

GEF SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY

6TH OPERATIONAL PHASE (OP6)

2015-2018

Republic of the Marshall Islands



OP6 resources (estimated US\$)¹

- a. OP6 Core funds: \$400,000
- b. OP5 remaining balance:
- c. STAR funds:
- d. Other Funds to be mobilized:

¹ The level of SGP OP6 resources is an estimated total of: (i) the GEF6 core grant allocation (to be reviewed annually by CPMT on the basis of performance, co-financing and strategic partnerships, demonstrated NSC commitment rates, and UNOPS delivery); (ii) approved STAR resources; as well as (iii) other sources of third party cost sharing & co-financing (country, regional and/or global levels). Note that countries with remaining OP5 balances that have not been pipelined, will be expected to use these balances in line with the OP6 strategic approach in order to be coherent in terms of SGP programming and results expected.

Background

As a GEF corporate programme, SGP aligns its operational phase strategies to that of the GEF, and provides a series of demonstration projects for further scaling up, replication and mainstreaming. Action at the local level by civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities is deemed a vital component of the GEF 20/20 Strategy (i.e. convening multi-stakeholder alliances to deliver global environmental benefits and contribute to UNDP's Strategic Plan and focus on sustainable development).² At the global level, the SGP OP6 programme goal is to “effectively support the creation of global environmental benefits and the safeguarding of the global environment through community and local solutions that complement and add value to national and global level action.”

1. SGP country programme

1.1. Since inception, the RMI SGP has helped fund community projects ranging from climate change awareness, renewable energy promotion, biodiversity conservation, and land degradation projects which incorporated sustainable fisheries, importance of waste management impacts to marine resources and environmental degradation in the context of health and sanitation. In addition, coastal management activities to reduce the rate of shoreline erosion and degradation have been key to food security and sustainable livelihood.

The GEF - Small Grants Programme was launched in 2006 in the RMI as a sub-regional programme encompassing the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and the Republic of Palau (ROP). The sub-regional program served as a mechanism for communities to further enhance their capacity building to understand *inter alia* the threats of climate change impacts, the importance of biodiversity conservation, renewable energy promotion and sustainable fisheries.

Additionally, in order to build capacities yet maximize learning and results oriented impacts, the NSC follows guidelines review sheets and extensive discussions on each of the proposals submitted. The process proved successful within the first phase resulting in key pilots with communities in *Majuro*, *Likiep*, *Namdrik* and *Mejit*. The key lessons learnt resulting from the implementation of the abovementioned proposals, including the capacity building exercises for the NSC, capacity building consultations with the Marshallese communities, Government and regional counterparts are incorporated in the OP6 strategic approach; this includes a more integrated approach to project design and review.

Since the initiation of the GEF SGP, 18 projects were implemented. Under the OP5 (Operational Phase 5) Stand Alone Programme, the previous National Focal Group (NFG) has been promoted to become the RMI's National Steering Committee (NSC) in line with other country programmes. The main role of the National Steering Committee (NSC) will be strategic orientation of the GEF SGP at the country level as well as review and approval of project proposal. In 2013, the RMI NSC comprises of 7

² The initial SGP OP6 concept was incorporated into the strategic directions for the overall GEF-6 replenishment, and subsequently approved by the GEF Council paper “GEF Small Grants Programme: Implementation Arrangements for GEF-6” (GEF/C.46/13) in May 2014.

members from areas that include academia, government sectors, NGOs and women and youth groups. By 2016, RMI GEF Small Grants Program has a total of 17 projects.



PC: Benedict Yamamura- Aerial view of Majuro (top-urban) and Ebon (bottom-rural) atolls, 2016.

In line with the SGP strategic direction to “think locally act globally”, SGP activities in the RMI focus on priorities to help achieve national and regional commitments. These include, work relating to landscape/seascape projects to help the Marshall Islands and the Micronesia meet the commitments under the Micronesia Challenge which aims to effectively conserve 30% of near-shore marine and 20% of terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020; this is a global priority since the Micronesia region combining the EEZ of RMI, FSM and Palau is approximate to the size of the United States of America. To this end, field guides, including the *Reimaanlok* maps the course of actions to be taken by Marshall Islands, to establish and manage community-based conservation areas.

Additionally, by contributing to the effective conservation of the Micronesia region, these activities will help to achieve the national goal for RMI on climate change to build the resilience of the country to combat climate change. Actions needed to reach this policy goal will be supporting the implementation of priorities including scaling up skills to become an educated and self-reliant society, conserving and protecting marine and limited land resources, respecting culture, and incorporating culture into sustainable development and environmental strategies.

1.2 Situation Analysis

Twenty-nine low-lying coral atolls and five solitary low coral islands rise over 6,000 meters (20,000 feet) from the abyssal plain to no more than a couple of meters above the surface of the equatorial Pacific, comprise the islands known to the Marshallese as ‘*Aelon Kein*’. The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Marshall Islands is over 2 million km² (770,000 sq. miles) and a mere fraction of that – less than 0.01% (183 km² or 70 sq. miles) – islands. A total of 1,225 individual islands and islets make

up the *Ratak* (Sunrise) chain in the east, and the *Ralik* (Sunset) chain in the west. The atolls consist of biotic limestone on a deep basalt core, built up over millions of years by living coral organisms that grew as the basalt core slowly subsided, creating a marine environment extremely rich in productivity, diversity and complexity. The entirety of the Marshall Islands lies in the central western part of the Conservation International Polynesia/Micronesia Hotspot (MICS).

In terms of population, the recent census shows that the population is approximately 52,000 with two-thirds of the residents in the two district centers, Majuro the capital, and Kwajalein, and the other one-third living in the outer islands. The population of the RMI is young with 42.9% of the population under the age of 15. The RMI illustrates some of the highest population densities in the Pacific region.

The economic profile of the RMI is largely dependent on the US economy with the official currency being the US dollar. Since the end of World War II, the RMI has retained close social, economic and political ties with the US. Since 1986, this relationship has been formalized in the form of the two subsequent Compacts of Free Association, outlining US assistance and diplomatic ties to the RMI. As a result of the compacts, the US retains the right to maintain a military missile testing base on Kwajalein, while RMI citizens have access to the US and certain education, health and welfare services. As a result of the compacts of free association, the RMI's national budget and therefore the economy is largely dictated by the scope and content of economic assistance outlined within the compacts. In the past decade, the RMI has significantly increased its access to other sources of assistance from the Republic of China (ROC) to a lesser extent, Japan and loans from the ADB. While the financial assistance is seriously needed to assist RMI meet its development goals as well as cooperate at the international level for example by working towards meeting the MDGs, the RMI still seeks to be able to sustain its own economy.

Similar to most Small Island Developing States, the RMI encounters serious constraints imposed by its small size, geographical distance from major international markets, vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters and limited resources base as the RMI aims toward achieving a self-sustaining economy, including going through the process of reconciling traditional ways with requirements of 'modern democracy' and a market economy.

Pursuing the three pillars of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental - poses many challenges for the Marshall Islands. This document, including other documents such as the National Environmental Management Strategies form the basis of the Marshall Islands' long term sustainable development plans. The priority areas for RMI include:

- Climate Change
- Biodiversity Conservation
- Water Access and Quality
- Fisheries
- Trade
- Tourism
- Education
- Health
- Human Resource Development

- Institutional Strengthening
- Waste Management

Two major cross cutting areas are public awareness and poverty reduction. While there are significant efforts done at the national level, there are also major gaps and difficulties addressing these priority areas due to limited capacities both human and institutional, lack of technical know-how and limited or lack of finances to adequately address these priority areas. In this context, Marshall Islands continues to seek opportunities to form partnerships that will assist in the practical implementation of its sustainable development priorities and plans.

From lessons learnt, it is envisioned that the SGP country programme during OP6 will contribute to achieving environmental management in the context of sustainable development and livelihood. Achievements will be measured through the improvement of livelihoods in communities as well as the empowerment of communities. This will be done through community participation, sustainable fisheries, biodiversity conservation of natural resources, reducing land degradation through climate proofing, and coastal protection and biodiversity conservation through replanting of native trees for medicinal usage and addressing invasive species. These are all embodied in the (i) RMI Vision 2018; (ii) National Strategic Plan for the Marshall Islands; (iii) Climate Change Policy and Action Plan; (iv) Micronesia Challenge; (v) Energy Policy and Plan; and (vi) *Reimaanlok* process.



Solar water Harvesting Unit on Ailuk Atoll - 2016

In summary, the main priorities for SGP OP6 include:

- assisting in implementation of on-going key and relevant policies and plans with a focus on climate change, biodiversity conservation, invasive species, fish poisoning, and land degradation addressing waste management and sustainable land management in the context of sustainable development, and continue with international waters in the context of implementing existing regional commitments including pollution and conservation and invasive species efforts;
- Identify and plan well on including the areas of POPs;
- Income generation in terms of sustainable livelihood should be an important element of positive

- impacts;
- d) Addressing the Micronesia President's Summit by ensuring the contributions of SGP and therefore this time, seeking to add financial and/or contributions from the Governments to help the communities;
 - e) Disaster risk management should be an area well worth exploring more during this phase as climate change impacts are clearly demonstrated, in particular 2014 and 2015 such as the threat of strong almost typhoon like events, high westerly waves, El Nino which results in water shortages;
 - f) Capacity building as a cross cutting issue will be key to achieving objectives;
 - g) Education and awareness are also key areas for achieving thematic priorities;
 - h) Trainings through workshops, seminars which include actual support for hands-on training through collaborative trainings in the areas of engineering, mechanical, electrical, sewer and water systems;
 - i) Research activities to enable work for the aforementioned priorities;
 - j) Innovative ideas and designs, including new innovations aiming to address the above priorities



Traditional Water Collection through Pandanus leaves – PC: Yoshiko Yamaguchi, 2015

1.3. Experiences of past projects serving as a foundation for the effective implementation of SGP initiatives during OP6

While the priorities areas outlined above which need attention are vast, resources are limited. Thus it would be useful for new proposals as well as SGP OP6 consultations to clearly discuss integrated approaches, strengthening partnership efforts to be reflected in the design of proposals. This will entail identifying good practices and results from previous SGP projects.

Past SGP-financed projects in the fields of medicinal research, replanting of vegetation, climate change awareness, and marine conservation projects have all helped improve the lives of the Marshallese people. These include for example: *Namdrik* pearl farming, *Mejit* water security project, *Likiep* marine conservation project, and the *Bikirin* conservation project, are some of the projects which helped established the SGP as an important contribution to the RMI. The RMI branch of the University of the South Pacific (USP) has also worked on medicinal plants research with successful outcomes. Each of

these pilot projects provide useful experiences to assist in the improved design and implementation of the strategic objectives during OP6.

2. SGP country programme niche

2.1. The SGP continues with the approach of thinking locally but acting globally and can make quite a difference in contributing to helping RMI address many of its conventions and national/regional plans and programs. The RMI currently has the following list:

Table 1. List of relevant conventions and national/regional plans or programmes

Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	1992
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	2000
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	1992
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	1 st - 1999
UNFCCC National Communications (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd)	1994
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	1998
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	N/A
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	2003
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	2004
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	N/A
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	N/A
Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	N/A
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	N/A
GEF-6 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	N/A
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies ³	N/A
Minamata Convention on Mercury	N/A
Others (list) as relevant	N/A

2.2 As a small island developing state (SIDS), not only is the RMI dealing with national development and key regional priorities, the RMI has to address international commitments, including treaty instruments the Government is a party to. Thus, given the country environmental priorities as represented in Table 1, RMI needs much help implementing the said conventions.

The SGP is a vehicle providing an opportunity for the communities to help the RMI government with these instruments. The SGP can help to promote the meaningful involvement of communities and civil society organizations in their further development or updates as well as national implementation. Given limited resources, the OP6 focus will be on the climate change COPs. Civil society will

³Please identify existing IW regional projects and the regional SAPs adopted by countries sharing international water bodies so as to align SGP local interventions. Please check this website to find some of the SAPs: <http://iwllearn.net/publications/SAP>

collaborate with the RMI government representatives to help not only represent but be useful and provide research and briefing papers and so on.

Nevertheless, the main opportunities for SGP funds should be focusing on the implementation of existing national plans and policies. There should be more funds focused on sustainable development activities, as appropriate, which in turn result in the socio-economic improvement of the community's lives. It may not be necessary to fund COP representations as a capacity building exercise unless if the aim is particularly on marketing for additional financial assistance for the SGP, or further market the SGP to source additional funds to implement the CPS priority areas, as well as helping the RMI Government address the treaty negotiations. In this case, it may be necessary to have SGP NSC or partners to attend preparatory meetings to help inform the positions of the RMI.



Students at USP learn how to assemble weather-monitoring kit, 2016

2.3. OP6 strategic directions at the national level

As the OP6 strategic direction is defined in this document, focus on the implementation of national plans and policies. To this end, SGP will continue collaboration work with on-going efforts supported by the ADMIRE project which has focused on the outer remote islands of RMI. A strategic approach would be to invest in the urban islands of *Ebeye* and *Majuro*. A mix of proven energy resources, including solars, upgrading of engines, energy efficient appliances and energy conservation can produce a great impact on the reduction of energy use and greenhouse gases. This is the strategic direction of *Ebeye's* KAJUR and Marshalls ENERGY Company.

As briefly discussed there are a number of high priority issues to address but the financing of national priorities is quite limited. GEF Projects such as the ADMIRE, Sustainable Land Management Project, PACC, RMI POPs, have attempted to work in enabling the implementation of priorities, including building the capacity of RMI to improve on education and health.

Thus, a coordinated effort with SGP resources and the larger national projects should be an important item to merge into the OP6 as disconnections may occur. The OP6 activities for the NSC will identify these disconnections and prepare a simple but short strategy to address these. The OP6 strategic approach is inclusive of availing opportunities for the communities with responsibilities to help the RMI as a national in both the development and environmental management of its resources yet maximizing environmental results, which produce and improve the economic status and health of the communities.

During OP6, SGP RMI will continue to strengthen partnerships with the local and international partners these include the existing work with the locals through the new *Ebeye* Water and Sanitation Project which includes targets for the improvement of infrastructures for water, sewer and electricity systems. This allows focus on climate change impacts and to reduce the rate of water-borne diseases. In summary, a closer collaboration with local partners and development partners is essential for SGP resources.



Table 2. SGP contribution to national priorities / GEF-6 corporate results

SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	Briefly describe the SGP Country Programme niche ⁴ relevant to national priorities/other agencies ⁵	Briefly describe the complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
Community landscape/seascape conservation	<i>Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society</i>	Help with the implementation of national plans and key regional commitments including the Micronesia Challenge including through Reimaanlok process, the RMI Climate Change Policy, Energy Policy and Plan, Ebeye Master Plans on Water, Sewer and Electricity	The UNDP CO strategic programming is unavailable at this time of proposal preparation

⁴ “Niche” refers to the role or contribution that the Country Programme is best fitted to perform and for which the other stakeholders agree with

⁵ Describe only for those OP6 strategic initiatives which will be programmed by the SGP country programme.

SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	Briefly describe the SGP Country Programme niche ⁴ relevant to national priorities/other agencies ⁵	Briefly describe the complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology; Community landscape/seascape conservation	<i>Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)</i>	Medicinal and food security initiatives which are connected to climate proofing, disaster risks, replanting, conservation and invasive species activities, land management plans, ideas and activities which contribute to improving health and environmental well being	
Community landscape/seascape conservation	<i>Promotion of collective management of trans-boundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services</i>	Implementation of the Micronesia Challenge through practical local conservation solutions using instruments such as the <i>Reimaanlok</i> , implementation of local ordinances, biodiversity conservation and invasive species work in collaboration with the local communities, sustainable land management efforts to improvement of land management structures which better the health of the people, protect limited land areas as well as climate proofing of key infrastructures which affect the livelihoods and health of communities, build capacity of communities to responsibly address environmental management to improve standard of living	SGP activities have focused on community approaches (bottom up approaches) where activities or projects start small but contribute to achieving national goals. For example, biodiversity conservation and education of environmental issues. Gardening projects which lead to achieving the food security priorities for RMI.
Energy access co-benefits	<i>Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path</i>	Support the implementation of low emission and resilient development paths which are prioritized in the RMI Climate Change Policy and the Energy Policy, including shifting to low and energy star appliances	Community bottom up approaches in learning/training on maintenance of solar or understanding why accessing of energy

SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	Briefly describe the SGP Country Programme niche ⁴ relevant to national priorities/other agencies ⁵	Briefly describe the complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
Local to global chemicals coalitions	<i>Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern</i>	Plan for the collection of batteries which have been around for more than 10 years for shipment out of their locations	
CSO-Government dialogue platforms	<i>Enhance capacity of civil society to contribute to implementation of MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and national and sub-national policy, planning and legal frameworks</i>	Education on the importance of the MEAs, regional commitments, national policies and plans and why these are important. But, focus can be on results and outcomes in the context of upgrading the standard of living through greening opportunities and reducing disaster threats through improved disaster management	
Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)	<i>GEF Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Gender Equality Action Plan and GEF Principles for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples</i>	Incorporate/collaborate with radio stations, more awareness and press, holding of public consultations, including discussions with youths, women, men, churches	Inclusion of youths and women's groups are an important part of the SGP RMI Programme through its OP6 Strategy
Contribution to global knowledge management platforms	<i>Contribute to GEF KM efforts</i>	Become visible and a key partner through helping to achieve regional goals, including Micronesia Challenge reports and meetings, the US Coral Reef consultations, Micronesian President's summits etc and improve	Sharing of community experiences through key national forums and media and contributing to policy making decisions through these exchanges

2 OP6 strategies

2.1. *Cross-cutting OP6 grant-making strategies*

From national level consultations, assessments in Section 1 and scoping exercise results described in Table 2, critical cross-cutting OP6 projects may be supported at the national level. These projects will strategically position the country programme and prepare stakeholders to later implement OP6 initiatives pertaining to capacity development, knowledge management, policy and planning, CSO-government dialogue platforms as well as fellowships for indigenous peoples.⁶

Capability building in technical areas including engineering and mechanical, carpentry and disaster Risk Management focus in designing and/or implementation of climate proof infrastructure is quite critical to the RMI, and would be important areas to invest small resources in through collaborative efforts. It is quite crucial that CSO-led projects are aware and understand the significance of selecting activities which help achieve national priorities in the context of sustainable development and improved livelihood/poverty alleviation. Thus, climate change education is still a phenomenon and therefore a far reality. Additionally, if strategic thinking is involved where communities understand that protecting marine resources or reducing energy consumption can result in improved standard of living and improved socioeconomic outlook for people, then there is a *quid pro quo* relationship here and will make more sense to people why they should focus on global priorities.

Furthermore, community collaborations which help or add value to the implementation of existing priorities to help the RMI successfully reach its goals should be funded. For example, the North Camp on Ebeye Island houses a community of 250 households without any means of toilet infrastructure for the last 20 years. As a result, the nearby lagoon side is an easy option for toilet. The negative effects include environmental degradation and health negative impacts stemming from water borne diseases. Additionally, there is an alarming and serious health problems having to do with fish poisoning in the lagoon as a result of industrial waste particularly from the military base. SGP can occupy a strategic niche in collaborating on independent research.

The people of *Kwajalein* depend on the fishing as a source of foods. However, the people have been notified that it is not safe to fish in the lagoon making it quite difficult to feed the families. Official information on the fish poison issue was first circulated by the US military to the RMIEPA in late 2015. Some progress for discussions on studies is making headway. However, this is quite a slow process since the community has waited for so long for some kind of rehabilitation work to take place.

2.2 *Landscape/seascape-based OP6 grant-making strategies*⁷

NSC discussions, public consultations, community discussions with relevant stakeholders as well as research and review of national documents are part of the process. Nevertheless, the RMI is a SIDS and considers the nation as a whole meets landscape/seascape considerations.

⁶ In OP6 cross-cutting projects outside of specific landscape/seascape areas of focus may utilize up to 30% of the SGP OP6 grant allocations (Core and STAR) once the criteria for prioritization and selection of such projects are agreed upon, as described in the “Call for Proposals for OP6 Country Programme Strategy Development Process”.

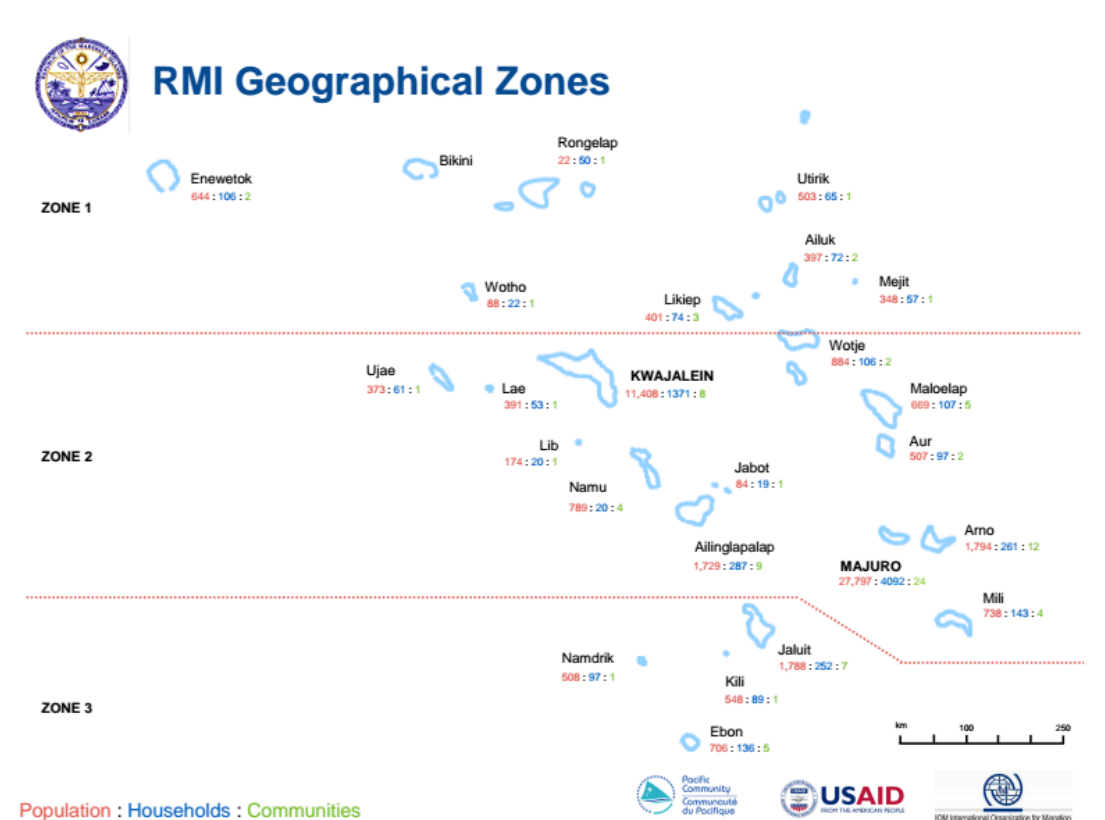
⁷ Refer to the various guidance documents on landscape/seascape selection and assessments.

The general approach for execution of the strategy development process was based on the information available and collection of the, lesson learned and best-practices exercises, actively involvement of the civil society and policy makers through participatory focuses groups approach, direct meetings and interviews with the relevant stakeholders.

Consultations and scoping exercise stakeholders (Ministries, academia, NSC, donors and other) was performed in order to identify potential landscapes. The conclusion was that Marshall Islands has declared a state of national emergency twice within the last 4 years as northern atolls suffer from prolong drought. As the northern atolls were targeted as most vulnerable in addition to the two most populated atolls, they should be considered as vulnerable landscape for grant-making projects.

In addition, a comprehensive process of assessment of the current national situation was performed in order to identify the results and achievements of the SGP country programmer so far and identify what are priorities for support in OP6. This aligned with the ongoing UNDP GEF Ridge to Reef (R2R) project as well as the national stakeholders meeting to linking SDGs to National Strategic Plan. The Country programme strategy development and finalization was done with regular communication and close work with the GEF SGP team and NSC.

Based on the relevant conventions, national plans/programmes and multi-stakeholder consultations, has strategically prioritized main thematic focuses, which will be frame for grant-making in OP6 and projects design with locally based activities to be implemented.



SGP OP6 component 1: community landscape conservation

Whilst the whole of the Republic of the Marshall Islands may be considered as a single landscape/seascape for OP6 grant-making, the benefits of a multi-focal approach are also anticipated. In this manner, two main thematic focuses will be prioritized as the landscape approach projects in order to gain higher benefits and greater portfolio impact from strategically planning and provision of support in line with the local needs.

A core thematic focus in the landscape approach for OP6 will concentrate on projects in high value conservation areas – either in existing areas that hold a high conservation value, or will lead to the declaration new protected and conserved areas, including indigenous peoples and community conserved territories and areas (ICCAs). The RMI projects will be expected to ensure a multifocal and multi-dimensional approach in order to conserve, protect and promote the existing biological and natural values in the landscape. The OP6 approach is expected to support at least (i) one project in existing protected/conserved areas, (ii) one project that will lead to the declaration of new high value landscape or seascape; and (iii) efforts towards the conservation and preservation of endangered and threatened species within their habitats.

SGP OP6 component 2: climate-smart innovative agro-ecology

In this strategic initiative 3 (three) thematic focuses are prioritized. Agro-biodiversity conservation should contribute towards collection, protection and multiplication of autochthonic varieties/breeds and promoting conservation of traditional products and production practices in rural areas. The climate-smart agro-ecology systems will stimulate projects and actions, which will lead towards promotion of adaptation measures for increasing the resilience and adaptation of agriculture to climate change, promote innovative agro-ecological measures for protection of ecosystem and environmental friendly agricultural production.⁸

SGP OP6 component 3: low carbon energy access co-benefits

Energy saving, efficiency and renewable sources as a set of measures and innovative solutions to ensure affordable access to different forms of energy, save energy and reduce CO₂ emission, through models that appreciate environmental and ecological aspects.

3.3. *Grant-maker+ strategies*

3.3.1. *CSO-Government Dialogue Platform*

It is envisioned that the process for CSO- government dialogue platforms will be through collaborative national consultations, key thematic meetings, public engagements and hearings, presentations and exchanges both customarily and officially; these will be carried out including through invitations and press releases, key individual and community consultations vis-a-vis relationship building.

⁸ Sustainable management and reducing/or mitigating the agricultural sources that pollute the water, soil and air, organic farming and low carbon emission practices in agriculture production.

3.2.2. Policy influence

NSC members would take the opportunities they have as key partners to inform policy making dialogues at the national and regional levels in terms of experiences and lessons learnt such as public policy forums, updates of key reports. SGP RMI will work with women forums/groups to ensure the program can influence policy and financial year end discussions at the national levels by demonstrating project achievements and results, including improvements to health and environmental management, poverty reduction, climate proofing of infrastructure activities, fish poisoning issues in the largest lagoon in the world. Youth groups dialogues, including community and churches, school educational awareness and fun learning workshops with children and parents.

SGP RMI also plans on making movies/videos for educational and motivational purposes on water and environmental management, energy conservation and work in collaboration with existing partners on solar maintenance training. SGP can influence policy and contribute to ensuring food policy regarding eating more of local foods which would also be supported by SGP (i.e. replanting of local food and medicinal trees).

3.2.3. Promoting social inclusion

Promoting women's empowerment and gender equality, promoting community conservation champions are key for OP6 success stories. SGP RMI will link up with existing forums and consultations including the up-and-coming discussions at the national and local levels on improving health and hygiene activities with women and children, youths, men, teachers, churches which are to take place from July 2016 as a way to reduce the water borne diseases. SGP will also link up with the RMI's work on renewable energy solar programs in terms of surveys, public awareness, training of communities, SGP can link up with fish poisoning research which is currently a critical matter concerning waste impacts from the military base on the island of *Kwajalein*.

SGP RMI will also collaborate on work for improving land degradation or coastal management due to climate events such as typhoons, strong waves, and droughts which took place in the RMI particularly since 2015 July effects of which have caused increased health and hygiene problems, increased poverty, displacements, loss of natural food and biodiversity such as breadfruits, pandanus, bananas and lime as well as medicinal plants.

SGP should also focus on supporting collaborative efforts on population policy dialogues both formally and informally for the RMI. Population is an issue not quite discussed openly in terms of the rate of growth with data confirming about 60% of population younger than 30 years old.

3.2.4. Knowledge management plan

As part of capturing information on projects' implementation process, each project is required to provide reports through which they will have the means to capture and share progress of their projects and best practices. Moreover, documenting of good practices and sharing of lessons learned from SGP projects is and will continue to be done through established networks such as the Micronesians in Island Conservation, the RMI Protected Area Network, and other such national and regional peer-to-peer learning initiatives. Other information can be disseminated through various outreach from the

program office, such as brochures, flyers, annual reports, press releases, and so forth.

Finally, where feasible, the provision of digital and video cameras, and other such means to grantees will be conducted to enable them to document progress, best practices and lessons learned and share them. Leveraged financial resources will be sought to achieve this aim.

3.2.5. *Communications Strategy*

Engaging and communicating with the community stakeholders and partners is important to achieving the objectives of the SGP. A communications strategy has been developed within the NSC, entailing key partners, target groups and some costs. Formal and informal consultations at the national and local levels, small group meetings with women and clubs, youth functions, church opportunities, school demonstration activities and partnerships with principles, on-going local partnerships, ensure SGP strategically supports existing and on-going priorities such as poverty reduction, energy efficient future, climate proofing infrastructure activities, linkages and collaborate on work regarding fish poisoning. Communications through innovative activities and ideas, particularly dealing with improving livelihoods and education for kids and women, will also be prioritized.

4 Expected results framework

The indicators and targets identified in the CPS will contribute to the global portfolio level indicators of SGP OP6⁹ as identified in the OP6 CEO Endorsement document's results framework, while including others that are specific to the national or landscape/seascape context (that may be identified through a detailed baseline assessment process).¹⁰

⁹ For more information refer to the SGP OP6 CEO Endorsement Document, Annex A "Project Results Framework".

¹⁰ Specific indicators and targets relevant to grant-making in selected landscape/seascape areas of focus should be identified through the baseline assessment process, which will identify typologies of community projects in the landscape or seascape relevant to country priorities and the selected SGP OP6 strategic outcomes.

Table 3. Consistency with SGP OP6 global programme components

OP6 project components	CPS targets	Activities	Indicators	Means of verification
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 1:</u> <i>Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation:</i></p> <p>1.1 SGP country programmes improve conservation and sustainable use, and management of important terrestrial and coastal/marine ecosystems through implementation of community based landscape/seascape approaches in approximately 50 countries</p>	<p><i>Outline of proposed landscape and seascape areas of focus at the country level</i></p> <p><i>Improvement of the Ebeye Causeway, Majuro rehabilitation land degradation activities to rebuild and climate proof coastal areas, outer islands replanting and land management priorities.</i></p> <p><i>Drought relief and climate proofing of water infrastructure and rain catchment training</i></p> <p><i>Number and typology¹¹ of landscapes/seascapes: 1 to 3 target areas for approx. 70% of OP6 grant-making resources</i></p> <p><i>RMI, as a whole is both landscape/seascape as SIDS.</i></p>	<p><i>Approx. # and typology of projects¹²</i></p> <p><i>RMI to focus OP6 core at 70% for GEF areas including climate change, biodiversity, land degradation and pops with 30% going into areas non-core but directly linked to focal areas e.g. poverty reduction,</i></p> <p><i>Micronesia Challenge which aims to conserve 30% of nearshore resources and 20% of agroforestry resources</i></p>	<p><i>Target # of hectares</i></p> <p><i>Landscape/seascape baseline assessment indicators (TBD)</i></p> <p><i>See Annex 1 and 2</i></p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Baseline assessment comparison variables (use of conceptual models and partner data as appropriate)</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p>

¹¹ Typology here means the kind of landscape (mountain, low-lying plain, valley, riverine, etc.) and seascape (wetland/mangrove, river basins, bays, seagrass to corals, etc.). There will also be a combination of a landscape with a seascape (i.e. from upper watersheds to coastal mangrove, seagrass and coral ecosystems) which is actually preferred as it covers the continuum of related ecosystems and communities. For the other initiatives, typology means the practice/technology utilized such as solar, mini-hydro, wind, biogas, clean efficient stoves, etc. for energy access and co-benefits and organic farming. Silvi-pasture, agroforestry, etc. for climate smart innovative agroecology.

¹² The estimated number of OP6 projects should distinguish between the utilization of OP6 core grants (which can apply across GEF focal areas) and non-core GEF STAR resources (which need to be directly linked to the relevant GEF focal areas). In accordance with the GEF Steering Committee decision (March 2010), up to 20% of non-core GEF resources mobilized may be used for secondary focal areas.

OP6 project components	CPS targets	Activities	Indicators	Means of verification
	<p><i>Thus, low lying atoll and corals are affected and should be combined.</i></p> <p><i>List of IW SAPs supported in river/lake basin management and coastal and ocean management (e.g. in the areas of habitat management, fisheries and land-based pollution)</i></p>			
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 2:</u> <i>Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology:</i></p> <p>2.1 Agro-ecology practices incorporating measures to reduce CO2 emissions and enhancing resilience to climate change tried and tested in protected area buffer zones and forest corridors and disseminated widely in at least 30 priority countries</p>	<p><i>Outline of proposed agro-ecology practices, climate resilience, including integration into priority production landscapes and seascapes</i></p>	<p><i>Approx. # projects</i></p> <p>5 projects expected</p>	<p><i>Target # of hectares</i></p> <p><i>Landscape/seascape baseline assessment indicators (TBD)</i></p> <p><i>See Annex 1 and 2</i></p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes (SEPLs)</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p>

OP6 project components	CPS targets	Activities	Indicators	Means of verification
<p>SGP OP6 Component 3: <i>Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits:</i></p> <p>3.1 Low carbon community energy access solutions successfully deployed in 50 countries with alignment and integration of these approaches within larger frameworks such as SE4ALL initiated in at least 12 countries</p>	<p><i>At least one innovative typology of locally adapted solutions demonstrated and documented</i></p> <p><i>At least (insert appropriate country target number) households achieving energy access</i></p> <p><i>Co-benefits such as resilience, ecosystem effects, income, health and others rigorously estimated¹³</i></p>	<p><i>Approx. # of projects</i></p> <p>5 projects expected</p>	<p><i>Number of typologies of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations for scaling up and replication</i></p> <p><i>Number of households achieving energy access with locally adapted community solutions, with co-benefits estimated and valued¹⁴</i></p>	<p>AMR, country reports</p> <p>AMR, global database, country reports</p> <p>Special country studies¹⁵</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p>
<p>SGP OP6 Component 4: <i>Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions:</i></p> <p>4.1 Innovative community-based tools and approaches demonstrated, deployed and transferred, with support from newly organized or existing</p>	<p><i>Outline of innovative tools and approaches to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>pesticide management</i> <i>solid waste management (plastics, e-waste, medical waste and so on),</i> <i>heavy metals management, and</i> 	<p><i>Approx. # projects</i></p> <p>4 projects expected</p>	<p><i>Target # beneficiaries (gender, youth, indigenous peoples, and disability disaggregated)</i></p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Strategic partnership with IPEN country partners</p> <p>Annual Monitoring</p>

¹³Only applies to lead countries in this strategic initiative

¹⁴Only applies to lead countries in this strategic initiative

¹⁵Only applies to lead countries in this strategic initiative

OP6 project components	CPS targets	Activities	Indicators	Means of verification
coalitions in at least 20 countries for managing harmful chemicals and waste in a sound manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>local to global chemical management coalitions</i> 			Report (AMR) Country Programme Strategy Review
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 5:</u> <i>CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms (Grant-makers+):</i></p> <p>5.1 SGP supports establishment of “CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms”, leveraging existing and potential partnerships, in at least 50 countries</p>	<i>Outline of CPS focus for “CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms” as part of expanded OP6 Grant-makers+ role</i>	<p><i>Global level OP6 priority</i></p> <p><i>Cross-cutting priority for the CPS at the national level</i></p>	<p><i>Target # “CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms* initiated</i></p> <p><i>* CPS to specify thematic and/or geographic focus for platforms</i></p> <p><i>CSO networks strengthened if one of 25 lead countries</i></p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>SGP Global Database</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 6:</u> <i>Promoting Social Inclusion (Grant-makers+):</i></p> <p>6.1 Gender mainstreaming considerations applied by all SGP country programmes; Gender training utilized by SGP staff, grantees, NSC members, partners</p> <p>6.2 IP Fellowship programme awards at least 12 fellowships</p>	<i>Outline of CPS approach to social inclusion, including assumptions with regards to national content for supporting vulnerable and marginalized populations</i>	<p><i>Global level OP6 priority</i></p> <p><i>Cross-cutting priority for the CPS at the national level</i></p> <p><i>Community projects which contribute to achieving national goals including improved education standards, biodiversity</i></p>	<p><i>Target # beneficiaries (gender, youth, indigenous peoples, and disability disaggregated)</i></p> <p><i>Target # indigenous fellows (individuals)</i></p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>SGP Global Database</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>

OP6 project components	CPS targets	Activities	Indicators	Means of verification
<p>to build capacity of IPs; implementation of projects by IPs is supported in relevant countries</p> <p>6.3 Involvement of youth and disabled is further supported in SGP projects and guidelines and best practices are widely shared with countries</p>		<p><i>conservation, invasive species management, pollution, climate proofing, sustainable land management</i></p> <p><i>Should contribute to improving livelihoods, health, and environmental management as well as poverty alleviation</i></p>		
<p>SGP OP6 Component 7: <i>Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge program (Grant-makers+):</i></p> <p>7.1 Digital library of community innovations is established and provides access to information to communities in at least 50 countries</p> <p>7.2 South-South Community Innovation Exchange Platform promotes south-south exchanges on global environmental issues in at least 20 countries</p>	<p><i>Connections between CPS and global priorities for the digital library and SSC Innovation Exchange Platform</i></p> <p><i>(i.e. examples of tested technologies, comparative advantage and experience of SGP country programme)</i></p>	<p><i>Global level OP6 priority</i></p> <p><i>SGP country teams (NC and PA) global database inputs</i></p>	<p><i>Target # of country innovations to be shared and disseminated at the global level*</i></p> <p><i>* Examples may be drawn from OP6 period, as well as earlier SGP Operational Phases (including Upgrading country programmes)</i></p>	<p>SGP Global Database</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>

5 Monitoring & Evaluation plan

5.1. The M&E Plan at the country programme level¹⁶ is based on the indicators and targets set in Table 3 of the CPS. An M&E Plan will be guided by a matrix based on table 3 above and approved by the NSC; progress should indicate project funding level of use, categories or focal areas, meeting of objectives, challenges, achievement of targets.



Addressing M&E with the communities

Monitoring and evaluation is an essential component of the RMI SGP. In order to both maintain effective oversight and build capacity, conventional and participatory approaches will be applied at all levels of various projects. This framework will provide the basis for the assessment of impacts and constraints of the GEF-SGP projects on a regular basis. It will address the changes the programme has brought at the level of programme activities (community level) and impact at the national level.

The systematic identification of effects of the intervention on the environment and community members involved in the project is very important. This by and large is necessary in order to clarify whether the costs for a project are justified, estimate the achievement of key outputs and expected results of the program, enable the project leaders at different levels to draw lessons for improving the design, as well as be a key element for any replication and/or sharing of results. Emphasis will continue to be given to participation of all relevant stakeholders including government staff members as an integral aspect of monitoring and evaluation.

The programme implementation should be properly monitored at all levels by taking the following important points into account:

- Establishment of baseline data at project level (as relevant);
- Detailed project level M&E plan with simplified activity indicators;
- Physical and financial performance of projects against their set targets;
- Reasons for outstanding success or failure in performance;

¹⁶ For more information please refer to the SGP OP6 CEO Endorsement Document's M&E Plan (Section C).

- Problems encountered, their sources, actions taken and recommendations on future actions to be taken;
- Level and type of community participation;
- Lessons learnt/identification of promising or viable approaches to environmental issues that can be scaled up or replicated;
- Allocating resources for M&E activities at the project level during the project design phase.

The general components of monitoring for the project implementation include:

- Field visits by NC/NSC: Each project will ideally be visited and monitored four times during the project period. Initial visit will be made before and during project start-up. The second visit will be made following the reporting on the first tranche transfer, and the remaining third and fourth visits will also follow in the same manner.
- Activity reports by project proponents;
- Evaluation of work by project proponents, NC and NSC members and/or other partners;
- Project mid-term, annual and biannual reviews.

All concerned government and relevant stakeholders should collaborate in monitoring and evaluating project performance and provide feedback to the programme office. SGP RMI will be accountable to follow up on the different reports expected from project proponents. To facilitate this, the following reports are expected from grantee NGOs and CBOs:

Project level reporting

- Progress and financial reports as per agreed timelines, reflecting work accomplished, challenges faced, results achieved, short and long term benefits in the preceding quarter and outline of the plan for the next quarter;
- Final Project Report

Programme / country-level reporting

- Progress report at the country level; the NSC, NC and other relevant stakeholders would assess the SGPs progress and impact;
- Annual report, assessment of the Country Programme performance;
- In all periodic project progress reports the following points shall be given due focus:
- Project results and achievements,
- Amount of funds disbursed to grantees;
- Identification of viable new approaches;
- Linkages established with partners at different levels;
- Co-financing availed, etc.

On the completion of each operational phase, an assessment on the overall projects' implementation/performance will be carried out with the objective of finding "good practices and innovations", draw lessons and provide options for future environment-related development interventions at the national and regional levels, identifying areas where improvement may be necessary to enhance impact.

5.2 Participation of local stakeholders, community members and/or indigenous peoples' in setting project objectives and outputs will be important; local stakeholders can participate in monitoring can discuss methods and periodicity; and how progress will be documented and reported.

Local stakeholders including local government are part and parcel of the project planned through their full support and involvement. This will be done through the provision of technical assistance, co-financing (in-cash and/or in-kind), community meetings and workshops, and the like.

Involvement of the local stakeholders will be from planning phase through implementation phase, through a multi-stakeholder process. Progress will be documented in each agreed timeline of the projects through monitoring reports by the local stakeholders. Results of SGP individual projects will be aggregated at the country programme portfolio level. The following table provides the key country programme level M&E tools and templates.

Table 4. M&E Plan at the Country Programme Level

M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible parties	Budget source	Timing
Country Programme Strategy elaboration	Framework for identification of community projects	NC, NSC, country stakeholders, grantee	Covered under preparatory grant	At start of operational phase
Annual Country Programme Strategy Review	Learning; adaptive management	NC, NSC, CPMT	Covered under country programme operating costs	Reviews will be conducted on annual basis ¹⁷ to ensure CPS is on track in achieving its outcomes and targets, and to take decisions on any revisions or adaptive management needs
NSC Meetings for ongoing review of project results and analysis	Assess effectiveness of projects, portfolios, approaches; learning; adaptive management	NC, NSC, UNDP	Covered under country programme operating costs	Minimum twice per year, one dedicated to M&E and adaptive management at end of grant year
Annual Country Report (ACR) ¹⁸	Enable efficient reporting to NSC	NC presenting to NSC	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per year in June
Annual	Enable efficient	NC	Covered under	Once per year in

¹⁷The CPS is a living document, and should be reviewed and updated as deemed necessary by the NSC on a periodic basis as part of the annual strategy review.

¹⁸The country programme should be reviewed in consultation with the NSC members, national Rio Convention focal points, and the associated reporting requirements. The Annual Country Report should be presented at a dedicated NSC meeting in June each year to review progress and results and take decisions on key adaptive measures and targets for the following year.

M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible parties	Budget source	Timing
Monitoring Report (AMR) ¹⁹ Survey (based on ACR)	reporting to CPMT and GEF; presentation of results to donor	submission to CPMT	country programme operating costs	July
Strategic Country Portfolio Review	Learning; adaptive management for strategic development of Country Programme	NSC	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per operational phase

6 Resource mobilization plan and risk management plans

6.1. SGP RMI interventions will catalyze the mobilization of local resources that further strengthen the ownership of interventions and contribute to sustainability of achieved results. These resources may come from individuals, formal or non-formal community associations, NGOs, government, and other partners.

In light of enhancing sustainability of the country programme, SGP RMI plans to leverage funding from different sources that help address sustainable development concerns to achieve greater impact. The country programme will make an effort to mobilize resources during OP5 from bilateral and multilateral donors, international foundations, local and international NGOs, government, communities and the private sector.

A combination of methods and approaches will be applied. These include:

- ✓ Establishing direct formal and informal communications with bilateral and multilateral donors, NGOs (e.g. MCT) and other potential sources for additional support;
- ✓ Creating and disseminating promotional materials (brochures, leaflets, booklets, newsletters, posters, videos etc.);
- ✓ Acting as a mediator between communities and potential sources for resources.

In the process of soliciting co-financing from donors, it is a standard practice to allocate a certain percentage of the co-financing obtained for SGP's management and non-grant technical costs (including a percentage of the cost of staff salaries, field monitoring, premises, equipment and transportation). Hence, the country programme will negotiate for a reasonable amount to cover its management costs.

7 Risk Management Plan

¹⁹The AMR Survey will essentially draw upon information presented by the country in the Annual Country Report (ACR) with few additional questions. It will enable aggregation of country inputs by CPMT for global reporting.

7.1 Key risks that are anticipated in the implementation of the CPS during OP6, with reference to the following aspects: (i) social and environmental risks (as reflected in UNDP's Social and Environmental Safeguards);²⁰ (ii) climate risks; (iii) other possible risks. Risks and possible mitigation are provided in Table 5 below.

Table 5. Description of risks identified in OP6

Describe identified risk	Degree of risk (low, medium, high)	Probability of risk (low, medium, high)	Risk mitigation measure foreseen
Slowness of usage of funds due to delays of project design/submissions from communities due to limited project designers	Medium	Medium	NSC to open opportunities for under used talented local project designers and collaborate more with existing project and grant-writers
Delays in implementation of project activities due to delays in receipt of funds	Medium	Medium	SGP Office to work closer with counterparts dealing with funds to ensure funding delays are reduced by at least 25%.
Confusion and negative view of SGP due to delays in receipt of funds	Medium	Medium	same as #2 above. Also, SGP Office and NSC members to informally through phone calls, radio and/or formally update proponents
Extreme events such as typhoons, strong storms, high waves, droughts, fires	low	Low	NSC to collaborate close with Disaster Committee and encourage community partners in regards preparations

7.2 In order to improve on the short-comings arising out of risks outlined in Table 5 above, a simple tracking system will be implemented by the SGP NC to help track projects and targets. Risks can be identified as well from this process and mitigation measures will be auctioned in a more coordinated manner.

²⁰<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Social-and-Environmental-Policies-and-Procedures/UNDPs-Social-and-Environmental-Standards-ENGLISH.pdf>

8. National Steering Committee Endorsement

Note: The signature of endorsement at this point is for the complete and final CPS duly reviewed by the NSC and agreed as the guide to the implementation of OP6 by the SGP Country Programme.

NSC members involved in OP6 CPS development, review and endorsement	Signatures