SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME RESULTS REPORT (FY 2017-2022)

BELARUS

COUNTRY REPORT CARD
FY 2017 - 2022

Country Programme Name	Belarus		
Year Started	2006		
Portfolio Profile	**GEF**	**Non-GEF**	**Total**
Number of projects	173	4	**177**
Grant amount committed	6,796,439	196,686	**6,993,125**
Project level co-financing in cash	7,655,284	12,835	**7,668,119**
Project level co-financing in kind	1,524,032	6,955	**1,530,987**
Total co-financing *			**9,395,792**

Source: SGP database as of July 2022
*** Total co-financing = Total project level co-financing (in cash and in kind) + Non-GEF grant amount committed**

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	Total Value 2016 - 2022
Focal Area Distribution (by completed projects)							
Biodiversity	-	-	**2**	**1**	-	-	**3**
Climate Change	**1**	**1**	**1**	**13**	**3**	**3**	**22**
Land Degradation	-	**1**	**2**	-	-	**1**	**4**
Sustainable Forest Management	-	**1**	-	**1**	-	**1**	**3**
Capacity Development	-	**2**	-	-	-	-	**2**
Chemicals and Waste	**1**	**2**	**4**	**1**	-	-	**8**
Total Projects Completed	**2**	**7**	**9**	**16**	**3**	**5**	**42**

Source: Reporting by Country Programme as part of Annual Monitoring Process (2016-2022)

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	Total Value 2016 - 2022 **
** Kindly note figures in column "Total Value 2016-2022" have undergone comprehensive quality assurance that supports aggregation of results over time. This includes removal of duplicative data over time and/or inclusion of more results based on verification by SGP country teams.							
PROGRESS TOWARDS FOCAL AREA OBJECTIVES							
Biodiversity							
Number of biodiversity projects completed	-	-	2	1	-	-	3
Number of Protected Areas (PAs) positively influenced	-	13	1	-	-	-	13
Hectares of PAs	-	18,422	14,799	-	-	-	18,422
Number of biodiversity based products sustainably produced	-	1	2	-	-	-	3
Number of significant species conserved	-	7	15	1	-	-	22
Number of target landscapes/seascapes under improved community conservation and sustainable use	-	2	1	-	-	-	2
Hectares of target landscapes/seascapes under improved community conservation and sustainable use	-	5	14,799	-	-	-	14,804
Climate Change							
Number of climate change projects completed	1	1	1	13	3	3	22
Did the country programme address community-level barriers to deployment of low-GHG technologies? (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	5
Hectares of forests and non-forest lands with restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks initiated through completed projects	-	3,000	-	204	5	-	3,209
Number of typologies of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful	1	-	-	2	1	3	7

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	Total Value 2016 - 2022 **
demonstrations or scaling up and replication							
Number of communities achieving energy access with locally adapted community solutions, with co-benefits estimated and valued	1	1	12	40	12	149	215
Number of households achieving energy access co-benefits (ecosystem effects, income, health and others)	1	271	500	18,013	76	320	19,181
Breakdown of projects							
Low carbon technology and renewable energy projects	1	1	-	1	3	3	9
Energy efficiency solutions projects	1	1	1	9	3	3	18
Sustainable transport projects	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks projects	1	1	-	1	-	-	3
Land Degradation							
Number of land degradation projects completed	-	1	2	-	-	1	4
Number of community members with improved actions and practices that reduce negative impacts on land uses	-	107	1,466	-	-	259	1,832
Number of community members demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices	-	500	1,466	-	-	40	2,006
Hectares of land brought under improved management practices	-	51	15	-	-	7	73
Number of farmer leaders involved in successful demonstrations of agro-ecological practices	-	15	38	-	-	6	59
Number of farmer organizations, groups or networks disseminating climate-smart agroecological practices	-	167	26	-	-	106	299

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	Total Value 2016 - 2022 **
Sustainable Forest Management							
Number of sustainable forest management projects completed	-	1	-	1	-	1	3
Hectares restored through improved forest management practices	-	169,300	-	160	-	102,407	271,867
International Waters							
Land based pollution reduced (tons)	-	9	-	-	-	-	9
Hectares of river and lake basins converted	-	31,505	-	-	-	-	31,505
Chemicals and Waste							
Number of chemicals and waste projects completed	1	2	4	1	-	-	8
Pesticides properly disposed (kg)	-	7,300	-	-	-	-	7,300
Solid Waste avoided from open burning (kg)	130,000	-	-	-	-	-	130,000
Harmful chemicals avoided from utilization or release (kg)	-	14,540	18,341	13,880	-	-	46,761
Number of national coalitions and networks on chemicals and waste management established or strengthened	1	5	4	5	-	-	15
Community-Based Tools/Approaches Deployed as Part of the Portfolio							
Sustainable pesticide management	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	1
Solid waste management (reduce, reuse, and recycle)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	2
Awareness raising and capacity development	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	1
Capacity Development							
Number of capacity development projects completed	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Number of civil society organizations with strengthened capacities	-	11	-	-	-	30	41

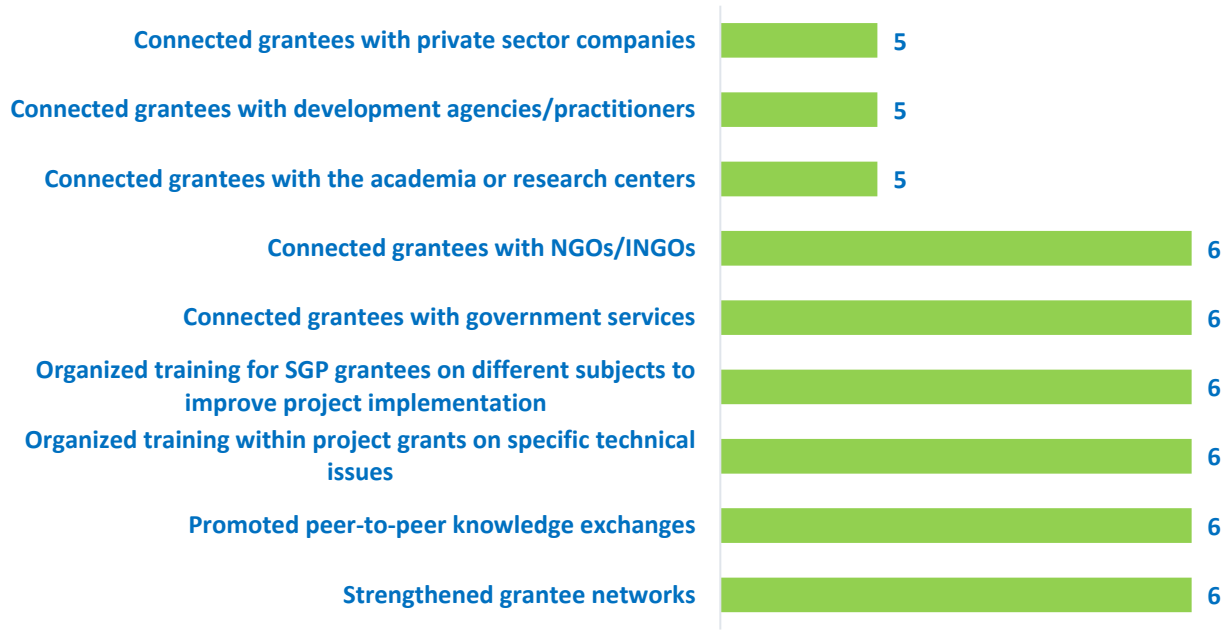
	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	Total Value 2016 - 2022 **
Number of community based organizations with strengthened capacities	-	12	-	-	-	-	12
Number of people with improved capacities to address global environmental issues at the community level	-	1,600	-	-	-	196	1,796
GRANTMAKER PLUS							
CSO-Government Dialogue							
Number of CSO-government dialogues supported	1	1	2	2	3	1	10
Number of CSO/CBO representatives involved in the dialogues	102	90	11	46	78	67	394
South-South Exchange							
Number of South-South exchanges supported	1	-	-	2	-	1	4
Gender							
Number of gender responsive completed projects	2	7	9	16	3	5	42
Number of completed projects led by women	1	1	4	7	2	5	20
Programme Management: NSC gender focal point (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	6
Youth							
Number of completed projects that included youth	2	7	5	14	-	4	32
Number of youth organizations	-	7	8	15	-	4	34
Programme Management: NSC youth focal point (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	6
Persons with Disability							
Number of disabled persons organizations	-	5	-	4	1	5	15

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	Total Value 2016 - 2022 **
BROADER ADOPTION (Scaling up, Replication, Policy Influence, Improving Livelihoods)							
Projects replicated or scaled up	1	5	2	5	3	4	20
Projects with policy influence	-	1	1	2	-	2	6
Projects improving livelihoods of communities	2	6	8	15	3	5	39
PROGRAMME EFFECTIVENESS							
Peer-to-peer exchanges conducted	13	5	3	8	10	23	62
Community-level trainings conducted	6	19	4	25	23	25	102
Number of projects monitored through field visits	-	8	29	-	3	6	46
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT							
National Steering Committee							
Number of NSC meetings occurred during the reporting period	5	3	3	5	2	3	21
Average number of NSC members that participated in each NSC meeting	8	7	5	6	7	7	7

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF KEY RESULTS

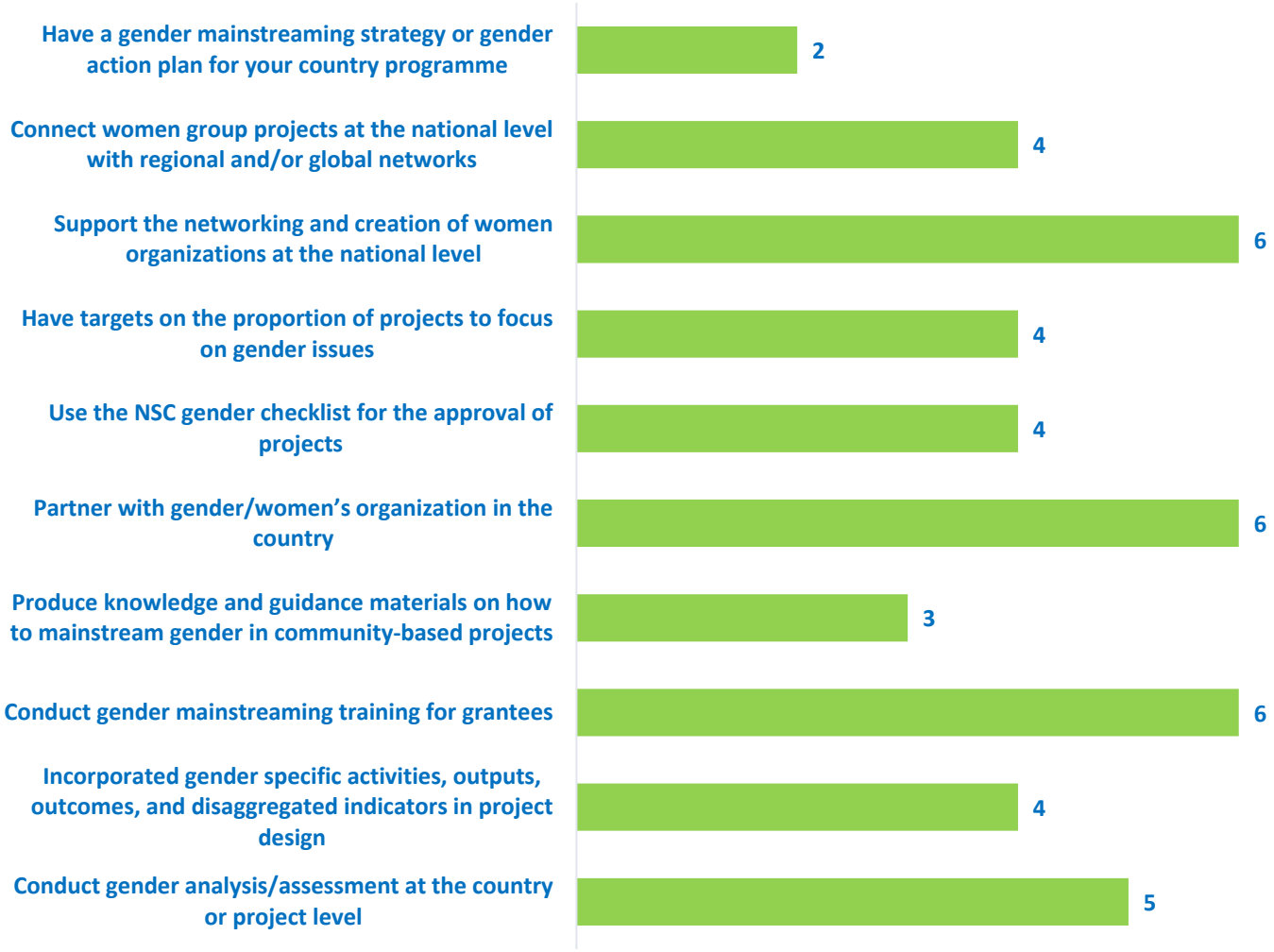
Interpreting the Green Bars in Graphs: The presence of green bars indicates the number of years that the country programme has achieved specific results. If a green bar is absent, it signifies that while the associated result is not observed in the country programme, it is still evident in the overall aggregated SGP portfolio.

Number of Years Country Programme Deployed Capacity Development Strategies
(Over 6-year reporting period from 2017-2022)



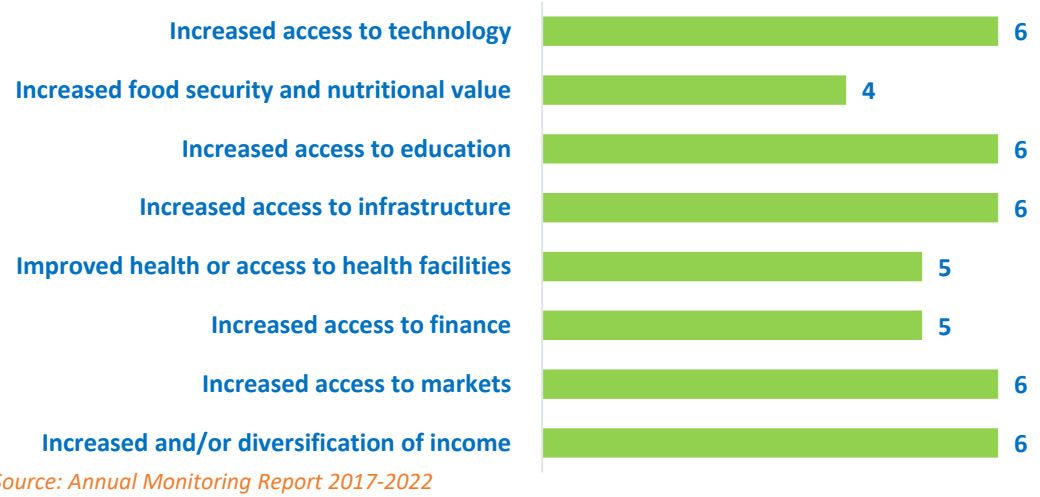
Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2022

Number of Years Country Programme Deployed Gender Mainsreaming Strategies
(Over 6-year reporting period from 2017-2022)



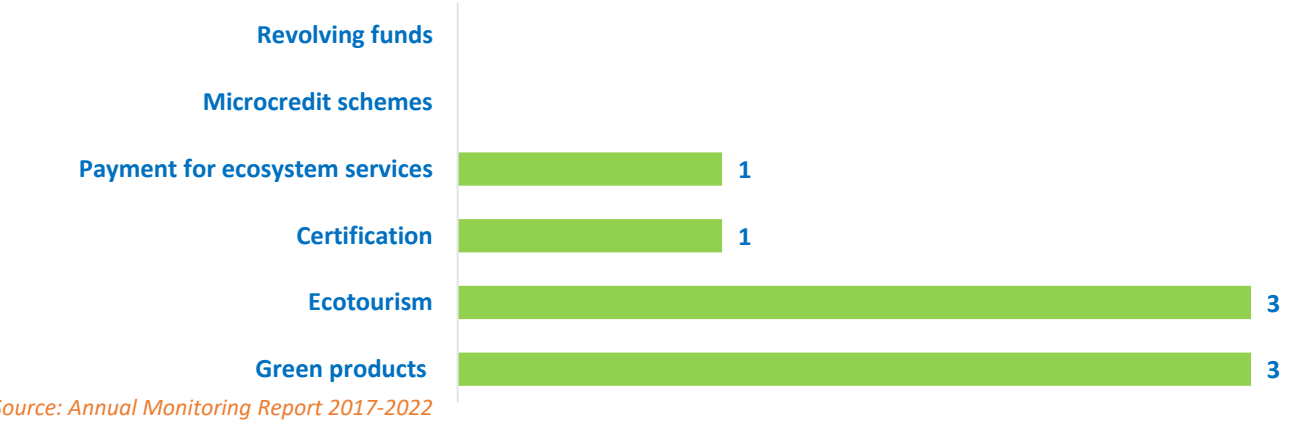
Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2022

Number of Years Country Programme Deployed Strategies to Improve Community Livelihoods and Quality of Life
(Over 6-year reporting period from 2017-2022)



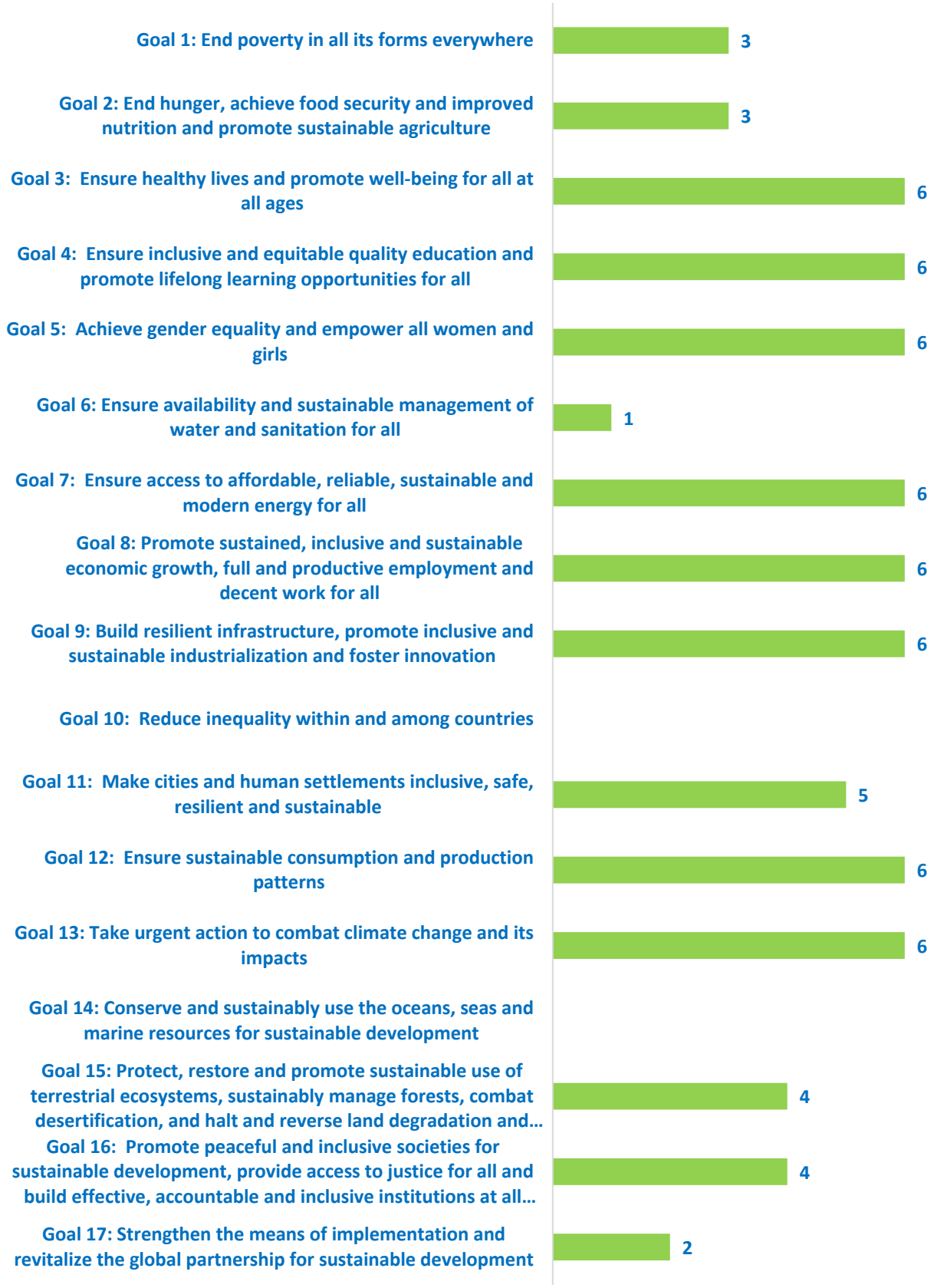
Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2022

Number of Years Country Programme Deployed Market-based and Financial Mechanisms to Improve Community Livelihoods
(Over 6-year reporting period from 2017-2022)



Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2022

Number of Years Country Programme Addressed Sustainable Development Goals
(Over 6-year reporting period from 2017-2022)



Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2022

EXAMPLES OF PROJECT RESULTS

Sustainable Forest Management

In **Belarus**, the project *"Combating land degradation and biodiversity conservation in Klimovichi and Krichev regions of Mahileu oblast by forest fires preventing"* was implemented in the geographic areas covered by 169,300 ha of forests, with partnerships between government (Ministries of Environment and Forestry), local forestries, regional authorities, local communities and environmental NGOs, all of which aimed at conservation and sustainable use of environment. The project achieved through effective and efficient partnerships, enhancing the technical capacities of grantees (team with good expertise in management of environmental projects) and technical capacities of beneficiary partners (local forestries provided the relevant co-financing and technical support for project's implementation). Also, it was implemented through effective program design and the landscape approach, scaling and replication of the community-based results. Local population including women, youth and people with disabilities were involved. The project contributed to the implementation of the Republic of Belarus provisions of the UN Conventions on Biological Diversity, Combating Desertification and Land Degradation, as well as the implementation of the framework Convention on Climate Change. As a result, the number of forest fires in the project's region was reduced by 29%, compared to the previous period, due to use of new mobile systems for forest fires elimination. The possible damage from fires for more than 3,000 hectares of forest lands was prevented. More than 600 local people's awareness of forest fires was raised to prevent future forest fires, help in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The demonstration of the project was highly accepted by stakeholders, and it is planned to be replicated in other regions of Belarus. ***(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2017-2018)***

Chemical and waste Management

In **Belarus**, SGP supported grantee, World around Us, an Environmental Consultancy and Awareness Institution, to eliminate the hazardous chemical waste containing persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in Southeastern parts of Mahilieu Region. The project aimed to remove and safely dispose at least 13 tons of hazardous chemical waste held by several food and energy industries, raise public awareness about POPs waste detoxification and expand the learnings from the project to other regions of the country. The project was successful in environmentally safe disposal of 13,880 kgs waste containing persistent organic pollutants (POPs) from Poly Chloride Biphenyls (PCB) containing equipment from the territory of Borisov district of Minsk region, Mozyr district of Gomel region, Bobruisk district of Mahileu region outside Belarus. The project allowed the stakeholders to develop and test an effective mechanism for the collection, preparation, transboundary transportation and destruction of PCB waste, therefore strengthened the capacity of Belarus in implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The success of the project rests on the effective partnership of the grantee with local authorities, private and state organizations, environmental NGOs and other stakeholders. The collection and packaging of PCB waste was carried out by five organizations, which owned PCB-containing wastes (Borisovsky Bread Products Plant, Minskoblkhleboprodukt OJSC, Borisov Meat Processing Plant OJSC No. 1, Mozyr Electric Networks branch of Gomelenergo RUE and Bobruisk Electric Networks "RUE" Mogilevenergo) with support from local authorities. The waste was disposed at one of the biggest hazardous waste disposal facilities in EU – TREDI Saint Vulba site in France. ***(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2019-2020)***

Capacity Development

In **Belarus**, an SGP project organized a workshop with the objective to develop micro-regions and increase the capacity of local communities to implement local initiatives. Through the project, more than 23 local initiatives of 11 micro-regions were supported with the participation of over 1,000 people. These included environmental activities in natural ecosystems, for instance, eliminating unauthorized landfills, clearing coastlines, informing the population about proper classification of garbage and safe disposal of batteries. As a result, two new EU projects were developed and implemented: an eco-business model for local and regional economic growth and a network to improve employment in rural areas of the Mahileu oblast. ***(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2017-2018)***

CSO-Government Dialogue

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 ***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 ***(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2016-2017)***

In **Belarus**, with assistance from SGP, the Regional Council to Support Local Initiatives in the Sphere of Sustainable Development was created in 2018 in the South-East Mogilev region, with the aim to strength the partnership between local CBOs/NGOs and central policy decision makers. This Regional Council consists of 18 persons including representatives from nine project districts of Mogilev oblast, two representatives of the Mogilev Regional Executive Committee, Chair of the Parliament Permanent Commission of the Republic of Belarus, NC GEF SGP Belarus, EU, NGOs/CBOs representatives, and independent experts. During the reporting period, three online dialogues took place between the members of the council to discuss the impact of Covid 19, political problems in the country and to discuss the strategy of the NGOs in this uncertain situation. These meetings emphasised the importance to strength organisations' capacity to implement existing projects and develop new ones despite the current challenges. Local project specialists, district authorities and NGOs also participated in two seminars on "Gender Equality as a Local Accelerator of Local Development" and "Egologization of Local Development - New Opportunities for Increasing Employment and Self-Employment" where they discussed the role of women in environmental protection. In addition, a second meeting between State authorities, CBOs/NGOs representatives and Regional Council represented a great opportunity to reassured and encourage many organisations to participate in OP7 projects despite the internal and external challenges currently faced by the country. ***(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2020-2021)***

In **Belarus**, five sessions were held in the project "The use of environmentally friendly alternative technologies on the territory of the Kostyukovichi district as a way to reduce carbon dioxide emissions" as part of a climate workshop. During these sessions, special attention was paid to the localization of SDG 5 "Gender equality", SDG 7 "Affordable and clean energy", and SDG 13 "Combating climate change". Ideas about energy saving in everyday life were also suggested. The climate workshop became an effective CSO-government dialogue platform involving representatives of local authorities, deputies, businesses, the regional mass – media, youth parliament members, initiatives leaders, public associations, educational institutions and organizations - partners of the project. One of the sessions on the topic "The contribution of the local community to the localization of SDG 13: Forest is a climate-regulating factor" was organized with the staff of the State Forest Institution Kostyukovichi Forestry. During an active discussion, the climate-regulating function of forests was well noted. Another session about "The contribution of the local community to the localization of SDG 13 - Combating climate change: climate change and water resources" was held with employees of the Kostyukovichi Water channel branch of the Mogilev Oblast. ***(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2021-2022)***

South-South Exchange

In November 2021, SGP Belarus in cooperation with SGP teams in **Ukraine** and **Moldova** organized a two-day seminar in a hybrid form, sharing experience in youth participation in climate change mitigation. Young representatives of the NGOs in Belarus were invited to visit the eco-center which was built within an SGP project. The GEF/UNDP SGP, together with a team of experts, representatives of NGOs, businesses, and the state authorities prepared a number of presentations on SGP projects dedicated to youth, as well as a video on this topic. After the completion of the online part of the event, a quiz was conducted among the young participants for SGP project ideas involving young people in activities to tackle climate change. In total, 12 new ideas were received, among which the most notable ones were "Development of an online platform for green volunteers throughout the country", "Mobile school camp for planting trees", and "Youth teach each other". A few days after the seminar, the participants created a common group on Facebook to exchange experiences and project results, as well as for subsequent interaction.

In the future, it is planned to hold such seminars twice a year and regularly organize travels to the participating countries to exchange experiences and create new project ideas. ***(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2021-2022)***

Social Inclusion – Gender

With support of SGP **Belarus**, the project "Elimination of waste containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the south-eastern region of Mahileu oblast" led by Ecology without Borders raised the awareness of 20,499 women about safe measures in tackling with POPs and other hazardous waste. As a result, women have improved knowledge and skills on these issues, and are working to improve the environment of the region to mitigate potential risks of POPs and negative impact on women's health. ***(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2018-2019).***

Social Inclusion – Youth

In **Belarus**, SGP supported grantee, BelBrand Association for Intellectual Property Protection, to establish 'EcoEnergetika' Center for Energy-Saving and Environmental Education of Youth. The project aimed at the development and implementation of an informational educational course for children and youth in the field of combating climate change and introducing them to energy-saving technologies. The project set up a permanent exhibition of innovative, informational, educational developments and technologies, to demonstrate the effects of anthropogenic impact on the climate, economic, social and environmental benefits of introducing energy-saving technologies in everyday life. The project facilitated the development of an interactive distance learning courses on the environmental awareness on the educational internet platform www.yaklass.by, which was successfully completed by more than 45,000 young people. In addition, the e-course was also inducted in more than 400 schools in Belarus. In the long term, the implementation of the project will contribute towards responsible young individuals who are aware of the opportunities to mitigate the impact on climate change with the help of energy-saving technologies and their benefits. ***(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2019-2020).***

In **Belarus**, SGP supported three grantees on three different projects aimed at inclusion and improvement in the conditions for People with disabilities. The grantee, Minsk Cycling Society, developed a cycling movement in Belarus. A workshop was held with the representatives of BELTIZ, the Belarusian society of visually impaired people, to discuss and design bicycles for blind and partially sighted people. It also developed recommendations to reduce the risk of accidents of cyclists and people with disabilities. Moreover, at several events in Minsk, tandem bicycles were organized for riding visually impaired people (with a cyclist with good eyesight in front). The grantee, Praletarskij Rural Council, implemented a project to reduce CO_2 emissions and provide improved living conditions for 50 lonely elderly and disabled persons by implementing energy-saving activities in the Pensioners' Temporary Stay House in the village of Praletarskaje of Kasciukovichy District, Mahiliou Region. The project repaired and renovated the 1,700 square meters of roof and 78 windows with energy efficient renovations that decreased heat losses from drafts and improved the air inside the building to ambient temperatures, thereby improving the living conditions of 50 elderly lonely and disable people in the nursing home. The grantee, Pukhavichy Krai, created necessary conditions and infrastructure for raising public awareness about climate change in Minsk Region, with special focus on children and youth with psychophysical disorders and their engagement in ecological educational activities. It established an environmental information center in Rudensk Auxiliary boarding school for theoretical and practical training of the students on mitigating climate change, its consequences and adapting to climate change. It also improved energy savings of the educational institution Rudensk Auxiliary boarding school. ***(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2019-2020).***

Social Inclusion – Persons with Disabilities

In **Belarus** the SGP supported *the Zimarodak Center* in a project that aimed that the reduction of greenhouse gas air emission by focusing on energy upgrades in this rehabilitation and health improving institution for people with disabilities. The insulation system of the building was upgraded with the use of Grandtech faced thermal panels, polyurethane foam and energy saving windows. Two gas condensing boilers with a capacity of 184kW were also purchased and installed; a power solar plant with a capacity of 6.2 kW was appointed and a heat pump with a capacity of 24 kW was secured. These improvements allowed the Zimarodak Center to provide access to the facilities all year around instead of opening only during the summer months as it was happening before the project implementation. Furthermore, the only motorized training kitchen in Belarus for disabled people was also installed giving the opportunity to people with musculoskeletal disorders and mental impairments to learn the skills of self-cooking. With this project, the grantee reported significant reduction in the operational costs of the center's facilities, and it is now able to use the funds saved to increase the number and quality of rehabilitation services provided for people with disabilities. ***(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2020-2021).***

Recovery from COVID-19

In **Belarus**, a project titled "Inclusive Green Economy" targeted 38 residents with physical and mental disabilities of the central and southern parts of the Bragin district of Gomel region. The project provides an opportunity for the residents to work in a social enterprise, as well as to develop production in their own plots. Allowing for the peculiarities of the immune system of these residents making them more vulnerable to infection, the project team postponed all significant joint activities to fall 2020 and used a distant e-learning platform instead. The project team, together with volunteers, initiated individual training on green farming through mobile phone and internet, while also assisting residents with accessing necessary products and medicines. The residents have also been provided with personal protective equipment and instructed about safety measures to prevent the spread of viruses. ***(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2019-2020)***

METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

All results are aggregated reflecting projects completed and are consistent with SGP results generated in past years.

With SGP's rolling modality, results reflect all ongoing operational phases during the indicated period. Please refer to the total projects completed on the first page for information in this regard.

The source of reported results is the annual monitoring process, which is part of the annual monitoring requirements for each country programme. Additionally, evaluative evidence sources have also been leveraged, if available for the country programme.

This results report benefits from extensive quality assurance. All information across all countries in the portfolio is harmonized, verified, and evidenced before being reported. Several layers of this quality assurance have been implemented in the generation of this report, and there are no result duplications across years. This point is important not only for the specific unit of measurement (i.e., indicator selected) but also for results aggregation across years in a given operational phase. Results reported across all countries have been treated uniformly to ensure overall standardization and methodological soundness.

Reported results include both direct and indirect global-environmental and socio-economic benefits. This is due to SGP's work in two key areas:

- **SGP works towards behavioral change at individual, organizational, and community levels.** Social determinants that shape human interaction with the environment play an important role, especially at the community level, as sustainability and the continuation of environmental gains often depend on them. These factors include positive shifts in knowledge, attitudes, practices, social and cultural norms, and conventions. Such interventions shape not only demand but also communication between community leaders and other influencers in promoting the adoption of environmentally friendly behaviors and practices. Often, SGP projects have ripple effects that go well beyond the direct scope of the project, emphasizing the importance of measuring indirect impact.
- **Encouraging Community Action for Environmental Change.** For many years, SGP has focused on promoting and supporting local community groups to bring about broader and sustainable environmental change. This approach is a key aspect of SGP's work and recognizes the power of motivated community groups to create significant impact and drive positive transformation. Community group action refers to informal gatherings of individuals and organizations in the community who share a common belief and purpose. It involves taking practical steps over time to address environmental and socioeconomic challenges and creating positive change. This grassroots-level approach relies on the active involvement and empowerment of the community, with the initial efforts acting as a catalyst for further mobilization. By encouraging self-governance and involving those most affected by the issues, community action can extend its influence to more people in the community, underscoring the importance of measuring indirect impact.