

# GLOBAL WILDLIFE PROGRAM

**PROJECT: Strengthening institutions, information management and monitoring to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade in South Africa**



Image by Simon Robertson

## OVERVIEW

**Project Sites:** National conservation with specific community conservation in Kruger National Park; KwaZulu Natal

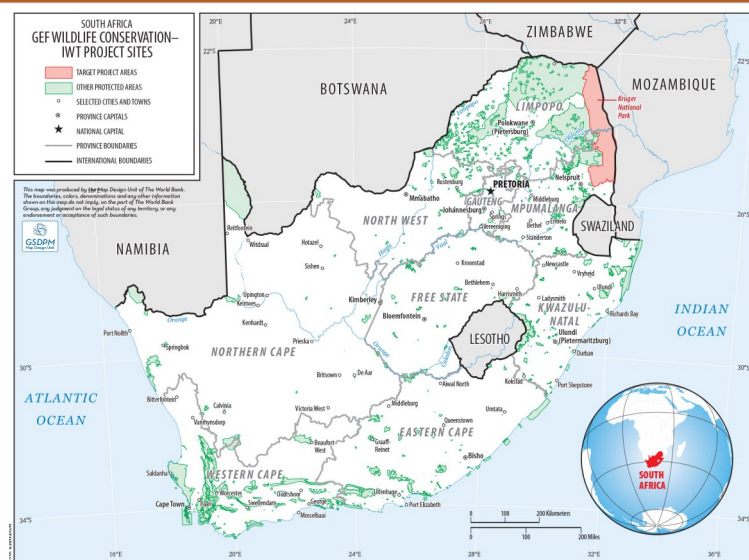
**Species Focus:** Elephants, rhinos, and big cats

**Total Project Cost:** US\$4.9 million

**Executing Partner:** Department of Environmental Affairs of the Ministry of Environment

**GEF Implementing Agency:** UNEP

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## CONTEXT

South Africa is recognized for its species diversity and endemism, as well as its diversity of ecosystems. It comprises 9 unique vegetation landscapes or biomes, 3 of which have been declared global biodiversity hotspots. The country's wildlife (including 82% of Africa's rhinoceros) provides an important ecological resource for the country and is critical for the livelihoods of communities that live with them. Escalating wildlife crime threatens these precious resources, and can lead to insecurity and economic losses from reduced tourism. South Africa is at the epicenter of the poaching crisis, as highlighted by the number of rhinos killed which went from 13 in 2007 to 1175 in 2015.

The South African Government is committed to combatting illegal wildlife trade. South Africa is a major participant in the the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force and associated strategies and actions. It is also a CITES and Livelihoods working group member. Policy related enabling actions for biodiversity conservation and management include the submission of South Africa's second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2015-2025 (NBSAP-2).

## PROJECT COMPONENTS

The GWP South Africa project aims 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 and regional levels. The project components are:

- Strengthening institutional capacity and information systems for effective management of wildlife trade monitoring
- Development of a ready-to-use permitting system for CITES-listed species
- Strengthening community capacity to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade

## PROJECT FOCUS

- Centralized system for wildlife trade monitoring and assessment (establishment and training)
- Establishment of Electronic permitting system for CITES listed species
- Strengthen Environmental Monitors Programme
- Co-develop governance guidelines and project activities with target communities

