

UNDP Country Director

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) in Nigeria continues to support grassroots actions that address global environmental problems, from deforestation to climate change. During the year, the team in Nigeria supported efforts aimed at identifying community-based approaches that are not only relevant to the needs of millions of people across the country, but also have great potential of making real contributions to the GEF priority areas. All the projects supported were also geared towards addressing grassroots issues of livelihoods, poverty, gender equality and women's empowerment while achieving global environmental benefits.

Editor's Note:

With increasing project portfolios and partnership, the UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme is becoming a household name amongst Civil Society Organizations, of which over 120 has benefitted from UNDP GEF SGP support since inception.

I remain humbled by the recognition of the Nigerian Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology which conferred on me the "Rallying Point for Biodiversity Conservation" in Nigeria during their 6th National Conference in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. I take this as a higher call to responsibility.

In this edition of our Newsletter, we report the three awards given to the Executive Director of Global Initiative for Food Security and Environmental Protection (GIFSEP) during the last few months. We again, call on all our partners to continue to support us to ensure Nigeria's environmental degradation story is reversed while we also enhance the livelihood of the communities who are vulnerable to these environmental problems.

... Ibironke Olubamise, National Coordinator

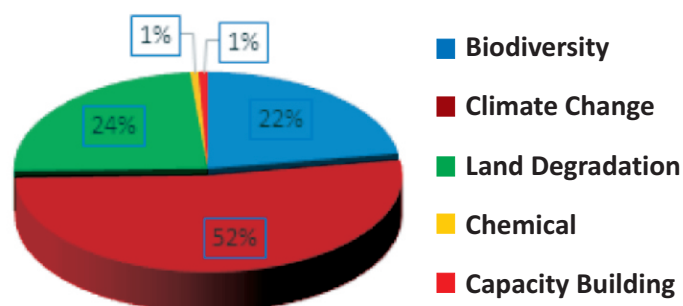
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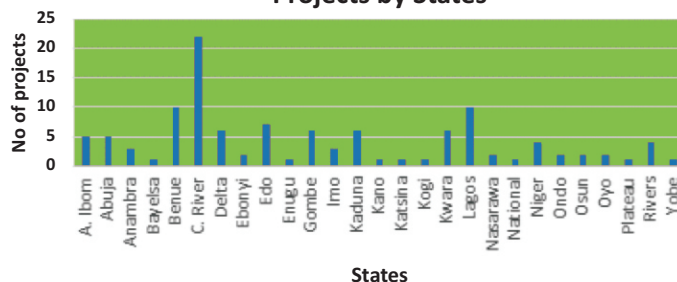
FACTS AND FIGURES

1. **Start-up Year: 2009**
2. **Total Number of Projects: 141**
3. **National Coverage: 25 states**
4. **Grant Amount: \$5,050,000**
5. **Total Co-financing: \$4,900,070**

Projects by Focal Areas



Projects by States



GEF-SGP Beneficiaries Receive Support From Global Wildlife Conservation



Sitting L-R: Ibironke Olubamise, National Coordinator, GEF-SGP; Dr. Russel Mittermeier Chief Conservation Officer Global Wildlife Conservation; Paramount Ruler of Ikot Uso Akpan, Itam clan, Itu L.G.A of Akwa Ibom State and Dr. Edem Eniang, Executive Director, Biodiversity Preservation Centre, Uyo.

Two officials of Biodiversity Preservation Centre (BPC) who are beneficiaries of the Global Environmental Facility Small Grant Programme (GEF-SGP) were supported with a grant of \$6,000 by Global Wildlife Conservation (GWC), United States of America to attend the Global Primate Conference held in Kenya in July 2018. The Chief Conservation Officer of GWC, Dr Russel Mittermeier, disclosed his organisation's support to the two conservationists when he visited the Itam Monkey project supported by the GEF-SGP in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. He commended GEF-SGP for the support given to BPC. He gave out books and further promised to support BPC office operational expenses and is already making arrangement to send over 350 books on primates and conservation guide to BPC. He requested for all video documentaries on the monkeys to be shared with him for popularization and more opportunities.

Biodiversity Preservation Centre (BPC) is one of the grantees of the GEF Small Grants Programme which started the conservation of the Itam forest in 2012. Dr. Mittermeier, who could not hide his excitement when he visited the Itam Monkey project supported by the GEF Small Grants, sited a large number of Scalter guenon monkeys in groups. "Totally committed to the preservation of the forest, BPC is deploying all its expertise and experience to ensure the continuous integrity of the forest, even as it continues to seek resource support to continue to keep the forest from further degradation," he said.

Dr. Russell Mittermeier, who is a former Executive Vice Chairman, Conservation International (CI), Chairman International Union of Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Primates Specialist Group visited the project site in March 2018. He visited in company of Dr. Edem Eniang, Project Director for BPC, Ronke Olubamise, GEF-SGP National Coordinator and some other conservationists.

Conservation of the Itam forest has continued since 2012 when SGP first supported a conservation project in the forest implemented by Biodiversity Preservation Centre, based in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. The success story of the project has attracted conservationists and development experts from within and outside of Nigeria to the site. The project has

remained one of the flagship biodiversity project supported by SGP in Nigeria.

One of the results of the project was that the status of the sclater monkey in the International Union of Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) red list has changed from being critically endangered. The NGO has obtained another support from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) to earmark another portion of the contiguous forest as a Wildlife Sanctuary to enhance its conservation, promote research and tourism, with active participation of the community.

GEF-SGP Organised Project Monitoring for Government Partners



2nd from left: Director Fed. Min. of Env't, Mr. Auwal Maidabino; GEF-SGP National Coordinator, Ibironke Olubamise; Exec. Dir., Lifebuilders, Chief (Mrs.) Oluwatoye inspecting one of the equipment for ethanol production from Moringa in Ijaiye LGA, Oyo State.

The GEF Small Grant Programme under the leadership of the UNDP organised monitoring visits to LIFEBUILDERS' project sites in Saki and Ijaiye Local Government Areas of Oyo State. The visits were to ensure accountability, knowledge management and appreciation of the projects.

The project sites visited were in Saki and Ijaiye Local Government Areas of Oyo state. The project by LIFEBUILDERS is an upscale of a pilot to support Moringa Farmers in Ijaiye community to grow Moringa tree to regenerate degraded land, sell the leaves (and stem) to produce tea from the leaves and ethanol from the stem for cooking. This, she added, would reduce fuel wood usage, carbon emission, promote health through the use of ethanol stoves and improve livelihood through income from sale of moringa.

Also visited was the project implemented by Centre for Human Settlements and Sustainable Developments (CHUSSDEV). The project was designed to target charcoal and shea butter producers in Saki Local Government to encourage production of shea butter, planting of shea butter trees and reduce production of charcoal from shea butter trees.

GEF-SGP National Coordinator Delivers Keynote Address on Biodiversity Conservation

Mrs. Ibironke Olubamise, the National Coordinator, Global Environmental Facility Small Grant Programme (GEF-SGP), attended the 2018 Biodiversity Conservation Conference, organised by the Society for Conservation Biology, Nigeria Chapter, with participation of professionals and student scientists

GEF-SGP National Coordinator Delivers Keynote Address on Biodiversity Conservation

from all over Nigeria. At the conference with the theme 'Biodiversity Conservation and National Development: Potential and Challenges', the National Coordinator was also honoured with an award for her immense contributions towards biodiversity conservation in Nigeria.

As the keynote speaker, Mrs. Olubamise reiterated the importance of knowledge sharing amongst scientists to ensure adequate communications of research findings which could be used for policy advocacy and campaign to address biodiversity challenges.



Mrs. Olubamise with the 1st female Conservator of park in West Africa after the keynote presentation in Uyo

“GEF-SGP Supported FCT School Children Win “Parachute for the Planet Award”

One Eco Club established in Government Science and Technical School (GSTS), Area 3 Garki Abuja, by Global Initiative for Food Security and Ecosystem Preservation (GIFSEP) through the support of the GEF Small Grants Programme won a 'Parachute for the Planet Award' in Washington DC during the Youths Climate March. The Eco Club is one of the 17 Eco Clubs established by GIFSEP in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The support was to build the capacity of students to address climate change through and turn them to Climate Champions.

The project titled “Capacity Building of Students to Address Climate Change in Schools in FCT Abuja” has built partnership with the Mother Earth Project in Washington DC USA to create parachutes for the planet. The Eco Club of Government Science and Technical School Area 3 Garki Abuja, produced two Parachutes which were displayed alongside others. Parachutes were collected from School children all over the world and were displayed in Washington DC on July 21st, 2018 during the Youths Climate March. According to the organizers, “the parachutes from GSTS Abuja were the best on display and attracted more viewers”.

Also, see the link for details:

[https://motherearthproject.org/parachute details/? parachute_id=MTM1](https://motherearthproject.org/parachute%20details/?parachute_id=MTM1)



Winner Parachute on display in Washington DC, produced by Eco Club of Government Science and Technical School Area 3 Garki Abuja

GEF-SGP Trains Women as Solar Engineers in India

GEF-SGP Nigeria has partnered with one of its grantees, Empowerment Strategy for Women and Youth Development Initiative (ESWYDI) to train two women as solar engineers, with the support of Barefoot College, India.

Mrs. Juliana Danjuma and Ms. Hauwa Abubakar were selected through a community consultation process and the community is expected to give its full support to the women upon their return to enable them to practice their new skills. The women who were semi illiterate would be trained in India for six months after which they would return to become solar builders and managers in their community.

It is expected that this effort will enhance access of the community to renewable electricity and reduce the pressure on firewood, kerosene, petrol and diesel consumption.



Mrs Hauwa Abubarka, one of the solar women engineers, undertaking a practical exercise at the Barefoot College workshop in India.

SGP Trains Grant Beneficiaries and Other Stakeholders on “Carbon Farming”

Over 30 participants, in Ibadan, Oyo State capital have been trained on “carbon farming”. The participants included members of the Ijaiye Local Government community beneficiaries who are part of the GEF SGP-supported project being implemented by LIFEBUILDERS. Other beneficiaries were drawn from the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria

SGP Trains Grant Beneficiaries and Other Stakeholders on "Carbon Farming" (FRIN) and Raw Materials Research and Development Council (RMRDC).

The training aimed at introducing participants to carbon credit, which is obtainable through carbon farming, land management and agroforestry techniques to encourage low-emission practices for improved and sustainable farm productivity. The benefits of carbon farming were emphasised to include carbon sequestration, increased biodiversity, improved soil structure and fertility, buffering against drought and erosion amongst others.

The facilitators mentioned that the set of trainees happens to be the first to be trained in this regard. At the end of the workshop, the participants pledged to embrace carbon farming.



Cross section of participants and stakeholders at the carbon training workshop held in Ibadan Oyo State.

SUCCESS STORY:

Project Scale Up and Results of Capacity Building by Ohioma Foundation for Development (OFUD)

Ohioma Foundation for Development (OFUD), one of the beneficiaries of SGP grant with project number NGA/SGP/OP5/Y3/STAR/LD/15/24 has recorded two remarkable success stories since the organisation came in contact with SGP. OFUD implemented a project titled "Community Action for reclamation of degraded land in Inigunomono, Kogi State when GEF-SGP awarded a grant total of \$50,000. The NGO along with other grantees went through some rigorous training and capacity building workshops organised by GEF SGP to ensure successful project implementation and sustainability.

During the implementation of the project, OFUD project contact, Mr. Daniel Wumani who had internalized the various training of GEF-SGP had organised the community into several groups and

formally established and registered two cooperatives. Further, one of the cooperative societies, Iwebiye-Kpakpata Cooperative Society has won \$100,000 additional funding from United States African Development Foundation (USADF). OFUD mentioned that this feat was achieved due to its compliance with GEF SGP's advice during one of the workshops to develop the capacity of the local communities in sustainability and ownership by forming them into cooperatives to enable them take active ownership of the project after project implementation and the exit of the implementers.

In a letter sent to SGP office by OFUD, Mr. Wumani stated that "You organised several trainings for us as grantees, which today have made me an expert in project design, implementation and evaluation. Whenever I speak today, I am asked where I learnt this from even in projects outside my direct field of professionalism." In the search to get affordable and environmentally sustainable solution to rain water shortage, The NGO said "You were hard then, but it made us think outside the box. We had to look for such a simple, durable equipment on line and finally got one from Kickstart international"... "Our use of the equipment and result we got made the Kickstart International invite us as guest speaker to their product launch in Kano, Nigeria on the 18th October 2018, with the Governor of Kano State, Dr Umar Abdullahi Ganduje as the special guest of honour. We met ... several international and local experts in sustainable agriculture that we established network with. This means much to us. I just suddenly released that we are growing beyond leaps and bound, because you gave us the opportunity."

The activities of OFUD project, which was supported by SGP include creation of awareness on biodiversity and conservation; training in agro forestry farming; distribution of seedlings and seeds; tree planting of over 2,000 different economic trees including oil palm, citrus, pumpkin, plantain and banana suckers and bitter leaf cuttings and training on construction and maintenance of 300 solar cookers and solar street light.



Mr. Wumani with a representative of partner organization speaking with the media after his presentation as guest speaker in Kano.



OFUD training project beneficiaries in nursery management and transplanting

AWARD AND RECOGNITIONS

1. Mrs. Ibironke Olubamise, National Coordinator, GEF Small Grants for the award by the Society for Conservation Biology (Nigeria Chapter) as the "Rallying Point for Biodiversity Conservation" in Nigeria during her 6th National Conference in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.
2. Mr. David Michael Terungwa, the Executive Director of Global Initiative for Food Security and Ecosystem Preservation (GIFSEP)
 - a. for the ENVIRONMENTAL FRIENDLY AND PEACE AMBASSADOR AWARD by West Africa Youths Initiative for Peace and Good Leadership Development for the impact of SGP-supported project on young people (students), the environment and society at large.
 - b. inducted as a Senior Professional Member by the Institute of Information Management in recognition of GIFSEP climate change information sharing and climate presentation and communication during the ongoing project implementation sponsored by SGP.



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