

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)
PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZED PROJECT
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: THE GEF TRUST FUND

Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Threatened Savanna Woodland in the Kidepo Critical Landscape in North Eastern Uganda

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Threatened Savanna Woodland in the Kidepo Critical Landscape in North Eastern Uganda		
Country (ies):	Uganda	GEF Project ID:	4456
GEF Agency (ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	4592
Other Executing Partner(s):	National Environment Management Authority (NEMA); Uganda Wildlife Authority	Submission Date:	18 February, 2011
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration:	48 months
Name of parent program (if applicable): For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	Agency Fee:	308,000

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK:

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Indicative Financing from GEF	Indicative Co Financing (\$)
Biodiversity				
BD1: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems	1.1 Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas.	Increased coverage of threatened ecosystems and threatened species New protected areas (number) and coverage (hectares) of unprotected ecosystems	2,772,000	9,360,000
Project management cost			308,000	1,040,000
Total project costs			3,080,000	10,400,000

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: The Biodiversity of the Kidepo Critical Landscape in North Eastern Uganda is protected from existing and emerging threats					
Project Component	TA /IN V	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Indicative Financing from GEF (\$)	Indicative Co-Financing (\$)
1. Strengthening management effectiveness of the Kidepo critical landscape PA cluster	IN V	<p>Increased coverage of PA by 95,600 ha over a baseline of 240,075 ha. and designation of buffer zones to conserve dry season refugia for wildlife (227,389 hectares)</p> <p>Reduced poaching pressures over an area of 428,311 ha comprising seven PAs (<i>national parks, forest reserves, wildlife reserves, wildlife sanctuaries and a community wildlife management area</i>)</p> <p>Management Effectiveness Score for Kidepo critical landscape PA cluster (KVNP), Nyangea-Napere, Morungole, Zulia and Rom</p>	<p>1.1 Gazettement of the 95,600 ha Karenga Community Wildlife Management Area-elevating it to full national park status and bringing it under improved management</p> <p>1.2 Improved management and enforcement system in place for the PA cluster to address existing and emerging threats in a cost effective manner - including surveillance equipment, ranger uniforms, fire management, a platform for intelligence gathering and information sharing among parks; with databases that are updated regularly with current information . [<i>Business plans will set cost co efficient for all prescribed PA functions and rolling operations plans will define site management priorities.</i>]</p> <p>1.3 A sustainable financing plan for the PA cluster providing accurate</p>	1,232,000	3,875,000

		<p>Forest Reserves and Karenga Community Wildlife Reserve); increased over the baseline score by at least 40%. (Baselines and targets will be defined during project preparation)</p> <p>Key indicator species (elephants,) in the Kidepo critical landscape PA cluster show measurable increase in numbers (Baseline to be clarified during project development)</p>	<p>revenue forecasts (from gate fees, concessions, film rights and other permissible uses to private sector investments), is developed approved and implemented, and matches revenue to priority management needs</p> <p>1.4 Staff training programme in place covering all aspects of PA cluster operations ensuring 120 rangers and other field staff meet necessary competencies for planning, administration, conflict resolution, policing and enforcement).</p>		
2. Integrating P, Management the Wider Landscape	IN V	<p>-A working model for integrating management of NPs and wider production landscapes is piloted and adopted in Abim and Otuke Districts in North Eastern Uganda and secures wildlife corridors and dispersal areas covering approximately 227,389 ha (Exact area to be mapped during project preparation)</p> <p>No net loss of natural habitat in the critical landscape and at least 40% reduction in hunting pressures in wildlife corridors and dispersal areas (baseline to be determined during project preparation).</p> <p>-Populations of keystone species (shea tree and elephants), stable until project end.</p> <p>- PA buffer zone under approved management plans incorporating BD considerations</p> <p>-Local governments cooperate effectively to regulate and plan natural resource use over 227,389 ha of the critical landscape</p>	<p>2.1 Sustainable Use in Dry Season Refugia and Critical Ecosystems in place</p> <p><i>-Sustainability threshold established by defining off-take rates for shea tree harvesting and wildlife hunting</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Management plan in place and enforced</i> - <i>Local Governments have the competence and staff skills to monitor and enforce laws on sustainable hunting and sustainable harvest of shea tree in target districts</i> - <i>Measures to improve market access for shea products in place, and employment and income generation among rural women in the pilot area increased through access to markets (baseline to be determined during project)</i> <p>2.2: Infrastructure placement under the PRDP influenced to curtail future threats to biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>A District coordination mechanism in place in the project target area to ensure that biodiversity management in National Parks, and wildlife migration corridors and dispersal areas is factored into decision-making governing land use management.</i> - <i>Management plans and regulations on BD-friendly management in blocks identified as critical for wildlife dispersal developed and applied by local governments</i> -- <i>District ordinances and community bye-laws on the harvest of shea trees and wildlife hunting reinstated or developed.</i> 	1,540,000	5,485,000
Project management cost ¹				308,000	1,040,000
Total project costs				3,080,000	10,400,000

¹ Same as footnote #3

C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE, (\$)

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
Government/Parastatal agency	NEMA	In kind + cash	750,000
Government Parastatal/	Uganda Wildlife Authority	In-kind +cash	400,000
Government contribution	PRDP-ENRP	In-kind +cash	4,425,000
GEF Agency(ies)	UNDP: CPAP	Cash	2,525,000
Bilateral Aid Agency (ies)	USAID WILD	Cash	1,000,000
Private Sector	Guru Nanak Oil Mills	Cash	200,000
Private Sector	Kfp International	In-Kind	150,000
Academia	National Forestry Research Institute	In-Kind	200,000
NGO	The Rhino Fund (Uganda)	Cash/In kind	200,000
Academia	Makerere University Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation	In-Kind	150,000
Others – Districts	Abim and Otuke	Cash	100,000
Others – Districts	Abim and Otuke	In-Kind	300,000
Total Co-financing			10,400,000

D. GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY (IES), FOCAL AREA (S) AND COUNTRY (IES) 1

GEF AGENCY	TYPE OF TRUST FUND	FOCAL AREA	Country name/Global	Project amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) ²	Total c=a+b
UNDP	GEF	Biodiversity	Uganda	3,080,000	308,000	3,388,000
Total GEF Resources				3,080,000	308,000	3,388,000

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

A.1 THE GEF FOCAL AREA STRATEGIES:

1. The project contributes to the realization of the GEF Biodiversity Focal Area, strategic objective one: *Improve sustainability of Protected Area systems*. It seeks to strengthen protected area management within 655,700 ha of savanna woodland in the Kidepo Critical Landscape of North Eastern Uganda, encompassing eight protected areas under a range of management authorities, and reduce threats to biodiversity in the landscape as a whole by putting in place sustainable use management practices for wild resources. This is critical, as wildlife will depend on the wider ecological landscape outside protected areas for long term survival. The project will serve to strengthen the PA system by enhancing management effectiveness in a cluster of PA within this landscape. These PAs have received limited investment over the past 20 years, unlike other PA sites in Uganda, and proportionately suffer from lower management effectiveness compared to other sites. By strengthening their management, and increasing conservation outcomes, the project will serve to increase the overall effectiveness of the national PA system. Moreover, the project will allow Uganda to upgrade the status of the 95,600 ha Karenga Community Wildlife Management Area, by gazetting it as a national park (thereby improving the long term security of this important site). This will contribute to efforts to enhance the bio-geographic representation of NPs across the national PA system.

A.2. NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS OR REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS UNDER RELEVANT CONVENTIONS:

2. The Uganda Government has completed a prioritization exercise to develop a GEF V pipeline. Three multi-agency steering committee meetings were held, to review various project proposals. The committee unanimously agreed that the Kidepo critical landscape in North Eastern Uganda be given priority for GEF 5 funding under the biodiversity focal area because first, it is a storehouse of globally significant biodiversity; second, biodiversity in this area is threatened, and third, after 20 years of civil war, northern Uganda constitutes a key development priority for the Government. A *Peace Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP)* for Northern Uganda has been developed and is now under implementation. However, there are potential threats to biodiversity. Returning and resettling former IDPs could potentially transform the landscape through the construction of new settlements and infrastructure, increasing demand for fuel wood and use of forest land for farming

and other income generating activities. Secondly, as is the case in Southern Sudan, wildlife in this area has been de facto protected over the last 20 years on account of instability, which constrained access. Indeed, unlike other parts of Uganda, this area has wildlife populations inhabiting areas outside formal protected areas. With the ending of the war, there is a high possibility of increased poaching of wildlife and other threats, which will reduce wildlife numbers. There are eight protected areas within the Kidepo Critical landscape, which provide the key vehicle for biodiversity conservation. However, PA management capacities are weak, and the management effectiveness of these sites remains sub optimal. A proper management and enforcement system needs to be put in place. Enhanced security is also needed to bolster the Ugandan Government's efforts to reintroduce rhinos (and other species that have become locally extinct).

B. PROJECT OVERVIEW:

B.1. DESCRIBE THE BASELINE PROJECT AND THE PROBLEM THAT IT SEEKS TO ADDRESS:

1. The Kidepo Critical landscape covers more than 10,700 km² (approximately 6,557 km² of which is in Uganda). The landscape lies in the north-eastern corner of Uganda in the Karamoja region, rising dramatically from 900–1,200 m at the border with Sudan to 2,750 m atop the forested Mount Morungole. (see map in Annex). The landscape includes the 144,745 ha Kidepo Valley National Park (KVNP) with about 86 mammal species including species of global conservation concern such as lion, cheetah, leopard, bat-eared fox, wild dogs, African elephant, Rothschild giraffe, Jackson's hartebeest, and Nile crocodile. 28 of these 86 species are not found in any of the other Ugandan parks. While populations of Savanna wildlife in Uganda as a whole have been reduced by almost 90% since the 1960s, and largely extirpated outside PAs, the Kidepo landscape was spared due to its inaccessibility during 20 years of civil war. Kidepo Valley National Park is an important bird area (IBA) with about 480 recorded species, the second-highest total of any Ugandan protected area (IBA UG007). It is also the only IBA located entirely within the Somali–Masai biome. It also holds 16 species of the Sudan–Guinea Savanna biome, and four of the Guinea–Congo Forests biome. There are also occasional records of three species of global conservation concern such as Pallid Harrier, Lesser Kestrel, Denham's Bustard and the Lappet faced vulture. The landscape falls within the Sudanian regional centre of endemism² (*East Sudanian savanna*), noted by WWF as an eco-region of global importance³, with vegetation types including: dry *Vitellaria Combretum*, *Acacia savannas*, *forest-savanna mosaic* and *open grasslands* with over 1000 endemic species of plants. The Acacia savanna merges in the south into a fire-climax grassland, *tree and shrub-steppe*, and *bushland*, with c.2,000 ha of forest on the higher mountain slopes. Water is very scarce in this area. Kidepo holds surface water only during the wettest seasons therefore; permanent water holes are few and far between. The area is noted for large scale seasonal movements of Elephants, white-eared Kob, Tiang, and Eland, ranging far beyond the boundaries of PAs, through corridors, across community dominated zones, extractive industry concessions, and across international borders.

2. The Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), established in August 1996 by the Uganda Wildlife Statute, is in charge of managing all protected areas in Uganda including 10 National Parks, 12 Wildlife Reserves, 14 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 5 Community Wildlife Areas (which cover about 20% of the country). UWA is also responsible for all wildlife outside PAs. National Parks provide the highest conservation status of all the protected area categories. They are created through an Act of Parliament, and require an act of parliament to be degazetted. National Parks do not permit extractive use, unlike other PA categories and therefore, they provide an important safety net for biodiversity. Wildlife Reserves are managed for conservation of unique and rare species. Some wildlife reserves have been used as pathways for game migration. Wildlife sanctuaries are managed mainly to ensure the maintenance of habitats or to meet the requirements of specific species. Community wildlife management areas are also managed mainly to ensure the maintenance of habitats. The Government of Uganda has made significant investments in most PAs in the country, however eight PAs in the Kidepo landscape, including Kidepo Valley National Park, the third largest in Uganda, have been neglected over the last 20 years. By addressing management deficits in these sites, this project will strengthen the national PA system as a whole.

PAs in the Kidepo Critical Landscape		
PA	Area	Ecoregion
Kidepo Valley National Park	144,475 ha	East Sudanian Savanna/ Northern Acacia-Commiphora bushlands and thickets
Karenga Community Wildlife Management Area	95,600 ha	
Zulia Forest Reserve	102,893 ha	
Rom Forest Reserve	10,904 ha	
Lwala Forest Reserve	5,884 ha	
Morongole Forest Reserve	15,063 ha	
Timu Forest Reserve	11,751 ha	
Nyangea Nyapore Forest Reserve	41,741 ha	

3. Biodiversity is also critical for local livelihoods in the Kidepo critical landscape. The Shea tree (*Vitellaria paradoxa*) collected from the wild, for example, is a primary source of edible fruit, local cooking oil and medicine for most people in this landscape. The Shea butter extracted from the seed kernel is used for local cooking, and as an input in cosmetics

pharmaceutical and confectionery industries. *Vitellaria paradoxa* is listed on the **IUCN Red List of Threatened Species**. The Shea tree also has several biodiversity benefits. It is **fire resistant** and **resilient**, two important elements in maintaining the health of the savanna ecosystem. Shea trees provide the only tree-cover in an area that is covered with sparse vegetation, mostly grassland, and highly susceptible to desertification. Yet the Shea tree is often the only tree that survives, growing through its allotted lifespan, 400 years or more. And it does so naturally without need for irrigation, fertilizer, or pesticides in some of the most challenging inhabited sites on earth. Last but not least, the trees are a natural carbon sinks and therefore contribute to global climate change mitigation.

4. The biodiversity of the Kidepo landscape faces growing threats:

- **Wildlife Poaching:** Enforcement in the Kidepo critical landscape is currently too weak to deal with armed poachers from politically unstable southern Sudan, and poaching is a growing problem. Government's efforts to reintroduce rhinos (and other species that have become locally extinct) have also been hampered by weak security. Game sanctuaries and controlled hunting areas have hitherto provided very limited wildlife and habitat protection. Fire is also a serious problem in the PAs—originating by production activities in the surrounding landscape. There is no fire management system currently in place.
- **Unsustainable use of natural resources:** Returnees with no farms to return to are resorting to charcoal production as a quick source of income. Hardwoods, like the Shea tree, are especially popular because they produce heavy charcoal that burns for a long time and produces strong heat. Regulations to control harvest are not yet in place and the community byelaws that existed before the war have long been disregarded.
- **Infrastructure Placement:** - The Government is in the process of resettling former IDPs. Without biodiversity considerations being integrated into resettlement plans, there is potential for new settlements and infrastructure to be built in ecologically important migratory corridors and routes. The fast expansion of the agricultural activities by the returnees also has potential to convert vast areas of land into a use that is incompatible with biodiversity conservation objectives. There is an urgent need for integrated land-use planning and management at a landscape level, and protected area strategies that address seasonal movements of wildlife in relation to food and water availability and maintaining vital migration routes.

5. Baseline Project: Northern Uganda is now recovering from almost two and half decades of civil war. The Government of Uganda launched in 2007 a US\$ 606 million *Peace Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP)* to address the after effects of the war. The plan provides the overall national framework for ensuring economic recovery in the North and for improving the social welfare of the northern Uganda population within the auspices of the broader National Development Plan (NDP 2010-2015). The PRDP has 14 components: including a \$US45 million *Environment and Natural Resource Programme (ENRP)* aimed at restoring 30% of the degraded community forest and wetland area (an area equivalent to 107,314 ha). Under the ENRP, the PRDP is mobilizing local government and communities to form environment management structures and resource user committees; sensitizing communities on sound environment management and use of natural resources; building and strengthening capacity at all levels for ENR, action planning, mainstreaming and implementation; establishment of community nurseries and woodlots and encouraging farmers to engage in agro-forestry based livelihoods; and promoting energy saving devices (fuel wood/ charcoal). US\$ 4.425 million of the Government's \$45 million PRDP-ENRP is ear-marked for the Kidepo critical landscape and directly relates to the 2 components of the project – so should be considered objectively the baseline project.

6. Implementation of the PRDP and its fourteen components will potentially transform the fragile savanna ecosystem in Northern Uganda. The last twenty years have resulted in recovery of woodland by about 12-23% outside of protected areas, and by 20-39% in protected areas. A large belt of increased woody cover is evident west and north of Kitgum where the rebels were most active.⁴ Returning and resettling former IDPs means there will be new settlements, and infrastructure, increasing demand for fuel wood and use of forest land for farming and other income generating activities. The ENRP is addressing some of these issues and will put in place general environmental impact mitigation measures. However, there is a need to strengthen the management effectiveness of protected areas, expand the PA system, where feasible, and improve management of critical ecosystems outside PAs, in particular dry season refugia and migration corridors (calling for a landscape wide approach). Global biodiversity benefits cannot be sustained in the landscape without taking a landscape approach, as development activities in the landscape will otherwise have adverse externalities on the PAs. Several threats to biodiversity, including wildfires, emanate from production activities occurring in the landscape, further underscoring the need to adopt a landscape –wide approach to biodiversity management.

7. The long term solution proposed by this project is to strengthen the national system of protected areas in Uganda by improving the management effectiveness of protected areas in the Kidepo Critical landscape in the North Eastern part of the country, thus affording biodiversity sufficient protection from emerging and future threats. There are, however, still many barriers that stand in the way of achieving the long-term solution:

Barrier	Elaboration
Strengthening management effectiveness of the Kidepo critical landscape PA cluster	The 20 year civil war and remoteness of Kidepo critical landscape have hitherto made it impossible for UWA to regain control of the park and put in place a proper management plan (including a business plan) UWA already faces an annual funding gap of US\$ 8 million to support the entire

	protected areas system including wildlife outside the PAs. UWA needs support for infrastructure development, operations, tourism development, community conservation, law enforcement, research and monitoring, staff training and development and implementation of management plans in the Kidepo critical landscape. Wildlife tourism is one of the top attractions for Uganda contributing approximately 7.4% to the national GDP. However, the full potential of wildlife tourism in Kidepo critical landscape has not been fully realized. For many years, insecurity in Karamoja region meant that a visit to Kidepo involved fly-in safari. This is quite costly with a return trip by chartered helicopter for a group of four costing US \$3,235. With relative peace returning to the region, driving to Kidepo has once again become a feasible option with 4 routes available by road, and tourists are returning. Security for both the animals and the tourists is very important and needs to be strengthened; A proper management plan (including a financing and business plan) is also vital to promote Kidepo's potential and financial sustainability.
Integrating PA Management in the Wider Landscape	The cluster of PAs within the Landscape is not managed as part of the wider landscape While the Government recognizes the need for this, action was hampered by the war, limited funding and limited capacity of the local Government (districts) to integrate biodiversity management into their work, and lack of scientific and socio-economic data needed to establish tradeoffs between conservation and economic imperatives. Thus investments in agriculture or other land uses are likely to be sanctioned, even where wildlife has significant economic potential. Moreover, the capacity of Districts to regulate unplanned land conversion is weak. Capacity for integrated landscape management is also weak within UWA itself. \There is a need to nest PA management in broader landscape level planning and management, encompassing "buffer zone" Forest Reserves and community wildlife areas as well as production areas used for agriculture. The management system needs to be geared to maintaining vital corridors and wildlife dispersal areas.

B. 2. INCREMENTAL /ADDITIONAL COST REASONING: DESCRIBE THE INCREMENTAL (GEF TRUST FUND) ACTIVITIES REQUESTED FOR GEF FINANCING AND THE ASSOCIATED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED BY THE PROJECT:

The GEF funding will secure critically important biodiversity and deliver global benefits including increased conservation security, reduced threats to an important critical landscape and maintenance of important wildlife corridors. This will be secured through 2 components:

1. Strengthening Management effectiveness of the Kidepo critical landscape PA cluster-
2. Integrating Protected Area Management in the Wider Landscape

Component 1: Strengthening Management effectiveness of the Kidepo critical landscape PA cluster

This component will support efforts of the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) to enhance the management effectiveness of the protected area cluster within the Kidepo critical landscape, by elevating community wildlife areas to full PA status, strengthening enforcement, monitoring and other PA functions. The project will also improve the cost effectiveness of PA management, by developing a cluster management system—thus ensuring that PA functions are coordinated, and where necessary centrally delivered at a lower cost. The PAs will obtain assistance to develop management plans, business plans, and technical support in terms of the assessment of wildlife migration patterns. A Staff training programme will be put in place covering all aspects of PA operations, ensuring rangers and other field staff have necessary competencies for planning, administration, conflict resolution and enforcement). The component will also address persistent and new threats to the Kidepo Critical landscape by supporting the introduction of a state of the art security and enforcement system with a platform for information sharing and intelligence gathering among parks and other institutions; with databases that will be continuously updated. Last but not least, KVNP currently generates only 12% of its park management revenue. Yet there is great potential for more revenue, particularly from tourism owing to the scenic values of the area, significant numbers of wildlife, and critical habitats. With more effective management, and a proper business plan, Kidepo can generate income that can be used to sustain costs of conserving biodiversity in the area. A sustainable finance plan providing accurate revenue forecasts (from gate fees, concessions, film rights and other permissible uses to private sector investments) will be developed approved and implemented matching revenue to priority management needs. Uganda Wildlife Authority will lead this component in cooperation with the USAID WILD programme and District local Governments.

Component 2: Integrating Protected Area Management in the Wider Landscape

This component, to be led by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) will support the integration of protected area management into the wider landscape in order to secure wildlife corridors and dispersal areas. This will also result in reduction in hunting pressures. The land tenure in this area is predominantly "**communal land**" —owned by the community and governed by customary law. The customary laws protect indigenous trees and Village elders enforce the law by forbidding people in their communities from cutting them. During the war, however, most people were violently dislocated from their former communities and sent to internally displaced people's camps. Elders were dispersed, their powers diluted, and the law (and bye-laws) protecting the shea tree were disregarded. One of the ENRP's components is focusing on strengthening land rights for the returnees. The Shea tree is now protected by a Presidential Directive issued in 2006 instructing the local Governments to protect the shea tree due to its economic importance and health benefits for the people of North-Eastern Uganda. Furthermore, A National Environmental Police Unit trained by the UK Environmental Agency is being deployed in the area to improve enforcement and there are procedures in place for prosecution of

environmental crimes. Last but not least, the Elders are slowly returning and will need support to reinstate the byelaws. What is clearly missing and what this project will contribute is a focus on addressing existing and emerging threats to biodiversity. To this end, sustainability thresholds will be established by defining off-take rates for shea tree harvesting; a management plan will be put in place and enforced; capacity of local governments will be built to ensure they have the competence and skills to monitor and enforce laws on sustainable harvests of shea tree; and measures to improve market access for shea products will be put in place. Last but not least, the component will seek to influence infrastructure placement under the PRDP to curtail future threats to biodiversity in corridors and refugia. This will be achieved through putting in place a District coordination mechanism in the project target area to ensure that biodiversity management in National Parks, and wildlife migration corridors and dispersal areas is factored into decision-making governing land use management. Secondly, management plans and regulations geared to ensuring BD-friendly management in land blocks identified as critical for wildlife dispersal will be developed and applied by local governments. A working model for will be piloted in Abim and Otuke Districts. The component will also support sustainable use of buffer zones and critical habitats.

B.3. DESCRIBE THE SOCIOECONOMIC BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED BY THE PROJECT AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS,

The project will engender a paradigm shift from unsustainable to sustainable use of select wild resources, (particularly the shea tree) under threat, to provide conservation compatible livelihoods and a conservation incentive. Shea nut collection and extraction of Shea butter is undertaken primarily by women. During the war, groups of women nut collectors had to live with the possibility of being kidnapped and suffering sexual assault, but they were determined to find a way to look after their families and collecting Shea nut provided one of the few income generating possibilities. Since the end of the war, conditions for Shea nut collection have improved. Two companies *KfP International* and *Guru Nanak Oil Mills* are certified exporters of organic Shea butter with the potential to export between 300-500 tons of Shea butter per year; with earnings projected at about US\$50 million in foreign exchange ⁵ Harvesting of Shea trees is also an important source of employment especially for women and children who do most of the harvesting and processing. Women, therefore, stand to continue to benefit from improved marketability of the shea nut products. Furthermore, tourism will be a potential long-term benefit, if the PAs are effectively managed. Already several tourism companies run tours into the region and there is potential for further growth.

B.4 INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVES FROM BEING ACHIEVED, AND PROPOSE MEASURES THAT ADDRESS THESE RISKS:

	Level	Measures that will be taken
Resurgence of conflict in southern Sudan and lessened internal security	Medium	Deterioration in security for returnees may result in a re-exodus of poachers from Southern Sudan into Uganda. The project will counter this by putting in place a strong security and enforcement system
Agrarian reform accounts for negative impacts on BD in PAs and in ecologically critical areas outside PAs	Medium	Many returnees are facing occupation of their former lands by powerful interests and thus become landless, often looking to clear new lands to which they can lay claim in community-managed areas or protected areas. Project implementation will support land use planning measures and strengthen PA legal provisions (for instance by elevating PA status to afford increased long term conservation security).
Implementation of plans will be affected by institutional intransigence, reducing collaborative efforts between NPs, District Councils and Villages.	Low	The project will work in landscapes where this risk will be muted, and builds on strong Government will to strengthen management of natural resources in Northern Uganda. The project build on existing institutional mechanisms such as district environmental committees, thus reducing the prospects that institutions will not find common ground
Climate change could lead to reduced water availability, alter wildlife migration patterns, and changes in community and private sector demands on biodiversity	Low	This will be mitigated by a focus on landscapes (as opposed to small patches), with sufficient buffer zone protection and long-term adaptation measures.

B.5. IDENTIFY KEY STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT INCLUDING THE PRIVATE SECTOR, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, LOCAL AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES, AS APPLICABLE:

The project will be executed by NEMA on behalf of Government of Uganda. NEMA is the CBD National Focal point and will specifically be responsible for implementation of component 2 of the project. The technical committee on biodiversity conservation with its secretariat in NEMA will provide the necessary technical backup. Activities related to strengthened management of Kidepo Valley NP and strategic planning for the Kidepo critical landscape will be carried out by UWA. District local governments will be involved at all stages of implementation, and existing structures will be used for

consultative planning extending down to village level and for implementation through LECs at parish level. NGOs and CBOs carrying out environmental conservation related activities will be consulted and engaged during the implementation of the project. Local communities will be engaged strategically, in planning and capacity building, and in implementing pilot activities. The project will also strengthen community-based natural resource management systems to enable local authorities/communities to better play their role of conservation and sustainable use of natural resources within their jurisdiction as provided for by the *Decentralisation Act.* , Finally, the project will work closely with the private sector, including shea nut exporters and safari companies. Private Sector and Local Authorities will not play an execution role. However, they will support project activities. For example, *Guru Nanak* and *Kfp International* will support product development and marketing for shea products in the areas adjacent to the critical landscape (Abim and Otuke) where they had not been able to reach due to the war.

B.6. OUTLINE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:

UNDP is implementing several GEF funded projects in Uganda focusing on different themes. The “Conservation of the Albertine Rift” is protecting an important global biodiversity hotspot in south western Uganda, while the COBWEB project is extending coverage of the national protected area system to include wetlands in the Eastern part of the country. This new project brings in a totally new but equally important dimension focusing on conserving the threatened and globally important Kidepo critical landscape in North Eastern Uganda, an area that has been hitherto ravaged by war. UNDP is already working in this same area on yet another GEF funded initiative addressing land degradation in the ‘cattle corridor’, a land degradation hotspot, which stretches from the South-west of Uganda to Karamoja in the North-Eastern Uganda. This project will also build on work started by the GEF Small Grants Programme focused on promoting the protection of on-farm Shea tree species and improving efficiency and quality of production of Shea oil through use of modern technologies; and enhancing the conservation of the Shea tree species by improving the capacity of community members to gather, process and market Shea nuts in Otuke County (one of this project’s target districts)

The project will also partner with the USAID-WILD programme implemented by WCS in the project target area). the WCS/USAID/WILD programme has already undertaken a number of activities aimed at strengthening the conservation and sustainable management of key biodiversity landscapes in northern Uganda. In the Kidepo landscape in particular, WILD has: (a) *completed biological surveys, research (including monitoring of elephant movement patterns in the Kidepo critical landscape) and land cover / land use mapping, which will provide some of the baseline information needed for this project, both in protected area planning and management, and in integrating protected area management into the wider landscape;* (b) *supported UWA in park management planning and business planning in Kidepo NP, as well as providing support for implementation of priority park management activities focussed on strengthening law enforcement, fire management and transboundary collaboration;* (c) *carried out a tourism study and developed promotional materials for Northern Uganda, highlighting Kidepo among other areas;* (d) *supported tree planting and conservation education programmes in the communities neighbouring Kidepo;* (e) *trained local government environment staff (in collaboration with NEMA) in environmental action planning, and supported environmental action planning in pilot sub-counties in ecologically sensitive areas neighbouring Kidepo.* USAID WILD will therefore be a project partner, and they will continue to provide business and management planning support to UWA; Support implementation of management and business plans developed; work with UWA to provide training linked to institution wide capacity building, based on the capacity needs assessment currently being done for Kidepo Valley National Park; continue to support UWA in monitoring wildlife populations; further development of tourism in the Kidepo landscape (e.g. tourism planning, product development); further development of transboundary conservation with South Sudan and work with District officials and UWA in key buffer zones on environmental action planning, building on pilot sub-counties covered by WILD, and supporting implementation of these plans.

Last but not least, USAID through WILD facilitated the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between The Governments of Uganda and Southern Sudan for the creation of “*Conservation Landscapes for Peace*”. The Otzi-Nimule and Kidepo landscapes are two of the five that have been earmarked in the MOU.⁶ Through partnering with WILD, the project will support the on-going transboundary cooperation. The project will also work closely with a UNDP-GEF funded project in Southern Sudan aimed at launching a Protected Area Network and strengthening management effectiveness in Post-conflict Southern Sudan.

The Rhino fund is a partnership with UWA established in 1997 to promote the reintroduction of rhinoceros to their original habitat in protected areas (*including Kidepo Valley National Park*); promote breeding programs to ensure the long term viability of reintroduced rhinoceros populations; to educate district governments and local communities about rhinos and other endangered species; and to generate funds in support of translocation, protection, and management of the reintroduced rhinoceros populations. For this project, the Rhino Fund will provide technical support and co-finance improved security, enforcement and training of the rangers.

C. DESCRIBE THE GEF AGENCY'S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROJECT:

C.1 INDICATE THE CO-FINANCING AMOUNT THE GEF AGENCY IS BRINGING TO THE PROJECT

UNDP has committed an amount of US\$ 2.5 million as co finance for this initiative. The funds will be used to support local governments to mainstream issues of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in their district planning. This supports one of the outputs under component 2, specifically putting in place a District coordination mechanism in the project target area to ensure that biodiversity management in National Parks, and wildlife migration corridors and dispersal areas is factored into decision-making governing land use management.

C.2 HOW DOES THE PROJECT FIT INTO THE GEF AGENCY'S PROGRAM (REFLECTED IN DOCUMENTS SUCH AS UNDAF, CAS, ETC.) AND STAFF CAPACITY IN THE COUNTRY TO FOLLOW UP PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:

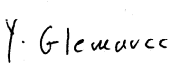
This project is aligned with one of UNDP's signature programs on biodiversity which focuses on unleashing the economic potential of Protected Area so that they are better able to fulfill their management functions, are sustainably financed, and contribute to sustainable development. Currently, UNDP is supporting GEF financed and other initiatives aimed at strengthening PA management effectiveness, and PA financial sustainability in some 1000 PAs globally with a combined area of 130 million hectares. UNDP will ensure that lessons learned from this work are applied in the Kidepo landscape. At the national level, the UN Uganda Country Team has developed a Peace Building and Recovery Assistance Plan (UNPRAP) (2009-2011) to support the Northern Uganda Peace and Recovery Development Plan (PRDP). The UNDP CPAP, nested within the UNPRAP supports post-conflict socio-economic recovery through good governance, access to and use of natural resources. This project directly addresses several CPAP outcomes including: Increased Sustainable Production in Selected Sub Sectors, Particularly Benefiting Women and Youth, National and Local Institutions Capacitated to Develop, Implement and Monitor Pro-Poor and MDG Responsive Policies/Strategies, and: Capacity of Selected Institutions Strengthened for Sustainable Environment and Natural Resources Management as well as Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation. The project activities will benefit from wider efforts of UNDP CPAP that aim to support local governments to mainstream issues of environment and natural resources management, climate change mitigation/adaptation and disaster risk reduction into plans, processes and budgets. The project links to UNDAF Outcome 2: Sustainable livelihoods (this responds to Uganda's National Development Plan development objectives 1: Increasing household incomes, and 6: Harnessing natural resources and the environment for sustainable development). The project will be implemented by the UNDP Uganda Environment team with support from UNDP's regional office.

PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) AND GEF AGENCY (IES)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT (S): (Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this template).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)
Mr. Keith Muhakan	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic development	11/25/2010

B. GEF AGENCY (IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Yannick Glemarec, UNDP/GEF Executive Coordinator		18 February, 2011	Alice Ruhweza	+27718744992	alice.ruhweza@undp.org

ANNEX 1: The Kidepo Critical Landscape

