



SGP Country Programme Strategy for utilization of OP5 grant funds

Country: ROMANIA
Resources to be invested: US\$ 1,100,000¹

This document aims to provide the programmatic guidance for the implementation of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme in Romania (GEF SGP) during the 5th Operational phase 2010 - 2014. It strives to correlate the Programme's global Strategic Framework and GEF Operational Strategy with the national strategic priorities. The specific conditions prevailing in Romania called for a dual approach. On the one hand Romania still has to overcome a number of historical discrepancies in relation to the developed countries of the European Union, on the other hand it has to implement, simultaneously and comprehensively, the new paradigm of sustainable development in all spheres of economic and social life, in complete harmony with the need to preserve the natural capital and to improve the quality of life. The final version of the document encompasses comments and remarks of different GEF SGP categories of stakeholders, as well as of the GEF SGP National Steering Committee members.

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

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1. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ANRE – Romanian Energy Regulatory Authority
BC – Biodiversity Conservation
CBD – Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO – Community Based Organization
CC – Climate Change
CPMT – Central Programme Management Team
CPS – Country Programme Strategy
CSO – Civil Society Organization
DDT – Diclor-Difenil-Tricloretanul
EIA – Environmental Impact Assessment
EU – European Union
GDP – Gross Domestic Product
GEF – Global Environment Facility
GHG – Greenhouse Gas
GIS – Geographic Information System
HDI – Human Development Index
ICCA – Indigenous and Community Conserved Area
IMF – International Monetary Fund
IW – International Water
LED – Light Emitting Diode
M&E – Monitoring & Evaluation
MARD – Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MEF – Ministry of Environment and Forests
MH – Ministry of Health
MRDT – Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism
MT – Ministry of Transports
NAMA – Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
NAP – National Action Plan
NBSAPs – National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans
NC – National Coordinator
NCSA – National Capacity Self-Assessment
NE – North East
NEPA – National Environmental Protection Agency
NGO – Non-Governmental Organization
NIP – National Implementation Plan
NMT - Non-Motorized Transport
NPFE - GEF-5 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise
NSC - National Steering Committee
NTFP - Non-Timber Forest Products
OP5 – Operational Phase 5
PA – Programme Assistant
PAs – Protected Areas

PCB - Polychlorinated biphenyls
POPs – Persistent Organic Pollutants
PPP – Purchasing Power Parity
PRSP – World Bank Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
REDD – Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RES – Renewable Energy Sources
NDF – National Authority for Forests management (RNP)
S – South
SAPs – Strategic Action Plans
SC – Stockholm Convention
SGP – Small Grants Programme
SLM – Sustainable Land Management
SMART – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time bound
STAR – System for Transparent Allocation of Resources
SWOT – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats
UNCCD – United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification
UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC – United Nations Framework Convention Climate Change
WB – World Bank

2. SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME - SUMMARY BACKGROUND

2.1. SGP Romania activity

The GEF SGP was launched in Romania in December 2004 and awarded so far *81 grants*, with a total value of *USD 2 546 890*. To this amount a co-financing of *USD 2,483,838* was attracted (*1,458,703* in cash and *1,025,135* in kind). The SGP Romania status is 2a, as the programme has operated in the country for 6 years and a half.

During its activity SGP Romania provided financial and technical support directly to NGOs and CBOs for activities aimed to *conserve and restore the environment*, that contribute also to *enhancing people's well-being* and *community empowerment*. The funded projects involved a combination of the following components: capacity building; demonstration or piloting of community income generating activities to support environmental objectives; awareness raising and information dissemination.

The projects' beneficiaries were mainly the local communities, as well as the NGOs and CBOs in the implementation areas. Over 100 NGOs, 10 CBOs and 100 communities (with 400.000 individuals out of which 35% women) were direct beneficiaries of the projects.

Main elements contributing to the successful implementation of SGP projects consisted in:

- sound partnerships established with the local public authorities (80) , with administrators / custodians of protected areas (31), local/regional environmental protection agencies (10), RNP units (15), education institutions (35), private sector (30).
- constant and consistent support provided by the local communities.

From environmental point of view, SGP projects addressed all GEF thematic focuses with the following distribution, considering the main focus area: *Biodiversity 45.7%; Climate Change 38.2%, Land Degradation 3.7%, International Waters 7.4%, Multifocal Area 3.7%, Persistent Organic Pollutants. 0.1.3%*. The breakdown is done considering the main focus area but, in practice, SGP projects may be officially classified with a primary focal area and two additional focal areas.

Main accomplishments of the previous operational phases include:

In the field of **biodiversity**: 473 globally significant species protected; 46 species protected on European level, 294,230.96 hectares of globally significant biodiversity area protected /sustainably managed; 263 innovations or new technologies developed/applied, 10 national policies informed; 49 local policies informed; 17 protected areas, Natura 2000 sites established, documentation/management plans developed; 24 biodiversity inventories realized.

In the field of **climate change**: 7,210.9 tones of CO₂ decreased or avoided by applying energy efficient and renewable energy technologies or environmentally sustainable transport practices; 3 innovations or new technologies developed/applied in 34 projects; 11,986 USD of clean energy services provided, 7 local policies informed, 2205 waste management/selective/recycling waste collection facilities installed; 43 bicycle routes, green roads, eco-tourism routes, thematic paths

established; 548 km bicycle routes arranged/marked; 16 tourism information points and bicycle rental points; 664 information panels, direction signs, halting places arranged; 45524 tree, fig, energy willow, shrub seedlings planted; 144 LED lightning bodies installed; 70 demonstration projects realized.

In **sustainable land management** focal area 2 innovations or new technologies were developed/applied; 1 local policy informed; 700 hectares of degraded land restored; 414,023.5 hectares of land sustainably managed.

In the field of **international waters**: 984.6 hectares of globally significant international water body sustainably managed/protected; 68,400 kg of Nitrogen discharge into International Water reduced; 4 local policies informed; 1 innovation/new technology developed.

In the field of **POPs**: 5 local policies informed; 2 innovations/new technologies developed; 1 management plan for the minimization of the medical hazardous waste at hospital level achieved. In terms of **livelihoods**: 25,480 USD benefit to project participants and/or community as a whole from ecosystem goods sustainably produced; 178,715 of individuals, 14,766 households benefited from SGP project; an average 2,054 USD increase in household income, in the area of intervention, by additional income or reduced costs due to SGP project; 502 monographic/scientific studies realized.

In **empowerment** domain: 135 CBOs/NGOs participated/involved in SGP project; 13 new CBOs, NGOs registered; 145,755 women, over 100 communities with more than 400,000 inhabitants participated/involved in SGP project; 5 innovative financial mechanisms put in place; 40 support linkages established with local governments/authorities; 6 value added labels/certifications/quality standards received or achieved; 178 trainings with almost 4,000 participants, 17 community forums; 64 awareness raising campaigns; 6 public debates on stopping the uncontrolled waste deposits; 16 workshops organized with 750 participants; 16 monitoring campaigns organized; 73 conferences on biodiversity; 22 tourist guides trained; 3 study tours on rural tourism, agricultural pollution; 50 jobs created in agro-tourism, eco-tourism; 7 centers for local products, milk collection and processing; 25 visiting, informing infrastructures; 4 festivals, fairs organized; 118,236 promotion materials realized; 100 guide books printed in over 100,000 copies; 107 articles appeared in newspapers; 67 documentaries, interviews, news features in TV, radio; 32 websites created; 3 ecological education manuals developed; 17 maps created; 27 eco-tourism products created.

2.2. Key Baseline Considerations

2.1.1. Physical

Geographic position: Eastern Europe; Capital: Bucharest; Population: 21,959,280 (2010)

GDP real growth rate: -7.1 % (2010 est.); GDP per capita (ppp): US\$ 11,600 (2010)

Population below national poverty line: 25 % (2011); Inflation rate: 6 % (2011 est.)

Unemployment rate: 7.8%; Economy: in transition from central command to market-driven.

Governance: Democracy; President, Parliament (two chambers).

Romania is located at an equal distance between the North Pole and Equator and between the Atlantic and Ural Mountains. The total area of the country is 23,839,100 ha and the elevation varies significantly from the Danube Delta located at sea level to the highest peaks of the Carpathian Mountains, risen over 2,500 m.

Romania's territory is a meeting point between five European bio-geographic regions: Continental, Alpine, Steppic, Pannonic and Black Sea, which is unique for the whole continent.

In general, Romania has a temperate climate with significant zonal aspects. Some regions have high humidity and low thermic amplitudes, dryer continental climate exists in other areas creating higher thermic amplitudes, while in the south and west the influence of the sub-Mediterranean warm and dry climate is felt.

2.1.2. Political/Economic

Romania became a member of the European Union in January 2007.

The legacy of the almost 50 socialist years has weighed heavily on Romania during the transition years. Structural reforms and institutional changes were delayed. In the 1990s, macroeconomic instability exacerbated the decline in the standard of living. During the last 20 years, Romania experienced three major economic crises, one in 1991-93, another in 1997-99, and the latest 2008-ongoing.

The actual world crises dramatically affected Romania's economy, but recovery is expected with an economic growth of 1.5% for 2011 and 4.4% for 2012, according to IMF estimations.

The weight of different economic branches in the GDP is Industry (25.7%), Construction (11.9%), Transport, Storage and Communications (11%), Trade (11.7%), Real estate transactions, renting and service (16.22%), Agriculture, hunting, fishing, pisciculture and forestry (7.5%), Education (3.8%), Health (2.9%), Others (9.4%).

With a GDP per capita of 46% of the European average and with 25% of its population vulnerable to poverty, Romania is situated on the last but one place within EU. The poverty is more present in rural areas where live 45% of the total population, but where 75% of the poor population are concentrated.

Relative to other EU countries, Romania has a lower level of environmental capital and a poorer state of the environment in many dimensions, as it is illustrated by indicators such as the country's low access rate to improved water sources and sanitation, and its low energy efficiency.

2.1.3. Environmental Analysis

In terms of **biodiversity** Romania's accession brought into the European Union a valuable input of plant and animal species, some of them endemic, that had become extinct or rare in other parts of Europe. Although natural vegetation occupies shrinking areas in the plains, tablelands and low hills, there are still wide tracts of land where human intervention has been minimal (mountains and high hills, the Danube Delta, lagoon systems and some river meadows). The composition of the ecological structure of the natural capital, especially the parts that function as natural or semi-natural systems, displays a relatively high level of biological diversity and animal and plant stocks. A differentiated regime for the protection, conservation and use has been instituted in order to ensure the special protection and "in situ" conservation measures for natural heritage assets. Romania has the following categories of protected areas: of national interest (967 areas with a surface of 1.308.616 ha), of community importance (381 Natura 2000 sites, 6,276,890 ha), of international interest (9 areas, 1.280.017 ha).

After 1990, due to difficulties generated by the country's transition to a market economy, a net return of people to rural areas could be observed. Traditional harvesting and grazing, as well as eco-tourism are emerging. However, due to the same transition, the pressure on natural resources is significantly increasing.

In terms of **Climate change** issue, Romania's Strategy and Action Plan on Climate Change provided for a number of important measures for the reduction of GHG emissions, for

adjustment to the effects of climate change and for enhancing public awareness. Romania's further obligations as a EU Member State regarding the reduction of greenhouse gases emissions during the post-2012 period derive from the policy objectives that were agreed at European level to reduce until 2020 the emissions of greenhouse gases by 20% compared to the levels of 1990, to increase by 20%, within that timeframe, the share of renewable energy in the overall energy consumption, to enhance energy efficiency by 20%, and to achieve a minimum 10% share of bio-fuel in the total fuel consumption in transport.

International Waters: Romania is approximately 98% situated in the lower part of Danube's hydrographic basin and owns the largest surface of Danube's basin (30%), the longest sector of the river (1,076 km) and Danube Delta, Europe's second large wetland. A significant number of rivers cross the state frontier, and Tisza, Prut and Danube rivers follow a part of the frontier. Romania also has a large portion of the Black Sea coast (228 km).

Generally, the surface and ground water contamination is mainly a result of improper drainage of wastewaters and discharge of wastewater without (pre)treatment, as well as improper disposal of solid wastes and hazardous substances from industrial and mining activities. Another important source of pollution consists of inadequate land management and agricultural practices.

During the past decades, the Black Sea suffered severe environmental damage, mainly due to: coastal erosion, eutrophication, insufficiently treated sewage, introduction of exotic species, inadequate resource management and loss of habitat. These led to a decline of its biological diversity and long-term ecological changes. Tanker accidents and operational discharges have often caused oil pollution.

Persistent Organic Pollutants: Romania has forbidden the use of most of the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) included on the Stockholm Convention list many years ago (1972 is considered the reference year). DDT was the last forbidden POP for use, in 1985. Presently, Romania's main concerns in the field are the by-products (dioxins and furans) and the PCBs.

Land Degradation: In Romania, land degradation, drought and desertification are associated with climate peculiarity, climate change - with heavy drought occurrence over recent decades - and unsustainable land use practices. Meteorological records over more than 100 years show an obvious trend of desertification for some 3 mil. ha in the Eastern part of the country (Dobrogea), East of Muntenia and South of Moldova, out of which 2.8 mil ha of agricultural land (20 % of total agricultural fund of Romania). Drought affected area is even larger, covering the entire country's arable fund, while the land/soil degradation affected areas cover about half of the national territory.

The Romanian Ministry of Environment and Forests promotes a unitary, coherent environmental policy, setting for itself some major targets to achieve, in line with the EU and National Sustainable Development Strategy.

2.1.4. Major partnerships and existing sources of co-financing

The co-financing of OP5 was the biggest challenge for SGP Romania.

At projects level, a mechanism is already in place, and all SGP grantees succeed in getting the required cash and in-kind co-financing. Most of the applicants are small NGOs and CBOs with limited or no own resources, depending completely on projects. But, the good visibility of the Programme and the good results of its local interventions facilitated a good relationship with the local authorities and other stakeholders. The project ideas are developed with their support and they become project partners and co-financers. This is also possible from legal point of view,

according to the Romanian legislation. The mechanism includes Partnership Agreements and Local Council Decisions stipulating the committed amount.

At Programme level, the establishment of co-financing agreements is still an on-going process, described at chapter 7 Resource mobilization.

2.3. SGP country programme niche

2.3.1 The following environmental conventions, ratified by the Government of Romania, are relevant to the GEF SGP focal areas:

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

Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Law No. 58 / 1996,
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	National Strategy and National Strategic Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation 2010 – 2020 /April 2011, currently under MEF endorsement
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Law no. 24/1994
UNFCCC National Communications (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd)	1 st –Jan 21995; 2 nd – Apr. 1999; 3 rd –Feb 2005; 4 th – Nov 2006; 5 th – Dec 2010
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	N.A.
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	Law No. 111/1998
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	2000
Stockholm Convention (SC)	Law 261/2004
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	Apr. 2006
World Bank Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	Poverty Reduction National Strategy 2000
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	completed
GEF-5 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	N.A.
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest) - Law 98/1992 • Strategic Action Plan for the rehabilitation and protection of the Black Sea - Istanbul 1996 • Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the River Danube (Sofia) – Law 14/1995 • Strategic Action Plan for the Danube river basin Bucharest 1994 • Convention on the protection and use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes (Helsinki) Law 30-1995

2.3.2. SGP Romania niche for OP5 was established by integrating country's environmental priorities with GEF5 Strategic Priorities. The SGP partnership with local/regional/central environmental authorities resulted in identifying environmental issues that can and must be addressed by CSOs. This information is largely disseminated among CSOs and became a screening criteria of projects' ideas submitted by NGOs/CBOs. The projects' promoters will be supported during the project development phase to integrate local needs and national priorities.

The national and regional development priorities, poverty map, gender and vulnerable groups' issues were taken into consideration in the CPS development process. Thus, the Programme addresses CSOs mostly in the economically poor and disadvantaged regions, and in formerly mono-industrialized regions with industry shut down (mining areas etc.) and largely promote the involvement of vulnerable people, with an accent on women and youth – especially in rural [remote] areas.

During the projects' implementation, the information/training/education activities will present global environmental issues, the country priorities in this field and how local communities' actions can contribute to obtaining global environment benefits. The activities, experience and lessons from SGP projects will document the national communications to conventions' implementation, in the chapters presenting civil society contributions.

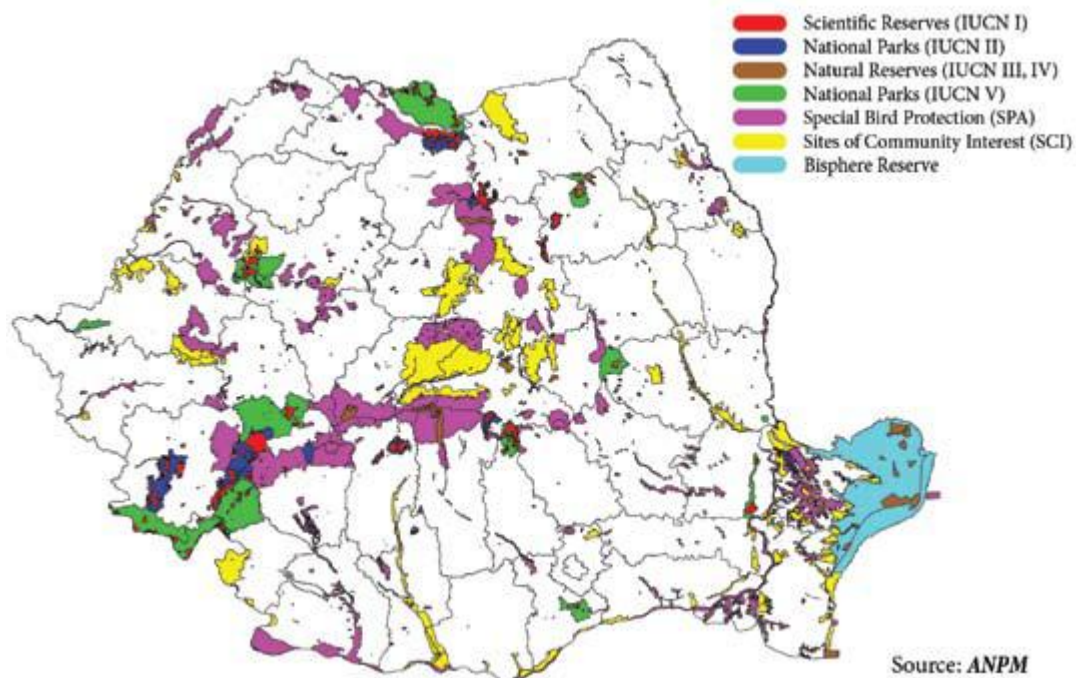
2.3.3. During previous operational phases GEF SGP Romania focused on the following four geographic areas:

- I) Maramures, Bistrita Nasaud, Suceava, Neamt, Harghita, Mures, Cluj, Salaj, Bihor and Satu Mare counties (BC, CC, IW, SLM, POPs);*
- II) Galati, Braila, Tulcea and Constanta counties (BC, CC, IW, SLM, POPs);*
- III) Caras Severin, Mehedinti and Hunedoara counties (BC, CC, IW, SLM, POPs);*
- IV) The Low Danube Green Corridor (IW, BC).*

The main criteria in selecting these regions were:

- existence of environmental reserves, national/natural parks, hotspots, as well as areas included in international treaties and conventions Romania is part of;
- areas with on-going and future GEF/WB projects;
- regions having projects potential to address as many as possible GEF focal areas;
- economically disadvantaged areas – former mono-industrialized regions, i.e. regions affected by mining industry close down;
- regions with low HDI and/or poverty enclaves, gender disparities and presence of vulnerable groups;
- rural and remote areas;
- areas rich in traditions, with handicraft and agri/eco-tourism potential;

The experience of SGP implementation in Romania showed that the geographic focus as defined by the SGP strategy back in 2005 is not fully matching the goals of the programme. By restricting our interventions to the environmentally protected areas and natural reserves, which are not necessarily overlapping the regions most severely affected by poverty (the NE and S regions), the programme fails to reach the communities where its contribution to generating sustainable livelihoods is most needed. The SGP geographic focus does not overlap the poverty map at this point.



Map: Protected area system in Romania

2.3.4. Romania’s strategies and action plans related to GEF focal areas, clearly establish objectives and actions to achieve environmental benefits while contributing to country development. The CSOs contribution to initiate and implement such actions is of extreme importance, but their real possibility to develop such interventions is very limited by the reduced national funding sources addressing this category of organizations. To this, the insufficient capacity of NGOs/CBOs to address some topics reduces their chances even more. In this context, GEF SGP remains one of the most important supporters of such projects, through the funds allotted and fields addressed. To these reasons of being a leader on this segment, is added the valuable contribution SGP brings to CSOs in terms of technical knowledge and organizational development, knowledge valorized in organizations’ further activity.

Thus, the GEF SGP ‘niche’ in Romania is defined not only in environmental protection, but also in poverty alleviation, empowerment of local communities, strengthening the vulnerable groups, involving communities, civil society and other stakeholders in an efficient and long-time partnership for the country’s advancement

Table 2. Consistency with national priorities

OP5 project objectives	National priorities	SGP niche
<u>Immediate Objective 1:</u> Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation	Securing an Efficient Management of the National Protected Area Network. Ensure Good Conservation Status for the Protected Species.	Contribute to the development of Management Plans for protected areas and Guidelines for the management of Natura 2000 sites. Support the implementation of the Sustainable management plans and monitor the state of conservation of natural habitats and wildlife. Initiate community-led (participatory research)

areas through community-based actions		inventories of biodiversity and promote sustainable use of biodiversity resources. Demonstration of community-based approaches to the conservation of natural habitats and ecosystems in and around conservation areas.
<u>Immediate Objective 2:</u> Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions	Ensure the Integration of Biodiversity Conservation Priorities into the Sectoral Policies and Strategies. Improve the biodiversity related communication and education.	Improve stakeholders' participation in the appropriate assessment of the impact of strategies, policies, plans and programs on the species and habitats. Demonstrate the importance of the ecological functions of lands, including of riparian and alluvial vegetation areas, in order to combat erosion processes and maintain ecosystem functions. Identification and demonstration of incentives for the sustainable use of biodiversity components and removal of those with a negative impact.
<u>Immediate Objective 3:</u> Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level	Increase Romania's participation in the "Intelligent Energy Europe" programme. Reduce energy consumption and promote energy efficiency among energy end users. Developing Scientific Research and Promoting Technology Transfer on energy production from renewable sources, on energy recovery from landfills. Promote cogeneration and energy efficiency in district heating.	Capacity development for applying measures to reduce energy consumption. Demonstration of energy efficient alternatives. Piloting and employing renewable technologies at community level for both public buildings of community interest and domestic households.
<u>Immediate Objective 4:</u> Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level	Coordination of the transport systems with territorial and urban planning. Improve the energy efficiency of the transport system. Manage/reduce GHG emissions from transport through technological improvement of the vehicles and encouraging NMT.	Contribute to the development of sustainable transport plans in urban/rural areas (traffic management, modal transport). Pilot projects on the use of NMT in rural/urban areas and establishment of adequate infrastructure. Demonstration projects on the use of bio-fuel.
<u>Immediate Objective 5:</u> Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through	Ensure the Integrated Management of Land Use Development and Urbanism. Securing sustainable Forest Management.	Contribute to the development and application of land use development and urbanism policies in support for biodiversity/landscape conservation. Promote good practice in the forest fields, increasing their resilience to climate change effects. Demonstrate measures of increasing the standing

sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry		<p>wood surface, by the afforestation of certain degraded fields and of certain marginal fields, not proper for an efficient agriculture, as well as through the creation of forest shelter-belts for the agricultural fields, of the watercourses and of the communication ways, for the anti-erosion protection of slopes.</p> <p>Support the community owning forests to prepare the necessary documents for getting forest certification.</p>
<u>Immediate Objective 6:</u> Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities	<p>Securing Integrated Agricultural Management.</p> <p>Securing sustainable Forest Management.</p>	<p>Support the application of good agricultural practice; providing for the viability of species and breeds/strains that contribute to the conservation of ecosystems and wildlife.</p> <p>Develop the current agri-environmental schemes.</p> <p>Promote the sustainable use of species with economic value.</p> <p>Develop incentive mechanisms for the forest landowners to obtain forest certification.</p> <p>Include landscape features and biodiversity conservation principles as major conditions in the development of tourism infrastructure.</p> <p>Convert mass tourism in natural protected areas, including in Natura 2000 sites into sustainable and eco-tourism.</p>
<u>Immediate Objective 7:</u> Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes)	Develop and adopt a coherent policy and management mechanism of land use planning, urbanism, and landscape that design and incorporates the needs of various sectors.	<p>Contribute to the development of sustainable land-use plans.</p> <p>Provide valuable inputs in EIA for new development in order to reduce land-use conflicts, conserve critical ecosystems, protect and manage environmentally sensitive habitats, restore degraded conservation areas.</p>
<u>Immediate Objective 8:</u> Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives	Support the implementation of SAPs for Black Sea, Danube and transboundary watercourses.	<p>Promote community initiatives eliminating causes of land-based sources of pollution (good agricultural practices and sustainable waste management).</p> <p>Promote community-based integrated freshwater basin - coastal area management addressing land degradation (deforestation) and water contamination issues.</p> <p>Support wetland restoration and protection initiatives providing benefits for both biodiversity protection and water quality improvement.</p>
<u>Immediate Objective 9:</u> Promote and support phase	<p>Eliminate pesticides stockpiles and wastes and existing PCBs.</p> <p>Eliminate not identified POPs.</p>	<p>Organize and facilitate awareness raising workshops on POPs, preparing and disseminating public awareness materials for local communities.</p> <p>Promote and demonstrate ecological and sustainable</p>

<p>out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level</p>	<p>Prohibit the production of POPs and other substances that might be included on the POPs list in the future.</p> <p>Development of sustainable agriculture.</p> <p>Improve environmental performance in the industrial, energy and transportation sectors.</p> <p>Reduce POPs emission nuisance from waste incinerators.</p>	<p>farming.</p> <p>Support local development, sale, and use of non-DDT and non-POPs pesticide alternative approaches.</p> <p>Promote reducing, reusing and recycling the amount of medicinal, municipal, and industrial wastes being generated and incinerated towards reduction of dioxin and furan emissions.</p>
<p><u>Immediate Objective 10:</u> Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs 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>Improve capacity in project planning and implementation.</p> <p>Improve monitoring and evaluation capacity.</p> <p>Develop participatory mechanism.</p> <p>Improve the level of communication between key government agencies, the NGOs and CBOs.</p>	<p>Provide adequate training for staff in all areas of the conventions.</p> <p>Support organisational development.</p> <p>Support partnerships' development between NGO/public and private sectors.</p> <p>Provide access to knowledge platform/fair.</p>
<p><u>Cross-Cutting Results:</u> Poverty reduction, livelihoods and gender</p>	<p>Eradicate extreme poverty. Eradicate social situation morally unacceptable (street children, abandoned children, human trafficking, domestic violence, neglected or abused children).</p> <p>Reduce regional imbalances.</p> <p>Promote an inclusive society with high degree of social cohesion.</p> <p>Secure equity access to basic social services.</p> <p>Implement gender mainstreaming at all social, cultural, educational levels.</p>	<p>Activate individual and collective capacities.</p> <p>Promote and demonstrate alternative income generating activities to improve livelihoods.</p> <p>Encourage the participation/involvement of disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>Mainstream gender considerations in community-based environmental initiatives.</p> <p>Stimulate women's participation in all SGP projects' phases.</p>

3. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT, POVERTY REDUCTION AND GENDER RESULTS FOR SGP

3.1. Capacity development

SGP country programme accepts concept papers on continuous basis. Discussions with the organisations submitting the concepts are a good opportunity for capacity needs assessment. Based on this assessment specific trainings are delivered by the NC, in order to support the potential grantees developing the application. The information considered of general interest is shared through the programme website.

The applicants are also encouraged to include within the project capacity development activities for their organisation, both in terms of technical knowledge and organisational development.

The NC and NSC members are involved in these activities for general or specific topics, according to their domain of expertise.

SGP projects, also supports the establishment of new CBOs or NGOs in areas with low civil society development.

The capacity acquired within SGP projects is valorised by the recipient organisation on multiple plans:

- in properly implementing projects' activities and adding value to initial project concept
- in assuring the sustainability of projects' activities after the end of SGP financing (notable successes were already registered: based on the knowledge acquired during SGP projects, former/actual grantees prepared and submitted successful applications for financing under EU Structural Funds or from other donors)
- in developing an active and documented dialogue with the local authorities as partners in the decision making process
- in supporting the new established organisations in their development

During OP5, SGP Romania will put more efforts in knowledge sharing and experience exchange by developing a special knowledge platform accessible to grantees, partners and beneficiaries.

3.2. Poverty reduction

GEF SGP aims at contributing to the achievement of the country's poverty alleviation target, by providing benefits to the communities. As most of SGP projects are located in rural/remote areas, with poor communities facing low human development, SGP interventions is focused on:

- supporting information/warning and training activities for communities. Being better informed they can better conserve and sustainably use the biodiversity, can better coop with existing climate vulnerabilities and future changes;
- promoting and supporting the initiatives contributing to increase in communities income:
 - ✓ developing alternative income generating activities (eco/agri-tourism, biological agriculture, valorization of NTFP, establishment of markets for eco/agri-products, other innovative ideas for income generating activities using biodiversity resources managed in a sustainable manner),
 - ✓ demonstrating the savings in energy bills through energy conservation/ efficiency measures and the use of RES
 - ✓ promoting sustainable transport means
- Encouraging the establishment of public-private partnership as locally-based direct relationship between local authorities and business community, based on a common commitment towards local development.

3.3. Gender

The concepts of equality and non-discrimination in Romania is widely known and implemented, while the concept of gender mainstreaming is not yet truly transposed in the daily reality.

At SGP Romania level, the situation looks much better, 8 out of total 12 persons involved in SGP office and NSC are women.

At projects' level SGP will continue to support the ones that significantly contribute to women empowerment, their participation in the decision making process. Women headed projects, women involvement in all projects activities including the income generating activities and being equal beneficiaries of the achievements are strongly encouraged. These initiatives are supported in all thematic areas with a special focus in rural areas where gender disparities are more obvious. Capacity building and special training were and will be delivered to enable women increase and improve their performances. Partnerships with women organizations will be continued and developed. To monitor the gender issue within SGP projects, gender-disaggregated statistics are required from the project proposal.

4. OP5 COUNTRY OUTCOMES, INDICATORS AND ACTIVITIES

The total number of SGP projects in OP5 is estimated to 30-35, taking into account the existing and estimated (with high probability) financing sources. However, this number can increase if other financing sources are identified and accessed. Considering the country priorities and the actual discussions with potential donors, the financed projects will address all SGP focus areas. Projects addressing non-GEF focus were not yet evidenced. As not the entire amount is available from the start of OP5, and the focus of the successful projects can only be estimated, a strict breakdown of the project number by focus area (BD, CC, SLM, IW, POPs) and financing source (CORE, non-CORE) cannot be done at this point. But, the estimated weight by focus areas is BD 30%, CC 40%, SLM 16% and IW 7%, Pops 7%). The breakdown is done considering the main focus area but, in practice, almost all SGP projects have a primary focal area and one-two additional focal areas. The projects financing will be secured approx. 50% from CORE and 50% from non-CORE sources.

The GEF SGP projects produce global environmental impacts, livelihoods impacts and empowerment impacts. **Environmental impacts** cover the GEF focal areas: biodiversity conservation, climate change, international waters, sustainable land management, and persistent organic pollutants. **Livelihood impacts** of the programme address aspects linked to: basic needs, socio-economic conditions, health, education, and poverty reduction. **Empowerment impacts** involve: greater participation in decision making, better organization, improved capacities of representation and advocacy, and an improved legal or political enabling environment affecting vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Table 3. Results Framework

<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1</u> : Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas (ICCAs) through community-based actions			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
<p><i>Outcome 1.1</i> 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><i>Category II Step-up:7</i> Good practices replicated and scaled up outside SGP supported areas, as</p>	<p>Number and hectares of ICCAs and other PAs positively influenced through SGP support</p> <p>Number of community members with improved livelihoods related to benefits from protected areas</p> <p>Number of significant</p>	<p>Project Reports; Monitoring visits; Relevant local/national/international reports (including Local Councils, MEF, reports of the PAs administration/customers)</p>	<p>At least 5 projects developing the following (not limited to) community based activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of biodiversity inventories with community support in 5 protected areas and community conservation areas - Implementation and observation, by the community living in and around PAs and ICCA, of the measures for conservation management in 5 new areas - Replication of Good practices in

<p>appropriate <i>Outcome 1.2:</i> Benefits generated at the community level from conservation of biodiversity in and around protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas <i>Category II Step-up:</i> Sustainable financial mechanisms for benefit generation identified and piloted, as appropriate <i>Outcome 1.3:</i> Increased recognition and integration of indigenous and community conservation areas in national protected area systems <i>Category II Step-up:</i> Information about recognition of indigenous and community conservation areas within national level protected area systems shared through an established network, as appropriate <i>Outcome 1.4:</i> Increased understanding and awareness at the community-level of the importance and value of biodiversity <i>Category II Step-up:</i> Environmental education programs formally integrated in school curricula, as appropriate</p>	<p>species with maintained or improved conservation status Number and hectares of significant ecosystems with maintained or improved conservation status</p>		<p>biodiversity conservation from 5 SGP supported areas replicated. - Development of income generating activities, based on sustainable use of biodiversity resources (eco-tourism, biological agriculture, secondary forestry products etc) - Establishment of 3 Public-private partnerships for supporting/developing benefit generation for communities - Development of specific documentation for establishment of 5 new ICCA - Evaluation of significant species existing within ICCA and of specific conservation measures with impact on national protected area system - 5 New/existing ICCA integrated in the national PAs system - Promotion and advocacy with regard to sustainable biodiversity conservation developed in less developed counties with significant biodiversity - Development of teaching and information materials reflecting local biodiversity specific features in 5 new areas - Integration of 2 manuals on biodiversity conservation developed and tested within OP4, into the school curricula as optional discipline, at county level.</p>
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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
<p><i>Outcome 2.1:</i> 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</p>	<p>Hectares of production landscapes / seascapes under improved sustainable use practices, leading, where possible, to certification through recognized environmental standards that incorporate biodiversity</p>	<p>Project Reports; Monitoring visits; Relevant local/national reports (including Local Councils, MEF, reports of the PAs administrations/custodians)</p>	<p>At least 5 projects developing the following (not limited to) community based activities: - 5 Sustainable management plans for PAs and ICCA developed with community support - Certification of 5 biodiversity based products</p>

<p><i>Category II Step-up:</i> Market mechanisms and standards replicated and scaled-up, as appropriate</p> <p><u>Outcome 2.2:</u> Increased understanding and awareness of sustainable use of biodiversity</p> <p><i>Category II Step-up:</i> Environmental education programs formally integrated in school curricula, as appropriate</p>	<p>considerations (supported by SGP)</p> <p>Number of significant species with maintained or improved conservation status</p> <p>Number and hectares of significant ecosystems with maintained or improved conservation status</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replication of sales mechanism for products produced from biodiversity resources sustainably managed - Raising communities' awareness on the impact of development strategies, policies, on the species and habitats from the ICCA, and encourage community involvement in the evaluation of this impact - Promoting conservation through utilization (sustainably dimensioning of biodiversity resources valorization) - Education programme on sustainable use of biodiversity resources and its testing/ integration in school curricula at local/county level
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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
<p><u>Outcome 3.1:</u> Innovative low-GHG technologies deployed and successfully demonstrated at the community level</p> <p><i>Category II Step-up:</i> Up-scaling and replication of good practices and lessons, as appropriate</p> <p><u>Outcome 3.2:</u> GHG emissions avoided</p>	<p>Number of communities with demonstrations addressing community level barriers to deployment of low-GHG technologies</p> <p>Number of low GHG emissions technologies applied at community level</p>	<p>Project Reports; Monitoring visits; Relevant local/ national reports (including Local Councils, MEF, ANRE)</p>	<p>At least 6 projects developing the following (not limited to) community based activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promoting 3 low GHG technologies with direct application to community life - Demonstration projects using low GHG emissions technologies for public and domestic benefits - Up-scaling the good practice of strew briquetting process from one community level to the level of an Association of communities in agricultural areas - Establishment of 4 public-private partnerships for supporting energy efficiency measures and use of RES at community level. - Replication of successful projects in rural remote areas

SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4: Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level

Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
<p><i>Outcome 4.1:</i> Low-GHG transport options demonstrated at the community level <i>Category II Step-up:</i> Up-scaling and replication of good practices and lessons, as appropriate <i>Outcome 4.2:</i> Increased investment in community-level energy efficient, low-GHG transport systems <i>Outcome 4.3:</i> GHG emissions avoided</p>	<p>Number of communities where community-level low-GHG transport options have been demonstrated</p> <p>Number of local public authorities having been influenced by SGP demonstration practices</p>	<p>Project Reports; Monitoring visits; Relevant local/ national reports (including Local Councils, MEF, MT, MARD)</p>	<p>At least 4 projects developing the following (not limited to) community based activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public awareness campaign regarding the benefits of low carbon transport on climate change mitigation, local air pollution, traffic congestion, and access to affordable and efficient transport and public utilities - Participation in local policy formulation implementation and / design of urban and peri/urban public transportation - Demonstration projects on the use of NMT in rural/urban areas - Demonstration projects on the use of bio-fuel

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
<p><i>Outcome 5.1:</i> 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 <i>Category II Step-up:</i> Up-scaling and replication of good practices and lessons, as appropriate <i>Outcome 5.2:</i> Restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks in forests and non-forest lands, including peat land <i>Category II Step-up:</i> Up-scaling and replication of good practices and lessons, as appropriate <i>Outcome 5.3:</i> GHG emissions avoided</p>	<p>Hectares under improved sustainable land management and climate proofing practices</p> <p>Hectares of forests and non-forest lands with restoration and enhancement initiated</p>	<p>Project Reports; Monitoring visits; Relevant local/ national reports (including Local Councils, MEF, MRDT, MARD)</p>	<p>At least 4 projects developing the following (not limited to) community based activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building for community participation in land use planning, urbanism, and landscape policies - Implementation of sustainable land management plans - Demonstration of conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through afforestation, reforestation, agro-forestry and tree management on non-forested land

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
<p><i>Outcome 6.1:</i> Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts on agro-,and forest ecosystems and ecosystem services demonstrated to sustain ecosystem functionality</p> <p><i>Category II Step-up:</i> Analysis of economic value of ecosystem services in target areas, as appropriate</p> <p><i>Outcome 6.2:</i> Community-based models of sustainable forestry management developed, and tested, linked to carbon sequestration for possible up-scaling and replication where appropriate, to reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhance carbon sinks from land use, land use change, and forestry activities</p> <p><i>Category II Step-up:</i> Up-scaling and replication of good practices and lessons, as appropriate</p>	<p>Hectares under improved agricultural, land and water management practices (by management practice)</p> <p>Hectares of reforested lands</p> <p>Number of national and international agencies or partners are aware of successful SGP demonstrations and innovative approaches</p> <p>Number of local/national governments</p> <p>Policy making processes with SGP influence</p>	<p>Project Reports; Monitoring visits; Relevant local/ national reports (including Local Councils, MEF, MRDT, MARD)</p>	<p>At least 5 projects developing the following (not limited to) community based activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity development to implement participatory decisionmaking in management of production landscapes - Model areas of integrated land management (sustainable agriculture) - Demonstration areas for the revival of traditional systems of rangeland/pasture management - Demonstration areas of sustainable management of forests for timber and non-timber products - Reforestation and use of local species, - Dissemination of good practices for crop and livestock production
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7: Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes)			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
<p><i>Outcome 7.1:</i> Improved community -level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts in land use frontiers of agro- ecosystems and forest ecosystems (rural/ urban, agriculture/forest)</p> <p><i>Category II Step-up:</i> Partnerships with private sector, as appropriate</p>	<p>Number of community members with improved actions and practices that reduce negative impacts on land uses</p>	<p>Project Reports; Monitoring visits; Relevant local/ national reports (including Local Councils, MEF, MRDT, MARD)</p>	<p>At least 3 projects developing the following (not limited to) community based activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community and all stakeholders consultations for comprehensive land use planning in a participatory approach - Demonstration projects that enhance the resilience of different land-use practice: management of invasive species, increasing green space in urban areas, employing agro-forestry practice, apply strategic placement of managed and natural ecosystems (facilitating e.g., pest control by natural predators, pollination by wild

			<p>bees, reduced erosion with hedgerows, or filtration of runoff by buffer strips)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish partnerships with private sector for solving land use conflicts and assure sustainable development, developed.
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8: Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
<p><i>Outcome 8.1:</i> Effective and climate resilient community-based actions and practices supporting implementation of SAP regional priority actions demonstrated</p> <p><i>Category II Step-up:</i> Scaling-up and replication of good practices and lessons learned, as appropriate</p> <p><i>Outcome 8.2:</i> Synergistic partnerships developed between SGP stakeholders and transboundary water management institutions and structures supporting implementation of SAP regional priority actions</p> <p><i>Category II Step-up:</i> Scaling-up and replication of good practices and lessons learned, as appropriate</p>	<p>Number of SAPs to which SGP is providing implementation support</p> <p>Number of regional transboundary water management processes to which SGP is contributing good practices and lessons</p>	<p>Project Reports; Monitoring visits; Relevant local/ national reports (including Local Councils, MEF, MRDT, MARD)</p>	<p>At least 2 projects developing the following (not limited to) community based activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community initiatives eliminating causes of land-based sources of pollution (replication/scale up the good practice in manure management in communities along Danube) - Demonstration plots of ecological agriculture and monitoring of underground water quality. - Wetland conservation/restoration and protection initiatives providing benefits for both biodiversity protection and water quality improvement - Explore/test possible direct cooperation between all stakeholders for participating in the decision making process in partnership with water management authorities.
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><i>Outcome 9.1:</i> 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</p> <p><i>Category II Step-up:</i> Scaling-up and replication of good practices and lessons learned, as appropriate</p>	<p>Tons of POPs waste avoided from burning</p> <p>Tons of obsolete pesticides disposed of appropriately</p> <p>Number of countries where SGP is contributing to the implementation of national plans and policies to address POPs, harmful chemicals and other pollutants</p>	<p>Project Reports; Monitoring visits; Relevant local/ national reports (including Local Councils, MEF, MH, MT, MARD)</p>	<p>At least 2 projects developing the following (not limited to) community based activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information and training campaigns for targeted groups about the phase out of chemicals of global concern - Identification and collection of isolated POPs stockpiles (in private households) - Sustainable waste management applied at community level in order to reduce emissions from waste incineration

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><i>Outcome 10.1:</i> Active participation of NSCs and NFGs in GEF focal areas at the national level</p> <p><i>Outcome 10.2:</i> Improved information flows to/from CBOs and CSOs in SGP countries regarding good practices and lessons learned, and application of such practices</p> <p><i>Outcome 10.3:</i> Increased public awareness and education at the community-level regarding global environmental issues</p> <p><i>Outcome 10.4:</i> Capacity of CBOs and CSOs strengthened to support implementation of global conventions</p> <p><i>Outcome 10.5:</i> Increased application of community-based environmental monitoring</p> <p><i>Outcome 10.6:</i> Evaluation of SGP projects against expected results strengthened, including increased capacity of CBOs and CSOs to apply relevant evaluation methodologies</p>	<p>Number of SGP representatives participating in national GEF coordination meetings</p> <p>Quantity and quality of SGP knowledge base, and use of knowledge base;</p> <p>Quantity and quality of contributions to knowledge fairs, conferences, publications and research</p> <p>Number of demonstrations and piloted examples of community-based environmental monitoring systems used in SGP projects</p> <p>Quantity and quality of evaluation documentation of expected project results, and unexpected effects</p> <p>Number of CBOs and CSOs demonstrating understanding of the role of evaluation through application of relevant evaluation methodologies</p>	<p>Project Reports;</p> <p>Monitoring visits;</p> <p>Evaluation reports</p>	<p>- 1 project will deal with development and use of knowledge management platform</p> <p>All SGP projects will include in OP5 capacity development activities related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trainings on development of participatory processes - Trainings on monitoring and evaluation methodologies - Community-based environmental monitoring - Projects evaluation (formative/summative) with community support.

Cross-Cutting Results: Poverty reduction, livelihoods and gender

Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
<p>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</p>	<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</p>	<p>Project Reports;</p> <p>Monitoring visits;</p> <p>Evaluation reports</p>	<p>All SGP projects will include in OP5 activities related to poverty reduction, livelihood and gender:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Activate individual and collective capacities - Promote and demonstrate alternative income generating activities to improve livelihoods. - Encourage the

<p>development. Generally, SGP seeks to improve livelihoods through increasing local benefits generated from environmental resources, and mainstream gender considerations in community-based environmental initiatives.</p>	<p>target beneficiaries Percentage of projects that include socioeconomic analysis Number of community members with sustained livelihood improvement resulting from SGP support</p>		<p>participation/involvement of disadvantaged groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mainstream gender considerations in community based environmental initiatives - Stimulate women's participation in all SGP projects' phases
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5. MONITORING & EVALUATION PLAN

5.1. Monitoring & Evaluation Plan

Systematic monitoring, evaluation, and reporting are critical for the programme's success at both country and global levels. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) refers to the process of overseeing and assessing the progress and accomplishments of projects and programme. M & E assists in identifying implementation problems and helps to assess whether targets are being achieved. OP5 will put more accent on M&E and the present document includes some basic information on the subject.

M&E objectives are to:

- Promote accountability for the achievement of the objectives through the assessment of results, effectiveness, processes, and performance of the partners involved.
- Promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing on results and lessons learned as a basis for decision making on program and projects management and to improve knowledge and performance.

Five major criteria should be explored during M&E process:

- **Relevance** – the extent to which the activity is suited to local and national development priorities and organizational policies.
- **Effectiveness** – the extent to which an objective has been achieved or how likely it is to be achieved.
- **Efficiency (effectiveness or efficacy)** – the extent to which results have been delivered with the least costly resources possible;
- **Results** – the positive and negative, and foreseen and unforeseen, changes to and effects produced by a development intervention. Results include direct project outputs, short- to medium-term outcomes, and longer term impact including global environmental benefits, replication effects, and other local effects.
- **Sustainability** – the likely ability of an intervention to continue to deliver benefits for an extended period of time after completion. Projects need to be environmentally as well as financially and socially sustainable.

The evaluation is a systematic and impartial assessment of an activity, project, program, strategy, policy, sector, focal area, or other topics. It aims at determining the relevance, impact, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the interventions and contributions of the involved partners. An evaluation should provide evidence-based information that is credible, reliable, and useful, enabling the timely incorporation of findings, recommendations, and lessons into the decision-making processes. The evaluation purposes include understanding why and the extent to which the results are achieved, and their impact on stakeholders. Evaluation is an important

source of evidence of the achievement of results and institutional performance, and contributes to knowledge and to organizational learning.

Monitoring is a continuous or periodic function that uses systematic collection of data, qualitative and quantitative, for the purposes of keeping activities on track. It is a management instrument providing early information on progress toward achieving the intended objectives, outcomes, and impacts. By tracking progress, monitoring helps identify implementation issues that warrant decisions at different levels of management.

For monitoring purposes the NC will undertake, usually two visits per year to each project during its implementation period, preferably at the intermediate reporting and/or at final reporting. When and if possible, NSC members will participate at site visits. The visits generally include examination of books, review of activities' progress, discussion of problems or potential problems, and definition of follow-up actions. The site visits will give the NC/ NSC the opportunity to observe the implementation process and activities, the delivery of outputs, and progress toward outcomes, and to confirm the information contained in the intermediary and final reports of the NGOs/CBOs. During the site visits, the NC will collect materials, information, make digital photos etc., in order to document lessons learned and to demonstrate the environmental and sustainable livelihood impacts of the GEF SGP activities. In order to assure a cost efficiency, the visits will be grouped by geographical criteria.

Based on the information included in the interim reports, on the ones collected during the monitoring visits and using the data from projects' self monitoring and evaluation, the NC shall undertake a mid-term and final evaluations of the projects' portfolio and draft evaluation reports. Monitoring and evaluation contribute to knowledge building and organizational improvement. Findings and lessons should be accessible to target audiences in a user-friendly way.

5.2. Local Stakeholders' Participation

All project proposals will include a concrete monitoring and evaluation plan containing as a minimum

- baseline for the project, with a description of the problem to be addressed, with indicator data;
- SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time bound) indicators for project implementation;
- SMART indicators for results (outcomes and, if applicable, impacts);
- identification of reviews and evaluations that will be undertaken, such as mid-term reviews or evaluations of activities;
- organizational set-up and budgets for monitoring and evaluation;

SGP projects proposals should be developed from the very beginning, in a participatory manner. The grantees shall have consultations with stakeholders and beneficiaries in order to describe the current state of relevant features of the community or locality, focusing on the environmental problem in the GEF focal areas before project activities begin (baseline data), and then set the projects objectives and outputs. Indicators should be developed together with those best placed to assess them, that means project's ultimate beneficiaries, local staff and other stakeholders.

During the implementation process, the grantee shall involve stakeholders in a participatory self-evaluation process, both as participants and contributors and as users and beneficiaries. They have a particular responsibility in providing their views and perspectives. Periodical common

meetings and site visits will be organized to assess progress, raise issues, or confirm the achievement of results, continuously providing adaptive adjustment measures in order to improve project performance.

The methods used will vary according to project specificity and complexity including stakeholders analysis, documentation review, direct observation, questionnaires, brainstorming, focus groups, SWOT analysis, photos, videos, GIS mapping etc.

The recommended periodicity of these activities is at least quarterly, but according to concrete project phases and evolution they may be more frequent.

During the project implementation, the grantee shall submit two interim reports and a final report. The interim reports will include a progress report with the detailed description of the activities implemented during the reporting period, according to the approved working plan, clearly describing the roles and responsibilities. Any change in the working plan should be justified and supporting documents should be attached. The narrative report will also include an evaluation of the projects results to date, based on the projects indicators, a review of the problems and difficulties encountered and the measures undertaken for solving them.

Apart from the narrative report, the interim reports include a financial report with an expenditures report supported by justifying documents and a cumulative report.

Based on the acceptance of Progress and financial reports, the next installment is transferred, the quality and timely submission of these reports being crucial for successful project implementation.

A project Final Report is prepared by the grantees upon completion of the project and focuses on the relevance and performance of the project, the likelihood of its success, and lessons learned in terms of best and worst practices. This report should also contain recommendations for follow-up actions by appropriate institutions. The final reports will be provided to NSC and, upon request, can be presented to all relevant actors.

Table 4. M&E Plan at the Project Level

SGP Individual Project Level		
M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
Participatory Project Monitoring	Grantees	Duration of project
Baseline Data Collection	Grantees, NC	At project concept planning and proposal stage
Two Project Progress and Financial Reports <i>(according to agreed disbursement schedule)</i>	Grantees, NC, PA	At each disbursement request
Project Workplans	Grantees, NC, PA	Duration of project
NC Project Proposal Site Visit <i>(as necessary / cost effective)</i>	NC	Before project approval, as appropriate
NC Project Monitoring Site Visit <i>(as necessary / cost effective)</i>	NC	On average once per year, 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 (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, after submission of Project Progress Reports.

5.3. M&E Plan at the Programme Level

The results of individual projects will allow

- evaluating the country portfolio and the country programme, by assessing how the country interacts with SGP and how SGP support fits into the country's priorities. The target indicators for focal areas and multi-focal area are used. This includes monitoring of focal areas and overall results for the GEF as well as monitoring of institutional issues. These evaluations will document the portfolio reviews, thematic and cross-cutting evaluations, and annual performance reports
- contributing to the improvement of the knowledge and performance by promoting learning, feedback and knowledge sharing .

All these information will be used in the drafting of the Annual Country Report.

Promote **learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing** on results and lessons learned among the GEF and its partners as a basis for decision making on policies, strategies, program management, programs, and projects; and to improve **knowledge and performance**

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 ²	NC presenting to NSC and CPMT	Once per year
Financial 4-in-1 Report	NC/PA, UNOPS	Quarterly

² 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

6.1. During its almost 7 year of experience SGP Romania produces a broad range of knowledge materials. The aim of these materials is to extract lessons from past and on-going projects that can be applied, and to replicate successes. For OP5, SGP intends to put more effort in developing a knowledge management system. In practice, this involves:

- the development of an information systems (project experiences are captured in reports, evaluations and studies);
- the analysis and codification of lessons learned (this experience is synthesized into knowledge products in various forms, ensuring that materials provide practical information and are improved or updated regularly);
- the dissemination of materials (knowledge products and services are primarily disseminated on-line/via the internet, with some available as printed versions);
- the use and application of the generated knowledge (in order to improve practice in a continuing cycle);

In OP5, a special project will be dedicated to the establishment of an internet based platform that will include different categories of information available for different target groups. A basic structure of such a platform will include:

Knowledge products/services	Target audience	Key objective
Programming Kits (SP-based)	SGP country office staff, NSC members and project teams	Mainstreaming: To help users understand what is eligible under the SGP strategic priorities, and articulate thematic links with other relevant development practice areas.
Project Learning Networks (Stored Procedure-based)	Project teams, SGP country office staff, NSC members	Learning: To provide an electronic discussion forum and allow exchange of non-codified information
Lessons Learned Publications (SPbased)	Members of the SGP family, development practitioners, consultants and project teams, SGP country office	Learning: To consolidate project learning by distilling and synthesizing SGP project evaluations, so as to improve future practice.
Practitioner Guides (SP-based)	Development practitioners, project teams/experts engaged in developing and implementing global environment initiatives.	Impact: To provide detailed technical guidance on developing and implementing such projects.
Project Publications	Development practitioners	Learning: To share technical and other findings generated by SGP projects.
Publications for Outreach	Broad readership of central and local government officials, media, private sector and civil society, Conventions focal points, other members of the SGP family	Outreach: To assist SGP in its outreach activities in the area of global environmental management.

To develop such a project will involve a commune efforts of the projects' teams who will have to include in their reports the good practices and lessons learned from their activities (the final reporting form has a special questionnaire on this topic), the NC, PA and NSC members who should aggregate this information together with information on the same topic from other sources and transform it into clear, practice and user friendly presented knowledge products, and the IT service provider who has to assure a functional and up dated platform.

6.2 Relevant information susceptible to influence the local/regional/national policies are valorized at different levels:

- the knowledge platform will provide access for a broad category of beneficiaries (including decision makers);
- periodical information is sent to three important organizations SGP has very good cooperation relations with: Romanian Federation of Local Authorities, Romanian Association of Communes and Romanian Association of Municipalities. The members of these organizations are local and regional decision makers (mayors, president of local/county councils). Summary reports are transmitted to these authorities and the direct participation of the NC in their annual meetings is a very good opportunity to deliver presentations or to suggest possible solutions, based on SGP experience and lessons, on the specific topics discussed.
- the NSC members have also a valuable contribution in informing and influencing policies (specially the Conventions focal points) by sharing SGP experiences to other relevant organizations and stakeholders.
- a direct intervention with comments and suggestions during the public debate phase of the policies of interest.

6.3. The accumulated knowledge will be available on the knowledge platform.

The replication and scale-up of good practices and lessons learned can be initiated either by SGP country office, if the information and the evaluation made so far are indicating the opportunity of such activity (i.e. similar context, similar environment issue to be addressed etc.). In this situation, organizations/stakeholders from the respective area are contacted and the opportunity/need/will for such intervention is discussed.

Another approach consists of interested organizations contacting SGP for asking support to develop similar/larger projects on a specific topic.

Both approaches can be developed in connection with the launching of a SGP new call for proposals or independently and, if the case, the former grantees can be involved in these activities.

7. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION PLAN

7.1. To enhance the sustainability of SGP country programme and mobilize additional resources from other potential national and international donors, the following activities were planned:

- Advocate on positive and substantial results.
- Increase GEF SGP visibility and popularity by appropriately dissemination of good results;
- Identification of potential donors, their requirements, and the process for accessing their resources. Update the database of potential donors.
- Identification of potential donors engaged in supporting community-based development issues in addition to those that make contributions to environmental initiatives.
- Identification of the bilateral contributions provided by Embassies and offering the SGP proved capacity to identify, screen and monitor projects (i.e. Norway, Switzerland).
- Exploring the possibility of establishing a partnership with the National Environmental Fund at programme level (such partnership already exists at project level) including the opportunity of establishing a national foundation as an alternative way to receive and manage funds from private and public contributions.
- Organization of promotional meetings with groups of donors and/or project site visits.

7.2. The co-financing of OP5 was the biggest challenge for SGP Romania.

At projects level, a mechanism is already in place, and all SGP grantees succeed in getting the required cash and in-kind co-financing. Most of the applicants are small NGOs and CBOs with limited or no own resources, depending completely on projects. But, the good visibility of the Programme and the good results of its local interventions facilitated a good relationship with the local authorities and other stakeholders. The project ideas are developed with their support and they become project partners and co-financers. This is also possible from legal point of view, according to the Romanian legislation. The mechanism includes Partnership Agreements and Local Council Decisions stipulating the committed amount.

At Programme level the situation is different. As Romania is not a beneficiary of STAR funds, other co-financing sources are continuously investigated.

(i) At central level:

- GEF SGP objectives are complementary with several programmes developed by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry directly financed by the Ministry or through the National Environmental Fund, and refers mainly to: increase the local community capacity to participate in the formulation and implementation of environmental policies, environmental education programmes, models' development of local actions for biodiversity conservation, use of RES, promotion of sustainable transport and sustainable land management as a response to the mitigation of climate change effects, models that can be up-scaled and replicated. While the utility of SGP involvement in these

programmes' implementation is largely recognized, the main obstacle in the establishment of co-financing partnership is the Romanian regulations in force, according to which SGP is not eligible for funding. Actions to change it were discussed with the Ministry's representatives. A verbal commitment was expressed for a co-financing amounted at USD 500,000. All necessary documents: Cost-sharing Agreement between UNDP and MEF, Project Document establishing the focal areas and activities to be supported by MEF contribution, and the documentation of the Government Decision for the approval of above mentioned documents were prepared by NC, and currently their endorsement by the interested Ministries (Finance, Justice and Foreign Affairs) is ongoing.

- SGP identified common objectives with the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism and the Ministry of Environment and Forests. They refer to the sustainable tourism (eco and agri-tourism), community development and empowerment projects. Considering the experience and results already achieved by SGP, a co-operation proposal was developed and presented at the visit of the Secretary of International Tourism Organizations in July 2011. The activities presented below, were considered of interest and further discussions will be carried out with the representatives of the 2 ministries involved, in order to establish partnerships for projects development:
 - ✓ Information and public awareness campaigns regarding the protected areas; support for establishment of Natura 2000 sites and custody granting; promotion of biodiversity conservation through sustainable use of natural resources and eco- and agri-tourism, as alternative income generating activities; support for the existing or potential providers of tourism services: certification process; specific trainings
 - ✓ Establishment of Tourism Information Centers (including promotion materials, web-sites etc; marking tourism routes (*for climbing, walking trails, thematic routes, mountain bike etc.*); **installing information panels and arranging halting places**; periodical ecologization of the touristic areas (selective waste collection, recovery/recycling)
- (iii) At the level of bilateral Agencies:

SGP together with UNDP CO is consulting with EEA Financial Mechanisms in order to provide a support to the Environmental Sector, through their donors. "Environmental Protection and Management" and "Climate Change and Renewable Energy" were established as priority sectors by the donors. The MOU-negotiations between Romania and the donors within EEA mechanism are still to be finalized, regulating which programmes and sectors to be implemented in Romania. The negotiations will be finished by the end of 2011 and will regulate who will be the operator for environmental programme. This operator will be then contacted by GEF SGP for detailed discussions regarding a possible partnership.
- (v) Private sector:

Over 110 private companies were contacted. The complementarities with their main or CSR activity was emphasised. We are in the phase of waiting for several private companies' decisions (such as Vodafone, Royal Canin, Ursus) for establishing further partnerships and defining the focal areas/project types to be funded.

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