

SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY FOR OP6

COUNTRY: I.R IRAN

OP6 resources (estimated US\$)¹

- a. Core funds: \$400,000
- b. OP5 remaining balance: 0
- c. STAR funds: \$1,560,000
- d. Other Funds to be mobilized: \$500,000

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."

With one of the world's largest oil and gas reserves, Iran is the second largest economy in the Middle East and North Africa (GDP=412,2 billion US\$ in 2016) and has the second largest population of the region (79.9 million people in 2016). The country has been recognized as "High Human Development" (HDI=0.774 in 2015) ranking 68 out of 188 countries and territories globally. In fact, Iran has great potentials for development, including a young population (49.1% of the population is less than 30 years old) and a rich natural and cultural heritage.

The total land area is 1,640,000 square km surrounded by three large water bodies, Caspian Sea in the north, Persian Gulf and Oman Sea in the south. Despite a general perception of Iran as a desert country, over half of it is mountainous, with an average altitude of 1200m and highest mountain peak (Damavand) in the Alborz Mountain Range and over 50 peaks of above 4000 m in the Central Zagros Mountain. Therefore the topography of the land is varied, and along with climatic variations, Iran's natural environment has become indeed very **diverse**. This diversity over millennia has given rise to a mosaic of ethnicities with their unique cultures which has been well adapted to the natural environment.

Environmental protection in Iran officially started in 1970s, with the establishment of the Department of Environment and registration of a number of areas as protected under DoE jurisdiction (200, incl. 12 Biosphere Reserves and 24 Ramsar Sites). Iran is signatory to many international conventions (Table 1).

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.

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.

However, with a globally changing climate, West Asia is one of the most vulnerable regions (IPCC, 2014). Global records show that surface temperatures have already increased by at least one degree in the past 35 years. According to national reports (INDC, 2015), some of the reasons for Iran's vulnerability to Climate Change are due to its geographical location which means receiving 1/3 of the global average precipitation and experiencing 3 times more evaporation than the global average, 3 times more per capita deserts than the global average, 1/3 of global average per capita forests, desert hot spots of 7.5 million hectares. According to IPCC (2014), main impacts of Climate Change in West Asia will be on "temperature", "precipitation" and "water supply". According to INDC (2015), some of the most likely impacts of Climate Change in Iran will be an increase in temperature, decrease in the amount of renewable water, reduction of surface runoffs, increasing trend of drying wetlands, increase in dust and storm hotspots, an increase in air pollution, higher frequency of extreme climatic events such as floods and droughts, forest fires, higher rates soil erosion, increased flood occurrences, extreme vulnerability of biodiversity and natural resources, possible outbreaks of pests and diseases.

Aside from Climate Change, Iran is changing rapidly, and has recorded one of the highest urban growth rates since 1950s (urban population at 74% now). In fact, rapid urbanization may cause further environmental challenges (air pollution, waste disposal, high energy consumption, CO₂ emissions, urban poverty, growing demands for housing, transport, water supply, health, education) and put additional pressure on natural resources, especially water resources which are already limited and highly vulnerable. Therefore, wise usage of water resources has become a priority within the government and the public. According to the National Strategy Plan on Climate Change (2017), raising public awareness especially in schools and universities on Climate Change impacts, mitigation and adaptation measures are a key component. Also usage of renewable energies and promoting energy efficiency in urban and rural areas, integrated natural resource management, promoting alternative participatory projects on conservation and restoration of natural resources, IPM and emphasis on local know-how may be some of the strategies that are also in line with past activities of GEF SGP in Iran, which needs to be pursued in OP6.

In this context, it seems that GEF SGP Iran will continue to play an important role in the development process in Iran by sharing lessons learned from the past 15 years of experience, and scaling up its pilot projects through thematic and geographical clusters that have already been formed. Strengthening partnerships, as well as facilitating networking between grantees will be key components to ensure successful and meaningful contribution of the programme in helping the global environment, namely with respect to Climate Change mitigation and adaptation agenda as well as biodiversity conservation, alleviation of land degradation and integrated water resources management at landscapes/seascapes levels. Finally, GEF SGP Iran during OP6 will try document its methodology and share with other partners to promote Participatory Action Research in implementing development projects.

1. SGP country programme - summary background (1 page)

1.1. In the above context, please describe briefly:

- (a) The most important national results and accomplishments achieved by the country programme from previous phases and up to OP5:

GEF SGP in Iran was launched in 2001 to support community-based initiatives for environmental conservation and add value to national and global level action. To identify the SGP niche for OP6, it is important to review the evolution of GEF SGP Iran with the past 15 years of implementation:

- According to the first CPS (GEF OP2), SGP in Iran worked on individual projects. Some of these projects had significant impacts for the global environment such as preservation of biodiversity of international importance (eg. endangered Siberian cranes, Asiatic Cheetahs, Hawksbill turtles, Houbara bustard, ...). These projects were mainly distributed in three

- bio-regions namely “Caspian”, “Zagros” and “Persian Gulf”
- In GEF OP3, the NSC adopted the global SGP strategic framework by putting emphasis on geographic and thematic clusters to enhance synergy between individual projects (CPS amendments). At first 70% and then almost all SGP funds were allocated for targeted projects and clustering in these regions for better networking among projects, sharing lessons learned and initiating the up-scaling process.
 - During GEF OP4, the main focus of the programme was to compile its lessons learned in thematic (eg. IPM, Ecotourism,...) and geographic clusters (Zagros, Qeshm, Caspian,...) and to share it with other relevant parties. In addition, five objectives including biodiversity conservation, sustainability, resource mobilization, capacity building and knowledge management were set to extract programme outcomes and strategies for building effective linkage with other GEF projects and build capacities in SGP projects.
 - The main component of the GEF OP5 was on economic sustainability and resource mobilization, while continuing ecological conservation, capacity building and knowledge management. Thematic clusters were expanded to: Participatory wildlife conservation, community-based eco-tourism, eco-agriculture/IPM, wetland and water, marine and coastline, renewable energies and energy efficiency, and CCAs. Therefore, the clustering and up-scaling process that started in OP4, was continued more strongly in OP5 with a large number of knowledge materials produced and presented at public or expert level events.

Overall, it seems that progress made in GEF SGP Iran was not only in the number of projects implemented but in the quality of the work that was conducted. In fact, this has been a key programme to support and help in mainstreaming participatory conservation in Iran and helped bringing the concept to the heart of the development agenda (6th National Dev. Plan). Part of its success has been due to its multi-sectoral and decentralized approach (Figure 1) which is indeed very different from the conventional linear approach in project planning, implementation and evaluation. GEF SGP’s approach is demand-driven (based on community and NGO needs and aspirations), sustainable (as it including ecological, socio-cultural and economic aspects) and bottom-up. It also sees capacity building, awareness raising, and training as important components of development projects. One of the main goals of projects during OP6 will be to build linkages with various stakeholders to transfer lessons learned through communities themselves. Therefore, Participatory Action Research is a key concept which has been helping the programme move forward (Khatounabadi, pers. comm.).

Our collective experience has demonstrated that change comes community by community, it does not come through a top-down approach. When development takes shape from the grass roots, it is sustainable, and when the communities are empowered to be part of the solution, then innovative solutions arise. Participatory assessments, planning and implementation is what GEF SGP and the grantees in Iran have been doing. This is the story of a period of history of people taking care of their environment, although there were many hindrances and many sensitivities which we had to collectively bear and overcome. (NC, pers. comm.)

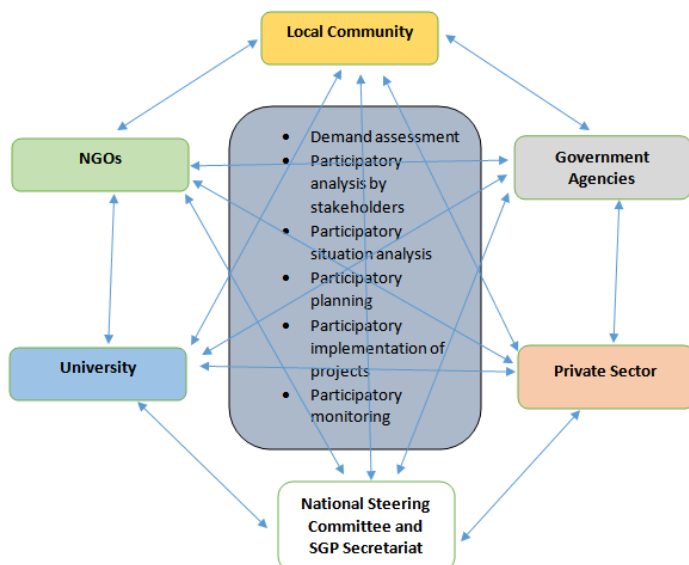


Figure 1. Model of development at GEF SGP (Farahani Rad, pers. comm.)

(b) Any link of these accomplishments to helping achieve global environmental benefits. Please mention aggregated results in each focal area, international awards, up scaling achieved, replication and mainstreaming of demonstration projects and key lessons learnt by the SGP country programme:

To date, GEF SGP Iran has co-funded over 240 projects by allocating a total grant amount of US\$ 5,459,760. Most of the resources allocated have been in the focal areas of Biodiversity conservation (43.98%), Climate Change mitigation (36.57%) and Land degradation (15.28%). A limited number of projects were also implemented in the area of International Waters and POPs. However, 60% of projects may be considered as “Multi-focal” which covers two to three different focal areas.

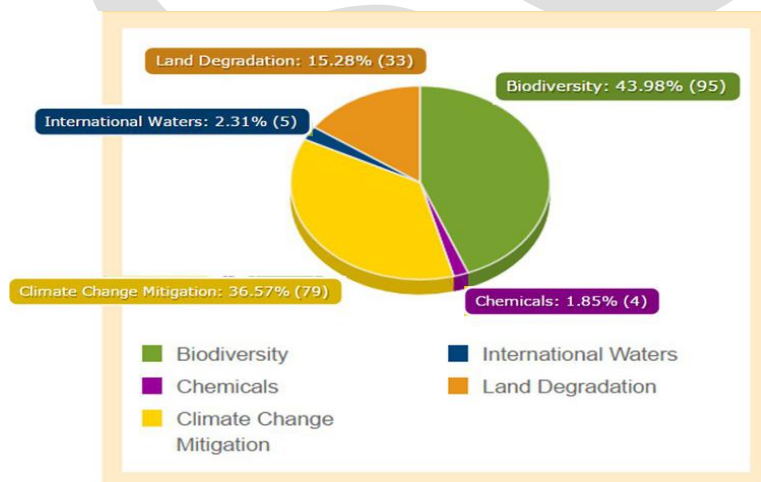


Figure 2. GEF SGP Country programme portfolio

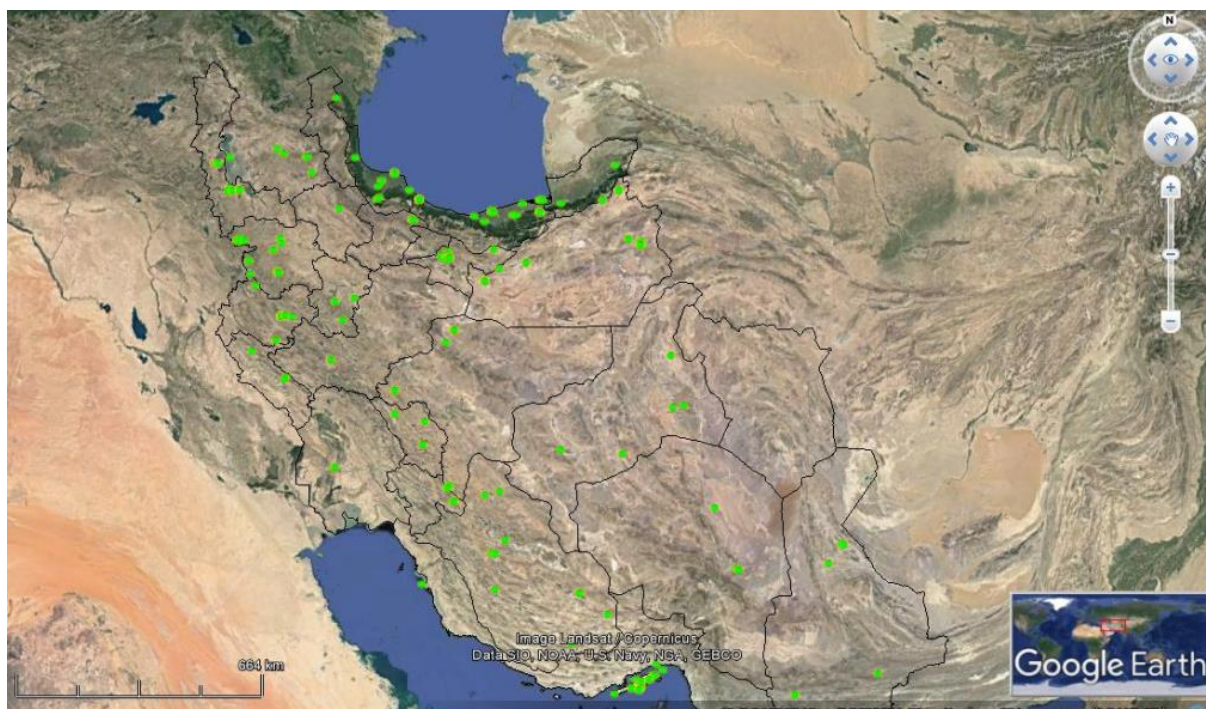


Figure 3. Geographical sites of projects

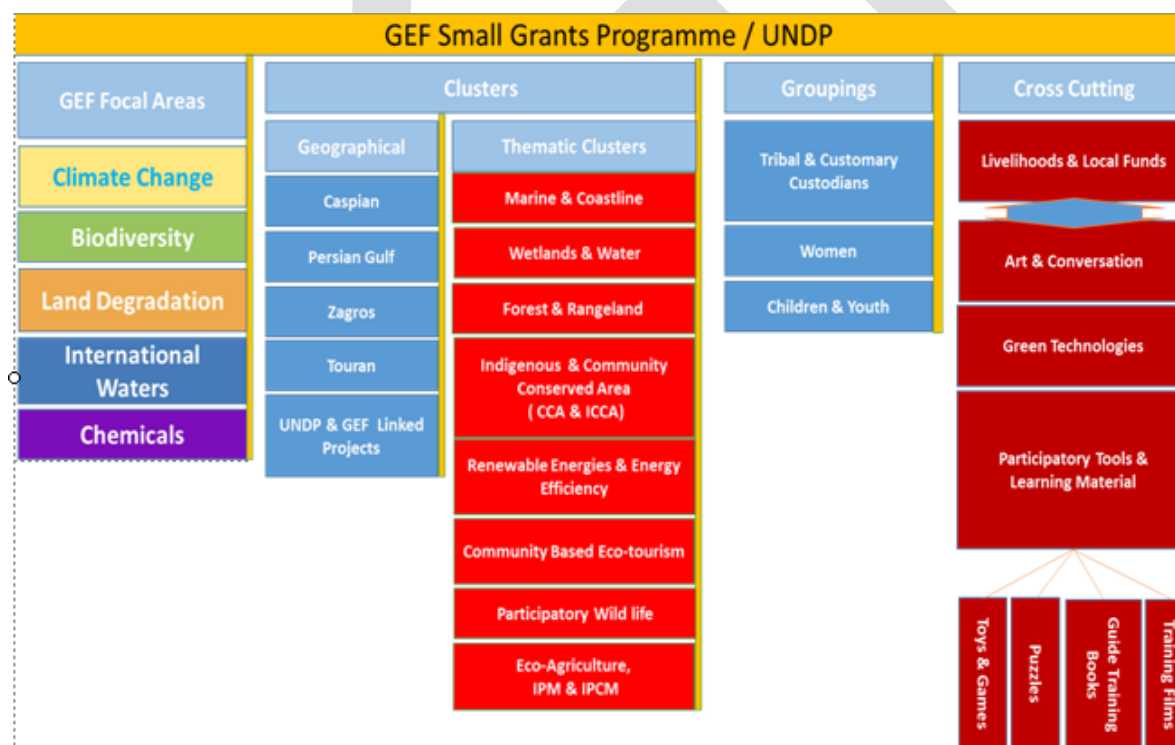


Figure 4. Thematic and geographical clusters of projects

Also a comparative analysis of projects across geographic clusters shows that a large number of projects have been implemented in the Zagros region and a comparison of thematic clusters reflects that a larger number of projects were focused on participatory wildlife conservation.

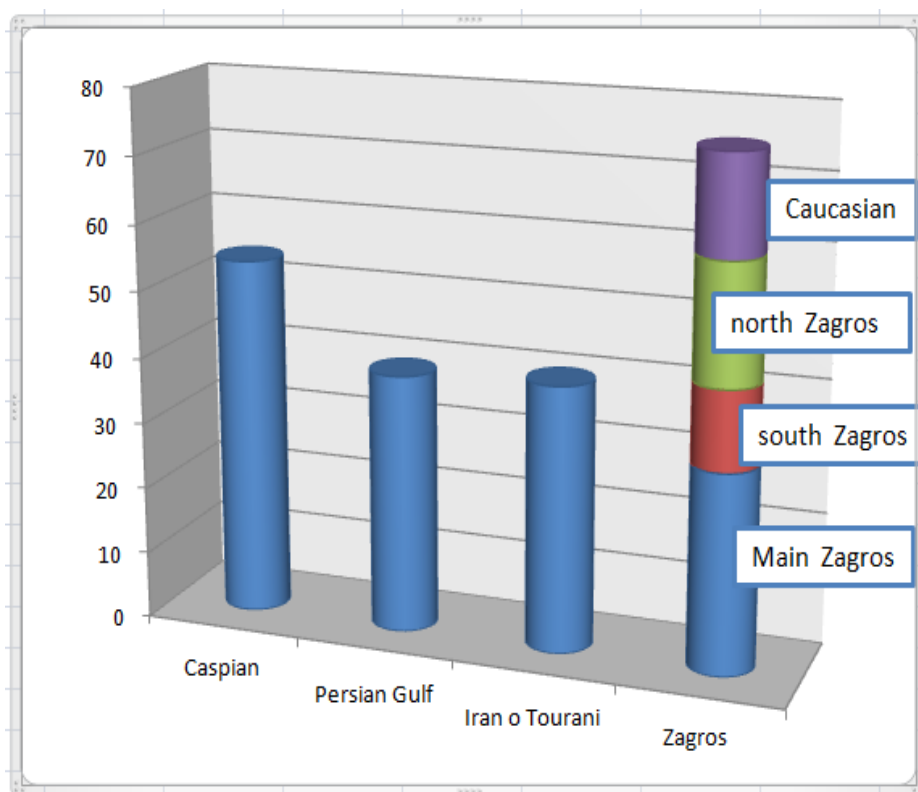


Figure 5. Number of projects in each geographical cluster

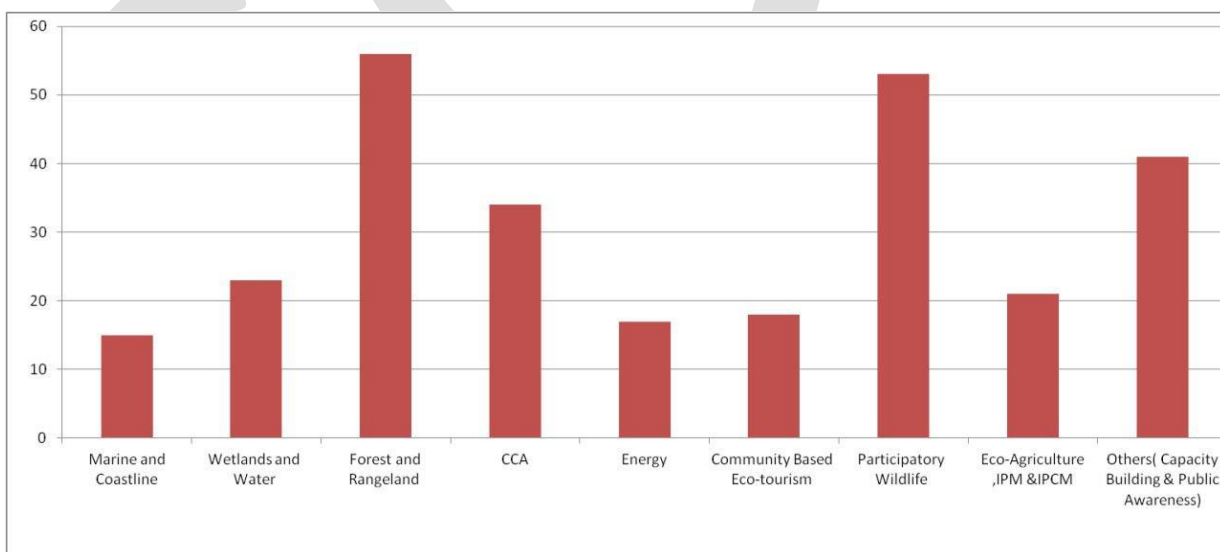


Figure 6. Number of projects in each thematic cluster

Annex IV reflects the number of awards that have been received by GEF SGP projects in Iran including national and international awards for grassroots participatory work or related documentarie

s or other knowledge products and innovations. Most of these awards applications have been filled in dependently by the grantees themselves, however some of the award applications (mainly at international level) have been facilitated by the GEF SGP office in Tehran. Of particular importance is the selection of over 10 GEF SGP projects out of total of 30 Best Practices that were selected last year by the Public Participation Bureau of DoE for “Best Practices” award. In OP6, GEF SGP will continue with helping grantees directly or indirectly in further application for awards at national and international levels.

1.2 Please present an overall situation analysis for the SGP country programme in OP6, including: major partnerships, and existing sources of co-financing (including from government, international donors, and other sources):

Considering the country context that was described previously, and resources allocated to projects to date, one may note that GEF SGP in Iran has been effectively supporting community-based projects in GEF focal areas, namely Climate Change, Biodiversity Conservation and Land Degradation. In OP6 Climate Change will be a priority especially with regards to need for mitigation and adaptation through community-based solutions. On the other hand, projects in the area of Climate Change are inter-linked with land degradation and biodiversity conservation. Therefore, these focal areas may work hand in hand to support community-based initiatives for local, national and global environmental benefits. Both at national and international levels, Climate Change mitigation and adaptation measures are among environmental priorities, which will provide an opportunity for the programme for linkage and partnership.

An analysis of project distribution in various Iranian landscapes and seascapes shows that most of the GEF SGP grants to date have supported the Zagros landscape, which is a globally important mountain range (refer to GEF/UNDP-DoE Conservation of Biodiversity in Zagros Mountains project). In fact, GEF SGP will try to elaborate on the results of the previous GEF initiatives in the Zagros mountains and promote networking and up-scaling in OP6, and tap on resources by governmental organizations which will be allocated to Zagros region (eg. IPM, clean energy, community-based ecotourism,...).

Also during OP6, GEF SGP Iran will be focusing more on seascapes. Iran benefits from a coastline of more than 3000km, while the southern shores are much less developed and more rural. As GEF SGP worked with CBOs and NGOs in a concentrated way in Qeshm island (which is the largest island in the Persian Gulf and a biodiversity hotspot according to IUCN experts), during OP6, the programme aims to share its lessons learned and best practices on Qeshm Island with communities settled nearby southern coastal areas. This will require working collaboratively with QFA, other free economic zones as well as government and international partners such as JICA and UNESCO.

Another important aspect of the programme during OP6 will focus on CCAs. Iran is one of the countries which have been selected for the GSI fund which will be implemented through GEF SGP at UNDP with funding from the German Ministry of Environment. Referring to the OP4 project document indicators under Outcome 1, the country programme during the reporting period (July 08 – Dec 09) has made major achievements towards recognition and strengthening CCAs. Progress has been made particularly on two fronts: A) global and B) national: A) Globally, collaboration between SGP Iran and CPMT in defining a project to promote CCA work to influence international policies in cooperation with IUCN/CEESP and TILCEPA and other partners has been critical; B) Nationally, positive steps were taken by including Iran in the global initiatives and additionally funding new projects on CCAs including with nomadic pastoralists.

Collecting local know-how and preparing knowledge materials will be part of the daily activities of GEF SGP and its grantees in OP6. During OP6, these knowledge materials will be packaged and made available

ble through web-based technologies. Also packages will be prepared for children and youth, especially with focus on Climate Change, impacts, mitigation and adaptation.

1.3. Please indicate how the experience and resources (e.g. major partnerships and the sources of co-financing as in 1.2 above, supportive networks, model projects that can be visited) of past projects can serve as a foundation for the effective implementation of SGP initiatives in OP6:

In OP6, GEF SGP Iran will continue to work in partnership with NGO/CBO/CSOs as well as government, academia and private sectors partnerships to ensure co-funding opportunities from both traditional and non-traditional sources. Projects funded by SGP Iran are expected to ensure 1:1 co-funding ratio (50% in cash and 50% in-kind). However, once adequate level of financial resources is mobilized at the country programme level, cash co-financing component can be reduced or not applied for projects of great significance or value in poor and vulnerable communities.

Additional resource mobilization activities will be carried out through the following directions:

- Assessment of interests and priorities of international donor and development agencies and identification of opportunities for partnership and co-financing;
- Attraction of private sector in SGP projects co-financing, also as a part of corporate social responsibility;
- Linking SGP projects with UN agencies and GEF-funded larger projects;
- Exploring opportunities for complementarity and cost sharing with state-funded projects and initiatives at local level, provincial and national levels (eg. ICZM).

2. SGP country programme niche (3 pages)

2.1. Alignment with national priorities. Please list the dates of the country ratification of the relevant Rio Conventions and relevant national planning frameworks:

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)	May 1996 1 st National Report(December 2000) 2 nd National Report(May 2001) 3 rd National Report(May 2006) 4 th National Report(October 2010) 5 th National Report(April 2015)
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	February 2001 1 st NBSAP (2006) 2 nd NBSAP (2016)
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	June 1996
UNFCCC National Communications (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd)	1 st (March 2003) 2 nd (December 2010) 3 rd (under preparation)
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	(under preparation)
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	(under preparation)
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	1996
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	2004

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	February 2006
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	July 2008
Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	2008
GEF-6 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies ³	Tehran Convention (2003) Kuwait Convention (1979)
Minamata Convention on Mercury	Signature (October 2013)
Iran has also adopted: Paris Climate Agreement (COP 21)	Signature (22 Apr 2016)

2.2. Given the country environmental priorities as represented in Table 1 above, what are the opportunities (*relate this also to assessments of accomplishments in section 1 above*) to promote the meaningful involvement of communities and civil society organizations in their further development or updates as well as national implementation? Which of these priorities need immediate preparation and capacity building for (i.e. climate COP 21 will be by December 2015, SDGs will be adopted in September 2015 and countries will then develop national implementation plans, etc.) so that opportunities for community and CSO involvement in them are fully exploited?

As mentioned earlier, environmental conservation is a public duty by law in Iran (Article 50 of the Constitution). In addition, public participation has been mentioned in key documents such as: the 6th National Development Plan, emphasis has been put on public participation namely in participatory wetland management, training of local facilitators, involving local communities in conservation of PAs, promoting community-based livelihood and local funds, restoration of natural resources with local communities, as well as building social capital.

2.3. As part of the OP6 strategic directions at the national level, please describe below (with a short summary in Table 2) the potential for complementary and synergy of your selected OP6 strategic initiatives with:

- Government funded projects and programmes (put summary or bullet points in column 3 of Table 2 below):

One of the strongest legal backups for participatory work in environmental field is Article 50 of the Constitution which states that “In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the protection of environment, in which the present and future generations must lead an ever-improving social life, is a public duty. Therefore, all activities, economic or otherwise, which necessitate pollution or irreversible damage to the environment, are forbidden.”

In addition, Vision 1404 (2025) as it relates to the environment, states that “The Iranian society benefits from health, welfare, food security, social security, equal opportunities, balanced income distribution, strong family ties, far from poverty, corruption, discrimination, enjoying a favorable living environment.”

During OP6, Iran will be implementing its Sixth National Development Plan (2017-2021) which has Water and Environment as its priority, including development of Arvand and Mokran coasts, restoration

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

tion of old buildings in cities and rural areas, mining and related industries, agriculture, tourism, transport (train), new technologies and energies, improvement in work environment, employment, virtual space, empowerment of the poor (specially women who are head of household), justice in payments and equal rights, social security and retirement plans, reducing social harms, implementation of education system, and sustaining the Islamic-Iranian lifestyle.

- UNDP CO/UN System projects and programmes to implement the CPD, UNDAF, Strategic Plan etc.(put summary or bullet points in column 4 of Table 2 below):

1. Environment 1.1 Integrated natural resource management 1.2 Low carbon economy and climate change 2. Health 2.1 Universal Health Coverage 2.2 Prevention and control of Non-Communicable Diseases 2.3 Prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and other Communicable Diseases 2.4 Promoting health throughout the course of life	3. Resilient Economy 3.1 Inclusive growth, poverty eradication and social welfare 3.2 Food security, sustainable agriculture and improved nutrition 3.3 Sustainable urbanization 3.4 Natural disease management 3.5 Sustainable employment 3.6 Population and development 3.7 Sustainable tourism and cultural heritage 4. Drug Control 4.1 Drug abuse prevention and treatment 4.2 Drug supply reduction
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UN areas of work in Iran extracted from UNDAF (2017-2021)

- GEF funded projects in the countries, i.e. National Portfolio Formulation Exercises (NPFs), ongoing and planned FSPs, MSPs, and Integrated Approach Pilots (IAPs) as relevant(put summary or bullet points in column 3 of Table 2 below):

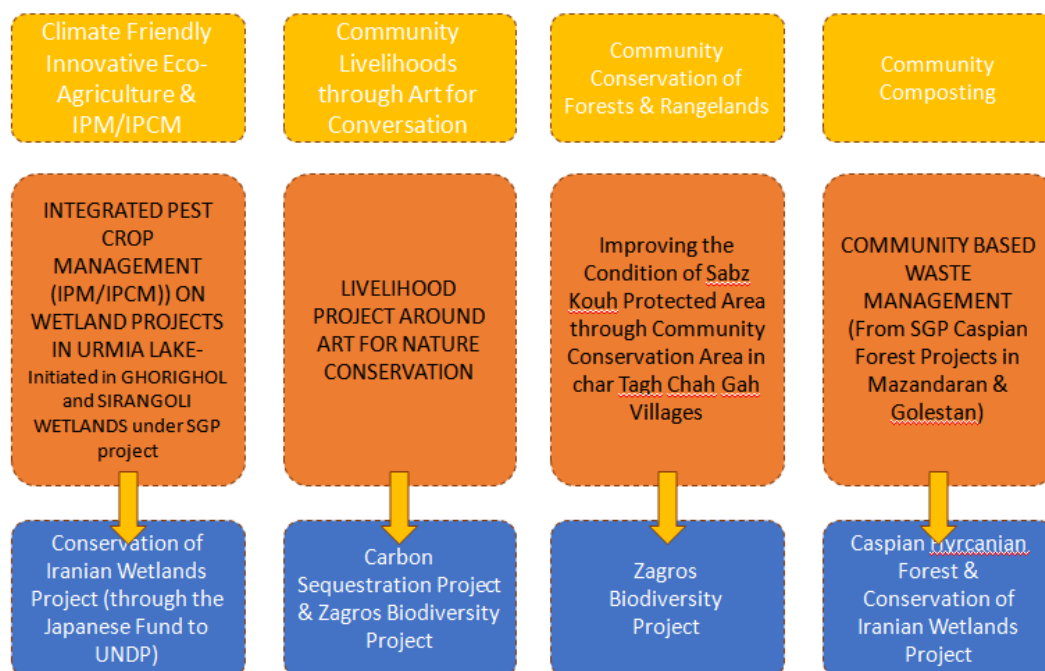


Figure 7. Linkages between GEF SGP and other GEF projects in Iran

In addition, GEF SGP partnered with MENARID project in Iran to transfer some of its lessons learned through its grantees and participatory workshops in MENARID project areas. Just recently, a new GEF project started in Iran on “Policy Reforms and Market Transformation of the Energy Efficient Buildings Sector of the I.R. Iran” in which the Energy Cluster of GEF SGP will also transfer its lessons learned through same mechanisms as above.

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

1 SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	2 GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	3 Briefly describe the SGP Country Programme niche ⁴ relevant to national priorities/other agencies ⁵	4 Briefly describe the complementation between the SGP Country Programme and UNDP CO strategic programming (UNDAF, 2017-2021)
Community landscape/seascape conservation	<i>Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society</i>	Participatory approach to conservation and management at landscapes/seascapes levels Development of community-based ecotourism	Integrated natural resource management (1.1) Sustainable tourism and cultural heritage (3.7)
Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology; Community landscape/seascape conservation	<i>Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)</i>	Promote IPCM and Evolutionary Plant Breeding to preserve genetic diversity, reduce water usage and promote food security in rural areas Promote marketing and certification for rural products through existing networks of grantees Promote community-based sustainable waste management especially in rural areas (eg. vermi-compost)	Food security, sustainable agriculture and improved nutrition (3.2)
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>	Build resilience against CC impacts (eg. sea-level rise and rising temperatures) by engaging local communities in restoration work and adaptation measures Collect local community knowledge with respect to CC mitigation and adaptation in trans boundary water systems	Natural disaster management (3.4)

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.

Energy access co-benefits	<i>Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path</i>	Promote sustainable transport especially in larger cities by engaging the public Promote renewable energies and energy efficiency using local know-how	Low carbon economy and climate change (1.2) Sustainable urbanization (3.3)
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>	Participatory pollution monitoring Engage NGO/CBO/CSO in waste recycling and management	Prevention and control of Non-Communicable Diseases (2.2) Promoting health throughout the course of life (2.4)
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>	Organize site visits to project areas Hold participatory workshops and enhanced role of NGO/CBO in decision making processes	All areas related to Environment, Health and Economy (1 to 3)
Social inclusion (women, youth, indigenous peoples)	<i>GEF Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Gender Equality Action Plan and GEF Principles for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples</i>	Support women in conservation and sustainable use of natural resources (esp. water resources) Publish materials for children and youth for raising awareness on environmental issues (especially water resources and Climate Change) Promote CCAs in Iran and help them document their knowledge and register as ICH when possible Development of green jobs and additional/alternative livelihood options with NGO/CBO participation	Inclusive growth, poverty eradication and social welfare (3.1) Sustainable employment (3.5)
Contribution to global knowledge management platforms	<i>Contribute to GEF KM efforts</i>	Create a KM center with support from NGOs/CBOs/CSOs to share knowledge on participatory approaches and Action Research to conservation using web-based technologies	All areas related to Environment, Health and Economy (1 to 3)

3. OP6 strategies

3.1. Cross-cutting OP6 grant-making strategies (1 page)

From national level consultations, assessments in Section 1 and scoping exercise results described in Table 2, please identify critical cross-cutting OP6 projects that can be supported at national level outside of the selected landscape/seascope focus areas. Examples may include important initiatives that 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

Advocacy work in GEF SGP has always been conducted in a more indirect way, which means that instead of “hero” advocacy, projects find their way in terms of cultural development and ownership.

Projects do not get replicated through a top-down approach but in fact they get replicated because they are “best practices” or good examples that are being transferred from one community to another community, as projects are geographically close or thematically related. Therefore, in OP6 GEF SGP will facilitate site visits by government officials and other interested parties to visit community-based projects and interact directly with the proponents. Also GEF SGP will promote “participatory approach” and Participatory Action Research to be included in academic courses especially in the Environment Faculty or Social Science Faculties by involving graduate students in doing their research on SGP project sites. A very important component of the programme will be focused on CCAs and documenting their local knowledge and its inclusion in the management plans for PAs. This needs expertise from anthropologists and social scientists which will be conducted through interaction with local communities. It will be ideal if the local know-how is recorded and then registered as Intangible Cultural Heritage. In addition, knowledge materials will continue to be produced and disseminated to target groups such as children and youth.

As a result the general directions of the Country Programme during GEF OP6, similarly to GEF OP5 will be the following:

- To strengthen the Climate Change portfolio and increase linkage to GEF Country Programme in this focal area
- To expand linkage of project core groups of grantees to share experience and join efforts and to respond to continuous changing social-political environment
- To expand network of partners to potential donors to sustain the programme impacts
- To link to national ongoing and long-term programmes in SGP niche areas
- To prepare good practice guidelines/toolkits based on Lessons Learned
- To provide training in areas such as marketing, micro-credit funds, ecotourism, etc.
- To link with academia for transfer of participatory literature and field-based knowledge in environmental and social areas (incl. Participatory Action Research)

Some of the activities that will be followed up during GEF OP6 to promote integration and networking are the following:

1. Continue to build capacity of the existing network of grantees at landscape and seascope levels and thematic clusters
2. Provide support to new active NGOs/CBOs with high potential to contribute to conservation and sustainable livelihoods work

⁶ In OP6 cross-cutting projects outside of specific landscape/seascope 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”..

3. Continue to build community-based models to address unsustainable practices (forest, rangelands, agriculture, fisheries, wetlands, and so on)
4. Better adaptation to Climate Change for local communities especially in more vulnerable areas
5. Engage participation of local communities and NGOs in the national development process
6. Emphasize more on traditional knowledge and management systems (wise-use concept) to enhance local livelihoods, CCAs and Protected Areas
7. Encourage establishment of micro-credit funds to support vulnerable groups such as youth and women especially in rural areas
8. Identify niche markets for produced bio-products and conservation art throughout projects
9. Promote alternative energy in remote rural areas (e.g. biogas, solar, wind) as well as in urban areas
10. Promote energy efficiency in housing (pay special attention to traditional architecture that is in more harmony with nature)
11. Build stronger partnerships with private sector, academia, and government
12. Conduct fund-raising and promote resource mobilization to help sustain project outcomes
13. Continue with knowledge management work (documentation and publications, and database updates)
14. Better linkage with national, provincial, and regional level projects
15. Enhance training for example in using participatory techniques, marketing products, tour leadership, conservation art,)

NOTE: Section 3.1 finishes Step 1 of the CPS development process. A Step 1 report consolidating results of sections 1 to 3.1, preferably 3 pages max, and with Table 2 attached should be produced. Please seek NSC agreement on this report. To speed up getting such an agreement, NCs can either secure this through a formal meeting or individual NSC member consultations, should a meeting be difficult to convene.

Then submit to CPMT the NSC-agreed first step report that includes the list of the non-landscape/seascape based initial projects that can be supported early with the estimated grant amounts that can be allotted for such projects. It is suggested that only a portion of the 30% of funds that can be allocated outside of the selected landscape/seascape be utilized at this point as there would be need for such types of projects in later years of OP6)

3.2 Landscape/seascape-based OP6 grant-making strategies⁷ (2 pages)

Please describe the process for selecting the landscape/seascape⁸ in which most of OP6 grantmaking will be focused, with particular attention on measures taken to ensure objectivity, transparency, and the fullest participation of relevant stakeholders.

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

⁸ The countries could focus on existing landscape/seascape the country programme is already focused on or select a new landscape/seascape focus through stakeholder consultations, then conduct the baseline assessment. (described in the Call for Proposals for the OP6 Country Programme Strategy Development Process, as well as in the suggested table of contents for a baseline assessment). Please note that in some SIDS and small countries it may not be practical to identify separate landscapes, hence the country programme strategy may cover the entire country territory, or propose a specific thematic focus where relevant.

In the selected landscape/seascape, describe the process adopted to conduct the baseline assessment, including the participatory engagement of stakeholders (within the landscape/seascape but also those external but influencing the landscape/seascape) leading to the formulation of a landscape/seascape focused CPS design (only put here a summary version; the detailed version should be put in Annex 1).

Please also provide a **map of the area** as well as **photos** of potential project sites for the selected initiatives as well as of stakeholders that could be involved. Aerial photos or satellite imageries of the selected landscape/seascape will provide not only visual reference but also valuable baseline info.

- Briefly describe which OP6 strategic initiatives will be prioritized for support in the selected landscape/seascape.
- Please explain the specific strategy over the next 4 years (e.g. types of projects, stakeholders to be prioritized, timetable, etc.) for grantmaking in the landscape/seascape for each of the +selected OP6 strategic initiatives.
- How will synergy between different initiatives be enhanced to achieve greater impact from multifocal approaches at landscape and seascape level?
- How will additional funds and resources be mobilized to support the projects and overall work in the selected landscape/seascape?
- If resources will be reserved for projects outside the landscape/seascape (up to 30%) please describe how all or some of these resources will be utilized in a strategic and supportive manner to the projects and overall work of the selected landscape/seascape.

As mentioned earlier, Iran's nature and culture is very diverse which makes it rather difficult to divide in a limited number of landscapes/seascapes. However, on the basis of its diverse physiographic and climatic features, Iran may be divided into four general bioregions: Caspian (or Hyrcanian), Touran, Zagros, and Persian Gulf/Oman (see Annex V).

To select one to three landscapes/seascapes for CPS-OP6, the selection process was conducted in three steps:

Step one) Review of GEF SGP documents: At first a review of existing literature of GEF SGP in Iran experiences and projects, as well as other key documents to identify key criteria for selection of landscape/seascape was conducted. Then the existing international and national frameworks were scanned (eg. UNDAF) to identify priorities for preparing CPS-OP6 for I.R.Iran. Most of this information has been summarized and shared in section 1.1 (country programme portfolio).

Step two) Identify selection criteria and select the landscape/seascape: In phase two, according to priorities identified and criteria for selection (**Annex II**), potential landscape/seascapes were compared and evaluated in terms of suitability with these criteria. Four of the criteria that were key in the selection process were as follows:

- Global importance in GEF focal areas (Climate Change, Biodiversity Conservation, ...)
- Number of prior GEF SGP projects and active grantees as well as best practices
- National priorities (6th National Development Plan, etc.) and government co-funding
- Potential for international partnerships and co-funding (GEF, JICA, GSI project,...)

During this screening process, Zagros bioregion was selected for its global importance as biodiversity hotspot, national importance as freshwater resource, vulnerability against Climate Change, number of projects already implemented and grantees already trained and familiarity with the GEF SGP approach in p

participatory and community-based projects. In addition, Zagros has great potential for partnerships and international/national co-funding, including for GSI project on CCAs.

In addition, Persian Gulf (Qeshm) bioregion was selected as the preferred seascape, due to its important biodiversity as well as vulnerability to Climate Change and sea-level rise. In fact, GEF SGP has been working with locals on Qeshm Island for the past 15 years showcasing successful community-based initiatives (such as Artificial reefs, Hawksbill turtle conservation, community-based ecotourism and local handicrafts,...) which makes it a favorable seascape to act as pilot for other potential seascapes along the southern coasts of Iran which is also a national priority during OP6 (6th National Development Plan).

After consultation with some NSC members, it was pre-approved that landscapes or seascapes to further work on in the following phase should preferably be from Zagros and Persian Gulf (Qeshm) bioregions. Therefore, in OP6, GEF SGP will benefit from prior experiences accumulated in the selected clusters and use them as best practices for other landscapes/seascapes [and up-scaling purposes](#).

Step three) Consultative workshop with key stakeholders: In the third and final phase a participatory workshop in Esfahan (central Zagros) was conducted (4-5 May 2017) with participation of key NGOs and CBOs which had previously been involved in GEF SGP projects, as well as some government and academia to discuss the importance of the Zagros region and identify the target landscapes in Zagros for CPS-OP6. Throughout the workshop, a participatory baseline assessment was conducted, including threats and conservation priorities. Furthermore, strategies and action plans were developed by the participants for the suggested and landscapes identified in Zagros (**Annex III**). A similar participatory planning workshop was held in Qeshm Island (25-26 May 2017) which resulted in identification of values, threats and actions to be taken in OP6. The boundaries of the selected seascape are also shown in **Annex III**. In addition to these workshops, baseline assessments have been prepared by experts which reflected that the importance and potential areas of work in each selected landscape/seascape.

➤ **Zagros Mountain Landscapes**

Zagros is the greatest and longest range of mountains in Iran (width of 300km in some areas and altitude reaching up to 4500m) which provides 40% of the country's freshwater resources. Zagros is also the habitat of more than 2000 plant species and the birth place of most of the domesticated animals and plants whose wild relatives came from Zagros region. It was also birth place of some of the first civilizations, and still hosts 50% of the tribal population of Iran. This Mountain Range runs northwest to southwest, merging into Mokran range, separating the vast central plateau of Iran from its neighboring lowlands in Iraq and Saudi Arabia, acting as a barrier for dust storms. Precipitation in this region varies considerably, ranging from 1000mm to 350mm west to east and 800mm to 200mm north to south. Main features of Zagros mountain range are (Yavari, 2017):

- More than 1,500 species of legumes, graminiae, shrubs and trees constitute the vegetation cover of rangelands and steppes, of which more than 10% are endemic.
- A variety of animal life, such as brown bear, eagles, wolves, leopard, and highly endangered Persian fallow deer.
- The most significant aspect of Zagros forests is its unique Oak vegetation cover. There are four different Oak species that are endemic to Iran.

- Millions of hectares of forest (accounting for approximately 40% of all Iran's forests), is found in Zagros mountain.
- The forest or the steppe forest of Zagros consists mainly of deciduous, broad-leaved trees, shrubs and a dense ground cover of steppe vegetation. The dominant woody species are Oak (*Quercus* spp.), pistachio (*Pistacia* spp.) and a few others.
- At least 10 seasonal wetlands and lakes are found in the area, with two wetlands as candidates for inclusion in Ramsar list of wetland sites.
- Over 950,000 ha of the area consists of farmlands and orchards,
- Precipitation (snow) is above average creating a significant percentage of Iran's source of water which is transferred via (permanent) rivers, to most of the populated parts of Iran with consequent issues of water resource allocation with inter-basin transfer as well as international waters, and

In past decades, multiple factors have contributed to the degradation of this unique landscape such as drying of its native Oak forest (due to sand and dust storms, pests, etc.), overharvesting and overgrazing (due to poor livelihood options), land degradation (due to mismanaged development projects such as roads, mining, etc.), undermined local management over land and its resources (historic tribal communities). These are indeed some of the reasons for which a UNDP GEF project was implemented in Zagros (central part) to address some of the threats.

According to a baseline assessment report (Yavari, 2017), Zayandeh-rud is a typical landscape in Zagros mountain which provides a closed water basin continuums of mountain-desert landscape associations, suitable as planning framework for integration of GEF SGP global strategic initiatives. The Central or Main Zagros contains highest mountains interspersed with steppe, rangeland, low-lying hills, valleys, semi-desert areas and wetlands. Main Zagros consists of regional landscape associations with exceptional values. The Zayandeh-Rud river is the highest-volume river in semi-arid central Iran and forms one of the most strategic and important river basins of Iran. The Zayandeh-Rud river starts in the Zagros Mountains and ends in the Gavkhuni wetland (which is actually located in the Tourani bioregion). Today, only a trickle of water flows into the Gavkhuni wetland which is recognized internationally as a Ramsar Site under the Convention on Wetlands (1971). However, little water remains in the wetland which threatening the nearby populations with toxic dust winds (Khatounabadi, pers. comm.), most of the water being used upstream with large agricultural, industrial, and domestic water uses. On addition, overharvesting of water and pollution, deforestation (wood burning and change in land-use), overgrazing, soil erosion and forest fires are among the main threats in this water-basin. This is the main reason for IWRM project having started in this area with co-funding from Germans.

The second landscape that was selected north of the Zagros mountain, is the complex system of satellite wetlands that are located south of the Uromiyeh Lake. Considering the importance of these watersheds in nourishing the Uromiyeh Lake and government as well as international efforts in restoring the Lake, these satellite wetlands are key in terms of sustaining wildlife and providing freshwater. One of these wetlands (Sirangoli) which was thought to have been dried, was in fact revived by local communities who also won the Equator Prize (2015). In fact, there is still huge co-funding by government and international sources to revive the Uromiyeh Lake.

➤ **Qeshm Island Seascape**

Located in the Strait of Hormoz, at the entrance of the Persian Gulf, Qeshm Island (area: 1400km², length: 110 km) is the **largest Island** of the Persian Gulf. Exposed to flood water of numerous rivers originating from the Iranian mainland, and the inflow of marine waters from the Indian Ocean and the Oman Sea, Qeshm along with the two smaller islands on its south, Hengam and Larak, have created a triangle of biodiversity-rich waters. A vast patch of mangrove forests, by far the largest in the Persian Gulf (approx. 100 km²), may be found on the north-western part of the island. This has been recognized and registered under UNESCO (MAB) as a **Biosphere Reserve** and also a Wetland of International Importance (**Ramsar Site**). Qeshm Island also has unique geological formations which host many archeological ruins dating back at least to the Parthian and Sassanid periods. This mountainous complex (highlighted as red spots in the map below) covers an area of about 30 000ha and has been awarded the title of **Qeshm Geopark by UNESCO**.

In fact, GEF SGP has been very actively working with CBOs and NGOs as well as other partners (academia, ...) in Qeshm Island. Considering the potential for up-scaling these experiences to other parts of sea (Persian Gulf and Oman Sea) this seascape was selected. It worth noting that development of the Mokran coast is one of the priorities mentioned in the 6th National Development Plan.

Since 1990s, with the establishment of the Qeshm Free Authority (QFA), development on the island took a faster pace, with its impacts on the culture and nature of Qeshm Island. Although the original Development Plan for Qeshm Island (SWECO, 1994) was sensitive to environmental protection, still protection of this seascape requires some strategic planning. Fortunately GEF SGP has been working closely with the Environment Office of QFA since its inception. All the projects have been trying to encourage local communities in conserving their environment. Many good demonstration projects were implemented on Qeshm Island with local community participation.

The Qeshm Cluster is formed by more than 20 community-based projects as a result of over 15 years of experience. It is the fruit of endless efforts by many individuals keen on Qeshm Islands' bio and cultural landscapes. Although the initial aim of these projects were conservation of globally important biodiversity, they were all successful in generating interest among local communities to become active partners in conservation and sustainable use. Now, many new livelihood options are open on this island, rich in nature and culture. GEF/SGP co-funded demonstration projects do provide good examples on how to involve local communities in development projects (from project planning to M&E). Due to strong local commitment, it is hoped that these lessons learned may be up-scaled to the southern coasts of Iran and that on Qeshm Island a more holistic approach is applied by QFA, including local community representatives in their decision-making over land and water resources. Just recently JICA has also started a few projects on Qeshm Island and there is a need for closer cooperation during OP6.

Some of the key threats to this seascape is related to Climate Change and the sea level rise, as well as the waves or other extreme weather events. In addition, pollution from the sea, as well as algal blooms and overharvesting of fish and other aquatic organisms are some of the threats to biodiversity of Qeshm Island.

and. Land degradation is also a concern, considering the development plans of the QFA.

3.3. *Grant-maker+ strategies (2 pages)*⁹

During OP6, GEF SGP Iran will work in the selected landscapes/seascapes (70% of the funds) as well as outside these landscapes/seascapes on the following thematic areas:

Table 3. Up-scaling of projects for OP6:

Thematic /geographic clusters	Activities prior to OP6	Up-scaling potentials during OP6	Partners (for resource mobilization)
IPM	GEF SGP has been particularly successful in promoting many IPM projects in various parts of Iran including the Lake Urmia area – Results of this work were presented at national high level meeting in Yasuj (May 2017) for preparing a road map	Work collaboratively with network of farmers working in this field and support the road map for “Farmers’ Systematic Participation to Set Up Sustainable Agriculture and Adaptation with drought and climate change”	Ministry of Agricultural Jihad Forest and Rangelands research Institute Restoration Group for Urmia Lake (with collaboration of JICA) FAO
CCAs	GEF SGP Iran has been a key partner in developing the CCA network globally, as a result Iran has been selected as one of the 20 countries to conduct a follow-up CCA project (GSI)	Continue documenting knowledge on CCAs and their local; and if possible give them official recognition	Cultural Heritage Organization UNESCO (Intangible Cultural Heritage) DoE, FRWO, MoAJ (Natural Resources Office) GSI (GEF SGP - UNDP global)
Ecotourism	Community-based ecotourism has been promoted through GEF SGP Iran and some of the results have been presented in international events (ESTC, 2013)	The experiences of the Ecotourism Working Group need to be shared at policy level to be able to influence further tourism development projects in Iran	Cultural Heritage Organization Department of Environment
Wildlife conservation	Since its inception the country programme has focused on key globally important species of wildlife and promoting participatory conservation	Web-based digital library on endangered and unique species Include local communities in the decision-making process regarding	Department of Environment

⁹ The OP6 Grant-maker+ strategies and related activities may either be outside of the selected landscape/seascapes, or promote partnership building, networking and policy development within the target areas.

		rding management plans for Pa s Recognition of CCAs officially	
Wetlands	GEF SGP has been working on many of the Iran's wetlands namely Ramsar sites. In fact the Umbr ella group working on satellite wetlands near the Urmia Lake won the Equator Prize in 2015	Continue with knowledge products and their use in raising awareness about the Ramsar sites and role of communities living around them Collaborate with Ramsar Convention bureau and committee formed in DoE for upscaling lessons learned and promoting the participatory approach	Department of Environment Restoartion of Urmia Lake project (JICA) Ramsar Bureau (CEPA section) GEF/UNDP-DoE Wetlands project (CIWP)
Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency	Innovative projects by Pishrun Energy Inst. In promoting "Automated Intelligent Control Systems" since 2002 and in the area of biodiesel and biogas, are gradually gaining Prepare promotional packages such as packages offered by ESCO group attention by private sector, government and even local communities, as energy prices have gone up in Iran in the past decade.	Launch wider awareness raising campaigns at schools and governmental buildings for saving Ministry of Energy energy and using clean energies Promote sustainable transport in reducing CO2 emissions	DoE - National Committee on Climate Change Related GEF projects
Touran/Asiatic Cheetah	Many of the projects that were implemented in and around the Touran Biosphere reserve and the Central Desert were focused on raising awareness of local communities and other stakeholders about the importance of the endangered Asiatic Cheetahs.	Considering the critical importance of this species from a global perspective and high vulnerability of its habitat to Climate Change impacts, GEF SGP aims to continue with awareness raising work to reduce unwanted casualties, also create additional livelihood options for communities living nearby (through ecotourism,).	GEF/UNDP-DoE project of Conservation of Asiatic Cheetah (CACP) since 2001 Cultural Heritage Org. to provide financial support to communities interested in replicating the experience in QalaBala for development of community-based ecotourism
Waste Management /Caspian Cluster	Valuable experiences have been gained in forest ecosystems of the northern Iran (Caspian Cluster)	Knowledge products need to be produced and shared to expand the lessons learned Education materials on waste management, etc. may be produced for specific target groups (women, children,...)	GEF/UNDP-FRWO Hyrcanian Forest project Ministry of Interior (Village Councils) Municipalities
Qeshm Cluster	Since its inception, GEF SGP has funded over 25 projects on Qeshm Island promoting a community-based approach in conservation and sustainable natural resources of the island. These experi	In OP6 there is high potential for upscaling the experiences in Qeshm Island to the southern coastal areas of Iran with application of the landscape/seascape approach	ICZM project Qeshm Free Zone Authority (QFA) and JICA team

	ences have been presented at national and international levels (Kuwait, 2012).	Participatory and multi-stakeholder workshops need to be held Knowledge materials produced and widely disseminated	Provincial offices of DoE in coastal areas Provincial offices of Fisheries Org. coastal areas
Zagros Cluster	There have many project experiences in the Zagros mountain range including CCA projects. Some of this work has already been shared with the GEF/UNDP-DoE project in Central Zagros.	Zagros mountain is an important landscape but from biodiversity point of view and Climate Change mitigation and adaptation. GEF SGP aims to facilitate networking and better linkage between these projects and apply the landscape approach during OP6	Regional Water Company Authority GEF/UNDP-DoE project in Biodiversity of Zagros Mountain GEF/UNDP-FRWO MENARID project on Integrated Watershed Management

3.3.1. CSO-Government Dialogue Platform

Please describe your country program's plans to organize CSO-government dialogue platforms and sustain them. Dialogues should help promote role of CSOs, create a "bridge" to link the grassroots to high level national planners and policy-makers, facilitate the uptake of good practices, and enhance communications (i.e. possible thematic examples may include joint CSO-Government preparations for environmental convention COPs, SDG country implementation, local to global chemical coalitions; networks of agro-ecology farmer leaders and producer organizations; national federations of ICCAs, south-south development exchange solutions etc.).

GEF SGP Iran has learned that instead of advocacy work, it is better to promote its projects and experiences through more indirect ways for example by allowing government officials visit the community-based projects and learn about best practices. In fact, in a national level event, over 20 GEF SGP projects were officially recognized and acknowledged as "Best Practices" by the Department of Environment (Public Participation Bureau) in 2016. Therefore these site visits will be always welcomed either organized through projects or through GEF SGP office. During OP6, GEF SGP is also planning to hold consultative multi-stakeholder workshops on thematic environmental issues to allow for a better understanding of the landscape/seascape approach among others. This is a particularly effective way to enhance inter-sectoral collaboration. One of the sensitive issues that will help in up-scaling of projects is participation of community representatives in decision-making meetings over land and resources, because in most instances communities can speak out very well for themselves if the opportunity is given to them.

3.2.2. Policy influence

Aside from the CSO-Government Dialogue Platform initiative, please describe how the SGP country programme will use experiences and lessons learnt from SGP to inform and influence policy as part of its role as 'Grant-makers+' in OP6 at the local, regional and national levels (i.e. identify key policy processes such as updates of NBSAP, NAMA, NAPA, etc. that SGP can be involved with and relevant networks that can be tapped as partners).

During the CPS OP6, the SGP will support some policies making processes and scale up lessons learned and experiences to influence national policies. In this regard, SGP will help in mainstreaming some policy documents as mentioned in Table 1 as well as taking its projects and clusters as well as participatory approach to a higher policy level by working more closely with other partners such as key government organizations such as DoE, FRWO and MoAJ.

3.2.3. *Promoting social inclusion (mandatory)*

Please describe the SGP country programme's plans and strategies to: (i) promote women's empowerment and gender equality (in particular for the selected OP6 landscape/seascape); (ii) empower indigenous people (in particular through the appropriate recognition of indigenous peoples and community conserved territories and areas (ICCAs), including through IP fellowships and other means to promote CSO champions);¹⁰ and (iii) involve youth and children in country portfolio programming.¹¹

GEF SGP started by working with NGOs and then CBOs. However in OP6 knowledge products will be produced for specific target groups such as children and youth, especially with respect to climate knowledge. Also more focus will be given to working with elders at CCAs in terms of documenting their knowledge (GSI-ICCA project) and trying to involve them or their knowledge in decision-making process over land and water resources.

3.2.4. *Knowledge management plan*

Please describe the SGP country programme's plans to capture, share, and disseminate the lessons learned and good practices identified through the country portfolio of SGP projects with civil society, government, and other relevant stakeholders (i.e. process for generating knowledge; type of knowledge products; knowledge fairs; peer to peer exchanges; use of demonstration sites) so as to generate greater impact, and foster replication and scaling up of community innovations. Please specify the contribution required from each SGP country programme towards the OP6 digital library and global South-South exchange.

As may be seen from the awards table, GEF SGP has been actively producing knowledge materials (such as films, books, products,...). In OP6, the programme will be registering some games and good practices as knowledge materials in fields of intangible cultural heritage that can be used as a best entry points. In addition, advocacy networks may be formed.

Linking with universities to introduce qualitative methods of research such as participatory action research and Participatory Action Research in the related fields of science for better communication

¹⁰Through the CBD COP10 and 2020 Aichi targets, state parties agreed in 2010 to expand the global coverage of protected areas from 12% to 17% by 2020 (including through "other effective area-based conservation measures" such as ICCAs). Both the UNDP 2012-2020 Strategic Framework on Biodiversity and Ecosystems, as well as the GEF-6 Strategic Framework, further recognize the central role of ICCAs in reaching the Aichi targets and national sustainable development priorities. In this context, in 2014 the Federal Government of Germany provided additional co-financing of \$16.3M to support a 'Global ICCA Support Initiative' to be delivered through the SGP in at least 20 countries (to be also articulated in the present OP6 CPS).

¹¹ In the case of the SIDS-CBA funded by the Government of Australia, an additional focus will be placed on the needs of peoples with disabilities as a sector especially vulnerable to disasters and climate change. As articulated under the UN Convention on the Rights of Peoples' with Disabilities (UNCRPD), all UN agencies are encouraged to develop projects and approaches to consider the needs of this target population.

on. Registration of NGOs , CBOs local knowledge and innovation for their support as part of up-scaling national process based on potential governmental support.

3.2.5. *Communications Strategy*

Please describe your strategy to communicate and engage with key stakeholders and CSO's in your country and selected landscape to promote participation, build relationships and foster partnerships; as well as to articulate the contribution of the SGP to the national priorities, GEF programming, and UNDP strategies, as described in Section 2 of the CPS.

GEF SGP will continue on the same communication strategies as before with an emphasis on knowledge-based communication which will be sharing the knowledge materials produced in the programme with specific target groups. In addition, emphasis will be on the following:

- A multimedia website for sharing good practices and linking knowledge network
- Necessity of close communication with Wetland NGOs Network and National Ramsar Convention Committee, as well as other networks of NGOs formed on related matters
- Providing support for social marketing of project products for this purpose have a market center that would be accessible to the public
- Link with prestigious independent cultural and art festivals such as Mehregan Award for SGP good products
- Enhancing communication network between NGOs which are members of international conventions and SGP to sharing knowledge and experience

4. **Expected results framework**

4.1. Please fill in the table below (Table 3) which shows in Column 1 the OP6 global project components and global targets (in number of countries) as described in the GEF CEO Endorsement document. For your SGP country programmes, put in Column 2 , 3, and 4 your national-level CPS targets, activities, and indicators for each of the relevant integrated (multi-focal area) OP6 strategic initiatives you have selected to focus on (*countries may select to work on all or only some of the priority initiatives*). The indicators and targets identified in the CPS should include some that contribute to the global portfolio level indicators of SGP OP6¹² 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).¹³

¹²For more information refer to the SGP OP6 CEO Endorsement Document, Annex A "Project Results Framework".

¹³Specific 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.

SGP

Table 3. Consistency with SGP OP6 global programme components

1 OP6 project components	2 CPS targets	3 Activities	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
<p>SGP OP6 Component 1: Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation:</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>Zagros Mountain Landscapes</i></p> <p><i>Qeshm Island Seascape</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>Overgrazing/deforestation:</u></p> <p>Creating a network of CCAs</p> <p>Restoration of vegetative cover by planting native plants that are endangered</p> <p>Collection of native seeds and production of seedlings</p> <p>Documentation of local knowledge in nature conservation and using it for conservation and education esp. in and around PAs</p> <p>Promote community-based ecotourism projects</p> <p><u>Wildlife conservation:</u></p> <p>Participatory conservation and monitoring of endangered species of wildlife</p> <p>Habitat and water resource management for wildlife</p> <p>Establishment of an emergency rescue center for representative animal species</p>	<p><i>No. of representative members in the CCA Network</i></p> <p><i>Area planted/no. of species</i></p> <p><i>Area planted/no. of seedlings</i></p> <p><i>Number of intangible knowledge registered</i></p> <p><i>No. of representatives in the Ecotourism Network</i></p> <p><i>Establishment of a portal and number of members</i></p> <p><i>Number & area of water resources restored</i></p> <p><i>No. of animals rescued and treated</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>

		<p>Protection of endangered species in the Hara forest</p> <p>Participatory conservation of turtles esp. Hawksbill turtles</p> <p><u>Wetland management:</u> Promoting landscape/seascape approach in watershed management projects</p> <p>Participatory wetland restoration and management (esp. Ramsar sites)</p> <p>Community-based restoration of springs and Qanats</p> <p>Protection of river banks and sensitive coastal zones</p> <p>Promoting Wetland Schools</p> <p>Participatory Baseline Assessments in cluster areas</p> <p>Reducing fires through local community engagement</p>	<p><i>Annual survey (eg. nests/chicks of target species)</i></p> <p><i>Number of eggs hatched/No of involved and trained locals</i></p> <p><i>Connectivity of community-based projects</i></p> <p><i>No of community-based projects</i></p> <p><i>No of springs and Qanats restored</i></p> <p><i>Area of protected land/coast</i></p> <p><i>CEPA materials produced and disseminated</i></p> <p><i>No. of Baseline Reports</i></p> <p><i>No. of fires reduced/controlled through local communities</i></p>	
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<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 2:</u> Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology:</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>Establishment of a farmer-owned gene bank on native species for self use</p> <p>IPM/IPCM projects</p> <p>Marketing of sustainable rural products and local certification</p> <p>Promoting community-based micro-credit funds</p> <p>Starting community-based urban farming esp. with vulnerable groups</p>	<p><i>No. of species registered</i></p> <p><i>Amount of chemicals reduced/Amount of water saved</i></p> <p><i>No. of locally certified products</i></p> <p><i>Amount of loans/No. of new livelihood options</i></p> <p><i>No of participants from vulnerable groups</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>
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 3:</u> Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits:</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 estimated¹⁴</i></p>	<p><u>Energy Efficiency:</u></p> <p>Designing spaces that are in harmony with climate and inspired by traditional structures</p> <p>Saving energy in buildings</p> <p><u>Renewable Energies:</u></p> <p>Production of Biogas</p> <p>Usage of Solar water heaters and Solar generators</p>	<p><i>No of community-based projects (such as playgrounds)</i></p> <p><i>No. of members in ESCO group</i></p> <p><i>No. of biogas units (small scale)</i></p> <p><i>No. of solar water heaters</i></p> <p><i>Registered knowledge</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>

¹⁴ Only applies to lead countries in this strategic initiative

¹⁵ Only applies to lead countries in this strategic initiative

		Gather traditional knowledge on usage of renewable energies Restoration of traditional Wind towers	<i>No. of wind towers restored</i>	
<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 coalitions in at least 20 countries for managing harmful chemicals and waste in a sound manner</p>	<p><i>Outline of innovative tools and approaches to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pesticide management • solid waste management (plastics, e-waste, medical waste and so on), • heavy metals management, and • local to global chemical management coalitions 	<p><u>Waste management:</u></p> <p>Community-based waste management including bio-composting</p> <p>Reduction of plastic in Greenhouse farming</p> <p>Ocean litter collection</p> <p>Waste Cooking Oil</p>	<p><i>Amount of waste reduced</i></p> <p><i>No. of waste reduced</i></p> <p><i>Amount of waste collected</i></p> <p><i>Amount re-used in biodiesel production</i></p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Strategic partnership with IPEN country partners</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>
<p>SGP OP6 Component 5: <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>	<p><i>Outline of CPS focus for “CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms” as part of expanded OP6 Grant-makers+ role</i></p>	<p><u>Site Visits:</u></p> <p>Study tours for officials to learn from best practices of community-based projects</p> <p><u>Workshops:</u></p> <p>Holding consultative and thematic workshops at landscape level</p> <p>Capacity building workshops for NGOs/CBOs in deprived regions</p> <p>Engage a Focal Point in each thematic/geographical cluster</p>	<p><i>No. of tours conducted /no. of participants</i></p> <p><i>No. of meetings/no of participants</i></p> <p><i>No of local facilitators trained</i></p> <p><i>Knowledge materials produced and officially</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>

		ters for linkage and up-scaling purposes	shared/Knowledge Services provided	
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 7:</u> Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge program (Grant-makers+):</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><u>Documentation:</u></p> <p>Documentation of the country programme experience</p> <p>Documentation of project experiences</p> <p>Branding GEF SGP innovations and linking sustainable livelihoods to environmental conservation to culture-based development</p> <p><u>Advocacy:</u></p> <p>Publication of books and other materials for children & youth</p> <p>Publication of community-based Newsletters/locally used media for networking</p> <p><u>Research:</u></p> <p>Promote Participatory Action Research and participatory approach in universities</p> <p>Comparative analysis of various thematic clusters and scientific publications</p> <p><u>Capacity Building:</u></p>	<p><i>Publish GEF SGP Overview</i></p> <p><i>No of films/no of Awards received</i></p> <p><i>No of knowledge products included in the website and linkage with global digital library</i></p> <p><i>No. of publications or other knowledge products</i></p> <p><i>No. of Newsletters/No. of other local media produced</i></p> <p><i>Literature developed and incorporated into courses</i></p> <p><i>No. of articles</i></p>	<p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>

		<p>Holding participatory planning workshops in other cluster regions</p> <p>Workshops to introduce landscape/seascape approach</p> <p>Strengthen Knowledge Network based on thematic/geographic clusters</p> <p>Production of Knowledge Products</p> <p>Promote Knowledge Service through Knowledge networks</p> <p>Re-publish some of the best practices (such as Vocational Training book on Energy Saving)</p>	<p><i>No. of grantees participation in workshops</i></p> <p><i>No. of participants from various stakeholder groups</i></p> <p><i>No. of members in each knowledge group/No. of joint events organizer</i></p> <p><i>No. of products</i></p> <p><i>No. of partnerships built</i></p> <p><i>No. of publications disseminated</i></p>	
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5. Monitoring & Evaluation plan (1 page)

5.1. The M&E Plan at the country programme level¹⁶ should be based on the indicators and targets set in Table 3 of the CPS. Indicators at the country level should be tracked and reported on through the Annual Country Reports (ACR), when progress towards the CPS outcomes is assessed and appropriate adaptive management measures may be identified as necessary. The M&E Plan should also describe how progress will be tracked and results reported by grantee partners at the project level. M&E activities appropriate to the size and scope of any given project should be planned, with guidance and capacity development provided to grantees where needed to support participatory M&E and adaptive management. Below please describe the country level M&E plan to monitor the implementation of the CPS, with particular reference to the targets and indicators set in Table 3 within your selected landscape/seascape(s).¹⁷

5.2 Please indicate how M&E of individual SGP grantee partners (i.e. national NGOs, CBOs, or intermediary organizations) will be strengthened and adaptive management promoted. Details on the frequency of monitoring visits and plans for project/portfolio evaluations should be provided. Where possible partnerships with other grant-makers, foundations and academic institutions should be explored to help enhance participatory M&E and adaptive management.

5.3 Please describe how local stakeholders, community members and/or indigenous peoples' will participate in setting project objectives and outputs; how they will participate in monitoring with what kind of method and periodicity; and how progress will be documented and reported.

5.3 Please describe the strategy for how the 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 ¹⁸ to ensure CPS is on track in achieving its outcomes and targets, and to take decisions on any revisions or adaptive management needs

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

¹⁷ Where relevant please describe the use of any particular SGP frameworks for M&E such as COMDEKS, COM PACT, CBA, and CBR+ (where these are already piloted, or replication of these approaches is planned).

¹⁸ The 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.

NSC Meetings for ongoing review of project results and analysis	Assess effectiveness of projects, portfolios, approaches; learning; adaptive management	NC, NSC, UN DP	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) ¹⁹	Enable efficient reporting to NSC	NC presentation to NSC	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per year in June
Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) ²⁰ Survey (based on ACR)	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF; presentation of results to donor	NC submission to CPMT	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per year in 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 (1 page)

6.1. Please describe the OP6 resource mobilization plan to enhance the sustainability of the SGP Country Programmegrantmaking and grant-makers+ roles with reference to:

- (i) ways to enhance or increase cash and in-kind co-financing at:
 - Project level
 - Landscape/seascape level
 - Country level
- (ii) diversify funding sources to achieve greater impact (i.e. non-GEF resources that help address post-2015 UN Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs);
- (iii) an approach to recover costs to co-finance a share of the SGP country programme non-grant costs (i.e. UNDP TRAC, national host institutions, government contributions, bilateral donors); and
- (iv) opportunities for SGP to serve as a delivery mechanism.
- (v) In the “Grantmaker+” role, the SGP team including the NSC and TAGs can be tapped to help

¹⁹ The 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.

²⁰ The 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.

communities and CSOs develop proposals to access other donors and funding facilities. *While the funds may not go directly to SGP, this activity can be considered part of resource mobilization as there is increased flow of resources to SGP stakeholders through its support.*

- How can this role be effectively performed?
- What are the possible proposals that can be developed and donors and funding facilities (i.e. perhaps the Green Climate Fund) that can be approached?
- What are the potential for private sector funding (i.e. in support of successful sustainable enterprises for scaling up)?

Resource mobilization is a key part of the SGP country programme strategy and therefore, a priority task for the SGP team, the NSC and Technical Advisory Group. It is a commitment on the part of SGP to the GEF Council to ensure co-funding ratio at global level, in a way that co-funding part is evenly allocated between cash and in-kind. Co-financing is also important for increasing the number, size and impact of SGP funded projects.

Mobilized partnerships and resources are vital for strengthening income-generating and other livelihood components of the projects that would foster community “ownership” of projects and thus ensure sustainability.

In OP6, projects funded by SGP Iran are expected to ensure 1:1 co-funding ratio (50% in cash and 50% in-kind). However, once adequate level of financial resources is mobilized at the country programme level, cash co-financing component can be reduced or not applied for projects of great significance or value in poor and vulnerable communities.

SGP Iran will consider partnership and co-funding opportunities from both traditional and non-traditional sources. Resource mobilization activities will be carried out through the following directions:

- Assessment of interests and priorities of international donor and development agencies and identification of opportunities for partnership and co-financing;
- Attraction of private sector in SGP projects co-financing, also as a part of corporate social responsibility;
- Mainstreaming SGP projects with UN agencies and GEF-funded larger projects;
- Mainstreaming SGP projects with SDGs implementation and poverty reduction programmes for expanded co-financing;
- Exploring opportunities for complementarity and cost sharing with state-funded projects and initiatives at local level.

SGP Iran will target all possible sources to provide in-kind and cash co-financing for SGP both at programme and project levels. To this effect, the Programme aims to establish and maintain strong partnership relations with bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, UN agencies, as well as private sector and government.

According to the SGP principles, all country Programmes shall move to external non-GEF funding after a given period of time. SGP sustainability strategy will focus on sustaining the country programme results, both at project and programme levels, beyond the GEF funding. The country programme will focus on achievement of the following results:

- Mobilizing additional programme level co-financing and act as a delivery mechanism for GEF and other donors, including UNDP;

- Strengthening income-generating components and thus, community “ownership” of the projects;
- Securing co-financing resources from traditional and non-traditional sources;
- Ensuring broad advertisement and replication of the successfully implemented SGP projects and initiatives;
- Ensuring that the CPS is updated to incorporate national environmental and sustainable development priorities;
- Ensuring the most-efficient contribution of the government representative in the NSC aimed at enhanced involvement of SGP in the national strategies and action plans;
- Ensuring SGP’s visibility through continuous communication, outreach and networking;
- Serving as a platform for cooperation and dialogue among NGOs/CBOs, local authorities, government agencies, academic and research institutes, private sector, media, and other stakeholders.

7. Risk Management Plan (1 page)

7.1 Please identify any key risks that you anticipate 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);²¹ (ii) climate risks; (iii) other possible risks. For any identified risks, please complete the table below with an estimation of the degree and probability of risk, as well as the relevant risk mitigation measures.

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
Non-participatory attitude of some stakeholders (due to distrust, conflict of interest, ...)	Medium	Low	If necessary organize a few participatory workshops and round table discussions. Encourage information sharing.
Insufficient knowledge and capacities about project implementation	Medium	Medium	Provide training to those who are new in the field
Insufficient financial resources	High	High	Identify partners for project co-funding
Outside perception about UN projects (political, financial,...)	Medium	Medium	Have informational brochures on UNDP Iran and GEF SGP
Weak inter-sectoral coordination	Medium	High	Organize participatory workshops and round-table discussions. Encourage information sharing.
Weak inter-project coordination	Medium	Medium	Identify key contact persons to be coordinated with each other
Weak monitoring of project implementation	Medium	High	Identify experts who could follow up the task

²¹<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Social-and-Environmental-Policies-and-Procedures/UNDPs-Social-and-Environmental-Standards-ENGLISH.pdf>

Fluctuations in Gov-NGO /CBO relationships	High	Medium	Lobby with government officials
Rotation of key officials in Gov organizations	High	High	Brief the new officials as soon as they take the post
Limited knowledge about landscape/seascape approach	High	High	Prepare materials on introducing the landscape/seascape approach

Note: Risks on this table were identified by workshop participants who have been SGP grantees for years

7.2 Please indicate how these risks will be tracked. It is recommended that risks are tracked during the implementation of the OP6 CPS and review during the CPS Annual review. At that time the degree of risk, or probability of risk may be adjusted. Identified risks may also be removed and new risks added if necessary with appropriate mitigation measures identified.

These risks will be tracked during implementation of the OP6-CPS and review during the CPS Annual review. At that time the degree of risk, or probability of risk may be adjusted. Identified risks may also be removed and new risks added if necessary with appropriate mitigation measures identified.

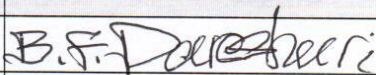

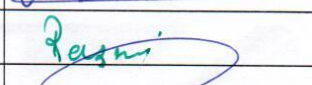
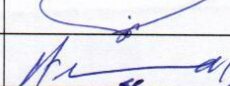
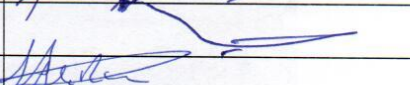
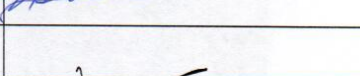
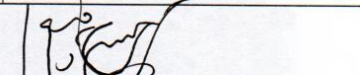

8. National Steering Committee Endorsement

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.

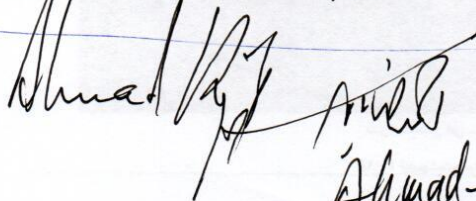
SGP

8. National Steering Committee Endorsement

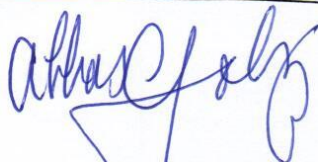
Note: The signature of endorsement at this point is for the complete and final CPS duly reviewed by the NSC and agreed as the guide to the implementation of OP6 by the SGP Country Programme.

NSC members involved in OP6 CPS development, review and endorsement	Signatures
Bijan Farhang Dandeshvari	
AMSCARLSEN	
Hanyeh Ghaffari	
Javad Razmi	
Ahmad taheri	
Ahmad KhaToonabadi	
Sirovs Entekhabhasanle	
Alireza Hashemi	
(Add more rows as necessary)	

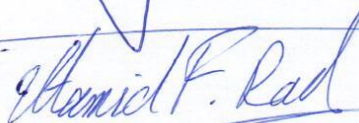
Hossein Zanojbedini Raki



Ahmad-Khan
yanani



Abbas Golriz



Annex 1:
Participatory Baseline Assessment Consultative Workshop, Esfahan (4-5 May 2017)



گزارش کارگاه مشورتی "تهیه راهبرد کشوری برنامه کمک‌های کوچک تسهیلات محیط زیست جهانی"



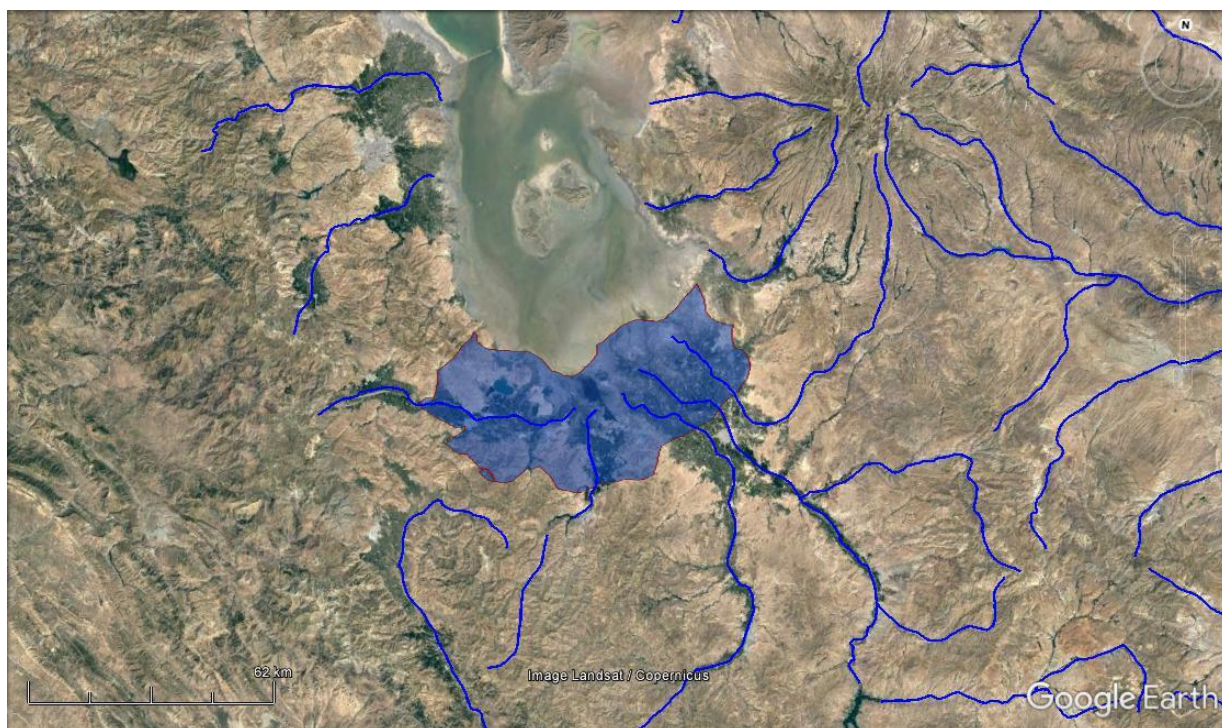
**گزارش کارگاه مشورتی "تهیه راهبرد کشوری برنامه کمک‌های کوچک تسهیلات محیط زیست
جهانی در فاز عملیاتی ششم"**



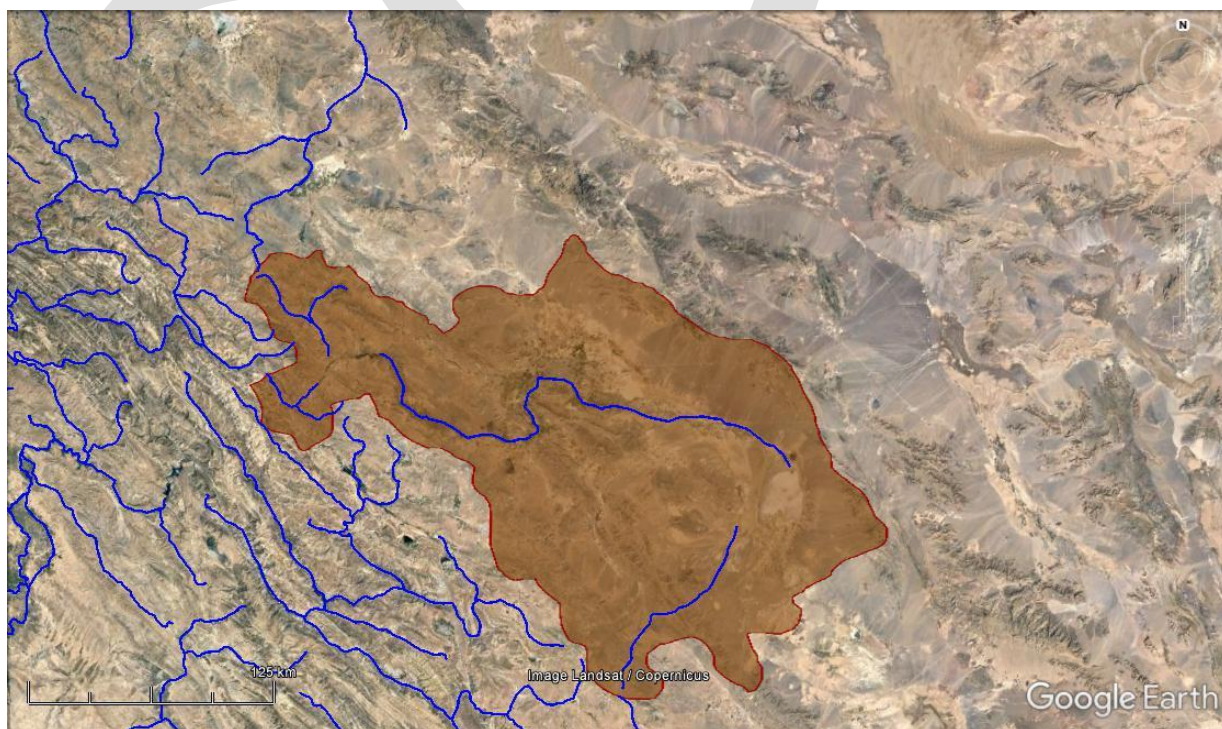
عکس دسته‌جمعی پایان نشست

۱۴۱۵ اردیبهشت ماه اصفهان

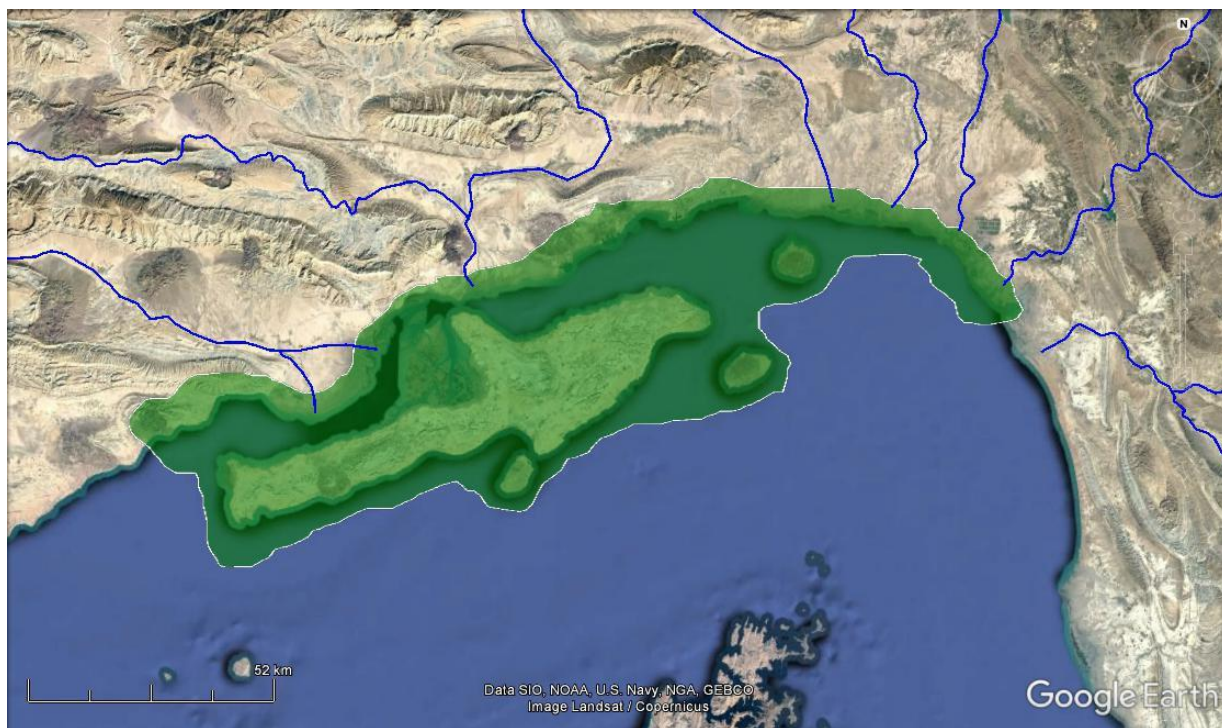
Annex III – Map of selected Landscapes and Seascape



Landscape Southern Uromiyeh Satellite Wetlands



Landscape Zayandeh-rud River Basin



Seascape Qeshm Island and surrounding islands and mainland

Annex IV List of Awards received by GEF SGP projects to date

Awards	Year	Project number
People's Participation for Plant Biodiversity Protection in Central Zagros Region- National Environment Award – Green Message NGO	2003	IRA-G52-2001-011(IRA9 8G52)
Increasing Energy Efficiency/Productivity in Buildings- 3rd rank in 20th Kharazmi International Festival –Pishrun Energy Institute	2006	IRA/SGP/OP4/RAF/07/03 (94)
Increasing Energy Efficiency/Productivity in Buildings- 3rd rank in 8th National Environment Award –Pishrun Energy Institute	2007	IRA/SGP/OP4/RAF/07/03 (94)
GEF SGP Iran- Innovation and Commitment Award		
Traditional Forest Management in Havareh-Khol Village (Kurdistan Province)- / Award of Best National Project on Natural Resources	2007	IRA-G52-2002-018(IRA9 8G52)
Rehabilitation of the Sirangoli and Hassanlou Ramsar Site Wetlands through Community Participation- Innovation and Commitment Award (GEF SGP Iran)	2007	IRA/05/18 (66th)
Rehabilitation of the Sirangoli and Hassanlou Ramsar Site Wetlands through Community Participation - Wetland's Champion Award	2008	IRA/05/18 (66th)
Young Professionals Award- Samad Mohammad Dakhteh	2008	
Mr. Ali Abdipour for RED KILLERS documentary film in developing a documentary on Endangered Species focusing on Dolphins and Turtles"- 2nd Selected Documentary Movie in 3rd International Iran Documentary Festival, Haghigat Cinema	2009	IRA-OP3-2-07-PG12(PG19)
Mr. Ali Abdipour- for developing a documentary on Endangered Species focusing on Dolphins and Turtles"- Gold Award in ROPME Environment Prize- National Journalism Contest for photo, video and reportage	2009	IRA-OP3-2-07-PG12(PG19)
Empowerment of Local Community of Nardien in Semnan Province for Preventing Flood Through Participatory Land Management- National Project from Ministry of Jihad Agriculture on World Land Degradation Day	2009	IRA-OP3-2-07-16 (87)
Mr. Reza Salehi- Grantee of GEF SGP Project "Abolhassani Nomads Territory Management (ICCA) dealing with Climate Change effects and defining A life cycle for Agriculture and Pasture Management - Nomadic Elite Award	2009	IRA/SGP/OP4/RAF/Y2/09/15 (124)
Mr. Ali Abdipour-RED KILLERS documentary film- Grantee of GEF SGP Project "planning grant for developing a documentary on Endangered Species focusing on Dolphins and Turtles- Special Jury Award in 13th International Underwater Film Festival, Belgrade	2009	IRA-OP3-2-07-PG12(PG19)
Ms. Jamileh Mohammadzadeh- Grantee of GEF SGP Project: Promoting and Empowering Local Community Women to get Sensitized to Turtle Preservation and Sea Resources through Production and Marketing of Conservation Art- Superior Craftsmanship Award for Gholabandun Doozi (Traditional Handicraft)	2009	IRA-G52-2004-046
Mr. Ali Abdipour- Grantee of GEF SGP Project "planning grant for developing a documentary on Endangered Species focusing on Dolphins and Turtles"- Diploma Awarded in Moscow International Festival "Golden Dolphin"	2010	IRA-OP3-2-07-PG12(PG19)
Mr. Bijan Farhang Darehshouri- Member of GEF SGP National Steering Committee (NSC)- Environmentalist of the Year 2010	2010	
Won by GEF SGP Iran- 8th Environment Fair Award	2011	

Knowledge Development and Networking for the Exchange of SGP Experiences & Lessons Learned- Finalist in the 1st International Kish Film Festival	2011	IRA-G52-2004-040(IRA98G52)
The Breath's of the Wetland Documentary - Rank Holder in Iran Documentary Film Festival –Haghighat Cinema	2012	IRA/SGP/OP4/RAF/Y2/09/09(118)
The Breath's of the Wetland Documentary - Appreciation Certificate for Best Documentary in 3 rd Sun Independent Short Film Festival	2013	IRA/SGP/OP4/RAF/Y2/09/09(118)
The Breath's of the Wetland Documentary - Winner of Best Documentary Film in Razavi Teachings for Environment	2014	IRA/SGP/OP4/RAF/Y2/09/09(118)
The Breath's of the Wetland Documentary - Winner of Best Documentary Film in Tabriz Short Film Festival	2014	IRA/SGP/OP4/RAF/Y2/09/09(118)
International Award of Paul K Feyeraben Foundation - SGP grantee partner Abolhassani ICCA	2014	IRA/SGP/OP4/RAF/Y2/09/15
National Department of Environment Award by SGP grantee partner Chiya Green Association	2014	IRA/SGP/OP5/STAR/CC/11/04
Department of Environment National Award for Women's Day for Art and Conservation - Ms. AfsanehEhsani from AvayeTabiyatePaydar	2014	IRA/05/19
National Forest, Rangeland and Watershed Organization Award for Beekeeping - MS. Mina Rameh of SGP grantee partner Women CBO of Rameh village	2014	IRA-G52-2002-020
Dr. Ghaharri's Award - Pars Herpetologists Institute	2014	IRA/SGP/OP4/RAF/Y2/09/10 (119)
The Equator Prize - Umbrella Group of Naghadeh NGOs	2015	IRA/SGP/OP5/Y3/STAR/CC/13/11(187)
Rufford Small Grants for Nature Conservation (RSGs) , Second Rufford Small Grant. - Pars herpetologists Institute	2015	IRA/SGP/OP4/RAF/Y2/09/10 (119)
DOE Best Practice Award - Pars herpetologists Institute	2016	IRA/SGP/OP4/RAF/Y2/09/10 (119)
DOE Best Practice Award - Umbrella Group of Naghadeh NGOs Iran	2016	IRA/SGP/OP5/Y3/STAR/CC/13/11(187)
DOE Best Practice Award - MoasseseToseyePaydarHormod	2016	IRA/SGP/OP5/Y2/STAR/CC/12/06(172)
DOE Best Practice Award –Mohitban NGO for Conservation of the endangered species of Asiatic Black Bear through increasing public awareness	2016	IRA/SGP/OP5/Y2/STAR/BD/12/01(167)
DOE Best Practice Award –Chyia Green Association	2016	IRA/SGP/OP5/STAR/CC/11/04(143)
DOE Best Practice Award –Qashqaie Kinship for Environment & Culture (Fars)	2016	IRA/SGP/OP5/STAR/CC/12/21A(160)
DOE Best Practice Award –AvayeTabiatePaydar Institute	2016	IRA/SGP/OP4/RAF/08/12 (103)
DOE Best Practice Award - Women's Islamic Institute	2016	IRA/SGP/OP4/RAF/Y3/09/02 (126)
DOE Best Practice Award - Protection of Mountain Environment Society (Parow)	2016	IRA-06-08 (75th)
DOE Best Practice Award - Green Massage	2016	IRA-G52-2004-039(IRA98G52)
Winner of Dr. TaghiEbtakar Prize - Institute of Familiarity with Wildlife	2016	IRA/SGP/OP4/RAF/Y3/09/01 (125)
Mehregan-e-Elm – Fars Green Centre	2016	IRA-G52-2002, 2004 & 2007-012(IRA98G52)
Mehregan-e-Elm - Pars herpetologists Institute	2017	IRA/SGP/OP4/RAF/Y2/09/10 (119)

SGP