

SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme

30
YEARS



THE GEF SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

Results Report 2021-2022

The Small Grants Programme (SGP) Results Report 2022

INTRODUCTION

SGP is the largest and longest standing corporate programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), dedicated to supporting civil society and community-based initiatives. It has been implemented by the United Nations Development Programme on behalf of the GEF Partnership since 1992. SGP is a signature programme under the UNDP Local Action Service Offer which is working to significantly expand the size and scope of support to local actors by bringing in new partners and innovative sources of financing.

For the past 30 years, SGP has been a reliable partner to civil society and community-based organizations providing financial and technical support on innovative initiatives that address global environmental issues such as biodiversity loss, climate change mitigation and adaptation, land degradation, international waters, and chemicals and waste management, while improving community livelihoods and wellbeing. SGP has constantly evolved and grown into a unique global delivery mechanism to scale-up local actions that can develop and deliver solutions to these multiple challenges.

Driven by evidence, the active participation of local communities in dealing with critical environmental problems holds the key for promoting effective stewardship of environment and sustainable development. SGP plays a unique role in meeting the objectives of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Over the last three decades, SGP has matured as a social inclusion platform, with a strong focus on empowering and improving the skills of women, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities. Besides its central role as an incubator and accelerator of community innovations, SGP also plays a key role in bringing together civil society, government, private sector, and others to promote systemic change from the community level.

**SINCE ITS
INCEPTION
IN 1992,
SGP HAS
IMPLEMENTED**



27,348
PROJECTS



136
COUNTRIES



US\$752.9
TOTAL IN GRANTS
(IN \$ MILLIONS)



127
ACTIVE
COUNTRIES

METHODOLOGY

This report presents SGP's results for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, based on the information from 127 SGP Country Programmes. A conservative methodological approach is used for results calculations using only GEF-funded projects that have been completed during the reporting year.

1,052 GEF funded projects were completed during this reporting period, whose results are presented in this summary document. The full report can be accessed on the SGP website www.sgp.undp.org.





3
 4
 6
 КРИВ
 ВАННЯ
 КРИВ
 ГОТОВ

ВІД КОМПОСТНОГО
 КОНТЕЙНЕРА
 ДО БІОГУМУСУ

КРИВ 4. Підтримати оптимальну
 температуру субстрату в межах 25 °C

КРИВ 5. Завести в кімнату
 в кімнату

Compost Local



GEF PORTFOLIO

1 JULY 2021 – 30 JUNE 2022

732
NEW PROJECTS

1,052
COMPLETED PROJECTS



GEF FUNDING

ACTIVE PORTFOLIO
OF GRANT PROJECTS

US\$62
GRANT PROJECT
FUNDING
(IN \$ MILLIONS)

US\$69
GRANT PROJECT
LEVEL
CO-FINANCING
(IN \$ MILLIONS)

1,771
ACTIVE
PROJECTS



CUMULATIVE PORTFOLIO

1992- 2022

24,969
GEF
PROJECTS

2,379
OTHERS
PARTNERS

27,348
TOTAL
PROJECTS

Geographic coverage



127
ACTIVE
COUNTRIES



112
SGP GLOBAL
PROGRAMMES
COUNTRY



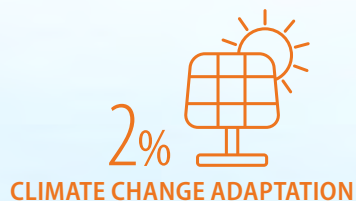
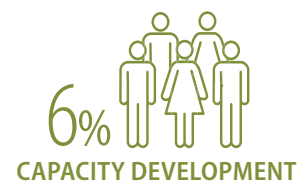
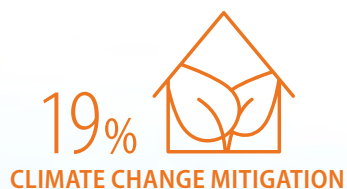
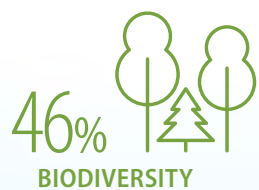
15
UPGRADED
COUNTRY



3
COUNTRY
PROGRAMMES
STARTED IN OP7

Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) account for 63% of SGP Global Country Programmes (40 LDCs and 37 SIDS).

Focal area distribution¹



¹ While most SGP projects benefit multi-focal area results, for reporting purposes we have reported based on the primary focal area of each project.

Progress towards Gef-7 core indicators

In GEF-7, the SGP places greater emphasis on promoting strategic and results-based investments at the local level, under a community-based landscape approach, and in alignment with GEF-7 Focal Area Strategies and Impact Programmes.

SGP RESULTS ON GEF-7 CORE INDICATORS² FOR 2021-2022



62,574

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS
UNDER IMPROVED MANAGEMENT
EFFECTIVENESS (HECTARES)



267,010

AREA OF MARINE HABITAT UNDER IMPROVED
PRACTICES TO BENEFIT BIODIVERSITY
(HECTARES, EXCLUDING PROTECTED AREAS)



67,845

AREA OF DEGRADED AGRICULTURAL
LANDS RESTORED (HECTARES)



544,042

NUMBER OF DIRECT BENEFICIARIES
AS CO-BENEFIT OF SGP INTERVENTION



5,690,364

AREA OF LANDSCAPES UNDER
IMPROVED MANAGEMENT TO
BENEFIT BIODIVERSITY (HECTARES)



282,616

NUMBER OF WOMEN



155,947

AREA OF LANDSCAPES UNDER
SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT
IN PRODUCTION SYSTEMS (HECTARES)



261,426

NUMBER OF MEN

² Represents direct impact due to SGP intervention.

Progress Towards

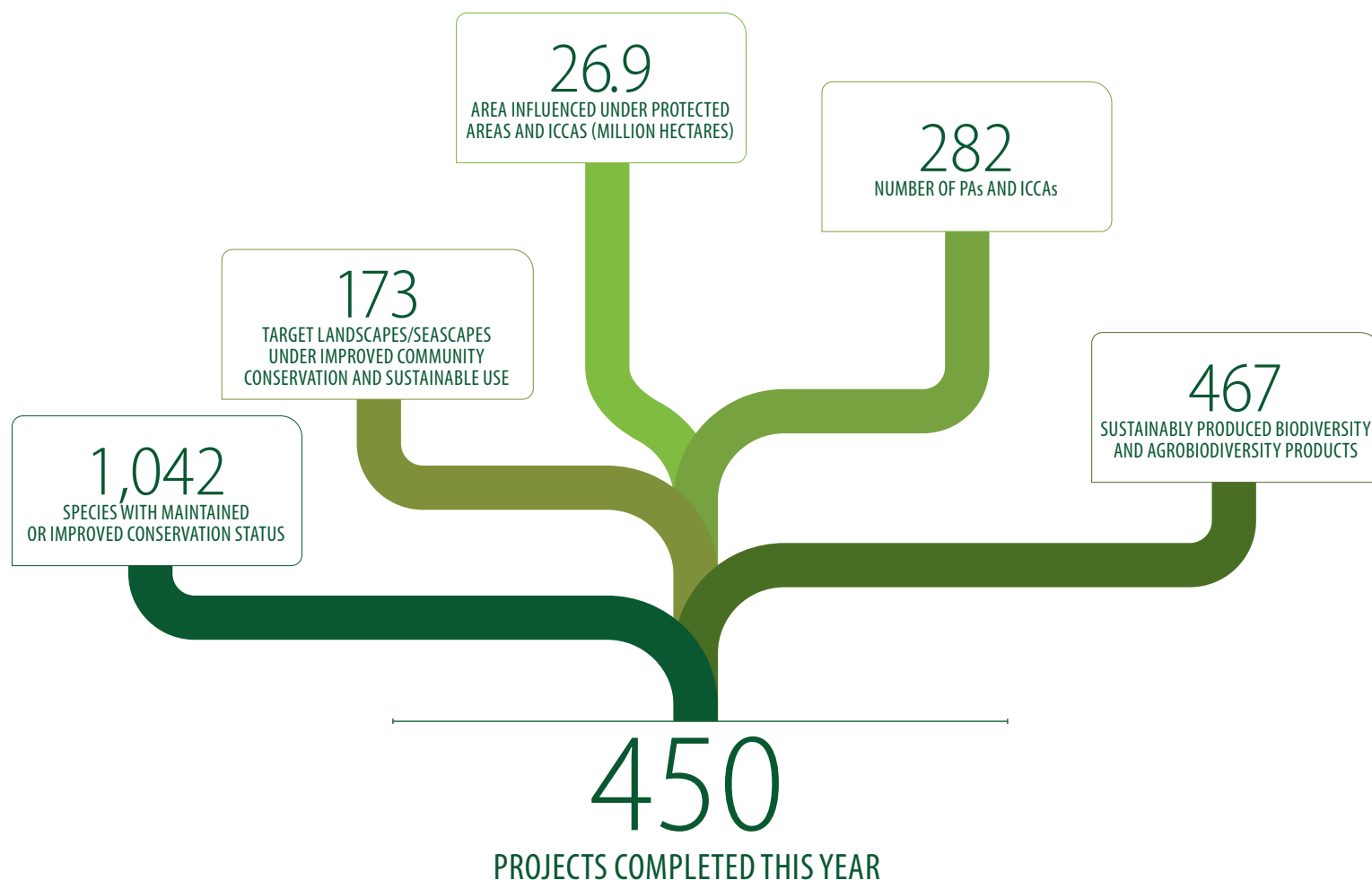
Focal area objectives

In alignment with the overall GEF programming, SGP focuses its efforts on targeted strategic initiatives that promote integrated approaches in addressing key global environmental issues by covering all GEF focal areas. Most SGP projects continue to have multiple benefits and integrated approaches with relevance to more than one focal area. However, for reporting purposes projects were categorized under one primary focal area.



BIODIVERSITY

SGP's biodiversity focal area portfolio supported improvements in management effectiveness of protected areas and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes and seascapes, and other related sectors. Support towards creation and management of Indigenous Peoples and Communities Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCAs) are a key part of the SGP's biodiversity portfolio.



Spotlight on South Africa

In **South Africa**, as part of the SGP Innovation Programme on Big Cats Conservation, SGP supported the Landmark Foundation to mitigate human-leopard conflict in the Western and Eastern Cape through genetic and habitat linkage between current populations, proactive range expansion, and rewilding efforts to secure leopard populations and persistence. The project established methods that reduced persecution through human-wildlife conflict (HWC) compensation schemes, evaluated the efficacy and functionality of currently available connectivity habitat corridors, and provided an assessment of active management methods to prevent leopard killings. Camera surveys were conducted to estimate the leopards' habitats. In order to evaluate population linkage and gene flow, genetic polymorphism analysis was conducted on the leopard population. To monitor their activities and assess their habitats, 48 leopards were fitted with global positioning system (GPS) collars. An HWC manual was produced, released in 100 printed copies and a publicly available web version. As a result of the assessment, the project proposed leopard management plans to the government that did not include any translocation, hunting, or removal of females from populations. A compensation plan for livestock owners was developed with 24 claims relating to collared leopards, which prevented the killing of 12 leopards in 2021. The project also helped develop a voluntary wildlife-friendly produce brand (*Fair Game*) among farmers as the payment for ecosystem services scheme and conservation tool.



SGP South Africa



SGP South Africa



CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

SGP's climate change projects supported low-carbon energy transformation at the community level through the introduction of low-greenhouse gas (GHG) technologies with proven environmental, economic and livelihood co-benefits, contributing to several SDGs.

RESULTS

258

PROJECTS COMPLETED
THIS YEAR

83,786

HOUSEHOLDS SUPPORTED WITH
ENERGY ACCESS CO-BENEFITS

94

TYPES OF ENERGY SOLUTIONS
WITH SUCCESSFUL DEMONSTRATIONS
OR SCALING UP AND REPLICATION

39

COUNTRY PROGRAMMES THAT
DEPLOYED LOW-GHG
TECHNOLOGIES



SPOTLIGHT ON KYRGYZSTAN

In 2021, **Kyrgyzstan** submitted its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) report with updated commitments to climate change mitigation. In order to mobilize civil society and make its voices heard throughout the development of the NDC report, SGP grantee the Aarhus Centre, implemented a project that helped consolidate inputs from civil society. More than 4,000 people, the majority of whom were women and youth, attended meetings and round-table discussions on the NDC and its specific sections, across three provinces and the nation's capital. As a result, experts collected more than 100 recommendations that were presented to the NDC Work Force under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. Thirty-three civil society representatives received training on monitoring, reporting, and verifying climate change mitigation. This would allow civil society to continue participating in further dialogues with the government on matters relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation. In addition, a video was produced and made available to the public in Kyrgyz and Russian, as well as posters and flyers. As a result, the public increased their knowledge about updating the NDCs, the goals and key provisions of the Paris Agreement, as well as the basic climate indicators of the country. The general public was made aware of the country's commitments reflected in the updated NDCs that were submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat, as well as about the actions that the civil society could take to support the implementation of the NDCs.



LAND DEGRADATION

The land degradation focal area portfolio supported restoration and prevention of land degradation, and promoted sustainable land and forest management. Activities supported mainly targeted rural communities, which are highly dependent on agro-ecosystems and forest ecosystems for their livelihoods.

RESULTS

164

PROJECTS COMPLETED
THIS YEAR

83,376

HECTARES OF LAND UNDER
IMPROVED MANAGEMENT
PRACTICES

111,126

COMMUNITY MEMBERS
DEMONSTRATING SUSTAINABLE
LAND MANAGEMENT

4,938

FARMER LEADERS
DEMONSTRATING
AGRO-ECOLOGICAL
PRACTICES

443

FARMER NETWORKS
DISSEMINATING IMPROVED
AGRO-ECOLOGY PRACTICES

SPOTLIGHT ON EGYPT

In **Egypt**, the Environmental and Community Development Association in Dandara completed a project that enhanced the sustainable management of agricultural land and addressed agricultural soil degradation brought on by the excessive use of irrigation water. Through the implementation of the project, 3,000 metres of field irrigation canals were developed and lined. In total, 540 acres (219 hectares) of land were stabilized. In addition, 25 seminars were organized to raise the agricultural community's awareness of the importance of conserving irrigation water and energy as well as protecting agricultural soils from deterioration. Six multi-stakeholder consultation sessions were held on irrigation water issues and proposed water management techniques. Eighty percent of the farmers in the target community have increased their understanding of the value of rational water usage for soil preservation.

As a result, the monthly consumption of irrigation water was reduced by 250 m³ per acre. The use of chemical fertilizers on the target land was decreased by 15 percent. Moreover, a 15-percent reduction in fuel usage for irrigation equipment was noted. Productivity of the target land was improved along with the soil properties.





SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

SGP's sustainable forest management portfolio focused on sustainable land use, land-use change, and forestry management to ensure connectivity between ecosystems and restorative activities. The projects have also supported activities to decrease pressure on forest resources.

RESULTS

12

PROJECTS COMPLETED
THIS YEAR

132,000

HECTARES OF FOREST AND
NON-FOREST LANDS RESTORED
AND ENHANCEMENT INITIATED



SPOTLIGHT ON VANUATU

In **Vanuatu**, SGP support the ILiL UAS Community Association to address forest degradation issues due to rising population pressure, low food crop yields caused by shortened fallow periods, and deterioration of community water sources. The local population's access to fuel and building supplies was impacted by the loss of the forest, making the neighbourhood vulnerable to disasters. Thus, the grantee, an Indigenous Peoples' organization, was created to improve local livelihoods. With the support of SGP, a community forest nursery was established with enhanced water access. Members of the community planted trees in nurseries to restore the forest in the village, and on garden slopes to prevent soil erosion after land was cleared for gardening.

Medicinal herbs were also introduced to the nursery. Training sessions engaging Indigenous Peoples were conducted on land and forest management. As part of the rehabilitation of the local watershed, a five-hectare tract of indigenous land with a natural forest, known as the Lounarie Forest Conservancy, was also proclaimed as a no-take and no-enter zone. The project also supported World Environment Day by demonstrating its efforts and promoting the need for reforestation on Tanna Island, Vanuatu. It distributed 4,000 plant seedlings from the nursery to 10 tribes in local communities to replant in their areas for land and forest restoration.



INTERNATIONAL WATERS

The SGP international waters focal area supports sustainable management of transboundary waterbodies through community-based activities. SGP continued to develop and demonstrate effective community-based actions and practices in support of the Strategic Action Plans (SAPs) that were developed among countries sharing the transboundary waterbodies, including river basin, large marine ecosystems, and others.

RESULTS

33

PROJECTS COMPLETED
THIS YEAR

3,238

HECTARES OF MARINE AND
COASTAL AREAS UNDER
SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

108,125

HECTARES OF SEASCAPES UNDER
SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

3,689

TONNES OF LAND-BASED
POLLUTION REDUCED
OR PREVENTED

26

SEASCAPES/INLAND
FRESHWATER
LANDSCAPES
SUPPORTED

SPOTLIGHT ON TURKEY

In **Turkey**, the Mediterranean Conservation Society (*Akdeniz Koruma Derneği* or AKD) implemented a project focused on marine protected area conservation through transforming invasive species into commercial marine products. In cooperation with the Fisherwomen Society, AKD promoted the consumption of five invasive species in the Mediterranean, and 19 restaurants have started serving dishes made from invasive species. The ways to cook invasive species were promoted on a national TV channel along with utilizing other media channels. Through the marketing of invasive species, eight local cooperatives in the Aegean region saw a 10-percent rise in their revenue. The decline of invasive species in turn led to a 2-percent increase in the population of two endemic species of grouper. Additionally, a 5-percent increase in the presence of local microalgae was noted. Through a 6-month seawater temperature monitoring exercise, records were maintained and made available to support the no-take zones and marine protected areas. This also led to an expansion of one of the no-take zones. As a result, the number of fisheries operating increased by 5 percent.

The entire project implementation process promoted the participation of neighbouring fishery cooperatives. Fisherwomen benefited from their participation in the initiative through increased recognition of their roles, income, and reputation. A direct market was established in Izmir province by active women members of Döngü, a Turkish research and development cooperative. Farmers were able to promote local items through the



introduction of high-value agricultural production. The partnership between rural and urban women provided multiple benefits that attracted the attention of the entire village and brought back traditional production patterns as well as public spaces, traditional festivals, and educational opportunities.



CHEMICALS AND WASTE

SGP's chemicals and waste management portfolio supports control and reduction of the use of harmful chemicals through sound management of chemicals and waste, including persistent organic pollutants and mercury, to minimize adverse effects on human health and the global environment.

RESULTS

62

PROJECTS COMPLETED
THIS YEAR (INCLUDING
MERCURY PROJECTS)

12,925

KILOGRAMS OF PESTICIDES
AVOIDED, REDUCED
OR PREVENTED

18,862

KILOGRAMS OF HARMFUL
CHEMICALS AVOIDED FROM
UTILIZATION OR RELEASE

28

NATIONAL COALITIONS AND
NETWORKS ON CHEMICALS
AND WASTE MANAGEMENT
ESTABLISHED OR STRENGTHENED

25

MERCURY
MANAGEMENT
PROJECTS
COMPLETED



SPOTLIGHT ON MOROCCO

In **Morocco**, a demonstration project completed by the Dar Si Hmad Association for Development, Education and Culture (*Association Dar Si Hmad pour le Développement, l'Éducation et la Culture*) used biological pest control methods rather than harmful chemicals to fight against the cactus pest (*Dactylopius opuntiae*). The pest had destroyed large areas of cactus, affecting the livelihoods of thousands of farmers. Prior to biological methods, the chemical used to treat the pest was proven to be ineffective against the insects and extremely harmful to the environment. The use of pesticides seriously affected the bee colonies and populations of other pollinating insects. While the country banned the use of the pesticide in August 2021, the project proposed alternative solutions that were more effective and less harmful. The initial phase of the project consisted of supporting the development of two alternative solutions: producing biopesticides based on natural extracts of invasive plants (*Ricinus Communis* and *Nicotiana Glauca*) and breeding natural predators (*Cryptolaemus Montrouzieri*) against the pest. These solutions were first developed in the laboratories of the National Agricultural Research Institute and thereafter put to the test on pilot farms. The outcomes were very positive, confirming the effectiveness of these treatments against *Dactylopius opuntiae*. The second phase of the project was implemented by extending the experimentation of the treatments to other farms in the region, raising awareness, and instructing farmers on these novel solutions. In the long term, the project is expected to enable preservation of at least 500 hectares of cactus in the region to fight against erosion, maintain local incomes, and prevent the use of 250 kilograms of harmful pesticides each year.



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

SGP provides support to enhance and strengthen the capacity of communities and civil society organizations to address global environmental challenges. Community-level capacity development activities has been supported under OP5, OP6 and OP7, in alignment with the GEF focal area strategies.

RESULTS

73

PROJECTS COMPLETED
THIS YEAR

16,882

PEOPLE WHOSE
CAPACITIES WERE IMPROVED

1,053

CSOs WHOSE CAPACITIES
WERE DEVELOPED OR IMPROVED

1,349

CBOs WHOSE CAPACITIES WERE
DEVELOPED OR IMPROVED

Spotlight on Kenya

In **Kenya**, a national CSO called Nature Kenya has implemented a project supported by SGP that enhanced the capacity of SGP grantees to effectively deliver projects toward the conservation of the Mijikenda Kaya Forests landscapes in Kilifi and Kwale Counties through training and on-site group-focused workshops. To understand the capacity gaps, Nature Kenya conducted baseline assessments of all the SGP grantees in Mijikenda Kaya Forests, Kilifi, and Kwale Counties, identified training needs, and produced a training manual and notes. Sixteen beneficiary organizations (a total of 52 trainees) received organizational capacity development training over the course of a five-day residential training session. Under the supervision of Nature Kenya, the 52 trainees then instructed 95 persons from 10 additional grantee organizations over 10 on-site training sessions.

Nine organizations were trained on the development of strategic plans. Consequently, eight strategic plans were developed. Chairpersons and treasurers of the beneficiary organizations were trained on financial management. It was noted that most organizations found it difficult to develop and apply performance indicators, especially for conservation projects. As a result, 10 scorecards were developed as monitoring tools and customized for each beneficiary organization. The scorecards were used to monitor project activities and assess the sustainability efforts of the organizations. In addition, the project proposed to provide specific platforms for communities to share their experiences, engage in critical reflection, and analyze various internal and external factors influencing



their performance. The results of the analysis would be helpful to policymakers, including the types of institutional frameworks that could promote effective environmental conservation at the local, national, and international levels.



CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



1 NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

5 GENDER EQUALITY

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

13 CLIMATE ACTION

15 LIFE ON LAND



Grantmakers plus & cross-cutting approaches

Social inclusion

During the reporting period, SGP continued to undertake targeted efforts to support greater social inclusion of marginalized groups, including women, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities.



35% PROJECTS WERE LED BY WOMEN OR WOMEN'S GROUPS



20% PROJECTS INVOLVED INDIGENOUS PEOPLES



86% COUNTRIES WITH A GENDER FOCAL POINT ON THE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEES



45% COUNTRIES WITH AN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FOCAL POINT ON THE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE



79% PROJECTS INCLUDING GENDER CONSIDERATIONS



694 INDIGENOUS LEADERS WITH STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES



113 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES



265 YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES



SGP Bhutan

In **Bhutan**, a the CSO Respect Educate Nurture Empower Women (RENEW) completed a project that employed floriculture to improve biodiversity and the livelihoods of disadvantaged women and girls in the Gawaling Happy Home shelter. Female leaders, including the heads of RENEW, the National Biodiversity Center, and the Gawaling Happy Home designed a women-led project. Since this was the first project of its kind, it introduced the harvesting of flowers that are known for their popularity, durability, and low maintenance. During the project, two poly-tunnel houses were built to grow and nurture the flowers. Necessary floriculture accessories were procured from the market. More than 100 people, mostly consisting of local women and girls, including economic emigrants who had to return to Bhutan amid the COVID-19 pandemic, received basic floriculture training on plant propagation and nursery management. The National Biodiversity Centre provided training to an additional 60 persons. Awareness sessions were conducted on biodiversity conservation, plant cleanliness, nursery management, landscaping and floriculture. In addition, a manual on basic floriculture was developed by the Gawaling Happy Home in partnership with the National Biodiversity Centre. The project assessed, identified, and secured markets for the plants grown at the nurseries. This included marketing and advertising the plants for sale, establishing sale outlets along the Thimphu-Phuntsholing highway, exploring bulk marketing for landscaping in high-end hotels and private residences, and attending national events and annual flower exhibitions. As a result, from 2020 to 2021, the Gawaling Happy Home sold flowers for a total of 250,000 Bhutanese ngultrum (around USD 3,159). The revenue generated went toward supporting the victims of domestic violence. In addition, three female trainees launched their own flower businesses in Thimphu, employing a total of 16 people. Through physical activity, skill acquisition, and social interaction, the floriculture activities assisted the women and girls in overcoming depression.



SGP Antigua and Barbuda

In **Antigua and Barbuda**, the project entitled “Ocean Love, No Plastic No Waste” was implemented by the West Indies Sail Heritage Foundation, teaching youth to sail while educating them about the importance of conserving the marine environment. Sailing excursions were set up during which children visited nearby beaches and collected plastic waste. In partnership with the leading plastic collection and recycling plant on the island, the foundation collected plastic waste and bottle caps for the plant for reprocessing. With help of the children, the project upcycled the bottle caps to make useful items such as flowerpots, bowls, key chains, and combs with child-friendly tools specifically built for this project. The products were then sold to support the activities under the project. In addition, the project established a partnership with Contours Kids, a company conducting child-focused, environmentally based tours. The partnership allowed children doing camps with Contours Kids to benefit from the sailing excursions, outdoor hikes, and coastal clean-up activities. At the end of the project, the foundation acquired some manta nets,



SGP Ukraine

which are designed to collect samples from the top few centimetres of the water, and so named due to their appearance. The children used the nets to monitor organisms and plastics on the sea surface, thus expanding the scope of the project to conserve important marine habitats.

In **Ukraine**, the organization called Youth and Community implemented a project whose major beneficiaries were women with disabilities. A 5-hectare experimental plot was established at Polissya National University to study organic methods to grow medicinal plants and post-harvest processing, with a focus on inclusive green economy and conflict recovery. A nursery was developed, and 230 households benefited from the project. Seventy-eight women with disabilities were provided with seeds to grow the medicinal plants, and a team of local experts were trained and established into self-help groups to provide support for the women. Overall, more than 500 project participants raised their awareness on green recovery, including internally displaced people. The project results and methodology were widely disseminated by the Federation of Organic Movement of Ukraine. The involvement of persons with disabilities in the activities was presented at an international scientific conference, along with a scientific article.



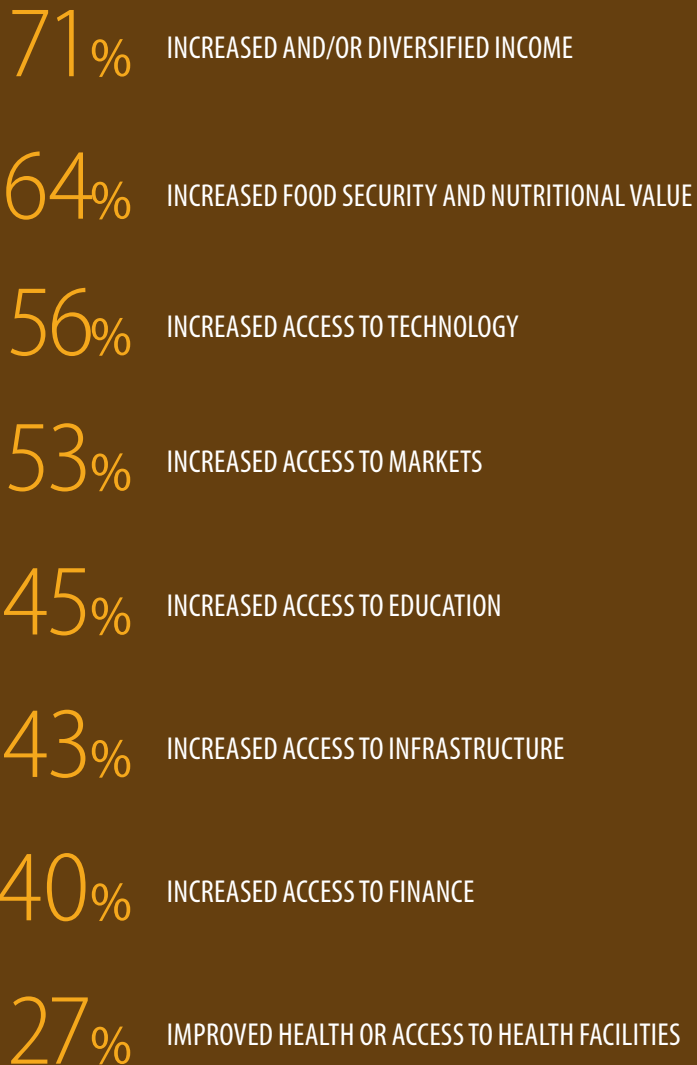
SGP Mauritius

In **Mauritius**, the organization Foodwise completed a project under SGP's Innovation Programme on women-led enterprises, to reduce and address the impact of food waste in Mauritius through an innovative circular business model. It collected surplus food from more than 200 food companies and redistributed it to 120 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), benefitting 14,000 women, 12,000 men, 25,000 children, including 20,000 youths. Methods to track and monitor food waste and transport routes were developed namely: a web-based platform to track food donations; a method to measure the cost of meals; calculations for the mitigation of GHG emissions; and a transport-routing platform called Fleeti. A truck and equipment were acquired to transport and store food more efficiently. The monitoring systems enabled 268 companies to prevent 703,098 kilogrammes of food waste and generated 5,809 donations. As a result, the process built the capacity of 1,240 women, 1,510 men, 170 children, including 320 youths on food wastage, food handling safety, and nutrition. A juice bar was also set up to upcycle waste fruits and vegetables generating USD 20,000, and a micro-donation programme was set up with a hotel group, generating USD 18,130 in profit.



Livelihoods and sustainability

Improving livelihoods is a core strategy of SGP's approach in addressing global environmental issues. It creates an incentive for improved environmental management and reduces pressure on natural resources. The following represents the proportion of projects that used strategies to improve livelihoods:





Broader adoption

Scaling up and replication

SGP encourages replication and scaling up of good results and measures that have a strong impact, including influencing of relevant policies at the national, regional, and global levels.

159 PROJECTS REPLICATED OR SCALED UP

129 PROJECTS INFLUENCED POLICY THROUGH THEIR ACTIVITIES

THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTS THE PROPORTION OF PROJECTS AND APPROACHES FOR BROADER ADOPTION



64% CONNECTED GRANTEEES WITH NGOs/INGOs



66% PROMOTED PEER-TO-PEER EXCHANGES



61% CONNECTED GRANTEEES WITH GOVERNMENT SERVICES



65% STRENGTHENED GRANTEE NETWORKS



56% CONNECTED GRANTEEES WITH THE ACADEMIA OR RESEARCH CENTERS



64% ORGANIZED TRAINING WITHIN PROJECT GRANTS ON SPECIFIC TECHNICAL ISSUES



46% CONNECTED GRANTEEES WITH PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES



56% ORGANIZED TRAINING FOR SGP GRANTEEES ON DIFFERENT SUBJECTS TO IMPROVE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION



45% CONNECTED GRANTEEES WITH DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES/PRACTITIONERS



SGP Armenia

177

NUMBER OF POLICY
DIALOGUE PLATFORMS
INITIATED AND CSO AND/OR CBO
NETWORKS STRENGTHENED
TO MANAGE SUCH DIALOGUES

96

NUMBER OF SOUTH-SOUTH
EXCHANGES THAT SUPPORTED
CAPACITY TRANSFER ON
NEW COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS
BETWEEN COMMUNITIES,
CSOS AND OTHER PARTNERS
ACROSS COUNTRIES

Below are some examples of scaling up or policy influence achieved by the projects supported by SGP, and completed during this reporting year.



SGP Morocco

In **Armenia**, a strategic project conducted by the organization *FERTI* aimed to enhance the employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for students and young practitioners through the development of a learning platform on low-carbon technologies. Through the project, six Low Carbon Energy Education Centers were established in four regions, equipped with materials and devices for theoretical and practical knowledge. Trainers from a local technical college were selected and instructed to deliver career development and capacity building in the Centers. By applying the principle of learning-by-doing, the project supported 13 community micro-projects proposed by the students on the use of low carbon technology. This approach equipped them with knowledge of how to formulate project proposals with necessary calculations, hold active meetings with private sectors and beneficiary institutions, and participate in actual assembling of the systems. Every year, each Center provided training to 15-25 young practitioners and consultation to 150-200 students and unemployed youths on the use of renewable energy sources (RES) and energy-efficient technologies. As a result of the project, the specialization "Installation, Repair, and Maintenance of Renewable Energy Power Stations/Energy Sites" has been officially approved by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports of Armenia. Moreover, at the request of the Ministry, a textbook on RES use for colleges was developed and published by the project, which is now officially part of the curricula for relevant specializations.

In **Morocco**, a demonstration project completed by the organization Living Planet Morocco contributed to the management and conservation of natural resources of the Atlas Cedar Biosphere Reserve (*Réserve de biosphère des Cèdres de l'Atlas*, or RBCA). The directors and representatives of the national parks of Ifrane, Khénifra, and Haut-Atlas Oriental as well as the Regional Directorate of Water and Forests of the Middle Atlas participated



SGP Mexico

in the initial activities of the project, committing to manage the reserve in an integrated and sustainable manner. Since its launch in July 2021, the project enhanced coordination among various stakeholders involved with the management and utilization of natural resources in the Reserve. The adaption of a holistic conservation approach proposed by the project on a landscape scale, forest restoration, and livelihood activities improved 1,100 hectares of land and benefitted more than 2,000 households. Recently, the project established a partnership with WWF Belgium which contributes to further conservation of the RBCA landscape.

In **Mexico**, the Peninsular Alliance for Community Tourism was established in Yucatán, Quintana Roo, and Campeche, as part of a project completed by the organization Community Alternative Tourism (*Turismo Alternativo Comunitario*), which brought together 24 community-based tourism groups to collaborate on the impact of tourism policies, improve marketing strategies, and define tourism priorities in the area. Working as an alliance

permitted the 24 groups to develop a peer-to-peer certification, to assure biosafety and hygiene measures adapted the rural context. The certification named "Travel safe and supportive, travel community tourism" was recognized by the local governments. A brochure was developed with information about the Alliance and its network. A marketing plan and web page were developed, 21 youth were trained and certified as nature guides, analysis of tourism trends was conducted via two workshops, and a survey tool for visitors was designed. The Alliance also developed a recovery plan from the COVID-19 pandemic and the tropical hurricanes Amanda and Cristóbal. This included the development of health protocols combined with a collective certification process among peers. As a result of the meetings with authorities, the Alliance was widely recognized through local press bulletins. The concept of community tourism has been mainstreamed among wide range of stakeholders, including NGOs and government agencies.

SGP innovation programmes

Introduced in OP6, Innovation Programmes help: achieve targeted results and larger impact; foster learning and knowledge sharing among participating countries; and promote partnership and leverage resources on emerging thematic issues related to the SGP Strategic Initiatives. During the reporting period, SGP innovation programmes were implemented in 50 countries.

The following SGP Innovation Programmes were launched and implemented globally in close relation to relevant GEF and other partner programmes and projects: Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining and Mercury Management; Upscaling Women-led Enterprise; Persons with Disabilities and Responsive Development; Indigenous Peoples' Access to Energy; Youth and Climate Change; Big Cats Conservation; and SGP-SOS Sahel Strategic Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land and Agriculture Management in the Drylands.

Knowledge and communications



2,333 FACT SHEETS, BROCHURES, CASE STUDIES, PUBLICATIONS AND VIDEOS DEVELOPED



2,513 SGP MENTIONS IN THE MEDIA



1,579 TRAININGS CONDUCTED



185 HOW-TO TOOLKITS DEVELOPED



39 AWARD WINNING PROJECTS

Monitoring and evaluation



1,560 PROJECTS (70% OF THE ACTIVE PORTFOLIO) WERE VISITED TO TRACK PROGRESS



ANNUAL MONITORING REPORTS PRODUCED FOR PARTNER REQUIREMENTS



SGP Response to COVID-19



The COVID-19 epidemic is a multidimensional crisis affecting health, economic and social aspects, and the response requires holistic approach by addressing these various dimensions, particularly environmental issues. Local communities and Indigenous Peoples around the world have responded to the effects of the pandemic in resilient and innovative ways to protect their communities and support one another.

SGP focused on the recovery by addressing the root causes of vulnerability and enhancing community resilience, in line with the SGP Country Programme Strategy (OP7) and government priorities aimed at contributing to building forward better. In particular, SGP has reached out to local communities to assess the situation and provided necessary support, including sharing reliable information on COVID-19, bringing forward community voices for policy development and planning, and undertaking concrete activities to address pandemic impacts.



SGP Ghana

EXAMPLES OF COVID-19 RESPONSE

In **Ghana**, a project completed by the Ayorga Women Groundnut Producers Association was adapted to support income generation activities and small entrepreneurship development associated with the sustainable use of natural resources to deal with the economic impact of the pandemic. The increasing depletion of natural resources affected the cultivation of groundnuts and other food crops in the traditional area. Two groups, each with 20 members, were formed and introduced to integrated climate-smart groundnut cultivation. They were trained in basic management on conflict resolutions, soil and water conservation, composting, and pesticide preparation. A three-day workshop was organized for 50 women groups in the Mo Traditional Area on climate-smart groundnut cultivation. New equipment for the processing of groundnut oil was acquired. In collaboration with the Traditional Council, a businesswomen forum was organized, with the involvement of 50 women's groups engaged in integrated groundnut business. They were connected to the national chamber of commerce to explore the possibility of expanding their business. The project also invited professionals to organize weekly education programmes over the radio, and helped 10 communities become aware of the effects of climate change on agriculture. In addition, seven women's groups were introduced to the village savings and credit schemes, which enabled them to raise capital for the expansion of their farms.



SGP Colombia

In **Colombia**, the objective of a project implemented by the organization Fundación Travolution Colombia was to provide technical services to strengthen the capacities of six organizations that provide community tourism services. It focused on capacity building and creation and commercialization of tourist products. All the methodologies developed were applied in a respectful and joint manner with each of the organizations, attending to the territorial needs, and positioning of the communities. Food safety training was provided to the community organizations, which not only addressed aspects of biosecurity but also established permaculture guidelines to ensure that the products offered to tourists were from the region, and available in times of crisis. The project also developed tourist products based on the new demands, requirements, and opportunities of post-pandemic tourism.

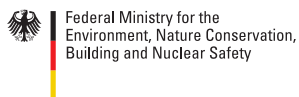
Partnerships

SGP fosters partnerships across a wide spectrum of stakeholders to broaden the scope of the programme and to scale up and replicate successful SGP initiatives. The finance mobilized through these partnerships serve as co-finance to the GEF resources. The synergies created by the collaborations are critical to the wider impact of grant activities.

During the reporting period, a number of new partnerships have been established and matured with significant additional resources for which the SGP serves as the delivery platform, including the Fourth Phase of the Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS) funded by the Japan Ministry of Environment, and the Third Phase of the Community-Based Adaptation Programme with a focus on Pacific and Southeast Asia regions, funded by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Ongoing global partnerships continued to progress, including the following:

- Second Phase of the Global Support Initiative for Indigenous Peoples and Community-Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCA-GSI)
- MAVA Foundation on conversation efforts in the Western Africa and Mediterranean regions
- Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) and the Micronesia Conservation, with funding from the Government of Italy, on highlighting island best practices in SIDS
- SOS-SAHEL on promoting agro-ecology in the Sahel region
- Microsoft's Project 15 in applying digital solutions to community-based initiatives
- FAO- Mountain Partnership on enhancing agri-food value chains to increase resilience of mountain communities

Supported by:



based on a decision of the German Bundestag



The Small Grants Programme (SGP) is a corporate programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Established in 1992, SGP is currently active in 127 countries and promotes community-based innovation, capacity development, and empowerment through sustainable development projects of local civil society organizations with special consideration for Indigenous Peoples, women, and youth. SGP has supported over 27,000 community-based projects on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable land management, conservation of international waters, and chemicals and waste management, while generating sustainable livelihoods.



The Global Environment Facility was established on the eve of the Rio Earth Summit to tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems. Since then, it has provided more than \$21.7 billion in grants and mobilized an additional \$119 billion in co-financing for more than 5,000 projects and programs. The GEF is the largest multilateral trust fund focused on enabling developing countries to invest in nature, and supports the implementation of major international environmental conventions including on biodiversity, climate change, chemicals, and desertification. It brings together 184 member governments in addition to civil society, international organizations, and private sector partners. Through its Small Grants Programme, the GEF has provided support to more than 27,000 civil society and community initiatives in 135 countries.



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