communications workshop for GWP Asia projects, a four-part virtual training series, was conducted from August–September 2020 in lieu of in-person event</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Online KM Repository launched (i.e., Box, Collaboration for Development (C4D)).</td>
<td>GWP will continue to use OneDrive and the website for dissemination</td>
<td>The GWP has redesigned its website to be more thematically focused and make it easier to share GWP resources. It will also continue to use OneDrive</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GWP strategic communications plan developed</td>
<td>Four blogs and feature stories 10 story maps Five GWP videos Three newsletters Three press releases Three GWP publications One interactive e-book on NBT added to GWP e-book that already holds donor data report and analysis GWP has established a bigger presence on social media</td>
<td>Three newsletters Three blogs and feature stories (average 1,200 views) Current Status (Jan 2020–Dec 2020) Three reports One infographic Three videos on Instagram Many social media messages on World Wildlife Day, International Day of Biodiversity, and World Ranger Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Indicator and targets:**

3.1 Establishment of an IWT community of practice

GWP is a CoP in itself with online presence as well as regular in-person meetings GWP maintains two CoPs on HWC and NBT

Ongoing. The Nature-Based Tourism CoP released a report and e-book in 2020 and organized a webinar. It will continue activities to engage NBT practitioners
<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing. The first Global Conference on Human-Wildlife Conflict, scheduled for April 2020, was postponed due to COVID-19. Virtual webinars, trainings, and a global assessment are in the pipeline for 2021.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2 Effective communications of the Program’s activities and impact</td>
<td>Effective communications of the program is ongoing</td>
<td>Ongoing. This year, the GWP website page received ~8,000 views</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
<td>Outcome 4: Improved monitoring of national projects outcomes</td>
<td>Tracking tool (TT) developed by GWP TT adopted by national projects GWP M&amp;E manual developed GWP M&amp;E manual adopted by national projects GWP M&amp;E training sessions conducted Monitoring tools adopted by national projects (i.e., MOMS, Mike workbook, SMART) GWP M&amp;E report published (at baseline and midterm) Monitoring tools used for decision making</td>
<td>19 qualitative reviews (QRs) from national projects were received in 2019 Projects are making progress and a few projects are adopting SMART UNDP projects have started to submit their project implementation reviews (PIRs) to GEF, and World Bank projects are regularly updating their implementation status and results (ISR) reports All other M&amp;E activities are ongoing</td>
<td>17 QRs from national projects were received in 2020 reporting best practices, lessons and knowledge needs against GWP technical areas. 2020 reporting process included monitoring of COVID-19 impacts felt by national projects Several projects have started to undergo their midterm reviews which will be shared with the GWP as part of monitoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicators and targets:</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes. Quantitative (GWP tracking tool) and qualitative reporting (QRs) system in place for national projects</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4.1 Program monitoring system successfully designed, developed, and deployed</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.2 Results framework is used to support effective decision-making and enhance national project quality</td>
<td></td>
<td>The 2019 annual report has been completed, and it incorporates the information from the QRs</td>
<td>The 2020 annual report incorporates information from QRs and other project reporting processes (e.g., GEF PIRs)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## GWP Webinars and Events

### Webinars Hosted by the GWP in 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Title and Link to Webinar Recording</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Number of participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Combating Maritime Trafficking of Wildlife** | • Timothy Wittig, Basel Institute on Governance  
• Tom Milliken, Wildlife Trade Consultant  
• Daniel Sepetu, CMA CGM Transportation & Shipping Company  
• Swaleh Taher Faraj, Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) | February  | 83                     |
| **Southeast Asia – At the Heart of Wildlife Trade** | • Kanitha Krishnasamy, TRAFFIC  
• Monica Zavagli, TRAFFIC  
• Giovanni Broussard, UNODC Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crimes in Southeast Asia | March    | 49                     |
| **Land Restoration in Africa: Practical Perspectives from the Regreening Africa Programme** | • Susan Chomba, World Agroforestry  
• Mathew Reddy, GEF  
• Timothy H. Brown, World Bank  
• Ioannis Vasileiou, World Bank | May      | 318                    |
| **Geospatial-Based Conservation Solutions** | • David Gadsden, ESRI  
• Laly Lichtenfeld, African People & Wildlife  
• Naftali Honig, African Parks  
• Geoff Clinning, African Parks  
• Chipangura Chirara, UNDP  
• Jaime Cavalier, GEF | June     | 142                    |
| **Wildlife Insights: A New Platform to Conserve and Monitor Wildlife in the Tropics** | • Jorge A. Ahumada, Conservation International  
• Tanya Birch, Google Earth  
• Jonathan Palmer, WCS  
• Nagaraja Rao Harshadeep, World Bank | July     | 194                    |
| **Nature-Based Tourism: Tools and Resources for Sustainable Development** | • Anna Spenceley, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group  
• Steve Noakes, Chair, Pacific Asia Tourism  
• Paul Eshoo, Sustainable Tourism Advisor  
• Urvashi Narain, World Bank | July     | 98                     |
### Webinars Co-Hosted or Promoted by the GWP in 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Title and Link to Webinar Video (if available)</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World Bank, Planet Reboot: Illegal Wildlife Trade, Food Safety, and Conservation</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Bank, Planet Reboot: Investing in Green Tourism for COVID-19 Recovery</td>
<td>May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reducing Consumer Demand for Wildlife and COVID-19: Responses from the Field</td>
<td>August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Bank, Planet Reboot: Ecology and Economics for Pandemic Prevention: Making the Case</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAID Wildlife Asia Webinar on Ivory and Tiger Demand Reduction + Indonesia Songbird</td>
<td>October</td>
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<tr>
<td>WWF Fuller Symposium on Nature-Based Solutions</td>
<td>October</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Events and Workshops Hosted by the GWP in 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Forum (full-day workshop)</td>
<td>January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation Storytelling Workshop for Asia (four-part series)</td>
<td>August–September</td>
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<tr>
<td>GWP Virtual Annual Conference (three-day conference)</td>
<td>December</td>
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