SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME RESULTS REPORT (FY 2017-2023)

AFGHANISTAN

COUNTRY REPORT CARD
FY 2017-2023

PORTFOLIO PROFILE SINCE INCEPTION			
Country Programme Name	Afghanistan		
Year Started	2013		
	GEF	**Non-GEF**	**Total**
Number of projects	110	7	**117**
Grant amount committed	4,506,625	250,000	**4,756,625**
Project level co-financing in cash	1,694,251	-	**1,694,251**
Project level co-financing in kind	3,869,490	263,032	**4,132,522**
Total co-financing *			**6,076,773**

Source: SGP database as of 2023
*** 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 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023
Focal Area Distribution (by completed projects)							
Biodiversity	**1**	**3**	**4**	**1**	**9**	**2**	**20**
Climate Change	**6**	**2**	**10**	**2**	**4**	**5**	**29**
Land Degradation	**-**	**2**	**5**	**-**	**4**	**1**	**12**
Capacity Development	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1**	**1**	**-**	**2**
Total Projects Completed	**7**	**7**	**19**	**4**	**18**	**8**	**63**

Source: Reporting by Country Programme as part of Annual Monitoring Process (2016-2023)

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
** Kindly note figures in column "Total Value 2016-2023" 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	1	3	4	1	9	2	20
Number of Protected Areas (PAs) positively influenced	1	2	3	1	3	1	11
Hectares of PAs	61,330	1,145,869	1,155,791	270,000	2,150,530	922,500	5,706,020
Number of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCAs) positively influenced	-	-	-	-	2	1	3
Hectares of ICCAs	-	-	-	-	2,089,200	922,500	3,011,700
Number of biodiversity-based products sustainably produced	10	46	-	-	-	-	56
Number of significant species conserved	-	24	10	-	9	1	44
Number of target landscapes/seascapes under improved community conservation and sustainable use	1	3	7	1	4	1	17
Hectares of target landscapes/seascapes under improved community conservation and sustainable use	61,330	1,146,469	1,155,831	270,000	-	922,500	3,556,130
Climate Change							
Number of climate change projects completed	6	2	10	2	4	5	29
Did the country programme address community-level barriers to deployment of low-GHG technologies? (yes/no)	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	5
Hectares of forests and non-forest lands with restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks initiated through completed projects	67	101	5	1	172	113	459

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
Number of typologies of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations or scaling up and replication	3	-	2	1	1	1	8
Number of households achieving energy access co-benefits (ecosystem effects, income, health and others)	606	-	95	120	500	120	1,441
Breakdown of projects							
Low carbon technology and renewable energy projects	3	-	9	2	1	1	16
Sustainable transport projects	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks projects	-	2	1	-	3	2	8
Land Degradation							
Number of land degradation projects completed	-	2	5	-	4	1	12
Number of community members with improved actions and practices that reduce negative impacts on land uses	-	-	1,010	-	2,100	350	3,460
Number of community members demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices	-	45,320	1,010	-	2,100	128	48,558
Hectares of land brought under improved management practices	-	100	205	-	48	25	378
Number of farmer leaders involved in successful demonstrations of agro-ecological practices	-	-	-	-	-	13	13
Number of farmer organizations, groups or networks disseminating climate-smart agroecological practices	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Capacity Development							
Number of capacity development projects completed	-	-	-	1	1	-	2

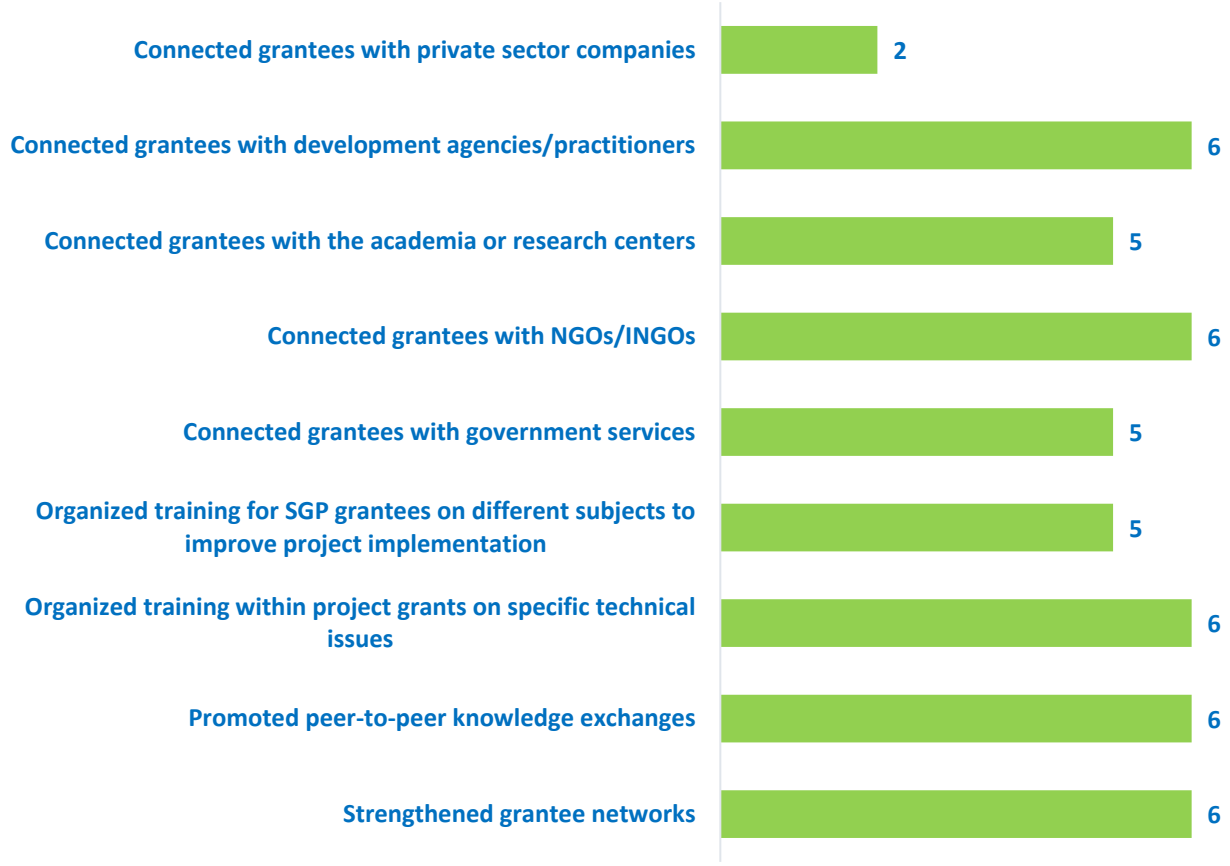
	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
GRANTMAKER PLUS							
CSO-Government Dialogue							
Number of CSO-government dialogues supported	10	1	8	4	-	-	23
Number of CSO/CBO representatives involved in the dialogues	39	20	200	100	-	-	359
South-South Exchange							
Number of South-South exchanges supported	-	2	-	1	-	-	3
Gender							
Number of gender responsive completed projects	7	7	19	4	18	8	63
Number of completed projects led by women	4	2	1	-	6	3	16
Programme Management: NSC gender focal point (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	5
Indigenous Peoples							
Number of completed projects that included indigenous peoples	-	-	1	-	4	5	10
Number of indigenous leaders with improved capacities	-	-	20	-	20	14	54
Programme Management: NSC IP focal point (yes/no)	-	Yes	-	-	-	-	1
Ways to encourage IP projects							
Proposals accepted in local languages (yes/no)	-	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	3
Youth							
Number of completed projects that included youth	1	4	4	2	4	1	16
Number of youth organizations	5	-	-	-	33	-	38
Programme Management: NSC youth focal point (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	5

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
Persons with Disability							
Number of disabled persons organizations	-	-	-	2	2	-	4
BROADER ADOPTION (Scaling up, Replication, Policy Influence, Improving Livelihoods)							
Projects replicated or scaled up	1	-	-	1	2	1	5
Projects with policy influence	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Projects improving livelihoods of communities	14	8	19	4	18	8	71
PROGRAMME EFFECTIVENESS							
Peer-to-peer exchanges conducted	288	2	10	35	10	4	349
Community-level trainings conducted	98	8	60	10	10	-	186
Number of projects monitored through field visits	37	19	20	11	20	11	118
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT							
National Steering Committee							
Number of NSC meetings occurred during the reporting period	1	-	3	2	2	-	8
Average number of NSC members that participated in each NSC meeting	9	-	8	9	7	-	8

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 7-year reporting period from 2017-2023)

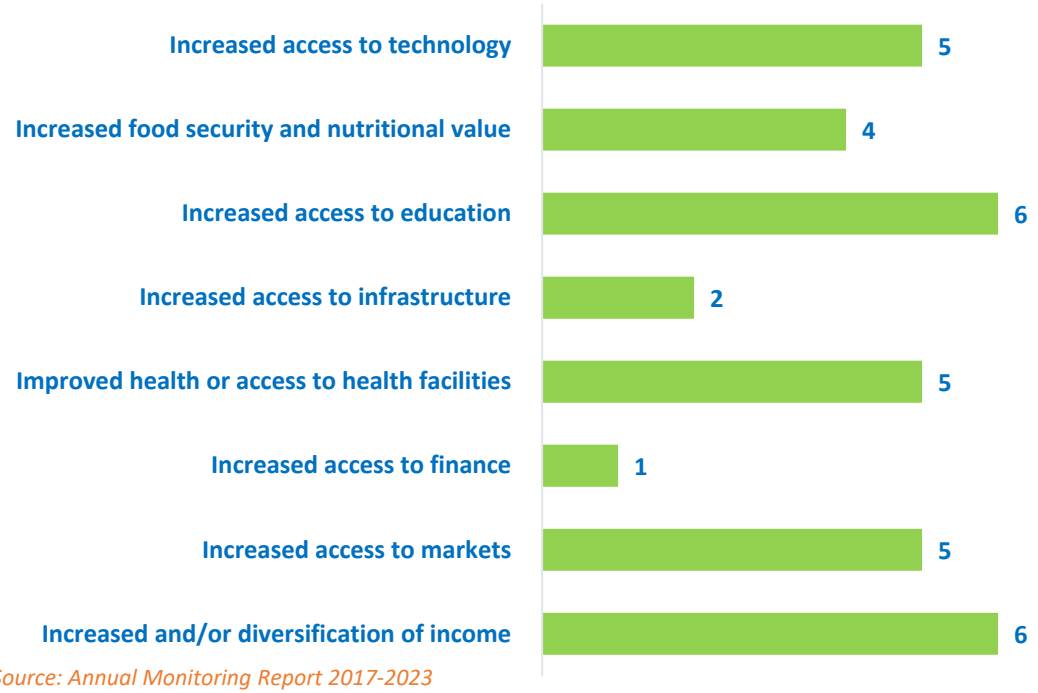


Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

Number of Years Country Programme Deployed Gender Mainsreaming Strategies
(Over 7-year reporting period from 2017-2023)

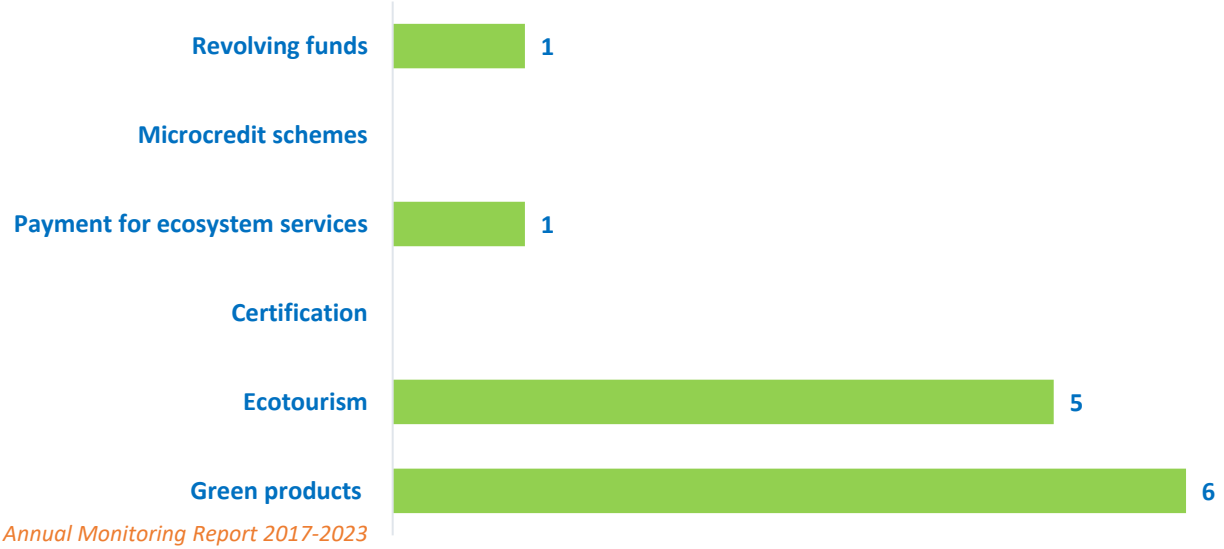
Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

Number of Years Country Programme Deployed Strategies to Improve Community Livelihoods and Quality of Life
(Over 7-year reporting period from 2017-2023)



Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

Number of Years Country Programme Deployed Market-based and Financial Mechanisms to Improve Community Livelihoods
(Over 7-year reporting period from 2017-2023)



Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

Number of Years Country Programme Addressed Sustainable Development Goals
(Over 7-year reporting period from 2017-2023)

Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

EVALUATIVE EVIDENCE

UNDP **Independent Country Programme Evaluation: Afghanistan, 2019**

- Through the GEF funded small grant programme, UNDP has improved access to clean energy for 255 households in the Bamyan protected area and Panjab district through the provision of solar cookers and heaters. UNDP has also helped 2,800 households in Bamyan district to convert biodegradable waste into compost and to pilot organic farming.

UNDP **UNDP Support to Gender Equality as an SDG Accelerator, 2022**

- In Afghanistan, with support from SGP, Ebtakar Inspiring Entrepreneurs of Afghanistan Organization (EIEAO) implemented a project to promote renewable energy through solar-powered food carts. The project supported 70 women from underprivileged communities in Kabul by offering them employment opportunities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The women were trained to run their food business from 35 solar food carts developed by the project and each woman earned around $11 per day through the initiative.

EXAMPLES OF PROJECT RESULTS

Climate Change

In **Afghanistan**, SGP supported grantee, Ebtakar Inspiring Entrepreneurs of Afghanistan Organization (EIEAO), to promote renewable energy in Afghanistan and as a social business cause for raising awareness on climate change issues. It aimed to raise public awareness on climate change in Afghanistan by introducing Zero-Carbon food carts, to inspire people to take action towards climate change mitigation by replacing fossil fuel combustion with renewable energy sources. The project supported 70 women from underprivileged communities in Kabul by offering them employment opportunities during the COVID 19 pandemic. The women were trained to run their business in 35 solar food carts developed by the project, and each woman earned an income of around $11 per day through the initiative. The project was thereafter adapted to the changing realities of the pandemic environment, by converting the Solar Carts into Disinfectant Carts with support from the government. These solar carts eliminated daily emissions of 805 kgs of CO2. In addition to inspiring and educating people on using renewable energy to meet their energy demands, the project demonstrated inclusion of women into the socio-economic activities and their efforts towards mitigating climate change in Afghanistan. The project has been featured widely as an example of resilience and COVID adaptation nationally and internationally, including by BBC, Al Jazeera, and the Guardian, and received the Waislitz Global Citizens' Choice Award. ***(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2019-2020)***

In **Afghanistan**, *Mobile Mini Circus for Children* implemented a project in Kabul that enhanced the capacity of a young team to lead, organize, and implement *Oxygen* (environmental and climate change) activities through comprehensive educational programs and practical initiatives. A total of 138 youth, with 49% female representation, graduated from *Oxygen* Level 1, which provided basic environment and climate classes, including an introduction to global climate issues and a specific focus on garbage and plastic issues in Kabul. An additional 69 youth, with 52% female representation, graduated from *Oxygen* Level 2, where the focus expanded to include biodiversity, global climate issues, and specific Afghanistan-related subjects like air pollution, fossil fuels, and drought. The project conducted 17 workshops, reaching 492 peers in schools, mosques, Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps, and local organizations, disseminating knowledge and awareness on environmental issues. To raise awareness and advocate for climate action, the project facilitated various campaigns and demonstrations. Notably, two successful tree campaigns were conducted in Kabul, promoting greener practices. *Fridays for Future* actions were also undertaken, including peaceful weekly demonstrations, online strikes during the COVID-19 pandemic, street events such as the *'Stop Fossil Fuels'* campaign, and a climate march in *Paghman*. A creative *'Air-pollution and Climate Change'* campaign was carried out using shoes with signs to raise awareness. The project further organized a five-day Environment and

Climate Festival with awareness campaigns and events, featuring a truck caravan with entertainment and awareness-raising activities across Kabul. 16 *Oxygen* committee meetings were conducted, which led to the establishment of a local *Oxygen* non-profit organization.

The project fostered connections with global and international youth environment and climate groups and networks. Media coverage and interviews further helped to disseminate their efforts and achievements. A French writer featured *Oxygen* and *Fridays for Future* in Afghanistan in a dedicated chapter of a book about the global climate movement. ***(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2022-2023)***

Sustainable Land Management

An SGP project in **Afghanistan** combatted the effects of rising water levels and flooding on agricultural lands. Often, the Kunar river would overflow due to heavy rains and would destroy the surrounding villages and agricultural lands. The communities in the Patan village of Noorgal district-Kunar wanted to protect their land against the risk of floods and protect the nearby forest resources. The embankment of the river was one of their pressing needs to save agricultural land. With the technical support of the Provincial Agriculture Director, the project was implemented by the *Hewad Palana*, a youth organization consisting of 650 male and 300 female members. Under the project, a total of 7,000 plants were planted in over 5 hectares of land. A reservoir was constructed and equipped with a solar water pump to irrigate the saplings regularly. UN-WFP also supported the project by generating 500 labor days for the community residents. The trees have since grown, and the soil has been retained with the trees and other natural vegetation. One of the most important results of the project was the reemergence of Licorice. About 5 hectares of land under the project that was protected by the community is now full of Licorice. This led to considerable economic benefits as the community considers it to be medicinal. Besides, a regular campaign on local radio raised awareness of around 8,500 (52% male, 48% female) community people about protecting the forest and the environment. ***(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2018-2019).***

CSO-Government Dialogue

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 build trust and partnership between the respective Governments and CSOs laying a foundation for joint work and sustained exchange. ***(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2016-2017).***

South – South Exchange

SGP India and **Afghanistan** attended the regional meeting of CSOs on Climate Change Adaptation Planning in South Asia, which was held in New Delhi in September 2017. The meeting was facilitated by Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA) and Action on Climate Today (ACT). The objective of the meeting was to raise the awareness and knowledge sharing of local stakeholders on climate change impacts and adaptation strategies through strengthening the involvement of national institutions and communities. In the workshop, SGP India and Afghanistan shared their experiences with Afghan CANSA members, some of which were also SGP grantees and benefitted from 4 training workshops. ***(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2017-2018).***

Social Inclusion – Gender

A woman-led organization in **Afghanistan**, the *Women Message Social and Service Organization*, supported the conservation of the Kocha River by over 50 women living near the river. The Kokcha River is located in Faizabad, Badakhshan province, a tributary of the Panj River. It flows through Badakhshan Province in the Hindu Kush. In most of the urban areas, there was little awareness of protecting the river from urban waste. Waste was cast in the freshwater at the riversides and then flowed into the water due to land degradation. The Kokcha River had become a waste and sewage dumping place. The 50 women initiated a campaign to protect the river from wastes by learning to establish a small nursery to grow saplings. Each woman raised more than 100 Pinus saplings in their homes, protecting the

land from degradation. The saplings would be for sale in the market next spring. Furthermore, the women were empowered by learning the skills of raising trees and thus able to earn their livelihoods. ***(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2018-2019)***

Social Inclusion – Youth

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

Recovery from COVID-19

In **Afghanistan**, the *Women Education and Afghanistan Rehabilitation Organization* completed a project working on environmental conservation and livelihood improvement for *Nuristani* indigenous communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 600 community members, including women, youth, and girls, were direct beneficiaries of the project. One of the key achievements was the establishment of approximately 100 women's kitchen gardens. The women learned to grow vegetables in their kitchen gardens and were provided with toolkits for managing the kitchen gardens. The gardens provided a source of fresh vegetables for the families and offered them an income source by connecting them to local markets where they could sell their produce. Additionally, the project played a crucial role in raising awareness about COVID-19 within the Nuristani indigenous communities. Through educational initiatives, approximately 8,000 locals were educated about the virus and protective measures. As part of the project's response to the pandemic, communities were also provided with essential items like masks, gloves, and hand sanitizers to help protect them from the virus. ***(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2022-2023)***

METHODOLOGICAL BASIS OF COUNTRY REPORT

- Results aggregations over time are only for completed projects.

- 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 a specific unit of measurement (i.e., indicator selected) but also for results aggregation across years in a given operational phase. 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 behavioural 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 behaviours 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.