



# SGP Country Programme Strategy for utilization of OP5 grant funds

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**Country:** COUNTRY Bulgaria [caps, 14 font, bold]  
**Resources to be invested:** US\$600 000 CORE<sup>1</sup>

## 1. SGP country programme - summary background

*1.1 Please describe the length of time the SGP country programme has been active within the global SGP and results achieved (i.e. GEF-5 status as a Category 1, 2a, 2b or 2c country programme).*

SGP Bulgaria opened in 2005 and started financing projects in 2006. Since the Programme start 97 projects are co-financed at the level of 3,2 mln USD. Financial co-financing by the project beneficiaries is above 3 mln USD and in-kind contribution is over 1 mln USD. Thus the GEF SGP Bulgaria portfolio reaches 7,27 mln USD for 5 years. In addition one strategic project as implemented amounting to 146 626 USD GEF contribution.

Most of the SGP co-financed projects are in the areas of sustainable agriculture contributing to protection of lands and international waters, development of ecotourism related to biodiversity protection and demonstration projects on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources aiming at climate change mitigation. Results towards the 5 GEF focal areas are achieved also by numerous projects integrating global environmental issues into local and national policies as well as by awareness raising projects and environmental education.

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<sup>1</sup> The level of SGP OP5 resources is an estimated total of the GEF core grant allocation, anticipated STAR resources, as well as other sources of third party co-financing.

SGP Bulgaria current status is GLOBAL.

*1.2 Please update key baseline considerations for the SGP country programme Strategy, major partnerships, and existing sources of co-financing (including from government, bilateral and other sources).*

Bulgaria, by its geopolitical situation in South-East Europe, constitutes an interface between the European Union (EU) and Balkan as well as Black Sea regions. Bulgaria's territory is 110910 km<sup>2</sup> and includes 4 biogeographic areas – alpine, Black Sea, continental and steppe. Of the total country territory 57% is agricultural land, of which 78% is arable, of which 15% is irrigated. Forests cover 33% of the territory of Bulgaria, of which about 60% have natural origin. Settlements and urbanized zones cover 4%, water bodies - 2%, mining and digging raw materials – 2% and transport and infrastructure – 1%. The population of the country in 2010 was 7364570. In Bulgaria there are 6 planning regions, 28 districts, 264 municipalities, 246 towns and 5087 villages.

Bulgaria is member of the European Union as of January 2007. Today, it is an upper middle-income economy of GDP per capita of \$7088 in 2010. Until the onset of the crisis in 2009, Bulgaria enjoyed rapid GDP growth. Sound macroeconomic policies and deep structural reforms helped fuel growth with average GDP growth exceeding 6 percent per year during 2004-2007, reaching 6.2 percent in 2008. The global financial crisis and the downturn in the US and the EU had a severe impact on Bulgaria. In 2009, growth declined by 4.9 percent and remained almost flat for 2010. In the second quarter of 2011 a growth of 0,2% compared to the first quarter is registered. Bulgaria's current macroeconomic framework is adequate but risks remain. These include slower economic recovery among trading and investment partners, additional financial shocks resulting in higher interest rates and tighter global financial conditions, and energy price increase. High indebtedness of firms is also a source of concern. However, these risks are mitigated by Bulgaria's solid track record of fiscal discipline and ongoing fiscal consolidation reforms, as well as a well capitalized banking sector, and the large share of intracompany loans in the private external debt.

On the political front, there is broad support across the spectrum around key institutional, economic and monetary building blocks. Upon taking office in 2009, the Prime Minister formed a singleparty minority government with promise of reforms and faster EU convergence, with a focus on reducing corruption, unfreezing suspended EU funding, and improving quality of public services. No government has been elected for two consecutive terms since the political change in 1989, but all leading parties have expressed full support for the currency board arrangement, EU convergence, and reforms to join the EU's exchange rate mechanism, a pre-requisite to Euro-entry.

In the field of environmental protection Bulgaria does not have a common environmental strategy, but rather separate policies and legislation, e.g. Solid Waste Law, Biodiversity Law, Land Degradation Programme, Renewable Energy Plan, National Forestry Sustainable Development Strategy, etc. Different policies are managed by different institutions, e.g. Ministry of Agriculture for the forestry, Ministry of Energy and Economy for the renewables, Ministry of Environment and Water for the biodiversity,

etc. The responsible institution for the implementation of the UN Conventions is Ministry of Environment and Water. Substantial part of environmental considerations is also integrated in some of the sectoral policies, e.g. agri-environment measures in the field of agriculture, energy efficiency in agriculture and industry and as part of the regional/local development strategies and plans.

The major SGP co-financing comes from grantees and their partners – private companies, people, local authorities. SGP Bulgaria did not receive programme level co-financing by this moment. Currently the Ministry of Environment and Waters is approached for such co-financing at the level of GEF OP5 allocation for the country. The Minister of Environment and Waters expressed readiness to provide co-financing at the SGP fair – UzanaPolyanaFest on July 17, 2011. The main source of donor funds in Bulgaria that could provide co-financing to SGP grantees and partners is the European Union via the Operational Programme managed by different Ministries, e.g. OP Environment by the Ministry of Environment and Waters, OP Regional Development by the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, National Rural Development Programme by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, etc. Two more donors open their programem for NGOs in the coming months – the Bulgarian-Swiss Programme and European Economic Space and Norway Financial Mechanism (Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein). These programmes are also potential providers of co-financing funds to SGP grantees and partners. Therefore communication will be established as to avoid double financing and search for leveraged effects of the projects.

## 2. SGP country programme niche (6 pages max)

2.1 Please list the dates of the country ratification of the relevant Rio Conventions and relevant national planning frameworks:

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

Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Date of ratification - 17 April 1996
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	Year of completion - 2000
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Date of ratification - 12 May 1995
UNFCCC National Communications (1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> )	4 <sup>th</sup> – 31 August 2006 5 <sup>th</sup> – 12 February 2010
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	NA
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	Date of ratification – 22 May 2001
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	25 September 2009
Stockholm Convention (SC)	Date of ratification – 20 December 2004
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	Date of completion – 27 September 2006

World Bank Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	NA
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	Date of completion – 23 December 2004
GEF-5 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	-
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies	Date of completion – 22 March 2010 ( <i>Plan for river basin management in the Danube region 2010 – 2015</i> )

*2.2 Please describe how the SGP country programme will use OP5 resources to support implementation of national priorities in relation to GEF-5 Strategic Priorities. How will civil society and community-based projects be facilitated and coordinated to help the country achieve its priorities and achieve the objectives of the global conventions?*

As there is no overall national environmental strategy and programme the national priorities in the field of environment are considered from the Operational Programme Environment (OPE) 2007-2013 for utilization of EU funds<sup>2</sup>. The OPE states the following overall objective: Improvement, preservation and recovery of the natural environment and development of the environmental infrastructure. It is to be achieved by concentrating efforts on the following specific strategic objectives:

- Protection and improvement of the condition of water resources;
- Improvement of waste management and soil protection;
- Preservation of biodiversity and nature protection;

Their achievement is via activities under the following major directions called axes:

**1. Improvement and development of water and wastewater infrastructure in settlements with over 2000 PE and in settlements below 2000 PE within urban agglomeration areas**

This includes construction of water and wastewater treatment plants and related infrastructure, river basin management plans development and up-date and purchase of equipment for leakages identification.

The Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 also finances construction/reconstruction/rehabilitation of water supply and sewerage infrastructure in settlements, where the PE is below 2000 EP only in rural areas (in 231 rural municipalities) and Rehabilitation and construction of drainage installations and small infrastructure for flood protection and banks erosion on the territory of the agricultural farm.

**2. Improvement and development of waste treatment infrastructure**

One of the objectives is to improve the soil and groundwater condition and to decrease the part of the country's territory covered with existing landfills for household waste.

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<sup>2</sup> The draft programme for the next programming period is not available yet. Work Group discussions show that in addition to the current priorities outlined below there will be priorities on air quality and climate change both – mitigation (energy efficiency) and adaptation.

Activities include construction of regional landfills, pre-treatment facilities, waste recycling centres, gas emissions recovery systems, closure of existing landfills, development of municipal waste management plans.

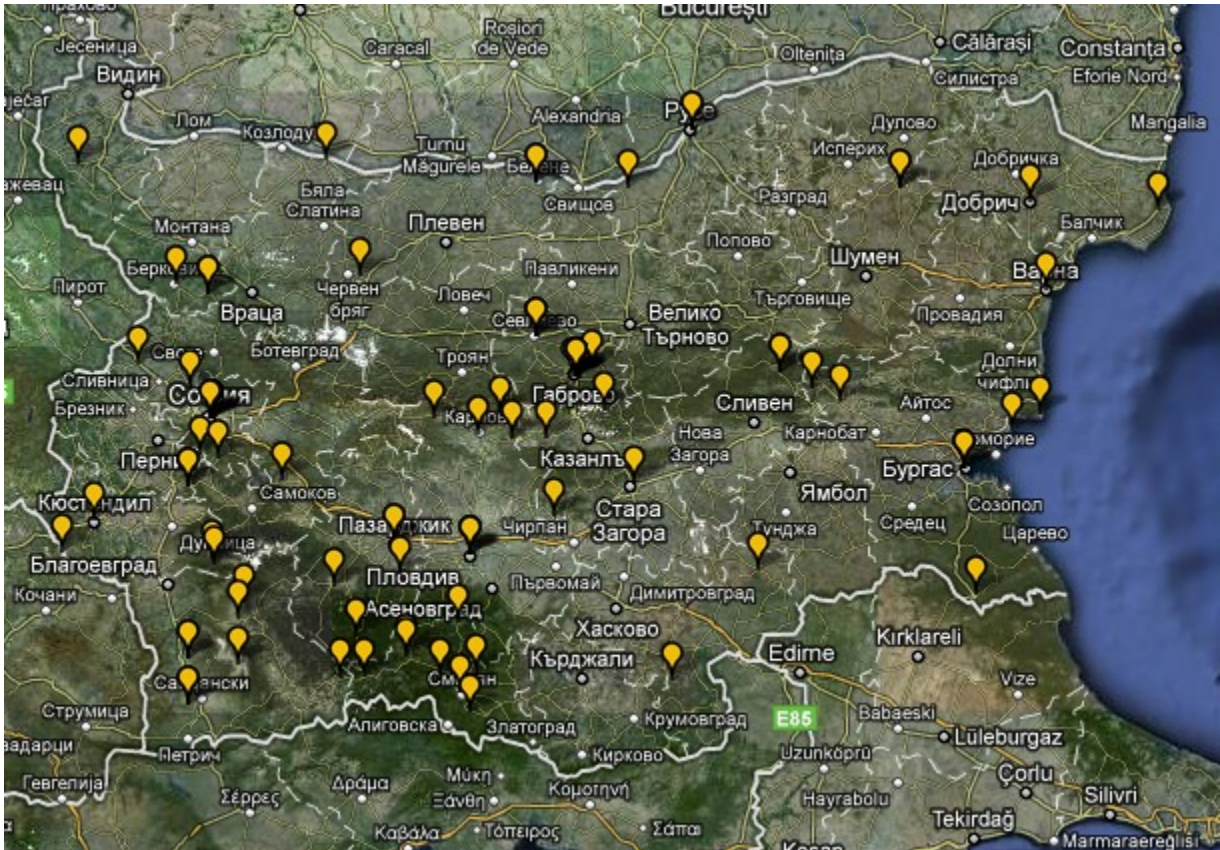
### **3: Preservation and restoration of biodiversity**

The objective shall be pursued by developing the national NATURA 2000 network, and by ensuring sustainable management, preservation, and restoration. This means development of management plans, increasing the awareness of municipalities and the public on NATURA 2000 network, implementation of specific activities from the approved management plans, development of endangered species action plans and implementation of activities reducing the climate change impact on biodiversity.

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) foresees activities for improvement of the agricultural sector. In particular, under this programme the compensation for the agricultural producers and private forest owners, whose land is included in the National Environmental Network NATURA 2000 shall be provided. This will be of substantial importance for the implementation of the measures for conservation of different habitats and species, included in the respective orders for sites designation and management plans for protected areas and zones. The programme shall support tourism activities as well as activities directed towards the promotion of natural/cultural monuments of local importance. For all tourism activities financed under Axis 3 of the RDP and falling in the NATURA 2000 sites, the respective projects, before their approval, will be checked for compliance with the provisions of the Bio-Diversity Law and the respective secondary legislation for its implementation as well as the envisaged restrictions in the orders for the site designation and management plan. The Rural Development Programme shall also support the sustainable use of forests in order to protect the environment and to preserve the rural landscape. The envisaged measures for forestation of cultivated and uncultivated land will support the fight against wind and water erosion, the desertification and the decrease of adverse consequences of climate warming. The country forestation will be improved and the sources for renewable energy will increase. The restoration of the production potential and the introduction of preventive measures for private forest owners will significantly contribute to the protection against forest fires.

*2.3 Please insert or annex a map of the region indicating a geographic focus, if relevant.*

There is no geographic focus of SGP Bulgaria as the country is small and SGP NSC is of the opinion that the programme can function on the territory of the country. The projects' distribution map, however, shows some concentration in the western and central part of Bulgaria. This is mainly a result of the local initiative, but also of the SGP strategy for concentration around areas of success in order to achieve leveraged effect of SGP funding.



2.4 Please fill in the table below detailing the target OP5 global project objectives described in the GEF CEO endorsement documents. SGP country programmes are invited to establish the SGP niche for grant-making in relation to the national priorities as applicable, outlined above, and the OP5 project objectives for the focal areas, as relevant.

Table 2. Consistency with national priorities

SGP niche is defined for each SGP OP5 Immediate Objective. It outlines the types of project proposals that may be co-financed by GEF SGP in Bulgaria. Each SGP niche column per Immediate Objective lists all possible project proposal types for this Immediate objective. Some of the outlined proposal types are specific for the Immediate Objective and some are common for more than one Immediate objective. Therefore some types of projects are common for most immediate objectives. Those are:

1. Awareness raising initiatives
2. Sustainable and replicable community-based demonstrations
3. Integration of global environmental issues into local/regional/national policies
4. Environmental education activities
5. Sustainable product/service design reducing environmental impact of their life cycle

In all SGP proposal applications of innovative approaches are considered an additional asset. All demonstration activities should be able to prove sustainability and a potential for replication. In OP5 SGP Bulgaria will focus on strategic projects that could lead to

influence on regional/national level. Possibly a larger project with clear strategic impact maybe financed at the level of SGP co-financing of 150000 USD. In such a proposal evidence of national level engagement should be presented.

OP5 project objectives	National priorities	SGP niche
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1:</u>            Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas through community-based actions</p>	<p>Developing the national NATURA 2000 network</p> <p>Conservation of genetic diversity and biological security</p>	<p>To contribute to the development of markets, local communities' access to markets, market mechanisms and financial instruments for biodiversity protection in protected areas and zones, e.g. local trade marks and labels, community biodiversity funds, PES schemes (payment for ecological services), etc.</p> <p>Promotion and stimulation of community-based income-generating activities, contributing to biodiversity protection or preventing poaching of globally significant species in protected areas and zones</p> <p>In situ preservation of rare breeds and plant varieties in protected areas and zones.</p> <p>Forest protection measures in protected areas and zones, including restoration after natural disasters, stimulation of the maintenance of the mixed character of forests and different age structure, protecting single and rare tree types, monitoring of crouch areas and their link to other forest areas, etc.</p> <p>Reducing negative impacts on local biodiversity in protected areas and zones by invasive species via information dissemination, awareness raising, policy integration, etc.</p> <p>Development of eco-corridors between protected areas and zones</p> <p>Biodiversity protection in protected areas and zones via advocacy, especially on local level; information dissemination and awareness raising, especially among specific target groups (minorities, anglers, hunters etc.) and/or integration into local/regional/national policy</p> <p>Environmental education on biodiversity of protected areas and</p>

		<p>zones, especially outdoor and interactive approaches, including ones linked to tourism development</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2:</u> Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions</p>	<p>Agri-environment measures Increase the awareness and knowledge of farmers about the impact (positive and negative) of agricultural practices upon the environment, especially in relation to the management of soil and water and the conservation of biodiversity; Maintain biodiversity by encouraging the identification and conservation of high nature value farmland (semi-natural habitats) Protect the permanent grasslands (pastures and meadows)</p>	<p>To contribute to the development of markets, local communities' access to markets, market mechanisms and financial instruments for biodiversity protection, e.g. local trade marks and labels, community biodiversity funds, PES schemes (payment for ecological services), etc</p> <p>Promotion and stimulation of community-based income-generating activities, contributing to biodiversity protection or preventing poaching of globally significant species</p> <p>In situ preservation of rare breeds and plant varieties</p> <p>Development of demonstration centers and/or farms with educational and promotional elements on sustainable agriculture, innovative methods for sustainable use of natural resources, etc.</p> <p>Support for conservation of traditional and low intensity agricultural practices</p> <p>Activities related to further identification of High Nature Value farmland</p> <p>Promotion and demonstration of innovative sustainable forestry management activities</p> <p>Sustainable product design contributing to biodiversity protection</p> <p>Environmental education on biodiversity, especially outdoor and interactive approaches, including ones linked to tourism development</p> <p>Biodiversity protection via advocacy, especially on local level; information dissemination and awareness raising, especially among specific target groups (minorities, anglers, hunters etc.) and/or integration into local/regional/national policy</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3:</u> Promote the demonstration,</p>	<p>By 2020 16% Renewable energy sources in total energy consumption</p>	<p>To contribute to the development of markets, local communities' access to markets, market mechanisms and</p>



<p>development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level</p>	<p>50% reduction of energy intensity of GDP 20% GHG emissions reduction</p>	<p>financial instruments for GHG emissions reduction, e.g. footprint assessment and mechanisms for reducing it, GHG emissions reduction funds, RES and energy efficiency schemes and others.</p> <p>Promotion and stimulation of community-based income-generating activities, contributing to GHG emissions reduction, e.g. initiatives for organic waste separation and utilization for reduction of GHG emissions; Utilization of logging and agricultural waste for community heating, including improvement of heating devices, on the site utilization of biogas produced in stock breeding farms, etc.</p> <p>Sustainable product design contributing to GHG emissions reduction</p> <p>Environmental education on climate change and energy efficiency and RES</p> <p>Reducing GHG emissions via information dissemination and awareness raising, including community-based demonstrations of sustainable and replicable technologies and measures reducing GHG emissions, and/or integration into local/regional/national policy</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4:</u> Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level</p>	<p>By 2020 10% renewable energy sources in transport (biofuel, electrical vehicles)</p>	<p>Promoting consumption of locally produced products, reducing transport emissions</p> <p>Stimulation of public transport efficiency, improvement of public transport organization and other transport organization activities leading to GHG emissions reduction.</p> <p>Demonstration projects on sustainable transport in forestry, agriculture, urban areas, etc. (e.g. lifts, bicycling, electric vehicles, etc.)</p> <p>Demonstration projects of low GHG emission approaches to road construction.</p> <p>Environmental education and awareness rising on low carbon transport.</p>

<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 5:</u> Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry</p>	<p>Development of procedures for improving control and reporting on the influence of land use on climate change</p> <p>Protection and recovery of the natural biological and structural diversity of forests, long-term carbon retention in forests and guaranteeing forest ecological functions</p> <p>Through the following key activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protection and maintenance of the biodiversity</li> <li>2. Contribution to the implementation of the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol</li> <li>3. Improvement and protection of forests</li> </ol> <p>Halt soil degradation processes and protection of soil fertility and diversity</p>	<p>To contribute to the development of markets, local communities' access to markets, market mechanisms and demonstrations of enhancement of carbon stocks in land use, e.g. preventing urban sprawl, high carbon stock land conversion, usage of abandoned lands and low-productivity lands for carbon stock enhancement, etc.</p> <p>Demonstration community-based afforestation and reforestation measures</p> <p>Promotion and stimulation of sustainable forest management, including forest certification and conservation in private forests, land protection belts expansion and maintenance, increase and maintenance of the forests in lowlands, inventory of carbon stocks in forests, use of environmentally sound equipment and technologies in forestry, forestation of areas after forest fires, under erosion, etc.</p> <p>Education and awareness raising on impacts of land use, land use change and forestry on carbon stocks and emissions, ways to enhance carbon stocks and reduce CO2 emissions</p> <p>Integration of sustainable land and forest management into national/regional/local development policies</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6:</u> Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities</p> <p>SGP LD Outcome 6.1: Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts on agro-, and forest ecosystems and ecosystem services demonstrated to sustain ecosystem functionality</p> <p>SGP LD Outcome 6.2: Community-based models of sustainable forestry management developed, and tested,</p>	<p>Protection of natural resources and improvement of rural areas Via</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protection and recovery of important habitats</li> <li>2. Improvement of water quality and prevention of pollution from agricultural sources</li> <li>3. Halting soil degradation processes and protection of soil fertility and diversity</li> <li>4. Development of RES potential</li> </ol> <p>Protection and recovery of the natural biological and structural diversity of forests, long-term carbon retention in forests and</p>	<p>To contribute to the development of organic products' markets, local communities' access to markets and mechanisms aiming at shortening market chains and reducing prices on organic products (e.g. farm sales and community green sales spots)</p> <p>Agroforestry promotion and demonstration, including green belts and wind protection belts</p> <p>Demonstration community-based sustainable forestry management, including forest certification in private forests and conservation, reduced impact of logging practices, reforestation and afforestation, financial mechanisms (e.g. differentiated payment of logging</p>

<p>linked to carbon sequestration for possible upscaling and replication where appropriate, to reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhance carbon sinks from land use, land use change, and forestry activities</p>	<p>guaranteeing forest ecological functions</p> <p>Through the following key activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protection and maintenance of the biodiversity</li> <li>2. Contribution to the implementation of the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol</li> <li>3. Improvement and protection of forests</li> </ol> <p>To broaden the economic value of private forests and to increase diversification of forest production</p>	<p>services)</p> <p>Demonstration measures to fight erosion, including small scale facilities, barrages, etc.</p> <p>Sustainable product design contributing to land protection</p> <p>Environmental education and training on sustainable agriculture and forestry</p> <p>Stimulating sustainable agriculture and forestry, preventing forest fires via information dissemination and awareness raising and/or integration into local/regional/national policy</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7:</u> Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes)</p> <p>SGP LD Outcome 7.1: Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts in land use frontiers of agro-ecosystems and forest ecosystems (rural/urban, agriculture/forest)</p>	<p>Maintain and restore traditional agricultural landscapes and landscape features which have cultural, scenic or environmental value, especially for biodiversity</p>	<p>Demonstration of community-based practices on sustainable agriculture at land use frontiers, e.g. protection and creation of green farm boundaries, belts and landscape features</p> <p>Development and testing of models for sustainable use of the commons (common grasslands)</p> <p>Awareness raising on reducing pressures from competing land uses</p> <p>Environmental education and training on reducing pressures from competing land uses</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8:</u> Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives</p>	<p>Water treatment plants and infrastructure Wastewater treatment plants and infrastructure Water basin management plans implementation Flood risk management plans development</p>	<p>Clean-up of surface pollution of water bodies, including engaging minorities</p> <p>Promotion of sustainable agriculture reducing non-point pollution</p> <p>Alternative wastewater treatment technologies for smaller settlements</p> <p>Awareness raising on water quality maintenance</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9:</u> Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level</p>	<p>Assessment of POPs situation in Bulgaria</p> <p>Assessment of the legislative and policy effectiveness</p> <p>Emissions monitoring programmes</p> <p>Programmes aiming at implementation of country obligations considering the</p>	<p>Awareness Raising on POPs</p>

	<p>assessments</p> <p>Development of specific action plans per POPs category</p> <p>Stimulating education, training and awareness raising of the population</p>	
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10:</u> 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>		<p>Community-based environmental monitoring initiatives</p> <p>Awareness raising on environmental issues</p> <p>SGP fairs</p>
<p><u>Cross-Cutting Results:</u> Poverty reduction, livelihoods and gender</p>		<p>Gender issues are considered in project evaluation</p> <p>Promotion of sustainable product design, sustainable agriculture and forestry and renewable energy technologies.</p>

### **3. Capacity development, poverty reduction and gender results for SGP (1 page max)**

*3.1 Please describe how the SGP country programme in the preparation and review of projects, and later in their implementation, will produce positive results in the development of capacity of civil society organizations (i.e. national NGOs, CBOs, or indigenous peoples organizations); improving livelihoods and local benefits; as well as addressing gender and indigenous peoples' considerations so as to achieve global environmental benefits.<sup>3</sup> Please also provide details how the capacity developed will be retained within different organizations and communities.*

The SGP Bulgaria practice since its start is to provide individual technical support and guidance on proposal development and project implementation on continuous basis. Thus the capacity of the NGO or community group is improved both during the process of proposal development, but also project implementation if the proposal is approved for financing. The support is related to all elements of proposal development and project implementation: development of the hierarchy of objectives, writing clear justification, presenting clear and logical set of activities, enlisting of project results, development of effective, clear and detailed budget, accounting and reporting, support for specific project implementation issues, establishing links among grantees as to share experience and exchange knowledge, etc.

Most of the projects supported by SGP Bulgaria will seek development of income-generation activities in order to ensure sustainability of project results. Therefore the SGP niche focus is on markets development for environmental sound products and services (e.g. education), thus engaging production sectors to transfer to more sound practices and engage more people in such initiatives.

SGP Bulgaria demonstrates that many of the initiatives come from women. The NSC ensures that gender issues are taken into consideration on proposal approval process.

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<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.

4. **OP5 country outcomes, indicators and activities (3 pages max)**

Table 3. Results Framework

SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1: Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas (ICCAs) through community-based actions			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
Improved sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas through community-based actions	100 ha Hectares of protected areas influenced	Progress reports	About 1 project
	10 ha Hectares of production landscapes applying sustainable use practices	Progress reports Land ownership documents Organic farming certificates if applicable	
	Total value (50000 USD) of biodiversity products/ecosystem services produced (USD)	Progress reports	
	Number (1) of quality standards/labels achieved or innovative financial mechanisms put in place	Progress reports Standards/labels registration documents	
	Number of innovations or new technologies (1) developed/applied	Progress reports Trip reports	
	Number of local or regional policies influenced (1)	Progress reports Policy documents	
1.2: Benefits generated at the community level from conservation of biodiversity in and around protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas	100 ha Hectares of protected areas influenced	Progress reports	
	10 ha Hectares of production landscapes applying sustainable use practices	Progress reports Land ownership documents Organic farming certificates if applicable	
	Total value of biodiversity products/ecosystem	Progress reports	

	services produced (USD)		
	Number (1) of quality standards/labels achieved or innovative financial mechanisms put in place	Progress reports Standards/labels registration documents	
	Number of innovations or new technologies developed/applied (1)	Progress reports Trip reports	
	Number of local or regional policies influenced (1)	Progress reports Policy documents	
1.4: Increased understanding and awareness at the community-level of the importance and value of biodiversity	Number of innovations or new technologies developed/applied (1)	Progress reports Trip reports	
	Number of local or regional policies influenced (1)	Progress reports Policy documents	
	Number of quality standards/labels achieved or innovative financial mechanisms put in place (1)	Progress reports Standards/labels registration documents	
<b>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2: Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions</b>			
2.1: Improved community-level sustainable use of biodiversity in production landscapes / seascapes through community-based initiatives, frameworks and market mechanisms, including recognized environmental standards that incorporate biodiversity considerations	10 ha Hectares of production landscapes applying sustainable use practices	Progress reports Land ownership documents Organic farming certificates if applicable	About 2 projects
	Total value (50000 ш.д.) of biodiversity products/ecosystem services produced (USD)	Progress reports	
	Number of quality standards/labels achieved or	Progress reports Standards/labels registration documents	

	innovative financial mechanisms put in place (1)		
	Number of innovations or new technologies developed/applied (1)	Progress reports Trip reports	
	Number of local or regional policies influenced (1)	Progress reports Policy documents	
2.2: Increased understanding and awareness of sustainable use of biodiversity	Number of innovations or new technologies developed/applied (1)	Progress reports Trip reports	
	Number of local or regional policies influenced (1)	Progress reports Policy documents	
	Number of quality standards/labels achieved or innovative financial mechanisms put in place (1)	Progress reports Standards/labels registration documents	
<b>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3: Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level</b>			
3.1: Innovative low-GHG technologies deployed and successfully demonstrated at the community level	Tones (10) of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies – EE and RES	Progress reports	About 2 projects
	Number of community members demonstrating or deploying low-GHG technologies (4)	Progress reports Trip reports	
	Number of innovations or new technologies developed/applied (1)	Progress reports Trip reports	
	Number of local or regional policies influenced (1)	Progress reports Policy documents	
	Number of quality standards/labels achieved or innovative financial mechanisms put in place (1)	Progress reports Standards/labels registration documents	
3.2: GHG emissions avoided	Tones of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies – EE and RES	Progress reports	
	Number of	Progress reports	



	community members demonstrating or deploying low-GHG technologies	Trip reports	
	Number of innovations or new technologies developed/applied	Progress reports Trip reports	
	Number of local or regional policies influenced	Progress reports Policy documents	
	Number of quality standards/labels achieved or innovative financial mechanisms put in place	Progress reports Standards/labels registration documents	
<b>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4: Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level</b>			
4.1: Low-GHG transport options demonstrated at the community level	Tones (10) of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies – EE and RES	Progress reports	About 1 project
	Number of community members demonstrating or deploying low-GHG technologies (4)	Progress reports Trip reports	
	Number of innovations or new technologies developed/applied (1)	Progress reports Trip reports	
4.2: Increased investment in community-level energy efficient, low-GHG transport systems	Total value (50000 USD) of energy, technology and transport services provided (USD)	Progress reports	
	Number of community members demonstrating or deploying low-GHG technologies	Progress reports Trip reports	
	Number of innovations or new technologies developed/applied	Progress reports Trip reports	
4.3: GHG emissions avoided	Tones of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies – EE and RES	Progress reports	
	Number of community members demonstrating or deploying low-GHG technologies	Progress reports Trip reports	

	Number of innovations or new technologies developed/applied	Progress reports Trip reports	
<b>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>			
5.1: Sustainable land use, land use change, and forestry management and climate proofing practices adopted at the community level for forest and non-forest land-use types	10 Hectares of land under improved land use and climate proofing practices	Progress reports Land ownership documents Organic farming certificates if applicable	About 2 projects
	Tones (10) of CO2 avoided through improved land use and climate proofing practices	Progress reports	
	Number of local or regional policies influenced (1)	Progress reports Policy documents	
5.2: Restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks in forests and non-forest lands, including peatland	10 Hectares of land under improved land use and climate proofing practices	Progress reports Land ownership documents Organic farming certificates if applicable	
	Number of local or regional policies influenced	Progress reports Policy documents	
5.3: GHG emissions avoided	Tones of CO2 avoided through improved land use and climate proofing practices	Progress reports	
<b>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities</b>			
6.1: Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts on agro-, and forest ecosystems and ecosystem services demonstrated to sustain ecosystem functionality	100 Hectares of land, applying sustainable forest, agricultural and water management practices	Progress reports Land ownership documents Organic farming certificates if applicable	About 2 projects
	10 Hectares of degraded land restored and rehabilitated	Progress reports Trip reports	
	Number of communities demonstrating sustainable land and	Progress reports	

	forest management practices (3)		
	Number of innovations or new technologies developed/applied (1)	Progress reports Trip reports	
	Number of local or regional policies influenced (1)	Progress reports Policy documents	
6.2: Community-based models of sustainable forestry management developed, and tested, linked to carbon sequestration for possible upscaling and replication where appropriate, to reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhance carbon sinks from land use, land use change, and forestry activities	Hectares of land, applying sustainable forest, agricultural and water management practices	Progress reports Land ownership documents Organic farming certificates if applicable	
	Hectares of degraded land restored and rehabilitated	Progress reports Trip reports	
	Number of communities demonstrating sustainable and forest management practices	Progress reports	
	Number of innovations or new technologies developed/applied	Progress reports Trip reports	
	Number of local or regional policies influenced	Progress reports Policy documents	
<b>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7: Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes)</b>			
7.1: Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts in land use frontiers of agro-ecosystems and forest ecosystems (rural/urban, agriculture/forest)	100 Hectares of land, applying sustainable forest, agricultural and water management practices	Progress reports Land ownership documents Organic farming certificates if applicable	About 1 project
	2 Hectares of degraded land	Progress reports Trip reports	

	restored and rehabilitated		
	Number of communities demonstrating sustainable and forest management practices (2)	Progress reports	
	Number of innovations or new technologies developed/applied (1)	Progress reports Trip reports	
	Number of local or regional policies influenced (1)	Progress reports Policy documents	
<b>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8: Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives</b>			
8.1: Effective and climate resilient community-based actions and practices supporting implementation of SAP regional priority actions demonstrated	Tones of land-based pollution avoided	Progress reports	About 2 projects
	Number of innovations or new technologies developed/applied (1)	Progress reports Trip reports	
	Number of local or regional policies influenced (1)	Progress reports Policy documents	
8.2: Synergistic partnerships developed between SGP stakeholders and transboundary water management institutions and structures supporting implementation of SAP regional priority actions	Tones of land-based pollution avoided	Progress reports	
	Number of innovations or new technologies developed/applied	Progress reports Trip reports	
	Number of local or regional policies influenced	Progress reports Policy documents	
<b>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9: Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level</b>			
9.1: Improved community-level initiatives and actions to prevent, reduce and phase out POPs,	Tonnes of solid waste prevented from burning by alternative disposal	Progress reports	About 1 project

harmful chemicals and other pollutants, manage contaminated sites in an environmentally sound manner, and mitigate environmental contamination			
	Number of local or regional policies influenced (1)	Progress reports Policy documents	
<b>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</b>			
10.2: Improved information flows to/from CBOs and CSOs in SGP countries regarding good practices and lessons learned, and application of such practices	Number of good practices described into the SGP Bulgaria website (60)	Progress reports SGP website	About 1 project
	Number of participants in SGP fair (1000)	Progress reports Trip reports	
10.3: Increased public awareness and education at the community-level regarding global environmental issues	Number of good practices described into the SGP Bulgaria website	Progress reports SGP website	All projects and 6 specific projects on environmental education and awareness raising on the 5 GEF focal areas
	Number of participants in SGP fair	Progress reports Trip reports	
<b>Cross-Cutting Results: Poverty reduction, livelihoods and gender</b>			
Generally, SGP seeks to improve livelihoods through increasing local benefits generated from environmental resources, and mainstream gender considerations in community-based environmental initiatives.	Number (400) of participating community members (men and women)	Progress reports	All projects
	Increase in purchasing power by reduced spending, increased income, and/or other means (USD)	Progress reports	
	Number of women-	SGP database	

	led projects directly supported (4)		
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## 5. Monitoring & Evaluation plan (3 pages max)

*5.1 Please describe the Monitoring & Evaluation plan for the portfolio of individual SGP projects working with civil society organizations (i.e. national NGOs, CBOs, or indigenous peoples' organizations). Details on the frequency of monitoring visits and evaluations of projects should be provided.*

### a. Project impacts - project monitoring and evaluation

The projects' monitoring and evaluation system is equal to all projects under SGP. It is based on the reporting documentation required by SGP globally and some additional requirements for SGP Bulgaria. That system involves:

Every project proposal will include identification of expected impacts and impact indicators. Each project will list up to 3 specific objectives and identify indicators to measure their achievement, as well as listing the expected outputs of the project.

The project proponents are responsible for monitoring the achievement of impacts, objectives and production of the project outputs. For each indicator especially on impact level they describe how the measurement has to be done. The monitoring periodicity is according to the schedule for reporting to SGP as per re-imbursments schedules. They are different for each project depending on its specifics, however in general vary between 4 and 7 months. Each progress report is submitting data on the level of achievement of all indicators listed in the project proposal.

Thus the progress is documented in the periodical progress reports subject of approval by the SGP NC. That is a requirement for any other funds transfer to the beneficiary. Lessons learned and good practices are also required elements of the progress reports. All of them are published at the SGP website for sharing knowledge with wider community.

Evaluation is expected to take place at the end of the project by the beneficiaries and partners of the project and is required to be reported in the final report mainly in the form of good practice text or justification of the failure.

SGP NC, PA and NSC actively participate in project monitoring and evaluation visiting each project minimum once, but most projects are visited more than once. Each project has 1-3 NSC members supervising it. Furthermore there is a grantees' e-mail group via which NC and PA communicate requests such as regular information dissemination on up-coming events so other grantees NC, PA or NSC members could attend. In most cases so far such participations are almost to any substantial project event. However with the growth of project numbers and the administrative budget restrictions to SGP this could not be feasible in the future. The result may be negative as the practice shows that SGP active participation in monitoring and evaluation is stimulating to beneficiaries themselves and also can contribute to solving some crucial problems with the project implementation.

b. Programme impacts – programme monitoring and evaluation

Programme monitoring focuses on observing the funds allocated by SGP to the GEF focal areas (biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, international waters and POPs). This is done via the SGP projects’ databases – the global Dbase and one developed in Bulgarian language. Bulgaria has developed a projects database in Bulgarian language which contributes to the programme level monitoring process within the country and the involvement of the NSC and other key stakeholders. Both databases are designed as to allow compilation of the SGP contributions to each GEF focal area both – from projects focused on one of those areas as well as by projects contributing to few of them. This is done before and after each NSC meeting as to guide the decision-making process on projects approval as well as the SGP efforts in identifying and stimulating projects in such areas so the required balance is achieved.

Programme monitoring also includes overview of the achievements towards the SGP impact indicators. This is also done by using the respective projects databases, aggregating the data from each project into the overall SGP Programme contribution towards the impact indicators. This analysis is key to the SGP evaluation that on local level is done annually by the NSC. Further independent evaluations may be considered by the CPMT or other bodies. The results of SGP implementation are disseminated widely on-line as the databases are available for access to all visitors to both Global SGP website and Bulgaria’s SGP website [www.sgp-bulgaria.org](http://www.sgp-bulgaria.org) Furthermore SGP Bulgaria takes all opportunities to present the results of the programme to diverse variety of events and organizes SGP fairs already for two subsequent years.

*5.2 Please describe how local stakeholders will participate in setting project objectives and outputs; how they will participate in monitoring with what kind of method and periodicity; and how progress will be documented and reported.*

SGP Bulgaria requires that project proposals demonstrate that they are developed in consultation with local stakeholders and provide benefit to the local community. Thus community members participate directly in proposal development in all its elements – objectives, activities, results. During the project implementation the project is usually implemented with the direct participation of local stakeholders so they not only participate in the monitoring of the achievements but also in their production. During the project monitoring visits NC and PA always require to meet with the community members and discuss the project progress and effects with them.

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 <sup>4</sup>	Grantees	At project concept planning and proposal stage
Two or Three Project Progress and Financial Reports ( <i>depending on agreed disbursement schedule</i> )	Grantees, NC, PA	At each disbursement request
Project Workplans	Grantees, NC, PA	Duration of project
NC Project Proposal Site Visit ( <i>as necessary / cost effective</i> <sup>5</sup> )	NC, PA	Before project approval, as appropriate, but very rarely for cost effectiveness reasons
NC Project Monitoring Site Visit ( <i>as necessary / cost effective</i> )	NC, PA	On average once per project, as appropriate
NC Project Evaluation Site Visit ( <i>as necessary / cost effective</i> )	NC, PA	At end of project and some time after the project end, as appropriate
Project Final Report	Grantees	Following completion of project activities
Prepare project description to be incorporated into global project database	Grantees, PA, NC	At start of project, and ongoing as appropriate

5.3 Please describe the strategy for how the results of SGP individual projects will be aggregated at the country programme portfolio level. Please describe the target indicators for focal area and multi-focal area outcomes.

Table 5. M&E Plan at the Programme Level

SGP Country Programme Level		
M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
Country Programme Strategy Review	NSC, NC, CPMT	Start of OP5
Strategic Country Portfolio Review	NSC, NC	Once during OP5
NSC Meetings	NSC, NC, UNDP CO	Minimum twice per year
Performance and Results Assessment (PRA) of NC Performance	NC, NSC, UNDP CO, CPMT, UNOPS	Once per year
Country Programme Review resulting in Annual Country Report <sup>6</sup>	NC presenting to NSC and CPMT	Once per year
Financial 4-in-1 Report	NC/PA, UNOPS	Quarterly

<sup>4</sup> Capacity-development workshops and M&E trainings may be organized in relation to innovative techniques for community monitoring, including new technologies (i.e. GPS-enabled cameras, aerial photos, participatory GIS, etc.); as well as in response to guidelines for “climate proofing” of GEF focal area interventions; REDD+ standards; and/or other specific donor/co-financing requirements.

<sup>5</sup> To ensure cost-effectiveness, project level M&E activities, including project site visits, will be conducted on a discretionary basis, based on internally assessed criteria including (but not limited to) project size and complexity, potential and realized risks, and security parameters.

<sup>6</sup> The annual Country Programme Programme Review exercise should be carried out in consultation with the national Rio Convention focal points and the associated reporting requirements.



## 6 Knowledge Management Plan

6.1. *Please describe your plans for capturing, sharing, and disseminating the lessons learned and good practices identified through the country portfolio of SGP projects with civil society, government, and other relevant stakeholders (i.e. process for generating knowledge; type of knowledge products; knowledge fairs; peer to peer exchanges; use of demonstration sites; knowledge centers etc.).*

SGP Bulgaria already has experience with the implementation of 2 knowledge management projects. The system created under them will continue to be utilized under OP5. That involves:

1. Maintenance of the SGP Global Data base
2. Maintenance of the SGP projects database in Bulgarian language
3. Maintenance (renew and uploading new descriptions) of the GOOD PRACTICES section of the SGP Bulgaria website in both languages – Bulgarian and English  
<http://sgp-bulgaria.org/bestpractices/index.php?lang=en>
4. Maintenance of the projects Gallery linked to the Good practices section [http://sgp-bulgaria.org/bestpractices/index.php?option=com\\_phocagallery&view=categories&Itemid=56&lang=en](http://sgp-bulgaria.org/bestpractices/index.php?option=com_phocagallery&view=categories&Itemid=56&lang=en)
5. Organization of SGP fairs
6. Travelling exhibition with SGP project results.
7. Sharing information on events and results via the SGP grantees e-mail group
8. Produce a film with the SGP good practices and other innovative practices in order to demonstrate practical aspects of sustainable development.

6.2 *Please describe how the SGP country programme will use this knowledge to inform and influence policy at the local, regional and national levels (i.e. identify key policy processes and relevant networks).*

SGP office makes efforts to influence on national level. Regional and local level influences are responsibility of grantees and are usually part of their projects. SGP NC collects data on specific issue, e.g. prices of renewable energy technologies, aggregates them and presents to respective bodies. Currently Bulgaria is entering into the planning for the next EU funding period 2014-2020. SGP knowledge will be provided as much as possible to the working groups developing the up-coming operational programmes.

6.3 *Please describe how the SGP country programme will use this knowledge to replicate and up-scale good practices and lessons learned from SGP projects.*

The major effort in this regard is via the organization of SGP fairs and the travelling exhibition. Both events are accompanied by substantial media campaign, which brings project results to the wider public thus engaging interested parties in the implementation of SGP results.

## 7 Resource Mobilization Plan (1 page max)

7.1. *Please describe the resource mobilization plan to enhance the sustainability of the SGP country programme with reference to: (i) the diversification of funding sources to*

*achieve greater impact (i.e. non-GEF resources that help address sustainable development concerns); and (ii) the cost recovery policy to co-finance a share of the SGP country programme management costs.*

SGP Bulgaria has only one opportunity for receiving country programme financing – the Ministry of Environment and Waters from its special fund named “Enterprise for managing activities for environmental protection”. The Minister of Environment and Waters attended the SGP fair in 2011 and announced her willingness to match the GEF 600000 USD with the same amount for funding projects. The Minister of EU funds, who also attended the SGP fair was requested to check if the proposed SGP Bulgaria funding niche adds to the EU funding plans. It is important not to duplicate what EU funds are spent for and what GEF funds are spent for. Therefore the SGP Strategy will be presented to both Ministries for consideration.

Co-financing of SGP management costs is not discussed yet with the Minister. Provided both Ministers fund SGP Strategy appropriate and confirm their willingness for SGP co-financing the discussing on what percentage of management costs recovery will be acceptable will open. However, expectations are not high as it is not the government that is requesting SGP service for grant-making , but it is SGP approaching the government for adding funds for financing more projects.

*7.2. Please outline possibilities to develop strategic partnerships (identifying their objectives and possible synergies with SGP) with the following potential partners: (i) national government agencies; (ii) multilateral agencies or financial institutions (such as the World Bank, regional development banks, and/or other international organizations); (iii) bilateral agencies; (iv) non-governmental organizations and foundations; and (v) private sector.*

SGP Bulgaria already started the synergy with the Ministry of Environment and Waters. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will be also approached as under that Ministry agri-environment measures are managed and funded. Agency for Energy Efficiency under the Ministry of Economy and Energy is already in the communication loop of SGP where the results of SGP demonstration projects on EE and RES can be shared. Other partnerships are not foreseen as the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works is managing large infrastructure projects.

## **ANNEX 1: GEF SGP OP 5 PROJECT LEVEL INDICATORS**

The following represent the core set of project level indicators for OP5:

### **Biodiversity (BD)**

- Hectares of indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs) influenced
- Hectares of protected areas influenced
- Hectares of significant ecosystems with improved conservation status
- Hectares of production landscapes/seascapes applying sustainable use practices
- Total value of biodiversity products/ecosystem services produced (US dollar equivalent)

### **Climate Change (CC)**

- Tonnes of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies
  - Renewable energy measures (*please specify*)
  - Low carbon transport practices (*please specify*)
  - Energy efficiency measures (*please specify*)
  - Other (*please specify*)
- Number of community members demonstrating or deploying low-GHG technologies
- Total value of energy, technology and transport services provided (US dollar equivalent)
- Hectares of land under improved land use and climate proofing practices
- Tonnes of CO2 avoided through improved land use and climate proofing practices

### **Land degradation (LD) & Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)**

- Hectares of land applying sustainable forest, agricultural and water management practices
- Hectares of degraded land restored and rehabilitated
- Number of communities demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices

### **International Waters (IW)**

- Hectares of river/lake basins applying sustainable management practices and contributing to implementation of SAPs
- Hectares of marine/coastal areas or fishing grounds managed sustainably
- Tonnes of land-based pollution avoided

### **Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)**

- Tonnes of solid waste prevented from burning by alternative disposal
- Kilograms of obsolete pesticides disposed of appropriately
- Kilograms of harmful chemicals avoided from utilization or release

### **Policy Influence, Capacity Development & Innovations (all focal areas)**

- Number of community-based environmental monitoring systems demonstrated

*please specify (1 example per entry)*

- Number of consultative mechanisms established for Rio convention frameworks

*please specify (1 example per entry)*

- Number of innovations or new technologies developed/applied

*please specify (1 example per entry)*

- Number of local or regional policies influenced (*level of influence 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4*)

*please specify (1 example per entry)*

- Number of national policies influenced (*level of influence 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4*)

*please specify (1 example per entry)*

#### **Livelihoods & Sustainable Development (all projects)**

- Number of participating community members (gender disaggregated) \* *mandatory for all projects*
- Number of days of food shortage period reduced
- Number of increased student days participating in schools
- Number of households who get access to clean drinking water
- Increase in purchasing power by reduced spending, increased income, and/or other means (US dollar equivalent)

#### **Empowerment (all projects)**

- Number of NGOs/CBOs formed or registered
- Number of indigenous peoples directly supported
- Number of women-led projects directly supported
- Number of quality standards/labels achieved or innovative financial mechanisms put in place