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ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT JULY 2016- JUNE 2017

GEF SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

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ACRONYMS

CBA	Community-based Adaptation to Climate Change
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	Community-based organization
CBR+	Community-based REDD+
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
COMDEKS	Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative
COMPACT	Community Management of Protected Areas for Conservation
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPE	Country Portfolio Evaluation
CPMT	Central Programme Management Team
CPS	Country Programme Strategy
CREMA	Community Resource Management Area
CSO	Civil society organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FSP	Full-size project
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
Ha	Hectare
ICCA	Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Areas and Territories
ICCA GSI	Global Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas Support Initiative
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
LDC	Least Developed Country
MEA	Multi-lateral environmental agreements
MSP	Medium-size project
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NC	National Coordinator
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NHI	National host institution
NSC	National Steering Committee
POP	Persistent organic pollutant

RBM	Results Based Management
REDD+	Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
SEA4ALL	Sustainable Energy for All
SGP	Small Grants Programme
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
STAR	System for Transparent Allocation of Resources
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCSD	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNEP-WCMC	UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
USD	US Dollar
WB	World Bank

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), implemented by UNDP, mobilizes bottom up actions by supporting community-led initiatives which address global environmental issues. SGP empowers local civil society and community-based organizations, including women, indigenous peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities, through a decentralized delivery mechanism at the country level with dedicated GEF resources and leveraging co-financing from communities, governments, and other donors. SGP remains one of the GEF's most successful flagship initiatives. SGP plays an important role in meeting the objectives of the Multilateral Environment Agreements that the GEF serves and directly contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly by ensuring social inclusion and local stakeholder involvement in initiatives that promote multi-sectoral and integrated solutions to environmental challenges. A joint evaluation of the SGP by the GEF's Independent Evaluation Office and UNDP's Independent Evaluation Office from 2013-2015 concluded that the Programme continues to play a key role in promoting the GEF's objectives. It specifically noted that SGP continues to support projects that are relevant, effective and efficient in achieving global environmental benefits, while addressing issues of livelihoods, poverty, gender equality and women's empowerment. The evaluation also reported evidence of strong replication, scaling-up, sustainability, and mainstreaming of the Programme activities.

Since its inception in 1992, SGP has implemented 21,468 projects in 133 countries, providing grants totaling USD 577 million in global and upgraded country programmes. During the reporting year, July 2016 - June 2017 (FY17), SGP provided grant funding for 1,120 new projects, committing a total amount of USD 35.9 million. The total number of grant projects under implementation were 3,125 projects, reflecting grant value of USD 107.8 million. During the reporting year, a cohort of 758 GEF-financed small grant projects were completed and reported results.

SGP adopts an inclusive and integrated approach. Among the 125 countries that were supported by SGP in FY17, sixty three percent of the SGP Global Programme ones were least developed countries and small island developing states. Country Programme Strategy in SGP global countries aims to contribute and achieve multiple focal area benefits. During FY17, significant effort has been invested in consultative and participatory development of 104 Country Programme Strategy to guide the investments under the SGP's 6th Operational Phase. The Country Programme Strategy identifies priority landscapes and seascapes as well as thematic focus at the country level, in relation to the MEAs, GEF strategies, and national policies, as well as complementarity with other government and donor funded initiatives, including GEF FSPs and MSPs.

With regards to focal area distribution, biodiversity focal area remained as the largest portfolio (38%), followed by climate change mitigation (22%), land degradation (21%), international waters (3%), chemicals and wastes (3%), and capacity development (6%). In terms of regional distribution, Africa and the Latin America/Caribbean hosted the largest share of grant funds (32% each), followed by Asia/Pacific (25%), and Europe/CIS and the Arab States accounted for the rest (5% each).

Projects under the biodiversity focal area supported improving sustainability of protected areas, mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in production landscapes/ seascapes and sectors, including concentrated efforts on Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCAs). SGP supported improved sustainability of 126 protected areas, covering 7.5 million hectares; mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in 139 target landscapes/seascapes, covering 3.7 million hectares; and positively influencing 112 ICCAs, covering 613,056 hectares. SGP

projects maintained or improved conservation status of 443 significant species, and assisted production of 359 biodiversity and agrobiodiversity products, while building on traditional knowledge.

The climate change focal area projects support decarbonization and low-carbon energy transformation at the community level through introduction of low-GHG technologies and low-carbon transport initiatives, including micro-hydro, wind, solar and biomass energy options. Sixty seven percent of SGP's climate change portfolio concentrated on the application of low carbon technologies. SGP continued to promote demonstration, development, and transfer of low carbon technologies and innovations at the community level by supporting energy access among 239 communities. These projects have also supported 23,907 households in achieving energy access co-benefits, including increased income, health benefits and improved environmental services. Eighty-six typologies of locally adapted energy access solutions were also successfully demonstrated, scaled up and replicated.

The land degradation focal area projects continued to support activities related to sustainable land management and agroecology. Through the SGP projects, over 86,308 hectares of land was brought under improved management practices. These projects mainly targeted rural communities that are highly dependent on agriculture and forest ecosystems. During the reporting year, total of 147,308 community members demonstrated improved agricultural, land and water management practices. Further, more than 4,380 farmer leaders were involved in successful demonstrations of practices, such as incorporating measures to reduce farm based emissions and enhance resilience to climate change; and 1,009 farmer organizations and networks disseminated improved climate smart agroecological practices. In addition, 42,556 hectares of forest and non-forest lands have been restored through sustainable forest management practices.

The projects under the International waters focal area demonstrated community-based actions and practices in 14 international water bodies, in coordination with the GEF full size projects that focus on the implementation of the agreed Strategic Action Program. These projects supported 40 seascapes and inland freshwater landscapes. Over 280 tons of land-based pollution, such as solid waste, sewage, waste water, and agricultural waste has been prevented from entering the waterbodies; 27,468 hectares of marine/coastal areas or fishing grounds have been brought under sustainable management through interventions such as mangroves replantation, seagrass protection, coral reefs rehabilitation; and 24,537 hectares of seascapes have been covered under improved community conservation and sustainable use management systems.

The chemicals and waste focal area projects support reduction and elimination of release of harmful chemicals into the environment. With SGP support, use of 21,900 kilograms of pesticides has been avoided; 345,704 kilograms of solid waste has been reduced through reducing plastics, domestic waste, and agricultural waste; release/utilization of 764 kilograms of harmful chemicals has been avoided; 297,601 kilograms of e-waste has been collected or recycled; and 1,620 kilograms of mercury has been reduced or sustainably managed. Support has also been provided to establish and strengthen 23 national coalitions and networks to promote chemicals and waste management.

Capacity development remained as a key area for intervention as well as a cross cutting theme across SGP's portfolio. Grants allocated specifically for this purpose yielded strengthened capacities of 628 civil society organizations and 461 community-based organizations, comprising 11,783 people, to address local environmental challenges. SGP employs "Grantmaker plus" strategies to enhance the overall effectiveness of its portfolio by expanding the role and value of the SGP beyond grant-making. This was done by promoting interventions to create an enabling environment and build systemic capacity for civil society and

community action to address environmental issues. This included a range of activities, including establishing/strengthening CSO networks, promoting CSO-government dialogues, leveraging knowledge, mobilizing resources and partnerships, and ensuring social inclusion of vulnerable groups. In addition, to improve knowledge flow and technology transfer among countries and regions, 31 SGP country programmes facilitated 48 South-South exchanges between communities.

SGP undertakes targeted efforts to support greater social inclusion, including women, indigenous peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities. Gender equality and women's empowerment continues to be a critical element of SGP efforts: 29% of projects were led by women; and 93% of total projects were reported as gender responsive (positive increase from 81% in FY16). Projects led by and involved indigenous peoples have accounted to 19% of the portfolio, again a positive increase from 12% in FY16. With SGP support, total of 1,059 indigenous leaders were supported in developing their capacities on project development and policy advocacy. Efforts continued to foster agility in SGP grant making with proposals accepted in local languages and use of participatory mechanisms. SGP also continued with inclusive investments in youth and disabled persons: 35 disabled persons organizations participated in SGP projects; and 38% of projects included components of youth participation and leadership, while supporting 179 youth organizations to participate in environment and sustainable development policy processes.

The SGP is also making efforts to track socio-economic benefits of the projects as improved livelihood and wellbeing of local communities plays a key role for sustainable natural resource management and generation of global environmental benefits. During the reporting year, 79% of projects have reported on improved livelihoods of communities. Specifically, efforts were noted across SGP's portfolio with 76% of country programmes employing strategies to increase and/or diversify income; 61% to increase food security; and 57% to increase access to technology.

To support knowledge management and communications, SGP country programmes carried out 558 peer-to-peer exchanges and 1,308 training sessions; produced over 901 project fact sheets, case studies, brochures, publications, videos and 79 how-to toolkits or guidelines that describe specific practices. SGP projects were also recognized nationally and internationally, winning 58 national and international awards. To support monitoring and evaluation, 1,648 projects, 53% of the active portfolio, received monitoring visits from country staff. SGP has recently recruited Results Management, Monitoring and Evaluation expertise to advise and strengthen the function at global, country and project levels.

While the individual project investments are small, significant efforts have been made by the SGP country programmes to ensure replication and scaling up of successful results, including through influencing national and subnational policies and practices: 15% of completed projects were replicated or scaled up, and 12% of completed projects influenced relevant policies by liaising with local authorities and other government institutions. During this reporting period, 15 SGP country programmes have teamed up with the GEF Full Size and Medium Size Projects to scale up and mainstream successful approaches and results.

SGP also aims to strengthen its partnership approach, with strategic collaborations and co-financing arrangements with a range of different actors, allowing SGP to scale-up initiatives and support emerging areas of work: these include Community-based Adaptation Programme supported by the Government of Australia, Community Development and Knowledge Management for Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS) supported by the Government of Japan, Community-based REDD+ Programme supported by UNREDD, EU-NGO Building Capacities of NGOs for Environmental Governance Project, and the Indigenous and

Community Conserved Territories and Areas: Global Support Initiative (ICCA GSI) supported by the Government of Germany.

SGP continues to act as a platform and facilitator of local action for the global environment, with a focus on innovation and inclusive results that are positioned to yield long-term impact. Overall, SGP results reflect consistent progression from past years, and an alignment with and concrete contribution to the integrated and inclusive approach of the GEF.

2. OVERVIEW OF SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

2.1. Programme Structure Overview

Launched in 1992, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) supports activities of civil society organizations (CSOs) in developing countries to address abatement of climate change, conservation of biodiversity, protection of international waters, sound chemicals management and prevention of land degradation, while generating sustainable livelihoods. Funded by GEF as a corporate programme, SGP is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of the GEF partnership, and is executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

Organizational Structure

The Global GEF Small Grants Programme is supported by a small team at UNDP headquarters in New York, known as the Central Programme Management Team (CPMT). SGP staff in the field consists of one National Coordinator (NC) per country, supported by a Programme Assistant in many country programmes. Two sub-regional programmes: Fiji Sub-Regional Programme (also covering Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, and Tuvalu), and Samoa Sub-Regional Programme (also covering Cook Islands, Niue, and Tokelau) respectively, are supported by Sub-Regional Coordinators (SRCs) and Sub-Regional Programme Assistants (SPAs). SGP Global Country Programme staff is 174 staff as of end of September 2017, including: 101 NCs, 2 SRCs, 68 Programme Assistants and 3 SPAs. SGP country teams are usually based at UNDP Country Offices (COs). In 7 countries, they are hosted by CSOs that act as National Host Institutions (NHIs). SGP NCs and Programme Assistants are UN-contracted to assure their “neutrality” in the grant-making process, and with the expectation that they perform according to the highest professional and ethical standards of the UN.

Upgraded Countries

Following a policy of Upgrading introduced in 2010, nine SGP country programmes were Upgraded at the start of GEF 5 through separate GEF Full Size Projects (FSPs)- these are Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, India, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan and Philippines. Six SGP country programmes were upgraded at the start of GEF 6- these are Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Peru, Sri Lanka, Thailand. All Upgraded programmes follow SGP Operational Guidelines and procedures.

In line with GEF policy and upgrading criteria, while these country programmes report through separate annual *Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs)* to the GEF, they also record grant project information in the SGP database, and provide contributions to SGP’s annual country programme monitoring survey.

UNDP and UNOPS

UNDP is the implementing agency of the SGP and provides general programmatic oversight for the programme, which is based in the UNDP/GEF Unit. UNDP country offices provide active support to the successful implementation of SGP at the country level, with the UNDP Resident Representative serving as a secondary supervisor of the NC, and as a member of the National Steering Committee, while UNDP programme staff provides support for programme synergy, partnerships, and resource mobilization.

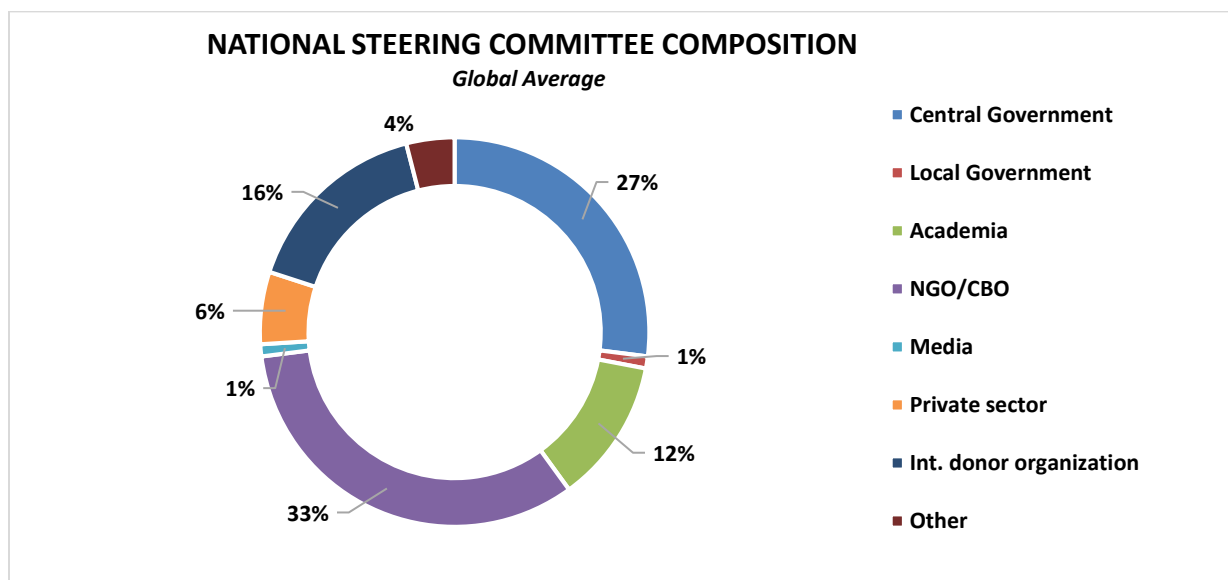
UNOPS, as the executing agency, provides overall financial and administrative support to the programme, while at the country level UNDP country offices act on behalf of UNOPS for financial transactions and administrative matters.

National Steering Committees

For each country programme, SGP continues to rely on the effective, proven oversight and decision-making capabilities of the multi-stakeholder National Steering Committees (NSC). The NSC promotes interaction and exchange between government and civil society stakeholders, as well as fosters cross-sectoral exchange between different sectors and disciplines.

As highlighted in SGP Operational Guidelines, the NSC is comprised of a majority of civil society members, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), academia, research, and media, alongside representatives of relevant government bodies, the private sector, UNDP and other donors. Figure 1 illustrates percentage based global distribution of NSC members from different stakeholder groups. Globally, about a third of NSC members are drawn from government, while over half are drawn from civil society-inclusive of NGOs, CBOs, academia, research, and media, and close to a quarter are made up by private sector and international organizations, including UNDP. Consistent with previous years, about six percent of NSC members were drawn from the private sector, while four percent were categorized as ‘other’, generally individual technical experts in specific fields.

Figure 1: SGP Global NSC Composition



SGP presently benefits from the voluntary inputs of nearly 983 NSC members, contributing their time and knowledge towards SGP by serving on an NSC. Nearly 102 NSCs are involved in the Global SGP programme, including those in the sub-regional programmes that cover multiple countries. NSC members are generally highly qualified, eminent and respected individuals in the country, who possess technical expertise in one or more of the GEF focal areas and lend their skills, experience and expertise to SGP operations.

SGP Operational Guidelines stipulate many conditions to prevent any conflict of interest, such as preventing NSC members and CSOs directly related to them from submitting grant proposals during their tenure on

the NSC, as well as recommending regular rotation of NSC membership to stimulate new actors and organizations to become involved.

All SGP country programmes are required to have a designated focal point on the NSC to provide expertise on gender issues and facilitate review of any gender components of projects. SGP also recommends country programmes to designate a youth and indigenous peoples focal point on the NSC- to be able to further promote youth participation and leadership in projects, and in countries where there are significant populations of indigenous peoples, it is a SGP good practice to also have representation of indigenous peoples on the NSC.

2.2. Annual Portfolio Overview

Active Portfolio: Amount, Value and Co-financing

SGP has grown in coverage over the years and successive operational phases. During the reporting year, July 2016- June 2017, the total number of grant projects and grant value under implementation that were supervised and monitored, by SGP amounted to 3,125 projects, for a total grant value of USD 107.8 million, and total co-financing value of USD 102.1 million (*Table 1*). The active portfolio of grant projects funded from GEF funds amounts to 2,870 projects for a value of USD 98.7 million with co-financing leveraged of USD 96.6 million. Remaining projects are funded from other co-financing channeled through the SGP, including from Governments of Australia, Germany and UNREDD. During the reporting year, 758 GEF funded projects were completed.

Table 1: Total Active Projects, as of June 30, 2017

For GEF and Non GEF Sources of Funding, including Global and Upgraded Countries, in millions USD

<i>Funding Sources</i>	<i>Number of Projects</i>	<i>Grant Amount</i>	<i>Co-financing in Cash</i>	<i>Co-financing in Kind</i>
<i>GEF Funds</i>	2,870	98.68	41.37	55.26
<i>GEF STAR Funds</i>	1,612	52.72	23.59	30.31
<i>GEF Core Funds</i>	1,147	42.31	16.94	23.50
<i>GEF RAF Funding</i>	111	3.65	0.84	1.45
<i>Non GEF Funds</i>	255	9.09	1.94	3.57
<i>DFAT-Australia-Mekong, Asia & Pacific & SIDS CBA</i>	81	2.90	0.50	1.11
<i>Community-based REDD+</i>	53	1.80	0.17	1.00
<i>Global Support Initiative for ICCAs</i>	46	1.84	0.20	0.55

EU -NGO Strengthening Project	12	0.38	0.02	0.04
COMDEKS	10	0.35	0.01	0.04
UNDP TRAC	6	0.23	0.54	0.05
IWECO Funding	2	0.09	0.16	0.03
Other	45	1.50	0.34	0.76
Total	3,125	107.77	43.30	58.82

During this period, significant effort has been placed on initiating grantmaking for the 6th operational phase, as well as finalizing the Country Programme Strategies that had commenced the year before (*see Annex 8.3 on Country Programme Strategy Elaboration process*).

Cumulative Portfolio: Amount, Value and Co-financing

Cumulatively since inception in 1992, SGP has funded 21,468 grant projects, worth USD 577 million in GEF and non-GEF resources, in all SGP countries, including Global Programme and Upgraded Country Programmes. The total value of GEF funded and non-GEF resources under the SGP Global Programme amounts to 20,691 grant projects, worth USD 547.60 million.

Cumulatively, Global SGP has raised US\$ 691.29 million in co-financing at the project level, in cash and in kind. SGP has grown in terms of volume of resources programmed and co-financing leveraged during successive phases, with OP5 constituting the largest phase with 5,883 projects funded for USD 187.33 million in GEF funding and USD 202.61 million in total co-financing to date (*see Annex 8.1 on details of SGP Country Programmes on GEF grants*).

The cumulative level of co-financing across all SGP phases exceeds the 1:1 target, that is to raise co-financing globally to match the total value of GEF resources. While co-financing in OP6 remains slightly below the 1:1 match for GEF resources, this is expected to rise in line with SGP experience as grant projects get underway and resources are programmed. It is important to note that SGP reporting only refers to project level co-financing and does not include the additional programme level co-financing leveraged by SGP at the global, regional or country levels, or include values of donor-funded programmes, which utilize the SGP as a delivery mechanism. *Programme level* refers to global and country programme portfolio level, and *Project level*, refers to individual grant projects, often made up of multiple local and national sources of funding and in-kind support, including in cash and in kind (*see Annex 8.2 for details on SGP total co-financing, including both programme and project levels*).

Tables below present the breakdown of: (i.) Global and Upgraded Countries grant projects, grant funding, in-cash and in-kind project co-financing recorded by SGP in its successive operational phases (*Table 2*); (ii.) and Global Programme specific details (*Table 3*). The Upgraded countries have supported 777 GEF and non-GEF funded grant projects, amounting to USD 29.37 million, with co-financing recorded at USD 43.06 million. Of these, 735 are GEF funded grant projects, amounting to US\$27.98 million with co-financing recorded at USD 40.77 million.

Table 2: By Operational Phase, Cumulative SGP Projects, Grant Amount, Co-financing

For both GEF Funds & Non GEF funds, including Global and Upgraded countries, in millions USD

<i>Operational Phase</i>	<i>Number of Projects</i>	<i>Grant Amount</i>	<i>Co-financing in Cash</i>	<i>Co-financing in Kind</i>	<i>Co-financing Total</i>
<i>Pilot Phase</i>	602	10.63	5.16	6.66	11.82
<i>OP1</i>	877	15.21	10.66	8.00	18.66
<i>OP2</i>	4,489	96.10	69.60	83.57	153.18
<i>OP3</i>	3,206	78.20	63.27	58.63	121.90
<i>OP4</i>	4,594	128.21	81.09	76.91	158.00
<i>OP5</i>	6,622	215.50	106.83	137.17	244.00
<i>OP6</i>	1,078	33.13	12.24	14.56	26.80
Total	21,468	576.97	348.85	385.50	734.35

Table 3: By Operational Phase, Cumulative SGP Projects, Grant Amount, Co-financing

For both GEF Funds and Non GEF funds, Global Countries only, in millions USD

<i>Operational Phase</i>	<i>Number of Projects</i>	<i>Grant Amount</i>	<i>Co-financing in Cash</i>	<i>Co-financing in Kind</i>	<i>Co-financing Total</i>
<i>Pilot Phase</i>	602	10.63	5.16	6.66	11.82
<i>OP1</i>	877	15.21	10.66	8.00	18.66
<i>OP2</i>	4,489	96.10	69.60	83.57	153.18
<i>OP3</i>	3,206	78.20	63.27	58.63	121.90
<i>OP4</i>	4,594	128.21	81.09	76.91	157.99
<i>OP5</i>	5,883	187.63	84.13	118.48	202.61
<i>OP6</i>	1,040	31.62	11.38	13.75	25.13
Total	20,691	547.60	325.29	366.00	691.29

New Grants Commitments: Amount, Value and Co-financing

During the reporting year, SGP provided grant funding to 1,120 new projects, committing a total amount of USD 35.9 million in both GEF and Non GEF funding (*Table 4*). For only GEF funding, the figures are 1,043 new projects, committing a total amount of USD 33.4 million in GEF funding. New project funding largely comes from core sources in OP6. Some residual STAR and Core funding allocated to specific countries in OP5 is also being committed. These countries, including SIDS and LDCs as well as some countries affected by crises, have been granted flexibility to continue to utilize remaining OP5 grant funds within an extended period. During the reporting year, total project level co-financing in cash and in kind amounted to USD 29.89 million for both GEF and Non GEF funding, of which co-financing of USD 28.72 million has been leveraged on GEF funds.

Table 4: New SGP Projects Approved, July 2016 to June 2017

For both GEF Funds & Non GEF funds, including Global and Upgraded Countries, in millions USD

<i>Funding Sources</i>	<i>Number of Projects</i>	<i>Grant Amount</i>	<i>Co-financing in Cash</i>	<i>Co-financing in Kind</i>	<i>Co-financing Total</i>
GEF Core Funds	808	24.69	9.90	12.23	22.14
GEF STAR Funds	235	8.71	2.59	3.98	6.58
Total (GEF Funds)	1,043	33.40	12.49	16.21	28.72
Total (Non GEF funds)	77	2.52	0.37	0.81	1.18
Total (All Funds)	1,120	35.91	12.86	17.03	29.89

SGP Country Coverage

SGP was active in 125 countries during the reporting year, with 110 countries being supported by the SGP Global Programme, and 15 SGP upgraded country programs funded or in the process of funded through Full-Size Projects (FSPs) in GEF 5 and GEF 6 (*Table 5*). Least developed countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) currently account for 63% of SGP Global country programs, with support provided to CSOs in 40 LDCs and 37 SIDS. During the reporting year county programme in Nicaragua was closed, and a new SGP country programme in the Republic of Congo has now been started, with a country programme strategy and grant projects developed and pipelined.

Table 5: SGP Country Coverage, 1992-2017

Categories of SGP countries	Names	Number
Active Global Country Programmes	Included in Annex 8.1	110
Countries Upgraded in OP5 and funded through separate FSPs	Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, India, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines	9
Countries Upgraded in OP6 and funded through separate FSPs	Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Peru, Sri Lanka, Thailand	6
Country programmes closed	Poland, Lithuania, Chile, Bulgaria, Romania, Syria, Slovakia, Nicaragua	8
Active as of June 30, 2017	(excluding Country Programmes closed)	125

2.3.Focal Area Distribution of Active Portfolio

Most SGP projects continue to have multiple benefits and integrated approaches with relevance to more than one focal area. For better tracking of portfolio data, projects are recorded in SGP database under primary focal area identified as the focus of the project, and up to two secondary focal areas of greatest relevance.

Focal area distribution for active SGP projects, for both GEF and non- GEF funds, including Global Upgraded Country Programmes (*Table 6*), highlights Biodiversity as the largest focal area with 1,191 projects (38%). This reflects the continuing interest of many NGO and CBO grantees to address natural resource management issues as well as the priority accorded to this area by NSCs. Climate Change Mitigation projects represent the second largest focal area in terms of ongoing grant projects and volume of funding, with 702 projects (22%) in the area. Land Degradation with 643 projects (21%) represents the third largest focal area. International Waters and Chemicals had 102 and 97 projects, which is approximately 3% respectively. Capacity Development was introduced as a new focal area in OP5, and SGP was required to limit the funding for Capacity Development projects to no more than 10% of the total grant funding for each Country Programme. Currently, there are 189 active Capacity development projects – making up 6% of all active grant projects.

Figure 2 illustrates the percentage based focal area distribution of active SGP projects for GEF and non GEF funding. Differences are marginal when data is analyzed for GEF specific funding during the reporting year. Focal area distribution for GEF specific funding is: Biodiversity accounted for the largest share of the portfolio (39%), followed by Climate Change Mitigation (24%) and Land Degradation (22%). International Waters accounts for 3%, Chemicals and Wastes each accounted for 3%, Capacity Development accounted for 6% and Multifocal Area projects accounted for 2%.

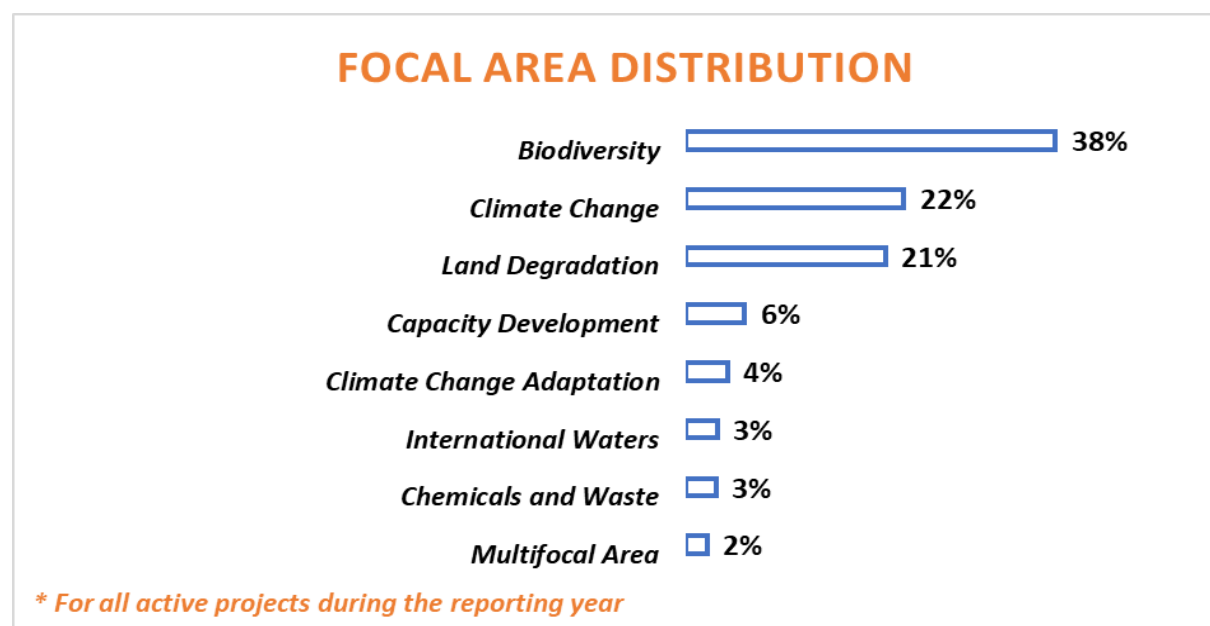
Table 6: Focal Area Distribution, By Active Projects, Amount, Value and Co-Financing

For both GEF Funds and Non GEF funds, including Global and Upgraded countries, in millions USD

<i>Focal Area</i>	<i>Number of Projects</i>	<i>Grant Amount</i>	<i>Co-financing in Cash</i>	<i>Co-financing in Kind</i>
<i>Biodiversity</i>	1191	42.03	13.20	19.91
<i>Capacity Development</i>	189	7.32	1.40	2.42
<i>Chemicals</i>	97	3.22	1.69	1.95
<i>Climate Change Adaptation</i>	132	4.61	1.21	2.39
<i>Climate Change Mitigation</i>	702	23.68	12.25	12.22
<i>International Waters</i>	102	3.77	3.09	3.28
<i>Land Degradation</i>	643	20.85	9.40	13.18
<i>Multifocal Areas</i>	69	2.28	1.06	3.48
Total	3125	107.76	43.3	58.83

Figure 2: Focal Area Distribution, Active SGP projects

For GEF and non GEF funding, including Global and Upgraded Country Programmes



2.4.Regional Distribution of Active Portfolio

Regional distribution of active SGP projects for both GEF and non- GEF funds, including Global Upgraded Country Programmes (*Table 7*), highlights Africa with 1,014 active projects (32.6%), and Latin America and the Caribbean with 989 active projects (31.4%) with the largest share of grant funds, followed by Asia and Pacific with 793 active projects (25%). Two smaller regions, Europe and the CIS had 171 active projects and the Arab States had 158 projects, accounting for approximately 5% each of grant funding within the portfolio of active projects. Important to note that the largest volume of resources in active projects was in the Latin America and Caribbean region, followed by Africa and Asia and the Pacific. Figure 3 illustrates percentage based regional distribution of active SGP projects for GEF and non GEF funding. Differences are marginal when analyzed for GEF specific funding. Africa has the largest share of grant funds at 33%, closely followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (31%). The rest remain the same.

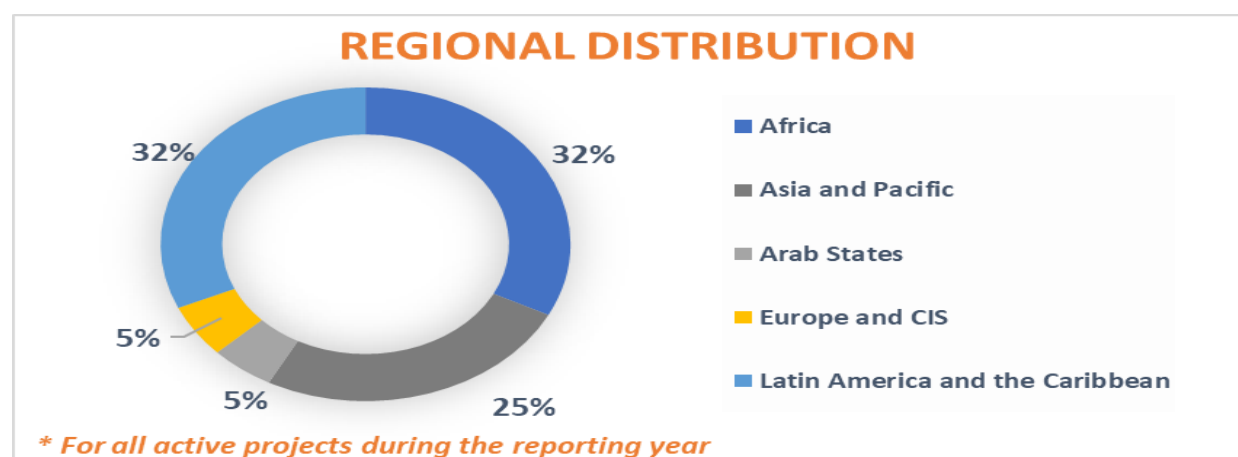
Table 7: Regional Distribution, By Active Projects, Amount, Value and Co-Financing

For both GEF Funds and Non GEF funds, including Global and Upgraded countries, in millions USD

<i>Regions</i>	<i>Number of Project</i>	<i>Grant Amount</i>	<i>Co-financing Cash</i>	<i>in Co-financing in Kind</i>
<i>Arab States</i>	158	5.46	4.93	2.24
<i>Europe and the CIS</i>	171	5.60	4.58	2.15
<i>Asia and the Pacific</i>	793	30.92	9.63	14.99
<i>Africa</i>	1,014	31.58	12.54	14.75
<i>Latin America and the Caribbean</i>	989	34.20	11.62	24.69
Total	3,125	107.77	43.30	58.82

Figure 3: Regional Distribution, By Active SGP Projects

For GEF and non GEF funding, including Global and Upgraded country programmes

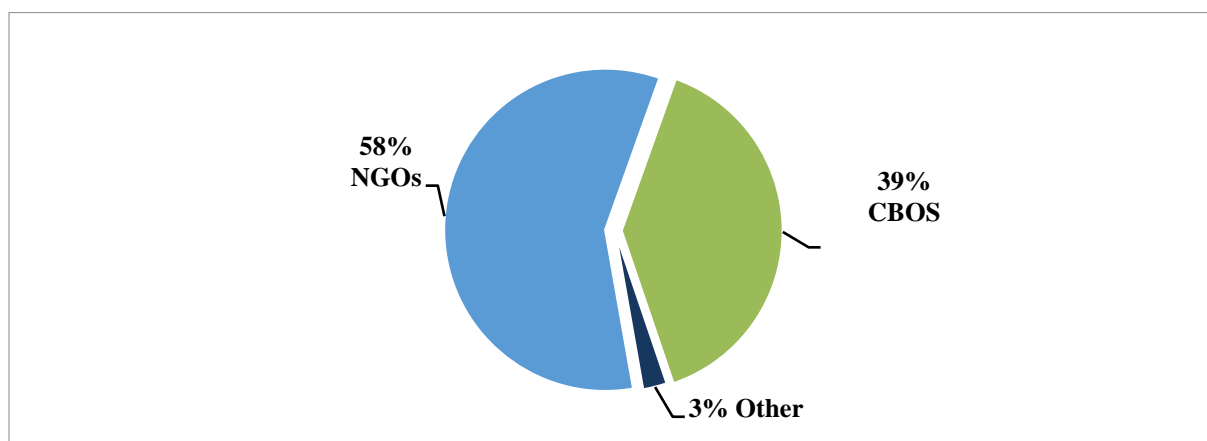


2.5.Diversity of Grantee Partners

SGP provides grant funding for all types of civil society organizations (CSOs). The network of recipient of SGP grants, or grantees, is diverse and is targeted to the poorest and most vulnerable communities. Figure 4 illustrates this diversity during the reporting year- about 58 % of SGP’s active grants have been implemented by NGOs 39% implemented by CBOs, with 3% categorized as “other”, listed as “other” mainly include academic and research institutions, foundations. When local communities lack the organizational capacity to develop and implement their own projects, a national NGO usually partners with them to build their capacities. Based on the experience gained through those partnerships, empowered communities can apply and implement future projects directly.

Figure 4: Grantee Type, By Active Projects

For both GEF Funds and Non GEF funds, including Global and Upgraded countries



Types of Grants

Following SGP Operational Guidelines, SGP provides planning grants to enable grantees to further develop and elaborate proposals that are in line with the Country Programme Strategy (CPS), but where the CSO requires support to fully prepare a sound project proposal to secure SGP grant funding. Planning grants have a ceiling of US\$5,000 and collectively amount to 3.66% of the funds of the active portfolio of projects under implementation. The total funding encompassing a planning grant and the resulting SGP grant project should remain below the ceiling of US\$50,000 per grantee organization in case of all regular small grant projects. Since the start of OP5, ‘Strategic grants’, with a ceiling of up to US\$150,000, are funded in exceptional cases where a project is deemed particularly strategic and likely to result in significant and wider scale benefits, including at the portfolio level. A Strategic project window was reintroduced in OP5 to meet demands for scaled up efforts especially in *mature* SGP country programmes, accompanied by a detailed guidance note, a call for proposals, and specific procedures for review and approval. This special call for proposals issued for Strategic grants, requires CPMT initial screening prior to final approval by the NSC. Strategic grants make up 3% of SGP’s currently active portfolio of projects, while vast majority of projects (97%) consist of regular SGP grants with a ceiling of USD 50,000. The number of Strategic projects that are currently active is 83 (out of 2,870 total GEF funded grant projects, including upgraded countries), while the total value of these projects is USD 8.35 million (out of a total of USD 98.67 million in active GEF funded grant projects).

2.6.Methodology of Results Calculation

This Annual Monitoring Report covers the reporting year from July 1, 2016- June 30, 2017, and includes both Global and Upgraded Countries. For purposes of calculation of SGP development results presented in this report, these are based on reporting by 111 SGP country programmes in this year's annual monitoring survey, as well as reporting on global results by SGP Central Programme Management Team (CPMT). These results draw upon both quantitative and qualitative information, and availability of both monitoring and evaluative data, conclusions and lessons learned.

A conservative methodological approach is used for results calculations. Only results of GEF funded completed projects during the reporting year are counted. A cohort of 758 grant projects funded by the GEF were completed during the reporting year, results of which are presented in this report. Ongoing grant projects still under implementation have not been included. This methodological approach is consistent with SGP results generation in the past years which excludes any ongoing progress from projects being implemented, unless explicitly stated.

Given the local nature of most SGP projects, the period for project completion varies, on average, from 2-3 years. Many of the projects reaching completion during the reporting year were funded in earlier operational phases of the SGP. As SGP builds on lessons learnt and the approaches tested and demonstrated in previous phases, the scope and results of projects continue to be relevant for learning and contribute to SGP's overall strategic directions going forward.

3. FOCAL AREA RESULTS

3.1. Biodiversity

Focus and Approach

During the reporting year, the biodiversity focal area in alignment with United Nations [Convention on Biological Diversity \(UNCBD\)](#), continued to support improvements in the sustainability of Protected Areas and Conserved Areas (PAs and CAs), and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes/seascapes and sectors. As one effective approach to conserving biodiversity, SGP grantees concentrated their efforts on Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs). Sustainable use of biodiversity based products was addressed, targeting sustainable practices in activities that depend on biodiversity resources, and there was a focus on appropriate protection and transmission of traditional knowledge and genetic resources by culturally appropriate means.

Performance Results

With 255 biodiversity projects completed during the reporting year, SGP has helped to maintain or improve conservation status of 443 significant species, positively influenced 126 PAs covering 7.5 million hectares, and 112 ICCAs covering 613, 056 hectares. 139 target landscapes/seascapes covering 3.7 million hectares were supported for improved community conservation and sustainable use. With regards to the sustainable use, a total of 359 biodiversity-based products have been supported by SGP projects (*Table 8*).

Table 8: Biodiversity Results- Key Annual Highlights

<i>Biodiversity performance indicators</i>	<i>Results</i>
<i>Total number of projects completed during reporting year (July 1, 2016- June 30- 2017)</i>	255
<i>Number of Protected Areas (PAs)</i>	126
<i>Hectares of PAs</i>	7,493,596
<i>Number of indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs)</i>	112
<i>Hectares of ICCAs</i>	613,056
<i>Number of sustainably produced biodiversity and agro-biodiversity products</i>	359
<i>Number of significant species with maintained or improved conservation status</i>	443
<i>Number of target landscapes/seascapes under improved community conservation and sustainable use</i>	139
<i>Hectares of target landscapes/seascapes under improved community conservation and sustainable use</i>	3,767,909

Illustrative Country Examples

In **Ghana**, SGP has concentrated on improving the recognition, support, and effectiveness of biodiversity conservation in areas under the stewardship of indigenous peoples and local communities (ICCAs) contributing to the achievements of Aichi Targets 11, 14 and 18 of the CBD 2020 Global Biodiversity Strategy. Working with local communities in biological corridors found between the Gbele Resource Reserve and Kulpawn Tributaries Forest Reserve, four community-managed sacred landscape, measuring 20 hectares, in the transition zone ecosystem were surveyed, mapped, inventoried, and digitized as part of a wider national biodiversity mapping programme. As a result, a landscape-level conservation initiative covering 300 hectares was implemented to conserve globally significant biodiversity areas (GSBAs) in the transitional forests. A botanical survey was conducted, resulting in a species distribution index which revealed that *Talbotiella gentii*, which is endemic to Ghana, was the dominant tree species. In another project, SGP Ghana provided support to promote biodiversity conservation, organic agriculture and livelihood enterprise development within the Fian and Tabease Community Resource Management Areas (CREMA). Two new CREMAs were created, and community members were trained in sustainable land use practices for forest regeneration. Two hundred farmers and their families were involved in the identification and conservation of threatened native species within the Fian and Tabease CREMAs, covering 250 hectares found in the landscape mosaic. Over one million seedlings of valuable Shea butter trees, widely used in the global cosmetics industry, were raised and planted in the degraded savannah areas. In addition, two bio-enterprises were established in organic honey production around the Gbele reserve, including equipment used for honey processing and bottling. The project contributed to the conservation of the habitats of several species including: Pigmy hippopotamus (*Choeropsis liberiensis*); Senegal bushbaby (*Galago senegalensis*); numerous species of monkeys, including the Diana monkey (*Cercopithecus diana rolloway*), red colobus (*Colobus badius*), black and white colobus (*Colobus polykomos*), and olive colobus (*Colobus verus*); Chimpanzee (*Pan Troglodytes*); and the white-breasted guinea fowl (*Agelastes meleagrides*).

In **Mongolia**, three inter-linked SGP grants on biodiversity conservation were completed during the reporting cycle. These included: (i) ‘enhancing community livelihood capacities through establishing community seed banks’; (ii) ‘bee-keeping for community forestry practitioners as an alternative livelihood enhancement option’; and (iii) ‘ecotourism-based sustainable development’.

The selected OP6 CPS geographic focus builds upon and deepens previous efforts developed by the SGP COMDEKS partnership with the Government of Japan, Satoyama Initiative. The first SGP project worked with *Tod Kharaa community-based organization* to campaign on native seed collection amongst 17 community groups coming from across the OP6 target landscapes; and construction and establishment of a regional community training centre in Bayangol soum, Selenge province. The training centre consolidated and extended training activities previously being offered to communities from Selenge, Bulgan and Tuv provinces practicing community protected areas, and community forestry. In parallel, the campaign for native seed collection took place amongst 1,200 individual members, belonging to 17 community groups, leading to the successful collection of over 800 kg of seeds from different rare, medicinal, and useful plants from all over the country. The seeds collected have been maintained by the SGP grantee community as a seed bank reserve, including a system for the annual redistribution of seeds for in situ re-planting by member organizations, with the balance sold at trade fairs and local markets to earn cash income as cost recovery for the network of local seed collectors. The seed bank and community distribution mechanism has become recognized by its members as a good practice, and will be consolidated and repeated in 2017. In another

project involving Khurgalag bee-keeping community in Mandal soum/county within Selenge province, the project focused on an intensive training of new bee-keepers; the importation of 160 new bee colonies from across the border in Russia; as well as follow up, technical advice and site visits. Organized with the Khurgalag community of nomadic herders, the field training brought together 41 community groups interested in bee-keeping techniques and related activities. Each of the community groups was given four bee colonies, imported from Russia by the grantee partner, to take back to their respective areas. At the national level, the network of bee-keepers has been connected to a growing demand for Mongolian organic honey, in particular from the Japanese market. Building on the above efforts, a third SGP grant has supported ecotourism-based sustainable development activities, including the promotion of agro-biodiversity products, and rural homestays for domestic and international tourists visiting the country. According to the SGP Mongolia NSC, the initial experience in adopting the OP6 landscape approach has offered numerous advantages, including the ability for the SGP to bring together many community groups within a network-based approach at the landscape level, promoting a closer and more unified cooperation among communities, and fruitful exchange of knowledge and experience.

In **Benin**, SGP supported NGO ‘Culture, Education and Research for Development in Benin’ (CERD-Benin), in the face of a growing degradation of the Shea agro-forestry systems in Benin (known locally as “*parcs agro-forestiers*”), to support the creation of improved Shea parks (PACPKA). The project worked to preserve the old Shea park in the commune of *Boukombé* through a technique of “assisted natural regeneration” (ANR). CERD also experimented with a short-cycle grafting technique for Shea butter from the fifth year onwards. With the participation of 160 farmers, the initiative identified approximately 17,000 trees, spread over 500 hectares, for assisted natural regeneration. A further 10 hectares in the borough of *Natta* in the commune of *Boukombé* tested out the grafted Shea nurseries. This resulted in production of 3 tonnes of butter by the association of students’ mothers (*Association des Mères d’élèves*). The improved production was made possible, among other things, by the installation of a demonstration plot in the form of a nursery fed by a water tower. This demonstration site served as a training centre both for producers, as well as for agronomy students focusing on research on the new grafting techniques. Despite the technical requirements required for grafting, a favorable factor for the increased community participation was the shortening of the duration of production. In support of the overall SGP Benin country strategy, a second SGP project in the commune of *N’dali* pursued similar objectives adding the planting 30 hectares of *Acacia Auriculiformis* to meet the firewood needs of the local population, resulting in the production and marketing of 10 tonnes of Shea butter.

In **Peru**, SGP supported project in Peru entitled ‘Recovery and conservation of alpacas’ germplasm to improve living conditions in *Caylloma, Arequipa*’ implemented by the *Yurac Qori* special services cooperative has produced a series of “land plans” with adaptive practices to climate change. The SGP project supported the fertilization of 36 hectares of *Chilligua* grass (feather reed) grasslands, including the construction of 10 km of channels to manage water resource and expand the high-altitude network of *bofedales* (Andean wetlands). As part of the SGP project intervention, 51 hectares of *bofedale* grasslands were restored using a fencing technique, resulting in an increase in the number of birds, reptiles and amphibians observed in the area. A further 18 hectares were replanted with *Chilligua* grass and forage oats for feeding camelids, increasing the productivity of the pastures by 11,880 kg per year. Over the course of the SGP project, the fertility rates of alpacas increased from 64% to 72%; and the mortality rate in offspring was reduced from 19% to 10% -- leading the total population of alpacas and camelids in the area to increase

from 7,080 to 10,793. Since approximately 99% of the 50 families in the area consume alpaca meat, the project contributed to improved diet and food security.

Global Results

Besides ongoing guidance by SGP CPMT to support country programmes, in the policy realm, many notable achievements were reached at the CBD COP 13 in Dec 2016 in relation to the SGP focus of support to ICCAs. These included [Article-7 of the decision XIII/2 adopted by the conference of the parties to the CBD - Progress towards the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12](#). The decision invites Parties and, where appropriate, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the ICCA Consortium and other partners, which includes the UNDP-implemented GEF SGP and UNEP WCMC, in consultation with the CBD Secretariat, to develop “voluntary guidance and best practices on identifying and recognizing territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities, including in situations of overlap with protected areas”, and their potential contribution to the achievement of the CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Additionally, with support from the SGP, the ICCA Consortium has published and disseminated a policy brief on [ICCA and Overlapping Protected Areas](#), and through the roll out of national governance assessments for protected and conserved areas, being conducted by IUCN, the identification and mapping of areas of overlap will be undertaken, including through the World Database on Protected Area (WDPA) and Global ICCA Registry. The adoption of the new UNDP Strategic Plan for 2017-2020 (being revised in mid-2017) is also expected to further review the UNDP contribution of ecosystems and biodiversity to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With co-financing from the German Federal Ministry of the Environment at the global level, a series of ICCA knowledge sharing and capacity-building events were organized including *inter alia* : (i) [Regional ICCA workshop for West Africa](#) in Senegal (Oct 2016); (ii) ‘Regional Capacity Building Workshop on the Management of ICCAs and Development Models’ in Bolivia (Oct 2016); (iii) national workshop to strengthen national initiative on ICCAs in China (Oct 2016); (iv) support to the [CBD COP 13](#) in Mexico, to increase recognition and support to ICCAs and indigenous peoples role in achieving the CBD 2020 Aichi targets 11, 14 and 18 (Dec 2016); as well as (v) regional exchange for ICCAs in West and Central Asia in Lake Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan (June 2017).

Lessons Learned

One of the lessons emerging from the implementation of OP6 includes the increased impact and cost efficiency of grouping SGP interventions along more focused geographic and thematic lines. In conjunction with the OP6 strategic initiatives on biodiversity conservation as part of the landscape/seascape approach, several SGP countries have (i.) clustered grant-making according to a COMPACT or COMDEKS landscape methodology, including a site strategy approach, and adoption of indicators for socio-ecological production landscapes; as well as (ii.) adopted an increased uptake of strategic project grants up to \$150,000. This trend has been most pronounced in cases where SGP country programmes have benefitted from Government STAR endorsements, as well as SGP OP5 and OP6 Upgrading country programmes (UCPs). For example, in **Guinea**, SGP has concluded a strategic project with the NGO ‘*Guinee Ecologie*’ on land use and habitat conservation for chimpanzees living in the Fouta Djallon range. Building on the traditional customary respect for Chimpanzees in the target area, the project has worked across 10 sites within the mountain landscape focus, 7 of which are mapped, including through the establishment of local nature conservation associations. With the support of donors including the ARCUS Foundation and USAID, the next stage with

the SGP strategic project and programme approach proposed by *Guinee Ecologie* includes the potential nomination of the site, noting the cultural relations of human populations and chimpanzees, to the UNESCO World Heritage list. Next steps in the upcoming year include, SGP to continue prioritization of critical landscapes to focus its programming on important ecosystems, including key biodiversity areas. It will continue to seek synergies, implement multi sectoral approaches by involving communities at landscape/ seascape levels, and facilitate communities' innovative actions to effectively manage the complex mosaic landscapes/ seascapes.

3.2.Climate Change Mitigation

Focus and Approach

During the reporting year, the climate change focal area continued to support decarbonization and low-carbon energy transformation at the community level through introduction of low-GHG technologies and low-carbon transport initiatives. These technologies included micro-hydro, wind, solar and biomass energy options. Results were accomplished through integrated approaches to decarbonization that ensured access of communities to renewable energy; and improved energy efficiency. SGP continued to promote demonstration, development, and transfer of low carbon technologies and innovations at the community level; and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry.

The completed SGP projects are consistent with both GEF-5 and GEF -6 strategic focus and contribute to the overall objectives of the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#). SGP emphasized catalytic investment focusing on support and commercialization of innovative projects including various technologies such as (i) biogas; (ii) biofuel as alternative to diesel or kerosene; (iii) solar energy for water heating and electricity; and (iv) hydro energy such as micro-hydro and watermills. Energy efficiency is supported widely in both rural and urban communities. In cities, SGP supported communities in their efforts to use energy efficient appliances and build energy efficient housing. In rural areas, the focus was on reducing the use of firewood by promoting efficient cooking technologies. While small in scale, these successful pilot initiatives are integrated and scaled up within larger national and international frameworks such as NAMAs (Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions), LEDS (Low Emission Development Strategies), Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL), as well as in the new initiatives taking shape with potential support from the Green Climate Fund and other funders.

Performance Results

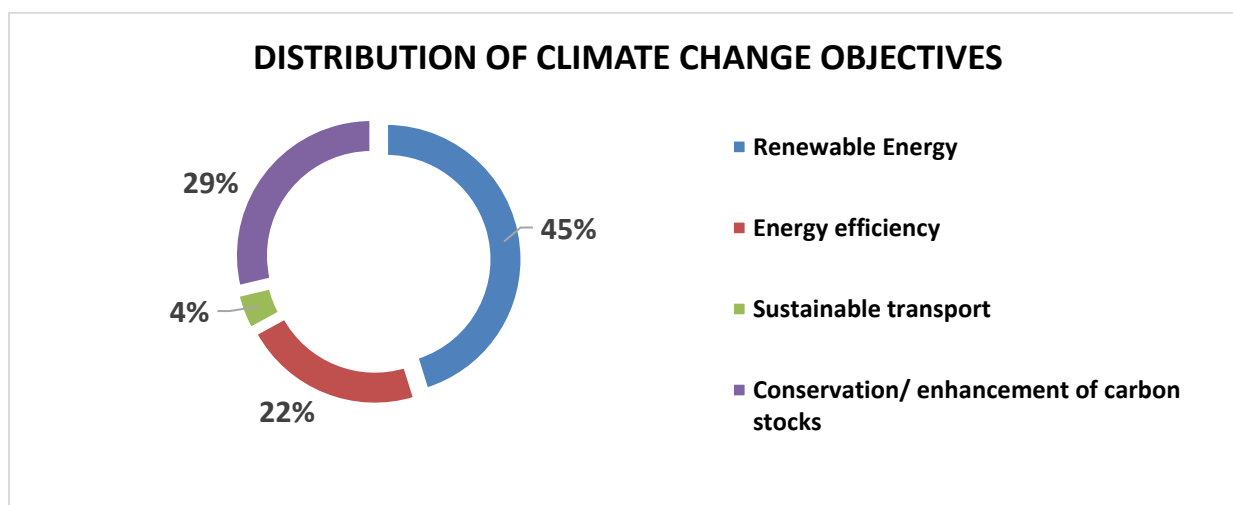
With 201 climate change projects completed this reporting year, the majority of portfolio distribution is focused on applying low carbon technologies (67%)- with renewable energy projects comprising 45%, while projects focusing on energy efficiency solutions made up 22%; and projects on the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks accounted for 29%. 34% of reporting country programmes (38 Countries) addressed community-level barriers to deployment of low-GHG technologies. SGP projects also influenced 13,215 hectares of forests and non-forest lands through restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks; 86 typologies of community-oriented and locally adapted energy access solutions were successfully demonstrated, scaled up and replicated. 239 communities achieved energy access with locally adapted community solutions, and 23,907 households achieved energy access co-benefits, including increased income, health benefits and improved environmental services (*Table 9*).

Table 9: Climate Change Results – Key Annual Highlights

<i>Climate change performance indicators</i>	<i>Results</i>
Total number of projects completed during reporting period (July 1, 2016- June 30- 2017)	201
Number of country programmes (CPs) that completed projects addressing community-level barriers to deployment of low-GHG technologies	38
Hectares of forests and non-forest lands with restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks initiated through completed projects	13,215
Number of typologies of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations or scaling up and replication	86
Number of communities achieving energy access with locally adapted community solutions, with co- benefits estimated and valued	239
Number of households achieving energy access co-benefits (ecosystem effects, income, health and others)	23,907

Figure 5 illustrates percentage based distribution of climate change objectives. Regionally, Africa is the leader in providing renewable energy access and is also the region, where these technologies have the greatest impact in terms of co-benefits. This finding is very much consistent with global trends with African communities increasingly relying on renewable energy and laying the groundwork for future low carbon development. Latin America and Caribbean region leads on enhancement of carbon stocks, which is also consistent with global trends, as forest conservation is prioritized in the region. Overall, Africa, Latin America and Caribbean and Asia emerged as leaders in climate change programming and valuation of co-benefits associated with low carbon transformation and energy access.

Figure 5: Distribution of Climate Change Objectives



Illustrative Country Examples

In **Barbados**, SGP supported a project to promote renewable energy production in farming communities. The specific aim being initiation of systemic transition to low carbon technologies in small scale farming through promotion of locally appropriate energy solutions for farming at the country level. A technical advisory group was established to identify the most suitable renewable energy technologies and demonstration sites. Six farms were identified as possible pilots, and a mapping study was conducted to document existing farm practices and to assess opportunities for use of renewable energy sources. In collaboration with the CARIBSAVE Partnership, SGP grantee Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC) facilitated the installation of 6kw solar panels and a solar-powered rainwater harvesting system to address the high costs associated with the farm's water needs. Guttering was installed along the edge of roof to capture rainwater, circulating water around the farm using a 0.5hp solar circulation pump. The guttering was also connected to the pre-existing 3,000-gallon concrete reservoir. All the water stored can now be circulated around the farm in less than one hour, generating 8,000 gallons of water per week. While thermal water heating was previously installed, it was complemented with solar water heating. Using a 3-cubic meter biogas digester, biomass energy was generated from plant and animal waste. The design is an improvement on the one from the Appropriate Rural Technology Institute (ARTI), reducing the amount of methane leak in the external chamber, since methane is a more lethal greenhouse gas. A new system is designed that is portable and will ensure 95% capture of all methane gas generated. As a result, the demonstration farm is realizing monthly savings in electricity of BBD\$200-\$300 (USD\$100-\$150) with low oil usage, and has saved BBD\$200-\$250 (USD\$100-\$125) in water, even in the context of below average rain fall. Based on the example of the demonstration farm, a national roundtable was organized and thirteen farmers were trained in good business practices, low carbon technologies and building and installation of renewable energy systems such as biogas, solar dryer and photovoltaic. Since demonstration project resulted in savings for small farmers, it is also being considered for country-wide replication.

In **Armenia**, SGP sustainable transport project promoted alternative emission-free transportation with electric and regular bikes, while raising awareness of climate change. Seventeen bikes were made available for testing and renting for people representing different social groups in the capital Yerevan and in two regions. Four stationary and mobile solar powered bike charging and renting stations are operational offering a viable alternative to motorized transport, reducing traffic jams and greenhouse gases emissions. The stationary stations are located at Yerevan Zoo, and in the educational complex in the public park. The project was accompanied by an extensive awareness campaign with participation of over 500 youth and schoolchildren. Seven regular bikes were provided to disadvantaged communities in the regions and the project helped regional stakeholders to develop business models for tourism development using non-motorized transportation. Several companies in the capital involved in tourism and delivery services tested the possibility of using non-motorized transportation. As a result of the pilot, several banks and insurance companies expressed interest in introducing a financing scheme to scale up the use of e-bikes, and advanced negotiations are underway.

In **Nepal**, SGP continued to replicate and scale up the innovative *Matribhumi* improved cook stoves (M-ICS) project. 82 institutional stoves were successfully designed and tested in tea shops, saving on average 110 Kg of firewood per day equivalent to avoiding 4,629 tons of CO₂ emissions. The project successfully designed and tested Matribhumi Improved Burner Cook stoves in tea shops in the corridors of Prithvi Highway, of Dhading and Chitwan, Central Nepal. A survey carried out to estimate the efficiency of the stove revealed that an average of 110 Kg of firewood per day was saved after using the institutional stoves.

As such 82 stoves saved 3,292 tonnes of firewood in a year. This is also equivalent to curtailing 4,629 tonnes of CO₂ in the atmosphere. Economically, saving 3,292 tonnes of firewood saved USD 658,000 per year. On an average, a single tea shop served nearly 100 customers daily thus, installing 82 such stoves served 8200 customers and tea shop staff and family by reducing the exposure to indoor air pollution.

Carbon storage projects constituted almost 30% of the portfolio during the reporting period (Figure 5). In most cases they were combined with energy access or energy efficiency technologies (improved stoves) to reduce the utilization of wood and ensure sustainability. Most projects reported added benefits such as watershed restoration and improved water supply in Venezuela. In **Timor Leste**, landscape approach was used to integrate several projects focused on reforestation and forest protection as well as introduction of improved stoves and solar energy. As a result, over 110 hectares of forest were restored. Communities additionally benefitted from access to energy and improved their food security through agro-forestry. Similarly, in **Cameroon**, forest restoration was combined with introducing more efficient charcoal production and agro-forestry. In **El Salvador**, 40 hectares of mangroves storing large amount of carbon were restored combined with the introduction of improved stoves, which allowed households to save USD 33 per month. Lessons from the carbon storage projects implemented over reporting period clearly show that energy access and income generation activities are essential for long term sustainability of such interventions.

Global Results

Besides ongoing guidance by SGP CPMT to support country programmes, CPMT worked on implementation of Community-based REDD+ (CBR+) partnership. The CBR+ partnership is now in the final implementation stages and has generated innovative results supporting climate change, biodiversity and other focal area objectives. Work is in progress to assess results and distill lessons learned. SGP CPMT in partnership and in coordination with the GEF, UNFCCC, UNDP and other partners successfully represented SGP at the UNFCCC COP22 in Marrakech. Additionally, a partnership was fostered with Swiss Cooperation and Francophonie Institute for Sustainable Development (IFDD) focusing on South-South cooperation in Francophone Africa centered on climate change community initiatives. An innovative pilot research was also completed, capturing socio-economic and environmental co-benefits of SGP's climate change interventions on the project level. Five case studies were prepared for Jordan, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Burundi, Armenia, Guinea and Argentina. This analytical study supports in value estimations of SGP climate investments; connect community-level work with SDGs and will inform the integrated approach to the GEF climate change work on community level.

Lessons Learned

Projects build on earlier pilots, with several innovations scaled up. Overall, SGP approach has been focused on supporting versatile, flexible bottom-up community solutions targeted towards specific demand sectors that link energy to productive uses and development priorities such as agriculture, youth employment, enterprise and industry, mining, fishing, women empowerment, health, education, environment, water and community services. However, challenges remain related to both project implementation and larger global trends. The projects focused on introducing low carbon energy technologies are often facing challenges related to insufficient technical capacity at the community level and scarcity of required equipment. Very often small scale of the project and limited financial resources lead to the use of donated equipment and volunteer's time. Similarly, problems exist with clearing and delivering imported equipment, as in the case

of some partnerships with [Barefoot College](#). Another challenge with small scale energy related projects is in their replication. As noted by many practitioners, and, also, as evidenced by SGP projects here is still a lack of ‘*midsize*’ financing to scale up community projects. Such projects are usually not taken up by banks and other large investors. It’s important to be realistic about the scale of broader adoption and identify appropriate upscaling examples. SGP carbon storage projects always have livelihood component and are usually sustainable for the communities. However, these projects may be difficult to sustain due to global trends and pressure to convert forests to agricultural land contributing to reforestation. These particular constraints emerged strongly during the implementation of CBR+ projects, particularly in Latin America, where this problem is very acute. Next steps in the upcoming year include, continued contributions towards efforts of decarbonization, scaling up solutions through facilitating adoption of new technologies, building enabling policy and institutional frameworks, including at the community level, as well as the identification and dissemination of best practices and advocacy.

3.3.Sustainable Land Management

Focus and Approach

The land degradation focal area continued to support reversal and prevention of desertification and land degradation, and mitigating the effects of drought in affected areas. Work in this focal area is guided by the [United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification \(UNCCD\)](#), and the [Millennium Ecosystem Assessment](#). With the new UNCCD strategic plan under discussion within the context of an LDN target setting, [UNCCD COP 13 evaluation](#) on progress so far in the context of *land degradation neutrality* target setting by over 100 countries, and the SDG goals that relate and contribute to sustainable land management, concerns on climate change have become a driver for sustainable land management, with highlighted importance towards carbon sequestration potentials of land, multi-focal landscapes approaches and strategies. Furthermore, it is increasingly being recognized that the future potential to feed the world would most likely be a contribution predominantly made by small holder agriculture. These realizations continue to underscore and amplify the work SGP does on agroecology and with the civil society organizations. During this reporting period, SGP projects were focused on improving agricultural management to maintain the cover and functionality of agro-ecosystems, and forest ecosystems in dryland areas, maintaining or improving the flows of agro- ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities; and reducing pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape. Activities supported mainly targeted rural communities, which are highly dependent on agro-ecosystems and forest ecosystems for their livelihoods.

Performance Results

With 185 land degradation projects completed this year, SGP supported 144,302 community members with improved actions and practices that reduce negative impacts on land uses; 147,308 community members are demonstrating improved agricultural, land and water management practices; 86,308 hectares of land has been brought under improved management practices including forest, agricultural lands and water courses; 4,380 farmer leaders are involved in successful demonstrations of agro-ecological practices, such as incorporating measures to reduce farm based emissions and enhance resilience to climate change; and 1,009 farmer organizations and networks are disseminating improved climate smart agro- ecological practices (*Table 10*).

Table 10: Land Degradation Results – Key Annual Highlights

<i>Land degradation performance indicators</i>	<i>Results</i>
<i>Total number of projects completed during reporting period (July 1, 2016- June 30- 2017)</i>	185
<i>Total number of community members with improved actions and practices that reduce negative impacts on land uses</i>	144,302
<i>Number of community members demonstrating improved agricultural, land and water management practices</i>	147,308
<i>Hectares brought under improved agricultural, land and water management practices</i>	86,308
<i>Number of farmer leaders involved in successful demonstrations of agro ecological practices (i.e. incorporating measures to reduce farm based emissions and enhance resilience to climate change)</i>	4,380
<i>Number of Farmer organizations, groups or networks disseminating improved climate smart agro- ecological practices</i>	1,009

Illustrative country examples

In **India**, SGP supported a project that introduced sustainable land management measures such as organic farming and community managed enterprises on non-timber forest products (NTFP) to promote sustainable income generation activities among the below poverty line tribal families. With SGP support, more than 500 farmers were trained on organic horticulture, cultivation, nursery raising and organic certification. Farmers stopped usage of chemical pesticides and fertilizers and gradually shifted to chemical free farming on 500 hectares. Through the project, close to 10,000 trees were planted in collaboration with the National Forest Department. Additionally, 100 hectares of land have been brought under organic farming and 50 hectares of land was restored. The project trained the NTFP gatherers in good collection practices, quality assurance and sustainable forest management practices, including improved bio fuel generation and replanting on the degraded forest lands to improve forest cover and production of traded forest species. Fifteen tribal women’s self-help groups were formed and strengthened as a contribution of the project. The women’s self-help groups and farmers were trained to diversify and improve income. Efforts contributed to an increase in purchasing power of beneficiaries by 25% of their annual income through creation of additional livelihood sources.

In **Iran**, SGP supported a project that addressed the role of dust storms in mortality of Oak -Zagros forests and solution for rehabilitation management in Ilam province in western Iran. The project objectives were to undertake an overall assessment of forest ecosystems of Ilam, selection of pilot sites and rehabilitation management of a pilot ecosystem with local community collaboration. With SGP support, activities undertaken included identification and introduction of genetic diversity of oak forests of Ilam province as a basis for the rehabilitation management; determination of stable intra-species varieties of oak to apply rehabilitation management; provision of certified seedlings and introduction and promotion of biological

fertilizers in each ecosystem; and assessment of ecological, economic, socio-cultural potentials of selected sites for rehabilitation management. Project implementation also supported community-based support in protection of critically endangered *Asiatic Black Bear (Ursus thibetanus gedrosianus)* through protection of vegetative cover of *Daz plant (Nannorrhops ritchiana)*, which is a consumption staple of the bear, against land degradation. This was done by creating necessary financial incentives for the locals to protect Daz vegetative cover by promoting locally made Daz handicrafts and facilitating access to markets for them. Project has contributed to increasing awareness on conservation values of Asiatic black bears amongst local communities and 1,200 hectares has been protected and brought under sustainable land management with potential for further upscaling to 50,000 hectares. This demonstration of reclaimed land serves an example of how local communities *are* and *can* manage and rehabilitate forest land for wildlife conservation.

SGP Botswana supported a project aimed at educating, informing and sensitizing people in the communities on the dangers of veld fires. Considering persistent droughts and climate change, it is crucial that veld fires are minimized as they have potential to damage rangelands and veld products. The project had a central edutainment component that used performing arts/theatre focused on working with youth to raise gender sensitive awareness and distributed firefighting equipment in the villages of Artesia, Leshibitse, Ramotlabaki, Oliphant Drift and Dikgonnye in Kgatleng district. A keen focus on sustainable livelihoods was also present for Bakgatla tribes that live off the land, keep livestock, do arable farming and depend on ecosystem good and services. As much as veld fires can be used as a rangeland management tool, when used at the wrong time; they have detrimental effects. A total of 38 stakeholders including community leadership and representatives from government departments from Kgatleng District were consulted and sensitized about veld fire management aimed at reducing degradation of soil. Community-based fire management trainings were conducted in the 5 villages to sensitize communities on effective fire management. In addition, various firefighting equipment's were allocated to the communities in the villages for fire management use. To upscale the project, SGP grantee Ngwao Pinagare Organisation staged a theatrical performance for 160 participants during the National fire management conference in Palapye on invitation by Department of Forestry and Range Resources showcasing the importance of veld fire management at the national level.

Global Results

Strategic projects proposals were reviewed and global support was provided in national level development and implementation of such projects in Agroecology and Sustainable Land Management. Examples of supported countries include Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Barbados and Armenia. Support was also provided in monitoring activities such as disseminating methodologies for focal area indicator tracking and development of baselines through the country programme strategy development process and on a case by case requests coming from countries. Knowledge dissemination was another key aspect with information on plant genetics and landscape resilience communicated to national levels through an informal partnership cultivated with FAO regional hubs. Similar information base was also provided to countries in drier parts of Africa in partnership with SOS SAHEL, with experiences shared in UNFCCC COP 22 in Marrakech, Morocco and more recently UNCCD COP 13 in Ordos, China. Knowledge was also generated through a first of its kind case study based publication, [Community Approaches to Sustainable Land Management and Agroecology Practices](#) , based on 11 cases studies that support further learning and thought leadership in the focal area.

Lessons Learned

The 2030 Agenda strives to achieve a land degradation neutral world through synergy in the implementation of three global conventions: UNCCD, UNCBD, and UNFCCC. Cohort of projects reveal that for maximum impact, land degradation and agroecology projects need to: (i.) focus on win-win integrated solutions that ensure social, environmental, financial and economic contributions to the community, while also being backed with a friendly and inexpensive technological solution which can be implemented and sustained by community resources; (ii.) SGP projects are aligned to GEF strategies on agro-ecosystems and rangelands management, and the focus on mixed land uses at the local level is a key contribution by SGP typologies of projects. Key lesson here is that these community projects should maximize transformational impact through mainstreaming of sustainable land management for agro-ecosystem services; (iii.) community approach on sustainable land management and agro-ecological project should exhibit a variety of traits which includes technical and social considerations. To the extent possible, these projects should integrate natural and social processes as well as ecological and traditional knowledge, build on adaptability related to crops and environment interactions, and take advantage of genetic traits developed over time from environment-crop interactions; (iv.) these projects should also be self-reflective, adaptive in design and implementation strategies must recognize the need for building on local tradition, wisdom and values; and (v.) critical to scale up and replicate successful community-based technologies and approaches, which can be achieved through strengthened community networks and platforms, while influencing both government and private sector towards further action. Many sustainable land management projects supported by SGP have worked with larger GEF projects and programmes, including the *Food Security Integrated Approach Pilot* and other initiatives, to scale up innovative approaches and initiatives at the community level. Next steps in the upcoming year include supporting such integration and scaling up further. The new Strategic Framework of the UNCCD for 2018-2030 is also under discussion, and preparations focus on supporting countries achieve *Land Degradation Neutrality* by 2030 by setting their own unique country targets. Therefore, how land is protected and managed will have multiple impacts on the sustainable development goals- and SGP aims to continue bringing the community-based perspective to these.

3.4.Sustainable Forest Management

Focus and Approach

The sustainable forest management focal area, a cross-cutting focal area with project activities often within land degradation, biodiversity or climate change focal areas, continued to support reduction in pressures on forest resources. SGP efforts focused on sustainable land use, land-use change, and forestry management interventions for forest and non-forest land-use types, to ensure connectivity between ecosystems and restorative activities. This included increasing ecological connectivity and improving forest biodiversity values at landscape levels; promoting good management practices in community and small holder forests and rangelands; and improving the management of woodlots and the protection of communal forest zones for medicinal and educational purposes. Linkages with biodiversity and climate change initiatives were also present.

Performance Results

With 7 sustainable forest management projects completed in the reporting year, 42,556 hectares of forest and non-forest lands have been restored through improved forest management practices (*Table 11*).

Table 11: Sustainable Forest Management Results – Key Annual Highlights

<i>Sustainable forest management performance indicators</i>	<i>Results</i>
<i>Total number of projects completed during reporting period (July 1, 2016- June 30-2017)</i>	7
<i>Hectares of forest and non-forest lands with restoration and enhancement initiated</i>	42,556

Illustrative country examples

SGP Cameroon supported a project for the rehabilitation and the conservation of natural resources in the village of Tayab. The forest of Tayap is among the most important lowland evergreen forest areas in Cameroon. However, due to timber exploitation and the intensive practice of shifting cultivation over the past 15 years, roughly 120 hectares of Tayap forests are lost each year. Primary forests now represent less than 30% of the total area. Agricultural land is also increasingly scarce and, due to the emergence of new pests and diseases, and Tayap’s farmers are experiencing unreliable harvests. Through an integrated and participatory approach, the project established ecotourism complex dedicated to the promotion of biodiversity, land and forest rehabilitation and the conservation of natural resources. The project included creation of nurseries of threatened tree species and fruit orchards to restore fallow land and improve beneficiary community livelihoods. The results of the project include the reduction in the use of unsustainable practices in the Tayab forest by 60%, and the management of a Women Sustainable Development Fund that supports sustainable income generating activities through a legalized cooperative. Over 20 agroforestry products (fruits, nuts, kernels, aromatic barks and seeds, tubers from various local and exotics tree and shrub species) from the eco-orchards have been introduced to the local market, including mango and other trees.

In **Cuba**, the Viñales National Park, is a protected area of 11,200 hectares, located in the Guaniguanico mountain range, municipality of Viñales, Cuba. It is home to 80% of the endemic mogotes. One of the most important endemic and endangered species is known as cork palm that together with its surroundings has been declared National Natural Monument. SGP project is in the buffer zone of the protected area and aims to integrate the rural communities in the protection of natural resources To reduce the pressure on the ecosystem, the project supported the use of agro-ecological practices and involved the participation of local communities in the recovery of endemic native species threatened with extinction, and in the management and restoration of forests. Communities received training and support in the implementation of agroforestry systems, management and control of invasive alien species, soil conservation, fire mitigation, reforestation, agri-tourism, and integrated management of coffee pests and diseases. As a result of the project, twelve hectares have been reforested and coffee production has been introduced in three farms. The agritourism program, led to the reforestation, forest enrichment and soil conservation of 68 hectares. Key lessons is that it is important to strengthen the capacities of rural communities in the management of natural resources, taking advantage of agro-ecological practices and sustainable tourism for the long-term conservation of forests and ecosystems.

Global Results

Strategic projects were conceived and global support was provided in national level development and implementation of projects in Sustainable Forest Management. Examples of supported countries include Cuba, Tanzania, Ghana, Ethiopia and Jamaica. Continued capacity was provided to countries with review of strategic projects on sustainable forest management related issues, particularly in establishment of forest woodlots and plantations, and Sustainable Forest Management as an incentive for conservation and management of indigenous forests.

Lessons Learned

In the absence of a direct convention on sustainable forest management, direct resources are not available for this focal area and its administration remain highly multi focal in nature. Despite the importance of the forests as a mitigation strategy against the climate change impacts, provision of habitats for biodiversity, and as the main strategy for rehabilitating degraded lands, its importance still emerges in line with the demands of communities.

3.5. International Waters

Focus and Approach

The International Waters focal area continued to support sustainable management of transboundary waterbodies through regionally connected community-based activities. There are two types of environmental benefits that SGP intends to achieve: a) direct global environmental benefits – which lead to the improvement in environmental state, the reduction of stress to the ecosystems, or reduced rate of environmental degradation; and b) indirect global environmental benefits – which contribute methods, mechanisms, and processes that will eventually facilitate the achievement of global environmental benefits. The latter aspect is particularly relevant in the International Waters focal area because of the vast coverage of a waterbody in comparison with the small scope of individual community projects – as the results achieved by projects can be amplified through the demonstration of solutions, and exchange of experience within a larger framework for action.

SGP support focused on innovative local solutions to reducing pollution, improving water use efficiency, protecting water supply and sustainable fisheries using rights-based management. Due to the inherent transboundary nature of International Waters issues, effective measures often require coordinated actions among countries sharing a water system or resource, hence the overall GEF portfolio reflects multi-country efforts as priority actions. These international or multi-country cooperation efforts have been usually undertaken between national governments, often resulting in the signing of inter-governmental agreements or other legal instruments such as Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs). SGP supports the implementation of SAPs at local and community-level, and ensure local experiences and lessons learnt can provide inputs and feedbacks to regional policy development and inter-governmental cooperation. SGP's niche lies in its community-based approach to transboundary water management, complementing inter-governmental management process at regional level. SGP also continued to position itself to develop and demonstrate effective and climate resilient community-based actions and practices supporting implementation of the regional GEF financed SAPs. To further focus SGP's efforts and enhance intervention effectiveness, SGP during GEF-6 has adopted a landscape/seascape approach in its programming, through which priority landscape/seascapes are identified and targeted. SGP support focused on innovative local solutions to

address issues including coastal and freshwater habitats, reducing pollution, improving water use efficiency, protecting water supply and promoting sustainable fisheries.

Performance Results

With 31 international waters projects completed in the reporting year, SGP continued to support the implementation of SAPs in alignment with regional priorities identified in 14 international water bodies. Projects completed involved 40 seascapes and inland freshwater landscapes. These included local names of marine parks, marine sanctuaries, gulfs, bays, lakes, rivers, and underground waters that SGP has worked on to improve their management during the reporting year. 280 tons of land-based pollution, such as solid waste, sewage, waste water, and agricultural waste has been prevented from entering the waterbodies; 27,468 hectares of marine/coastal areas or fishing grounds have been brought under sustainable management through interventions such as mangroves replantation, seagrass protection, coral reefs rehabilitation etc; and 24,537 hectares of seascapes have been covered under improved community conservation and sustainable use management systems (*Table 12*).

Table 12: International Water Results – Key Annual Highlights

<i>International waters performance indicators</i>	<i>Results</i>
<i>Total number of projects completed during reporting period (July 1, 2016- June 30- 2017)</i>	31
<i>Number of Seascapes/inland freshwater Landscapes</i>	40
<i>Tons of land-based pollution (such as solid waste, sewage, waste water, and agricultural waste etc.) avoided, reduced or prevented from entering the waterbodies</i>	280
<i>Hectares of marine/coastal areas or fishing grounds sustainably managed through projects' intervention (such as hectares of mangroves replanted, seagrass protected, coral reefs rehabilitated etc.)</i>	27,468
<i>Hectares of seascapes covered under improved community conservation and sustainable use management systems</i>	24,537

Illustrative Country Examples

In **Mauritius**, SGP supported a National Awareness Programme in Support of the First Temporary Octopus Fisheries Closure in Mauritius. The objective of this project was to support the Government's closure of Octopus fisheries by raising awareness among fishers, community members and the public on the rationale behind the closure. The Government of Mauritius passed a regulation to carry out temporary closure from August to October 2016. This was in response to intensive fishing pressure that resulted in drastic stock decline of Octopus fisheries in the waterbody, and a temporary ban allowed time for their replenishment. The Ministry of Ocean Economy conducted 14 rallies in coastal areas with the National Coordinator of SGP and the Representative of FAO Smartfish/ Indian Ocean Commission (IOC). The grantee partner conducted awareness exercises involving over 950 primary school students of the south-east region. A Sea Bus "Bis lamer" raised the awareness of 1,621 coastal community members, and 25 villages. During the closure, fishers were supported through focus group meetings, counselling and advice. A strategic

communication campaign was also launched at the national level through “Back-of-bus” posters, and TV and radio programs. SGP and IOC issued a joint letter to the Association of Hotels and Restaurants inviting them to ban locally fished octopus from menus during closure. A joint committee with enforcement authorities - National Coast Guards, Fisheries Protection Service and Environment Police – met regularly to take stock of poaching activities and follow up actions. SGP acted as facilitator and broker between NGOs, fishers and government authorities. With the project’s contribution, at the end of the period, officially registered octopus catch increased to 44,820 kg, a 28% increase from 2015.

In **Belize**, SGP supported development of capacity of the Toledo tour guide association to promote responsible tourism practices among its members who depend on marine resources for their livelihoods. This project built on the success of previous projects with the main objective of providing an environment for the development of sustainable and environmentally-aware tourism in Punta Gorda, a coastal community of the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System World Heritage Site. The project promoted the tourism products in which community members can be employed in tourism as an alternative source of livelihoods to traditional fishing. The project contributed to enforcing the policies for the sustainable use of the Hokeb Ha (Blue Creek) with adequate equipment. Furthermore, a cadre of qualified local marine guides are trained to conduct marine tours to the Sapodilla Cayes marine reserve and the Port Honduras marine reserve. One of the tour guide trained in the project moved on to successfully win the “Tour Guide of the Year” award, which reflects positively on the effectiveness of the trainings offered during the project. This project also contributed to the enforcement by the Belize Tourism Board Tour Guiding Statutory Instrument pertaining to mandatory completion of a refresher tour guiding course.

In **Cook Islands**, SGP supported a project to establish a clean drinking water station in one of the local villages. In some villages on the island of Rarotonga, in the Cook Islands, people do not have ready access to clean potable water. The water that is supplied through the aging water reticulation system is not filtered. Many local people’s homes have faulty connections into the water system, and they cannot afford the spouting required to collect rainwater from roofs. Therefore, many either boil tap water, purchase water in single-use plastic bottles, or risk water borne infections, especially during droughts and floods. With SGP’s assistance, the community provided labor, as well as spouting for rainwater harvesting. The facility was built on land which was gifted by the indigenous traditional leader of the district. It’s 6,000-liter tank, pump, wheelchair ramp, and UV filter make it the highest quality drinking water publicly available on the island. The project has contributed to reductions in costs of water consumption, as well as it’s procurement, and entry into the ocean of single-use plastics. It is also fitted with a meter, which has helped users monitor their water usage. Additionally, the drinking water station serves as a community social gathering place housing a child care center with plans for expansion.

Global Results

SGP places emphasis on collecting, codifying and sharing good experiences and lessons learnt for good practices to be replicated and scaled up. Besides ongoing guidance by SGP CPMT to support country programmes, contributions were also made to various events at the UN Ocean’s Conference in June 2017, and launched a publication, ‘[Scaling Up Community Actions for International Waters Management](#)’. A side event was successfully organized with the active participation from UNDP, UNEP, and SEAFDEC. With SGP serving as a delivery mechanism for the community component of \$1 million of the [UNDP/UNEP GEF IWeco Project](#), a regional launching workshop with the participation of ten country programmes was convened. Other partnership opportunities have been explored with the Amazon River Basin Project and

the second phase of UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project. Additionally, SGP developed guidance notes specific to different waterbodies informing SGP grantees and country teams on how to downscale local actions that can contribute to SAP implementation. SGP CPMT also coordinated closely with the GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies on furthering the agenda.

Lessons Learned

The International Waters portfolio review has noted the following experiences and lessons learnt: (i.) community work needs to be “nurtured” to achieve sustainable results; (ii.) achieving and sustaining results requires time; (iii.) barrier removal and creation of an enabling environment are essential for scaling up; (iv.) partnerships increase the impact of the project and are key to scaling up; and (v.) creative and adaptive replication may be an effective way of extending the reach of community efforts related to environmental management and sustainable development. International Waters portfolio continues to account a small share of SGP’s overall portfolio. This is perhaps due to two reasons. First, in International Waters focal area, communities and civil society organizations continued facing the challenge of having to overcome an additional hurdle that requires project proponents to link local actions to regional priorities and considerations, and to develop and implement “local” projects to address “international” waters issue. Such linkages are not always automatic and obvious. Second, it is important to recognize that often international waterbodies involve sovereign disputes, and prove to be sensitive to work with. Next steps in the upcoming year include work to reconcile local benefits with regional environmental considerations through forging connections, synergies, and coordinated actions vertically from local to regional levels, and continue with integrated international waters management working with key stakeholders, particularly serving as a delivery mechanism for the full-size projects and other larger initiatives.

3.6. Chemicals and Waste Results

Focus and Approach

The chemicals and waste focal area continued to support reduction and elimination of the release of harmful chemicals, mercury and other harmful substances into the environment. SGP efforts focused on the sound management of chemicals and waste, including persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and mercury, in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the global environment. This was done by managing and reducing the use of these substances; and addressing the disposal, clean up and mitigation of environmental contamination. SGP’s strategy for addressing POPs and other harmful chemicals is two-fold: i) managing and reducing the use of these substances; and ii) addressing the disposal, clean-up and mitigation of environmental contamination. Other SGP project efforts included pesticide and waste management, well as networking and advocacy for environmentally sound use of chemicals and waste. A core role of SGP is also in the demonstration, piloting and testing of community-based models to eliminate POPs and sustainably manage other harmful substances and waste, which can be scaled-up and replicated to catalyze successful large-scale approaches.

SGP’s work on mercury is guided by the [Minamata Convention on Mercury](#) which was agreed at the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in Geneva, Switzerland in 2013. The objective of this Convention is to protect the human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds. Here, SGP has focused on the environmental collection,

disposal and management of mercury contained products (e-waste) and piloting prevention, reduction and elimination of mercury use in artisanal small-scale gold-mining.

Performance Results

With 29 chemicals and waste projects, including 3 projects on mercury management, that were completed during the reporting period: the use of 21,900 kilograms of pesticides has been avoided; 345,704 kilograms of solid waste has been reduced by chemicals projects, such as those reducing plastics, domestic waste, agricultural waste; the release or utilization of 764 kilograms of harmful chemicals has been avoided; 297,601 kilograms of e-waste has been collected or recycled; 1,620 kilograms of mercury has been reduced or sustainably managed. 23 SGP country programmes reported use of community-based interventions to reduce deployment and transference of chemicals. Key tools/ approaches reported by these country programmes included awareness raising and capacity development (43%), solid waste management (21%), and organic farming (17%). 23 national coalitions and networks on chemicals and waste management have also been established or strengthened (*Table 13*).

Table 13: Chemicals and Waste Results – Key Annual Highlights

<i>Chemicals and waste performance indicators</i>	<i>Results</i>
<i>Total number of projects completed (including Mercury) during reporting period (July 1, 2016- June 30- 2017)</i>	29
<i>Total number of mercury management projects completed during reporting period (July 1, 2016- June 30- 2017)</i>	3
<i>Kilograms of pesticides avoided, reduced or prevented by SGP chemicals projects</i>	21,900
<i>Kilograms of solid waste prevented or reduced by chemicals projects (such as plastics, domestic waste, agricultural waste)</i>	345,704
<i>Kilograms of harmful chemicals avoided from utilization or release</i>	764
<i>Kilograms of e-waste collected or recycled</i>	297,601
<i>Kilograms of mercury avoided, reduced or sustainably managed</i>	1,620
<i>Number of national coalitions and networks on chemicals and waste management established or strengthened</i>	23

Number of SGP country programmes are employing community-based tools/approaches to avoid and reduce chemicals demonstrated, deployed and transferred (*Table 14*).

Table 14: Tools and Approaches to Reduce Chemicals Deployed and Transferred

<i>Type of Community-based Tools/Approach</i>	<i>Number of Countries</i>
<i>Awareness raising and capacity development</i>	10
<i>Development of alternatives to chemicals</i>	2
<i>Organic farming</i>	4
<i>Solid waste management (reduce, reuse and recycle)</i>	5
<i>Sustainable pesticide management</i>	2

Illustrative Country Examples

In **Kazakhstan**, SGP supported a project to decrease the use of synthetic chemicals in agriculture by introducing organic practices in agriculture. The project provided technical assistance to farmers to introduce organic fertilizers as an alternative to chemical synthetic fertilizers in eight farms with a total area of 14,050 hectares of lands. This saves 2,180 tons of synthetic fertilizer and 14 tons of pesticides used every year. With organic fertilizers, flax crop yields on these farms increased by 22.8 percent, sunflower yields by 11.5 percent, wheat by 11.2 percent and lentil crops by 21.6 percent. Work has also been carried out to increase the level of awareness about organic production with the project raising public awareness among 10,000 people on organic alternatives. The project’s strategy of conducting field visits and demonstrating project results has contributed to increasing the adoption of organic agriculture. As a way to replicate the project’s results, representatives from 50 farms in five provinces have received consultations and practical advice on organic farming and how to reduce the use of chemicals through organic agriculture.

In **Gambia**, SGP supported a project to promote agro-organic farming among women vegetable producers in the West Coast Region. The project promoted the systematic use of organic manure to enhance and improve soil fertility. Key results included protection and enhancement of biodiversity, biological cycle and soil productivity. The applied techniques used minimum use of external inputs and management practices that restore, maintain and enhance ecological harmony. A demonstration “model” farm of five hectares was established; trainings were organized for over 100 community members on nursery management, crop spacing, weeding, watering and crop hygiene; a compost “how-to-manual” was produced and additional capacity was provided on composting materials, site selection and compost preparation stages. This led to federation members harvesting organic produce that generated higher revenue than previous years of D 26, 500 (~\$557). Women producers were mobilized as a cooperative organization and supported on management aspects, including value chain market linkages, and use of organic fertilizers resulted in annual saving, and an average reduction of 224 kg of chemical fertilizer.

In **Trinidad and Tobago**, SGP supported a project to reduce, reuse or recycle plastic bottles, with the aim to reduce the release of harmful chemicals to human health and the environment that are found in plastic bottles. Project methodology included collection of used plastic bottles for recycling, and re-using to grow

short crops in households. Key component of the project involved educating 195 school students on the impact of the indiscriminate dumping of used plastic bottles on the environment, resulting in collection of 35,550 plastic bottles (540 kgs). 29 women from the urban town of Laventille, a vulnerable, high crime rate community, were provided gender sensitive training on green technology and the use of plastic bottles as containers to grow short crops, providing skills and resources to generate income in a low-income context. SGP grantee also formed new relationships with the Trinidad and Tobago Solid Waste Management Company (SWMCOL), and Plastikeep, an NGO committed to taking positive action on behalf of the Environment, to support successful replication of the model to other communities.

Global Results

Besides ongoing guidance by SGP CPMT to support country programmes, a global portfolio review has been conducted including the collection, verification and updating of GIS data, *available on [SGP database and website](#)*, for more than 500 projects. A global publication, [Community-based Chemicals and Waste Management](#), was launched at the meeting of the Conference of Parties meeting at the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention in April 2017. A video was produced and launched at the meeting. SGP successfully organized a side event to advocate community-based approach to chemicals and waste management at the meeting. SGP CPMT also participated in [GEF GOLD Programme](#) launching event in November 2016 in Washington DC. SGP also continued exploring collaboration opportunities with GEF full-sized projects to enable support for community components of larger initiatives.

Lessons Learned

The global publication, *Community-based Chemicals and Waste Management*, noted the following lessons learned: (i.) chemicals and waste management work can be more effective if combined with poverty reduction and other sustainable development efforts for multiple development benefits; (ii.) integrated focal area approach to tackle chemicals and waste issues brings in multiple environmental benefits across all GEF focal areas; (iii.) national and local policies, standards and procedures in chemicals, heavy metals and waste management provide an enabling environment for scaling up successful community-based activities; (iv.) SGP's flexibility and adaptability enable civil society organizations to work with a diversity of groups including women, youth, indigenous people and other special groups, and (v.) inclusive partnerships which place the wellbeing of communities and the planet at the center are needed for chemicals and waste management efforts to succeed. Chemicals, waste and mercury issues are relatively less known to civil society organizations. This is partly due to the complexity of POPs issues, mercury and the technical aspects involved, and partly due to the sensitivity of working in these areas. SGP issued a global call for proposals and has selected to work with the *International POPs Elimination Network and Zero Mercury Working Group* in building and strengthening local to global coalitions. Next steps in the upcoming year include, focus on development of technical capacity and knowledge on POPs and mercury among national coordinators and members of NSCs. Also, to raise awareness on chemicals, waste and mercury issues, efforts will continue to enhance learning and knowledge sharing across different levels.

3.7.Capacity Development Results (portfolio level)

Focus and Approach

Projects in Capacity Development focal area continued to enhance and strengthen the capacities of stakeholders to engage in consultative processes on environmental issues; generate, access and use information and knowledge; develop policy and legislative frameworks; implement and manage global convention guidelines; and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends.

Capacity development was introduced as a new focal area in OP5, in alignment with the GEF 5 focal area strategies. SGP was required to limit the funding for capacity development projects to no more than 10% of the total grant funding for each country programme in OP5. The main difference between capacity development efforts in regular SGP grantmaking and the stand alone capacity development grants, is that the latter address capacity development issues at the portfolio and programme level – as opposed to the project level which regular/ ongoing capacity development efforts do.

Performance Results

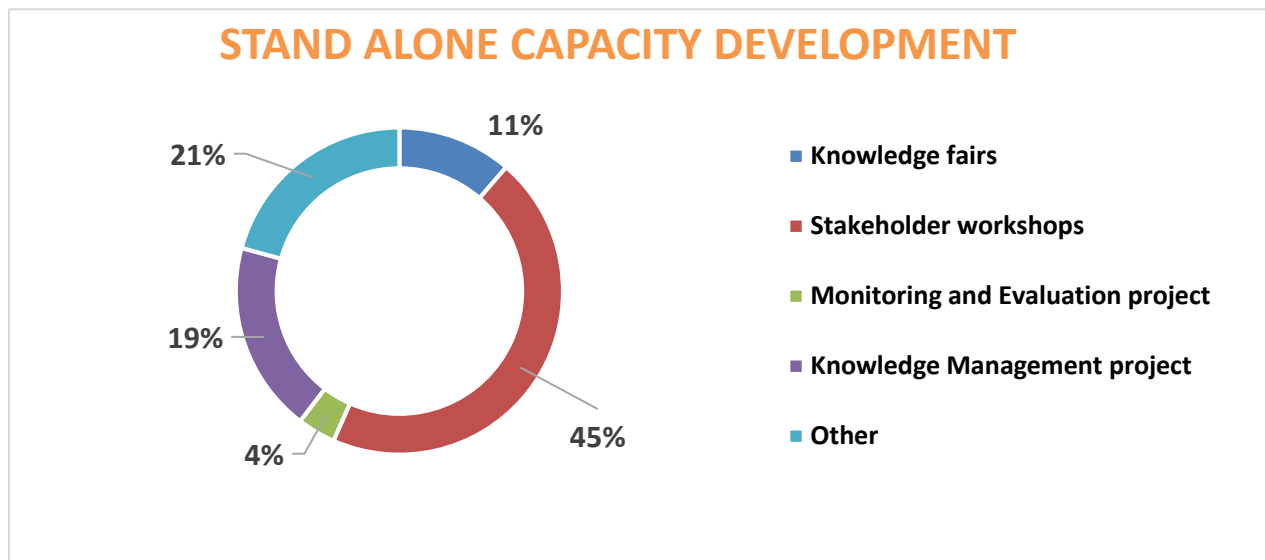
With 50 capacity development projects completed during the reporting period, capacities of 628 CSOs and 461 CBOs were strengthened, comprising 11,783 people, to address global environmental issues at the community level. In terms of the focus of completed capacity development projects, 45% were focused on stakeholder workshops, 19% were focused on knowledge management, 11% on knowledge fairs, and 4% on monitoring and evaluation. Other category at 21% referenced work done on development of the Country Programme Strategies and other initiatives (*Table 15*).

Table 15: Capacity Development Project Results – Key Annual Highlights

<i>Capacity development performance indicators</i>	<i>Results</i>
<i>Total number of projects completed during reporting period (July 1, 2016- June 30- 2017)</i>	50
<i>Number of CSOs whose capacities were developed or improved</i>	628
<i>Number of CBOs whose capacities were developed or improved</i>	461
<i>Number of people whose capacities were improved</i>	11,783

Figure 6 illustrates the diversity and multiplicity of capacity development grants used by country programmes during the reporting year.

Figure 6: Types of Capacity Development Grants



Illustrative Country Examples

In **Moldova**, SGP supported a project to improve the performance of environmental information in the Republic of Moldova to comply with European standards. SGP Moldova worked with the *NGO AO Oikumena* to develop a public portal for environmental data, *spdm.oikumena.md*, that uses web-based, geographic information system (GIS) technology for the collection and dissemination of data. It can be used by NGOs and other community-based organizations to collect environmental data following both international and regional (INSPIRE) standards. In 2016, training sessions were conducted in Ungheni, Chisinau, and Balti, introducing and presenting the theoretical concepts of GIS, the relevance of the portal to environmental NGOs, and how to use it, to improve GIS capabilities at the community level. *AO Oikumena*, is connected with other NGOs to expand the user base and support future users of the portal. This system improves NGOs and CBOs’ capabilities to collect, process, and distribute environmental data they gather during the implementation of their environmental protection initiatives. The data collected is checked and validated by a portal administrator, and is free and accessible to all stakeholders. Results have been significant for local communities and their ability to participate in decision-making at the policy level.

In **Ukraine**, SGP implemented a capacity development project to enhance the capacities of communities and civil society organizations using different tools. Under the framework of the project ‘*Community capacity development and sustainable development*’, youth groups actively participated in various capacity development and knowledge sharing activities. The GEF SGP Knowledge Fair was conducted in October 2016 to enable SGP grantees and one civil society organization to network, share and showcase best practices, as well as promote sustainability and mobilization of additional resources for community-based initiatives. The event gathered together over 20 SGP projects and involved more than 100 participants and 700 visitors. Exhibition were thematically divided on: climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, land degradation prevention, chemicals and waste management, and capacity development/women and

youth engagement. The women/youth engagement site was moderated by the Partnership Network ‘*Education for sustainable development in Ukraine*’, established through the support of a GEF SGP project several years ago. Currently, Partnership Network unites over 200 members, representing educational and scientific institutions, youth NGOs and other stakeholders. Network members shared their best educational practices, presented new publications, on-line courses and youth ecological games. As a result, over 200 children and young people participated in the event and 10 new network members were registered. UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, attended this event.

Furthermore, the project supported a South-South exchange with Turkey, wherein Ukrainian CSOs exchanged experience in biodiversity, land degradation and management, rural tourism and gender issues; as well as an awareness raising component through the Ukrainian environmental newspaper ‘*Development and Environmental*’. These efforts enhanced the capacities of 2,500 community members. Furthermore, the grant supported two networks of CSOs and CBOs: The ‘*Green Zhytomyrshchyna*’ network unites more than 20 NGOs, 7 Scientific Institutions, and 20 communities in the Polissya landscape, and with the support of SGP they conducted further capacity trainings. The CSO network ‘*Education for sustainable development*’, established with SGP support six years ago, unites 150 schools, 50 educational institutions, 10 universities and 10 national protected areas and. With this project, SGP supported website and application forms development, and preparation and participation in UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable development.

To support grant making focus at landscape/ seascape levels, and in line with evidence based approach, twelve capacity development grants were used by SGP country programmes, **Burkina Faso, Burundi, Georgia, Grenada, Jordan, Mauritania, Mozambique, Paraguay, Senegal, St. Lucia, Trinidad & Tobago, and Haiti**, to develop their respective OP6 Country Programme Strategies (CPS). The development of the CPS has been a participatory, multi-stakeholder process that provides the framework for the grantmaking at the country level, by establishing priorities and focus during the Operational Phase. (*see Annex 8.3 on Country Programme Strategy Elaboration process*).

Global Results

SGP CPMT has provided guidance on the use of capacity development grants to country programmes; reviewed and provided feedback to calls for applications used to announce the grants; and contributed to knowledge products produced as results of the grants.

Lessons learned

A key lesson emerging from the capacity development portfolio is that enhancing the capacities of CSOs and CBOs at the portfolio level requires a long-term approach. This is due to changing needs of CBOs and CSOs over time; introduction of the landscape/ seascape approach and new themes of SGP’s work require specific enhancement of CSOs and CBOs. Next steps in the upcoming year include a need to rethink the nature, use, and guidance on timing of capacity development grants in each operational cycle, particularly with resource constraints.

4. GRANTMAKER PLUS RESULTS

During the reporting period, Grantmaker plus strategies were employed by SGP to enhance the overall effectiveness of its entire portfolio by expanding the role and value of SGP beyond grant-making. This was done by promoting Grantmaker plus interventions that create an enabling environment and build systemic capacity for civil society and community action to address global environmental challenges. Such activities span a range of efforts, from establishing and strengthening CSO networks, promoting CSO-government dialogues, leveraging knowledge, mobilization of resources and partnerships, and ensuring social inclusion of vulnerable groups. These approaches build on SGP's inherent characteristic as a broker and facilitator of local action, with a focus on inclusive and sustainable results that are positioned to yield long-term impact.

4.1.CSO- Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms

Focus and Approach

A key Grantmaker plus strategy in sixth operational phase of SGP, CSO- Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms, build on the catalytic role already played by SGP's multi-sectoral National Steering Committees in influencing sub- national and national policy formulation. During the reporting period, the dialogue platforms have further leveraged existing and potential partnerships, as well as served to build trust and foster joint working relationships between civil society and government partners. These platforms are assisting governments in establishing and institutionalizing the link of SGP communities to development plans and policy reforms that affect them.

Specifically, through active participation in these dialogue platforms, civil society organizations have a voice on key policies for environment and sustainable development. This support is essential to ensure that SGP pilot catalytic activities are scaled up and mainstreamed, with the aim of contributing to transformative institutional change. The dialogues are also expected to foster joint working relationships between civil society and government on environment and sustainable development policies, bring local communities/CSOs into national policy development and planning and allow them to provide fresh insights on issues important for them. The dialogues build on the lessons learned and the trust developed between the National Steering Committees, UN, GEF and other actors, and rely on existing mechanisms of CSO involvement, as well as GEF and SGP activities.

Performance Results

During the reporting period, 44 SGP country programs (40%) conducted CSO-Government Dialogues. A total of 170 dialogue platforms were initiated representing involvement of 5,595 CSO/CBO representatives (*Table 16*).

Table 16: CSO Government Dialogue Results – Key Annual Highlights

<i>CSO Government performance indicators</i>	<i>Results</i>
<i>Number of SGP country programmes with CSO-Government Dialogue activities conducted</i>	44
<i>Number of dialogue platforms initiated and CSO and/or CBO networks strengthened to manage such dialogues</i>	170
<i>Total number of CSO/CBO representatives involved in the dialogues</i>	5,595

Progress during the reporting period is indicative of significant scaling up since the dialogues were piloted in several country programmes during OP5.

Illustrative Examples

In **Morocco**, SGP supports l’Alliance marocaine sur le changement climatique et le développement durable - *Moroccan Climate Change and Sustainable Development Alliance*- which serves as the largest platform of CSOs of over 200 NGOs involved in environmental work. In preparation for UNFCCC COP22 in Marrakech, SGP Morocco in collaboration with the Alliance and other partners, including UNDP and the Government, supported the establishment of CSO- Government dialogue platform focusing on CSO participation in COP22. Five dialogues were organized between 30 CSOs – members of the Alliance and three Government institutions, Secretariat for the Environment, High Commission for Forests and Reduction of Desertification, National Council of Human Rights, aiming to facilitate civil society participation in COP22. As a result, Moroccan Civil Society productively participated in this important international forum and demonstrated the role CSOs can play in addressing climate change through demonstration of successful interventions and good practices. The dialogues continued after the COP. In May 2017, the alliance supported by the SGP and UNDP, organized another large-scale dialogue with the participation of 260 CSO representatives, the government agencies and international organizations. The focus of the dialogue was on defining the role of civil society as key stakeholder in transition to sustainable development. The platform, therefore, continues to provide a legal framework for civil society participation and influence with the government on important national and policy discussions on environmental issues.

In **Kenya**, SGP supported a dialogue between CSOs (represented by Community Forest Associations, Water River User Associations and farmer groups) and the Government, with the aim of creating a working partnership on sustainable management of natural resources in Kikuyu County. The context was important as after developing a new national constitution, Kenya had established a two-tier governance system at the national and county levels. As new institutional structures were being set up, SGP provided an opportunity to strengthen community institutions supporting conservation and improvement of livelihoods through a dialogue. As a result, government officials were informed of key natural resources in the county, their significance, and the threats faced. CSOs also informed the government of their efforts to promote conservation, and economic opportunities provided by natural resources, such as with eco-tourism. Additionally, the dialogue supported CSO’s in providing inputs to the development of the County Water Policy and the Forest County Policy.

In **Afghanistan, China, Grenada, Marshall Islands, Turkey**, the dialogues were initiated by SGP programming activities such as discussion of country programme strategy, project evaluation workshops, knowledge management and capacity building activities. These meetings in a specific context and discussion of common goals and issues helped built trust and partnership between the respective Governments and CSOs laying a foundation for joint work and sustained exchange.

In **Guatemala, Jamaica, Haiti, Morocco, Moldova, Niger, Tanzania, Thailand**, the dialogues were timed around global conventions and events such as UNFCCC and UNCCD COPs and aimed to help local communities, CSOs, indigenous people and other SGP constituents to meaningfully participate at the critical time as country positions were being developed. As an example, in **Thailand**, SGP co-hosted a national dialogue on World Day to Combat Desertification with the key stakeholders from the government agencies, UNCCD, CSOs and CBOs.

In **Belarus, Belize, Brazil, Lesotho, Ecuador, Mozambique, Panama** and **Venezuela** relied on landscape approach as an entry point to initiate the dialogues at the regional level. In **Panama**, the dialogues resulted in strengthened landscape governance and stronger collaboration between the civil society and the Government. In **Ecuador**, the actors of the landscape, communities, local governments, universities, CSOs, organized dialogues to discuss action plans defining development priorities of the territory and financing sources. In **Belarus**, the CSO Government dialogue helped CSOs and CBOs of the designated SGP landscape strengthen collaboration, raise co-financing and connect with policy makers. Additionally, a *Regional Council* was established to support local initiatives in Sustainable Development. The members include representatives of regional and local governments, CSOs, and experts.

Lessons Learned

It is important to note that the number, range of issues, broad involvement of stakeholders and significant impacts already produced by the dialogues are truly impressive, given the infancy stage of this strategy. Lessons from implementation emphasize that GEF SGP has political capital, influence and potential to serve as a facilitator bringing important grass roots ideas and voices to the national level and highlighting issues relevant for civil society and local communities. Next steps in the upcoming year include SGP to continue acting as a convener for civil society to enhance linkages with governments and private sector on key global environmental issues, particularly in transforming policies and practices for sustainability. Such efforts are expected to become more prominent and impactful as OP6 progresses.

4.2. South-South Exchange

Focus and Approach

South- South Exchange is another key grantmaker plus strategy improve knowledge flow and technology transfer among countries and regions in the Global South. This community innovation exchange platform is one of the key initiatives of SGP in its sixth operational phase, with the goal of promoting exchange *intra* and *inter* SGP countries, and support cross regional synergies and sharing of good practices. The overall aim is to produce high impact results, and enable broader adoption of innovations and practices developed by SGP grantees, civil society, and other key stakeholders.

Performance Results

During this reporting period, 31 SGP country programmes, that is 28% of reporting countries, facilitated 48 South-South exchanges that supported transfer of capacity on new innovations between communities, CSOs and other partners across countries (*Table 17*).

Table 17: South- South Exchange Results- Key Annual Highlights

<i>South- South performance indicators</i>	<i>Results</i>
<i>Number of South- South exchanges supported that transfer capacity on new community innovations between communities, CSOs and other partners across countries.</i>	48
<i>Number of SGP country programmes that facilitated South–South exchanges</i>	31

Illustrative Examples:

South Africa and Zimbabwe: In *South Africa*, SGP supported an exchange with the *African Centre for Holistic Management (ACHM)* in *Zimbabwe*, wherein a group of trainers from ACHM visited the *Thlolego Centre in Rustenburg*, South Africa to share their knowledge on sustainable land practices. The methodology was based on managing livestock grazing such as to protect the local ecosystem, while maintaining and improving ecosystem productivity. The project’s target areas were in the Northwest and Limpopo provinces which have been severely affected by land degradation due to overgrazing and agricultural mismanagement. The approach used livestock as a tool of land restoration by combining cattle, sheep and goats into large herds to harness the power of their hooves to break up hard ground so air and water can penetrate, and to trample down old grass such that soil is less prone to the drying effects of sun and wind. Their waste fertilizes the hoof-prepared soil, and grazing (which is timed to prevent overgrazing) keeps perennial grasses healthy, greatly minimizing the need to burn them and expose soil. This system intended to mimic how grazers in the wild behave when part of a natural predator/prey dynamic- a pattern Grasslands Ecosystem is adapted to.

Over a week, trainers instructed local livestock owners, Government representatives, grantee staff, community members, and traditional leaders on integrated resource management, and how to implement sustainable grazing systems. Over 40 people participated in these sessions and the *Thlolego Centre* put aside a piece of land to demonstrate the applicability of these practices in arresting desertification and land degradation, and to establish a learning center in the near future.

Dominican Republic and Haiti: In *Haiti*, SGP engaged in an exchange with the *Dominican Republic*, to support *Haitian NGO Mouvman Peyizan Magazen* to set up a micro-hydro system. The community of Magazen consists of 120 families living in extreme poverty, in a highly-degraded environment, with severely limited access to basic services such as clean water, electricity, health and education. Due to inappropriate farming practices, their local land is degraded and characterized by sparse tree covers and low soil productivity. With technical support from SGP Dominican Republic, and technical support, monitoring, training and co-financing management from the *Dominican Republic NGO Guakia Ambiente*, a 15 kW micro-hydroelectric power system was installed to guarantee electricity service for 70 families,

that is approximately 500 beneficiaries. Community representatives received training to effectively manage the installed system. A 30-hectare area was planted with 42,000 forest and fruit trees, and a plan was also proposed to implement an agroforestry system to produce cocoa on another 39 hectares of land.

Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Timor Leste: In *Nepal*, SGP supported *Health Care Foundation Nepal (HECAF)*, known for success in developing a health care waste management system at small scale village level clinics. This waste management system has been implemented in 5 clinics in the Chitwan district, and has drastically reduced the burning of medical waste and hence prevented the release of persistent organic pollutants into the environment, with a 73% reduction in waste generation. The project has also developed a guidance manual for health care waste management in small health care facilities. In 2016, a team of 60 participants from *India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Timor Leste*, convened in Kathmandu, Nepal for a workshop, funded by World Health Organization to learn from the SGP's experience on health waste management practices. Further uptake of HECAF's successfully used techniques and *modus operandi* is expected by professionals from visiting countries.

A noteworthy **Global level result** includes, a strategic grant was provided to *Asociación Andes* in **Peru**, working with the *International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)*, to consolidate the *International Network of Mountain Indigenous Peoples' (INMIP)* and global South-South exchange platform. The collaboration hosted the fourth INMIP Horizontal Learning Exchange in the Potato Park, near Cusco in Peru, April 2017, on the theme of '*Resilient Biocultural Landscapes*'. The learning exchange brought together over 100 participants: 2 indigenous people from 11 countries each, 1 facilitator/translator from each country, and 14 representatives from the state of Apurimac in the Peruvian Andes. Following the South-South exchange, an INMIP Secretariat has been established at the Potato Park, and a [new INMIP website](#) launched for network members to share mountain-related articles and links.

Lessons Learned

Most SGP grant making and associated knowledge exchange happens at the national levels. Next steps in the upcoming year include SGP to continue to encourage communities to mobilize and take advantage of development solutions and technical expertise available in the South. The establishment of knowledge exchange arrangements between communities and CSOs will be sought with the purpose of replication of good practices among countries and regions.

4.3.Capacity Development (project level)

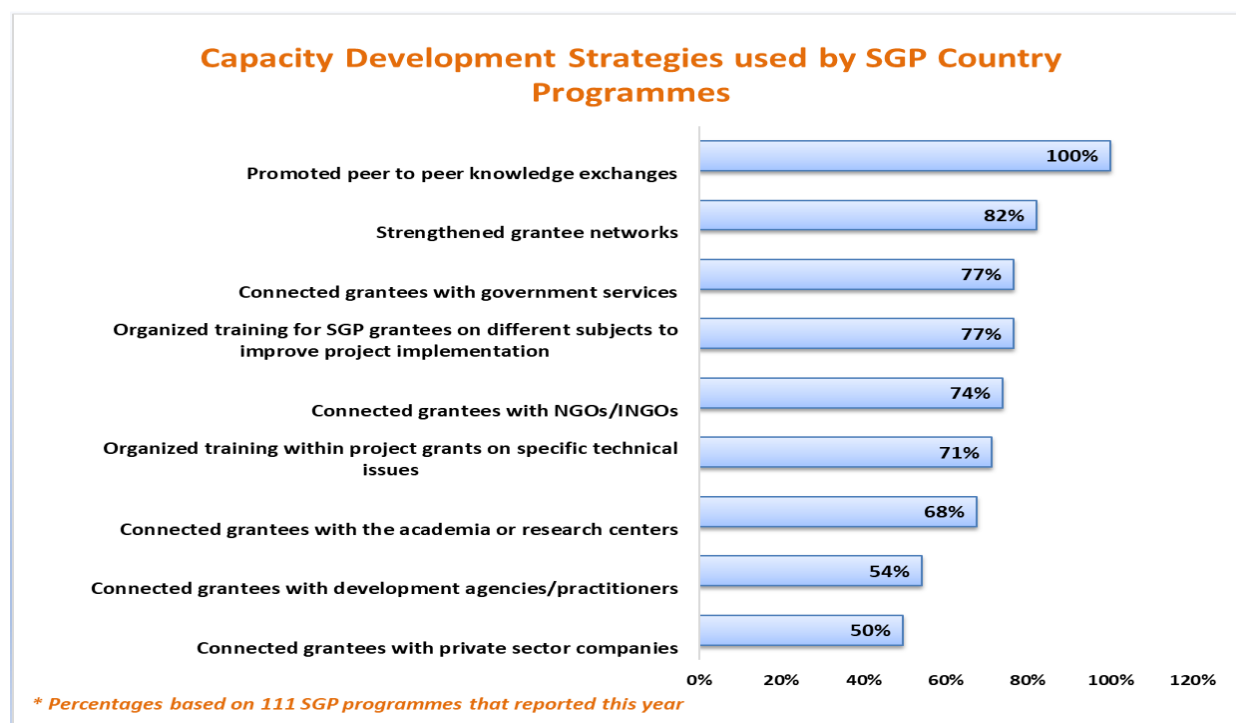
Focus and Approach

Regular capacity development, a component SGP projects, remained a cross cutting theme across most SGP's grants. Grant maker plus activities on capacity development are different from description of standalone capacity development grants made earlier. It represents SGP's inherent characteristic as a grantmaker that builds capacities of communities and civil society as SGP projects are implemented. It is important to note these strategies are not eligible for SGP grants, and are embedded as an underlying theory of change of a given project for inclusive and sustainable results.

Performance Results

During the reporting year of the 111 country programmes (CPs) that reported, 91 CPs strengthened grantee networks; 111 CPs promoted peer to peer knowledge exchanges; 79 CPs organized training within project grants on specific technical issues; 85 CPs organized training for SGP grantees on different subjects to improve project implementation; 85 CPs connected grantees with government services; 82 CPs connected grantees with NGOs/INGOs; 75 CPs connected grantees with the academia or research centers; 60 CPs connected grantees with development agencies/practitioners; and 55 CPs connected grantees with private sector companies. Figure 7 illustrates a percentage based breakdown of capacity development strategies used by SGP country programmes.

Figure 7: Grantmaker Plus Capacity Development Strategies



4.4.Social Inclusion

During the reporting period, SGP has continued to undertake targeted efforts to support greater social inclusion of marginalized groups, including women, indigenous peoples, and youth and persons with disabilities. Specific results are presented below:

Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment

Focus and Approach

Gender equality and women’s empowerment continue to be a critical element of SGP efforts. There has been a focus on efforts that yield equitability of gains from projects for both men and women, but also a focus on developing gender responsive projects with women as agents of change. [The Country Portfolio Evaluation Morocco, 2016](#), assessing all GEF support across all GEF implementing agencies and programs

in Morocco between 1997 and 2015, notes that gender mainstreaming in the country’s GEF portfolio was mainly achieved through women’s participation in income generating activities promoted by the SGP. Both, [Joint GEF-UNDP Evaluation of the Small Grants Programme 2015](#), notes there is evidence of real results in promoting gender equality and contributing to gender empowerment. Of the evaluative evidence that was assessed with respect to gender, more than half were found to have benefited women and men equally, or to have primarily benefited women.

Performance Results

During the reporting year, 702 of the projects completed during the reporting period, which is 93% of total projects completed, were reported to be gender responsive. Additionally, 29% of completed projects were led by women, i.e. had a female project coordinator/manager or led by a woman cooperative or women group (Table 18).

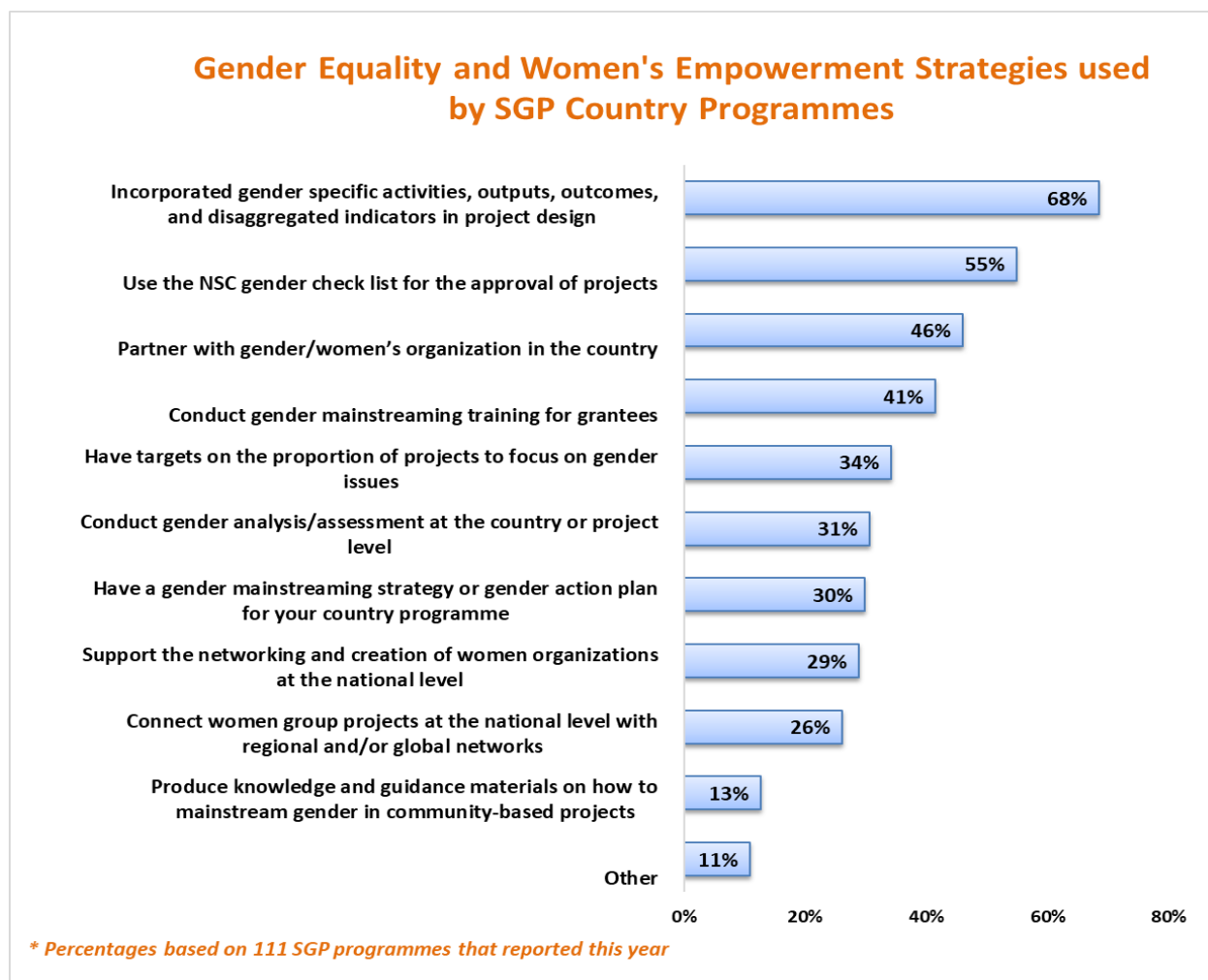
Table 18: Gender Mainstreaming Results-- Key Annual Highlights

<i>Gender mainstreaming performance indicators</i>	<i>Results</i>
<i>Number of projects completed that included gender considerations, during reporting period (July 1, 2016- June 30- 2017)</i>	702
<i>Number of beneficiaries, women, from all projects completed</i>	277,775 (49%)
<i>How many projects completed were led by women (e.g. had a female project coordinator/manager, led by a woman cooperative or women group)</i>	221 (29%)

In GEF-6, the SGP NSC at the Country Programme level has a designated focal point for Gender, to ensure practical mainstreaming and inclusion of this key stakeholder group. **Of the 111 SGP country programmes reporting, 99 (89%) of them report a Gender focal point in their SGP NSC**, with 37 in Africa, 7 in Arab States, 16 in Asia, 11 in Europe and CIS, 23 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 5 in the Pacific regions. 35% of these focal points are present in LDCs, and 25% are in SIDS. Key strategies used by SGP countries to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment included incorporation of gender specific activities, outputs, outcomes, and disaggregated indicators in project design (76 countries); using National Steering Committee gender check list for the approval of projects (61 countries); partnership with gender/women’s organization in the country (51 countries), and conduct gender mainstreaming training for grantees (46 countries).

Figure 8 illustrates varied strategies used by SGP country programmes to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment, in response to maturity of the Programme and alignment with local context and its differentiated needs.

Figure 8: Gender Responsive Strategies used by SGP country programmes



Illustrative Country Examples

In **Egypt**, SGP supported the *Youth Assembly for Developing Human Resources (YADHR)*, an NGO established and led by women, to create a system to recycle agricultural waste in Kafr El Sheikh. The NGO actively targeted women in rural areas to raise awareness and prevent burning of agricultural waste to prevent air pollution. Kafr El Sheikh governorate produces 25% of Egypt's agricultural waste, generating a considerable amount of air pollution with consequences for the local population. Through training sessions, the women of YADHR involved more than 250 farmers in awareness raising activities and training on organic compost. In addition, ten seminars targeting both men and women were conducted on climate change and clean energy, as well as air pollution and health. Furthermore, YADHR formed a network of NGOs in the Kafr El Sheikh governorate to promote the recycling of agricultural waste and compost production to reduce air pollution, and successfully replicated these activities in other villages to maximize benefits. By establishing effective partnerships with government agencies, such as the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, local authorities and agricultural cooperatives, the women aligned their project with national agricultural priorities and strategies.

In **South Africa**, SGP developed a project to support small-scale farmers in KwaZulu Natal province, one of the provinces hardest hit by droughts in 2016, to become more resilient to climate change and water scarcity, as well as provide more food nutritional security to women, through enhanced seed and food diversity, and the application of local knowledge systems. Gender sensitive training support focused on food plot design, seed plots, swales to harvest water, building soil fertility and using the “biodiversity wheel” - a participatory methodology which focusses on documenting the seed varieties grown and saved in a community, intercropping, crop-rotation, and eco-calendar mapping. The project worked with 250 farmers, of whom 93% were women, in the 5 villages of northern KwaZulu Natal Province. The farmers were supported in (i) establishing household seed banks; (ii) deepening their agro-ecological practice; (iii) knowledge & seed exchanges; and (iv) undertook farmer-to-farmer learning, seed fairs and rituals. The project also supported the initiation of a monitoring system for the agro-ecology farmers and 48 farmers pledged and were awarded certificates for complying with 8 criteria they set forth which included: saving at least 14 traditional seed varieties, no use of synthetic fertilizers, avoiding the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and grey water harvesting. partnership with researchers from the Universities of KwaZulu Natal and Cape Town, further engaged policy makers to advocate for policy change in the [Plant Breeder’s Rights Bill](#) with evidence from their fields, with some women attending Parliamentary hearing and providing their inputs. As a result of the SGP project, the agro-ecological demonstration sites are continuing to thrive and produce seeds and organic vegetables in areas previously declared by the provincial government as ‘non-agricultural’ sites, generating income from the sale of their organic vegetables to local retailers and strengthening the role of women in the communities. The women are now able to supplement their social grants, and send their children to school with the income generated. With financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) and Oxfam Australia, the project is now being scaled up by the grantee to Mpumalanga Province.

In **Guinea**, SGP in response to fragility of the ecosystem worked with the Guinean Wetland Network (REGUIZOH) to contribute to the improvement of solar salt production by women and to promote rational management of ecosystems by indigenous peoples, particularly women who depend on mangroves for their survival. Project’s approach included: minimizing the need for mangrove wood resources for salt production; increasing the yield of salt production; lightening the extraction work; promoting exchanges between the different groups involved in the sector; and integrating natural resource management activities into the priorities of local residents. In the initial stage crystallization tests were carried out with 100 liters of brine and 15 to 20 kg of salt was harvested by crystallizer. This demonstration that productivity far exceeded that of average production done with a traditional process created positive momentum around further production of solar salt. Results included, constitution of three groups of officially recognized women for the production of solar salt; acquisition of new know-how; production of 135 tonnes of solar salt, which has prevented the clearing of about 170 hectares of mangrove forest and carbon sequestration. - significant saving of time (70%), which allows women farmers to devote themselves to other economic activities.

In **Lesotho**, SGP supported women-led *Serumula Development Association* is working to protect a community botanical garden in Tšenekeng in Semonkong. Five plant species gazetted by the Government of Lesotho as endangered and protected by law were planted in the garden. The association, also worked with a local community group to register as a legal entity to run the initiative as a venture. The village chief, who is a member of the group, received an award during the 2016 Energy and Climate Change Women Recognition Award, for her contribution to biodiversity conservation.

Global Results

Besides ongoing guidance on gender to the country programmes, SGP CPMT focused on the development of concept for an online course on gender and environment in partnership with the [GEF Gender Partnership](#) and [UNITAR](#), and under the guidance of gender experts from the CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, and GEF agencies. SGP also served as an active member of the GEF Gender Partnership, contributing to the review of gender indicators and the gender policy. Discussions with UNDP on gender issues were also undertaken.

Lessons Learned

Lessons and experience from the ground up reveals that women play a fundamental role in the conservation of key ecosystems and in promoting sustainable practices across all focal areas. SGP efforts have repeatedly relied on the added value of empowered women for the environment and for their own communities and families. Next steps in the upcoming year include SGP continuing efforts to mainstreaming gender throughout its portfolio by integrating it as a criterion in the grant approval, project design, needs assessments, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation stages of the project and portfolio life cycle.

Indigenous People

Focus and Approach

Indigenous Peoples (IPs) remained a priority stakeholder group for SGP during the reporting year. SGP has aligned efforts that respect customary law and practice and supported securing rights to land and resources, as well as participation of indigenous groups in local and national environmental governance.

Specifically, SGP continued to promote numerous efforts that support IPs and local community conserved territories and areas (ICCAs) as a contribution to the CBD Aichi; co-managed and shared governance of protected areas, including through the replication of the Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation (COMPACT) programme with support from the UNESCO World Heritage Convention; connectivity conservation through bio-corridor and landscape approaches; respect for traditional knowledge, customary law and practices; access to sustainable sources of energy, as well as to secure rights to land and natural resources, including genetic resources.

[Draft Evaluation of GEF Engagement with Indigenous People](#) recognizes SGP as the main modality for GEF's engagement with IPs. According to a survey of SGP national coordinators, the observed benefits of SGP funding to IPs include access to training/capacity building, income and livelihood improvements, and increased inclusion in consultation and project design. Specifically, based on the evaluative sample of number of SGP projects benefitting IPs, observed benefits include: access to training/capacity building (53%), income and livelihoods improvements (47%), and increased inclusion for consultation and project design (34%). Less frequently mentioned benefits include: indigenous peoples' policy development (8%), increased inclusion on policy level discussion (11%), and increased land tenure of security (11%). The evaluation highlighted *Biodiversity* as the most common thematic area covered across the SGP Indigenous Peoples portfolio. From a historical vantage point, since 1992, approximately 15% of grants awarded were directed toward IPs.

Performance Results

During the reporting period, key results are 141 projects completed with IPs considerations and participation, which is 19% of total completed projects. At least 1,059 indigenous leaders have benefitted

from higher capacities to conceptualize, organize and implement projects that provide for concrete actions to meet their needs, as well as for strong representation in policy advocacy. Efforts continued to foster agility in SGP grant making/ management, with 15% of CPs accepting proposals in local languages; 6% of CPs accepted proposals using participatory video; 23% of CPs involved indigenous people in respective NSCs; and 35% of CPs enhanced outreach and networking with indigenous people’s groups (Table 19).

Table 19: Indigenous Peoples Results- Key Annual Highlights

<i>Indigenous Peoples performance indicators</i>	<i>Results</i>
<i>Number of projects completed that included indigenous people, during the reporting period (July 1, 2016- June 30- 2017)</i>	141
<i>Proposals accepted in local languages (number of country programmes)</i>	17 (15%)
<i>Proposals accepted using participatory video (number of country programmes)</i>	7 (6%)
<i>Involved indigenous peoples in NSC and/or TAG (number of country programmes)</i>	26 (23%)
<i>Enhanced outreach and networking with indigenous people’s groups (number of country programmes)</i>	39 (35%)
<i>Number of indigenous leaders with higher capacities for organizing indigenous people’s projects that provide for concrete action to meet their needs as well as for strong representation in policy advocacy.</i>	1,059

In GEF-6, SGP NSC at the country program level has a designated focal point for Indigenous People, to ensure practical mainstreaming and inclusion of this key stakeholder group. **Of the 111 SGP country programmes reporting, 42 (38%) of them report an Indigenous Peoples focal point in their SGP NSC**, with 15 in Africa, 1 in Arab States, 9 in Asia, 1 in Europe and CIS, 12 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 4 in the Pacific regions. 31% of these focal points are present in LDCs, and 24% are in SIDS. During the reporting period, SGP country programmes with the highest number of projects with indigenous peoples include: Timor Leste (25); Samoa Sub-Region (16); Belize (14); Palau (10); India (9); Argentina (6); Marshall Islands and Vietnam (5 each); Bolivia, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Tanzania and Venezuela (4 each).

Illustrative Country Examples

In **Malaysia**, SGP project ‘Community-based conservation of biodiversity and rivers in *Kampung Skiat Baru, Bau*’ has brought together men, women, and indigenous youth to carry out environmental activities within their community conservation area (ICCA) and communal forest in Sarawak, Borneo, with the objective of promoting meaningful participation of the indigenous community in policy discussions pertaining to the management and governance of the protected area. With support from the SGP, delineation and survey works were carried out for the ICCA, estimated to be 70 hectares in partnership with the Sarawak Forestry Department. In recognition of the rights of the indigenous peoples in the proposed extension of

the park boundaries, it was agreed that the limestone hills ecosystem surrounding the protected area would be preserved by the community as an ICCA, and recognized by the Sarawak State Government. In a related project, SGP Malaysia has worked to minimize deforestation caused by agricultural expansion within a community forest reserve and watershed in the state of Sabah. Through the SGP project, the community group (GOMPITO) was invited by the Sabah State government to participate in the Kinabalu National Park 'Ecological Linkages' (Ecolinc) project, targeting connectivity of biodiversity conservation at the state level. By the end of the project, the Sabah government agreed for an area of 487 hectares to be gazetted as a Native Reserve, limiting encroachment by individuals from outside the *Kiau* village community, and incentivizing long-term conservation planning across the landscape. By involving the indigenous institutions, the *EcoLinc* bio-corridor initiative has been strengthened through the recognition of different governance regimes, including the ICCA as an area of significant conservation value.

In **Brazil**, SGP project has benefitted 10 families from the Pankararu and Pataxó indigenous tribes formerly displaced from their ancestral lands. The project supported the development of a medicinal plants garden, promoting capacity building for 135 people from both indigenous and quilombola villages through a series of exchange visits to share techniques in medicinal plant conservation, traditions and rituals. The construction of an indigenous pharmacy has since become a reference centre on ways to safeguard and rescue traditional knowledge of medicinal plants. A second SGP Brazil project supported an area known as the 'enchanted lake' (lagoa encantada), an indigenous territory of the Jenipapo-Kanindé tribe. Project results include: (i) involvement of 95 indigenous people in preparing socio-environmental assessments; (ii) implementation of five hectares of mixed agroforestry systems; as well as (iii) dissemination of agroecology practices to improve soil quality, contributing to food security. As a means of income generation, the project also invested in recovering five touristic walking trails, primarily targeting indigenous youth.

In **Bolivia**, in relation to sustainable energy access, SGP project has supported the Joseravi community of 25 Guaraní indigenous families to access solar energy at the household level. Through the demonstration of photovoltaic (PV) systems, the project sought to introduce solar energy water pumps as an alternative to diesel, also improving the water supply for human consumption. Over the course of project implementation, the indigenous Guaraní communities acquired new knowledge and skills needed to operate and maintain the PV equipment. As part of the project sustainability, regular cash contributions are provided to a community fund for the repair and maintenance of the PV system.

In **Vietnam**, in partnership with the UN-REDD programme, SGP has supported the REDD+ Action Programme in the Northern province of Lào Cai. The SGP project was conducted in the commune of Tả Ngải Chồ, where the population is composed entirely of indigenous peoples, with a high rate of poverty over 44%. Working with the Forest Protection Development Plan (FPDP) of the Tả Ngải Chồ commune, the project was developed for 1,071 hectares of forests managed by 931 indigenous peoples (27% women) across 12 villages. Within the framework of the FPDP, four alternative '*livelihood models*' were systematically field-tested including: (i) anise-planting, with 30 households over 20 hectares; (ii) maize-planting, with 10 households over 2 hectares; (iii) local pig-raising, with 10 households; and (iv) chicken-raising, using egg incubators, with 20 households. The SGP project also established 12 Community Livelihood Development Funds, operated by the villages. By directly involving the indigenous hill tribes in tracking the implementation of the FPDP commune activities and providing feedback to stakeholders on the proposed alternative livelihood development models, the completed SGP project has contributed to piloting the roll out of the Vietnam REDD+ Grievance Redress Mechanism. With cash co-financing of 4,740 Euros from Transparency International, combined with \$14,817 in payments for ecosystem services

under the Vietnam Forest Protection and Development Fund, lessons learned from the SGP project have contributed to the REDD Action Programme for Lào Cai province, as well as the Vietnam UN-REDD programme at the national level.

Global Results

At the national, regional and international level, the SGP CPMT has promoted the participation of IPs involvement in environmental governance through new strategic initiatives including the SGP OP6 Indigenous Peoples Fellowship programme designed to support the capacity of IPs leaders to advance the work of their communities, organizations, and networks at national, regional and global levels. The initiative was developed in response to a need expressed by IPs for higher-level skills and capacity in leadership and networking to enable them to strongly represent themselves in international policy-setting, as well as in the SDGs and financial planning dialogues. The SGP OP6 IPs Fellowship programme builds upon 21 civil society-government dialogues carried out with SGP support with indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) last year in order review the contribution of IPLCs in mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Other results include collaboration with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples with respect to IPs access to climate finance, including CBR+ and emerging policy framework for IPs to engage with the Green Climate Fund (GCF); as well as civil-society government dialogues in support of the UNFCCC COP21 and COP22 negotiations, leading towards the proposed creation of a new IPLCs platform on traditional knowledge, as a contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Lessons Learned

As the draft evaluation on *GEF engagement with Indigenous People* has noted, several lessons emerge from SGP's portfolio, including challenges related to IPs access to SGP funding due to limited capacity in administrative management skills and communication technology in Indigenous Peoples Organizations; timing requirements; language limitations; and geographic or communication barriers to access funds. Regional security limiting access to IPs; a hostile environment for policy dialogue between government and IPs; lack of recognized land rights at the national level; lack of recognition of IPs knowledge by experts and policy makers; an out-migration of IPs; and difficulty to engage Women and Youth in Indigenous communities were also noted as barriers. Next steps in the upcoming year involve SGP remaining committed to deeper inclusion and support for IPs. This is caveated by both technical and resource investments needed by many SGP Programmes to partially address issues raised above.

Youth

Focus and Approach

Youth have become a priority group for SGP as current and future stakeholders in environmental protection and sustainable development. Environmental protection is an intergenerational effort as it requires the expertise of the elders, as well as the formation of the youth as future leaders, and importantly changing their behaviors and attitudes.

The review of the climate change portfolio over the reporting year revealed strong focus on youth, particularly in *climate change education and awareness*. Renewable energy and energy efficiency demonstrations involving youth and coupled with awareness activities offer an entry point for facilitating low carbon energy transformation on the local and regional levels in countries, where existing infrastructure

and mindset present obstacles. At the country level, SGP supported Caribbean Youth Environmental Network through its Saint Lucia chapter, which organized stakeholder dialogues, Youth oriented media campaigns and represented at regional and international climate related events.

Performance Results

During the reporting period SGP invested in youth, and 285 projects were completed with youth participation or leadership, which is 38% of total completed projects during the period. 179 youth organizations participated in SGP projects and in relevant national environment and sustainable development strategy development (Table 20). In GEF-6, SGP NSC at the Country Programme level has a designated focal point for youth, to ensure practical mainstreaming and inclusion of this key stakeholder group. **Of all the 111 SGP country programmes reporting, 100 (90%) of them report a Youth focal point in their SGP NSC**, with 36 in Africa, 7 in Arab States, 17 in Asia, 9 in Europe and CIS, 26 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 5 in the Pacific regions. 34% of these focal points are present in LDCs, and 26% are in SIDS.

Table 20: Youth Results- Key Annual Highlights

<i>Youth performance indicators</i>	<i>Results</i>
<i>Number of projects completed that included youth, during the reporting period (July 1, 2016- June 30- 2017)</i>	285
<i>Number of youth organizations that participate in SGP projects and in relevant national environment and sustainable development strategy development</i>	179

Illustrative Country Examples:

In **Afghanistan**, SGP supported *Union of Afghanistan Youth* to implement an environmental leadership and awareness initiative in 17 schools in Kabul city. With establishment of 17 nature clubs, 120 youth were educated and networked, and this initiative raised environment awareness of 29,500 students, including 40% female students. The project focused on awareness-raising activities among young people including preparing green profiles for all schools, organizing students exchanges visits, planting 6,000 saplings, commemorating world environment and biodiversity days. This initiative was implemented in close coordination with the Ministry of Education, which also expressed interest to upscale this initiative by extending it to other schools in Kabul and another province.

In **Antigua & Barbuda**, SGP supported a youth group, *Project Sync*, to transform three local social welfare institutions into eco-friendly havens for abused and homeless youth. The project implemented energy efficient, clean energy technology and practical recycling procedures, with a component on educating the beneficiaries and staff on energy efficiency and recycling practices. Results were accomplished through use of edutainment for youth, in person capacity sessions, sharing information, involving youth in the setting up of energy efficient fixtures and solar panel application, and providing information aimed at public education and awareness on matters of energy efficiency and proper waste management. Project contributions include education and awareness increase of youth on greening issues, crucial when viewed

in light of dismal trends in climate change over the past decades, and negative impacts being borne and experienced in Antigua.

In **South Africa**, SGP supported a climate change awareness project driven by a youth group, *Future Leaders of Change (FLC)* based in Durban. The supported initiative included hosting a climate change summit with 300 youth in attendance and showcasing their work on climate change and greening initiatives; over 1,000 indigenous trees that were planted in 17 schools; supported communities and schools in organizing coastal area clean-up campaigns which assisted in removal of 1,020 illegal dumping sites; and 7 eco-warriors were identified in each school to drive environmental awareness initiatives in their communities. The youth group was also instrumental in mobilizing financial and non-financial resources, including use of government equipment. SGP also supported six small-scale conservation agriculture cooperatives and youth training on agriculture as part of this project. - the cumulative results have contributed to policy debates in the province on environmental conservation.

In **Kazakhstan**, the “green office” demonstration combining solar power with energy efficient measures was established in the youth complex, helping to avoid 16.2 tons of Carbon Dioxide emissions per year and generate USD 1,200 in annual savings. The green office provides information on energy efficient technologies, and information campaigns were conducted through social media, press, youth and NGO events. As a result, over 30,000 people, including those in state and educational institutions, were informed about the potential of renewable energy efficiency, installation of energy-saving equipment and associated economic benefits.

Global Results

Besides ongoing guidance by SGP CPMT to support country programmes, SGP CPMT has continued to support Youth Climate Action globally. Given unique importance and special responsibility of youth related to climate change, which will likely severely impact future generations and will demand much more drastic decarbonization from them, SGP has specifically been supporting Youth Climate Action globally and through country programmes. At the global level, SGP facilitated partnership with UNFCCC and youth NGOs to conduct high profile youth video competitions at the UNFCCC COPs to highlight youth climate action in their communities, with the partners developing concepts for broader collaboration initiative to support Youth climate change advocacy, participation in international processes and efforts to address climate change in their communities.

Lessons learned

It is crucial to recognize that environmental protection and sustainable development heavily depends on youth as the future leaders and key stakeholders for the environment and sustainable development. Building on 25 years of SGP project experience, recognizing youth’s strengths, socio-economic characteristics and special needs helps SGP develop and implement effective and comprehensive solutions addressing their specific needs. Provision of knowledge, information, livelihoods and employment opportunities are key areas for youth based community interventions. Next steps in the upcoming year include continuation of engaging and empowering youth in SGP’s inclusive development agenda, with meaningful participation of youth in decision-making, programming and networking.

Persons with Disabilities

Focus and Approach

Persons with disabilities (PWD) are also being supported by SGP, and SGP's inherent flexibility to test innovation has contributed to efforts to mainstream and engage PWD groups supporting them to actively participate in community and livelihood efforts.

Performance Results

As [results](#), during the reporting period, 25 disabled persons organizations participated in SGP projects and in relevant national environment and sustainable development strategy development. [Evaluation of Disability Inclusive Development at UNDP, 2016](#), notes that UNDP's most prominent environmentally related work involving persons with disabilities takes place in SGP for community groups in response to local environmental needs, with a particular mention of 'Community-based Adaptation' project funded by the Australian Government and delivered by SGP, with USD 11 million providing assistance for implementation of small grant projects in 38 countries, mostly in Small Island Developing States.

Targeting persons with disabilities continues to be an area of opportunity for the SGP-implemented SIDS-CBA Project. Participating countries in the Pacific that are still programming CBA projects have invited representatives of the Pacific chapter of Disability Rights Fund (DRF) to participate in the National Steering Committee or closely work with SGP National Coordinators and the NSC members. GEF SGP projects in other regions have also shown attention to persons with disabilities. Since 2013, SGP programme countries have identified more than 30 projects formulated to enable persons with disabilities to participate in programming.

Illustrative Country Examples

In **Barbados**, the River of Life Organic Farm project established a community-based service to improve the quality of life of persons with mental and physical disabilities and others who have been socially excluded, while providing an opportunity for sustainable economic activity through the production of organic produce. In **Armenia**, a project on the use of solar energy and energy conservation in a boarding school addressed the needs of children with disabilities.

In **Ukraine**, inclusion of persons with disabilities to participate in green and cycling tourism was a key outcome of the project 'Biodiversity conservation on steppe landscape with granite extractions'. SGP project supported local youth and disabled persons organizations to develop two cycling routes called 'Melitopol - Stone Graves' enabling bike transport by people with special needs. With development of eco-routes capacity and infrastructure, and work with local community network organizations, the project equipped the routes with road signs, information stands and parking stations for bicycles benefitting 120 persons with disabilities. An information campaign was also conducted, including seminars for farms owners, village heads, and work on a special website supporting route development and maps dissemination, etc.

In **Tanzania**, SGP grantee *Community-based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT)* is the largest indigenous provider of disability and rehabilitation services in the country, running hospital services in Dar es Salaam where every year, about 120,000 adults and children with disabilities and their caregivers achieve a better quality of life. In the absence of a reliable national grid, CCBRT strengthened work on alternative environmentally friendly and reliable sources of electricity, water heating system and water supply at its

disability hospital. With SGP support on implementation of solar technologies, results included facilitation of smooth running of day to day functions and minimizing of damage to vital equipment and water pumps. This specifically entailed: improvement of operation theatre services; lighting in wards in case of regular power outage; water heating for laundry and bathrooms with constant supply of high quality water by harvesting rainwater as fall-back facility in case of low supply. Other attributable results include, provision of alternative light solutions to families through the distribution of solar lamps to disadvantaged children who are treated at CCBRT, and contribution to reducing pollution and wasteful practices that were demonstrated to other stakeholders for wider adoption.

In **Zimbabwe**, SGP grantee *Masvingo Community-based HIV/AIDS and Vulnerable Children Organization (MACOBAO)*, involved persons with disabilities in the implementation of project on prevention of land degradation through environmental management and enhancement of community livelihoods through climate resilience and mitigation strategies. Individuals with different disabilities/ special needs participated in trainings in organic farming practices, construction of organic farming gardens and organic farming methods, gully reclamation, commemoration of the wetlands day and tree planting days. Beneficiaries were also capacitated to actively participate on the local and national environmental issues and make informed decisions upon consultation- contributing to local leadership, inclusive involvement of communities, supporting continuation and expansion of the activities.

Global results

The SGP CPMT is collaborating with the Disability Rights Fund (DRF) and aims to develop a more comprehensive guidance toolkit in how to mainstream persons with disabilities in CBA projects. SGP has also initiated work to undertake a scoping study to understand ‘what’ and ‘how’ of PWD involvement in the development context at the local level, and pilot innovations from SIDS- CBA.

Lessons learned

Absence of disaggregated data remains one of the most critical challenges when working with PWDs. SGP’s experience in the area also indicates that PWDs are disproportionately affected by poverty and negative impacts of environmental degradation. Next steps in the upcoming year include working with PWDs as *agents of change* at the forefront of SGP’s work. The call to ‘*leave no one behind and to reach the furthest behind first*’ is particularly important here as SGP looks to contribute to SDG Goals 8, 10, 11 and 17 from a disability lens.

5. BROADER CONTRIBUTIONS

5.1. Scaling up, Replication and Policy Influence

SGP continues to encourage efforts to ensure the replication and scaling up of results, including through influencing policies towards greater sustainability. **As results, during the reporting year, 113 projects, i.e. 15% of total completed projects, were replicated or have been reported to be scaled up. In terms of policy influence, 89 projects, i.e. 12% of total completed reported influencing policy through project activities, by liaising with local authorities and other government institutions (Table 21).**

Table 21: UPSCALING, POLICY INFLUENCE, LIVELIHOODS RESULTS- KEY ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

<i>Upscaling, policy influence, livelihoods performance indicators</i>	<i>Results</i>
<i>Number of Projects Up-scaled and Replicated</i>	113 (15%)
<i>Number of Projects with Policy influence</i>	89 (12%)
<i>Number of projects completed that improved the livelihoods of the communities</i>	598 (79%)

[Joint GEF-UNDP Evaluation of the Small grants Programme 2015](#), concluded that the Programme continues to play a key role in promoting the GEF’s objectives. It specifically noted that SGP continues to support communities with projects that are effective, efficient and relevant in achieving global environmental benefits, while addressing livelihoods and poverty as well as promoting gender equality and empowering women. SGP structure and system was particularly acknowledged to include skilled, competent and committed people and institutions at global, national, and local levels. This system, the evaluation stated, ensured global policies are translated into action at the local level.

While the individual project investments are small, significant efforts have been made by SGP country programs to ensure replication, scaling up, sustainability and mainstreaming of the program activities and results. For example, [the Country Portfolio Evaluation in Tajikistan \(2017\)](#), which assessed all GEF projects and programs in Tajikistan between 1999 and 2015, has highlighted cases of broader adoption of SGP project outcomes in the form of replication at local level. In **Tajikistan**, the evaluation found that SGP projects on biodiversity and land degradation contributed to demonstrations on how to build links between the environmental, social, and economic aspects of sustainable development, meeting global and local objectives concurrently. Tajikistan SGP grants were also seen as supporting the environmentally sound production of marketable goods and promoting environmentally sustainable income-generating activities, with several initiatives recognized as best practices in Tajikistan.

During the reporting year, 15 SGP country programmes partnered with the GEF Full Size and Medium Size Projects to scale up and mainstream successful approaches and results. [The draft report of the Sixth Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF \(OPS6\)](#), notes that the likelihood of sustainability and generation of cost savings to the GEF can increase with good integration of well-established SGP national programs with the respective overall GEF country portfolio—possibly through a formal mandate to deliver the community-level components of GEF projects with the active participation of local communities. As an example, OPS6 draft report highlights the effectiveness of national SGP program in Tanzania, with many SGP projects

implemented in parallel or integrated into the overall activities of GEF's full- and medium-sized projects in the country.

In Uganda and Panama, broader adoption of SGP interventions have materialized by partnership with the local government and other donor programs. OPS6 draft report notes that SGP grantees in **Uganda** worked with the local governments to introduce and implement waste management programs. Such participation represented a radical behavioral change in communities that previously considered waste management to be the responsibility of government—and it directly helped attract additional investment, including from the World Bank. Broader adoption through the SGP occurred at the national level as well. In **Panama**, the Inter-American Development Bank is planning a larger follow-up project to an SGP grant in the Darien region (Canglon village) which demonstrated the sustainable extraction of oil from coconuts. The Agency intends to continue working with the communities involved in implementing the SGP grant.

In another project, in **Panama**, SGP project led to the creation of *first of its kind* network of civil society and non-governmental organizations in the country focused on sea turtle conservation, and contributed to National Strategy for Sea Turtle Conservation which has been approved by Panama's Ministry of Environment. The objective of project was on consolidating a set of scattered civil society actions relating to sea turtle conservation along the Pacific coast of Panama. Panama has a total of 2,490 kms of coastline (1,267 kms in the Caribbean, and 1,203 kms in the Pacific), where five of the seven species of sea turtles in the world come to nest. Two of these five species are critically endangered (*Eretmochelys imbricata* and *Dermochelys coriácea*) and three species endangered (*Caretta caretta*, *Lepidochelys olivacea*, *Chelonia mydas*). In the province of Azuero, Panama has two of the eleven beaches in the world where the phenomenon of large-scale beach nesting, or "arribadas", of the *Lepidochelys olivacea* takes place. Over the last five decades, on account of threats including rampant egg collection; turtle capture in coastal waters; destruction of nesting habitat; by-catch through fishing nets; and extreme climatic phenomena; the marine turtle population in Panama has declined drastically, bringing them to the brink of survival. In addition, tourism promotion in Panama does not sufficiently consider ecosystem sustainability, resulting in weak plans for coastal marine development; unplanned construction of hotel and residential infrastructure; poor management of waste discharges; as well as intermittent compliance with environmental laws. In this context, SGP Panama has supported a network of committed communities, groups and organizations as major allies to help conserve endangered marine turtles at national, regional and international levels. SGP project has involved working to: (i) strengthen a network of 31 community-based organizations in the region of Mata Oscura, Veraguas Province, in the Special Marine-Coastal Management Zone; (ii) improve the network members technical and organizational capacities; and (iii) initiate a shared Environmental Education Plan. An important outcome from the project has been the consolidation of the [PanaTORTUGAS](#) network that began with a few members along the Pacific coast, and has now, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, expanded at the national level. Along with national and international NGOs, the majority of the members of the [PanaTORTUGAS](#) network are community-based organizations (CBOs) who provide the day-to-day volunteer work for the conservation of sea turtles, and put into practice the agreements made by Panama in the [Interamerican Convention for the Protection of Sea Turtles](#). The network also involves work with artisan women by recycling plastics as part of the Environmental Education Plan. The SGP-supported network has been recognized at the international level, having won the Ford Foundation and 'Rana Dorada' prizes, and was also recently selected as a case study in the '[Earth Optimism Summit](#)' organized by Smithsonian in Panama.

In **Eritrea**, SGP project that demonstrated low carbon solar home systems and promoted afforestation was replicated by the Government of Eritrea and UNDP. Qnafna region is plagued by lack of access to electric energy, with extensive reliance on kerosene lamps and thereby exposure to environmentally dangerous greenhouse gases. SGP project enabled procurement of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems; trainings on installations, usage and maintenance of PV systems; and increasing awareness of rural communities on environmental issues. As results, 252 households benefited from solar PV systems with 1,380 direct beneficiaries, and 15 villages with population of 7,706 as indirect beneficiaries benefitting from social services at the clinics, schools and administrative offices. 75% of total beneficiaries are women and children. In addition, 110 hectares of land has been forested including with indigenous species. Government of Eritrea in coordination with UNDP, replicated this project in Anseba region investing USD 6 million (specifically USD 213,000 on installation of solar home systems), benefitting 750 households with a population of 4,200. Government of Eritrea is encouraging similar interventions in off-grid areas.

In **Togo**, SGP project focused on popularization of fungi-based bio-insecticides in sustainable production in a context wherein usage of massive pesticides and chemical fertilizers has led to destruction of microflora and resulted in food poisoning. The success of this project has contributed to creation of a new agricultural concept in Togo: Integrated Management of Fertility, Water and Pests by Fungi (GIFERC) that has been upscaled by Government ministries. Through community trainings, SGP funded project demonstrated use of compost and fungi to yield better plant resistance, and developed low-cost artisanal production of urban/peri-urban gardeners. Results include cultivating 14,000 hectares of land area with bio-insecticides reducing treatment cost of crops by 50%, and increasing crop yields up to 100%. The higher quality of products also supports higher sale price, at least 10% higher compared to regular crops, leading to an increase of beneficiary's average income base by 75%. Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Water Resources have up scaled this project through three different governmentally supported projects namely integrated disaster and land management project, agricultural sector support project, and the adaptation project for agricultural production in Togo.

In **the Republic of Palau**, SGP project on review of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) for development of feasible local analytical techniques and awareness building contributed to policy influence with Palau's national lead agency in POPs, Environmental Quality Protection Board, resulting in updates to the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on POPs. In the absence of adequate analysis, POPs have not been properly monitored in the Republic of Palau, with increasing concern in the context of high pesticide use and improper waste management in the region. The results were accomplished through the project evaluating scientific research capacities on POPs, as well executing an awareness raising component on the dangers associated with them.

In **Armenia**, SGP project developed an action plan for small hydro-power plants within the Hydropower Development Concept. The concept was included in Armenian Government's draft protocol resolution, '*Approving Action Plan Ensuring Provisions of Hydro-power Development Concept in the Republic of Armenia*', and is currently put in circulation in the Government. In another project, with ongoing CSO-government policy planning dialogue, the concept and road map on '*Reduction of Plastic Wrapping*', was elaborated and is currently under discussion with the representatives of Ministries of Nature Protection; Economic Development and Investments; Healthcare; and Territorial Administration and Development.

In **Seychelles**, SGP project has resulted in mainstreaming artisanal shark fishers issues into national shark research and management processes with the *Artisanal Shark Fishers' Association (ASFA)* at the center of

shark fishery research and management platform in Seychelles. The monitoring protocol devised by the project has been accepted by Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) as the national methodology and a user-friendly shark database has been designed that enables data presentation, sex/species/annual comparisons and ready updating. SFA has adopted this database enabling national data gathering and management. Both staff of SFA and ASFA have now also been trained in the management and use of the database resulting in synergies with artisanal issues.

In **Sri Lanka**, SGP project on Promotion of Bio Gas Technology & Efficient Rubber Drying Houses to Reduce Green House Gas Emissions Associated with the Rubber Industry in the Midland Forests of Kegalle District was awarded as first runner up at the International Society of Tropical Foresters (ISTF) Conference of the Yale Chapter. ISTF offers the Innovation Prize annually to honor outstanding interdisciplinary projects that address sustainable tropical forest use, conservation and the well-being of those living in or dependent on them. Human and Environment Development Organization (HEDO), with the assistance of the Rubber Research Institute and UNDP- GEF- SGP, addressed related environmental problems. They established five energy efficient rubber drying houses fueled by waste sawdust which would have otherwise been disposed along river banks or open burning. As a result, the vast amount of greenhouse gases emitted in the production process is drastically reduced, and have reduced health problems which arise due to inhaling smoke while working inside the conventional smoke houses. Further, these efficient drying houses enabled the beneficiaries to reach highest quality in rubber sheets which resulted in higher profits. The NGO introduced biogas technology using the rubber wastewater, converting this environment hazard into profits. Two biogas plants were built as models which generate biogas from effluents discharged in the processing of rubber sheets as well as household waste. Mushroom cultivation was introduced as an optional livelihood when the income from rubber is low. A market chain was also established with the support of a private company and funding from Sampath Bank. SGP project expects that communities will remain in the rubber industry with the increase of income due to the value addition, and HEDO expects to upscale the project to national level.

Building on the positive experience of SGP-supported initiatives in **Belize** focusing on the removal of invasive lionfish, an action-oriented campaign was replicated with SGP support across other islands of the Caribbean. In **Grenada**, SGP supported a ‘Lionfish containment program’ involving the training of local marine protected areas (MPA) rangers to assist with data collection, structured culling practices, promotion of lionfish consumption, and jewelry production. The Lionfish containment training for MPA rangers and local fishermen included safe-handling procedures and safety protocols. As a result, a total of almost 7,000 lbs. of lionfish has been removed and consumed by the ‘lionfish hunters’. Similarly, in partnership with the Coastal Zone Unit, SGP **Barbados** has developed a range of media for primary school children to increase their awareness of coral reefs, including an app titled ‘*Attack of the Lionfish*’ which has served to build the technical capacity and knowledge of invasive nature of lionfish, threats to the local marine environment, and benefits of marine biodiversity.

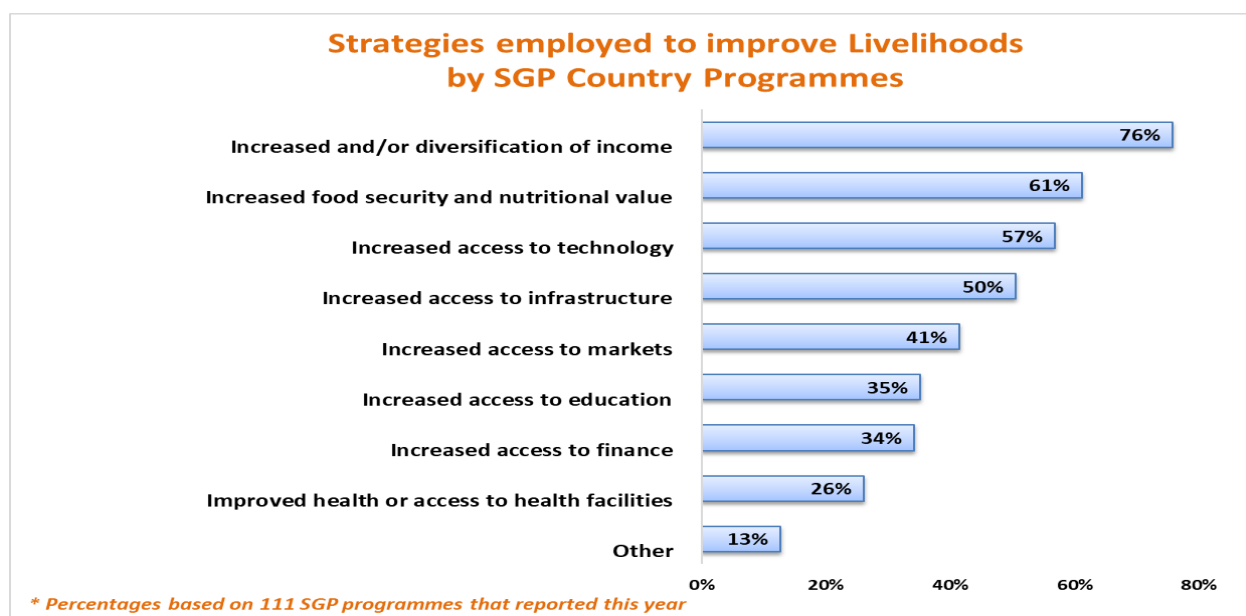
Many biogas projects were found to have significant upscaling potential. In **Rwanda** deployment of biogas was scaled up through government partnership, with USD 18,000 co-funding secured. In **Uzbekistan** the demonstration project installed capacity sufficient for avoiding 160 tons of CO₂ equivalent, and additionally 30 local farmers were trained and started to implement the technology.

5.2.Improving Livelihoods and Sustainability

Improving livelihoods remains a core strategy of SGP, as the sustainable management of land, biodiversity, and other ecosystem resources for income and /or subsistence directly affects the generation of global environmental benefits while also contributing to wellbeing of local communities.

As **results**, **598 projects, i.e. 79% of completed projects, improved the livelihoods of the communities (Table 21)**. Specifically, efforts were noted across SGP’s Country Programme (CPs): **increasing / diversification of income (84 CPs); increased food security and nutritional value (68 CPs); increased access to technology (63 CPs); increased access to infrastructure (56 CPs), and access to markets (46 CPs)**. Figure 9 illustrates percentage based breakdown of different strategies employed to improve livelihoods and enhance sustainability across SGP portfolio.

Figure 9: Improving Livelihood Strategies Employed by SGP country programmes



Market based initiatives and financial mechanisms were actively used by SGP to ensure sustainability of the project and improve the livelihoods of the communities- specifically, 41% of CPs were involved in ecotourism, and 38% of CPs indicated development of green products (Table 22).

Table 22: Use of Market Based Initiatives and Financial Mechanisms by SGP country programmes

<i>Use of market based initiatives and financial mechanisms by SGP country programmes to ensure sustainability of project and improve livelihood of communities</i>	SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES
Green products	42 (38%)
Ecotourism	45 (41%)

Certification	16 (14%)
Payment for ecosystem services	7 (6%)
Microcredit schemes	23 (21%)
Revolving funds	28 (25%)

In **Kenya**, as a contribution to the UN initiative on Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) and the SDGs, a partnership has been completed by SGP Kenya between an NGO, *World Concern*, and an indigenous *Masai* community for two villages within *Narok* county to promote the uptake of renewable energy technologies. Prior to the project, the indigenous villages of *Endoinyo Narasha* and *Olkinyei*, found in a remote part of the county, were disconnected from the national grid. The SGP project supported travel to India of four semi-illiterate *Masai* women to train as ‘*Barefoot*’ solar technicians, capable of assembling and maintaining solar panels. The trained *Masai* women successfully installed solar units in 85 homes, and project results from an ex post evaluation include : (i) 49% decrease in weekly household expenditure on energy needs from KES8,500 (\$82) to KES4,335 (\$42); (ii) 80% reduction in the number of kerosene-related accidents, such as burns; (iii) 33% reduction in the upper respiratory infections, and 40% reduction in reported incidences of eye infection; as well as (iv) 30% increase in monthly household income from KES17,343 (\$168) to KES24,660 (\$238), with the solar power used to charge mobile phones, and develop women’s’ micro-enterprises, including beadwork and jewelry.

In **Papua New Guinea**, SGP has adopted the use of a strategic grant to build upon the success of previously funded SGP projects in relation to crocodile conservation in Ambunti district, East Sepik province. The SGP PNG strategic grant has been used to develop a crocodile farming manual for 9 species of saltwater and freshwater crocodile, conduct trainings for 45 farmers, and help establish 35 crocodile farms. Participants were selected across the 50 partner villages, located within the Ambunti district along the Sepik River, with special emphasis on women’s’ participation. Over the past year, the crocodile farms have contributed to improved crocodile skin sales bringing in over USD 90,000 to the 160 people who participated in crocodile egg harvests.

In **Vietnam**, SGP project has focused on two communes in the *West Nghe An* Biosphere Reserve and *Pu Hoat* Nature Reserve. Encompassing 1.3 million hectares on the border between northern Vietnam and Laos, the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve is the largest in South-East Asia, and is home to many unique and threatened species, including the endemic Saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*), Asia’s so-called [unicorn](#), unknown to science until its discovery in the Annamite Mountains in 1992. The population status of the Saola remains unknown, and despite its rarity, has hitherto received little conservation attention and funding. The SGP project focused on two communes in the Biosphere Reserve covering 85,770 hectares of natural forest, where 97% of the population is composed of ethnic minority groups, with high poverty rates of 65%. Forests cover three quarters of the total land area, where the local population depend mainly on forest ecosystems, including hunting for bush-meat, for their livelihoods.

In this context, the SGP project focused its attention on the conservation and development of *Bonbo* trees associated with natural forest management, for the sustainable development, job creation, and income generation for ethnic minorities in *Que Phong* district. Some highlights of the SGP project results include: (i) the formation of a local cooperative group to share information, improve knowledge and techniques, for

the plantation, protection and processing and sale of *Bonbo* seeds and derivative products; (ii) forest patrols and protection from illegal encroachments; (iii) the creation of a *Bonbo* conservation and development fund to help shape new business skills among ethnic minorities; and (iv) an 80% increase in income for the 410 participating households (composed of 44% women, 82% from ethnic minorities) across the 54 hectares of *Bonbo* demonstration areas, as compared with control groups. Based on the field trials conducted, the *Bonbo* forest conservation model is in the process of being incorporated and up-scaled as the primary livelihood alternative for indigenous peoples and local communities within a USD 6 million GEF6-funded full-size project supporting the Biosphere Reserve across 3 three provinces. Funded by USAID and a coalition of donors in 2016, the [Vietnam Forest and Delta](#) project, has applied field training to 286 households in five villages, and continues to expand to 800 further households in 25 villages, seven communes, as part of the project framework cooperation agreement. In addition, for the period 2016-2020, where *Bonbo* is the primary tree species, the local authority has approved a project on conservation and development of medicinal plants of high economic value.

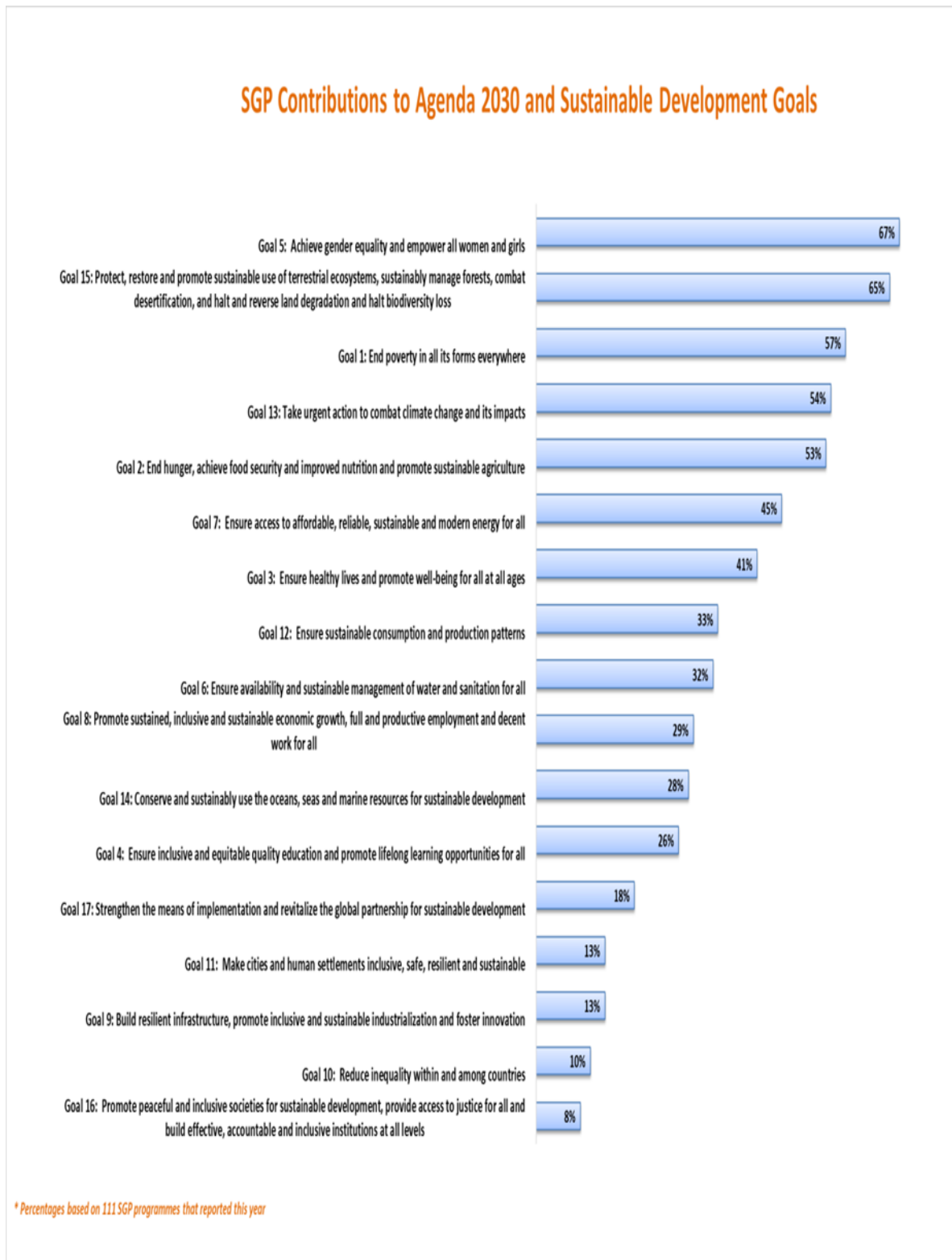
In **Uganda**, SGP project was recognized as one of 13 [game-changing initiatives](#) from around the world for their work on women empowerment on climate resilience. ‘*Women’s Empowerment for Resilience and Adaptation Against Climate Change*’ initiative builds on a community of 1,642 women-led associations, representing more than 250,000 women, that have pooled together their individual savings to generate a fund of USD 2,875,752. The collective savings were built on collected individual savings of at least USD 1 once a week. The initiative is run by RUCODE, a Ugandan NGO, with financial support from UNDP-GEF, CARE International, Plan International, CORDAID Netherlands, and USAID. Women involved in this initiative borrow from this pool of savings to invest in innovative, scalable and replicable activities that catalyze action towards a low-carbon and highly resilient future. The pool of self-sustaining funds continues to grow annually and is used to empower and inspire women as catalysts of innovation and drivers of new emerging solutions that offer concrete results-driven action on climate change. The initiative promotes solar energy for rural domestic lighting, fruit and fish drying, water irrigation technology for dry season agriculture, and agro-processing activities to diversify and strengthen women’s income-earning opportunities.

In **Morocco**, SGP project involved project 5,100 inhabitants (480 families) in the *Assif Melloul* watershed, a 75,500 hectares watershed in *southeastern Morocco (Midelt province)*. The initiative helped to mitigate the impact of extreme weather events in the area and strengthen community resilience, through the fight against erosion and the regeneration of degraded lands- biological rehabilitation, mechanical correction, resilient farming techniques, diversification revenues. Particularly diversification of income sources was initiated to reduce the dependence on agriculture through new economic activities- such as breeding of Beldi chicken and arboriculture-especially apple-tree, solidarity tourism, pastry; the organization of community training programs in soil-fixation techniques for 256 agro-pastoralists and awareness raising on climate change and erosion for more than 2,500 people, including 800 women and 1,000 children; building capacity of women in the *Eastern High Atlas* and their economic and social empowerment with the support of UN Women in a context of climate change. One of the project results included increased income of 300 families through the creation of economic activities.

5.3.Contributions to Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals

SGP is closely aligned with Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During the reporting period grantees were encouraged to design projects that maximized positive synergies between conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, sustainable land management, mitigation of climate change and other global environmental benefits, as well as contribute to improved livelihood outcomes and other social development targets. SGP projects contributed to the objective of several of the SDGs using integrated approaches. As results, number of SGP country programmes (CPs) contributing to a given SDG: Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (74 CPs); Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (72 CPs); Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere (63 CPs); Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (60 CPs); Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture (59 CPs). Figure 10 illustrates percentage based breakdown of SGP contributions to Sustainable Development Goals.

Figure 10: SGP Contribution for Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals



6. Programme Effectiveness Functions

6.1. Knowledge Management

SGP has supported wider adoption of its supported practices through knowledge management work at national and global levels. A key part of this effort is the documentation and dissemination of the practices and lessons learned emerging from the implementation of sustainable development projects, at the local and national level. As **results** during the reporting year, at the country level to promote technology transfer and learning between communities and CSOs, SGP country programs carried out **558 peer-to-peer exchanges and 1,308 training sessions. Country programmes produced over 901 project fact sheets, case studies, brochures, publications, videos and 79 how-to toolkits or guidelines that describe specific practices. The results of GEF support to poor and vulnerable communities and local CSOs through the SGP were mentioned in the local media (TV, radio, print, digital, and social media) over 1,941 times in the reporting period. Furthermore, SGP community-driven projects were recognized nationally and internationally, winning 58 national and international awards** (*see Annex 8.5 on Award Winning SGP projects*).

At the country level, several country programmes also worked on consolidating their knowledge. For example, SGP Uruguay produce a portfolio review of the solutions developed in the last five years in the publication: '[Local solutions to global environmental challenges, SGP Uruguay 2010 – 2015](#)'. SGP Sri Lanka developed the report '[Local action: Global thinking. Voices from the field - SGP Sri Lanka](#)', and SGP Romania produced a [5 Year Brochure](#). SGP Moldova produced an [Environmental Impact Assessment and a Practical Guide to Environmental Journalism](#).

At the global level, SGP CPMT continued highlighting and sharing the knowledge generated by CSOs and communities with key audiences and other communities at global forums and events, as well as through other media. A key aspect of the knowledge management strategy of SGP is the emphasis in documenting and disseminating good practices at the local and national level. In addition, contributions were made to various UNDP publications, including [Silent Roar](#), that features efforts from UNDP and GEF in the Snow Leopard Landscape including a section on SGP's work in this area. SGP's work was also featured in the publication: [Voices of Impact: Speaking for the Global Commons](#). SGP also contributed two stories from Belize and Turkey to the publication [Sea, my life: A voyage to UNDP-supported marine protected areas around the world produced by UNDP-GEF](#). On the occasion of the UNFCCC COP, SGP contributed to the [Scaling Up Climate Action to achieve the SDGs](#) (*see Annex 8.6 on Selected Knowledge and Communications Products, and Annex 8.7 on Compendium of Articles*).

SGP continued to prepare case studies, capturing community-based practices across all focal areas and disseminated widely at the CBD COP13, UNFCCC COP22, GEF Extended Constituency Workshops (ECWs), among others, as well as on the SGP global website. In partnership with the GEF Secretariat, SGP has been sharing its results and experience with partners during *knowledge days* at several of the GEF ECWs including in Eastern Europe; Mexico, Central America and Venezuela; Caribbean, South Asia, East Asia and China; and South American constituencies.

Participation at Key Events and Global Forums

During the reporting year, SGP with its CSO, government and donor partners, and with the aim of promoting broader adoption of best practices identified by its community and CSO stakeholders, was active in several global forums and events.

On the occasion of the IUCN World Conservation Congress held in Honolulu, Hawaii, SGP participated in a workshop organized by the GEF on Gender Responsive Financing for the Global Environment and presented at the roundtable '*Accessing Global Finances: Funding Opportunities for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities*', organized by the GEF at the UNDP Community Kauhale 'Ōiwi space. Following the success of 2015 2016 Global Youth Video Competition on Climate Change, SGP continued its partnership with the UNFCCC and Environment-TV to highlight youth efforts on climate change. The two winners, Faouzia Bahloul from Tunisia and Phuong Vu Hoang, Vietnam, were recognized at an award ceremony during the Young and Future Generations Day, 10 November 2016, at COP22 in Marrakech, Morocco. At the UNFCCC, SGP announced two of the indigenous people's fellows; organized a High-Level Event Dialogue with Civil Society on '*Local Climate Action In Africa*' and collaborated with international organizations and development partners working in Francophone Africa to support '*Initiatives Climat*'. At the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity that took place in Cancun, Mexico, SGP organized a side event on '*The global partnership on ICCAs to achieve the CBD Aichi Targets*', to present the progress achieved and partners involved in the ICCA Global Support Initiative. At the event speakers emphasized the importance of ICCAs, the efforts to support indigenous and local communities, the characteristics of ICCAs and their contribution to biodiversity, cultural diversity and sustainable development. In partnership with UNDP, the Equator Initiative, the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat, and other partners, SGP also participated in the '*Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) Day*' at the Rio Conventions Pavilion. To kick off the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the SGP, and the 15th anniversary of the Equator Initiative, SGP organized a side event to celebrate the work of local and indigenous communities on biodiversity conservation. SGP also participated in this Summit that took place from December 9-11, 2016 and presented traditional knowledge and biological and cultural diversity of indigenous peoples.

In partnership with the Government of India and the Centre for Environment Education (CEE) in India, SGP India organized a knowledge fair with the theme '*Mainstreaming grassroots innovations*' in an effort to highlight the innovative solutions developed by communities and civil society organizations supported by SGP India. As one of the upgraded SGP country programmes, SGP India has supported over 350 organizations and 430 projects to protect biodiversity, address climate change and prevent land degradation, benefiting over 962 women's self-help groups and over 15,000 beneficiaries across the country since 1995. To promote south-south knowledge transfer, SGP National coordinators from Afghanistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka also attended the event and shared good practices from their countries.

On the occasion of the 8th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions and the 13th COP of the Basel Convention, SGP convened a panel of experts and practitioners in chemicals and waste management from civil society, government, and international organizations to share community experiences in innovative chemicals and waste management. The SGP Side Event '*Local to Global Actions for Chemicals and Waste Management*', launched the publication '*Community-Based Chemicals and*

Waste Management: Experiences from the GEF Small Grants Programme’, and a [short-animated video](#) on SGP’s work in chemicals.

During the 16th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNFPII), held from 25 April to 5 May 2017. SGP organized a side event to share the progress of its work on indigenous peoples, in particular, the SGP IP Fellowship and the Global Support Initiative to Indigenous Peoples and Community-Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCA-GSI). In another side event organized by UNDP’s Community-Based REDD+ (CBR+), SGP shared examples of CBR+ in Panama and Paraguay that highlighted community projects reinforcing traditional conservation methods through reforestation, promoting agroforestry and organic farming as an alternative to migratory agriculture, and providing environmental educational with a special focus on youth and community leaders.

At the 2017 United Nations Ocean Conference, SGP participated in the UNDP Exhibition- Waves of Action, and launched the publication [Making Waves](#), together with the Equator Initiative, featuring powerful stories about community innovations in the management of marine and coastal areas. Furthermore, SGP organized a side event on ‘Polycentric Ocean and Coastal Governance to Accelerate the Implementation of SDGs’ along with UNEP and the GEF Secretariat and partnered with GLISPA in the side event ‘Large ocean states building resilience for SDGs and beyond’. Also, two SGP grantees, the *Mediterranean Conservation Society*, Turkey, and *Try Oysters*, Gambia, presented at the high-level event organized by the UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.

6.2.Communications

During the reporting year, SGP [website](#) had 306,543 page views, 21,877 visitors and 10,736 unique visitors- with 900 resources, including 430 global and local publications, 250 country documents and 320 videos (see Annex 8.6 on Selected Knowledge and Communications Products, and Annex 8.7 on Compendium of Articles).SGP continued to expand its social media presence, and now has 5,490 followers on Facebook; started a global Twitter account @GEF_SGP; and continued to write stories for the GEF, UNDP and SGP websites.

SGP developed a global newsletter to share key news and resources with partners on a regular basis- with the first global newsletter developed in April 2017. For the occasion of SGP’s 25th anniversary, SGP updated and released a new logo, symbolizing the renewed commitment of SGP to support innovative solutions of communities and civil society organizations on global environment and sustainable development issues. As a brand with strong recognition, the elements of the logo remain the same but have an updated look and feel, with the introduction of new colours and font. An anniversary logo was also created to be in use for one year starting in June 2017. Please find attached below:

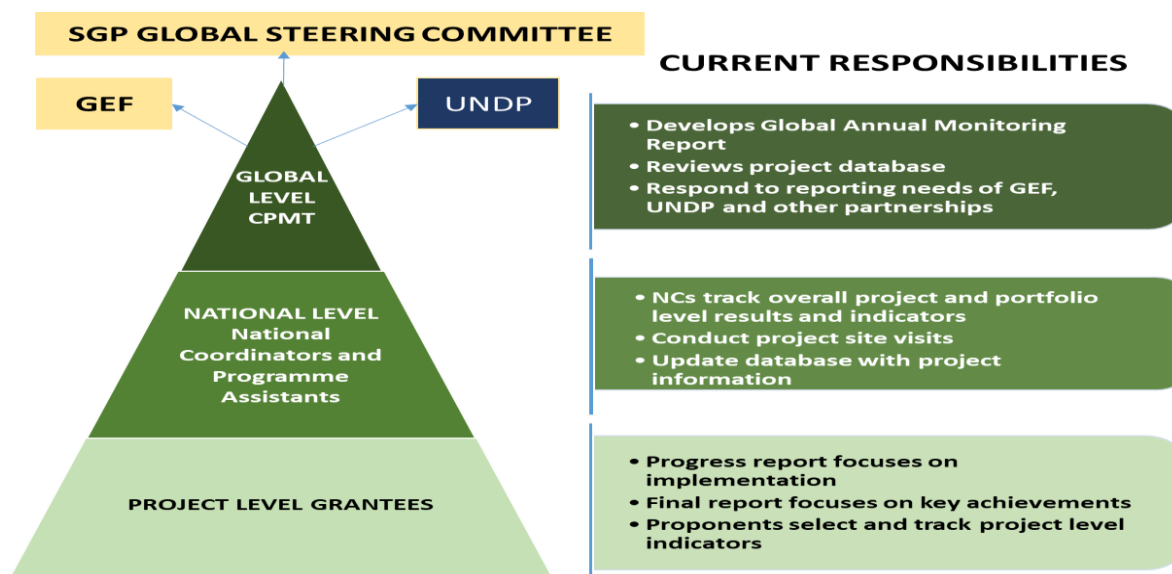


6.3. Monitoring and Evaluation

During the reporting year, **as results 1,648 projects, representing 53% of the active portfolio, received monitoring visits from SGP country staff.** Three global evaluations were conducted for partnership initiatives of Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS), EU-NGO Strengthening Project and Community-based Adaptation (CBA). Annual reports were also produced for these in line with partner requirements. SGP has recently recruited a Results Management, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist to strengthen the function at global, country and project levels.

With SGP’s portfolio monitoring and management system at global, country and project levels, SGP undertakes monitoring at three levels: the grant project level where grantees are enabled to adaptively manage projects; the country level where the SGP national teams monitor projects results as they relate to the indicators and targets in the Country Programme Strategies, and at the Global level where the SGP CPMT gathers information from countries and reports annually to the GEF and other partners on the results achieved by projects through the Annual Monitoring Report and partnership results report. Figure 11 illustrates the three tiered SGP portfolio monitoring and management system.

Figure 11: SGP Portfolio Monitoring and Management System



In terms of next steps, strengthening SGP’s monitoring and evaluation is a key priority for SGP- using both monitoring and evaluation methodologies, a system that supports measurement of environmental impact, and provides evidence based thought leadership and results based management is envisioned. Building on the recommendations of Joint GEF-UNDP Evaluation, efforts will be made to improve existing M&E, design more streamlined and useful M&E tools and activities that balance the need to measure with the need to provide support to local communities in tackling environmental issues. In FY 2017, SGP recruited a Results Management, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist to advise and strengthen the function at global, country and project levels.

7. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

7.1. Programme Management Overview

During the reporting year, SGP countries completed elaboration and completion of the Country Programme Strategy (CPS). The CPS process includes wide consultations with country stakeholders, including CSOs, NSC members, government, UNDP and other donors and partners- with the aim of identifying SGP's priority areas of intervention, in alignment with national priorities and relevant programmes (*see Annex 8.3 on Country Programme Strategy Elaboration process*). A total of 104 strategies were approved and are under implementation by mid-2017. All approved CPS documents are publicly available on [SGP website](#).

The Global SGP Steering Committee convened twice during the reporting year. These meetings provide strategic guidance to the programme and are held in conjunction with GEF Council meetings. SGP also participated actively in several meetings, conferences and events at the global, regional and national level as elaborated in previous sections.

Significant emphasis was placed on the consultation process for the design of SGP in GEF 7 during the reporting year. These consultations commenced in 2016 with the organization of SGP sessions at 13 Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECWs) organized by the GEF in Botswana, Trinidad and Tobago, Montenegro, Thailand, Argentina, Guatemala, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Lebanon, Cameroon, and Fiji. These meetings involved 149 GEF recipient countries. SGP staff were able to hold consultations with a range of participants including CSOs, Government representatives, Convention focal points, GEF Secretariat and GEF Agency representatives, and inform them about SGP's results in GEF6 and proposed strategic directions for GEF7. These sessions promoted exchange of results between SGP countries, particularly at the sub-regional level. The ECWs held during in 2017 are placing even more emphasis on South - South knowledge exchange, with opportunities for further finetuning of SGP's GEF7 directions with stakeholders.

In January 2017, a Global Visioning Workshop was held in San Juan, Costa Rica, responding to the Joint SGP Evaluation, 2015, to hold high level strategic consultations with programme partners and stakeholders. The workshop included discussions on key strategic outcomes proposed for SGP in GEF7, while reflecting on the feedback received from ECWs, and elaboration of proposed approaches with staff and partners. The workshop was attended by the GEF Secretariat, the GEF Independent Evaluation Office, GEF government focal points, representatives of the GEF CSO Network and the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Panel (IPAG), 13 SGP country programmes, UNDP, Partner projects and SGP CPMT.

The year under review was an important period for the SGP upgraded country programmes in terms of programme approvals and start of new phases. While OP6 programmes were actively under implementation in Costa Rica and Ecuador, which received CEO endorsement in the previous reporting period, seven upgraded country programmes received CEO endorsement during the current reporting year. These countries included Bolivia, Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Peru and Sri Lanka, most of which have already commenced implementation of activities in OP6. SGP Thailand expects to secure approval for funding within the next year, while it continues to implement ongoing OP5 projects. Two upgraded countries, Philippines and Brazil, are due to a late start of implementation of OP5 and will not be seeking further funding till GEF7. In India, the reduction of STAR funds resulted in the need to cancel the submission of the SGP OP6 proposal. SGP India will complete the OP5 projects under implementation and will seek funding in GEF7 for continuation of the programme. All upgraded countries are building on the

experience of UNDP’s COMDEKS community-based landscape planning approach implemented through the SGP in 20 pilot countries. Upgraded country programmes are implementing similar community-based landscape approaches as their core programming framework, building the capacities of community organizations to take collective action for adaptive landscape management for social and ecological resilience.

7.2.Partnerships

SGP served as a delivery mechanism for several partnerships during the reporting year (*Table 23*).

Table 23: Key Partnership Programmes of Small Grants Programme

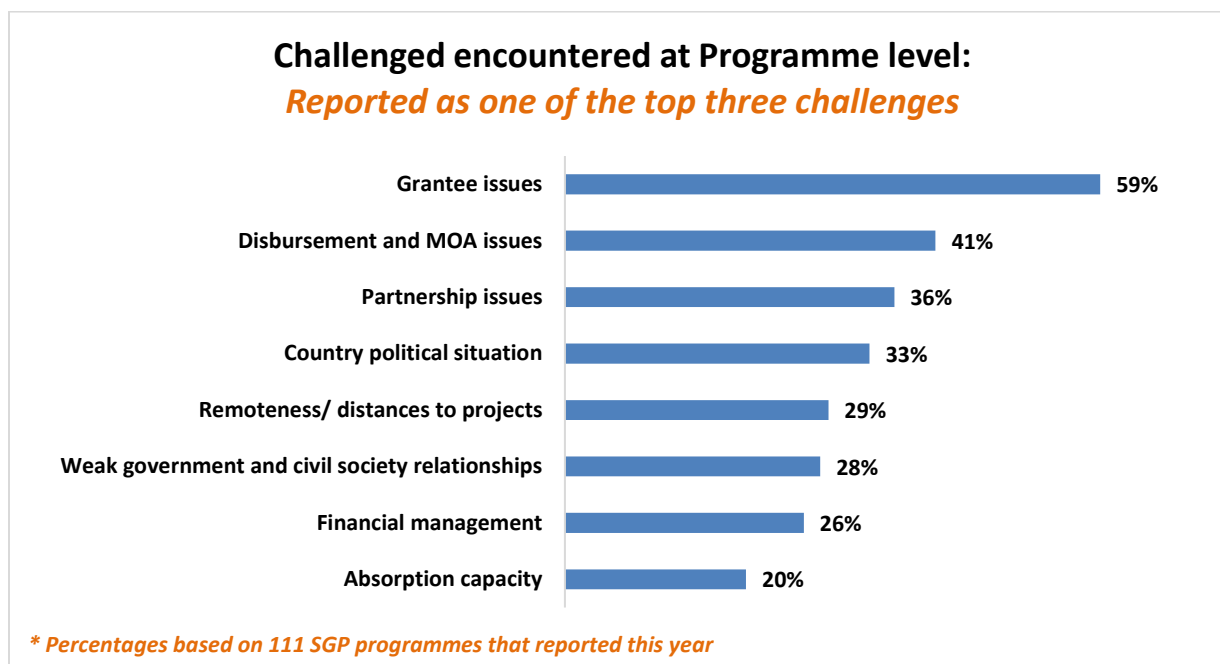
<p>Global support initiative for indigenous peoples and community-conserved territories and areas (ICCA-GSI)</p>
<p>Goal and Objective: To improve the recognition and overall effectiveness for biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and resilience to climate change effects of territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities.</p>
<p>Partners/Donor involved: Funded by Government of Germany, through its Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB). Key partners include the United Nations Environment Programme’s World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP WCMC); the International Union for the Conservation of Nature’s Global Programme on Protected Areas (IUCN GPAP); the ICCA Consortium; and the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD).</p>
<p>Funding Amount: USD 16.4 million budget; USD 3.6 million committed; USD 3.5 million disbursed</p>
<p>Duration: 2014 -2019</p>
<p>Countries covered: Argentina, Belize, Benin, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Georgia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Suriname, Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zambia.</p>
<p>Small Island Developing States Community-Based Adaptation Programme (SIDS CBA)/ Mekong Asia Pacific Community-Based Adaptation Programme (MAP CBA)</p>
<p>Goal and Objective: To improve the adaptive capacity of communities and reduce their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and its variability. The goals of the CBA programme are three-fold: (i.) to reduce the vulnerability and improve the adaptive capacity of local communities to the adverse effects of climate change and its variability; (ii.) provide countries with concrete ground-level experience with local climate change adaptation; (iii.) provide clear policy lessons and mainstream CBA within national processes and upscale practices across scales.</p>
<p>Partners/Donor involved: Government of Australia</p>
<p>Funding Amount: USD 10.4 million budget; USD 9 million committed (87%committed); USD 7.1 million disbursed</p>
<p>Duration: 2009 – 2016; extended to June 2018, with another possible extension for Pacific region</p>
<p>Countries covered: (Caribbean) Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname, St. Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St. Vincent & Grenadines and Trinidad & Tobago; (Pacific) Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu; (Atlantic and Indian Oceans) Cape Verde, Comoros, Guinea Bissau, Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles; (Mekong Asia Pacific) Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam</p>
<p>The EU-NGOs Project 'Strengthening Environmental Governance by Building the Capacity of Non-Governmental Organizations'</p>

<p>Goal and Objective: Promote sustainable development and improve environmental management in target countries from EU neighboring regions of the European Union, through more effective civil society participation in environmental governance. The specific objective of the project was to build the capacities of NGOs in selected countries to the East and to the South of the European Union to engage in environmental governance.</p>
<p>Partners/Donor involved: European Union (EU)</p>
<p>Funding Amount: EUR 3.5 million</p>
<p>Duration: 2012- 2016</p>
<p>Countries covered: Armenia, Belarus, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia and Ukraine, and Algeria, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Morocco.</p>
<p>The Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS)</p>
<p>Goal and Objective: Develop sound biodiversity management and sustainable livelihood activities with local communities to maintain, rebuild and revitalize socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes.</p>
<p>Partners/Donor involved: Japan Biodiversity Fund, established within the CBD Secretariat; the Ministry of Environment of Japan; the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD); and the United Nations University – Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)</p>
<p>Funding Amount: USD 10 million</p>
<p>Duration: 2011- 2016</p>
<p>Countries covered: (Phase I) Brazil, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Fiji, India, Malawi, Nepal, Slovakia and Turkey. (Phase 2) Bhutan, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Kyrgyzstan, Indonesia, Mongolia Namibia, and Niger.</p>
<p>Community- based REDD+ (CBR+)</p>
<p>Goal and Objective: To support the full and effective participation of indigenous people, communities and civil society in national level processes related to reducing emissions of deforestation and forest degradation; build the capacity and awareness of communities to engage in REDD+ activities, knowledge and ideas into national REDD+ processes; facilitate the integration of community-based activities, knowledge and ideas into national REDD+ processes; and share community-based experience to inform national and international REDD+ policies and practices.</p>
<p>Partners/Donor involved: UN- REDD</p>
<p>Funding Amount: USD 4 million (UN- REDD), USD 3.9 million (SGP co- financing)</p>
<p>Duration:</p>
<p>Countries covered: Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Paraguay, Panama</p>
<p><i>See Annex 8.4 for details on SGP’s Key Partnership Programmes</i></p>

7.3.Programmatic Challenges

In providing technical support and funding directly to communities to achieve global environmental benefits at the local level, SGP country programmes often face challenges that are inherent in its participatory and grassroots engagement model. In terms of ranking of challenges, grantee related issues were reported most frequently, i.e. by 59% of countries, as one of the top three challenges faced. For 28% of countries this was reported as the top most challenge. Figure 12 illustrates the different challenges faced by SGP country programmes during the reporting year.

Figure 12 Programme level challenges encountered by SGP Countries



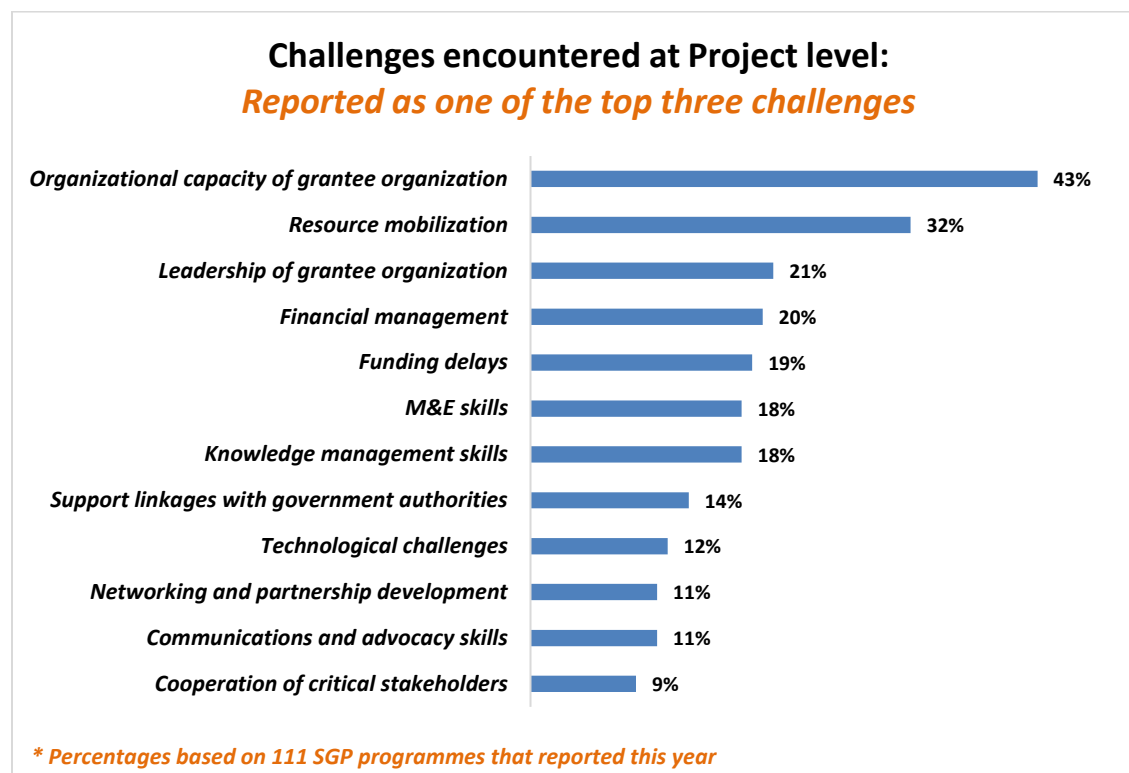
On issues related to grantee capacities, while these vary across countries and programme maturities, these include: lack of grantee organizational capacities, human resources issues, access to information, challenges to timely implementation of project activities, record keeping and quality reporting, and support from local government.

Disbursement and issues related to grant agreements in the course of the reporting year were generally due to the introduction of oneUNOPS as a new financial management/reporting tool and the related learning curve; new financial reporting and approval procedures; and introduction of new ways of funds transfer. Delay in access to STAR funds, or reduced STAR funding compared with OP5 has also been reported as a future challenge by countries that have to manage high demand for SGP grants.

Country political situation identified as a challenge consists of one or more of the following issues: security situation, changes due to elections, and laws that affect SGP implementation. In particular, some security related challenges are reported by Afghanistan, Burundi, Central Africa, Ethiopia, Yemen, and Venezuela. Local and national elections, associated social processes, and changes in national laws directly influenced SGP implementation in some other countries.

Figure 13 illustrates the challenges encountered at the project level. 29 country programmes, across all regions, reported that 60 projects were terminated during the reporting period. The most common reported reason for project termination prior to completion is the limitation of grantee capacities to implement the project, and to report on it. In some cases, grantees initialized the process of termination, realizing that project requirements fall far beyond their capacities. Some other reported reasons include: financial management issues, security issues, and changes in national laws. For example, four country programmes indicated difficulty in meeting national requirements for registration of projects; and another country programme reported extreme drought as the reason for termination of two projects.

Figure 13 Project level challenges encountered by SGP Countries



7.4. Solutions and Mitigating Actions administered

While recognizing different country contexts and varying country programme maturities, the key challenges faced by country programmes relate to grantee capacities, access to information, and limited influence in local and central policies.

Throughout the process of grantmaking, SGP staff work proactively to increase knowledge and awareness of communities and CSOs about environmental threats, increase their capacity to address these threats, and enable environmentally sustainable choices and livelihood alternatives. By connecting grantees with other CSOs and networks, as well as by facilitating partnerships and mobilization of resources, SGP enables grantee partners to become active contributors, positively influencing local and national policies towards sustainable development.

SGP foresees and works through a number of approaches to implement solutions to challenges, such as by providing capacity development assistance and dedicated support. As an example, the modality of Capacity building grants supports strengthening civil society capacity. In OP6 CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms are planned as a Grantmaker plus initiative to address weak government and civil society relationship, while at the same time contributing towards enhancing civil society capacities and access to information and policy influence. Another OP6 Grantmaker plus initiative, *South-South Community Innovation Exchange Platform*, contributes to information exchange, and networking, which is instrumental in building up grantee and CSO capacity. Recent publication '[The A to Z of the SGP: A Guide to the GEF Small Grants Programme](#)', is also expected to serve as a SGP reference guide for CSOs. At the country programme level, constructive solutions and mitigating actions are identified in line with local civil society contexts: As examples, **Colombia**, **Egypt**, and **Malaysia** are working to strengthen cooperation

with local government to provide technical assistance, training, and strategic support. **Albania** aims to build on existing NGO coalitions and combine efforts with other international donors interested in facilitating government-civil society dialogues. In the **Bahamas**, SGP is planning to link smaller grantee organizations with more capacitated NGOs that could train and transfer knowledge while supporting project implementation.

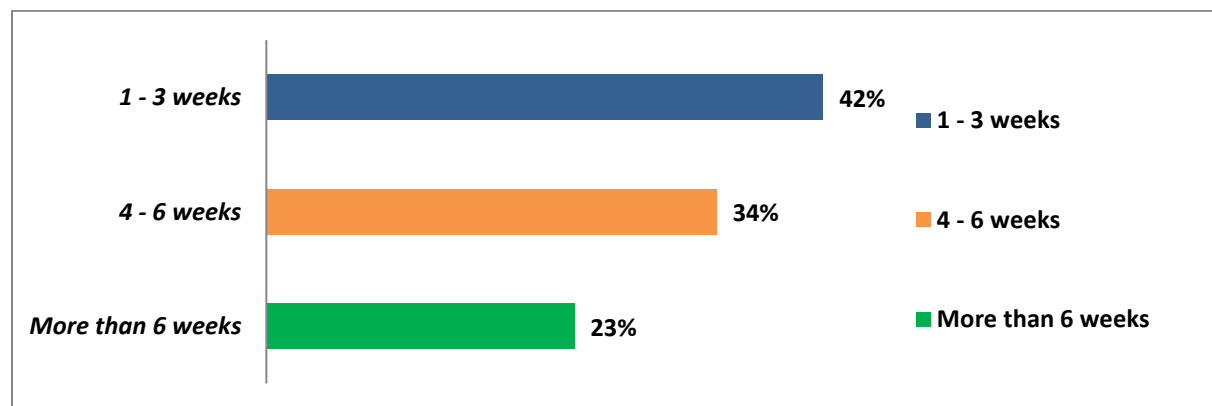
The issue of remoteness of grantees, is particularly challenging for portfolio management and monitoring. In OP6 as SGP implements landscape/seascape approaches to enhance its impact by clustering projects, and building stronger linkages among them, it is envisioned that this challenge would be mitigated. Efforts to enhance communities' capacities, and to foster partnerships and networking can be more targeted, while knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation can be more effectively supported.

On financial management, and grantee and MOA issues, discussions and plans are under way with UNOPS to provide further training and dedicated support to SGP countries on the oneUNOPS financial management system, and to develop and share guidance on other financial, procurement, and process issues that may be challenging for grantees or country programmes.

7.5. Grant Approval Process

During the reporting year, as illustrated by Figure 14, the time-frame from the approval of a grant project proposal by the SGP NSC to the signature of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the grantee partner and the UNDP (on behalf of UNOPS) took 6 weeks or less for more than 75% of SGP countries- with 42% reporting a period of less than 3 week, and 34% a period between 4 and 6 weeks.

Figure 14 Time Period from Grant Approval by NSC to Signature of Grant MOA



In less than a quarter of countries (23%) this process took more than 6 weeks, and reasons for this longer time-frame varied. Some of the factors identified include: (i.) weak capacity of grantees and proposals. NCs needed to invest time to support grantees to improve proposals (reported by 8 countries); (ii.) further efforts were needed to obtain bank details of grantees and to assist them in opening a bank account (reported by 5 countries); (iii.) projects were approved by NSC members with conditions that required revision of proposals (reported by 4 countries); (iv.) Government regulations resulted in some delays (reported by 3 countries); (v.) remoteness of grantees and project locations required additional time allocation (reported by 3 countries); and (vi.) vendor approval in the new OneUNOPS accounting system resulted in delays (reported by 3 countries).

In general, these reasons are similar to those identified in previous years where additional time was required to get grant MOAs signed and projects commenced. In many cases, the grantee lacks capacity and needs additional support, in particular when it is the first time for a CSO or CBO to access donor assistance. Several countries mention assistance required by grantees in preparing MOAs, including legal documents, establishing bank accounts, and aligning with specific government regulations. The practice of “provisional approval” by NSCs in some countries also means that NCs may need to provide further hand on support to help grantees meet the specific conditions or address comments prior to MOA signature and project start. These challenges are consistent with those reported in the past and SGP will continue to work at the level of each country to reduce delays. Some challenges experienced in the past year due to the transition to the new OneUNOPS accounting system have been largely addressed and further training and support continues to be provided to enhance capacity of SGP staff.

7.6.Risk Management

As long running grantmaking programme with 25 years of experience, there are few unanticipated risks as GEF SGP has been constantly learning and adapting over time. Many potential risks are known, and based on past experience risk mitigation measures are in place. Potential risks may be either programmatic or operational. Programmatic risks have the potential to affect the ability of the programme to realize its goals, while operational risks may affect daily operations and financial or administrative management of the programme. These types of risks are identified below and mitigation measures that are in place are described.

Programmatic Risks

SGP’s project document for the 6th Operational phase identifies risks foreseen by the programme that may occur during this operational phase, with a list of potential risks identified in the project document and current mitigation measures in place (*Table 24*). These are reviewed each year as part of the AMR process and the level of risk and suitable mitigation measures may be assessed and updated. In 2015 SGP applied the UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedures (SESP) in the design of its OP6 Project Document. The overall impact and probability of social and environmental risks is low, since SGP is designed to enable communities and CSOs to directly implement priority projects designed to benefit the environment and local sustainable development. At the country level, SGP programmes again review risk within the process of preparation of Country Programme Strategies, to be more precisely aligned with country level challenges and to avoid specific social and environmental risks in line with the SES. Further country specific mitigation measures if necessary are identified in each country strategy. For ad-hoc issues that may arise in the process of grantmaking, the NSCs step in to ensure appropriate conflict resolution measures.

Table 24:Programmatic Risks and Mitigation Measures in OP6

Risk	Risk Level	Mitigation measures/Updates
The challenges of working directly with community-based and non-governmental organizations that have a low level of technical and	Low	SGP continues to track project progress and implementation schedules through a number of M&E activities, such as site visits, communications with grantees and review of progress reports. Among the strategies that SGP will continue employ to mitigate risks at the grant level: ensure capacity development of all grantees through use of stakeholder workshops, provide guidance materials, link grantee partners to learn

<p>management capacity is a continuing risk. Although past performance of the SGP portfolio shows that the high majority of grants achieve outcomes in the satisfactory range, the grants may require additional allocation of time and support to reach completion.</p>		<p>from experienced grantees, and work with supporting NGOs and partners. Risks of underperformance will be mitigated by consistent and comprehensive oversight and monitoring of the SGP portfolio in each country by CPMT and the UNDP CO. On the financial and admin side, UNOPS as implementing partner will provide a risk advisory and management system. Missed milestones by projects may require specific assistance, which may be technical or administrative to enable grantees to get to the next stage.</p>
<p>The gradually changing geographic presence of SGP may lead to risks, where in each operational phase the most mature countries meeting the criteria for upgrading are upgraded as FSPs, while in the past two operational phases a significant number of LDCs and SIDs, as well as countries in post conflict situations, have been added.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>The potential risks of working in newer countries, countries with post conflict situations, capacity challenges, etc. is being addressed in OP6 through the greater flexibility in Grantmaker+ assistance to complement and ensure the success of grant projects. By actively promoting CSO-government dialogue platforms, providing dedicated support, enable south-south exchanges, as well as by developing and utilizing effective global knowledge exchange platforms, SGP will be better able to build the capacity of CSOs and promote community action in many of the newer countries that have joined SGP.</p> <p>SGP will continue to promote knowledge exchange with upgraded countries in order to contribute to the SGP global network and to promote mentoring and capacity development through knowledge exchange among all countries.</p> <p>SGP will keep tracking potential risk scenarios in countries that are affected by security or other political and economic challenges. Trouble shooting missions are undertaken when needed by CPMT and UNOPS.</p>
<p>The shift, for most SGP country programmes, to implementation of a community landscape/seascape conservation approach with a clustering of projects with 70% of grant funds going towards specific landscape conservation objectives identified in consultation with communities through a participatory baseline assessment process. The risk in some countries is ensuring the transparency and criteria of selection of such landscape/seascape areas of focus.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>SGP country programmes have completed this process in the past year and have documented the extensive consultation processes, review of national priorities and alignment with partner initiatives that were given consideration in landscape/seascape selection. CPMT also provided guidance, templates and facilitated discussions to guide country programmes on key steps and lessons. The experience of COMPACT, COMDEKS, and the CBR+ projects that are already clustering grants within specific landscapes or seascapes to achieve wider objectives has also been shared.</p>
<p>A reduced level of funding for grant making may reduce the impact and effectiveness of SGP country programmes. While SGP Core</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>SGP programmes will achieve optimal efficiency and impact through: (a) flexible allocation of grant funding, (b) clustering and focusing of grant portfolios in selected landscape and seascape areas to increase impact and reduce cost of M&E; (c) enhance SGP's role as a Grantmaker+ adding value from important non-grant services provided by SGP staff, NSCs, and other networks to build and sustain capacity; and (d) increase</p>

resources are expected to be at the level of OP5, in OP6 SGP countries will have lowered ceilings for access to STAR funds.		resource mobilization and partnerships, including the use of SGP as a delivery mechanism for other donor funded projects.
Climate related risks and extreme weather events may pose challenges to SGP’s work in countries.	Moderate	Some SGP projects have been impacted due to unpredictable and severe weather events, such as the tropical storms in the Caribbean region over the past year. SGP will draw upon and build on existing knowledge in this area to mitigate risks, and support resilience and rehabilitation in collaboration with other partners. SGP will draw on lessons and tools developed through its Community-Based Adaptation projects to integrate climate change adaptation measures. Experiences in the design of projects will be shared, including vulnerability assessments and the inclusion of effective measures generated by communities in similar situations. The cohort of SGP projects focusing on Agro-ecology have been integrating CBA resilience measures within project design. In the coming year SGP will seek to extend these lessons to other projects in vulnerable regions. SGP will facilitate exchanges on disaster risk reduction and recovery among countries that have been affected to share experience on how to respond and support communities effectively in collaboration with other partners.
There is a risk of not mobilizing adequate additional resources to allow scaling up and greater impact.	Low	SGP has a record of accomplishment of raising levels of project level in-kind and in-cash co-financing that add up to 1:1 level match to GEF funding. SGP will work with country staff, NSC members, and UNDP offices to identify any areas where co-financing levels are low and identify additional possibilities for co-financing. At the programmatic level, SGP will work to deliver current co-financing partnership programmes and will actively identify opportunities for seeking and leveraging additional bilateral and multilateral funding through targeted programmes. Resource mobilization efforts will be closely coordinated with UNDP.
As a grantmaking programme, SGP has to be prepared to confront potential risks of misuse or misappropriation of funds, especially where there is low administrative/financial management capacity or there is risk of corruption.	Low	SGP addresses this risk in a variety of ways. First at the programming level, SGP’s project proposal template, grant review and screening procedures are designed to ensure that CSOs or CBOs proposing grants have relevant experience, strong ownership and backing from communities who will be involved, and a good track record. SGP ensures oversight by its country level staff and active involvement of NSC members who provide support and a due diligence mechanism. Site visits to projects are encouraged. The size of the average SGP grant is also small, at approximately \$25,000, and funding is provided in tranches to mitigate risks of misuse. Grantees are required to submit progress reports and financial reports for release of subsequent tranches. Any concerns regarding use of funds may result in early termination of a grant project. UNOPS as the Implementing Partner oversees the operational risks, and has a risk mitigation framework for SGP that entails control layers at different transactional levels. Further information is available in the Operational Risk management section below.

The above identified programmatic risks in OP6 will be closely monitored and mitigation measures will continue to be implemented in the next fiscal year. A detailed review will be provided in the next AMR period. The SGP Steering Committee at the global level will continue to convene twice annually and will provide strategic guidance and oversight on risk management and will be kept updated on any emerging or unforeseen issues.

Operational Risk Management

On the administrative aspects, UNOPS as the executing agency ensures financial and operational risk management. As part of the annual audit exercise, a sample of 10 SGP country programmes were audited during July 2016 and June 2017. The implementation of the audit recommendations will be undertaken in the course of the coming year. In January 2016, UNOPS started implementing its own ERP system, oneUNOPS. Previously there were 14 different parallel platforms, which were consolidated into one uniform system as oneUNOPS. As a result, UNOPS insourced most of the services which were previously provided by UNDP HQ and UNDP Country Offices. The transition to OneUNOPS, in particular during 2016, represented a steep learning curve for SGP staff to become operational in new processes and systems for finance and operations. Many early challenges were addressed during the first part half of 2016, guidance was issued, and training webinars were provided in June 2016 to solve problems and build capacity. A survey conducted in November 2016 found that 80% of staff were generally satisfied with the system, but that a majority (60%) still requested further training. The UNOPS Small Grants cluster also revamped the SGP Standard Operating Procedures and re-issued these in January 2017 to reflect the oneUNOPS implementation, and address the new challenges which stemmed from migration to this system.

7.7.Funding Overview and Financial Delivery

GEF Funding Overview

Global Programme

The SGP Global Programme received approval during the GEF6 Replenishment to receive USD 140 million inclusive of Agency fees (amounting to a programme budget of USD 134.6 million excluding Agency fees) in Core funding. This amount of Core funding has remained consistent with the Core funding contribution in GEF5. The Council Paper on SGP Implementation Arrangements in GEF6 describes specific access criteria for supplemental funding from the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR), enabling countries with more than USD15 million in their total STAR envelopes to endorse up to USD 2 million for SGP. The SGP Steering Committee determined that countries with less than USD 10 million their country STAR envelopes could endorse up to 10% of STAR funds towards the SGP programmes in their countries.

SGP is expected to receive the full funding for its OP6 staggered in four parts. In July 2015 SGP received CEO endorsement for Part I of GEF Core funding for USD 67,307,692. A Project Identification Form (PIF) for Part II of GEF Core funding in an equal amount (USD 67,307,692) was approved as part of the October 2016 Council work programme. The CEO endorsement for Part II of Core was subsequently received in September 2017. A Project Identification Form (PIF) for the first request for STAR funds (Part III) was approved at the May 2017 Council, while submission of the second request for STAR (Part IV) is targeted for review at the December 2017 Council. Table 25 presents information on all submissions for OP6 funding for the Global SGP.

Table 25 GEF Funding Received by SGP in OP6, Global Country Programmes

Project	Date of Approval		Amount (USD) (excluding Agency Fees)
Global Core (Part I)	<i>PIF Approval by Council</i>	<i>30-Oct-14</i>	
	<i>CEO Endorsement</i>	<i>09-Jul-15</i>	<i>67,307,692</i>
Global Core (Part II)	<i>PIF Approval by</i>	<i>27-Oct-16</i>	
	<i>CEO Endorsement</i>	<i>05-Sep-17</i>	<i>67,307,692</i>
STAR (Part III)	<i>PIF Approval by</i>	<i>25-May-17</i>	<i>17,337,500</i>
STAR (Part IV)	<i>Submitted</i>		<i>17,610,069</i>

While the 6th operational phase is ongoing with new grant projects being committed, within the reporting period SGP continued to implement, monitor and supervise the grant project portfolios funded under OP5. The full scale of funding from GEF Core and STAR funds received by SGP in OP5 amounted to USD 255 million, not inclusive of Agency fee. Table 26 presents funding SGP received through five tranches between 2011 and 2014.

Table 26 GEF Funding received by SGP in OP5, Global Country Programmes

Project	Date of Approval		Amount (USD) (excluding Agency Fees)
Global Core	<i>PIF Approval by Council</i>	<i>18-Nov-10</i>	
	<i>CEO Endorsement</i>	<i>25-Apr-11</i>	<i>134,615,385</i>
STAR I	<i>PIF Approval by Council</i>	<i>9-Nov-11</i>	
	<i>CEO Endorsement</i>	<i>20-Apr-12</i>	<i>40,828,365</i>
STAR II	<i>PIF Approval by Council</i>	<i>12-Apr-13</i>	
	<i>CEO Endorsement</i>	<i>19-Sep-13</i>	<i>72,851,267</i>
STAR III	<i>PIF Approval by Council</i>	<i>01-May-14</i>	
	<i>CEO Endorsement</i>	<i>20-Nov-14</i>	<i>6,965,151</i>

The information presented above for OP6 and OP5 is for the Global SGP programme covering 110 countries. In line with GEF policy and upgrading criteria presented in the GEF Council Paper ‘SGP: Implementation Arrangements in GEF6’, 15 Upgraded SGP country programmes are funded from respective countries’ STAR resources as FSPs.

Upgraded Country Programmes

Table 27 presents currently available data and approval status of 13 Upgraded countries. SGP OP6 country projects are actively under implementation in Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Indonesia, Pakistan, Peru, and Sri Lanka as of July 2017, while project documents were finalized in Egypt, Kenya, Kazakhstan, and Mexico. Two countries, Brazil and Philippines are not listed as these programmes are still actively involved in programming of their OP5 projects and are expected to have new phase project submissions at a later date. (hence not listed in Table 27). Project Preparation grants are also included here.

Table 27: Total Funding for SGP Upgraded Country Programmes in OP6

Upgraded Country Programmes	CEO Endorsement/Approval	PIF Approval	Project Budget (USD) Exclusive of Agency Fees
<i>Bolivia</i>	<i>31-Jan-17</i>	<i>11-Mar-16</i>	<i>3,726,027</i>
<i>Costa Rica</i>	<i>14-Mar-16</i>	<i>28-Apr-15</i>	<i>2,414,449</i>
<i>Ecuador</i>	<i>14-Jun-16</i>	<i>MSP</i>	<i>1,826,484</i>
<i>Egypt</i>	<i>12-Dec-16</i>	<i>28-Apr-15</i>	<i>2,913,241</i>
<i>India</i>			<i>5,000,000</i>
<i>Indonesia</i>	<i>25-Jan-17</i>	<i>28-Apr-15</i>	<i>3,652,969</i>
<i>Kazakhstan</i>	<i>2-Jun-17</i>	<i>4-May-16</i>	<i>2,739,726</i>
<i>Kenya</i>	<i>19 Jul-17</i>	<i>4-May-16</i>	<i>3,652,968</i>
<i>Mexico</i>		<i>11-Mar-16</i>	<i>4,566,210</i>
<i>Pakistan</i>	<i>14-Feb-17</i>	<i>11-Mar-16</i>	<i>2,739,726</i>
<i>Peru</i>	<i>29-Nov-16</i>	<i>28-Apr-15</i>	<i>3,287,672</i>
<i>Sri Lanka</i>	<i>18- Nov-16</i>	<i>28-Apr-15</i>	<i>2,557,078</i>
<i>Thailand</i>		<i>31-Oct-17</i>	<i>2,456,620</i>

Table 28 shows the GEF5 funds from their countries' respective STAR allocations endorsed to the nine original Upgraded SGP Programmes in OP5.

Table 28: Total Funding for SGP Upgraded Country Programmes in OP5

Upgraded Country Programmes	CEO Endorsement/Approval	Project Budget (USD) Exclusive of Agency Fees
<i>Bolivia</i>	<i>10-Jul-12</i>	<i>4,166,667</i>
<i>Brazil</i>	<i>5-Dec-12</i>	<i>5,000,000</i>
<i>Costa Rica</i>	<i>24-Nov-11</i>	<i>4,398,148</i>
<i>Ecuador</i>	<i>24-Nov-11</i>	<i>4,398,145</i>
<i>India</i>	<i>27-Jan-12</i>	<i>5,000,000</i>
<i>Kenya</i>	<i>28-Dec-11</i>	<i>5,000,000</i>
<i>Mexico</i>	<i>2-Feb-12</i>	<i>4,662,755</i>
<i>Pakistan</i>	<i>30-Nov-11</i>	<i>2,777,778</i>
<i>Philippines</i>	<i>11-Dec-12</i>	<i>4,583,333</i>

Financial Delivery

The total expenditure over the reporting year is USD 34 million. This primarily includes the ongoing Operational Sixth Phase which is the source of the majority of the funding (USD 27 million). The overall figure also includes some ongoing commitments from prior operational phases that have been delivered in the year under review. OP4 is expected to be closed by early 2018. OP5 continues to be operational to enable countries with remaining grant funds and capacity challenges to ensure full commitment and for ongoing OP5 grant projects to be effectively supervised and completed in due course (*Table 29*).

Table 29 GEF SGP Delivery, July 2016 – June 2017, USD

Operational Phase	Expenditure
<i>OP3</i>	<i>9,356</i>
<i>OP4</i>	<i>6,418,097</i>
<i>OP5</i>	<i>469,674</i>
<i>OP6</i>	<i>27,102,715</i>
Grand Total	33,999,841

8. ANNEXES

8.1. Annex: Country level Cumulative Grants and Co-financing

For GEF grant funding, including Global and Upgraded countries

Country	Year started (*)	GEF SGP Funding		Co-financing (**)			
		Number of Projects	GEF Grant Amount Committed	Project level Co-financing in Cash	Project level Co-financing in Kind	Non-GEF Grant Amount Committed	Total Co-financing
AFGHANISTAN	2013	58	\$2,660,000	\$1,451,204	\$1,715,974	\$0	\$3,167,178
ALBANIA	1999	243	\$3,256,087	\$1,069,593	\$688,234	\$0	\$1,757,827
ALGERIA	2012	16	\$600,023	\$40,655	\$21,818	\$120,843	\$183,316
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	2013	28	\$1,183,223	\$488,889	\$1,231,086	\$170,000	\$1,889,975
ARGENTINA	2006	183	\$5,000,782	\$1,818,392	\$4,661,237	\$90,000	\$6,569,629
ARMENIA	2009	67	\$2,488,326	\$2,926,790	\$1,131,237	\$200,000	\$4,258,028
BAHAMAS	2011	42	\$1,084,862	\$607,978	\$695,400	\$0	\$1,303,377
BARBADOS (Sub-region) (until 2012)	1994	112	\$2,294,468	\$1,060,902	\$1,973,001		\$3,033,903
BARBADOS	2012	49	\$1,873,253	\$506,675	\$3,185,083	\$197,814	\$3,889,572
BELARUS, REPUBLIC OF	2006	136	\$5,394,551	\$4,617,225	\$1,237,626	\$196,686	\$6,051,537
BELIZE	1993	221	\$5,737,582	\$2,744,663	\$4,575,752	\$578,439	\$7,898,853
BENIN	2007	71	\$2,274,872	\$2,104,609	\$715,489	\$50,000	\$2,870,097
BHUTAN	1999	145	\$3,902,425	\$1,081,580	\$2,483,816	\$380,000	\$3,945,396
BOLIVIA (upgraded in 2011)	1997	359	\$10,017,588	\$3,115,207	\$8,206,612	\$213,387	\$11,535,206
BOTSWANA	1993	181	\$5,163,618	\$8,729,649	\$2,440,219	\$0	\$11,169,868
BRAZIL (upgraded in 2011)	1995	411	\$11,267,161	\$7,336,008	\$7,401,456	\$280,000	\$15,017,464
BULGARIA (until 2013)	2006	121	\$3,949,348	\$3,965,018	\$1,541,422	\$0	\$5,506,440
BURKINA FASO	1994	197	\$6,700,572	\$1,477,388	\$2,553,504	\$40,196	\$4,071,088
BURUNDI	2010	63	\$2,729,010	\$683,739	\$2,228,983	\$0	\$2,912,722
CAMBODIA	2005	88	\$3,279,750	\$1,717,707	\$4,299,568	\$4,521,630	\$10,538,905
CAMEROON, REPUBLIC OF	2007	100	\$3,087,807	\$1,195,676	\$2,336,649	\$450,000	\$3,982,325
CAPE VERDE	2010	99	\$2,373,675	\$749,809	\$1,540,761	\$165,000	\$2,455,570

Country	Year started (*)	GEF SGP Funding		Co-financing (**)			
		Number of Projects	GEF Grant Amount Committed	Project level Co-financing in Cash	Project level Co-financing in Kind	Non-GEF Grant Amount Committed	Total Co-financing
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	2010	42	\$1,239,458	\$172,762	\$601,277	\$0	\$774,039
CHAD	2007	50	\$1,245,251	\$973,437	\$251,540	\$150,000	\$1,374,978
CHILE (until 2012)	1994	257	\$7,024,145	\$472,138	\$5,312,939	\$52,904	\$5,837,981
COLOMBIA	2015	57	\$1,693,194	\$37,118	\$1,135,589	\$399,300	\$1,572,007
COMOROS	2007	61	\$1,973,877	\$891,975	\$877,632	\$120,000	\$1,889,607
COSTA RICA (upgraded in 2011)	1993	642	\$12,701,438	\$7,639,286	\$10,273,151	\$300,649	\$18,213,086
COTE d'IVOIRE	1993	299	\$5,485,516	\$2,959,507	\$2,855,138	\$0	\$5,814,645
CUBA	2005	132	\$5,182,924	\$8,998,412	\$1,282,997	\$257,500	\$10,538,909
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	2010	135	\$4,114,049	\$1,731,793	\$2,499,306	\$421,000	\$4,652,099
DJIBOUTI	2014	15	\$434,435	\$811,200	\$137,664	\$0	\$948,864
DOMINICA	1995	69	\$1,867,625	\$770,519	\$2,056,571	\$917,758	\$3,744,849
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1994	437	\$10,218,764	\$16,583,316	\$16,751,850	\$170,000	\$33,505,166
ECUADOR (upgraded in 2011)	1993	313	\$10,647,221	\$7,245,807	\$7,539,375	\$487,037	\$15,272,219
EGYPT (upgraded in 2016)	1994	318	\$7,114,601	\$4,419,123	\$2,137,985	\$200,000	\$6,757,108
EL SALVADOR	2003	190	\$4,671,361	\$4,743,293	\$2,536,186	\$280,000	\$7,559,478
ERITREA	2009	37	\$1,700,000	\$443,883	\$2,431,042	\$0	\$2,874,925
ETHIOPIA	2006	178	\$4,757,547	\$1,131,744	\$3,380,692	\$679,350	\$5,191,786
Federated States of MICRONESIA	2013	29	\$884,610	\$158,178	\$419,779	\$43,750	\$621,708
FIJI sub-region (Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu)	2005	127	\$4,604,278	\$722,061	\$2,646,757	\$1,101,336	\$4,470,154
GAMBIA	2009	87	\$2,457,760	\$809,733	\$965,860	\$0	\$1,775,593

Country	Year started (*)	GEF SGP Funding		Co-financing (**)			
		Number of Projects	GEF Grant Amount Committed	Project level Co-financing in Cash	Project level Co-financing in Kind	Non-GEF Grant Amount Committed	Total Co-financing
GEORGIA, REPUBLIC OF	2013	50	\$1,149,863	\$934,840	\$930,587	\$199,682	\$2,065,108
GHANA	1993	224	\$5,401,617	\$4,096,963	\$3,998,305	\$644,785	\$8,740,053
GRENADA	2013	22	\$972,529	\$355,829	\$269,119	\$171,667	\$796,615
GUATEMALA	1997	360	\$4,465,147	\$2,346,608	\$5,154,310	\$446,581	\$7,947,498
GUINEA	2010	108	\$3,180,750	\$726,869	\$1,203,707	\$0	\$1,930,576
GUINEA-BISSAU	2011	54	\$1,550,228	\$642,030	\$442,734	\$70,000	\$1,154,763
GUYANA	2013	12	\$452,470	\$49,240	\$443,663	\$115,982	\$608,884
HAITI	2008	56	\$2,113,518	\$180,458	\$713,445	\$163,012	\$1,056,916
HONDURAS	2002	194	\$5,844,413	\$915,493	\$12,188,471	\$877,989	\$13,981,953
INDIA (upgraded in 2011)	1996	372	\$10,349,924	\$25,175,948	\$10,033,155	\$1,477,398	\$36,686,502
INDONESIA (upgraded in 2016)	1993	466	\$8,739,518	\$2,345,791	\$7,942,707	\$941,000	\$11,229,498
IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)	2001	239	\$5,384,760	\$4,953,673	\$22,137,829	\$100,000	\$27,191,502
JAMAICA	2005	80	\$3,153,297	\$1,783,876	\$3,076,251	\$857,596	\$5,717,723
JORDAN	1993	200	\$6,490,000	\$4,584,766	\$8,184,107	\$200,000	\$12,968,874
KAZAKHSTAN (upgraded in 2016)	1997	304	\$6,117,475	\$5,069,040	\$4,595,300	\$522,890	\$10,187,230
KENYA (upgraded in 2011)	1993	312	\$10,485,472	\$4,564,591	\$3,705,836	\$940,333	\$9,210,761
KYRGYZSTAN	2002	280	\$4,286,042	\$2,119,791	\$2,724,669	\$530,001	\$5,374,461
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	2009	89	\$3,396,716	\$790,126	\$246,151	\$241,824	\$1,278,101
LEBANON	2006	75	\$2,649,302	\$1,438,782	\$617,050	\$200,000	\$2,255,832
LESOTHO	2008	68	\$1,869,599	\$687,954	\$1,957,346	\$0	\$2,645,300
LIBERIA	2009	88	\$2,741,500	\$159,000	\$902,160	\$15,000	\$1,076,160
LITHUANIA, REPUBLIC OF (until 2009)	2001	104	\$2,611,280	\$6,108,566	\$3,884,123	\$0	\$9,992,689

Country	Year started (*)	GEF SGP Funding		Co-financing (**)			
		Number of Projects	GEF Grant Amount Committed	Project level Co-financing in Cash	Project level Co-financing in Kind	Non-GEF Grant Amount Committed	Total Co-financing
MACEDONIA, THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF	2006	112	\$2,096,400	\$1,667,423	\$862,356	\$0	\$2,529,778
MADAGASCAR	2008	240	\$5,441,958	\$2,474,857	\$1,668,557	\$239,760	\$4,383,174
MALAWI	2009	61	\$1,875,000	\$1,264,849	\$1,017,253	\$280,000	\$2,562,102
MALAYSIA	2001	164	\$6,150,684	\$11,499,888	\$4,896,165	\$50,000	\$16,446,052
MALDIVES	2010	49	\$1,586,577	\$299,189	\$468,608	\$169,875	\$937,672
MALI	1994	353	\$9,720,800	\$8,972,999	\$6,491,044	\$468,111	\$15,932,154
MARSHALL ISLANDS	2014	18	\$737,177	\$103,170	\$270,000	\$45,000	\$418,170
MAURITANIA	2002	203	\$5,563,635	\$1,309,653	\$2,781,270	\$1,356,770	\$5,447,693
MAURITIUS	1996	155	\$5,201,273	\$8,147,845	\$4,718,930	\$170,000	\$13,036,776
MEXICO (upgraded in 2011)	1994	559	\$13,720,423	\$8,185,260	\$10,752,299	\$458,470	\$19,396,029
MICRONESIA Sub-region (until 2011)	2005	47	\$1,164,675	\$125,394	\$1,594,882	\$552,208	\$2,272,484
MOLDOVA, REPUBLIC OF	2013	24	\$825,514	\$584,320	\$430,917	\$195,417	\$1,210,653
MONGOLIA	2003	420	\$3,409,268	\$1,288,034	\$2,859,054	\$479,992	\$4,627,081
MOROCCO	2000	163	\$4,755,223	\$6,720,966	\$5,388,360	\$760,953	\$12,870,279
MOZAMBIQUE	2005	273	\$5,426,872	\$1,899,610	\$1,857,312	\$0	\$3,756,922
NAMIBIA	2003	118	\$2,787,882	\$3,299,804	\$2,152,510	\$1,986,454	\$7,438,769
NEPAL	1998	207	\$6,997,928	\$5,744,418	\$2,733,198	\$254,482	\$8,732,097
NICARAGUA	2004	196	\$4,039,495	\$1,271,873	\$2,328,024	\$0	\$3,599,896
NIGER	2004	137	\$4,221,765	\$2,329,803	\$2,492,857	\$1,178,387	\$6,001,047
NIGERIA	2009	113	\$3,779,182	\$69,500	\$3,086,381	\$466,249	\$3,622,130
PALAU	2014	31	\$1,454,988	\$147,100	\$896,227	\$100,000	\$1,143,327
PAKISTAN (upgraded in 2011)	1994	264	\$7,893,503	\$8,921,111	\$3,651,486	\$2,052,547	\$14,625,144
PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY	1999	129	\$4,278,125	\$1,102,755	\$1,260,248	\$288,016	\$2,651,019
PANAMA	2007	144	\$3,126,404	\$587,080	\$3,337,719	\$404,000	\$4,328,799

Country	Year started (*)	GEF SGP Funding		Co-financing (**)			
		Number of Projects	GEF Grant Amount Committed	Project level Co-financing in Cash	Project level Co-financing in Kind	Non-GEF Grant Amount Committed	Total Co-financing
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	1994	197	\$3,707,702	\$1,020,593	\$115,164	\$217,905	\$1,353,662
PARAGUAY	2011	50	\$1,297,458	\$334,285	\$1,399,485	\$397,990	\$2,131,760
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA	2010	80	\$3,645,212	\$2,059,923	\$1,723,027	\$0	\$3,782,951
PERU (upgraded in 2016)	1999	272	\$8,826,498	\$1,315,129	\$5,393,579	\$0	\$6,708,709
PHILIPPINES (upgraded in 2011)	1992	315	\$11,118,774	\$4,240,726	\$2,436,046	\$193,752	\$6,870,524
POLAND (until 2009)	1994	383	\$6,753,858	\$19,931,470	\$4,518,701	\$13,423	\$24,463,593
ROMANIA (until 2013)	2005	95	\$3,145,566	\$1,963,567	\$1,335,397	\$0	\$3,298,963
RWANDA	2006	61	\$2,638,751	\$402,729	\$1,753,643	\$49,876	\$2,206,248
SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	2014	25	\$1,115,199	\$128,088	\$2,144,592	\$130,000	\$2,402,681
SAINT LUCIA	2012	55	\$1,442,421	\$802,540	\$1,328,813	\$216,933	\$2,348,286
SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	2014	17	\$944,551	\$391,252	\$1,094,774	\$50,000	\$1,536,026
SAMOA sub-region (Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau)	2005	144	\$2,359,616	\$698,913	\$1,570,852	\$1,124,562	\$3,394,326
SENEGAL	1994	257	\$8,962,579	\$2,785,621	\$4,110,699	\$699,855	\$7,596,175
SEYCHELLES	2010	41	\$1,803,062	\$673,927	\$1,002,088	\$120,000	\$1,796,015
SIERRA LEONE	2013	75	\$1,987,052	\$151,638	\$1,189,602	\$0	\$1,341,240
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	2010	67	\$1,693,002	\$2,113,123	\$552,783	\$279,998	\$2,945,905
SOLOMON ISLANDS	2009	55	\$1,603,567	\$125,320	\$452,503	\$55,000	\$632,823
SOUTH AFRICA	2003	113	\$4,867,662	\$6,884,061	\$1,967,507	\$0	\$8,851,568
SRI LANKA (upgraded in 2016)	1994	379	\$8,258,359	\$2,065,965	\$2,673,333	\$1,095,932	\$5,835,230

Country	Year started (*)	GEF SGP Funding		Co-financing (**)			
		Number of Projects	GEF Grant Amount Committed	Project level Co-financing in Cash	Project level Co-financing in Kind	Non-GEF Grant Amount Committed	Total Co-financing
SURINAME	1997	131	\$3,671,685	\$2,473,799	\$1,797,552	\$270,950	\$4,542,301
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	2005	45	\$1,712,288	\$578,916	\$982,536	\$0	\$1,561,452
TAJKISTAN	2010	50	\$1,249,072	\$857,137	\$901,192	\$134,231	\$1,892,560
THAILAND (upgraded in 2016)	1994	414	\$6,855,165	\$2,218,385	\$7,887,677	\$107,615	\$10,213,677
TIMOR-LESTE	2013	56	\$1,242,530	\$59,286	\$778,922	\$120,000	\$958,208
TOGO	2010	81	\$2,235,186	\$359,163	\$921,416	\$0	\$1,280,579
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	1995	112	\$3,096,346	\$905,595	\$2,923,026	\$189,990	\$4,018,612
TUNISIA	1993	157	\$4,930,750	\$7,644,695	\$2,921,022	\$616,250	\$11,181,967
TURKEY	1993	247	\$5,353,601	\$5,115,200	\$3,563,290	\$480,000	\$9,158,491
UGANDA	1998	200	\$6,510,367	\$2,447,702	\$3,533,649	\$459,444	\$6,440,795
UKRAINE	2010	123	\$5,727,063	\$3,311,965	\$2,766,254	\$787,405	\$6,865,623
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA	1997	309	\$9,519,010	\$3,306,529	\$2,378,537	\$1,275,121	\$6,960,187
URUGUAY	2006	114	\$2,713,200	\$138,568	\$3,370,538	\$0	\$3,509,106
UZBEKISTAN	2008	84	\$2,154,270	\$3,159,467	\$1,181,283	\$0	\$4,340,750
VANUATU	2008	54	\$2,113,935	\$750,566	\$895,900	\$304,799	\$1,951,265
VENEZUELA	2010	157	\$5,134,563	\$1,335,279	\$5,288,020	\$0	\$6,623,299
VIET NAM	1999	201	\$5,616,564	\$1,735,901	\$4,071,890	\$769,990	\$6,577,781
YEMEN	2006	84	\$2,606,628	\$1,779,814	\$2,459,619	\$0	\$4,239,433
ZAMBIA	2008	51	\$1,896,960	\$642,553	\$261,863	\$50,000	\$954,416
ZIMBABWE	1994	176	\$6,346,588	\$2,684,318	\$13,549,992	\$0	\$16,234,310
		19,929	\$532,853,869	348,845,489	\$385,501,699	\$44,118,032	\$778,465,220

Data drawn from the database on August 23, 2017. Co-financing includes programme co-financing from non- GEF funds, and project co-financing from GEF and non GEF funds.

(*) The criteria for the start year of the country has been changed in order to use the same criteria (grant making started) that is applied by the GEF Evaluation Team

(**) A GEF Strategic Priority for Adaptation - CBA project which was implemented in 10 countries through SGP as delivery mechanism is not included in the GEF grant funds (as this was a separate FSP), the grants funded under this project are however captured in non-GEF grant amount column and the total amount is \$2,884,660

8.2. Annex: SGP Global Programme level Co-financing in OP5 and OP6

SGP OP5: Total Co-Financing (Programme and Project level)

PROGRAMME LEVEL CO-FINANCING				
GLOBAL	Name of project/component	Donor	Amount of Agreement/ SGP component (**)	Expected Project duration (***)
1.	Small Island Developing States - Community-based Adaptation (SIDS CBA)	AusAid	\$6,286,794	2011-2016
2.	Strengthening Environmental Governance by Building Capacity of NGOs (EU-NGOs) (*)	EU	\$3,300,000	2012-2017
3.	Community Development and Knowledge Management in the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS Phase 1)	Japan BD Fund/UNEP	\$2,000,000	2011-2015
4.	Community Development and Knowledge Management in the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS Phase 2)	Japan BD Fund/UNEP	\$8,000,000	2013-2016
5.	Community-based REDD+	UNREDD/UNEP	\$4,000,000	2014-2017
6.	Global ICCA Support Initiative	BMUB	\$16,300,000	2014-2019
	Sub-Total Global (Programme Level) Co-Financing		\$39,886,794	

PROGRAMME LEVEL CO-FINANCING				
COUNTRY (*)	Name of project/component	Donor	Amount of Agreement/ SGP component (**)	Expected Project duration (***)
Albania	Climate Change	UNDP TRAC	\$150,000	2011-2012
Burkina Faso	Projet COGEL	Burkina Faso's Government	\$150,000	TBD
Cambodia	Cambodia Community-based Adaptation Programme	Sweden Government	\$4,205,928	2010-2015
Cameroon	Community-based Adaptation	UNDP/AAP	\$234,600	2012-2015

PROGRAMME LEVEL CO-FINANCING				
COUNTRY (*)	Name of project/component	Donor	Amount of Agreement/ SGP component (**)	Expected Project duration (***)
Honduras	Grant activities support	Congreso Nacional y Ministerio de Ambiente	\$30,780	2016-2017
Mauritania	Alliance Mondiale contre le Changement Climatique Mauritanie	EU	\$2,192,000	2014-2017
Palestine	Enhancing Capacities of the PA in Mainstreaming Environment and Climate Change	Belgium	\$300,000	2013-2015
Tajikistan	UNDP /TAPRI	Japon Embassy	\$150,230	2011-2012
Tanzania	Climate Change Adaptation Support through Small Grants Programme	UNDP	\$2,500,000	2013-2014
Thailand	Water for People Partnership	Water for People Partnership	\$147,886	2015-2016
Tunisia	Cost-sharing to the GEF SGP for up-scaling of projects	Swiss Government	\$1,344,000	2011-2014
Uganda	Promoting chemical safety for children at work in rural agricultural communities	SAICM/UNEP	\$250,000	2012-2014
Uruguay	Educacion Ambiental para el desarrollo local sustentable	Ministry of Housing Spatial Planning and Environment	\$73,500	2013-2015
Uruguay	Desarrollo del Turismo y del Ecoturismo responsable mediante el involucramiento de la sociedad civil	Ministry of Turism	\$100,000	2013-2015
Uruguay	Intercambio de experiencias participativas para el desarrollo de un habitat sostenible	Fondo Conjunto de Cooperación México - Uruguay	\$77,000	2013-2015
Uruguay	Ahorro familiar y mejoramiento de dieta de mujeres y hombres de familias pobres	Fondo Chile contra el Hambre y la Pobreza/PNUD Chile y ONG Canelo	\$163,000	2013-2015
Zambia	Small grants to NGOs/CBOs	Danish Embassy	\$900,000	2012-2013
Zimbabwe	UNDP Coca Cola Initiative	Coca Cola	\$75,000	TBD
	Sub-Total Country (Programme Level) Co-Financing		\$13,043,924	

PROGRAMME LEVEL CO-FINANCING				
COUNTRY (*)	Name of project/component	Donor	Amount of Agreement/ SGP component (**)	Expected Project duration (***)
	TOTAL PROGRAMME LEVEL CO-FINANCING		\$52,930,718	

PROJECT LEVEL CO-FINANCING (from Database)	
Project level Co-Financing for GEF funded grants	\$189,569,296
Project level Co-Financing for non-GEF funded grants	\$15,230,620
TOTAL PROJECT LEVEL CO-FINANCING	\$204,799,915.61
TOTAL OP5 CO-FINANCING (PROGRAMME & PROJECT LEVEL) (****)	\$257,730,634

(*) Not including upgraded countries, (**) Includes both grants and non-grant funding

(***) Some project durations will continue in OP6, (****) Not counting as co-financing as funding source is GEF

SGP OP6: Total Co-Financing (Programme and Project level)

PROGRAMME LEVEL CO-FINANCING				
COUNTRY (*)	Name of project/component	Donor	Amount of Agreement/ SGP component (**)	Expected Project duration
Armenia	Increase the capacity of NGO/Bos through SGP	UNDP TRAC	\$55,000	2015-2016
Armenia	Non-grant activities support	UNDP TRAC	\$8,000	2016-2017
Belize	UNDP Re-granting Partnership Phase II: Towards Sustainable Management of Belize's Seascape	Oak Foundation	\$500,000	2016-2018
Benin	PANA Energie » et « Biomasse Electricité	Direction Nationale de l'Energie	\$85,000	TBD
Cambodia	Non-grant activities support	UNDP Country Office	\$12,402	2015-2016
Colombia	Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje SENA	Government of Colombia	\$58,224	2015-2017
Colombia	Convocatoria Sur Sostenible	Gobernación Narino	\$165,165	2017-2019
Colombia	Non-grant activities support	SENA	\$29,200	2016-2017
Comoros	Non-grant activities support	UNDP Country Office	\$60,000	2015-2016
Comoros	Non-grant activities support	UNDP Country Office	\$200,000	2016-2017
Dominica	Grantees Workshop support	AID Bank and University Maryland	\$7,800	2015-2016
Dominica	Non-grant activities support	Multiple donors	\$33,483	2016-2017
Ethiopia	Non-grant activities support	UNDP Country Office	\$19,555	2015-2016
Ethiopia	Non-grant activities support	UNDP Country Office	\$12,000	2016-2017

PROGRAMME LEVEL CO-FINANCING				
COUNTRY (*)	Name of project/component	Donor	Amount of Agreement/SGP component (**)	Expected Project duration
Guatemala	Non-grant activities support	Universidad Politecnica de Valencia and Universidad de Valencia	\$18,000	2015-2016
Guinea	Non-grant activities support	UNDP Country Office	\$40,000	2015-2016
Guinea	Non-grant activities support	UNDP Country Office	\$36,000	2016-2017
Guinea Bissau	Non-grant activities support	Multiple donors	\$35,548	2016-2017
Iran	Non-grant activities support	UNDP Country Office	\$3,342	2016-2017
Jamaica	Support participation CoP 21 in Paris	European Union and Government of Jamaica	\$16,875	2015-2016
Jamaica	Non-grant activities support	European Union	\$9,770	2016-2017
Lesotho	Community Management of Protected Areas for Conservation Programme (COMPACT)	UNESCO World Heritage Centre	\$35,000	2016-2017
Lesotho	COMPACT site strategy	UNDP Country Office	\$16,294	2016-2017
Mali	Appui à l'amélioration de l'environnement à travers les actions Communautaires	UNDP TRAC	\$140,000	2016-2017
Marshall Islands (Republic Of The)	Non-grant activities support	UNFPA and National Government	\$18,000	2015-2016
Mauritius	Promoting chemical safety for children at work in rural agricultural communities	Multiple donors	\$113,957	2015-2016
Mauritius	Non-grant activities support	Multiple donors	\$134,858	2016-2017
Mongolia	Non-grant activities support	WWF	\$20,000	2016-2017
Morocco	Support to Civil Society Initiatives for COP 22	Ministry of the Environment Government	\$500,000	2015-2017
Nepal	Non-grant activities support	UNDP Country Office	\$6,000	2015-2016
Niger	PTA 2016 Proet Niger Fauna Corridors	UNDP Country Office	\$20,000	2015-2016
Niger	Afrique Nature Phase II	UNESCO	\$120,000	2015-2016
Niger	Non-grant activities support	UNDP Country Office	\$20,000	2016-2017
Nigeria	Knowledge Fair support	UNDP Country Office	\$50,000	2015-2016
Nigeria	Non-grant activities support	Multiple donors	\$100,000	2015-2016
Panama	Non-grant activities support	UNDP Country Office	\$1,200	2015-2016
Uruguay	Desarrollo del Turismo y del Ecoturismo responsable mediante el involucramiento de la sociedad civil. Fase II	Ministry of Turism	\$50,000	2016-2017
Venezuela	Non-grant activities support	UNDP Country Office	\$50,000	2015-2016

PROGRAMME LEVEL CO-FINANCING				
COUNTRY (*)	Name of project/component	Donor	Amount of Agreement/SGP component (**)	Expected Project duration
	TOTAL COUNTRY PROGRAMME LEVEL CO-FINANCING		\$2,800,673	

PROJECT LEVEL CO-FINANCING (from Database)	
Project level Co-Financing for GEF funded grants	\$23,225,456
Project level Co-Financing for non-GEF funded grants	\$2,002,334
TOTAL PROJECT LEVEL CO-FINANCING	\$25,227,790
TOTAL OP6 CO-FINANCING (PROGRAMME & PROJECT LEVEL) (****)	\$28,028,463

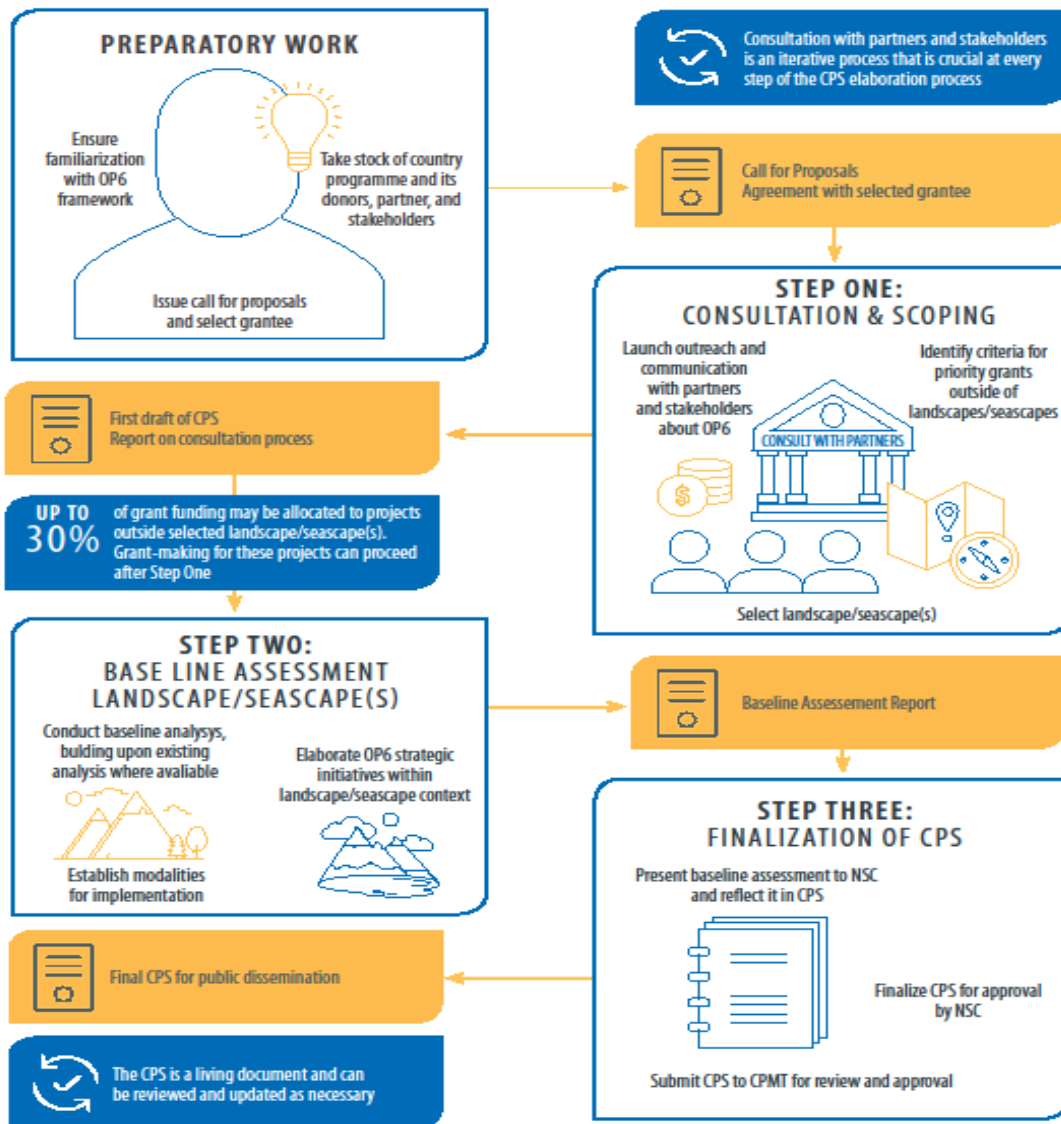
SGP Delivery of GEF Full size Projects (***)			
Colombia	Uso Sostenible y Conservación de la Biodiversidad en Ecosistemas Secos	GEF	\$55,929
Colombia	Support of biodiversity entrepreneurship projects in Chocó	WWF/GEF	\$345,114
Ukraine	Multiple full size projects	UNDP/GEF	\$573,205
	TOTAL PROJECT SGP Delivery of GEF Full Size Projects		\$974,248

(*) Not including upgraded countries which report on co-financing through their PIRs

(**) Includes both grants and non-grant funding

(***) Not counting as co-financing as funding source is GEF

8.3. Annex: The Country Programme Strategy Elaboration Process



8.4. Annex: Key Partnership Programmes of the Small Grants Programme

COMDEKS

The Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS) Programme aims to develop sound biodiversity management and sustainable livelihood activities with local communities to maintain, rebuild and revitalize socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes. Funded by the Japan Biodiversity Fund, established within the CBD Secretariat, COMDEKS is implemented by UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Environment of Japan, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), and the United Nations University – Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), and delivered through the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP). SGP provides co-financing and technical and human resources to oversee the implementation of COMDEKS and its grants portfolio. An overall contribution of USD 10 million between 2011 and 2016 was spread over two programme phases. Phase 1 (USD 2 million) started in 2011 and covered Brazil, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Fiji, India, Malawi, Nepal, Slovakia and Turkey. Phase 2 (USD 8 million) started in June 2013 and was extended to Bhutan, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Kyrgyzstan, Indonesia, Mongolia Namibia, and Niger.

To allow sufficient time to facilitate further exchange of COMDEKS experiences and lessons learned, the COMDEKS programme was extended until December 2017. As SGP country programmes will replicate experiences from the COMDEKS approach during OP6, extending the project through 2017 allows COMDEKS experiences and knowledge to be fully absorbed and adopted by SGP country programmes as they adapt their programs to embrace a landscape approach, thus ensuring replication of COMDEKS to a large number of other countries through SGP.

By this past May, COMDEKS had committed 99.7% (USD 6.518 million) of the target grants commitment of USD 6.54 million, with overall 221 projects approved across its 20 partner countries. As of June 2017, a balance of USD 35,340 resulting from unspent grant funds in Cambodia, India and Namibia has been reallocated to Knowledge Management activities, as all country teams have confirmed that no additional commitments will be made before project closure.

The cornerstone of the COMDEKS community-based landscape management approach is supporting community organizations to revitalize their landscapes and seascapes through participatory land use planning that builds their awareness and capacities for governance and innovation. Communities practice an adaptive management cycle in which they first assess socio-ecological conditions, trends, problems, and potential opportunities in their landscape; identify desirable ecological, social, and economic outcomes as dynamic building blocks of resilience; plan activities in pursuit of these outcomes by boosting ecosystem productivity and sustainability and improving organizational capacities of communities to execute projects and measure results; and finally adapt their planning and management practices to reflect lessons learned and new conditions and opportunities.

Implemented in a wide variety of landscapes around the world, the Programme has been supporting innovations identified by the communities for biodiversity conservation, promotion of ecosystem services, agro-ecosystem management and strengthening of governance systems at the landscape level. On-the-ground activities in Phase 1 and Phase 2 countries have been mostly completed, with only few projects (in Fiji, Kyrgyzstan, Namibia) remaining to be completed by December 2017. Seventeen (17) Phase 1 and

Phase 2 countries (Bhutan, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Mongolia, Niger, Slovakia, and Turkey) have completed the ex-post baseline assessments in order to evaluate achievements, produce videos and case studies with stories from the target landscapes, and develop recommendations for the future. Fiji and Namibia are currently in the process of finalizing the ex-post baseline assessment documentation.

During this reporting period, COMDEKS was active in a number of global and regional forums and events. From 23 to 26 January 2017, COMDEKS hosted its Global Knowledge Exchange Workshop in San José, Costa Rica. Participants included representatives from the Ministry of Environment of Japan, the Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations University, the Global Environment Facility, the SGP Central Programme Management Team, as well as SGP National Coordinators, including from COMDEKS partner countries, and other partners and stakeholders. This workshop provided a valuable platform to 1) promote a better understanding of the Satoyama Initiative's perspectives and activities, the achievements of COMDEKS and its partnership with SGP; 2) analyze results and conclusions of the programme, and share and disseminate knowledge and experiences from successful on-the-ground actions; 3) build staff technical capacity and provide opportunities for capacity building and planning for future work; and 4) promote synergies with other programs and opportunities for replication and scaling up of landscape planning and management approaches and practices. A number of valuable lessons learned were identified during discussions and presentations: Demonstration of results and achievements through supported activities has spurred the trust and support of government institutions and local authorities for community-led initiatives aimed at improving landscape resilience and improving local livelihoods. Similarly, these pilot projects have raised the awareness of communities of resulting benefits to their daily lives, having increased their interest and commitment in implementing similar initiatives. Moreover, communities have recognized the value of a common vision and collective action towards a common objective, exchanging knowledge and exploring synergies.

As in the previous reporting period, the Programme has continued to place a large emphasis on knowledge management activities. This past year was very important in terms of collection of the lessons learned at the global and local levels. In particular, a global [COMDEKS phase 2 publication](#), containing case studies of the ten phase 2 partner countries, was launched at the 1st Conference of Biocultural Diversity, held in October 2016 in Nanao City, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan. In cooperation with GEF SGP, COMDEKS has supported the development of [guidance material related to agroecosystem issues](#) addressed within the landscape approach for the implementation of the Innovative Agroecology component of the GEF Small Grants Programme in its 6th Operational Phase (OP6). Additionally, a guidance document and case study publication to help facilitate improved landscape governance within the landscape approach have recently been developed and will be launched shortly. These products also aim to serve as training materials for the SGP Upgrading country programmes and the SGP Global Programme to further embrace and mainstream the landscape approach. Substantive [quarterly newsletters](#) were published in September 2016 ([Issue 17](#)), December 2016 ([Issue 18](#)), and March 2017 ([Issue 19](#)), and in June 2017 ([Issue 20](#)).

During this reporting period, each country programme has continued to produce a large number of photo stories, videos, fact sheets, press releases in local newspapers, posters, banners and reports (in English and/or in local languages), brochures, publications and websites in local languages with information tailored for local contexts for outreach purposes. Specifically, three SGP Country Programme teams from COMDEKS partner countries have contributed case studies to the publication "[Socio-ecological production](#)

[landscapes and seascapes \(SEPLS\) in Africa](#)”, jointly published by UNU-IAS and the University of Tokyo’s Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science (IR3S/UTIAS).

Moving forward, a brochure on COMDEKS contributions to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and a publication on lessons learned from the piloting of the Resilience Indicators and related guidance materials are currently under development and will be published in the coming months.

EU-NGOs Project

The EU-NGOs Project 'Strengthening Environmental Governance by Building the Capacity of Non-Governmental Organizations' is a global project funded by the European Union (EU), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and delivered by the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP). The project aimed to promote sustainable development and improve environmental management in target countries from EU neighboring regions of the European Union, through more effective civil society participation in environmental governance. The specific objective of the project was to build the capacities of NGOs in selected countries to the East and to the South of the European Union to engage in environmental governance.

The EU-NGOs Project was implemented between 2012 and 2016 with an overall commitment of EUR 3.5 million (EUR 3m from the EU; EUR 500k by GEF SGP), and focused primarily on strengthening the internal and external capacities of NGOs and developing professional skills for environmental governance. Since 2012, it provided small grants to 74 NGO-led projects (eight of which were funded by GEF SGP as co-financing projects) across the 13 partner countries: Armenia, Belarus, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia and Ukraine (Phase 1), and Algeria, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Morocco (Phase 2).

Overcoming the initial challenges registered during the first years of project implementation – primarily the lack of appropriately eligible proposals due to the novelty of the concept of environmental governance for the target countries as well as the political situation in the two regions (Eastern Europe and the Arab States), despite continuous security and peace challenges and the situation actually becoming more acute in some of the participating countries - continuous progress was made during this reporting period until the end of the project in December 2016. The Project is now operationally closed and all project activities have been completed.

The supported community-led initiatives included directly tackling sustainable waste, water and forest management; providing environmental information to raise public awareness and inform local and national decision-making and policy processes; and creating multi-stakeholder monitoring committees to facilitate more effective environmental management and accountability, among others. EU-NGOs country programmes placed a large focus on involving communities and civil society in environmental decision and policy making processes, aiming to create a more enabling regulatory framework for civil society engagement and to influence and facilitate suitable local and national environmental policies across different sectors, promoting participatory sustainable development. The EU-NGOs Project has produced considerable results with positive effects beyond the supported NGOs, as a large number of CSOs and NGOs have been reached through such tools as a training-of-trainers approach, partnerships, and dedicated networks.

In accordance with UNDP and EU M&E policies and procedures, the Terminal Evaluation (TE) was conducted for the EU-NGOs project from May 2016 to September 2016 by an independent evaluator. Within the framework of this evaluation, the consultant reviewed all relevant sources of information, such as the project documents, project reports, project files, and national strategic and legal documents, among others, and interviewed key stakeholders in all countries at the global and local levels, conducting field missions to four partner countries. The consultant also assessed key financial aspects of the project, including the extent of co-financing planned and realized. Key conclusions included that 1) the EU-NGOs Project is a highly relevant project both for the EU policies in neighboring countries and for GEF SGP strategies; 2) despite initial difficulties, the Project has been implemented in a highly cost-effective way and the number of financed grants went beyond targets and expectations; 3) success of the initiative relies strongly on the invaluable contribution and support of the GEF SGP mechanism, with its well-established country programmes, strong UNDP Country Office support (i.e. Azerbaijan where the SGP is not operational), and existing relations with civil society organizations and networks in all countries involved (it is, however, unlikely that an operation of similar magnitude and quality can be repeated under existing financial limits and constraints, without an adequate cost recovery for the GEF SGP); and 4) environmental governance has gained more attention in the partner countries, mobilizing the interest of a wide and varied audience; relevant actors have recognized the importance of environmental governance initiatives, which creates promising opportunities for continuation and replication.

Collection and dissemination of knowledge, experiences and lessons learned at the global and at the local level is key to capacity building initiatives. During this latest reporting period, the country programme teams have continued to share experiences and lessons learned during relevant conferences, workshops and stakeholder discussion platforms and have produced a large number of knowledge materials. Across the partner countries, EU-NGOs supported projects have overall produced over 30 case studies and fact sheets, more than 50 brochures and publications, as well as almost 60 videos and photo stories on various environmental governance related topics. These materials were widely shared through different media channels (internet websites, social media platforms, radio, television, and the printed press) as well as directly distributed by email and/or in printed copies through related networks. New information technology and social media platforms are essential tools for education and public awareness raising and advocacy, reaching also younger generations. For example, numerous EU-NGOs stories and pictures are shared through Facebook, such as the [UNDP Georgia page](#), the [Georgian Ministry of Environment page](#), and a dedicated [EU-NGOs Azerbaijan page](#), project videos are shared through YouTube, such as an [EU-NGOs Armenia documentary](#) and news coverage on project outcomes through the media channel [ATV](#), and brochures, factsheets and other KM products are shared through SGP country websites, such as in [Ukraine](#), to highlight a few.

Additionally, a comprehensive case study publication with the title “Promoting Sustainable Development Through More Effective Civil Society Participation in Environmental Governance: A Selection of Country Case Studies from the EU-NGOs Project” was developed during the reporting period, systematizing results and lessons learned, including individual country case studies with detailed information on EU-NGOs supported activities. This publication was published in January 2017 and was shared with all 13 participating countries and the donor and is promoted on the [SGP website](#), thus further expanding the reach and promotion of the knowledge produced to all SGP countries and to a wider audience, including UNDP staff members, general public, donors and partners.

It is also important to highlight that objectives and directions of the EU-NGOs Project, in terms of its focus on strengthening CSO capacity and promoting environmental governance, are currently being mainstreamed into SGP strategic planning for the GEF Sixth Operational Phase (OP6) with good potential for further dissemination, replication and upscaling of lessons learned and successful EU-funded activities throughout the 125 countries currently supported by GEF SGP. During OP6, SGP will support the establishment of “CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms” (potentially in partnership with the GEF CSO Network) in at least 50 countries. These platforms will serve to build trust and foster joint working relationships between civil society and government on key areas of environment and sustainable development policy dialogue and will build upon the experience of SGP’s multi-sectoral National Steering Committees.

ICCA GSI partnership

Global support initiative for indigenous peoples and community-conserved territories and areas (ICCA-GSI). Goal and objective is *to improve the recognition and overall effectiveness for biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and resilience to climate change effects of territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities*. Funding of \$16.4m budget; \$3,6m committed; \$3,5m disbursed, during 2014 -2019. Countries covered include: Argentina, Belize, Benin, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Georgia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Suriname, Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zambia. Partners/Donor involved include: Government of Germany through its Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety ([BMUB](#)). Key partners include the United Nations Environment Programme’s World Conservation Monitoring Centre ([UNEP WCMC](#)); the International Union for the Conservation of Nature’s Global Programme on Protected Areas ([IUCN GPAP](#)); the [ICCA Consortium](#); and the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity ([CBD](#)).

With the adoption of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) Aichi 2020 framework in 2010, biodiversity management strategies are increasingly recognizing and building upon the vital role of local communities and indigenous peoples in conserving biodiversity outside of the framework of formal government-recognized protected areas (PAs).

In 2014, SGP entered into a partnership with the BMUB to implement the Global Support Initiative for Indigenous peoples and Community Conserved Areas (ICCA-GSI), aimed at expanding the range and quality of diverse governance types in recognizing the role of ICCAs in achieving the CBD Aichi 2020 targets. The objective of the ICCA-GSI is to improve the support and the national recognition of ICCAs in 26 key target countries to generate sustained investment to reach the scale of impact by 2020, as well as achieve Aichi Targets relating to protected areas (Target 11), ecosystem services (Target 14), and protection of traditional knowledge (Target 18).

To achieve its objective, the initiative has three distinct components, namely: Work Package 1: direct support to community-based action and demonstration on sound ICCA stewardship for the purposes of ecosystem protection, sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction; Work Package 2: legal, policy and other forms of support for ICCA recognition and conservation (including governance assessments of protected areas and landscapes); and Work Package 3: networking, knowledge production and exchange

between national CSO initiatives at regional and global levels. The activities and outcomes in this reporting period can be seen below.

Direct support to community-based action and demonstration on sound ICCA stewardship for the purposes of ecosystem protection, sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction has been provided through two forms of grants: catalytic and emblematic ICCA grants. Catalytic grants have been provided to 24 participating countries to spearhead and/or accompany strategic work in their respective countries. During the reporting period, a total of \$750,000 has been committed by 15 countries. Cumulatively, a total of \$900,000 has been committed in 18 countries towards the budget of \$1.2m. Emblematic grants are provided to 21 countries, with \$3m allocated. Programming of emblematic ICCA grants started during the reporting period with a total of \$250,000 committed to fund 7 projects in 2 participating countries (Colombia and Senegal). Additionally, over 22 ICCA projects have been approved in the latter part of this reporting period, with details to be provided in the next AMR.

Legal, Policy and other forms of support for ICCA recognition and conservation (including governance assessments of protected areas and landscapes) has been carried out in partnership with UNEP-WCMC, IUCN-GPAP, ICCA Consortium, and the CBD Secretariat. UNEP WCMC has relaunched the revamped World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and Global ICCA Registry, making it more user friendly for registering of ICCA information. The [UNEP WCMC data manual](#), targeted for local communities to enter data in the database, was published and disseminated in CBD COP13 (Mexico; Dec 2016). The ICCA Data manual was first made available at the IUCN World Conservation Congress (Hawaii, Sept 2016), and has now been published in three languages. SGP country teams and partners have also received support through a series of on-line training webinars on the ICCA Registry.

During the reporting period, data on 112 ICCAs have been added and data on another 325 ICCAs have been updated in the WDPA. This includes first-timers such as the Brazilian government who incorporated indigenous peoples' territories in its official PA dataset in the WDPA. Existing conservancies in Tanzania and Namibia, already represented in the WPDA prior to ICCA-GSI, will continue to be updated. With regards to the Global ICCA registry, the Philippines has added 7 new ICCAs, while Iran is preparing a large dataset for submission. Many countries need more support and preparation on the ground to be able to submit data to the registry. These include ICCA GSI countries as well as non-GSI countries such as Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Panama and the UK.

IUCN-GPAP has established linkages and identified national partners in six ICCA-GSI countries for initiating a national governance assessment of protected and conserved areas. Initial workshops have been conducted in Tanzania, Ecuador, Iran and Philippines, and are planned for Georgia in October 2017. At the [IUCN's World Conservation Congress](#) (WCC) and the [CBD COP13](#), SGP and its partners joined over 10,000 multi-level participants and took the opportunity to organize five side events as well as support significant policy outcomes that were relevant to ICCAs. At the WCC, GSI partners released in-depth report on [Recognizing and Respecting ICCAs Overlapped by Protected Areas](#) which discusses the widespread overlap of PAs and ICCAs. An analysis of various overlap situations is presented along with case studies of several different governance approaches and best practices for recognizing and respecting overlapped ICCAs.

The WCC and COP13 also resulted in significant decisions in recognition and support to ICCAs, including [CBD COP 13, Article-7 of the decision XIII/2](#) which invites “parties and, where appropriate, the IUCN, the ICCA Consortium and other partners in consultation with the Secretariat, to develop voluntary guidance and best practices on identifying and recognizing territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities, including in situations of overlap with protected areas”. Decisions also include 'No-Go Areas' for mining and other extractive industries and destructive activities threatening World Heritage Sites, and protected areas, including ICCAs and sacred natural sites and territories. To further the above decisions, ICCA Consortium, one of the key ICCA GSI partners, will work with the IUCN on implementation and development of a best practice guidance to be shared with the CBD and UN human rights mechanisms and used in the development of standards for [IUCN's Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas](#) and IUCN reporting on protected areas being proposed for [World Heritage](#) status.

Networking, knowledge production and exchange between national CSO initiatives at regional and global levels is a crucial precursor for the successful implementation of the ICCA-GSI work and sustaining support for ICCAs. As such, a total of 10 workshops in the global, regional and national levels were organized during the reporting period to raise awareness and build capacities of indigenous community leaders, government officials, NGOs/CBOs, civil society and the private sector in working towards the recognition and support of ICCAs and PA governance and co-management arrangements. At the national level, four workshops were held in [Iran](#), [Kenya](#), [Tanzania](#) and [Zambia](#). At the regional level, three workshops were held in Bolivia, [Kyrgyzstan](#), and [Senegal](#); and supported national initiatives on co-management and ICCAs in [Thailand](#) and [China](#).

A global workshop was held in [Peru](#) to support the International Network of Mountain Indigenous Peoples (INMIP) community-based adaptation programme and global South-South exchange platform. Over 100 participants from 11 countries participated in the workshop which discussed the following points: (i) identification of ICCA threats and opportunities globally and in their respective countries; (ii) establishment of national and regional learning networks to coordinate the support for ICCAs; (iii) identification of policy gaps and provision of support to legal and policy frameworks to enhance ICCA recognition; and (iv) enhancement in the understanding and contribution of Global ICCA Support Initiative and ICCAs to 2020 Biodiversity Targets 11, 14 and 18.

To support effective self-strengthening processes of ICCAs, an [ICCA Self-strengthening process \(SSPs\)](#) guidance prepared by the ICCA Consortium was made available to all GSI participating countries in English, French and Spanish. Through the recommended SSP process, it is hoped that the IPLC custodians of ICCAs will be able to better define and control a course of action to become: (i) more self-aware and knowledgeable about the ICCA, including its significance for conservation at the global level; (ii) more appreciative of its history, culture, and governance institutions; (iii) better able to govern and manage its ICCA with integrity and vision; (iv) better connected with other communities, and dependable allies in civil society and government; (v) better recognized, respected and appropriately supported locally, nationally and beyond; and (vi) wiser, more responsible and more capable of providing positive responses to ICCA opportunities and threats, learning from experience, innovating and preventing and solving problems.

The UNESCO World Heritage Paper Series 40 ‘Engaging Local Communities in the Stewardship of World Heritage’, was translated into [Thai language](#) and made available to staff of the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation to replicate the COMPACT approach in engaging IPLCs in the participatory management of protected areas and World Heritage Sites. Other knowledge products disseminated at the global, regional and national levels, include the aforementioned international events to reach a multi-level audience as well as the [ICCA-GSI newsletter](#); ICCA Toolkit in [English](#) and [French](#); COMPACT report in [English](#) and French; [IUCN Protecting the Planet newsletter](#), and [ICCA Consortium newsletter](#).

Community-Based Adaptation Programme

Small Island Developing States Community-Based Adaptation Programme (SIDS CBA)/ Mekong Asia Pacific Community-Based Adaptation Programme (MAP CBA). Goal and Objective: To improve the adaptive capacity of communities and reduce their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and its variability. The goals of the CBA programme are three-fold:

- To reduce the vulnerability and improve the adaptive capacity of local communities to the adverse effects of climate change and its variability;
- Provide countries with concrete ground-level experience with local climate change adaptation;
- Provide clear policy lessons and mainstream CBA within national processes and upscale practices across scales.

Funding Amount: \$10.4m budget; \$9m committed (87% committed); \$7.1m disbursed. Duration: 2009 – 2016; extended to June 2018, with another possible extension for Pacific region. Countries covered: (Caribbean) Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname, St. Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St. Vincent & Grenadines and Trinidad & Tobago; (Pacific) Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu; (Atlantic and Indian Oceans) Cape Verde, Comoros, Guinea Bissau, Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles; (Mekong Asia Pacific) Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam. Partners/Donor involved: Government of Australia

Results include the following:

Mainstreaming marginalized groups: Since cultural norms that govern the communities often lead to social marginalization where some groups bear a disproportionate share of the costs of environmental and ecological degradation, the CBA projects use participatory and social inclusion approaches to ensure that all members have a voice, a role and access to opportunities and services irrespective of gender, age, ethnicity, mental/physical abilities. Additionally, indigenous and traditional knowledge is fully supported, with the projects being built on them and subsequently fused with modern science to address holistic and site-specific environmental issues. As such, mainstreaming of marginalized groups have been successful.

In this reporting period, all 86 (on-going and completed) projects included gender mainstreaming activities, while 42% were led by women (e.g. had a female project coordinator/manager, or led by a women cooperative or a women’s group). The participation statistics by gender in this reporting period has also shifted from those reported last year, with 55% of the participants being male (down from 61%) and 45%

of the participants being female (up from 39%). The reason for this shift is mainly due to the women-led activities in the newly programmed projects such as the rice farming projects in Guinea Bissau, home garden and farmland agriculture in Belize and Timor Leste, as well as in on-going projects such as the use of greenhouse technology in Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica and Maldives and small-scale businesses on seaweed-based products led by the Grand Sable women in Mauritius.

The women empowerment initiatives in the implemented projects achieved more than gender parity, but also contributed to economic growth. For example, the increased water access enabled Cape Verde's Longueira and Covoada communities to farm even during drought periods; and while the male farmers' monthly incomes increased from US\$ 89 to US\$ 319 (+258%), the average income of the women farmers soared from US\$ 26 to US\$ 315 (+1115%), including two women with no previous stable income and now earning approximately US\$ 135 per month. While such income increases are impressive, a notable success is the close alignment of women's average monthly income (US\$ 315) to those of their male counterparts (US\$ 319).

With regard to youth (ages 24 and below), 58% of the projects included and/or targeted them this reporting period. Educational programs in climate change and disaster-risk are provided in schools and/or community centers for youth, inclusive of youth with disabilities and their caregivers. The techniques and tools used cater to the varying age brackets and levels of understanding and include interactive puppet shows, emergency drills, songs, poster-making and hands-on training in the field amongst others. Moreover, youth-led projects in Samoa and Tokelau invest in knowledge-sharing and strengthening the south-to-south network in the sub-region. In Samoa, youth from 12 villages form the Youth Climate Action Network (YCAN) and are members of the South-to-South sub-regional youth initiative. Their work focuses on the promotion of agro-ecology and clean energy, biodiversity conservation, waste management and are aimed to influence village-based actions, stimulate interests from other youth and inform policy. SGP has shared YCAN's work with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), who was impressed and invited its youth leader to be a keynote speaker and panelist in their "Young Change Makers in Asia and Pacific" conference (May 2016). The conference's goal was to provide young leaders space to share their call to action and inspire the UN and our partners to move from rhetoric to action.

A total of nine (9) SIDS CBA participating countries (Belize, Fiji, Dominica, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, St. Vincent & Grenadines, Timor Leste, Tokelau and Vanuatu) have indigenous populations. While all the projects in these countries engage indigenous peoples, 63% of the projects are specifically targeted to their indigenous communities. Some examples include: In Tokelau, indigenous peoples inhabit three (3) isolated atoll nations that are territories of New Zealand. The projects are implemented by indigenous peoples due to its inclusive processes and the revival of traditional practices in water and soil management and food growing technologies. This knowledge has now been passed down from the elders to youth groups and are applied to sustain their livelihoods while simultaneously withstanding climate change-induced droughts and cyclones. In Belize, the Promoting Climate Change Adaptation through Resilient and Sustainable Agricultural Practices in the Medina Bank Community project, implemented by Ya'axche Conservation Trust (YCT) has paid special attention to indigenous peoples, protection and transmission of local knowledge by facilitating peer-to-peer knowledge exchanges and workshops in Q'eqchi' Mayan language. Any issues faced in translating technical jargons are supplemented by using diagrams. The knowledge exchange efforts has resulted to a stronger network of indigenous peoples applying agro-forestry techniques and increasing ecosystem services through biodiversity conservation.

Mainstreaming persons with disabilities (PWDs) remains to be an area of opportunity for growth. While only 15% of the active and/or completed projects in this reporting period targeted persons with disabilities (PWDs), more efforts are being taken by countries. In Trinidad and Tobago, the Preparing you! A Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Evacuation programme for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities project, pioneers the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities as well as their guardians and caregivers into government programs and services for persons with disabilities (PWDs). This project partners with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) and provides a series of training workshops for disaster preparedness and emergency evacuation. Best practices have been integrated into the National Emergency Special Needs Handbook.

Policy Influence and Upscaling: The CBA Country Programme Strategy (CCPS) of each country is aligned to its national/sub-national planning and adaptation priorities. Hence, the country programs have the foundation to influence the policies and development programs at the higher scales. Normally, influence and integration to policy, budgetary processes and national development programs are seen after the completion of a portfolio of projects. In this reporting period, however, many on-going projects were able to report some results. It was also indicated that these were made possible because of the multi-stakeholder engagements introduced at the project concept stages and which continued throughout the project cycle.

For example, in the **Republic of Marshall Islands** and **Samoa**, ongoing consultations with partners that commenced during the design and initiation stages of project enabled the communities to contribute to the Environmental Protection Authority's Coastal Management Plan and the Samoa National Youth Policy, respectively. The same scenario occurred in the **Cook Islands**, where SGP and its grantees contributed to the Cook Islands National Sustainable Development Plan, Cook Islands National Disaster Plan, and Joint National Action Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management. In **Barbados**, on-going projects inform the national and sub-national projects/programs such as the Climate Change Programme of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture. Lastly, in **Trinidad and Tobago**, due the recently completed project on Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, the National Emergency Special Needs Handbook was revised to include people with intellectual disabilities and their guardians and/or caregivers. This project partnered with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) in filling the gaps of existing programs and services for persons with disabilities (PWDs). Before the project, “special needs” programs only targeted senior citizens, people with hearing and mobility impairments and children who are home alone. The targeted groups have now expanded to include people with intellectual disabilities, their guardians and caregivers and a series of training workshops for disaster preparedness and emergency evacuation have been provided to over 200 people.

Up-scaling practices and sharing knowledge for increased up-take of CBA experiences documented for replication purposes: The active engagement of SGP CPMT and country programs in the international fora provide opportunities for upscaling and replication of CBA practices. In April 2016, CPMT and the National Coordinators from Barbados and Timor Leste participated in CBA10. In November 2016, CPMT participated in the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22) and shared knowledge in side event discussions and ‘working groups’, as well as disseminating knowledge products (please refer to the Knowledge Management section for the list of publications disseminated at these events). CBA grantees from Jamaica also attended COP22 as part of their national delegation for knowledge sharing in sustainable adaptation and effective gender mainstreaming practices. With the broader adoption of CBA

innovations at the national level, the Jamaican government has included CBA-project implementing NGOs in their national delegation for the first time in COP 21 and requested for their involvement at COP22 again.

Additionally, many country programs are contributing to the development initiatives and/or plans of their respective governments. Some examples include: In Seychelles, the partnership between the implementing NGO, Baie Ste Anne Farmers Association (BSAFA), and the Seychelles Agricultural Agency (SAA) on the Increasing the resilience of farming communities on the Praslin Plateau by addressing soil salinity to boost local food production project have resulted in the replication of best practices at the national scale. After realizing the effectiveness of salinity measurement instruments and salinity data loggers through the CBA demonstration sites, the SAA have indicated its use to be a national priority and have distributed such tools to other farms in the island. The data from the CBA project sites have been transferred from the loggers to the national database and will be used in the development of national modelling systems for irrigation management under saline conditions. These replications are in addition to the ones reported in the 2015 APR such as the SAA's adoption of natural methods and materials used in the CBA project that manage the soil salinity levels and promote organic production of crops and the national dissemination of the Traffic Light Guide produced for farmers. Similarly, in Mauritius, the community disaster preparedness training, a component of the Enhancing the Livelihood of Women at Grand Sable in Response to Climate Change Impacts project, was adopted by a national project that is jointly implemented by the Mauritius Red Cross in collaboration with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre. The VRA methodology was also adopted and used to identify risks. The up-scaling of the CBA project was also presented in several events including an exhibition organized by the Ministry of Gender and Equality for Women Empowerment Programme (September 2016), Cape Verde SIDS CBA Workshop (September 2016); by grantee at Southern African Development Community Workshop (November 2016); and by the Director of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management (NDRRMC) at the 6th Session of Africa Regional Platform and the 5th High-Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction (November 2016).

Knowledge management: Successful adaptation not only depends on the realization of adaptation initiatives but also on the effective management of knowledge. At the global level, CPMT continues to capture best practices in publications and presentations that are shared at key national and international events and conferences. At the COP 22 and CBA 10 conferences, the [Practitioners' Guidebook to Establishing a Community-Based Adaptation Programme](#) and [How to Strategically Plan and Mainstream Community-Based Adaptation at the Local and Sub / National Levels](#) were disseminated. At the regional CBA workshop for Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS, the [Improved Water Management and Capacity Building for Climate Change in Longueira and Covoada](#) case study was disseminated to share environmental impacts as well as socio-economic benefits that went beyond gender parity.

The projects continually assist in responding to UNDP's internal needs for concrete experience to up-scale CBA projects and knowledge-sharing coupled with local-scale climate change adaptation. For example, two (2) CBA projects were featured in UNDP's publication titled [Nature Count\\$ - Investing in ecosystems and biodiversity for sustainable development](#) that was published in December 2016. In Sri Lanka, the project titled [Minimizing land degradation in Serupitiya village to facilitate community-based adaptation to climate change \(SRL/MAP-CBA/2013/01\)](#) was used to illustrate support to [SDG1: No Poverty](#) for its sustainable land management initiatives and milk farming alternative livelihood options that resulted to the restoration of 170 hectares of land, a 50%-400% income increase and a women's savings scheme and thus,

generating poverty reduction and alleviation measures. This project supports global efforts to tackle extreme poverty (SDG Target 1.1) and poverty according to national definitions (SDG Target 1.2) by increasing access to more adaptive financial services (SDG Target 1.4), building resilience of the poor and reducing their vulnerability to climate-related events through the introduction of sustainable livelihoods (SDG Target 1.5). In addition, the Climate Change Adaptation in Matafa'a Village, Samoa (WSM/MAP-CBA/2010/003) was used to exemplify support to SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities for its initiatives in achieving access to upgraded, adequate, safe and affordable basic services for poor rural households (SDG 11.1), planned and managed in an inclusive and participatory manner (SDG 11.3) in a way that safeguarded natural and cultural heritage (SDG 11.4) resulting in better protection of vulnerable people, diminished disaster impacts and economic losses (SDG 11.5) reduced adverse environmental impacts (SDG Target 11.6), strengthened climate change adaptation capacities and improved disaster risk resilience (SDG Target 11.b).

In addition to the SGP website, knowledge products are also shared in WeAdapt, a collaborative platform that is managed by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) that allows practitioners, researchers and policy-makers to access credible, high-quality information on climate adaptation issues and connect with one another. Thus far, the SIDS CBA case studies in WeAdapt have had more than 500 downloads in this reporting period. The Jamaica case study has had 373 downloads, the Samoa case study has had 71 downloads, the Sri Lanka case study has had 33 downloads and the Mauritius case study has had 17 downloads. In the SGP website, the Practitioners' Guidebook to Establishing a Community-Based Adaptation Programme had 575 downloads and How to Strategically Plan and Mainstream Community-Based Adaptation at the Local and Sub / National Levels had 648 downloads.

At the regional level, the SIDS ADAPT educational TV show was launched in the Caribbean region and showcased the SIDS CBA projects in five countries, namely, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, St. Lucia and Trinidad in this reporting period. NGOs/CBOs and local communities shared their experiences on adaptation initiatives that promoted climate-smart, environmental and sustainable business/entrepreneurship. The shows aim to provide an attractive framework to facilitate climate change adaptation education and awareness among the general public, with a special focus on marginalized groups such as persons with disabilities (PWDs), youth and women.

The SIDS CBA program is able to examine, at close quarters, the interplay of human and environmental interactions, and resilience. The demonstration sites and multi-level stakeholder consultation meetings serve as a platform from where theories can be translated into action and provide an enabling environment for communities, CSOs, government authorities and international agencies to reinforce synergies and reduce overlaps, while ensuring that together, their different actions generate the positive impacts needed.

The aforementioned trends of recognition and progressive impacts of the projects are clear indications that the CBA program's initiatives are relevant, effective and sustainable in adapting to the impacts of climate change. Given that the adaptation responses to climate change needs a short-term and long-term approach, on-going capacity-building and knowledge-sharing among multilevel stakeholders is necessary to sustain and progress the adaptation and development work already done.

However, challenges with grant programming in the Pacific were addressed with staff changes and office relocation to joint UN facilities in this reporting period. The results of such changes will be closely

monitored and regular updates will be provided to the donor who has approved the extension of the program until June 2018.

The donor, Government of Australia, has evaluated the program in this reporting period. Using their internal Quality Aid scoring system (1- lowest to 6 highest), the program was given an overall score of 5. Major components of the evaluation and correlating scores are as follows: (i.) Effectiveness – 5; (ii.) Efficiency – 5; (iii.) Relevance – 5; (iv.) Monitoring & Evaluation – 6; (v.) Gender Empowerment – 5; and (vi.) Sustainability – 5. Additionally, a Mid-Term Evaluation was done by an external evaluator to assess the achievement of project results, to draw lessons that can both improve the sustainability of benefits from these project and aid in the overall enhancement of GEF SGP programming. The MTE covered the period 2009 to 2016 and adopts a mixed methods approach encompassing both quantitative and qualitative data gathering and analysis.

The report responded to key evaluation based on the following criteria: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact. The Evaluation Rating Table is as follows:

1. Monitoring and Evaluation	Rating	2. Partner Execution	Rating
M&E design at entry	6: Highly satisfactory	Quality of UNDP/SGP Implementation	5: Satisfactory
M&E Plan Implementation	5: Satisfactory	Quality of Execution – Executing Agency	5: Satisfactory
Overall quality of M&E	5: Satisfactory	Overall quality of Implementation/Execution	5: Satisfactory
3. Assessment of Outcomes	Rating	4. Sustainability	Rating
Relevance	2: Relevant	Financial Resources	3: Moderately likely
Effectiveness	5: Satisfactory	Socio-political	4: Likely
Efficiency	5: Satisfactory	Institutional framework and governance	4: Likely
Overall Project Outcome Rating	5: Satisfactory	Environmental	4: Likely
		Overall likelihood of sustainability	4: Likely

8.5. Annex: Award Winning GEF SGP projects

The list below includes SGP projects and grantees that received national, regional, and international awards during the period July 1 2016 to June 30 2017.

2017

- Award of recognition for the service done for the environmental conservation awarded at the World Environmental Day Commemoration 2017, July 2017, Sri Lanka
- Equator Prize 2017, July 2017, Kazakhstan
- El Buen Tenedor 2017, July 2017, Panama
- Energy Globe National Award, June 2017, Benin
- Equator Prize 2017, June 2017, Belize
- Equator Prize 2017, June 2017, Brazil
- Equator Prize 2017, June 2017, Kenya
- National Energy Global Award 2017, June 2017, Dominican Republic
- Whitley Gold Award, June 2017, Turkey
- Equator Prize 2017, June 2017, Thailand
- Trophée Initiative Climat, June 2017, Morocco
- Equator Prize 2017, June 2017, Ecuador
- Atabey Award, June 2017, Dominican Republic
- Best Youth Cooperative, June 2017, South Africa
- SEED Award, June 2017, South Africa
- Farm Support Association, March 2017, Vanuatu
- Smithsonian Institute Award to Mr. Dujon, March 2017, St. Lucia
- Chevalier de l'ordre de mérite à Mme. Lamizana, March 2017, Burkina Faso
- The Best Community Forestry Management Award Winner, March 2017, Cambodia
- Swiss ReSource Award, March 2017, Trinidad and Tobago
- 'Toward Ecological Civilization, Pay Respects to Environmental Protection Pioneers' by China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation and China Environmental Protection Foundation to Green River Environmental Protection, January 2017, China
- 'Toward Ecological Civilization, Pay Respects to Environmental Protection Pioneers' by China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation and China Environmental Protection Foundation to Dalian Environmental Protection Volunteers Association, January 2017, China
- 'Toward Ecological Civilization, Pay Respects to Environmental Protection Pioneers' by China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation and China Environmental Protection Foundation to Lijiang Health & Environment Research Center, January 2017, China
- 1st Runner Up - ISTF Innovation Prize, January 2017, Sri Lanka

2016

- Adaptation to Scale Prize to Manohari Development Institute, December 2016, Nepal
- Adaptation to Scale Prize to National Disaster Risk Reduction Center, December 2016, Nepal
- Adaptation to Scale Prize Machapuchare Development Organization, December 2016, Nepal
- Adaptation to Scale Prize to Center for Rural Technology Nepal, December 2016, Nepal

- Protsahan Puraskar for implementing and planning to scale up Innovative Efforts in the field of Climate Change Adaptation to National Disaster Reduction Centre jointly with Save the Banganga, December 2016, Nepal
- Protsahan Puraskar for implementing and planning to scale up Innovative Efforts in the field of Climate Change Adaptation to Machhapuchhre Development Organisation, December 2016, Nepal
- University of Gajah Mada Awards for Human Achievement, December 2016, Indonesia
- Yap Thiam Hien Human Rights Award, December 2016, Indonesia
- Local Economic Development Support Programme, November 2016, Jamaica
- Environmental Community Award to Youth Climate Action Network (YCAN), November 2016, Samoa Sub-Region
- Environmental Community Award to Sapapalii, November 2016, Samoa-Sub Region
- Environmental Individual Award to Mr. Apineru, November 16, Samoa Sub-Region
- Environmental Individual Award to Mr. Fepuleai, November 16, Samoa Sub-Region
- National Independence Festival of Creative Arts, November 2016, Barbados
- S3 Award, November 2016, Cuba
- Embilipitiya Pradeshiya Sabhawa Appreciation Award, November 2016, Sri Lanka
- Entani Community-based Organisation, November 2016, Vanuatu
- Insaed Long Karen Association, November 2016, Vanuatu
- Krishi Karman Award, October 2016, India
- Lauréat du Prix Initiative Climat COP22 –Maroc, October 16, Guinea
- Dekoya Award, October 2016, Indonesia
- Culture Award and Appreciation for Maestro Art Tradition in Environment Conservation Ministry of Education and Culture, October 2016, Indonesia
- Rana Dorada 1st Place, September 2016, Panama
- Rana Dorada 2nd Place, September 2016, Panama
- Sabores del Ecuador 2016 to Asociacion Agroartesanal de Campesinos Agroecológicos de Intag AACAI, September 2016, Ecuador
- Sabores del Ecuador 2016 to Fundación de Culturas Indígenas Kawsay, September 2016, Ecuador
- Sabores del Ecuador 2016 to Asociacion Tsatsayaku & Asociación de Apicultura, September 2016, Ecuador
- Bintang Budaya Parama Dharma, August 2016, Indonesia
- Sasol Businesswoman of the Year in Social Entrepreneurship to Ms. Raletsoane of Sesoto Women’s Empowerment Group, August 2016, South Africa
- Energy and Climate Change Women Recognition Award, August 2016, Lesotho
- Tourism Service Business Excellence Award, July 2016, Trinidad and Tobago
- “Leading Environmentalist” Government Medal to Mrs. Jargalsaikh of Evlin Huch CBO, July 2016, Mongolia
- “Leading Environmentalist” Government Medal to Mrs. Batsukh of Bat CBO, July 2016, Mongolia
- Hotspot Heroes – CEPF, July 2016, Panama
- Dr. Taghi Ebtekar Prize, 2016, Iran
- Mehragan Elm, 2016, Iran

8.6. Annex: Selected Knowledge and Communication Products

GLOBAL PUBLICATIONS

- [The A to Z of SGP, A guide to the Small Grants Programme](#)
- [El PPD de la A a la Z, Manual sobre el Programa de Pequeñas Donaciones del Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial](#)
- [Small Grants Programme Annual Monitoring Report 2015 - 2016](#)
- [Community - based Chemicals and Waste Management](#)
- [Une trousse à outils d'appui à la conservation par les populations autochtones et les communautés locales \(French version of ICCA Toolkit\)](#)
- [Herramientas de apoyo para la conservación por pueblos indígenas y comunidades locales \(Spanish version of ICCA toolkit\)](#)
- [Local Action for the Global Goals: Promoting Innovative Conservation and Development Solutions](#)
- [Voices of Impact: Speaking for the Global Commons](#)
- [A Practitioners' Guide to Establishing a Community-Based Adaptation Programme](#)
- [Scaling up Community Actions for International Waters Management](#)
- [ICCA Data Manual](#). Available in 3 languages: [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#)
- [UNEP WCMC Webinars on ICCAs](#). Available in English, French and Spanish on the [UNEP WCMC You Tube channel](#).

SELECTED COUNTRY LEVEL KM PRODUCTS

- [Local action global thinking, voices from the field - SGP Sri Lanka](#)
- [5 Year Brochure of SGP in Romania](#)
- [A community-based approach to resilient and sustainable landscapes: lessons from Phase II of the COMDEKS Programme](#)
- [Uruguay: Local solutions to global environmental challenges \(SGP Uruguay 2010 - 2015\)](#)
- [Moldova - Environmental Impact Assessment, Case study](#)
- [Moldova - Practical Guide Environmental journalism](#)
- [Armenia - Small steps great achievements](#)
- [Pakistan - Energy Efficient brick kiln](#)
- [SGP Indonesia Best practices inspiring Indonesia](#)
- [Vietnam Marine wetlands conservation](#)
- [SGP China in China Weekly, November 2016](#)
- [Lesotho OP6 brochure](#)

NEWSLETTERS

- [The Small Grants Programme Newsletter – Issue #1 – June 2017](#)
- [COMDEKS Newsletter Issue 19](#)
- [COMDEKS Newsletter Issue 18](#)
- [COMDEKS Newsletter Issue 17](#)
- [Panama Informative bulletin March 2017](#)
- [SGP Moldova Newsletter, January 2016](#)
- [SGP Mauritania in UNDP Mauritania newsletter, October 2016](#)

8.7. Annex: Compendium of Articles on GEF SGP Projects and Programme

SGP FEATURE STORIES IN THE GEF WEBSITE

- [We are a large ocean state: Environmental innovations for sustainable development of Seychelles](#)
- [Sustainable production of walnuts to improve forest cover, resilience and livelihoods](#)
- [Restoring land productivity in Kazakhstan's small villages](#)
- [Community-based ecotourism protects biodiversity in the Yucatan Peninsula](#)
- [El ecoturismo comunitario ayuda a proteger la biodiversidad en la Península de Yucatán](#)
- [Protecting endangered sea turtles in Malaysia](#)
- [The power of peat: Restoring ecosystem health to peatlands in Belarus](#)
- [How a community-based organization in Afghanistan is transforming lives while caring for the environment](#)
- [According to Law: The Development of Laws on Organic Agriculture in Kazakhstan](#)
- [Engaging the Youth: Urban Waste Management in the Republic of Macedonia](#)
- [Threads of life: Women restoring wild cotton species and indigenous practices in Peru](#)

GEF NEWS THAT FEATURE SGP

- [The GEF Small Grants Program celebrates International Women's Day](#)
- [25 Years of GEF: The Small Grants Programme](#)
- [Argentina and the GEF](#)
- [Chile and the GEF: sustainable development with equity and environmental justice](#)
- [Bhutan: GEF is making a difference](#)
- [DBSA: the partnership couldn't have come at a better moment](#)
- [Costa Rica: Everything connects](#)
- [Fiji and the GEF](#)
- [Novel ridge to reef project launched in Fiji](#)
- [UNDP on 25 Years of GEF: a record of high-impact environmental results](#)
- [Thailand as a member of the GEF Family](#)
- [IPAG: building on trust and dialogue](#)
- [Madagascar and the GEF](#)
- [GEF: How it all began](#)
- [25 years of the GEF in Colombia: a fertile ground for building peace](#)
- [Restoring land productivity in Kazakhstan's small villages](#)
- [The Art of Knowledge Exchange: A Results-Focused Planning Guide for the GEF Partnership](#)
- [Supporting community-driven solutions to chemicals and waste management](#)
- [Supporting community-driven solutions to chemicals and waste management](#)
- [Mesoamerican countries meet to discuss national and regional priorities for GEF-7](#)
- [Los países mesoamericanos se reúnen para discutir prioridades nacionales y regionales con miras al FMAM-7](#)
- [International Day for Biological Diversity 2017](#)
- [GEF CEO opens 52nd Council Meeting](#)
- [The GEF Small Grants Programme: 3 examples of engagement with Indigenous Peoples](#)

STORIES ON SGP's WEBSITE

- [Releasing our new brand identity](#)
- [Community-based ecotourism protects biodiversity in the Yucatan Peninsula](#)
- [Global Youth Video Competition on Climate Change 2017](#)
- [SGP shares its strategic initiatives with indigenous peoples at UNFPII](#)

- [SGP spotlights community experiences in chemicals and waste management at Stockholm COP8](#)
- [ICCA-GSI supports the Indigenous Mountain Peoples' Adaptation Programme and Global South-South Exchange Platform](#)
- [UN Special Rapporteur reports to Human Rights Council and recommends replicating SGP's good practices in supporting indigenous peoples and local communities for biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use.](#)
- [ICCA-GSI strengthens the capacities of Thailand's National Parks and Wildlife Conservation](#)
- [Welcoming our new Global Manager Yoko Watanabe](#)
- [SGP at the CBD COP](#)
- [Recognizing ICCAs at CBD COP 13](#)
- [ICCA-GSI expands its reach to support China's ICCAs](#)
- [El SGP-GEF otorgó un reconocimiento al músico Charly Alberti por su participación en el Programa de Pequeñas Donaciones del Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial](#)
- [Winners of COP22 Youth Climate Video Competition Announced - Videos Portray Inspiring Climate Action in Tunisia and Vietnam](#)
- [The GEF Small Grants Programme \(SGP\) shares good practices at the IUCN world conservation congress](#)
- [ICCA-GSI Regional Workshop for West Africa](#)
- [ICCA-GSI supports policy motions in IUCN WCC](#)
- [SGP presents at Gender-Responsive Financing in a workshop at the IUCN World Conservation Congress](#)
- [Accessing Global Finances: Funding Opportunities for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities](#)
- [SGP supports Palau's global efforts to build more resilient island communities](#)
- [Chemical free farming paves the way to sustainability in Fiji](#)
- [Rural Women Help Early Recovery Efforts in Fiji. Make and Sell 'Green' Handicrafts](#)
- [ICCA-GSI supports Transboundary Conservation between Iran and its neighbors](#)

SELECTED STORIES IN THE MEDIA

- [Boost for green projects](#)
- [Unatt helps to combat climate change](#)
- [Dreams of a greener Laventille](#)
- [A Better Place](#)
- [Climate change: 'Steps needed to save Indus Delta from further ...](#)
- [SALCC to launch Vaughan A. Lewis Institute for Research and ...](#)
- [Look to organic farming – UNDP official](#)
- [GEF Council Approves Compliance Policy, Start of GEF-7 ...](#)
- [Botswana launches grassroots green fund](#)
- [UNDP launches N822m new GEF project funding](#)
- [UN Biodiversity Conference Advances Work on Sustainable Wildlife ...](#)
- [UNDP-GEF gets committee on Nigeria's small grant scheme](#)
- [Saint Lucia advancing Protected Areas Management](#)
- [Message on World Wetlands Day 2017](#)
- [Oceans and small island states: First think opportunity, then think blue](#)
- [Teachers take part in 'Preparing You' workshop](#)
- [People's ideas: Mainstreaming innovation at the grassroots](#)
- [Project fails to account for N\\$60000](#)
- [St. Lucian project to be showcased at the Smithsonian in ...](#)

- [Two 18-year-olds Aim to Fix the E-Waste Problem in Armenia](#)
- [In Belize, local stewardship key to marine conservation](#)
- [A CSO dreams a clean Bhutan](#)
- [Internal compass for the implementation of SDG 14: Putting local ...](#)
- [FEATURE: UN-backed projects in the Caribbean highlight ...](#)
- [GEF presents 2016 report](#)