



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

## **SGP Country Programme Strategy for utilization of OP5 grant funds**

**Country:** **ARMENIA**  
**Resources to be invested:** **US\$1,220,000**

Country Programme Strategy (CPS) document serves as a framework for the country programme operations and provides a programmatic guidance for development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) in Armenia. The strategy sets basic project eligibility criteria and specifies types of projects to be funded through the programme. This document is designed to integrate the GEF focal area strategies, along with the national environmental priorities of Armenia responding to the requirements of global environmental conventions (UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNCCD, POPs), as well as documents related to national development and poverty reduction. The CPS identifies the strategic results to be addressed by the country programme during the fifth GEF Operational Phase (January 2011 - June 2014). The target audience addressed in this document is the project proponents (NGOs, CBOs and community groups), central, regional and local government bodies, bilateral and multilateral donors, private sector, National Steering Committee and the SGP country programme team.

**Yerevan, 2011**

## **Table of Contents**

<b>1. Introduction to the GEF and SGP</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>2. SGP country programme - summary background</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>3. SGP country programme niche</b> .....	<b>5</b>
3.1. Relevant environmental conventions and treaties .....	5
3.2. OP5 programming context .....	6
3.3. Geographic focus .....	6
<b>4. Capacity development, poverty reduction and gender results for SGP</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>5. OP5 country programme results: Objectives, Outcomes and Outputs</b> .....	<b>10</b>
5.1. Results definition .....	10
5.2. Country programme outcomes .....	11
<b>6. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>7. Knowledge management</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<b>8. Resource mobilization and sustainability</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<b>ANNEX 1: CONTRIBUTION OF THE SGP ARMENIA TO MDG TARGETS</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>ANNEX 2: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX OF THE CPS FOR GEF OP5 (2011-2014)</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>ANNEX 3: GEF SGP OP5 PROJECT LEVEL INDICATORS</b> .....	<b>24</b>

## List of Acronyms

AADCA	Armenia's Association Document to Copenhagen Accord
ASDS	Agricultural Sustainable Development Strategy
BSAP	Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CPMT	Central Programme Management Team
CPS	Country Programme Strategy
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
ESDS	Energy Sector Development Strategies in the Context of Economic Development in Armenia
EU	European Union
FC	Forest Code
GEF	Global Environment Facility
LFM	Logical Framework Matrix
LULUCF	Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NC	National Coordinator
NAPCD	National Action Plan to Combat Desertification
NBSAP	CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NFP	National Forest Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIP	National Implementation Plan
NPEERE	National Program on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Use
NRCBD	National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity
NSC	National Steering Committee
NWP	National Water Programme
OP	Operational Phase
PA	Programme Assistant
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
RoA	Republic of Armenia
SAPs	Strategic Action Programmes
SC	Stockholm Convention
SDP/PRSP	Sustainable Development Programme/Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
SGP	Small Grants Programme
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
PA	Protected Areas
TDA	Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNOPS	UN Office of Project Services
USAID/SSIP	US Agency for International Development/Small Scale Infrastructure Program
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

## **1. Introduction to the GEF and SGP**

*The Global Environment Facility* (GEF) is a global partnership among 182 countries, international institutions, NGOs, and the private sector that aims to address global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives.

The GEF was established in 1991 and serves as an independent financial mechanism to assist countries in fulfilling their obligations under the following Conventions they have signed and ratified: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The GEF's mission is the protection of the global environment with a particular purpose: achievement of global environmental benefits through funding programs and projects in the following six focal areas: biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants. GEF projects are managed by GEF Implementing Agencies, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Bank and others.

The GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) was launched in 1992 following the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The programme is funded by the GEF as a corporate programme and implemented by the UNDP on behalf of the GEF partnership, and is executed by the UNOPS. SGP supports activities of NGOs and community-based organizations in developing countries towards conservation of biodiversity, climate change abatement, protection of international waters, prevention of land degradation and reduction of the impact of persistent organic pollutants through community-based approaches while generating sustainable livelihoods. The GEF SGP is based on the understanding that global and regional environmental problems can best be addressed if local people are involved and direct community benefits and ownership are generated.

The GEF SGP is highly decentralized and implemented in democratic, transparent and country-driven manner facilitated by the National Coordinator (NC). The GEF SGP grants are awarded based on decisions made by the voluntary National Steering Committee (NSC) guided by the Country Programme Strategy paper developed on the basis of national environment and development priorities. The NSC composed of national government representatives, UNDP Country Office and civil society members representing NGOs/CBOs, academia, science and private sector, with a majority of them coming from non-governmental sector.

Currently there are 136 participating countries in the GEF SGP in five world regions: Africa, Asia/Pacific, Arab States, Europe/CIS and Latin America/Caribbean.

## **2. SGP country programme - summary background**

Armenia became the SGP participating country in 2007. The SGP country programme was officially launched with appointment of the National Coordinator in November 2008.

During 2009 the National Steering Committee was established, and the Country Programme Strategy for the remaining period of the GEF-4 Operational Phase (OP) was developed and approved. Becoming operational, SGP Armenia as a new country programme, was allocated US\$350,000 for the second and third years of the GEF OP4.

The allocated funds were committed in ten grant projects addressing all five GEF SGP thematic areas with geographic spread out over the eight regions of Armenia.

During OP4, through a range of strategic partnerships, SGP Armenia succeeded in mobilizing huge financial resources at project level from international donors and NGOs such as UNDP, EU/Tacis, USAID/SSIP, WWF, BirdLife Switzerland, World Vision, Rhone Alpes (France) as well as national NGOs, community administration and private sector. Thus, against US\$350,000 disbursed, about US\$785,000 cash and US\$155,000 in-kind co-financing was raised at project level. Besides, the country programme received annual UNDP TRAC allocation of US\$50,000 for 2009-2011 time-period.

In general, during OP4 the country programme ensured a good start-up of the SGP in Armenia and considerably contributed to the GEF mandate by registering concrete achievements in the GEF priority areas, as well as improvement of local people's well-being and community empowerment.

In OP5, having *Category Ib* country programme status, SGP Armenia is entitled for US\$900,000 from the GEF core funds for grant-making. Besides, the country programme is allocated US\$320,000 from the country's STAR funds earmarked for land degradation and climate change mitigation thematic areas - US\$160,000 per each area.

As partnerships are critical for SGP implementation both in technical and financial terms, the country programme will strive to maintain and expand existing partnership relations with bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, UN agencies, Armenian Diaspora as well as private sector and government for complementarity and cost-sharing opportunities addressing the linkages between environment and poverty.

### 3. SGP country programme niche

#### 3.1. *Relevant environmental conventions and treaties*

Until now, the Republic of Armenia (RoA) has ratified and signed numerous international multilateral environmental agreements (Conventions and Protocols) and most of them are tied to the GEF strategic priorities. The list of relevant Rio Conventions ratified by Armenia and national planning frameworks is illustrated in Table 1 below.

Table 1. List of relevant conventions and national/regional plans or programmes

<b>Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks</b>	<b>Date of ratification / completion</b>
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	31.03.1993
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	17.12.1999
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	29.03.1993
UNFCCC National Communications (1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> )	04.11.1998, 07.09.2010
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	29.01.2010
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	23.06.1997
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	28.03.2002
Stockholm Convention (SC)	22.10.2003
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	18.01.2005
World Bank Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	20.11.2003, 31.10.2008
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	31.10.2004
GEF-5 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	August 2011
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies	Excepted by the end of 2012 as a GEF project outcome

It should be mentioned that according to the RoA legislation, international agreements have supreme legal force and become constituent of the country's legal system. The norms stipulated in the international agreements are subject to immediate execution and need to be specified in the national legislation of Armenia.

### ***3.2. OP5 programming context***

SGP Armenia will use OP5 resources to support implementation of national priorities in relation to GEF-5 strategic directions and help the country achieve the objectives of the global conventions. In OP5, the programme will coordinate the activities of CSOs that help to achieve the programme objectives in conformity with the CPS and the SGP OP5 project document. Moreover, the country programme will continue assisting CSOs (particularly CBOs) in project development and formulation, and facilitate their access to resources of SGP and its partners.

In OP5, the SGP country programme niche is to support the community-based environmental/social initiatives and activities called to improve people's well-being and livelihoods proposed by local communities/CBOs and NGOs within the scope of the GEF thematic areas. SGP Armenia will concentrate on providing viable alternatives to the existing economic and cultural practices of communities that lead to overexploitation of natural resources and contribute to climate change. While these activities are expected to have economic effect and address poverty and unemployment, SGP Armenia will give priority to the vulnerable groups<sup>1</sup> for their involvement in projects funded by the programme. Therefore, through support of these projects, SGP Armenia will also contribute to the achievement of the country's MDGs, as described in Annex 1.

In view of the aforementioned, the Objective of SGP country programme in Armenia is to:

***Enhance local capacity for addressing global environmental issues through community-based approaches and actions.***

### ***3.3. Geographic focus***

Given that Armenia is a small land-locked country with around 65% of urban population, 50% of which (or about 35% of total) is concentrated in the capital Yerevan, therefore, SGP Armenia will finance projects in rural/suburban communities and towns with population not exceeding 50,000. Exception to this rule can be made for the initiatives within the context of climate change mitigation and chemicals/POPs thematic areas. It is believed that with this approach, the country programme will increase impact of its limited investments and reach out the most vulnerable layers of the population.

Table 2 below, details the target OP5 global objectives of the SGP in relation to the national priorities and the country programme niche for grant-making.

---

<sup>1</sup> In Armenia, vulnerable groups are mostly existent in small, remote, high mountainous, bordering and isolated rural communities. Those are particularly disadvantaged because of a certain consequence, i.e. - resettled and poorest. These also include other groups, such as disabled or those unable to work (physically, mentally or healthy-wise), rural elderly people, unemployed, resettled people due to natural disaster or due to the armed conflict in early 1990s.

Table 2. Consistency with national priorities

OP5 project objectives	National priorities	SGP niche
<p>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1: Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas through community-based actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improvement of SPA management system in line with modern approaches and principles from the prospective of biodiversity and valuable ecosystems representation, creation of new protected areas, including protected biosphere areas and ecological corridors (NEAP-2)</li> <li>- Improvement of financial-technical mechanisms and staffing (NRCBD)</li> <li>- Enlargement of PAs network (NRCBD)</li> <li>- Introducing models of the mutually beneficial cooperation between humans and nature combining sustainable social-economic development of respective areas and efficient protection of nature (NEAP-2)</li> <li>- Promote the sustainable use of biodiversity by local communities (NRCBD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Elaboration and implementation of practical models on community-based and collaborative PA management arrangements to maximize biodiversity conservation and in parallel increase revenue of local people</li> <li>- Awareness raising and education at the community level regarding biodiversity conservation and biodiversity-friendly practices that imply benefits for local people</li> </ul>
<p>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2: Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementation of measures to support the rational conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems and sustainable use of bio-resources (including medicinal and edible plants) (NEAP-2)</li> <li>- Efficient use of forest resources (SDP/PRSP-2)</li> <li>- Improvement and effective utilization of meadows (SDP/PRSP-2)</li> <li>- Develop the system for sustainable use of natural pastures (ASDS)</li> <li>- Preservation of genetic diversity of Armenia and sustainable use of the genetic resources (NEAP-2, ASDS)</li> <li>- Ensuring the reproduction of endemic and of industrial significance fish species (NEAP-2)</li> <li>- Efficient management and use of water resources, restoration of the Lake Sevan ecological balance and relevant conditions to ensure preservation of natural balance (SDP/PRSP-2)</li> <li>- Develop and implement projects to promote sustainable ecotourism (NRCBD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support community-based initiatives and frameworks that develop the capacity of all stakeholders to mainstream biodiversity considerations in production landscapes and sectors. Activities that depend on bioresources, including agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and tourism will be addressed</li> <li>- Raising awareness on biodiversity conservation and increasing knowledge on bioresources-dependant sustainable livelihood practices</li> </ul>
<p>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3: Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase of renewable energy proportions in the energy production (NEAP-2, NPEERE)</li> <li>- Improve of energy efficiency in buildings and other sectors (NPEERE)</li> <li>- Assistance in the growth of the solar water heaters usage volume (NEAP-2)</li> <li>- Promote a substantial quantity of renewable energy projects, as well as the projects enhancing the country's energy independence (ESDS)</li> <li>- Ensuring ecologically sustainable energy supply, based on the principles of sustainable development and in compliance with the international environmental commitments of RoA (ESDS)</li> <li>- Reduction of the amount of energy used for heating and cooling while ensuring thermal comfort, and reduction of energy consumption in the preparation of hot water in the building sector; provision of large-scale information and awareness raising campaigns amongst all stakeholders (NEEAP)</li> <li>- Improve housing conditions by 2015 (National MDG 7 Target 11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support demonstration, replication and scale-up of innovative low-carbon technologies that proved to be cost-effective</li> <li>- Capacity development of NGOs and CBOs to develop and implement innovative low-GHG technologies at the local level</li> <li>- Support knowledge management to highlight best practices and lessons from demonstration of locally feasible low-GHG technologies</li> </ul>

SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4: Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level	This specific Objective is not applicable for Armenia in the context of the SGP	N/A
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 5: Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Restoration of degraded forests, afforestation and reducing the volumes of deforestation, sustaining soil CO<sub>2</sub> content and ensuring its increase (AADCA)</li> <li>- Promote integrated natural resource management and sustainable land use/management practices to prevent land degradation (NAPCD)</li> <li>- Develop the system of sustainable management of forest ecosystems, including the global environmental issues (Decree of the Gov of Armenia No 880N, 16.06.2005)</li> <li>- Implement activities contributing to sustainable forest management in line with the international agreements of RoA (NFP, ASDS)</li> <li>- Forestation of community territories (community forests) by mean of attracting various financial sources and innovative financial mechanisms (NEAP-2)</li> <li>- Promote community and private forest ownership (FC, NFP)</li> <li>- Promotion of afforestation and reforestation projects under the CDM (NFP)</li> <li>- Introduction of pilot project on the fight against pests and fire prevention in the most vulnerable forests as a result of climate change (NEAP-2)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support community and civil society driven initiatives such as community-forestry, and the restoration of degraded lands through afforestation and other measures</li> <li>- Assist in developing the capacity of NGOs, CBOs and community-level stakeholders to address land use, land use change and forestry issues through sharing of best practices and lessons learnt</li> </ul>
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Restoration and protection of land covers as natural ecosystem component (NEAP-2)</li> <li>- Promote integrated natural resource management and sustainable land use/management practices to prevent land degradation (NAPCD)</li> <li>- Organization of anti-erosion, anti-land-sliding and ameliorative activities, implementation of measures for restoration (re-cultivation) of degraded lands, definition of principles for privatized agricultural land consolidation (NEAP-2, ASDS)</li> <li>- Prevention of soil degradation, limiting human activity that causes desertification (SDP/PRSP-2)</li> <li>- Improvement of pasture (remote) and hay-field management (NAPCD)</li> <li>- Develop the system for sustainable use of natural pastures (ASDS)</li> <li>- Ensuring sustainable forest management (FC)</li> <li>- Create mechanisms to restore forest resources and reduce the influence on the forests (NRCBD)</li> <li>- Supporting the development of practical education and training in the forestry sector (NFP)</li> <li>- Raising the public awareness about forestry related issues to promote informed stakeholder participation in policy development (NFP)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support community-level actions and civil society initiatives for integrated natural resource management and sustainable land use / management to reverse and prevent desertification and land degradation</li> <li>- Support good agricultural practices based on soil and water conservation, aiming at enhancement of agro-ecosystem (rangelands, grasslands and other landscape types) services</li> <li>- Enhance local capacity for community-based SLM practices that integrate land, water, biodiversity, and environmental management aimed at improving ecosystem health and sustaining local livelihoods</li> </ul>
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7: Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes)	This specific Objective is not applicable for Armenia in the context of the SGP	N/A



<p>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8: Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improvement of public awareness and participation in the water sector management process (planning and management of water resources on the national and basin management levels) (NWP)</li> <li>- Development of basin management plans for integrated water resources management (NWP)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support community-level actions and civil society initiatives that address important issues such as the reduction of nutrient flows and land-based pollution to transboundary river systems/water bodies</li> <li>- Support knowledge management and capacity development of stakeholders in sustainable transboundary water body/watershed management</li> </ul>
<p>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9: Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raising public awareness and knowledge in concern of POPs issues, risks, as well as the impact thereof on human health and the environment (NIP)</li> <li>- Minimizing/elimination of POPs releases into the environment; minimizing POPs impact on human health (NIP)</li> <li>- Running information campaigns for public awareness on POPs in cooperation with environmental NGOs (NIP)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support demonstration, piloting and testing of approaches to address issues related to POPs and other harmful chemicals</li> <li>- Support involvement of stakeholders in awareness raising and educational campaigns on chemical safety and POPs related issues</li> </ul>
<p>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10: Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations and those of indigenous peoples) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organize continuous education and awareness increase activities for the public on cross-cutting issues related to CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD</li> <li>- Develop and implement educational projects on the methods and activities of sustainable use of natural resources for rural communities (Decree of the Gov of Armenia No 880N, 16.06.2005)</li> <li>- Involvement of national NGOs in the implementation of activities under convention guidelines and reporting (BSAP, NIP)</li> <li>- Ensure participation of NGOs and other relevant stakeholders in all stages of project dev. and implementation, and improve their opportunities to take a direct role in conservation management (BSAP)</li> <li>- Effective participation of NGOs and local population in conducting comprehensive activities for unified environmental policy (NAPCD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support developing capacities of the CSOs to implement conventions guidelines</li> <li>- Enhance capacities of CSOs, CBOs and other community-level stakeholders to address environmental problems through experiential learning and knowledge sharing</li> </ul>
<p>Cross-Cutting Results: Poverty reduction, livelihoods and gender</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementation of activities leading to rural poverty reduction within the framework of the PRSP (ASDS)</li> <li>- Implementation of target programmes aimed at increasing business activity of women living in rural areas (ASDS)</li> <li>- By 2015 reduce the poverty level lower than in 1990 (National MDG 1 Target 1)</li> <li>- Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger (National MDG 1 Target 2)</li> <li>- Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people (National MDG 1 Target 2.A)</li> <li>- Increase, by 2015, of women's participation in political decision making (National MDG 3 Target 4)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Diversify income-generating opportunities</li> <li>- Increase capacity for viable economic practices</li> <li>- Improve livelihoods by reduced cost or increased income</li> <li>- Open new employment opportunities</li> <li>- Enhance resilience to the effects of climate change</li> <li>- Promote equal involvement of men and women in SGP funded projects</li> </ul>

#### **4. Capacity development, poverty reduction and gender results for SGP**

The cross-cutting objective of the SGP will continue to be capacity development of CSOs, with priority for CBOs for: engagement through consultative process; generation, access and use of information and knowledge; supporting participatory processes in policy and legislation development; management and implementation of convention guidelines; and monitoring and evaluation of environmental impacts and trends. To sustain the developed capacity, the country programme will be consistently engaged with local communities involved in SGP supported activities, through the NSC and other mechanisms. Furthermore, in all capacity development approaches SGP Armenia will ensure that capacity development activities are locally initiated and owned.

Involvement of the local people in project design, formulation and implementation stages will ensure strong ownership of the activities, and result in direct socio-economic benefits. SGP Armenia will support the creative problem-solving and innovative simple solutions proposed by the communities themselves taking into account the local specifics. SGP strongly believes that provision of relatively small amounts of funding to local communities can facilitate cost-effective activities that will result in significant socioeconomic difference in their own lives and in the meantime generate global environmental benefits.

SGP considers gender equality and women's empowerment as essential elements to achieve sustainable development. Gender as one of mandatory cross-cutting requirements in the SGP Armenia grant-making criteria is mainstreamed throughout the SGP portfolio of projects and incorporated within the project cycle. SGP will have a focus specifically on the engagement and empowerment of women and will strive to support projects benefitting both men and women within the same communities.

#### **5. OP5 country programme results: Objectives, Outcomes and Outputs**

##### ***5.1. Results definition***

This section establishes the strategic results that the country programme identified as a part of participatory formulation process during the initial analysis phase of the programme. These results are formulated through the logical framework approach format, which is an essential tool for monitoring and evaluation and facilitates the result-oriented project implementation (see Annex 2). The logical framework approach provides a snapshot view of all the main components of the SGP Armenia and presents expected results at project (Output) and programme (Outcome) levels, as well as the overall Objective of the country programme. Definitions of different result levels are given below:

Output is a short-term or immediate end-of-project result which is the consequence of completed activities achieved. A project may produce an Output or many of them.

Outcome is medium-term or end-of-project result that is usually the consequence of the achievement of a set of Outputs from one or more projects.

Objective is a significant long-term result that is the logical consequence of the achievement of specific Outcomes, and results in measurable impacts to be produced by the programme.

Impact is the positive and negative, foreseen and unforeseen change to and effect caused by projects and programmes (GEF glossary of key terms). Impacts take a long time to

become visible. As previously mentioned, the country Programme is expected to produce global environmental impacts, livelihoods impacts and empowerment impacts.

In essence, the *Impacts*, *Objectives*, *Outcomes* and *Outputs* are linked by a chain of cause and effect relations and thus, are logically connected statements in the programme results cycle.

The programme-level (Outcome) *indicators* considered in the logical framework matrix (LFM) (Annex 2) correspond to GEF OP5 strategic and national priorities and were determined, based on the consultations with the stakeholders, and agreed with the NSC. The project-level (Output) *indicators* are to be identified from the list of the GEF SGP project level indicators by applicants in consultation with the NC, before the start of the project (Annex 3).

*Baseline data* is given in LFM in order to measure performance towards the achievement of the results. At the project level, grantees are required to either determine from scratch (if not available) or verify the given project baseline, based on current real situation in a participatory manner, before the project starts.

A number of country-specific results, to be produced by SGP Armenia within the GEF thematic areas by the end of OP5 (June 2014), is presented in LFM. As mentioned, these results address the country situation analysis.

## **5.2. Country programme outcomes**

It is expected that the following nine Outcomes will be produced by the country programme in Armenia during the fifth GEF Operational Phase:

### **Outcome 1: (BD)**

#### **Improved sustainability of existing and new protected areas through community-based actions**

Protected areas (PAs) lack adequate management effectiveness, mainly due to deficiency of resources and technical capacity. At the same time, PA adjacent communities are in need of viable alternatives to the current economic and cultural practices that adversely affect habitats and biodiversity, especially that of PAs. Good SGP practices on community involvement in PAs management for increased revenue of local people and enhanced financial sustainability of PAs need to be introduced and replicated. In OP5 SGP Armenia will support community-based and collaborative PA management arrangements to maximize biodiversity conservation and in parallel increase revenue of local people. The country programme will also invest in awareness raising and education at the community level regarding biodiversity conservation and biodiversity-friendly practices that imply benefits for local people. The Global Environmental Benefits to be generated through the CPS Outcome 1 are the conservation of globally significant biodiversity at the species, ecosystem and genetic levels.

### **Outcome 2: (BD)**

#### **Improved capacities of rural communities in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in production landscapes and sectors**

Rural communities have direct interaction with their immediate environment, where much biodiversity is found. Nevertheless, community-based conservation in production landscapes through biodiversity-friendly livelihood options is hardly ever practiced. As a rule, community-level stakeholders lack financial and technical support to ensure biodiversity conservation in production landscapes and sectors through sustainable income

generation practices. SGP Armenia will support community-based initiatives and frameworks that develop the capacity of all stakeholders to mainstream biodiversity considerations in production landscapes and sectors. Activities that depend on biodiversity resources, including agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and tourism will be addressed. Private sector players at the community level are important partners, and SGP will support collaborative initiatives for achieving this Outcome. Activities under the CPS Outcome 2 will also aim at raising awareness on biodiversity conservation and increasing knowledge on bioresources-dependant sustainable livelihood practices. The Global Environmental Benefits to be generated through this Outcome are the conservation of globally significant biodiversity at the species, ecosystem and genetic levels.

### **Outcome 3: (CCM)**

#### **Enhanced capacity of local communities to apply low-carbon technologies**

Despite the high cost of energy carriers in Armenia and great potential for utilization of renewable energy, limited number of rural communities has adequate potential to use renewable energy sources and apply energy-efficient techniques. The projects implemented in GEF-4 on combined solar heating applications in parallel with buildings energy efficiency measures, proved to be the most viable with tangible economic and environmental benefits. This and other successful low-carbon applications (micro-solar, micro-hydro, biogas and methane energy generation, and fuel-efficient stoves/heaters) will be replicated and scaled-up by the SGP Armenia during GEF OP5 cycle. Meantime, the country programme will invest in capacity development of NGOs and CBOs to develop and implement innovative low-GHG technologies at the local level. Knowledge management to highlight best practices and lessons from demonstration of locally feasible low-GHG technologies will also be supported. The anticipated Global Environmental Benefits under the CPS Outcome 3 include reduction and avoidance of GHG emissions.

### **Outcome 4: (CCM)**

#### **Conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through strengthened climate resiliency of local communities**

The major share of GHG emissions in developing countries results from land-use change, such as deforestation, and the degradation of soils, forest lands, and other high carbon-sequestering ecosystems. Engaging community-level partners to combat unsustainable land management is critical, as they are the direct users and beneficiaries of well-functioning ecosystems, and are the most affected by climate change. In fact, none of the numerous reforestation/afforestation and sustainable land management/use projects implemented in Armenia so far, had primary focus on conservation, restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks with specific impact indications. Limited number of community-level stakeholders, CBOs and NGOs has adequate capacity to address Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)<sup>2</sup> issues. In OP5 SGP Armenia will support community and civil society driven initiatives such as demonstration of sustainable land use and/or forest management practices at the community level. Sharing of lessons and best practices through knowledge management will also be promoted through this Outcome. This will assist in developing the capacity of NGOs/CBOs and community-level stakeholders to address LULUCF issues. The CPS Outcome 4 provides the opportunity to generate integrated Global Environmental Benefits in multiple focal areas including climate change, biodiversity conservation and land degradation.

---

<sup>2</sup> Land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) is defined by the UN Climate Change Secretariat as "A greenhouse gas inventory sector that covers emissions and removals of greenhouse gases resulting from direct human-induced land use, land-use change and forestry activities"  
([http://unfccc.int/essential\\_background/glossary/items/3666.php#L](http://unfccc.int/essential_background/glossary/items/3666.php#L)).

**Outcome 5: (LD)****Integrated natural resource management and sustainable land use practices at community level are introduced to mitigate land degradation**

Agro-ecosystems, including pastures, grasslands and other landscape types, provide multiple ecosystem services that are critical for maintaining sustainable livelihoods at the community level. However, few communities in Armenia have adequate capacity to implement good practices for crop and livestock production that contribute to enhancement of multiple agro-ecosystem services. At the same time, being highly dependent on agro- and forest ecosystems for their livelihoods, rural communities are interested in maintaining sustainable flow of ecosystem services and therefore motivated to fighting land degradation. In OP5 cycle SGP Armenia will support community-level actions and civil society initiatives for integrated natural resource management and sustainable land use/management to reverse and prevent desertification and land degradation. Good agricultural practices based on soil and water conservation, aiming at enhancement of agro-ecosystem services will be also supported. Aiming at sustaining ecosystem services and livelihoods, the country programme will also invest in capacity building for community-based SLM practices that integrate land, water, biodiversity, and environmental management. Global Environmental Benefits to be generated under this Outcome include the maintenance or improvement of agro- and forest ecosystem services, reduced GHG emissions from agriculture and landscape degradation, and reduced vulnerability to climate change.

**Outcome 6: (IWs)****Enhanced capacities of local communities to protect transboundary water bodies**

Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) identifies the following priority problems in the Kura-Araks river basin: i) variation and reduction in hydrological flow; ii) deterioration of water quality; and iii) ecosystem degradation. However, cross-border cooperation over transboundary waters is limited or not happening due to political situation in the region. The problems revealed by TDA can be addressed through initiatives and actions of communities and civil society, since they are key partners in such approaches as integrated watershed management. In GEF OP5 SGP Armenia will support community-level actions and civil society initiatives that address important issues such as the reduction of nutrient flows and land-based pollution to transboundary rivers/water bodies. Meantime, the country programme will support knowledge management and capacity development of stakeholders in sustainable transboundary water body/watershed management. It is anticipated that the CPS Output 6 will produce Global Environmental Benefits for international waters including sustainable use of water resources, reduced nutrient flows and land-based pollution to transboundary water bodies, conservation of critical habitats and species important for ecosystem functioning and economic benefits.

**Outcome 7: (POPs & CH)****Improved capacities of communities to safely manage POPs and other harmful chemicals**

Community-level stakeholders in developing countries are often unaware of the full extent of potential negative environmental and health effects of POPs, and lack the technical capacity to safely manage and dispose of harmful chemicals. The same is true for the most settlements of Armenia. Developing community-level capacity to implement the Stockholm Convention on POPs will be a key focus area for SGP, including activities to promote the environmentally sound management of POPs, and other aspects of Convention guidance. Likewise in GEF OP4, in OP5 SGP Armenia will further support demonstration, piloting and testing of community-based approaches to address issues related to POPs and

other harmful chemicals. In line with the principles of the Stockholm Convention, the Global Environmental Benefits generated under the CPS Outcome 7 will be reduced releases of POPs to the environment, and the mitigation of previous environmental contamination.

**Outcome 8: (Capacity Building<sup>3</sup>)**

**Enhanced capacities of communities and civil society to implement convention guidelines**

GEF's strategic priorities are tightly linked to the international conventions supported by the Facility. It is believed that implementation of these conventions will strengthen the ability of GEF to deliver environmental impacts and Global Environmental Benefits. However, only some national NGOs/CBOs have adequate capacity to implement these conventions. In order to promote attainment of conventions objectives, SGP will further support developing capacities of the civil society organizations to implement conventions guidelines. As the latter is critical among SGP's primary stakeholders, the country programme will also invest in capacity development of community-level stakeholders (especially those in poor rural areas) to self-organize and respond to key environmental problems. Consistent with the previous SGP practices, in OP5 the country programme will apply "learning by doing" approach instead of highly technical classroom training. SGP key lessons and good practices will be shared through knowledge management approach based on five pillars: 1) development of information systems to monitor and evaluate the portfolio; 2) analysis of lessons learned through generation of knowledge products and services; 3) knowledge dissemination in complementation with GEF/SGP mechanisms; 4) knowledge uptake for application and improvement; and 5) feedback loops.

In support of pure capacity development activities, the SGP country programme in Armenia will fund projects on supporting knowledge and best practice fairs at national level. Activities focusing on SGP knowledge product development, M&E, grantee networking (including SGP partners), celebrating important national events, increasing awareness on global environmental conventions and others may be funded through grants.

**Outcome 9: (Cross-Cutting Results: Livelihoods and Gender)**

**Improved local livelihoods and gender equality through SGP interventions**

As described above, along with the environmental benefits, SGP will contribute to *reduction of local poverty* through introduction of sustainable livelihoods that are in harmony with environmental conservation. With SGP's support, civil society and community-based organizations will develop the capacity to improve conservation and sustainable use efforts and ensure local benefits, contributing to long-term sustainability. Performance of the SGP projects will be assessed in terms of their effects on income generation. Meanwhile, SGP will strive for working with marginalized groups such as vulnerable groups or women.

SGP understands the importance of *gender* equality and women's empowerment as essential elements to achieve sustainable development and project impacts for the GEF. As such, gender issues are well mainstreamed throughout the SGP programme and incorporated within the SGP project cycle. Gender is one of the mandatory cross-cutting requirements in the SGP grant-making criteria.

---

<sup>3</sup> During OP5, the SGP capacity development outcome is cross-cutting and relates to interventions corresponding with each of the relevant GEF focal areas.

## **6. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting**

Regular monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is an essential component of the SGP programme and intends to measure progress and achievements at project and country programme levels. Both, at project and country programme levels, M&E will be conducted in the course of implementation of different stages: planning, execution and completion. M&E identifies implementation problems and helps to assess whether targets are being achieved. M&E activities are represented through different types of reports that help the country programme and its projects to maintain accountability, achieve sustainability, allow for replicability and provide opportunities for extracting and communicating lessons learned. The results and/or lessons learned from M&E will be used to improve the programme and projects design and implementation, and will enable SGP grantees to carry on project activities after the grant period is over.

Monitoring focuses at tracking the progress of project activities and achievement of planned outputs. It allows project participants to keep track of project activities, to determine whether project objectives are being met, and to make the necessary changes to improve the project's performance.

Evaluation refers to a periodic activity aimed at assessing the relevance, performance, effects and impact of a project within the framework of the stated objectives. The evaluation includes an explicit appraisal on whether the project has met its stated objectives in terms of the GEF focal area and operational programmes and if not, it reveals and analyses the reasons.

It is one of the programme principles that the SGP grantees deeply involve local communities and other stakeholders in a participatory self-monitoring and assessment/evaluation process at project level. It is believed that the involvement of project beneficiaries in M&E process will promote mutual understanding about the project's approach, contribute to community "ownership", as well as enable capacity building and apply lessons learned from project and programme experience.

At country level, the M&E process mainly involves: development and implementation of the programme M&E plan; compilation and communication of lessons learned, and reporting to the Central Programme Management Team.

Annex 2 describes the logical framework approach of the CPS both at programme and project levels which provides the basis for M&E. It indicates expected results at the programme level (Objective, Outcomes) along with respective Outcome target indicators, baseline data and means of verification. It also specifies approximate number of projects and features project activities planned under respective Outcome. In effect, these are the key elements of the M&E framework to track programme implementation progress and assess the performance within the set time.

Both at project and programme levels, the baseline data refers to the "starting point" from which change can be measured at different results levels - before implementing project or programme activities. By means of indicators, programme/project progress and accomplishments can then be compared with the baseline, and hence evaluated. An indicator should be logically connected with the baseline and easily measurable. A good indicator, as a rule, should answer the following questions: what? (what is changing); when? (within what period of time); where?; and how much? (to what extent something is changed).

Indicators to measure the expected results at country programme level (Outcomes) are agreed with the NSC, while for the project level results (Outputs) indicators are determined by the NC and grantees. Thus, at project level M&E process implies planning, coordination, systematic reporting, and agreement upon these and other issues by all project participants before projects are undertaken (see Table 4).

Table 4. M&E Plan at the Project Level

SGP Individual Project Level		
M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
Participatory Project Monitoring	Grantees	Duration of project
Baseline Data Collection	Grantees, NC	At project concept planning and proposal stage
Project Progress and Financial Reports <i>(depending on disbursement schedule)</i>	Grantees, NC, PA	At each disbursement request
Project Workplans	Grantees, NC, PA	Duration of project
NC Project Proposal Site Visit	NC	Before project approval, as appropriate
NC Project Monitoring Site Visit	NC	On average once per year, as appropriate
NC Project Evaluation Site Visit	NC	At end of project, as appropriate
Project Final Report	Grantees	Following completion of project activities
Project Evaluation Report	NC, NSC, External party	Following completion of project activities
Prepare project description to be incorporated into global project database	PA, NC	At start of project, and ongoing as appropriate

The NC will undertake at least two monitoring visits per project realization, preferably at the intermediate reporting(s) and at final reporting. Upon necessity and as possible, respective members of the NSC will also participate in site visits. The site visits will give the NC/NSC the opportunity to observe the actual implementation of the project and confirm the information contained in the interim and final reports of grantees. During the site visits, the NC will collect materials, information, make photos, etc., in order to document lessons learned and to demonstrate the environmental and sustainable livelihood impacts of the SGP activities. After each site visit the NC/NSC member(s) will prepare a monitoring record indicating observations, recommendations and respective measure to be taken. This report will be provided to the grantee and the NSC if requested.

#### Reporting

Apart from the interim progress reports, the grantee will prepare a final report upon completion of the project. The final report must cover the life of the project, objective reached, expected and actual results, lessons learned, perspectives or replication and other interesting aspects of the project. The report should also include the project sustainability aspects. If necessary, the NC will ask for additional information or clarification.

After approving the reports, the NC will prepare project completion report and register the conclusion of the project in the SGP project database.



## **7. Knowledge management**

Knowledge management strategy implies the collection and dissemination of information concerning the experience gained from each individual project and the entire project portfolio by various GEF thematic areas. The objective of the knowledge management efforts is to facilitate the flow of knowledge and experiences, leverage lessons learned from both successful and unsuccessful projects, and to replicate and scale-up good practices. Best SGP practices will be used as an influence mechanism for development and formulation of policy for implementation of environmental conventions and development agendas.

Knowledge management will be one of the key activities of the SGP Armenia. Knowledge and experience gained through SGP projects will be collected and consolidated in handbooks, factsheets, case studies, films and video materials. This information will then be widely disseminated among practitioners to determine the good/best practices and strategies and to compare and share experience. Experience will also be shared at seminars, meetings, public presentations, knowledge fairs, knowledge centers and through different electronic information networks and media when applicable. Training programmes and workshops conducted within the SGP projects are of special importance in the knowledge management aspect.

SGP Armenia will ask for continuous knowledge sharing among the present and past grantees to share best practices and lessons learned; document best practices distributed; create a "directory of expertise" among SGP grantees to call upon each other for advice; develop websites and e-groups for regional groupings; and designate local focal persons.

SGP Armenia will encourage applicants to include a component for demonstration and knowledge dissemination in proposed projects. Regular short "press releases" will be prepared and disseminated in electronic and/or printed form by the grantees for updating the public on the past (successes, awards, recognitions, etc.), present and future activities. The grantees will be required to ensure continuous and open exchange of knowledge and lessons learned with other applicants. The accessibility of information will be a requirement to all SGP participants.

## **8. Resource mobilization and sustainability**

Resource mobilization is a key part of the SGP country programme strategy and therefore, a priority task for the SGP team and the NSC. It is a commitment on the part of SGP to the GEF Council to ensure minimum 1:1 co-funding ratio at global level, in a way that co-funding part is evenly allocated between cash and in-kind. Co-financing is also important for increasing the number, size and impacts of SGP funded projects. Mobilized partnerships and resources are vital for strengthening income-generating and other livelihood components of the projects that would foster community "ownership" of projects and thus ensure sustainability.

In OP5, projects funded by SGP Armenia are expected to ensure 1:1 co-funding ratio (50% in cash and 50% in-kind). However, once adequate level of financial resources is mobilized at the country programme level, cash co-financing component can be reduced or not be applied for projects supporting initiatives in poor and vulnerable communities.

SGP Armenia will consider partnership and co-funding opportunities from both traditional and non-traditional sources. Resource mobilization activities will be carried out through the following directions:

- Assessment of interests and priorities of international donor and development agencies and identification of opportunities for partnership and co-financing;
- Attraction of private sector in SGP projects co-financing, also as a part of corporate social responsibility;
- Involvement of Armenian Diaspora in SGP projects co-financing;
- Mainstreaming SGP projects with UN agencies and GEF-funded larger projects;
- Mainstreaming SGP projects with MDGs and poverty reduction programmes for expanded co-financing;
- Exploring opportunities for complementarity and cost sharing with state-funded projects and initiatives at local level.

SGP Armenia will target all possible sources to provide in-kind and cash co-financing for SGP both at programme and project levels. To this effect, the Programme aims to establish and maintain strong partnership relations with bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, UN agencies, Armenian Diaspora, as well as private sector and government.

According to the SGP principles, all country Programmes shall move to external non-GEF funding after a given period of time. SGP Armenia sustainability strategy will focus on sustaining the country programme results, both at project and programme levels, beyond the GEF funding. In particular, the country programme will focus on achievement of the following results:

- Mobilizing additional programme level co-financing and act as a delivery mechanism for other donors, ensuring cost recovery for SGP;
- Strengthening income-generating components and thus, community “ownership” of the projects;
- Securing co-financing resources from traditional and non-traditional sources;
- Ensuring broad advertisement and replication of the successfully implemented SGP projects and initiatives;
- Ensuring that the CPS is updated to incorporate national environmental and sustainable development priorities;
- Ensuring the most-efficient contribution of the government representative in the NSC aimed at enhanced involvement of SGP Armenia in the national strategies and action plans;
- Ensuring SGP’s visibility through continuous communication, outreach and networking;
- Serving as a platform for cooperation and dialogue among NGOs/CBOs, local authorities, government agencies, academic and research institutes, private sector, media, and other stakeholders.

## ANNEX 1: CONTRIBUTION OF THE SGP ARMENIA TO MDG TARGETS

MDGs	Expected Contribution
MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Diversification of income-generating opportunities;</li> <li>✓ Increase of capacity for viable economic practices;</li> <li>✓ Improved livelihoods by reduced cost or increased income;</li> <li>✓ Decline in unemployment;</li> <li>✓ Enhanced resilience to the effects of climate change</li> </ul>
MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Contribution to the ecological component of primary school curricula;</li> <li>✓ Formation of public environmental awareness</li> </ul>
MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Promotion of equal involvement of men and women in SGP funded project activities</li> </ul>
MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Enhancing local capacity for addressing environmental degradation;</li> <li>✓ Introducing sustainable natural resources management practices aimed at improving ecosystem health;</li> <li>✓ Reduction of GHG emissions through energy saving and RES technologies</li> </ul>
MDG 8: Develop a global partnership for development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Enhancement of positive partnership between civil society and government for ensuring sustainability of community-based initiatives</li> </ul>

## ANNEX 2: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX OF THE CPS FOR GEF OP5 (2011-2014)

CPS Outcomes	Baseline Data	Outcome Indicators	Means of verification	Output/Project-level activities
<b>OBJECTIVE: Enhance local capacity for addressing global environmental issues through community-based approaches and actions</b>				
<b>GEF FOCAL AREA: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION</b>				
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1: Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas (ICCAs) through community-based actions				
<b>Outcome 1: Improved sustainability of existing and new protected areas (PAs) through community-based actions</b>	1. Inadequate management effectiveness of the PAs due to deficiency of resources and technical capacity. Good SGP practices of community involvement in PA management need to be introduced and replicated	1. At least <b>4</b> PAs benefited from new or improved income sources through application of financially viable models of community involvement in PA management	SGP database; project reports and monitoring results; experts opinions; comparison of the results with the baseline for each individual project; protocols of PAs public councils meetings; training packages and evaluation sheets; participatory interviews	Approx # of projects: <b>8</b>  - Provide communities in and around PAs with alternative livelihood opportunities to mitigate negative impact on habitats and biodiversity;  - Improve capacities of local communities to integrate biodiversity conservation and economic benefits through involvement in management of protected areas;  - Increase understating and awareness of the importance and value of biodiversity at the community level
	2. Communities lack viable alternatives to the current economic and cultural practices that affect biodiversity. Unsustainable livelihood practices of local communities adversely affect biodiversity, especially that of PAs	2. At least <b>6</b> communities / <b>30</b> households involved in alternative and biodiversity-friendly income-generating activities in cooperation with PA administration		
	3. Low level of public awareness and education on biodiversity conservation and biodiversity-friendly practices based on local benefits	3. At least <b>300</b> community members have increased awareness on biodiversity and understanding on biodiversity-friendly livelihood practices in and around PAs		
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2: Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions				
<b>Outcome 2: Improved capacities of rural communities in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in production landscapes and sectors</b>	1. Few rural communities are practicing conservation through biodiversity-friendly livelihood options	1. At least in <b>6</b> communities community-based livelihood practices on conservation and sustainable use of biological resources are demonstrated	SGP database; project reports; and monitoring results; experts opinions; comparison of the results with the baseline for each individual project; training packages and evaluation sheets; participatory interviews	Approx # of projects: <b>7</b>  - Demonstrate models on conservation and sustainable use of biological resources in production landscapes through incorporation of sustainable biodiversity-friendly practices into community livelihoods  - Increase understanding of rural communities on integration of biodiversity conservation considerations into community-level activities
	2. Community-level stakeholders lack of financial and technical support to maximize biodiversity conservation in production landscapes and sectors through sustainable livelihood-based income generation practices	2. At least <b>30</b> households involved in biodiversity-friendly income generating practices		
	3. Low level of awareness and knowledge on biodiversity and biodiversity-friendly livelihood options in production landscapes and sectors	3. At least <b>300</b> community members have increased knowledge on biodiversity-friendly livelihood practices including agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and ecotourism		

CPS Outcomes	Baseline Data	Outcome Indicators	Means of verification	Output/Project-level activities
<b>GEF FOCAL AREA: CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION</b>				
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3: Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level				
<b>Outcome 3: Enhanced capacity of local communities to apply low-carbon technologies</b>	1. In GEF-4, combined solar heating applications in parallel with buildings EE improvement measures, proved to be the most viable projects with tangible economic and environmental benefits. This and other successful low-carbon applications need to be replicated and scaled-up by the SGP during GEF-5 cycle	1. At least <b>3</b> various applications on low-carbon technology (micro-solar, micro-hydro, biogas and methane energy generation, and fuel-efficient stoves / heaters) developed / adapted and tested at community level	SGP database; comparison of the results with the baseline for each individual project; technical reports of the projects; monitoring results and experts opinions; participatory interviews	Approx # of projects: <b>7</b>  - Introduce innovative, locally feasible low-carbon technologies in pilot communities  - Increase knowledge of community-based and non-governmental organizations on locally feasible low-carbon technology and its benefits  - Support knowledge management to highlight best practices and lessons from the demonstration of low-GHG technologies
	2. In spite of the high cost of energy carriers in Armenia and great potential for utilization of renewable energy, limited number of rural communities has adequate potential to use renewable energy sources and apply energy-efficient techniques. Utilization of renewables at local level will generate tangible economic benefits	2. At least <b>600</b> community households / units benefit from low-carbon technology projects		
	3. Very limited number of NGOs, CBOs and other community-level stakeholders have adequate capacity to develop and implement innovative low-carbon practices/technologies at the community level	3. At least <b>35</b> NGOs/CBOs and/or community-level decision makers have increased capacity to develop and implement locally feasible low-GHG technologies		
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4: Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level				
CPS does not envisage any Outcome under this specific Objective, as its achievement is not feasible in the context of the SGP				
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 5: Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry				
<b>Outcome 4: Conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through strengthened climate resiliency of local communities</b>	1., 2. In Armenia none of the numerous reforestation / afforestation and SLM projects have been implemented in the context of conservation, restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks with specific impact indications	1. At least <b>2</b> sustainable forest and/or land management approaches supporting carbon stock restoration and enhancement are piloted	SGP database; comparison of the results with the baseline for each individual project; technical reports of the projects; monitoring results and experts opinions; participatory interviews	Approx # of projects: <b>5</b>  - Demonstrate carbon stock restoration and enhancement practices through sustainable land and/or forest management approaches at community level  - Improve capacities of local communities / CBOs, NGOs and community-level decision makers to address LULUCF issues
		2. Restoration and enhancement of at least <b>70</b> ha of forest and/or non-forest lands initiated		
	3. Very limited number of NGOs, CBOs and other community-level stakeholders have adequate capacity to address LULUCF issues	3. At least <b>25</b> NGOs/CBOs and/or community-level decision makers have gained adequate capacity to address LULUCF issues		

CPS Outcomes	Baseline Data	Outcome Indicators	Means of verification	Output/Project-level activities
<b>GEF FOCAL AREA: LAND DEGRADATION</b>				
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities				
<b>Outcome 5: Integrated natural resource management and sustainable land use practices at community level are introduced to mitigate land degradation</b>	1. Few communities have adequate capacity to implement good practices for crop and livestock production that contribute to enhancement of multiple agro-ecosystem services provided by pastures, grasslands and other types of landscape	1. At least <b>2</b> improved agricultural management approaches demonstrated to sustain agro-ecosystem functioning	SGP database; project reports and monitoring results; comparison of the results with the baseline for each individual project; experts opinions; participatory interviews	Approx # of projects: <b>11</b>  - Introduce sustainable agricultural practices based on soil and water conservation in project communities  - Improve capacities of rural communities / CBOs to apply sustainable land use / management practices
	2. No reliable data available on application of sustainable agricultural (crop and/or livestock production) practices in Armenia: difficult to analyze	2. At least <b>20</b> ha under improved agricultural, land and water management practices		
	3. CBOs and other community-level stakeholders have lack of knowledge on sustainable land use/management practices. SLM principles have never been included in the community development (land-use) plans	3. At least <b>200</b> community members and <b>7</b> CBOs have improved capacity to apply sustainable land use / management practices		
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7: Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes)				
CPS does not envisage any Outcome under this specific Objective, as its achievement is not feasible in the context of the SGP				
<b>GEF FOCAL AREA: INTERNATIONAL WATERS</b>				
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8: Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives				
<b>Outcome 6: Enhanced capacities of local communities to protect transboundary water bodies</b>	1. TDA identifies the following priority problems in the Kura-Araks river basin: i) variation and reduction in hydrological flow; ii) deterioration of water quality; and iii) ecosystem degradation. However, cross-border cooperation over transboundary waters is limited or not happening due to political situation in the region	1. At least <b>2</b> innovative action aimed at reduction of nutrient flows and land-based pollution to transboundary river systems demonstrated at community level	SGP database; project reports and monitoring results; experts opinions; participatory interviews	Approx # of projects: <b>2</b>  - Support implementation of community-based actions to reduce nutrient flows and land-based pollution to transboundary rivers/water bodies in project communities  - Improve capacities of project communities in sustainable transboundary water body management
	2. TDA problems can be addressed through initiatives and actions of communities and civil society as being the key partners in such approaches as integrated watershed management. Few communities, CBOs and NGOs have adequate capacity to address transboundary water issues	2. At least <b>4</b> communities / CBOs or relevant NGOs have increased capacities to address transboundary water issues through community-based actions		

CPS Outcomes	Baseline Data	Outcome Indicators	Means of verification	Output/Project-level activities
<b>GEF FOCAL AREA: CHEMICALS / PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS</b>				
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9: Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level				
<b>Outcome 7: Improved capacities of communities to safely manage POPs and other harmful chemicals</b>	1. In most cases, communities lack adequate technical capacity to safely manage and dispose of harmful chemicals	1. Practical models of safe management and disposal of harmful chemicals (including POPs) are piloted and tested in at least <b>5</b> project communities	SGP database; project reports and monitoring results; participatory interviews; list of trained trainers with SGP POPs global training module certificates	Approx # of projects: <b>2</b>  - Pilot and test practical models at community level to reduce the release of POPs and other harmful chemicals into the environment  - Involve community-level stakeholders in awareness raising and educational campaigns on chemical safety and POPs related issues
	2. Community-level stakeholders have low level of understanding on negative environmental and health effects of POPs	2. At least <b>500</b> community members and community-level stakeholders have increased awareness and knowledge on chemical safety and POPs related issues		
	3. Limited awareness raising activities conducted. SGP POPs training module proved to be a good awareness raising tool and needs to be enhanced and popularized. Lack of local educators on chemical safety and POPs at community level	3. At least <b>20</b> local trainers trained on chemical safety and POPs related issues		
<b>CAPACITY BUILDING</b>				
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10: Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends				
<b>Outcome 8: Enhanced capacities of civil society organizations (CSOs) and community-level stakeholders to address global environmental issues and implement convention guidelines</b>	1. Limited number of NGOs has adequate capacity to support implementation of international conventions the GEF supports.	1. Capacities of at least <b>10</b> CSOs and CBOs strengthened to support implementation of global conventions guidelines	SGP database; project reports and monitoring results; national consultative process reports	Approx # of projects: <b>2</b>  - Strengthen capacities of CSOs and CBOs to support implementation of conventions guidelines  - Enhance capacities of CSOs, CBOs and other community-level stakeholders to address environmental problems through practical learning and knowledge sharing
	2. Limited capacities of CSOs, CBOs and other community-level stakeholders to address environmental problems	2. Capacities of at least <b>25</b> CSOs, CBOs and other community-level stakeholders strengthened to address environmental problems		
<b>CROSS-CUTTING RESULTS: LIVELIHOODS AND GENDER</b>				
<b>Outcome 9: Improved local livelihoods and gender equality through SGP interventions</b>	1.,2. In OP-4, all SGP funded projects directly or indirectly contributed to improvement of living standards. Meanwhile, these projects included gender equality and women's empowerment elements, as one of the mandatory cross-cutting requirements in the SGP grant-making criteria.	1. <b>95%</b> of SGP projects funded in OP5 directly or indirectly contribute to reduction of local poverty  2. <b>100%</b> of SGP projects funded in OP5 address gender equity issues as a mandatory cross-cutting requirement	SGP database; comparison of the results with the baseline for each individual project; monitoring results and participatory interviews	Approx # of projects: <b>~95%</b>  - Contribute to reduction of local poverty through introduction of sustainable livelihoods that are in harmony with environmental conservation approaches  - Mainstream gender issues through the SGP programme and incorporate within the SGP project cycle

### ANNEX 3: GEF SGP OP5 PROJECT LEVEL INDICATORS

<b>GEF SGP OP5 results indicators</b>	
<b>Biodiversity (BD)</b>	
<b>BD1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hectares of indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs) influenced</li> <li>○ Hectares of protected areas influenced</li> <li>○ Hectares of significant ecosystems with improved conservation status</li> </ul>
<b>BD2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hectares of production landscapes / seascapes applying sustainable use practices</li> <li>○ Number of significant species with maintained or improved conservation status</li> <li>○ Total value of biodiversity products/ecosystem services produced (US dollar equivalent)</li> </ul>
<b>Climate Change (CC)</b>	
<b>CCM1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tonnes of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Renewable energy measures (please specify)</li> <li>▪ Energy efficiency measures (please specify)</li> <li>▪ Other (please specify)</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Number of community members demonstrating or deploying low-GHG technologies</li> <li>○ Total value of energy or technology services provided (US dollar equivalent)</li> </ul>
<b>CCM2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tonnes of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Low carbon transport practices (please specify)</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Total value of transport services provided (US dollar equivalent)</li> </ul>
<b>CCM3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hectares of land under improved land use and climate proofing practices</li> <li>○ Tonnes of CO2 avoided through improved land use and climate proofing practices</li> </ul>
<b>Land degradation (LD) &amp; Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)</b>	
<b>LD1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hectares of land applying sustainable forest, agricultural and water management practices</li> <li>○ Hectares of degraded land restored and rehabilitated</li> </ul>
<b>LD2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Number of communities demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices</li> </ul>
<b>International Waters (IW)</b>	
<b>IWs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hectares of river/lake basins applying sustainable management practices and contributing to implementation of SAPs</li> <li>○ Hectares of marine/coastal areas or fishing grounds managed sustainably</li> <li>○ Tonnes of land-based pollution avoided</li> </ul>
<b>Chemicals (POPs)</b>	
<b>POPs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tons of solid waste prevented from burning by alternative disposal</li> <li>○ Kilograms of obsolete pesticides disposed of appropriately</li> <li>○ Kilograms of harmful chemicals avoided from utilization or release</li> </ul>
<b>Capacity Development, Policy and Innovation (all focal areas)</b>	
<b>CD</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Number of consultative mechanisms established for Rio convention frameworks (please specify)</li> <li>○ Number of community-based monitoring systems demonstrated (please specify)</li> <li>○ Number of new technologies developed /applied (please specify)</li> <li>○ Number of local or regional policies influenced (level of influence 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5)</li> <li>○ Number of national policies influenced (level of influence 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5)</li> <li>○ Number of people trained on: project development, monitoring, evaluation etc. (to be specified according to type of training)</li> </ul>



**GEF SGP OP5 results indicators**

**Livelihoods, Sustainable Development, and Empowerment (all focal areas)**

<b>Cross-cutting</b>	<p><b>Livelihoods &amp; Sustainable Development:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Number of participating community members (gender disaggregated) (Note: mandatory for all projects)</li> <li>○ Number of days of food shortage reduced</li> <li>○ Number of increased student days participating in schools</li> <li>○ Number of households who get access to clean drinking water</li> <li>○ Increase in purchasing power by reduced spending, increased income, and/or other means (US dollar equivalent)</li> <li>○ Total value of investments (e.g. infrastructure, equipment, supplies) in US Dollars (Note: estimated economic impact of investments to be determined by multiplying infrastructure investments by 5, all others by 3).</li> </ul> <p><b>Empowerment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Number of NGOs/CBOs formed or registered</li> <li>○ Number of indigenous peoples directly supported</li> <li>○ Number of women-led projects supported</li> <li>○ Number of quality standards/labels achieved or innovative financial mechanisms put in place</li> </ul>
----------------------	--