

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

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Country: **NICARAGUA**

Resources to be invested: **US\$2,600,000**

## 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).**

From 2004 to date, (Category IIa) the SGP Nicaragua has made six calls for projects. A total of 132 projects have been approved for a total funding of almost two and a half million dollars of SGP administered funds; this does not include co-financing from other organizations and other contributions from the executing agencies to the projects. In total, more than a hundred government and community organizations have had access to SGP resources.

Most of the implemented projects contribute to the focal area of biodiversity, in accordance with SGP prioritization of those initiatives inside of or around protected areas where communities have the opportunity to establish new economic activities that contribute to the objective of conservation of the area. With regards to climate change, the SGP has mainly focused in the improvement of domestic cooking systems to save or to eliminate the use of firewood, accompanying these projects with a strong reforestation component, particularly in those areas with high environmental deterioration due to deforestation. In addition, several renewable energy initiatives have been developed in this same focal area to provide lighting to communities that have no electrical installation.

In the focal area of land degradation decrease, during the past five years various projects have been implemented in deteriorated dry zones, contributing to the restoration of ecosystems in small properties through improved agricultural and forest practices.

To a smaller degree, projects have also been executed in the area of international waters, particularly in Rio Coco and the Gulf of Fonseca, which have had a strong impact in the communities as well as in marine resources. In the POPs focal area, work has been done

through three projects in the municipality of El Viejo and one in Jinotega, basically to sensitize the population on the consequences of the use of this type of chemicals as well as in the promotion of organic agriculture.

### Project by focal area

Year	Biodiversity	Climate change	POPS	International waters	Land degradation
1	7	3	0		2
2	14	2	0		2
3	21	4	1		2
4	8	0	1		7
5	29	1	1	1	4
6	8	7	1	3	1
	<b>87</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>
				<b>6</b>	

As proposed in the first two strategies (2004 to 2009), the SGP emphasis is in strengthening the role of community-based organizations in environmental management, thus our main counterparts are those organizations. However, we have also worked with a good number of non-governmental organizations, characterized by their experience in the territory and in joint working methodologies with local actors, including important decision making in project execution. These NGO's also create and strengthen local capacities, so they consider implementing projects only in the first phase, while in the future community organizations should implement the projects directly.

It is worth noting that within the community organizations an effort has been made to privilege the participation of women groups and indigenous communities; therefore, when appraising proposals, a higher qualification is granted to this type of organizations. Also, in the case of women, the SGP has tried to improve methodologies for convening and intervention in order to promote a greater and more effective participation at beneficiaries' level as well as inside the organizational structures.

### **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).**

One of the main strengths of the SGP Nicaragua is the collaboration of the UNDP CO, which provides additional resources and institutional support since 2004. Another strong

partner is MARENA, particularly the GEF focal point, with whom our current program strategy has been defined. The main contribution of MARENA is the participation of its territorial delegations in the different SGP activities, including monitoring and evaluation processes, and also ensuring a stronger participation of community organizations during the call for project submissions.

On the other hand, as far as co-financing is concerned, the Dutch organization HIVOS, which co-financed renewable energy projects during OP4 Y3 period, has also committed to do so for OP5 cycle.

Concerning gender issues, we have the support of the UN Women Agency, and for the indigenous topic, we have the support of the Nicaraguan Indigenous and African-American descendants Consultative Committee, which represents all original domestic ethnics.

## 2. SGP country programme niche

### 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

<b>Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks</b>	<b>Date of ratification / completion</b>
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	November 15 <sup>th</sup> , 1995
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	August 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2002
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	September 29 <sup>th</sup> , 1995 (published on October 24 <sup>th</sup> )
UNFCCC National Communications (1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	June 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2001/2010
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	NO
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	1997/ published in March 1998
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	2005
Stockholm Convention (SC)	October 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2005
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	NO
World Bank Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	1999
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	2004
GEF-5 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	NO
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies	NO

**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?**

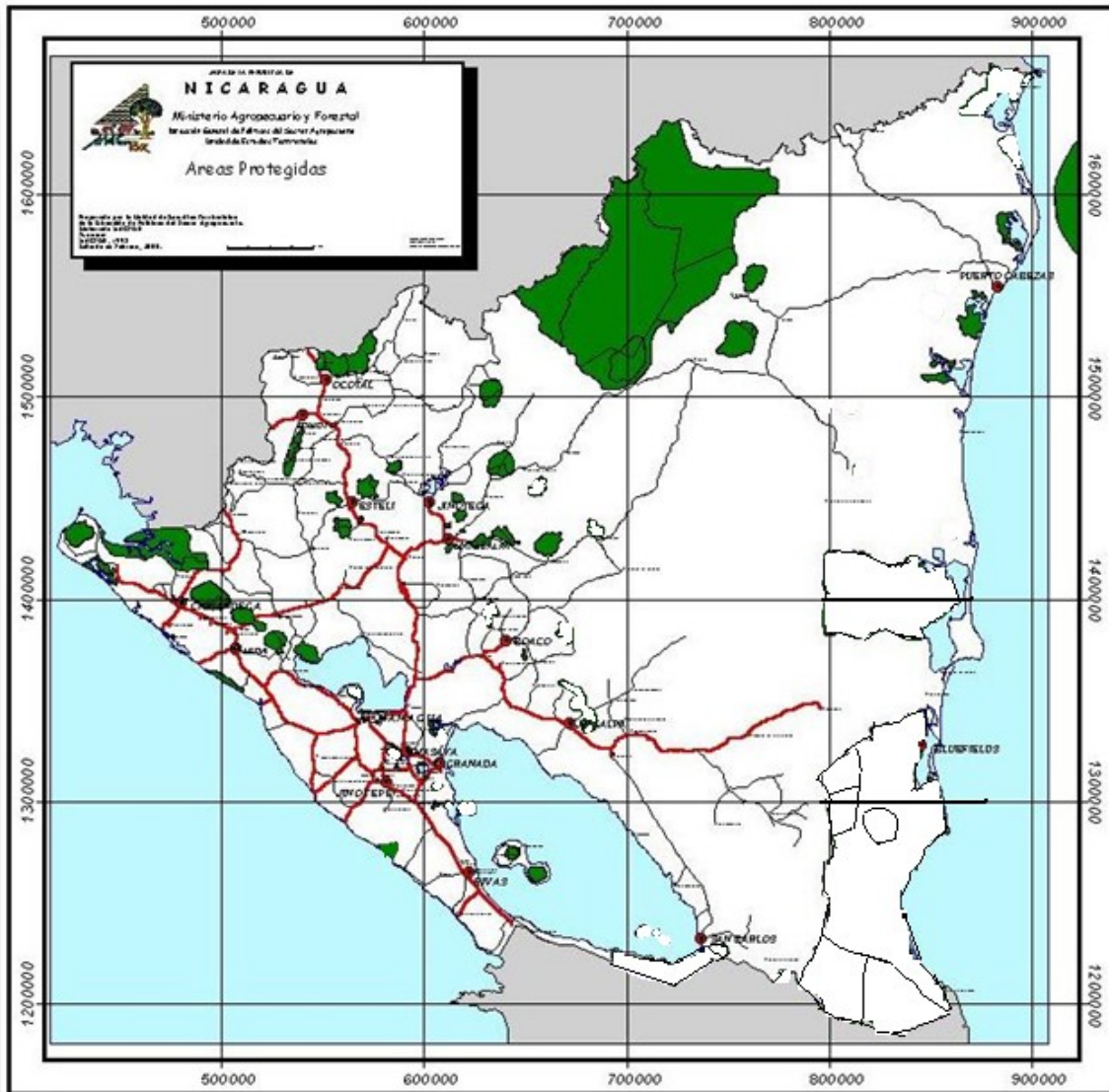
SGP is going to continue strengthening the role of rural and indigenous communities in environmental management, mainly in protected areas and the buffer zones. In relation to the Biodiversity Convention, SGP will seek to contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity, especially of the endemic and endangered species.

Likewise in terms of international commitments on climate change, it will be promoting the use of renewable energy as well as the implementation agricultural and forest climate proofing practices that reduce emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>. These same practices would also contribute to achieving the objectives of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

On the other side, it will extend the actions in the International waters focal area, especially focusing in the Gulf of Fonseca ( Honduras, Nicaragua & El Salvador) and the Rio Coco ( Honduras & Nicaragua), in the topic of land-based pollution avoided in international waters, conservation of mangrove forests and the sustainable managements of the marine/coastal areas.

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

During OP5 cycle, SGP aims to work mainly in protected areas with international recognition, dry lands, sites with endemic resources, likewise national priority areas for adaptation of climate change.



**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*

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>Formal and informal environmental education;</p> <p>Surveillance and control of natural resources, in particular of biodiversity in danger of extinction; primary and secondary forest management, as well as regeneration; community and student native plants nurseries; to restore and conserve life corridors ; norm and control of aquaculture plans in protected areas; environmental management through municipal ecological parks, prioritizing the participation of women; community rural tourism in protected areas; support to the indigenous communities in the administration of protected areas.</p>	<p>* To strengthen the role of communities in handling natural resources in protected areas, neighboring or corridors</p> <p>* To promote the participation of women groups in SINAP's environmental management.</p> <p>* To continue supporting initiatives for community rural tourism as a tool for strengthening protected areas.</p> <p>* To strengthen the role of indigenous communities in the administration of protected areas with due respect for their uses and customs.</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>protection of marine coastal areas; campaigns for conservation of marine turtles; conservation and sustainable use of flora and fauna while attending human needs;</p>	<p>* To facilitate coastal communities management of coastal marine systems</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>Energy and water saving in residential, industrial and trade zones; to promote adaptation measures to face the impact of climate change (construction of wells and aqueducts, reception and harvest of water, resistant seeds, agricultural diversification, (new economic and productive activities); to improve early warning systems and response; incorporation of clean technologies to</p>	<p>*To promote the use of improved cookers and ovens in deforested areas in the process of desertification *To promote the use of renewable energy particularly in communities with no</p>



	diminish emission of greenhouse effect gasses; to implement adaptation works in the basins;	access to electricity.
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4:</u> Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level	increase investment for energy generation by renewable sources;	*To promote projects for energy efficient in water transportation
<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 promote energy forestry and improved cookers in deforested areas;	* Promote projects for integrated management of small properties that include natural regeneration and reforestation.  * To promote community projects for the building of energy forestry.
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6:</u> Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities	Eliminate the use of fire in agriculture; to impel production policies and consumption, to promote energy and water saving and appropriate handling of solid waste; recycling program; to promote silvo-pastoral systems	* Incentives to rural communities for good agricultural, aquaculture, forest and silvo-pastoral practices.  * Promote water harvest in degraded lands to improve production.
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7:</u> Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes)	To elaborate a Land Use National Plan ; motivate planting in high-yielding soils	* To support community participation in the execution of land use planning and protected areas management plans.
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8:</u> Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives	To promote good practices in aquaculture; appropriate handling of solid waste; recycling program.	* To promote participation of organized groups in appropriate handling of solid waste, in coastal areas.
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9:</u> Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level	To approve and to implement the National Implementation Plan in compliance of the Stockholm Convention	*To promote agricultural good practices in substitution of chemicals (organic production).

		*To develop projects in communities affected by intensive use of chemicals in agriculture
<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>To stimulate a new environmental culture of humanity and solidarity whose principal objective is to reinstate what has been pillaged and to pass on to future generations a consciousness to take care of, respect and love the Earth</p>	<p>*As in previous years, target SGP groups will be the most vulnerable groups, especially indigenous communities, women organizations and very poor communities.</p> <p>*To promote the exchange of experiences, networks and horizontal alliances between projects.</p> <p>* Being partner in the process of impact on national policies by the communities organizations</p> <p>* Projects incorporate mechanisms to measure the environmental indicators of the GEF focal areas</p>
<p><u>Cross-Cutting Results:</u> Poverty reduction, livelihoods and gender</p>	<p>It increases the women territorial influence in the environmental management. To contribute to human development by rescuing ancient cultural values with respect to natural resources and restoration of lost habitats through education and environmental education in order to develop values of responsibility, solidarity and equity for the safeguard of natural heritage</p>	<p>*Projects contain components aimed to reduce the poverty, livelihoods and gender</p>

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

**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>2</sup> Please also provide details how the capacity developed will be retained within different organizations and communities.**

In accordance with GEF mandate and SGP global policies, our country program is focused in the strengthening of community structures and local management. In line with this, our main partners are agricultural cooperatives as well as local development associations, whether NGO's or people's associations acknowledged by local governments. Also, we have made strong alliances with NGOs that are executing projects in certain areas who, through their own projects or with SGP funding, support and guide local organizations, so they can eventually become independent.

In the sectors mentioned above, there are some synergies in SGP global policies and domestic policies focusing on increasing the participation of women groups and indigenous communities, with respect to their traditional discrimination in environmental management and the strategic role they play in the administration of natural resources.

The SGP team, including volunteers and interns, supports community organizations in the elaboration of project profiles, and in the final proposals. They also make sure that the community participates in all project stages, organizing assemblies where community organizations or NGOs can discuss their initiatives with the population. Also, the SGP accompanies community organizations in their negotiations with government agencies, banks and/or micro-financing institutions. We also promote solidarity and mutual support among organizations, as well as exchange of experiences regarding Project management and execution.

On the other hand, the SGP makes sure that inside the implementing community organization or in the community participating in the project, people receive training and technical qualifications to ensure continuity to the initiative.

TRAC (CO UNDP) funds allocated for Operational Phase 5, will allow SGP to recruit an expert in community-based organizational strengthening, to provide continuous support to development of community organizations. That will not only improve project execution but also will strengthen community's structures for better socio/environmental management and other related issues of interest.

#### 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
<p>* Outcome 1.1: Improved community - level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts on biodiversity resources in and around protected areas, and indigenous and community conservation areas</p> <p>* Outcome 1.2: Benefits generated at the community level from conservation of biodiversity in and around protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas</p> <p>* Outcome 1.3: Increased recognition and integration of indigenous and community</p>	<p>*Hectares of indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs) influenced</p> <p>*Hectares of protected areas influenced</p> <p>*Hectares of significant ecosystems with improved conservation status</p>	<p>* Monitoring minutes of the projects communities .</p> <p>* IntermediumTechnical Reports</p> <p>* Photos</p> <p>* Site Location with GPS * Sale Agreements of products</p> <p>*3 SGP Case studies</p> <p>* Signed Agreements with other co-financers Organisms</p> <p>*Signed Agreements with institutions in order to collaborate in the management of protected areas</p>	<p>*At least 10 implemented projects by indigenous communities, related to biodiversity management in protected areas and indigenous territories</p> <p>* At least 10 community projects promoting green markets of the biodiversity products</p> <p>*Improved conversation status of at least 20,000 hectares of forest with significant ecosystems.</p> <p>*6 significant ecosystems with conservation aware communities resulting in their maintained or improved conservation status</p>

conservation areas in national protected area systems			
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2: Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions			
SGP BD Outcome 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	*Hectares of production landscapes/seascapes applying sustainable use practices  *Total value of biodiversity products/ecosystem services produced (US dollar equivalent)	* Monitoring minutes of the projects communities.  * Intermedium Technical Reports  *Photos  * Site Location with GPS  * Sale Agreements of products *3 SGP case studies  * Signed Agreements with other co-financers Organisms  * Signed Agreements with institutions in order to collaborate in the management of protected areas	*At least 1,000 community members with improved livelihoods related to benefits from ICCAs and PAs
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3: Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level			
*Outcome 3.1: Innovative low - GHG technologies deployed and successfully demonstrated at the	*Tonnes of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies  **Renewable energy measures  **Energy efficiency	* Monitoring minutes of the projects communities.  * Intermedium Technical Reports  * Photos  * Site Location with GPS	*At least 6 renewable energy projects in the communities  *At least 12 projects of improved cookers and ovens..  *All Projects under the

community level	measures	*3 SGP case studies	Climate Change Area submit information of tones of CO2 avoided.
* Outcome 3.2: GHG emissions avoided	**Number of community members demonstrating or deploying low-GHG technologies  **Total value of energy, technology and transport services provided (US dollar equivalent)	* Signed Agreements with other co-financers	
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4: Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level			
*Outcome 4.1: Low - GHG transport options demonstrated at the community level	**Low carbon transport practices	*Actas de monitoreo comunitario.  *Reportes técnicos intermedios.  *Fotografías	Al menos 2 proyectos demostrativos de eficiencia energética en transporte acuático.
* Outcome 4.3: GHG emissions avoided		*Ubicación del sitio con GPS  *3 SGP case studies  *Acuerdos firmados con otros organismos cofinanciadores	
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			
* Outcome 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	*Hectares under improved sustainable land management and climate proofing practices  *Hectares of forests and non - forest lands with restoration and enhancement initiated	* Monitoring minutes of the projects communities.  * Intermedium Technical Reports  * Photos  * Site Location with GPS  *3 SGP case studies	At least 6 projects that include components of reforestation and natural regeneration
*Outcome 5.2: Restoration and	*Tonnes of CO2 avoided	* Signed Agreements with other co-financers Organisms	

enhancement of carbon stocks in forests and non - forest lands.	through improved land use and climate proofing practices		
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6: Maintain or improve flow of agro - ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities			
*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  *Outcome 6.2: Community - based models of sustainable forestry management developed, and tested, linked to carbon sequestration	*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	* Monitoring minutes of the projects communities.  * Intermedium Technical Reports  * Photos  * Site Location with GPS  *3 SGP case studies  * Signed Agreements with other co-financers Organisms	At least 6 projects for integrated management on small properties, and recovery of ancestral agro forestry practices at indigenous territories
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7: Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes)			
SGP LD Outcome 7.1: Improved community - level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts in land use frontiers of agro - ecosystems and forest	*Number of community members with improved actions and practices that reduce negative impacts on land uses	* Monitoring minutes of the projects communities.  * Intermedium Technical Reports  * Photos  * Site Location with GPS  * SGP case study  * Signed Agreements with	At least one project supported

ecosystems (rural/urban, agriculture/forest)		other co-financers Organisms	
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8: Support transboundary water body management with community - based initiatives			
*SGP IW Outcome 8.1: Effective and climate resilient community - based actions and practices supporting implementation of SAP regional priority actions demonstrated	*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	* Monitoring minutes of the projects communities.  * Intermedium Technical Reports  * Photos  * Site Location with GPS  *3 SGP case studies  * Signed Agreements with other co-financers Organisms	At least 3 projects implemented in sites of international  At least 1 bi-national project
SGP IW Outcome 8.2: Synergistic partnerships developed between SGP stakeholders and transboundary water management institutions and structures supporting implementation of SAP regional priority actions			
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9: Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level			
SGP CH Outcome 9.1: Improved community - level initiatives and actions to prevent, reduce and phase out POPs, harmful chemicals and	*Tonnes of solid waste prevented from burning by alternative disposal  *Kilograms of obsolete pesticides disposed of appropriately  *Kilograms of harmful chemicals	* Monitoring minutes of the projects communities.  * Intermedium Technical Reports  * Photos  * Site Location with GPS	At least 2 implemented POPs projects



other pollutants, manage contaminated sites in an environmentally sound manner, and mitigate environmental contamination	avoided from utilization or release	*3 SGP case studies  * Signed Agreements with other co-financers Organisms	
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.			
SGP CD Outcome 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 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	*3 SGP case studies  *Minutes of community meetings with equal participation  * Signed MOAs between UNDP and Indigenous Organizations  * Signed MOAs between UNDP and Women Organizations	* At least 6 CBO's formed and/or registered  *At least 12 indigenous organization directly supported.  *At least 12 women-led projects directly supported  * All the projects applies right mechanisms to ensure the community monitoring
SGP CD Outcome 10.3: Increased public awareness and education at the community - level regarding global environmental issues		*Certifications of new organizations  * SGP Strategy and format applications have inclusive policies for indigenous people and women's organizations	*At least 6 projects participates in contents for national or international recognition
SGP CD Outcome 10.4: Capacity of CBOs and CSOs strengthened to support implementation of global conventions			
SGP CD Outcome 10.5:			

Increased application of community - based environmental monitoring			
SGP CD Outcome 10.6: Evaluation of SGP projects and programs against expected results strengthened, including increased capacity of CBOs and CSOs to apply relevant evaluation methodologies			
<b>Cross - Cutting Results: Livelihoods and Gender</b>			
SGP's Results Framework for OP5, as approved by the SGP Steering Committee, does not include specific objectives on livelihoods and gender. Nonetheless, SGP does produce positive results in these areas, which contribute to the overall achievement of Global Environmental Benefits through sustainable development. Generally, SGP seeks to improve	<p>*Percentage of projects that include gender analysis or incorporate gender relevant elements in a positive manner.</p> <p>*Percentage of projects with appropriate gender balance of participants and target beneficiaries</p> <p>Percentage of projects that include socioeconomic analysis</p>	<p>*3 SGP case studies</p> <p>*Minutes of community meetings with equal participation</p> <p>* Signed MOAs between UNDP and Indigenous Organizations</p> <p>* Signed MOAs between UNDP and Women Organizations</p> <p>*Certifications of new organizations * SGP Strategy and format applications have inclusive policies for indigenous people and women's organizations</p>	<p>All projects have sufficient scope to include gender mainstreaming. All SGP's Nicaragua projects include sustained livelihood improvement resulting from SGP support. At least 50% of projects includes in reports socio-economic analysis.</p>

livelihoods through increasing local benefits generated from environmental resources, and mainstream gender considerations in community - based environmental initiatives.	*Number of community members with sustained livelihood improvement resulting from SGP support		
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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.**

The SGP team supported by the National Steering Committee and MARENA with its delegations and SINIA, will carry out project monitoring and evaluation based on an impact, outcome and indicator framework by focal area, previously defined, discussed and approved by all project parties involved, particularly the communities. A base line is also established by which project advances are to be measured.

**Field monitoring is carried out during the following project moments:**

It starts during the preparation of a proposal, once the project profile has been approved. The proposing organization and members of the community where the project would be developed are summoned for a meeting. All information provided in the document is then verified and discussed with the population and the organization to determine the viability of the proposal. The proposals are also sent to the pertinent MARENA delegation to gather further relevant information and recommendations. The organization will carry out the pertinent modifications according to the results of these discussions.

Once the projects are approved by the National Steering Committee and organizations have been notified, another meeting is held in the MARENA departmental delegation

with executing organizations, in order to elaborate a monitoring plan including MARENA's technical support and follow-up.

The SGP will visit project when execution starts, to verify that the process has been participatory and well informed. Information concerning project content and budget is discussed with the community, and participatory mechanisms are identified and approved. Some communities establish Project Committees, Management Committees or Purchasing Committees. At this initial meeting, it is important to ensure the participation of MARENA's departmental delegation, the Local Government Environmental Secretariat and corresponding departmental delegations for related topics as INTUR, INAFOR, and MAGFOR among others. Their presence should result in a support plan for technical follow up and coordination.

### **Financial monitoring:**

One of the fundamental objectives of SGP projects is training partner organizations in funding and resource management. For that purpose, a strong emphasis is placed in the creation and/or strengthening of administrative and financial management capacities. With the support of UNDP Country Office, the SGP will continue to have staff dedicated to project financial monitoring, and project staff qualification in fund management, resource administration and knowledge of the required accounting and reporting procedures and formats, allowing a continuous and systematic follow-up of projects' financial execution through the corresponding progress and final reports.

### **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.**

Desde el concept paper, la comunidad participa en el diseño de lo que en una segunda fase se convertirá en la propuesta. La propuesta contiene actividades e indicadores definidos por la organización ejecutora junto con la comunidad. El SGP garantiza los procesos participativos y la toma de decisiones colectivas. Se realiza una asamblea comunitaria previa a la aprobación del proyecto y luego otra cuando el proyecto está aprobado y de esta manera con la comunidad se definen los mecanismos de monitoreo.

The community participates in periodic monitoring activities that SGP carries out (at least 3) to follow-up project activities. The SGP and MARENA will adopt a unified format to collect monitoring information.

Based on that format a meeting is held with the community, the implementing organizations and other relevant stakeholders, in order to ensure a participatory evaluation process, involving all those who established coordination mechanisms during project implementation: partner organizations, key actors from the community, people who participated in the implementation of the project, municipal authorities, MARENA officials and members of the SGP's National Steering Committee.

In addition, an annual workshop is carried out with all on-going projects, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including cooperation agencies, to share lessons learned and disseminate experiences of the different projects.

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, 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
NC Project Proposal Site Visit <i>(as necessary / cost effective<sup>5</sup>)</i>	NC	Before project approval, as appropriate
NC Project Monitoring Site Visit <i>(as necessary / cost effective)</i>	NC	Three or four visits, as appropriate
NC Project Evaluation Site Visit <i>(as necessary / cost effective)</i>	NC	At end of project, as appropriate
Project Final Report	Grantees	Following completion of project activities
Project Evaluation Report <i>(as necessary / cost effective)</i>	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

**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.**

Since the OP4 country strategy, all the individuals project are designed to contribute to the national country strategy, as well as the goals, results and global impacts.

Contribute to local and global environmental benefits through financial and technical support to local initiatives which in turn contribute to raising the standards of living of the population and strengthens community management		
Focal Areas	Impacts	Outcomes
Biodiversity	Conservation, protection, preservation and sustainable and improved management of ecosystems, habitats, species and protected areas	Communities and local groups promote initiatives to realize a sustainable management of micro watersheds, sites of natural reserves and buffer zones (biosphere or Ramsar), the protection of threatened or endangered species, obtaining economic benefits.
Climate Change	Reduce / prevent emissions of greenhouse gases, due to the ability of communities to increase the use of renewable energy sources and reduce vulnerability to climate change effects	Communities and inhabitants benefit from the efficient use of the fuel wood and the sustainable management of forests, plantations and agricultural or industrial waste for its use as renewable sources of energy  Work was made and measures were implemented to control and mitigate critical threat of natural disasters
Land Degradation	Reduced / stopped the advance of desertification processes	Rural communities implement plans of management of soil and water conservation
International Waters	Reduced pollution of international waters and controlled degradation of critical habitats (wetlands, shallow	Communities properly and comprehensively manage watersheds, wetlands, shallow waters or reefs
POP's	Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level	Rural communities implement measures to avoid the use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs)



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	At least, four meetings 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

## 6 Knowledge Management Plan (1 page max)

**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.).**

Establishing a Local Organization Network: All organizations linked to the SGP will be encouraged to participate and use this space to share useful information about on-going events, funding opportunities, consultation among organizations, among others.

Publishing an annual projects summary systematize information of projects implemented throughout the year, as well as the main lessons learned at each project and Program level.

Website: The SGP will update its website as well as UNDP CO's website, and their Facebook accounts, with information on the Programme and on every organization and funded project. This page will be a space for organizations to promote their actions, through pictures, announcements of events and resource management, among others.

Annual Workshop-Fair: Results of the executed projects will be presented at the end of every year through documents, brochures, videos, data shows, and samples of elaborated products in the case of productive projects.

**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).**

The main strategy to influence the process of policy making will be ensuring the participation of stakeholders in the various forums and thematic consultations carried out by government institutions and local authorities, and also including in projects (when pertinent) some components directed to achieve the approval of certain policies at local level.

### **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.**

Reports, videos, and annual fairs have traditionally been very useful for transmitting horizontal information, and allow other based community organizations, NGOs and other projects carried out in the country to replicate those experiences. Partner agencies and national and international NGOs have expressed their interest to continue funding the initiative and even bring it to a larger scale (up-scale).

## **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.**

Since last year the UNDP CO has provided support to initiate a resource mobilization plan for external cooperation. The plan includes UNDP DRR meetings with the donor's environmental round table in the country, as well as visits to embassies and other actors interested in financing SGP related issues.

### **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 funding strategy aims to continue its work with partnerships which also contribute to make the programme visible and emphasize its role in the development agenda. The DRR seeks firstly to create greater synergies with initiatives and projects financed by the United Nations system, especially UNDP and other GEF projects, like Climate Change Adaptation and Strengthening the System of Protected Areas. It also works to establish alliances or timely cooperation with other bilateral or multilateral agencies such as USAID, in issues like sustainable business in protected areas; IDB, on issues of watershed management and renewable energy; GIZ, for sustainable management of protected areas and indigenous communities, among others. Also we continue to strengthen our alliances with international NGOs as HIVOS, (from the Netherlands), in

the field of renewable energy, and with the Ford Foundation and indigenous people, on the forest issue.

We also maintain strong partnerships with government agencies such as the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA) and the Tourism Institute (INTUR).

With the private sector we already had experience with a private bank financing a two year campaign for Green Wave, and for the OP5 we will seek for greater support from the private sector on issues such as solid waste management, as well as environmental education.

The level of SGP OP5 resources is an estimated total of the GEF core grant allocation, anticipated STAR resources and HIVOS co-financing 2011.

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

A specialist will be contracted who will establish measures in relation with tons of CO<sub>2</sub> avoided as well as hectares of land under improved land use<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.

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.

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

#### ABBREVIATIONS

<b>MARENA</b>	<b>Ministerio del Ambiente y los Recursos Naturales</b>
<b>MAGFOR</b>	<b>Ministerio de Agricultura y Forestal</b>
<b>SINIA</b>	<b>Sistema Nacional de Información Ambiental</b>
<b>INAFOR</b>	<b>Instituto Nacional Forestal</b>
<b>INTUR</b>	<b>Instituto Nicaragüense de Turismo</b>