



SGP Country Programme Strategy for utilization of OP5 grant funds

Country: **MONGOLIA**
Resources to be invested: **US\$ 1,100,000.00**

1. SGP country programme - summary background

The Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) in Mongolia has been running its activities since 2002 through local NGOs and CBOs, covering 11 aimags (Arhangai, Bayanhongor, Bulgan, Darkhan-Uul, Dundgovi, Govisumber, Orhon, Selenge, Tuv, Hentii and Uvurhangai) in central Mongolia. The development goal of the SGP is to assure global environmental benefits in the areas of biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, protection of international waters, prevention of land degradation and desertification, elimination of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) through community based approaches.

The number of NGOs and CBOs that have been involved in SGP activities has already exceeded 240, and as of August 2011 there have been 264 grants implemented. Mongolia SGP belongs to Category II.a country programmes and has been indicated to receive US \$ 700,000 from the Core and US \$ 400,000 from the STAR.

Over the last GEF OP4 community forestry and community conserved area development have been practiced additionally by 28 communities in the geographical focus areas and many other communities are waiting to replicate. Community based tourism has been accepted by 3 additional communities. Understanding and practical use of solar energy for appliances such as solar lighting and refrigerator has been deepened, and production of hand briquettes by individual families in Gobi region has become part of their daily activities. Herder community fruit garden and tree nursing activities have become a new country-wide practice in the geo-focus area. Pasture and land degradation issues have been well addressed and best practices already have emerged. First in the country the community based watershed management practice has been run by an NGO. Community based fish breeding and conservation activity has been initiated and recognized by local authorities. Bee keeping is gradually becoming a popular and beneficial activity again as it was during the socialist period.

In the OP5, the SGP Mongolia programme continues working in the previous geographical focus area with three dominant and strategically selected thematic focus areas such as community conserved area, community forestry and community based natural resources management, among others (list of thematic focus areas attached in annex I). The geographical focus area (map is attached in annex II) covers 11 out of 21 provinces and has the following indications: 37 % coverage country territory, 53 % of rural communities and 47 % coverage of total villages in the country.

During the recent global economic recession, Mongolian economy as in other countries had slowed down. However, from 2010 the economy has improved its performance. As predicted by economists, 17% of GDP is expected in 2011, highest record in history.

In the wake of democratic transitions across socialist countries during the end of the 80s and early 90s, Mongolia has embarked on the path to liberal democracy and market economic structure that spurred the emergence of diverse parties, non-governmental organizations, privately owned enterprises. As for the political system, Mongolia chose in its constitution passed in 1992 to introduce parliamentary democratic institution with specific privileges and strong role of the president who is directly elected by popular vote. The unicameral parliament consists of 76 members who are directly elected from 76 electoral districts on a first-past-the-post principle.

Land/pasture degradation, climate change, water resources depletion, green mass/forest depletion, pollution, poor governance or poor enforcement of laws and regulations currently are the most pressing environmental problems for Mongolia. Although loss of biodiversity is a serious problem, it is recognized that biodiversity is lost due to occurrence of the above mentioned problems.

In Mongolia, 73.9 percent of the land is occupied by agricultural area, 9.4 percent by forest resources land, 15.6 percent by reserve land, 0.6 percent by water resources land, 0.3 percent by cities, villages or other settlements land and, 0.2 percent of land is covered by transportation and networks respectively. Land degradation is the most pressing concern in the country, including desertification. According to Ministry of Nature and Environment (MNE) reports, 78 percent of pastureland degraded and 20.0 percent has a tendency towards degradation. Total areas where land has been deteriorated can be estimated as 121.7 million hectares of which, 91.7 million hectares was damaged by wind-water, 21.1 million hectares by water, 1.0 million hectares have been damaged by improper human activities and 7.9 million hectares degraded by desertification.

Sixty years of meteorological records (1940-2000) show that the annual average temperature is around 8.5⁰C in the Gobi Desert and minus 7.8⁰C in the high mountains, and that an average annual precipitation in those areas is less than 220mm and 400mm respectively. Droughts are frequent, on a cycle of approximately one year in five in the Gobi and 1 year in 10 in the mountain areas. These records also illustrate that the country average temperature increased by 1.56⁰C over the same period, the greatest increase (3.6⁰C) being recorded during winter in the mountainous west. The existing statistics say approximately, 6.5 million tons of coal and 170 cubic meters of wood are used annually for energy generation, heating and cooking demand. Power plants consume 3.5 million tons of coal for heating and emit 68 thousand tons into the

air, boilers consume 250 thousand tons of coal and emit over 10 thousand tones into the air, 400 thousand tons of coal is burned in 90 thousand normal heating stoves of which 18 thousand tons is thrown into the air. The number of vehicles has tripled compared to 1995.

According to the statistics, total water resources of Mongolia are estimated as 599km³ from which ground water, lakes and glaciers+ rivers make up 83.7%, 10.5% and 8.5%, respectively. Direct causes of water resources depletion are all human-induced such as population pressure, poor water sanitation management, over utilization of both water (for mining) and forest resources (cutting trees nearby water sources), general degradation of watershed and river basin ecosystems due to extensive mining activities and illegal logging, and weak enforcement of existing laws, regulations. The underlying cause of these problems is poor water resources management, absence of adequate data to monitor resource status, and weak grass root level user organizations to manage water resource including its utilization, conservation, and restoration. Root natural causes of water degradation are frequent droughts accelerated by climatic variations and increased aridity of the climate.

As direct human induced causes of deforestation is extensive illegal logging and industrial mining, inadequate inspection and control mechanism, poor management with weak human forces, and inefficient reforestation. Reasons underlying these issues include frequent changes in the institutional structure as well as human resource body of the forest sector, lack of legalized user rights for possessing forest resources, poor management at local government level, obsolete harvesting and wood processing technology, and the fact that the current legislation encourages unsustainable use of forest resources. Direct natural factors that lead to deforestation are forest fires during dry seasons, and sharp increase of forest pests and diseases following fires. Low humidity, a dry climate, and strong winds in the dry season make Mongolia one of the most fire-prone countries in Asia. Almost the half of the country is considered a fire-risk zone, and 98.5% percent of forests are classified as high fire risk areas.

Mongolia's vast terrain contains a variety of ecotypes found nowhere in the world. The country has the last remaining populations of a number of animal species internationally threatened or endangered. However, its biological resources have been facing increasing threats from the growing population combined with urbanization, industrial and mining expansion and the depletion of land and natural resources. In the recent past an ineffective control of illegal hunting greatly contributed to dramatic decrease of some species.

In terms of poverty it was a widespread phenomenon in Mongolia since early 1990s, indicating that around 36 % of the population was found to be poor over the last 15 years at least. Unfortunately it has not improved till today. In rural areas poverty is sensibly higher than in urban areas (approx. 43% against 30%). Over the last 15 years it has become another widespread phenomenon for rural herders to migrate to settlement areas, as being employed in agriculture increases the chances of being poor due to loss of livestock caused by environmental deterioration and frequent natural disasters like zud (cold winter combined with heavy snowfall).

Mongolia is a recipient of donors assistance since 1990, when the country started shifting to a market economy and democracy. Over the last 20 years, major donor countries and international institutions and organizations assisting Mongolia on environment have been Germany, the Netherlands, Japan, the USA, GEF, UNDP, WB, ADB and UNEP.

Geographically, while Germany has mostly assisted in protected area development in South Gobi and western Hentii mountains, the USA has worked in Huvsgul, and GEF UNDP has assisted or is assisting in biodiversity conservation in Great Gobi National Park, eastern Mongolia and lately in western Mongolia. GEF/WB is also conducting its major environmental activities in Huvsgul region. WWW is a biggest international NGO assisting Mongolia on its efforts to conserve nature. It mostly works in western Mongolia. The Netherlands is probably the biggest donor on environment and has focused on Hustain nuruu (a protected area where Takhi horse was re-introduced) and 2-3 provinces in central Mongolia on land management. Japan has assisted to renovate the hydro meteorological service and environment monitoring laboratory. GTZ of Germany, governments of the Netherlands and Japan, WB, international NGOs such as WWF and USA Nature Conservancy are the potential partners to develop relationship and seek co-financing opportunities in the next 3 years. The central and local governments are also potential partners and can be seen as co-financers in GEF OP5, although they are still weak in terms of financial capacity.

2. SGP country programme niche.

Table1. 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)	1 June 1993
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	10 July, 1996
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	1 June, 1993
UNFCCC National Communications (1 st , 2 nd)	2001, 2010
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	-
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	22 August 1996
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	4 June 2003
Stockholm Convention (SC)	17 May 2002
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	2006
World Bank Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	3 July, 2003
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	-
GEF-5 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	2010
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies (Tumen river SAP)	1999

As a country of category II, SGP Mongolia needs to use OP5 resources most effectively and more strategically. There have been identified the following national priorities that will be supported by SGP over the next 4 years:

- Development of strategic land degradation portfolio in connection with climate change (mitigation and adoption);
- Rehabilitation of depleted land and pasture, and combating desertification;
- Development and improvement of management of community forestry (mushroom planning and community fruit garden development components can be included);
- Establishment and development of community conserved areas (community fruit garden can be included);
- Innovative and advanced measures on protection and conservation of certain animals and plants;
- Support for community-based conservation initiatives and activities in buffer zones of protected areas;
- Promotion and use of renewable energy and energy efficiency in the countryside;
- Invention, introduction and application of new techniques and technologies;
- Plantation of rare and medicinal herbs and plants;
- Watershed protection and management, and construction of community-owned water reservoirs alongside rivers;
- Fish conservation and breeding;
- Support and enhancement for ecosystem services through community livelihoods improvement;
- Increased participation of citizens in natural resources management;
- Bio-fertilizers;
- Prevention of POPs pollution and their elimination;
- Strengthening capacity and networking of SGP grantees-communities;
- Community dialogue, experience sharing and discussions.

To implement the above and other priorities, SGP will closely cooperate with successful CBOs and NGOs, tasking them as leaders and experienced bodies to assist new communities to start.

Till the 1990 democratic revolution, Mongolia was a socialist country and there was only one semi-governmental environmental NGO that still exists today. Thanks to the historical shift to a market economy and democracy in 1990, a boom on NGO and civil society groups started. Over the last 20 years, there have been established more than 600 environmental NGOs and about 3000 CBOs and herder community groups countrywide. Approximately 80 % NGOs and 60 % of CBOs is in the SGP Mongolia geographical focus area. In the past the SGP has assisted many NGOs and CBOs to form and financed over 100 NGOs. As of today, there have been established three strong SGP networks comprising NGO and CBO grantees. Environmental NGOs and movements in Mongolia have gotten stronger over the course of last 10 years and managed to establish a coordinating umbrella NGO called Environmental Civil Society Council which runs Environmental Parliament, while uniting over 400 environmental NGOs and movements.

In general, Mongolian NGOs and CBOs are still weak and an overwhelming majority of them are only one or two people staffed and have no permanent offices. Even, some of them work at home. They face serious financial constraints to become more active. Most of NGO and CBO staff are educated, knowledgeable and capable to deal with many of environmental problems. However, the majority of NGOs are located in the capital city. This situation is not well suited

with our countryside mission to support initiatives and proposals made by poor herders and farmers as NGOs themselves are often poor and need more monetary resources to exist rather than assisting CBOs.

In the OP5, our policy will continue to shift more in favor of countryside NGOs and CBOs as our experience shows that they do better by themselves than NGOs from the capital city. However we will continue working with city NGOs asking them to specialize on certain areas and topics.

One important activity that is always remembered for GEF SGP in Mongolia is post-project sustainability. In some cases there are risks for CBOs and NGOs to fail anytime after project finance stopped. Therefore, there is a strong intention from our SGP side to network grantees to achieve quick outcomes and learn more from each other and enhance their capacity and capability to function sustainably.



SGP Mongolia geographical focus area map.

SGP niche for grant-making in relation to the national priorities is established and given in Table 2.

Table 2. Consistency with national priorities

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>At the Rio summit the Government of Mongolia pledged to declare up to 30 % of the country's territory as protected areas before 2015. Os of 2011, Mongolia has designated about 16% of its territory as special protected areas. It is also to note that community protected areas are essential to meet the above target, although this category is not officially recognized.</p> <p>Improvement of the management capacity of special protected areas is one of the government priorities, according to Government Action Plan.</p>	<p>SGP will intensively work on establishing more community protected/ conserved areas and supporting the recently established ones in order to make this protection category recognizable to policy makers and to broader public as well.</p> <p>SGP support also continues assisting communities in and around protected areas to enhance and develop community actions and capacities.</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>It has been a great challenge for the government for many years to raise awareness and then conduct policies on balanced action and proper understanding of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and their mainstreaming into production landscapes.</p>	<p>Where possible and needed, SGP goes to encourage and improve community- level sustainable use of biodiversity in production landscapes, using sustainable use practices and market mechanisms.</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3:</u> Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level</p>	<p>Among the whole range of national priorities, the removing barriers to promote renewable energy and the increased use of new and renewable energy are important for SGP to be involved.</p> <p>Greenhouse Gas Abatement that involves GHG reduction options/ strategies is another national priority.</p> <p>“100,000 Solar Ger” National Programme”</p>	<p>Areas, where SGP can be of assistance to communities are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Renewable energy application options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PV system - Wind power system - Hydropower development 2. Small combustion efficiency improvement (stoves) 3. Community hand briquetting 4. GHG mitigation options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lighting efficiency improvement (bulb lamps change by CFLs) - Building insulation improvement
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4:</u></p>	<p>Energy efficiency improvement needs to be taken up where it is</p>	<p>SGP's support will be on local transport fuel</p>

Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level	necessary. Energy efficient alternative fuels are another important priority in the country to combat climate change and to save country's modest forest resources (forest coverage - 12%).	consumption reduction
<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	-To adopt sustainable land/pasture use and forestry management and climate proofing practices at the community level, - Implement a comprehensive program to fight land degradation and desertification with assistance of countries in the region and international organizations. -Bring to a new level policies on forestation and water supply and significantly increase citizen participation in forestation work, especially in local areas.	In the past, SGP has been involved in creating many community based tree nurseries for contributing to crop land green belts and land rehabilitation. This practice continues over OP5 to improve land use and reclamation and forest rehabilitation activities.
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6:</u> Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities	Community forestry (CF) development is a great priory in the national context. First regulations on CF were issues 1998 and since then there have been established over 500 community forestry groups (CF boom).	SGP assistance is essential in CF development as these newly established groups need information, guidance, best practice cases to learn, and most importantly they need to know how to develop CF and make benefits to support and improve their livelihoods.
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7:</u> Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes)	Although Mongolia is a vast country with much empty space, there are problems such as heavy land use due to overconcentration of herder communities around water points and settlements.	Assistance and involvement of SGP will be helpful in areas of sustainable pasture management, development of agro-ecosystems and agricultural biodiversity in remote areas and forest ecosystems, where appropriate.
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8:</u> Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives	The Water Reform document states that the implementation of projects on protection of river basins, optimal use of water, increased utilization of surface water, expansion of underground prospecting work, establishing water reservoirs, and utilization of rain and snow water is the most important priority among others. <i>Note:</i> Most of rivers in the country belong to transboundary water bodies.	SGP's involvement will be in assisting formation of Small and Medium sized River Watershed Councils for the purpose of contributing to community based water body management. Other community initiatives relevant to the SGP objective 8 will be considered and supported as much as possible.
	Artisanal and small scaled mining	Phase out of mercury use by

<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>takes place widely throughout the country. It is estimated there are over 200,000 artisanal miners countrywide. They use mercury for extracting gold.</p> <p>Medical wastes in remote villages, chemicals and POPs are still problems, although not everywhere.</p>	<p>artisanal and small scaled miners (poor communities are often these miners) is an area where SGP support is very relevant and will be effective.</p> <p>Awareness raising and some initial activities to properly dispose off medical wastes and phase out some chemical and POPs will be addressed by SGP.</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>Mongolian community groups are very young as they have only been formed during the last 15 years. In the former socialist economy, they experienced collective or state farms. There were no self-governing/regulatory CBOs till early 1990s. Therefore, capacity building, enhancing and strengthening for CBOs are all important and urgent tasks in support of local communities and overall rural development.</p> <p>Inheriting national traditions on protecting the nature is another national priority.</p>	<p>SGP engagement in facilitating community consultative processes and dialogues, preparation of knowledge products, ensuring adequate information flows to local communities, application of knowledge management tools, educating communities to participate in monitoring and evaluation of environmental impacts, making them aware of convention guidelines and understanding and knowing roles of community groups in development process will be essential and critically important.</p>
<p><u>Cross-Cutting Results:</u> Poverty reduction, livelihoods and gender</p>	<p>Around 36 % of the population was found to be poor some 15 years ago. Unfortunately this figure has not changed significantly till today. Roughly, one third of Mongolians are still poor.</p> <p>Gap between poor and rich is widening. The rich get richer and the poor get poorer. No essential changes in livelihoods at community level.</p> <p>Gender imbalance is observed at higher political level. However, at community level gender issue is manageable for mainstreaming.</p>	<p>Poverty reduction and livelihoods improvement have been two important cross-cutting issues, making a SGP grant a win-win project by consolidating global environment benefits with local livelihoods improvement, when grants were considered for approval and implemented.</p> <p>SGP has always tried to ensure equal participation of women and men in every single grant.</p> <p>SGP's input, assistance and contribution to poverty reduction, livelihoods improvement and gender mainstreaming at community level have been and will be greatly appreciated by poor</p>

		local communities.
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3. Capacity development, poverty reduction and gender results for SGP

Both NGOs and community groups are comparatively young as they have been formed during the last 15 years. They lack experience and capacity. Many of them are eager to do something good, but no resources to make a progress or develop themselves. They have some experience from the former socialist economy, more precisely on collective or state farms. There were no NGOs and CBOs till 1990. Mongolia had only one semi-governmental NGO type organization on environment till 1990. Then thereafter, a boom of NGOs and CBOs had spread over the country. Capacity building, enhancing and strengthening NGOs and CBOs are all critical and important.

Capacity development will be addressed more than ever and will cover both NGOs and CBOs equally. National and local NGOs are now asked by SGP to specialize on certain areas and topics to conduct SGP tasks. We count that this approach will help NGOs to develop themselves and further strengthen. In fact, NGOs in Mongolia intend to do anything, if money is offered. But that is totally wrong. May be, this is a symptom with new NGOs. Without specialization or concentration on a couple of certain areas at least, no capacity can be developed and NGOs can not develop. The SGP intends to make NGOs a more technical and knowledge organization. During the OP5, the SGP plans cooperate with 10 NGOs more closely, asking them to specialize on 10 key areas of national priority.

In a similar way, successful CBOs have been told to be organizations to lead other surrounding communities by demonstrating their best practices openly. They are now asked to make presentations before new grantees, contribute to community dialogues, participate in monitoring visits, share experience with other grantees,

The SGP Mongolia will be deeply engaged in facilitating community consultative processes and dialogues, preparation of knowledge products by communities themselves, ensuring adequate information flows to local communities, application of knowledge management tools, educating communities to participate in monitoring and evaluation of environmental impacts, making them aware of convention guidelines and understanding and knowing roles of community groups in development process.

Project development and capacity-development workshops and M&E trainings will be organized in relation to innovative techniques for community monitoring, including new technologies.

Some 15 years ago, around 36 % of the population of Mongolia was found to be poor. Today this figure has not changed. Roughly, one third of Mongolians are still poor. Like in many other countries the gap between poor and rich is widening. The rich get richer and the poor get poorer. No essential changes in livelihoods at community level. As the SGP has done in the past, it continues supporting communities to improve their livelihoods, while protecting the environment. We will consider more win-win options for global environmental benefits and

livelihoods of poor vulnerable communities. Improvement of livelihoods of poor local communities is critical to make benefits to global environment.

Poverty reduction and livelihoods improvement have now become two important cross-cutting issues, making a SGP grant a win-win project by consolidating global environment benefits with local livelihoods improvement.

SGP has always tried to ensure equal participation of women and men in every single grant and will continue making SGP's input to gender mainstreaming at the community level.

4. OP5 country outcomes, indicators and activities

Table 3 describes outcomes, indicators and activities of SGP for OP5 as results framework.

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 community actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts on biodiversity resources in and around protected areas, new and existing community conserved areas, and good practices replicated and scaled up outside SGP focus area.	Hectares of community conserved areas created and influenced;	NC Project Monitoring and Evaluation Site Visit reports	20 projects At least 10 community protected areas covering 50,000 hectares will be established;
Benefits generated from conservation of biodiversity in and around protected areas and community conserved areas, and sustainable financial mechanisms for benefit generation identified and piloted.	Hectares of protected areas influenced;	Project Final Report	At least 10 communities in and around state protected areas will generate benefits.
Increased recognition and integration of community conserved areas in national protected area system and information shared through networks	Hectares of significant ecosystems with improved conservation status	Project Evaluation Report	
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2: SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2: Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
Improved community level sustainable use of biodiversity in production landscapes, through community initiatives and market mechanisms.	Hectares of production landscapes / seascapes applying sustainable use practices	Participatory Project Monitoring	20 projects 20 communities will practice sustainable use of biodiversity
Increased understanding and	Number of significant species with maintained	NC Project Monitoring and Evaluation Site	

awareness of sustainable use of biodiversity. New environmental education schemes piloted in schools.	or improved conservation status Total value of biodiversity products/ecosystem services produced (US dollar equivalent)	Visit reports Project Progress and Financial Reports	in production landscapes of 80,000 hectares.
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3: Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
Innovative low GHG technologies deployed and successfully demonstrated at the community level and replicated, scaled up. GHG emissions avoided	Tonnes of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies: -Solar and wind energy use, -Briquetting, stove improvement, lighting & insulation efficiency Number of community members demonstrating or deploying low-GHG technologies Total value of energy or technology services provided (US dollar equivalent)	NC Project Monitoring and Evaluation Site Visit reports Project Progress and Financial Reports	10 projects At least 300,000 tons of CO2 emission will be avoided yearly.
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4: Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
Increased investment in community level energy efficient, low GHG transport system. GHG emissions avoided	Tonnes of CO2 avoided by reducing local transport fuel consumption	NC Project Monitoring and Evaluation Site Visit reports Project Progress and Financial Reports	2 projects 5000 tons of GHG emission will be avoided yearly.
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			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
Sustainable land use and forest management and climate proofing practices adopted at the community	Hectares of land under improved land use and climate proofing practices	NC Project Monitoring and Evaluation Site Visit reports	15 projects 300,000 hectares of

level for forest and non-forest land-use types, and good practices replicated and scaled up. Restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks in forests and non-forests lands, including pasture land and good practices replicated and scaled up. GHG emissions avoided	Tonnes of CO2 avoided through improved land use and climate proofing practices	Project Progress and Financial Reports	pasture land use will be improved. At least 50,000 tons of GHG emission will be avoided from sustainable land and forest management practices.
SGP OP5 SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
Improved community level actions and practices and reduced negative impacts on agro-, and forest ecosystems and ecosystem services demonstrated to sustain ecosystem functionality. Analysis of economic value of ecosystem services in target areas, as appropriate. Community-based models of sustainable forestry management developed, linked to carbon sequestration for possible up-scaling and replication where appropriate, to reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and forest derogation and enhance carbon sinks from land use, land use change and forest activities, good practices replicated and up-scaled.	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	Project Progress and Financial Reports NC Project Monitoring and Evaluation Site Visit reports	20 communities covering 60,000 hectares of forest land will practice community forestry 20 projects
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7: Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes)			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts in land use frontiers of agro-eco-systems, and partnership with private sector.	Number of community members with improved actions and practices that reduce negative impacts on land use.	NC Project Monitoring and Evaluation Site Visit reports Project Progress and Financial Reports	10 projects 500 community members will understand importance of, and contribute to, agro-ecosystem services.

SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8: Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
<p>Effective and climate resilient community based actions and practices supporting watershed protection, and good practices replicated</p> <p>Synergistic partnerships developed between SGP stakeholders and transboundary water management institutions, and good practices replicated and up-scaled.</p>	<p>Hectares of river/lake basins applying sustainable management practices and contributing to implementation of SAPs</p> <p>Hectares of fishing grounds managed sustainably</p> <p>Tonnes of land-based pollution avoided</p>	<p>NC Project Monitoring and Evaluation Site Visit reports</p> <p>Project Progress and Financial Reports</p>	<p>5 projects</p> <p>At least 1,000,000 hectares of river/lake basins will apply watershed management practice.</p> <p>500 tons of land based pollution will be avoided.</p>
SGP O SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9: Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
<p>Improved community-level initiatives and actions to prevent, reduce and phase out POPs, harmful chemicals and other pollutants, manage contaminated sites in an environmentally sound manner, and mitigate environmental contamination, and good practices replicated and scaled up.</p>	<p>Tons of solid waste prevented from burning by alternative disposal</p> <p>Kilograms of obsolete pesticides disposed of appropriately</p> <p>Kilograms of harmful chemicals avoided from utilization or release</p>	<p>NC Project Monitoring and Evaluation Site Visit reports</p> <p>Project Progress and Financial Reports</p>	<p>4 projects</p> <p>5000 tons of plastic avoided from burning, and 200 kg of chemicals (mostly mercury) avoided from utilization.</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			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
<p>Improved information flows to/from CBOs and CSOs regarding good practices and lessons learned, and application of such practices.</p> <p>Increased public awareness and education at the community level regarding global environmental issues.</p> <p>Capacity of CBOs and CSOs strengthened to support implementation of global</p>	<p>-Number of consultative mechanisms established for Rio convention frameworks .</p> <p>-Number of community-based monitoring systems demonstrated.</p> <p>-Number of new technologies developed /applied</p> <p>-Number of local or regional policies influenced (level of</p>	<p>Participatory Project Monitoring</p> <p>NC Project Monitoring and Evaluation Site Visit reports</p> <p>Project Progress and Financial Reports</p>	<p>6 projects</p> <p>SGP Mongolia's Technical Advisory Group will be established.</p> <p>Community monitoring group's working procedures</p>

<p>conventions.</p> <p>Increased application of community based environmental monitoring.</p> <p>Evaluation of SGP projects and programs against expected results strengthened, including increased capacity of CBOs and CSOs to apply relevant evaluation methodologies.</p>	<p>influence 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5)</p> <p>-Number of national policies influenced (level of influence 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5)</p> <p>-Number of people trained on: project development, monitoring, evaluation etc.</p>		<p>will be established</p> <p>200 community group leaders will be trained on project development, monitoring and evaluation.</p>
<p>Cross-cutting results: Livelihoods and Gender</p>			
<p>Outcomes</p>	<p>Indicators</p>	<p>Means of verification</p>	<p>Activities</p>
<p>Improved livelihoods through increasing local benefits generated from environmental resources, and gender mainstreamed in community-based environmental initiatives.</p>	<p>Livelihoods & Sust. Development:</p> <p>-Number of participating community members (gender disaggregated);</p> <p>-Number of days of food shortage reduced;</p> <p>-Number of increased student days participating in schools;</p> <p>-Number of households who get access to clean drinking water</p> <p>-Increase in purchasing power by reduced spending, increased income, and/or other means (US dollar equivalent)</p> <p>-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).</p> <p>Empowerment:</p> <p>-Number of NGOs/CBOs formed or registered</p> <p>-Number of indigenous peoples directly supported</p> <p>-Number of women-led projects supported</p>	<p>Participatory Project Monitoring</p> <p>NC Project Monitoring and Evaluation Site Visit reports</p> <p>Project Progress and Financial Reports</p>	<p>70 projects</p> <p>Livelihoods of 10,000 members of 70 communities will be improved.</p>

5. Monitoring & Evaluation plan

Systematic M&E plan is recognized as critical to the SGP Mongolia success at the country level. M&E will be a participatory process, which also enables capacity building. Monitoring uses indicators to track actual against planned results, and provides systematic, periodic information on progress towards expected results, while evaluation uses information collected through monitoring and other sources (studies, reviews, research etc.) within and outside SGP to examine the validity of underlying theories and assumptions in programme design, to determine the impact of interventions, and to assess the appropriateness and effectiveness of strategies in achieving results.

Evaluation, on the other hand, provides answers to the questions “what has worked, what has not worked, and why”. Evaluation will be done through different mechanisms including thematic, programme and project evaluations. Evaluation will be done using a participatory approach and through community-based methods. Therefore, annual joint evaluations with stakeholders will be organized.

SGP’s M&E strategy establishes an approach for continuous improvement in the planning and implementation as well as regular review of the CPS. M&E processes will ensure that the CPS is adapted or modified in light of experience and new knowledge so that it continues to meet the needs of the national priorities and local communities in Mongolia. M&E activities are specifically designed to help:

- Decide if the CPS and its priorities, targets and actions need to be changed, and where attention should be focused;
- Ensure continuous improvement based on new knowledge and experiences;
- Determine who will be accountable for achieving, monitoring and evaluating outcomes; and
- Establish regular reporting systems for accountability.

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 ¹	Grantees, NC	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

¹ 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.

NC Project Proposal Site Visit (as necessary / cost effective ²)	NC	Before project approval, as appropriate
NC Project Monitoring Site Visit (as necessary / cost effective)	NC	On average once per year, as appropriate
NC Project Evaluation Site Visit (as necessary / cost effective)	NC	At end of project, as appropriate
Project Final Report	Grantees	Following completion of project activities
Project Evaluation Report (as necessary / cost effective)	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

Participatory monitoring itself is important to learn and exchange experience. It can even be a means of forcing communities to work hard and make some results. Local stakeholders will be invited to project development and community dialogue workshops to participate in setting project objectives and outputs. These workshops will be organized once a year, covering 100-150 communities. Community participatory monitoring will involve all local stakeholders. For this there will a methodology being developed for community participatory monitoring and evaluation for SGP projects. The methodology describes progress documentation and reporting.

The results of each and individual SGP projects will be summarized in a table and analyzed for further action, indentifying best practices and producing knowledge practices. Analysis will be used for further approval and implementing processes.

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 ³	NC presenting to NSC and CPMT	Once per year
Financial 4-in-1 Report	NC/PA, UNOPS	Quarterly

² 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.

³ The annual Country 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

The key objectives of SGP-Mongolia's knowledge management plan are the following:

- Raise awareness of the SGP mission, activities and impact among target audiences;
- Heighten credibility of the SGP;
- Improve effectiveness and impact of SGP; and
- Leverage lessons learned from both successful and unsuccessful projects, and to replicate good practices;

Key messages to be used: The main message will be: *“The SGP is a unique programme that contributes to solving some of the world's most pressing environmental problems while ensuring sustainable livelihoods through a successful, country-driven, grassroots approach”*.

Other messages to be used for knowledge products to support SGP's programme objectives are:

- SGP is having a concrete impact in improving people's lives while addressing global environmental concerns in the areas of biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation and persistent organic pollutants;
- SGP is building a global action-oriented environmental centre of excellence by facilitating exchanges, learning and networking among its constituencies;
- SGP helps local communities to build on their traditional knowledge and practices and to access new information and technologies in order to improve livelihoods while contributing to protection of global environment;

Key audiences:

The following key audiences who are most important to the SGP in implementing SGP knowledge management plan, contributing resources and advancing SGP knowledge management.

- Grantees and potential grantees;
- National and local governments;
- GEF implementing agencies and other donors conducting similar activities;
- National Committees on environmental conventions;
- International and national NGOs and foundations;
- Conservation communities (scientific community, environmental academia and institutions, movements, NGO networks);
- National Steering Committee members;

- GEF National Focal Points;
- Media;
- Private sector.

Knowledge generation and products

The NC will initiate the following activities to generate knowledge products:

- Develop and disseminate various types of publications:
 - Produce SGP-Mongolia Information Kit;
 - Facilitate preparation of leaflets by grantee-communities;
 - Produce a series of posters on SGP thematic areas;
 - Establish a SGP publication series of “Project Overview”;
 - Prepare selected case studies;
 - Prepare publications on established GEF SGP networks;
 - Prepare booklets as appropriate;
 - Prepare and publish brochures;
 - Develop a mobile exhibit on SGP.
- Prepare and regularly update electronic tools:
 - Maintain SGP soft photo library;
 - Maintain Country programme website;
 - Regularly update Power Point Presentation about SGP;
 - Continuously review and update SGP global database;
 - Develop CDs and DVDs on Community Conservation Highlights;
- Networking and outreach:
 - Organized Knowledge Fair once a year;
 - Assist successful communities in establishing a network among themselves to ensue post-project sustainability in a more coordinated efforts;
 - Identify important meetings and national events and other means to use as a key to reach target audiences;
 - Develop video documentaries/presentations on best practices;
 - Organize exchange site visits with involvement of local residents and authorities, donors and government officials to flagship products;
 - Compile lessons learned on projects in the form of best practices;
 - Undertake or participate visibly in one high-profile event per year in support of resource mobilization;
 - Compile materials and tools useful for community level advocacy and outreach, especially with focus on participatory techniques;
 - Establish a SGP quarterly electronic newsletter;

Partnership for knowledge generation.

The following organizations and entities are targeted to establish partnership to implement the SGP Knowledge Management Strategy:

- Students-interns from Universities;
- Mongolian Knowledge Dissemination Society;
- Community Knowledge and Development Centre;
- Community Conservation Network;
- Mongolian Knowledge Institute;
- Individual scientists and experts;
- Community knowledge holders.

Knowledge sharing

Knowledge sharing will be conducted through establishment of the country programme website, knowledge fair, community knowledge facilitators, directory of expertise and posting to communities.

7 Resource Mobilization Plan

SGP Potential Co-financing Partners

GEF SGP Mongolia’s resources mobilization efforts will target three groups of co-financers (a) traditional donors, the Netherlands, Germany, the USA, and Japan and multilateral agencies within and outside of the UN system, namely World Bank UNEP and UNDP; (b) other innovative funding sources, namely Asian Development Bank, Mongolian-Australian Capacity Building and Small Activity Facility (CaBSAF), Canada Fund, Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation (SDC Mongolia), Joint Cooperation Services (JCS), Open Society Forum and New Zealand Nature Institute (IPECON); and (c) NGOs (international and national) such as WWF and World Vision, Mongolian Women Funds; national and local governments and the multinational and national private sector.

Resources mobilization targets (2011-2014)

No.	SGP thematic focus areas.	Targeted partners	Type of collaboration	Remarks
1	Establishment and development of community conserved areas.	GTZ,		SGP resources mobilization targets will be achieved through intensive
2	Innovative and advanced measures on protection and conservation of certain animals and plants.	JICA of Japan,		
3	Support for community-based conservation initiatives and activities in buffer zones of protected areas.	World Bank ,		
4	Rehabilitation of depleted land and pasture, and combating	SDC, Ministry of Environment,	Parallel	

	desertification.		financing,	advertising
5	Promotion and use of renewable energy and energy efficiency in the countryside.	USAID,	or	SGP activities,
6	Invention, introduction and application of new techniques and technologies.	UNDP,	Co-financing,	disseminating information on achievements and organizing knowledge events.
7	Plantation of rare and medicinal herbs and plants.	UNEP		
8	Watershed protection and management, and construction of community-owned water reservoirs alongside rivers.	The Netherlands,		
9	Fish conservation and breeding.	WWF, Nature Conservancy,		
10	Support and enhancement for ecosystem services through community livelihoods improvement.	Canada fund,		
11	Increased participation of citizens in natural resources management.	Koika of Korea,		
12	Bio-fertilizers.	World Vision,		
13	Prevention of POPs pollution and their elimination.	CaBCAF,	In-kind and cash contributions	
14	Strengthening capacity and networking of SGP grantees-communities.	Private Sector of Mongolia,		
15	Community dialogue, experience sharing and discussions.	Local governments		
		Potential NGOs.		

ANNEX 1: GEF SGP OP 5 PROJECT LEVEL INDICATORS

SGP OP5 results indicators	
Biodiversity (BD)	
BD1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hectares of indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs) influenced ○ Hectares of protected areas influenced ○ Hectares of significant ecosystems with improved conservation status
BD2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hectares of production landscapes / seascapes applying sustainable use practices ○ Number of significant species with maintained or improved conservation status ○ Total value of biodiversity products/ecosystem services produced (US dollar equivalent)
Climate Change (CC)	
CCM1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tonnes of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Renewable energy measures (please specify) ▪ Energy efficiency measures (please specify) ▪ Other (please specify) ○ Number of community members demonstrating or deploying low-GHG technologies ○ Total value of energy or technology services provided (US dollar equivalent)
CCM4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tonnes of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low carbon transport practices (please specify) ○ Total value of transport services provided (US dollar equivalent)
CCM5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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)	
LD1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hectares of land applying sustainable forest, agricultural and water management practices ○ Hectares of degraded land restored and rehabilitated
LD3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of communities demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices
International Waters (IW)	
IW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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)	
POPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tons 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
Capacity Development, Policy and Innovation (all focal areas)	
CD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of consultative mechanisms established for Rio convention frameworks (please specify) ○ Number of community-based monitoring systems demonstrated (please specify) ○ Number of new technologies developed /applied (please specify) ○ Number of local or regional policies influenced (level of influence 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5) ○ Number of national policies influenced (level of influence 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5)

SGP OP5 results indicators	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of people trained on: project development, monitoring, evaluation etc. (to be specified according to type of training)
Livelihoods, Sustainable Development, and Empowerment (all focal areas)	
Cross-cutting	<p>Livelihoods & Sustainable Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of participating community members (gender disaggregated) (Note: mandatory for all projects) ○ Number of days of food shortage 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) ○ 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). <p>Empowerment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of NGOs/CBOs formed or registered ○ Number of indigenous peoples directly supported ○ Number of women-led projects supported ○ Number of quality standards/labels achieved or innovative financial mechanisms put in place