

## The GEF Small Grants Programme Delivery of Community Based Adaptation (CBA) Projects



The ability of local communities to adapt to the numerous and varied effects of climate change is a pressing concern on the global agenda. It is estimated that annual investments of between US\$49 to US\$171 billion are required to finance an adequate level of climate change adaptation.

The Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is working to meet this challenge. With presence in over 122 countries and 20 years of experience supporting projects at the community level, the GEF SGP has emerged as a highly effective mechanism for delivering Community Based Adaptation (CBA) projects.

While the funds from the GEF for SGP cannot be used for adaptation projects, the GEF SGP is used as a delivery mechanism and a center of expertise to deliver funds from other sources to CBA projects worldwide.

Some of the elements that make the GEF SGP a very attractive, friendly and fast delivery mechanism has to do with its decentralized and country driven approach. Each GEF SGP country programme is required to form a National Steering Committee (NSC) made up of a majority of civil society organizations, the government, UNDP, the academia and the private sector. This voluntary committee is responsible for providing guidance and strategic direction for all the decision making.

With the the assistance of the NSC, each GEF SGP country programme develops a national strategy for achieving CBA objectives based on the local context and circumstances. Equally important is the role of the GEF SGP National Coordinator (NC), who provides technical support and manages day-to-day operations of the programme in each country. A Central Programme Management Team (CPMT) provides overall technical guidance, monitors progress, ensures global coherence and captures the lessons learned from the implementation of its projects.

*To date, the GEF SGP as a partner and delivery mechanism for donors and agencies, has supported more than 100 community based adaptation projects across 28 countries with approximately \$9.8 million.*

## DELIVERING RESULTS

Since 2008, the GEF SGP has been successful in delivering CBA projects for different donors and organizations including:

- The Mekong-Asia Pacific Community Based Adaptation Project (MAP CBA)
- The Strategic Priority on Adaption Community Based Adaption Project (SPA CBA)
- The Small Island Developing States Community-Based Adaption Project (SIDS CBA)
- The African Adaption Fund (AAP)



### **Strengthening the Capacity of Local Communities and Building Partnerships for CBA**

The GEF SGP believes that it is essential to enhance the capacity of local communities to adapt to climate change and improve their resilience. The GEF SGP requires capacity building as a key element of its country programme strategies for CBA including the strengthening of the skills of civil society organizations, local practitioners and government ministries.

For example, the GEF SGP supports the training of community based organizations and local NGOs in the application of the Vulnerability Risk Assessment (VRA). The VRA is a tool that has

been designed to measure the vulnerabilities of communities to climate change in a way that is comparable across projects, communities and regions. Enhancing the capacity of local practitioners to implement and use this tool is an essential step in ensuring the ongoing monitoring, evaluation and improvement of CBA practices.

The GEF SGP also works to assist countries in addressing their particular capacity needs. For example, in Cambodia, an ongoing challenge is the capacity constraint of CBA proponents, and more particularly, their understanding of the long term impacts of climate change. This is being addressed by the provision of training and coaching to the local NGOs and community-based organizations.

To ensure the continuity of its CBA projects and to ensure the communities are getting the support they require, the GEF SGP also encourages and works to establish key partnerships with the government, expert practitioners and other development organizations and donors.

### **The Mekong Asia Pacific Community-Based Adaption (MAP CBA) Project**

The MAP CBA Project was established by the GEF SGP and the Australian Government Overseas Aid Program (AusAid) in 2009. Its objective is to improve the adaptive capacity of communities in the region and to reduce their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. At the same time, the project identifies relevant policy lessons that are leveraged through the horizontal replication of successful community practices and the integration of the lessons into national and sub-national policies.

With US\$6 million in funding from AusAid, the MAP CBA Project is implemented in 20 countries: Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Timor Leste.

To date, the GEF SGP supported the development of 20 CBA country programme strategies, using a participatory process that involved representatives from civil society, government, academia and the private sector.

### **The Small Island Developing States Community-Based Adaption (SIDS CBA) Project**

This project builds on the success of the MAP CBA project and expands its reach to 38 SIDS. This partnership is funded by Australian aid with an additional US\$6 million and will be delivered with the technical support of the GEF SGP from 2011 to 2016. Its goal is to enable vulnerable communities in SIDS to identify and implement community based adaptation measures.



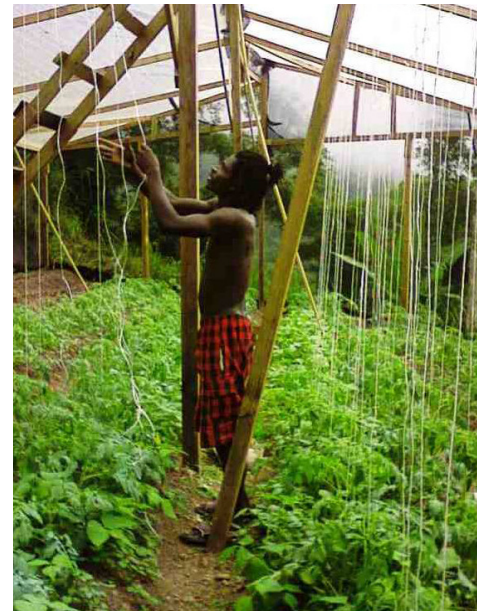
**Australian Government**  
**AusAID**

## The Strategic Priority on Adaptation Community-Based Adaptation (SPA CBA) Project

The Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) Project is a five-year UNDP global initiative, largely funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) along with other donors. Delivered through the GEF SGP and UNDP Country Offices, the goal of the project is to strengthen the resilience of communities addressing climate change impacts. UNDP partners with the GEF SGP and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme to enhance community mobilization, facilitate volunteers' contributions and ensure inclusive participation in the project, as well as to facilitate capacity building of partner non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community-based organizations (CBOs).

Testing the VRA tool and other community-engagement instruments and methods, the project is generating invaluable knowledge and lessons for replication and upscaling. The Government of Japan, the Government of Switzerland, and AusAID provide additional funding.

To date, the SPA CBA project has supported 56 projects in biodiversity, sustainable land management, water resources management, technology transfer and capacity development.



Australian Government  
AusAID



## Environmental Benefits

To date, the CBA projects delivered by the GEF SGP have also had significant environmental benefits around the world. For example, in Jamaica, the SPA CBA project has helped to reduce soil erosion and landslides through the reforestation of steep slopes, which resulted in 10 hectares of restored land and another 40 hectares under sustainable management. Similarly, 2,100 participants in Kazakhstan have benefited from effective water management activities that irrigate an area of approximately 7,000 hectares. This has led to doubling the yield and reducing water consumption by half.

According to the Namibian Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, 70% of rural households and 40% of urban households rely on wood as the primary source of energy for cooking. This leads to approximately 1 million tonnes of wood being used for cooking every year. This practice is unsustainable, yet it also increases the vulnerability of communities to the impacts of climate change.



The importance of addressing this problem was identified at an early stage in the initiation of a CBA pilot project in Namibia. The local NGO implementing the pilot programme worked to design an alternative, energy efficient cooking stove. The result was the EzyStove.

The EzyStove reduces wood fuel consumption by two-thirds and reduces CO<sub>2</sub> and other emissions by 60-80%. It also reduces indoor air pollution considerably and saves money for those families who purchase wood and time for those families who collect wood.

Another fundamental result of the GEF SGP projects on CBA is the development of a guide for practitioners on the VRA. This guide will help other communities and development practitioners to adapt to climate change by conducting their own VRAs.



In Vietnam, MAP CBA projects are improving agricultural development in response to climate change. For example, one project is developing a crop restructuring model to adapt to flooding in the low-lying areas of Ky Lo River, Xuan Quang 2 Commune, Dong Xuan District, Phu Yen Province. At the same time, two other projects are aimed at improving the adaptive capacity of fishing communities and developing a new fisheries model using traditional knowledge.

### **Socio-Economic Benefits**

There are multiple socio-economic benefits from CBA projects, many of which vary across the world. In Cambodia, for example, CBA projects have been associated with 47,621 households benefiting from 21 projects related to water resource management. In particular, 7,047 households are benefiting from 10,393 ceramic water filters. Meanwhile, the provisions of savings and self-help groups, as well as other projects have increased agricultural productivity and efficient use of natural resources.

### **Community Participation and Awareness**

The projects of the GEF SGP have a very high rate of sustainability compared to other environmental grant projects. This is partly due to the fact that the design of projects always begins with the needs of communities and places emphasis on ensuring that the community acknowledges and takes ownership of the projects. In Sri Lanka, it has been identified that a combination of close monitoring, technical guidance and participatory discussions lead to high levels of community participation. In turn, this leads to substantial co-financing and the initiation of complementary projects.

### **LOOKING FORWARD**

The GEF SGP is a strategic, fast, friendly and reliable delivery mechanism for CBA projects. Its institutional expertise and experience are very effective in ensuring that projects are sustainable, consistent and replicable.

All GEF SGP projects in adaptation are delivered in partnership with donors and agencies. The GEF SGP welcomes the opportunity to partner with other organizations to deliver more community based adaptation projects worldwide.

*“The threats are real and the impacts are local. Solutions, therefore, have to be generated from the local communities. Thanks GEF SGP for giving us an opportunity to learn and test adaptation measures to cope with climate change impacts”*

**Beneficiary Woman from  
Kamong Speu province,  
Cambodia**



### **How To Apply to the GEF SGP for Community Based Adaptation funds?**

If you are a community based organization or national NGO in SIDS or one of the GEF SGP country programmes with funds for adaptation projects, please contact the National Coordinator in your country for more detailed information on how to apply.

You can find the information about GEF SGP National Coordinators on the website under “Contact” by looking under your country name:

**[www.sgp.undp.org](http://www.sgp.undp.org)**