





# SGP Country Programme Strategy for utilization of OP5 grant funds

Country programme: FIJI

**Resources to be invested:** Core: US\$500,000 <sup>1</sup>

STAR US\$600,000

Estimated co-financing: US\$1,100,000 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Estimated at minimum of 20% of the OP5 country sub-regional programme envelope (US\$2,500,000) for the Fiji 'Pasifika' sub-region including Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, and Tuvalu). Flexibility will however be provided to channel OP5 core resources to countries based on demonstrated absorptive capacity.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The total 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 (mobilized at the project or country programme level).

# Acronyms

BD	Biodiversity
CBOs	Community-based Organizations
CC	Climate Change
CD	Capacity Development
СРМТ	Central Programme Management Team
CPS	Country Programme Strategy
CSOs	Civil society organizations
FLMMA	Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
IBAs	Important Bird Areas
ICCA	Indigenous and Community Conservation Area
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IW	International Waters
KM	Knowledge Management
LD	Land Degradation
MAP CBA	AusAID Mekong Asia Pacific Community-Based Adaptation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NC	National Coordinator
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
NSC	National Steering Committee
PEF	NZAID Pacific Environment Fund
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PoWPA	Programme of Work on Protected Areas
SGP	Small Grants Programme
SOPAC	Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
UNCBD	UN Convention on Biodiversity
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WWF	World Wild Fund for Conservation
YMST	Yaubula Management Support Teams

#### 1. SGP country programme - summary background

SGP Fiji commenced operations in 2005, during the second year of the 3<sup>rd</sup> SGP Operational Phase (OP3Y2), with US \$ 150,000 in core funds. Since that time, a total of 51 projects (both planning grants and full proposals) have been awarded to community and national NGOs in Fiji. A total of \$1,384,231 USD has been committed to assisting grassroots initiatives in Fiji, building global environmental benefits at the local level and contributing to rural and marginalized populations in the areas of sustainable livelihoods, capacity building, and poverty alleviation.

The main funding sources for SGP Fiji include GEF Core Funds; a GEF RAF government endorsement for OP4; the NZAID Pacific Environment Fund (PEF), and the AusAID Mekong Asia Pacific Community-Based Adaptation (MAP CBA). Fig 1.0 illustrates the breakdown of grantmaking against funding source.

Fig 1.0	Grant-making	totals against	funding	sources

<b>Funding Sources</b>	Number of Projects	Grant Amount	Co-financing in Cash	Co-financing in Kind
GEF Core Funds	25	618 072 USD	2 000 USD	263 720 USD
GEF RAF Funding	8	316 423 USD	20 000 USD	128 848 USD
New Zealand Aid Pacific Environment Fund	6	160 321 USD	30 079 USD	33 143 USD
AusAid Mekong and Asia Pacific CBA	2	47 000 USD	0 USD	0 USD
Other	10	242 415 USD	0 USD	120 493 USD

Although SGP Fiji has boosted the funding of a broad array of community-based projects across the GEF thematic areas, grantmaking has primarily addressed conservation of biodiversity for both marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

Results of grantmaking since the inception of SGP Fiji in 2005 include increased awareness of communities on their critical role in generating global environmental benefits at the local level; empowerment of grassroots groups in natural resources use and management in a sustainable manner; increased understanding of impacts of climate change and mitigation efforts; as well as integrating adaptation activities into resource use planning and environmental management plans (under the AusAID MAP CBA). More significantly, the SGP in Fiji has built an established network of community-based partners; NGOs; environmental, conservation, gender, and climate change practitioners; with the common purpose of supporting local communities and indigenous and traditional resource owners to implement community-based initiatives.

During GEF-5, Fiji has been classified as a 'Category I' SIDS country programme, with SGP core funding for its grant-making. Fiji SGP also secured \$600,000 USD in STAR resources from the Fiji Government for assistance to OP5grantmaking. Fiji is also receiving support for funding under two other programmes: (i) the AusAID MAP CBA; and (ii) the *Satoyama* Initiative, as a pilot sub-regional initiative for the Fiji sub-region, funded by the Japanese government (both of which will use the SGP as their chosen delivery mechanism).

The annual amount of funding for both programmes will be determined based on absorptive capacity and programme performance.

Fig 2.0 Number of grants and co-financing of SGP Fiji projects (as of February 2012).

Basic Stats	Total Amounts	Average Amounts
Number of Projects	51	
Total Amount in Grants	1 384 231 USD	27 142 USD
Total Amount of Cash Co-financing	52 079 USD	1 021 USD
Total Amount of Kind Co-financing	546 205 USD	10 710 USD
(a) Total Amount of Co-financing	598 284 USD	11 731 USD

Natural resources in Fiji include: timber, fisheries, gold, copper, natural mineralized water and offshore oil potential as well as hydropower. Agricultural products include sugarcane, coconuts, cassava (tapioca), rice, sweet potatoes, bananas; cattle, pigs, horses, goats; fish. Current industries in Fiji include: tourism, sugar, clothing, copra, gold, silver, lumber, small cottage industries. The nation has about 6.9 cu mi of water, with roughly 60% used for farming purposes and 20% used for industrial activity.

While much of Fiji's environment is still in a relatively pristine state overall, developments in several sectors are at a critical crossroad, and a number of key problems pose direct threats to continuing environmental functionality and resource sustainability. These include, among others:

- (i) conversion of remaining stands of native forest into exotic mono-species plantations;
- (ii) inappropriate zoning and land use;
- (iii) overexploitation of marine resources;
- (iv) inadequate mechanisms for effective waste management;
- (v) air and water pollution;
- (vi) climate change, with resultant increased risks of drought and flooding;
- (vii) Adverse social and environmental impacts associated with rapid development and urbanization.

One of the key underlying causes for many of these threats is that, while laws exist for environmental compliance, the regulatory framework is in need of overhaul, and resulting environmental governance practices in the country are weak. The increasing demands being placed on the finite natural resources base makes pursuit of more sustainable development options imperative for the country.

Fiji is a hub of international conservation agencies, each with its own agenda and funding niche. The SGP Fiji has created links with these agencies and secured working partnerships at the programme level, with international and local registered NGOs. These partnerships have enhanced the pool of technical expertise and experience lent to the appraisal and planning stages of projects. SGP Fiji actively seeks best practice from such agencies and practitioners and recommends partnerships be secured between applicant communities/groups and these resources, where relevant and appropriate. Agencies such as the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), World Wild Fund for Conservation (WWF),

International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and BirdLife International are some of SGP Fiji's conservation partners and who provide technical assistance to projects where appropriate, as well as assist in capacity development activities at the project level.

Among the biodiversity conservation initiatives that have shown some success are the Fiji Locally Managed Marine Areas (FLMMAs), a network of village-managed marine protected areas. Communities are partnering with academia and conservation NGOs in order to develop effective management mechanisms for each area within the FLMMA network. The SGP has been a critical element to the continued success of FLMMA initiatives, as the SGP has assisted provincial and district-based implementation of resource management plans, toward the sustainable utilization and management of natural resources, mainly marine-based. The SGP Fiji–FLMMA partnership has also encouraged district-based natural resources and environmental support teams to be established in various provinces. These groups are taking the lead in environmental management and replicating best practice in target communities.

#### 2. SGP country programme niche

For GEF 5, the Fiji SGP will pursue a more engaging and collaborative partnership with the Offices of the Divisional Commissioners and Planning Officers in identifying priority areas at the Province and Tikina level, as well as a creating synergies in planning, implementation and monitoring processes. SGP delivery will also continue through the SGP national network and traditional partners, including Provincial Offices, NGOs, CBOs, academia, and relevant government agencies mandated in areas of agriculture, forestry, sustainable land use, climate change, international waters and POPS.

An initial assessment for the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) for Fiji, drafted in 2008, provided a report which provided a background to protected area (PA) establishment and management in Fiji and to highlight a small number of key issues which were considered as being central to PA 'problems' in Fiji at the present time. The assessment also recommended that uuntil such time as a Natural Resource Survey be undertaken on which such identification can be based, some of the priority areas for complete protection include areas in the Northern Provinces of Fiji, including: Waisali Reserve, Vunivia Reserve, Tunuloa Silktail Reserve, in Vanua Levu. Also the Taveuni Forest Reserve and Ravilevu Nature Reserve on the island of Taveuni.

SGP grant-making will actively identify links with ongoing planning and baseline activities in these areas with conservation and community partners, as well as establish a niche for SGP grant making in the entailing processes in these areas. The SGP is a member of the PoWPA network since 2011 in a strategic move to keep abreast of developments in the PoWPA implementation and critical areas for SGP intervention, through community grants.

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

Name of Convention	Date signed and ratified	Ministry Responsible
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	1992	DOE
Kyoto Protocol to UNFCCC (1997)	1997	DOE
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (RAMSAR 1971)	2006	DOE
Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species (CITES)	1997	DOE
United Nations Framework Convention to combat Desertification	2005	MOA
Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage 1972)	1990	Heritage & Culture
Convention o the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS Bonn 1979)	MOU signed with SPREP & CMS-2006	DOE
Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992) DOE	1992	DOE
Stockholm Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (1972)	2001	
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD 1992)	1992	DOE
Copenhagen Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer	2000	DOE
Forest Principles-UNCED (1992)		MAFF
Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987)	1989	DOE
Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (1985)	1989	DOE
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutant	2001	DOE
International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage	1975	
South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency Convention	1979	
South Pacific Nuclear Free Treaty and Protocol	1985	
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species on Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	1997	DOE
Kyoto Protocol (Climate Change Convention)	1998	DOE

During OP5, Fiji SGP will adopt a 'Look-North Policy' prioritizing in line with the Government's efforts to focus on the Northern Island of Vanua Levu and surrounding provinces. The Provinces of Bua, Cakaudrove and Macuata are geographic focus for SGP in OP5, although funding will not be limited to the North. Other Provinces like Rewa and those whom have not yet accessed SGP funding to date, will also be target areas for SGP outreach for OP5, and support to CSOs and partner organizations will be pursued as a crosscutting activity.

Another major activity for OP5 will be SGP's support toward the strategic and phased establishment of provincial-based environment support units called - Yaubula Management Support Teams (YMSTs) in Fiji. This will contribute toward the increase in consultative local bodies' set-up in protected area systems in Fiji – and output 1.1. SGP support toward the YMST will be double-pronged: (i) establishment of new YMST in selected provinces (ii) implementation of Tikina-based conservation priorities identified by YMS Teams. The YMST outputs include: resource management plans and priority setting for conservation; sustainability strategies; as well as a financing strategy/mechanism to ensure sustainability of the activities and outcomes.

The main function is to help sustain natural resources management activities in established sites around the province and to take the lead in extending the set up of Yaubula management plans to the rest of the province. In summary, YMST is to promote the sustainable development and utilization of natural resources and to improve coordination of natural resources development partners at provincial level and set common complementary, rather than competitive, goals.

During OP5, SGP Fiji will continue to consult with provincial stakeholders (including the Provincial Offices, conservation partners and community development groups) and the FLMMA network, to further identify the activities that could be funded by SGP, and those that cannot. SGP funding criteria and GEF considerations will be critical in the establishment of SGP funding opportunities in the set-up of the YMST for the rest of the provinces. Critical areas that need to be discussed include; management and governance frameworks for such initiatives and the sustainability of the whole process.

All SGP funded projects in renewable energy must have already been endorsed by the Dept. of Energy (design, geographic location and feasibility) and also be in line with Provinical development plans and or divisional priorities. Wherever possible, these projects shall also link with the mitigation activity to socio- economic benefits of the community, as well as contribute to national development policies and targets. Wherever possible, SGP will adopt best practice/s from relevant institutions and agencies including SOPAC, USP/IAS, regional and national GEF project and apply them to the design, governance and replication of CC mitigation activities. These best practice will be easily implemented by communities and not too expert reliant. Documentation of all successful mitigation projects will be a priority. The NSC also included a new member since 2010 specifically to assist in the CC Mitigation Portfolio, with extensive experience in renewable energy projects at the community, national and regional level

SGP Fiji will also actively strengthen the POPS portfolio through strategic partnerships with civil society groups and appropriate technical resource agencies to identify

The SGP is being hosted at and implemented by UNDP Multi Country Office (MCO) in Suva, Fiji. This arrangement is convenient in that the day-to-day administrative and operational oversight support to the programme is available in-house. There is also the opportunity to be part of a regional and global network energy and environment practitioners offering valuable lessons and experience in the thematic areas, and also enabling valuable contacts and outreach, and a window for visibility at the country and regional level.

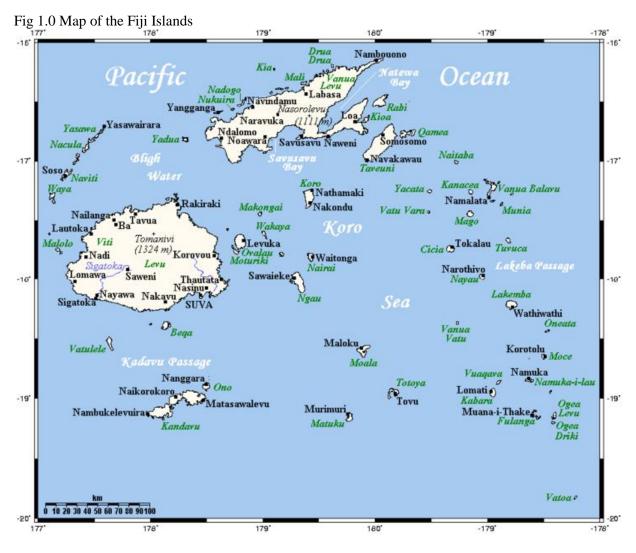
The UNDP MCO, in particular its Environment and Energy Unit, Poverty Unit and Disaster Risk Management, work on similar issues as in the GEF Focal Areas. The UNDP CO, through the national GEF projects, has extensive experience in working with communities, enjoys a close working relationship with the national government, and the Resident Representatives serves as the Coordinator of the UN System as a whole. These features greatly facilitate the building of partnerships with in-country programmes of the UN system, those of government agencies, and other international donors, which is important for the growth and sustainability of SGP.

#### *OP5 Geographic focus*

Fiji is a group of volcanic islands in the South Pacific, lying about 4,450 km (2,775 mi) southwest of Honolulu and 1,770 km (1,100 mi) north of New Zealand. (Fig 1.0)Of the 322 islands, and 522 smaller islets, making up the archipelago, about 106 are permanently inhabited. Viti Levu, the largest island, covers about 57 % of the nation's land area, hosts the two official cities (the capital Suva, and Lautoka) and most other major towns, such as Ba, Nasinu, and Nadi (the site of the international airport), and contains some 69 % of the population. Vanua Levu, 64 km to the north of Viti Levu, covers just over 30 % of the land area though is home to only some 15 % of the population. Its main towns are Labasa and Savusavu. In the northeast it features Natewa Bay, carving out the Loa peninsula.

The two main islands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu are mountainous, with peaks up to 1300 m rising abruptly from the shore, and covered with tropical forests. Heavy rains (up to 304 cm or 120 inches annually) fall on the windward (southeastern) side, covering these sections of the islands with dense tropical forest. Lowlands on the western portions of each of the main islands are sheltered by the mountains and have a well-marked dry season favorable to crops such as sugarcane.

Other islands and island groups, which cover just 12.5 % of the land area and house some 16 % of the population, include Taveuni southeast off Vanua Levu and Kadavu Island, south off Viti Levu (the third and fourth largest islands respectively), the Mamanuca Group (just off Nadi) and Yasawa Group (to the north of the Mamanuca), which are popular tourist destinations, the Lomaiviti Group (just off Suva) with Levuka, the former capital and the only major town on any of the smaller islands, located on the island of Ovalau, and the remote Lau Group over the Koro Sea to the east near Tonga, from which it is separated by the Lakeba Passage. Two outlying regions are Rotuma, 400 km to the north, and the uninhabited coral atoll and cay Ceva-i-Ra or Conway Reef, 450 km to the southwest of main Fiji. Culturally conservative Rotuma with its 2000 people on 44 km² geographically belongs to Polynesia, and enjoys relative autonomy as a Fijian dependency.



Fiji SGP will adopt a 'Look-North Policy' for OP5, prioritizing – however not limiting support to - the Northern Division of Fiji. The Provinces of Bua, Cakaudrove and Macuata are target provinces. The Northern Division is one of four Divisions into which Fiji's fourteen Provinces are grouped for local government purposes. The administrative centre of the Division, where main governmental departments are located, is Labasa. Other Provinces like Rewa and others whom have not accessed SGP funding to date, will also be target areas for SGP outreach for OP5, and support to CSOs and Partner organizations will be pursued as a cross-cutting activity.

Conservation activities supported in OP5 will contribute to the conservation of threatened habitats and species, and ecosystems identified in national documents and already 'listed' (e.g. Fiji Threatened Species List, NBSAP, FIME, POWPA as well due consideration for YMST priorities identified by Tikina-based processes), primarily targeting Vanua Levu and Northern based sites. Lessons from YSMT pilots in the North Provinces will be shared with future YMST activities.

The justification of the geographic focus primarily takes into consideration the critical opportunity to implement conservation activities to protect the rich marine and terrestrial biodiversity and endemism of coastal, inshore and offshore and forest ecosystems found in

Northern Provinces of Macuata, Cakaudrove and Bua. The SGP Fiji will also build on the vast experience and lessons from conservation partners and programmes past and currently active in the North, and working with baselines established through the many various initiatives completed, will assist with community-led and implemented activities.

Projects related to Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in GEF5 will directly support the work of already established YMST in the North as well as community site-support-groups (SSGs) set up in association with Bird Life – Fiji. Activities will focus on habitat conservation and assistance toward livelihood activities as well as develop synergies between SGP and conservation partners.

SGP activities under the BD portfolio will also assist in the establishment of Tikina based profiles in Macuata, Cakaudrove and Bua and this will assist in developing appropriate baselines for priority setting for conservation initiatives by other partners including donors and the government.

Table 2. Consistency with national priorities

OP5 project objectives	National priorities	SGP niche
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1: Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas through community-based actions	Integration of protected areas into wider land and seascapes to showcase mainstreaming of biodiversity with other sectors and ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation to climate change adaptation and leading to mitigation through carbon sequestration	<ol> <li>Identification and development of community-based initiatives contributing to the establishment of CCAs as well as strengthening the management of protected areas including CCAs.</li> <li>Continue engagement and support of community-based site support groups (SSG) in Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Fiji</li> <li>Engage actively with the PoWPA Committee and identify community initiatives that could be assisted through SGP</li> </ol>
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2: Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions	Promote an integrated approach to biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use and management; Promote sustainable fisheries and tourism and also support agro-biodiversity initiatives	Under the Satoyama Initiative, support dalo-farming and vegetable production sectors in the Taveuni and Sigatoka valley areas     Support farmer-grown varieties     Prevention and management of Invasive Alien Species (IAS)
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3: Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level	The Government of Fiji (GoF) pursues nation-wide energy access (rural electrification, off grid and on grid energy supply - Bio-energy (biogas, biomass, agro fuels) - Energy efficiency	SGP will pursue a community pilot hydro schemes in the Namosi Province     SGP will provide support for communities engaged in the Barefoot College initiative from 2013

OP5 project objectives	National priorities	SGP niche
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4: Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level	Transport system supporting agricultural production and productivity.	SGP will support the piloting of energy efficient, low carbon transport in agricultural and fisheries reliant communities in the Northern Provinces
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	Promote sustainable land management through proper land use plans  Protect coral reefs, mangroves and other vegetation	SGP will provide support to communities in priority sites, for enhanced participation of communities and resource owners in land use change and forestry schemes, already identified by the government
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities	Promote sustainable agriculture for food security and improved livelihoods	SGP will work with target forestry areas in the North, however targeting community-based initiatives
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7: Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes)	Sustainable land management Through proper land use plans.	
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8: Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives	Integrated Coastal and Watershed Management (ICWM) actions will focus on freshwater supplies including groundwater, Marine Protected Area (MPA) enhancement and development, sustainable coastal fisheries, integrated coastal management including tourism development, and activities to demonstrate waste reduction strategies will be stressed.	<ol> <li>Watershed management and conservation best practice will be actively sought with ongoing programmes such as the COWRIE/CRISP programme and integrated into community pilots in target areas</li> <li>Project proposals on coastal protection to target habitats, fishing grounds and sources of land-based pollution in Fiji</li> <li>Promote sustainable sanitation and water-use systems in target villages</li> <li>Engage with YMST teams and FLMMA initiatives when identifying and developing projects</li> </ol>

OP5 project objectives	National priorities	SGP niche
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9: Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level	Implement the Stockholm Convention  Proper disposal of POPs and other hazardous waste	<ol> <li>Work with the National Council of Women to implement piloting of smokeless ovens for community-based groups.</li> <li>SGP Fiji undertaking community-based activities to support the implementation of NIPs in regard to POPs pesticide and waste burning.</li> </ol>
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	Build capacity of CSOs and community at large to engage in democratic, decentralized governance in general and to encourage the effective participation of resource owners in environment and resource management	Support FLMMA partners in the establishment and roll-out of Yaubula Management Support Teams, targeting Bua, Macuata and Cakaudrove     Conduct capacity needs assessments during planning phases of projects & identify capacity gaps and targeted technical aspects which communities and target groups need support in (for effective implementation and sustainability of SGP activities and best practice)     Develop tailor-made training packages, integrating best practice and successful models as well as technology-based pilots for demonstration by target communities
Cross-Cutting Results: Poverty reduction, livelihoods and gender		<ol> <li>In association with the focal areas of GEF, SGP will support interventions that have co-benefit of environmental, livelihood and gender including livelihood, diversification, value chain development, capacity building, and access to finance, information and technology.</li> <li>Wherever possible, Planning activities will include feasibility assessment of alternative livelihood opportunities and offer targeted training in the establishment and sustainability of livelihood and income-generation activities for the community</li> </ol>

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

Fiji SGP will tailor several training packages, over a broad range of topics, with their network partners and offer these to community-based grantees and community practitioners. These training packages will take into consideration: (i) SGP project budget guidelines; (ii) relevant thematic areas addressed by the project; (iii) existing best practice found in Fiji and SGP global; (iv) innovative technology and traditional best-practice for community-based pilots; (v) identified capacity gaps of grantees/project partners and recipient communities; as well as (vi) existing SGP and partners' knowledge. The idea would be already have available a "wide range of training options" for communities and grantee communities to choose from when developing final proposals. Training packages will offer the following standard elements: TOR for resource person/s, demonstration activities, target audience, objectives/outcomes/outputs and a budget.

In the preparation of projects, the Secretariat will focus on identifying capacity gaps of the grantees and their community partners, and in a consultative and finalise in a participatory manner capacity programmes that will assist toward achieving sustainability of OP5 results and outcomes. Some of the examples of capacity and training packages being developed include; financial literacy training for grantees, project and financial management for community groups, basic communication and knowledge management, governance training. All training programmes will include 'community champions' who will spearhead future trainings within the community. The SGP grantee network will also conduct "annual exchange visits" where best practices are shared.

In preparing final project workplan and budgets, the SGP Secretariat will actively work with the applicant and proposed partners to link up activities on the ground with local livelihoods and local benefits. This will necessitate baseline socio-economics of the community, establishment of baselines according to GEF focal areas, and a clear process for monitoring the outcomes/outputs and their link to livelihoods (in monetary terms or otherwise). Standard SGP OP5 Indicators will be the basis for finalization of all work plans and activities implemented on the ground.

Preparation of all projects will also include gender considerations, from the planning stage. Project Outcomes and targets will have gender considerations and the Secretariat will take a proactive role in facilitating this.

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

**Table 3. Results Framework** 

1. BIODIVERSITY			
27 27027 27,0227	Indicator	Sources of Verification	Activities
Outcome 1:  Sustainable community protected area governance approaches recognized, strengthened and adopted by national partners, protected area systems, and multilateral processes	Number of protected areas (PAs) either established or strengthened (SGP funding) by engaging local and indigenous communities  Number of Local Consultative Bodies (LCBs)/ set up in protected areas in Fiji  Number of GEF SGP projects consolidated in critical hotspots, important bird areas identified in the NBSAP and province-specific, resource management plans established by, Yaubula Management Support (YMS) Teams.	GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits  YMST Resource Management Plans (including Sustainability Plan and Financing Strategy)  Establishment of Yaubula Management Support Teams in > 5 Provinces in Fiji. YMST Management Plan	Approx 6 new projects  - SGP to fund roll-out of province-based Yaubula Management Support Programmes (SGP Look North Policy)  - Implementation of Resource Management Audit exercise in predetermined provinces/tikinas  - Implement province-specific BD conservation priorities and activities (based on Fiji Endangered Species List, NBSAP + other national documents)  - Work with conservation partners Fiji (in connection with global and national policy revision of protected area systems) to recognize CCAs as legitimate governance types, and to incorporate them in legislation and policy.  - Alternative livelihood and entrepreneurship activities of target communities supported within individual projects, utilsing appropriate partners/agencies/institutions
Outcome 2: Sustainable use of biodiversity established in production landscapes/seascapes, (including agriculture, forests, fisheries and tourism) through community-based conservation, innovative approaches, and market mechanisms	# GEF SGP projects contributing to the conservation of native crops, medicinal plants, NTFPs, and other biodiversity-based products ( also including possible indicators in the fisheries, ecotourism, market value-adding of organic products)	GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits	<ul> <li>Approx 3 projects on sustainable use and market labeling of BD-friendly products</li> <li>At least 4 Community-based conservation projects for the protection of native crops, medicinal plants, and other biodiversity-based products</li> </ul>

SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3: Promo	te the demonstration, development and tran	nsfer of low carbon technologies at the con	mmunity level
Outcome 3	Indicator	Sources of Verification	Activities
SGP community-based projects incorporating components of innovative models/approaches for promotion of energy efficiency, renewable energy (solar, hydro, bio-fuels)	Tonnes of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies e.g. hydro schemes  Number of community members demonstrating or deploying low carbon transport practice	Project reports, thematic portfolio review, country progress reviews reports	Approx 3 new projects  - Strengthen and initiate partnerships with Dept of Energy and relevant national and regional partners in the piloting and replicating of community hydro-schemes in target sites  - Demonstration of low carbon transport model in target community (agriculture & fisheries community)
Outcome 4	Indicator	Sources of Verification	Activities
Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level	Low-GHG transport options demonstrated at the community level GHG emissions avoided	Project reports, thematic portfolio review, country progress reviews reports	At least 1 new projects
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 5: Support use change and forestry	rt the conservation and enhancement of car	rbon stocks through sustainable managen	nent and climate proofing of land use, land
Outcome 5	Indicator	Sources of Verification	Activities
5.1: Sustainable land use, land use change, and forestry management and climate proofing practices adopted at the community level for forest and non-forest land-use types  5.2: Restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks in forests and non-forest lands, including peat land	Hectares under improved sustainable land management and climate proofing practices  Hectares of forests and non-forest lands with restoration and enhancement initiated	<ul> <li>Field visits to project sites</li> <li>Progress reports with photographic or video evidence</li> <li>Interviews with Stakeholders</li> <li>Monitoring and Evaluation reports</li> </ul>	Approx 6 new projects on  - Restoration and conservation of mangroves, woods and forest through sustainable practices  - promote integrated farming and sustainable agriculture

Outcome 6	Indicator	Sources of Verification	Activities
6.1: Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts on agro-, and forest ecosystems and ecosystem services demonstrated to sustain ecosystem functionality	Hectares under improved agricultural, land and water management practices (by management practice)  Number of national and international agencies or partners are aware of successful SGP demonstrations and innovative approaches	<ol> <li>Field visits to project sites</li> <li>Progress reports with photographic or video evidence</li> <li>Interviews with Stakeholders</li> <li>Monitoring and Evaluation reports</li> </ol>	Approx 10 projects  - promote integrated farming and sustainable agriculture;  - Conservation of mangroves, woods/forest  - Improved agricultural practices: crop rotation, intercropping, composting, irrigation
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7: Reduce	e pressures at community level from compe	ting land uses (in the wider landscapes)	
Outcome 7	Indicator	Sources of Verification	Activities
7.1: Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts in land use frontiers of agro-ecosystems and forest ecosystems (rural/urban, agriculture/forest)	Number of community members with improved actions and practices that reduce negative impacts on land uses	<ul> <li>Field visits to project sites</li> <li>Progress reports with photographic or video evidence</li> <li>Interviews with Stakeholders</li> <li>Monitoring and Evaluation reports</li> </ul>	Approx 3 new projects  - Training and awareness on using the 'ecosystem approach' in land use  - Assist Tikina and provincial offices in developing 'holistic' land-use and island development plans and Implementation  - integrated water management
	rt transboundary water body management v	vith community- based in initiatives	
Outcome 8	Indicator	Sources of Verification	Activities
8.1: Effective and climate resilient community-based actions and practices supporting implementation of SAP regional priority actions demonstrated	Number of SAPs to which SGP is providing implementation support Number of regional transboundary water management processes to which SGP is contributing good practices and lessons	<ul> <li>Field visits to project sites</li> <li>Progress reports with photographic or video evidence</li> <li>Interviews with Stakeholders</li> </ul>	Approx 6 new projects  - integrated water management  - Improving catchment and rainwater harvesting and safe rainwater use.  - Improve sanitation and sewerage management  - Reduce land based and marine pollution
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9: Promo	te an d support phase out of POPs and cher	micals of global concern at community Le	evel
Outcome 9			
9.1: Improved community-level initiatives and actions to prevent, reduce	Tons of POPs waste avoided from burning	Field visits to project sites	Approx 2 new projects - Training and awareness raising on POPs

			and other harmful chemicals in schools and target communities  - Develop a guidelines on community waste management and POPs reduction, including M&E indicators for SGP Fiji  - Test and promote models on community-based waste management, particularly to prevent waste burning;  - Develop and strengthen partnerships with public, private and civil society sectors to promote programs aimed at addressing proper storage and ultimate disposal of decommissioned POPs
Outcome 10	Indicator	Sources of Verification	Activities
10.2: Improved information flows to/from CBOs and CSOs in SGP countries regarding good practices and lessons learned, and application of such practices  10.3: Increased public awareness and education at the community-level regarding global environmental issues  10.4: Capacity of CBOs and CSOs strengthened to support implementation of global conventions	Quantity and quality of SGP knowledge base, and use of knowledge base; Quantity and quality of contributions to knowledge fairs, conferences, Publications and research.  Number of demonstrations and piloted examples of community-based environmental monitoring systems used in SGP projects  Quantity and quality of Evaluation documentation of expected project results, and unexpected effects	<ul> <li>Field visits to project sites</li> <li>Progress reports with photographic or video evidence</li> <li>Interviews with Stakeholders</li> <li>Monitoring and Evaluation reports</li> </ul>	Approx 2 new projects  - Support the establishment, - strengthening and formal registration of - CBOs/NGOs - Promote sharing and exchange of experiences and best practice from like- thematic areas - Raise awareness on GEF and its focal areas - Increase public awareness and education at the community- level regarding global environmental issues - Training and education on

#### 5. Monitoring & Evaluation plan

The Fiji SGP Project Portfolio continues to grow each year, and with it the increasing need to closely monitor project delivery and achievement of results and completion of activities in the approved work plans. In OP5, the SGP Fiji will enhance the monitoring aspect of its delivery. As an increasingly large number of projects come to mid-way implementation and final stages, the realization of impacts and achievement of target goals need to come under close scrutiny by the Secretariat. For 2012, a critical activity will be the revision of all M&E Plans for projects nearing completion, as well as new projects. A renewed effort will be made to clearly link project results to SGP outcomes and indicators listed, and partners will be fully apprised of the need to make these connections, and the global environmental benefits that are the imminent end goal. No project will be approved unless a monitoring & evaluation plan has been endorsed by the partners and the secretariat.

With the increasing cuts in management budgets during OP5, the onus is on SGP Country Programmes to strategically implement monitoring activities. The SGP Fiji will do this in several ways;

- ✓ Encourage engagement of its SGP partner network in the monitoring and evaluation activities of projects. This would capitalize on the various resources (personnel and finances) available within the provinces and districts, and particularly in the programme sites of the various NGOs and CBOs;
- ✓ The Monitoring Plan for individual projects will be shared with the respective Provinical Offices and NGO partners wherever appropriate and awareness sessions held with these same partners on the assessment of results, targets and outcomes and capturing this in SGP templates;
- ✓ As much as possible, enhance the engagement of Asst. Rokos from Provinical Offices in monitoring activities, and at the same time, integrate M&E activities in the routine monitoring activities of the Provinical office staff;
- ✓ The NC and SGP staff will prioritise monitoring activities to high-risk projects mainly, and where *ad hoc* trouble shooting needs arise;
- ✓ For the maritime zone projects, in order to minimize travel costs and the challenges posed by the regular shipping schedules, the SGP will liaise closely with government partners and capitalize on government-led visits to outer-islands;
- ✓ NSC members will also be invited to undertake monitoring activities, and particularly in trouble-shooting of projects where necessary. The Secretariat will tie in monitoring visits with NSC movement within the provinces during the year. Wherever possible, dates will be locked in.

The M & E framework and outputs will provide data on the achievement of results and benchmarks identified at individual project level. These would then be aggregated at the Country Programme portfolio level and weighed against the target indicators at Country Programme level per focal area.

The SGP Fiji will make a concerted effort to update results and achievements of individual OP5 projects on the intranet and make use of the tools available online to consolidate results, according to the various indicators under the various thematic areas/strategic objectives. As much as possible, and as

timely as possible, the results of individual projects will be captured in the intranet database, as soon as results have been verified and reported on, and a close check on the programme benchmarks will be a critical task of the secretariat.

Table 4. M&E Plan at the Project Level

SGP Individual Project Level			
M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	
Participatory Project Monitoring	Grantees	Duration of project	
Baseline Data Collection <sup>3</sup>	Grantees, NC	At project concept planning and proposal stage	
Two or Three Project Progress and Financial Reports (depending on agreed disbursement schedule)	Grantees, NC, PA	At each disbursement request	
Project Workplans	Grantees, NC, PA	Duration of project	
NC Project Proposal Site Visit (as necessary / cost effective <sup>4</sup> )	NC	Before project approval, as appropriate	
NC Project Monitoring Site Visit (as necessary / cost effective)	NC	On average once per year, as appropriate	
NC Project Evaluation Site Visit (as necessary / cost effective)	NC	At end of project, as appropriate	
Project Final Report	Grantees	Following completion of project activities	
Project Evaluation Report (as necessary / cost effective)	NC, NSC, External party	Following completion of project activities	
Prepare project description to be incorporated into global project database	PA, NC	At start of project, and ongoing as appropriate	

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Capacity-development workshops and M&E trainings may be organized in relation to innovative techniques for community monitoring, including new technologies (i.e. GPS-enabled cameras, aerial photos, participatory GIS, etc.); as well as in response to guidelines for "climate proofing" of GEF focal area interventions; REDD+ standards; and/or other specific donor/co-financing requirements.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>To ensure cost-effectiveness, project level M&E activities, including project site visits, will be conducted on a discretionary basis, based on internally assessed criteria including (but not limited to) project size and complexity, potential and realized risks, and security parameters.

Table 5. M&E Plan at the Programme Level

SGP Country Programme Level				
M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe		
Country Programme Strategy Review	NSC, NC, CPMT	Start of OP5		
Strategic Country Portfolio Review	NSC, NC	Once during OP5		
NSC Meetings	NSC, NC, UNDP CO	Minimum twice per year		
Performance and Results Assessment (PRA) of NC Performance	NC, NSC, UNDP CO, CPMT, UNOPS	Once per year		
Country Programme Review resulting in Annual Country Report <sup>5</sup>	NC presenting to NSC and CPMT	Once per year		
Financial 4-in-1 Report	NC/PA, UNOPS	Quarterly		

#### 6. Knowledge Management Plan

A knowledge management strategy is critical for the SGP Fiji as it prepares to showcase some of the impacts of completed projects and share lessons and best practice with its partners, civil society at large, government and UNDP EE practice group, as well as the wide network of stakeholders. Such a strategy will showcase achievable results and generate interest from the donor community as well as government, to replicate successes and learn from experiences and lessons shared. The SGP Fiji is also very keen to showcase its own best practice and share this with its immediate regional family of SGP practitioners in the Pacific, and global colleagues at large.

The overriding message the SGP will convey through implementation of the KM and communications strategy is "The SGP is a unique programme that contributes to solve some of the world's most pressing environmental problems while ensuring sustainable livelihoods through a successful, country-driven, grassroots approach".

The key audience most important to the SGP in implementing SGP programming, contributing resources, and advancing SGP communications goals are grouped into 'internal' and 'external' audiences. Key internal audience are those that operate within the SGP or a "parent" organization; whilst key external audience are defined as those operating outside the SGP and UNDP/GEF.

- ✓ Preparation of "stories" on SGP projects (at least two per year). The projects would be selected because they exemplify elements of success, challenges and lessons learned, and particularly innovative activities.
- ✓ Feature articles in key national magazines, newspapers and other media such as TV, Radio etc. (at least two per year). Contact local representatives of international media to propose

<sup>5</sup> The annual Country Programme Review exercise should be carried out in consultation with the national Rio Convention focal points and the associated reporting requirements.

- stories they might consider. The GEF Council benchmarks for SGP specifically refer to two projects every year featured by the media.
- ✓ Organize site visits for key stakeholders (donors, government officials etc.) to flagship projects. The GEF Council benchmarks for SGP specifically call for at least two site visits per year.
- ✓ Compile lessons learned on projects in the form of best practices. The SGP benchmark specifically notes that all new projects will draw on and point to lessons learned from previous projects. The compilation of these lessons will be useful as ground material for the publication series.
- ✓ Undertake or participate visibly in at least one other high-profile event per year in support of resource mobilization (at least two). A specific activity could for example be the invitation of key stakeholders to project grant signing ceremonies and other activities such as those suggested in the toolbox.
- ✓ Compile materials and tools useful for community level advocacy and outreach, especially with focus on participatory techniques
- ✓ *Take pictures of the programme*. Pictures should aim to show project activities with beneficiaries involved in identifiable project activities. These pictures shall be used for the publication of the brochure, the poster, the panels of the mobile exhibit, the publication series, etc.
- ✓ Conduct workshops for key stakeholders on SGP. The GEF Council benchmarks for SGP refer to increasing understanding of global environmental issues in communities involved in SGP. Materials developed for workshops can also be used as a basis for other communications activities.

Of most critical benefit to the SGP Fiji programme is the in-house accessibility to the UNDP Multi Country Office Communications Team. With the availability of in-house expertise and resources to high technology communications equipment and updated communications and KM knowledge, the SGP Fiji is highly advantaged and will capitalize on the global outreach and network of the UNDP Comms Team, and the highly visible opportunities that exist. The SGP Fiji will participate in UNDP-organized communications events, e.g. market place events, UN days etc. The UNDP Fiji Communications Team has also developed a keen interest in project level impacts and tangible results at the community level, and has also capitalized on SGP site visits, monitoring activities by also participating in these activities and either filming or capturing progress and highlights of the projects, by speaking to the people themselves.

The SGP Fiji will use the knowledge products to:

- Raise awareness of the SGP Fiji's mission, activities and impact among target audiences
- Heighten credibility of the SGP Fiji
  - Increase appreciation of SGP success in addressing global environmental concerns and sustainable livelihoods at the community level
- Improve effectiveness and impact of SGP
  - Enhance community-level understanding of linkages between global environmental concerns and community needs
  - Spread knowledge about economically, socially and culturally viable alternatives to environmentally destructive activities

- Expand incorporation of SGP approaches and lessons learned across SGP countries, in environmental programmes of other actors, other countries and communities targeting similar issues
- Sensitize decision-makers to policy measures required for an enabling environment
- Enhance sharing of experiences and learning opportunities among target communities and other partners
- Meet resource mobilization targets
  - Raise appreciation among potential donors / partners of opportunities SGP offers for meeting their interests

#### 7. Resource Mobilization Plan

At the project level, a large part of the co-financing obtained is in-kind, given the limited financial resources of the community grantees themselves. Lessons from OP3 & 4 show that in-kind co-financing by partners is not being effectively captured in project budgets. The SGP Fiji will thus make a concerted effort to capture at all levels, the amount of in-kind co-financing at the project level. To facilitate this, the SGP Fiji has developed a Guidance Note on Co-financing, and this will be shared with both NSC and project partners to enhance this process. This will also address the generally low level of resource mobilization experience and awareness at the grantee level, and allow grantees to appreciate their contribution to the project financing.

Obtaining co-financing at the country programme level continues to be a challenge for Fiji. Some of the reasons include competition among stakeholders (government, UN agencies, private sector, and civil society) for existing resources; as well as the track record is still being "established" for GEF SGP at the country level, and current global financial crisis. The SGP Fiji will be seeking co-finance from UNDP TRAC funds for OP5, and this is already being initiated through consultations with the Governance and Poverty Thematic Units of the UNDP Fiji MCO.

Partnerships with national government agencies are a critical aspect of programming in Fiji. The strategic physical location of government agencies and particularly extension services in most if not all the rural centres of Fiji, makes the engagement with these agencies very crucial. Over the years, SGP Fiji has continued to foster a strong working relationship with the agriculture, forestry, land use and planning, and fisheries agencies of the government. Their strategic placement in areas where there is no access to technical resources in the thematic areas, and where there is no NGO presence, firmly establishes their role in identifying and developing GEF-able initiatives in consultation with the communities. This continues to be the practice in SGP Fiji experience, where the government agencies (e.g. agricultural extension offices, fisheries offices) play a significant role in facilitating new concepts and project ideas with communities in their localities.

The SGP Fiji has continued to take a proactive role in offering training opportunities for government staff on GEF thematic areas and grant-making criteria (e.g. organizing write shops for government staff), and regular consultations with Heads of Agencies and departments on updated information, grant allocations, priority sectors; and overall understanding of SGP Selection Criteria and the guidelines regards to management and governance frameworks of the programme. Engaging with government agencies also allows for timely exchange of information, and update of government priority areas, funding priorities and national frameworks. One of the more significant contributions to projects is the engagement of resource persons during project trainings, workshops, demonstrations and piloting of

best practice with communities. For OP5, SGP Fiji will continue to improve its engagement with these government services and enhance this partnership as effectively as it can.

SGP Fiji will continue to seek partnerships with bilateral and multi-lateral partners at the programme level, focusing on added support to non-GEF aspects of programme and projects. SGP Fiji will also seek to enhance capacity of its grantees and partners through their participation at strategic trainings and workshops funded by these partners.

For OP5, the SGP Fiji will identify synergies with new NGOs and CBOs in the conservation arena both locally and regionally and in particular CC-related partners who offer opportunities for co-financing of adaptation activities.

# Annex 1: GEF SGP OP 5 PROJECT LEVEL INDICATORS

SGP OP5 results indicators					
Biodive	Biodiversity (BD)				
BD1	<ul> <li>Hectares of indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs) influenced</li> <li>Hectares of protected areas influenced</li> <li>Hectares of significant ecosystems with improved conservation status</li> </ul>				
BD2	<ul> <li>Hectares of production landscapes / seascapes applying sustainable use practices</li> <li>Number of significant species with maintained or improved conservation status</li> <li>Total value of biodiversity products/ecosystem services produced (US dollar equivalent)</li> </ul>				
Climate	c Change (CC)				
CCM1	<ul> <li>Tonnes of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies:         <ul> <li>Renewable energy measures (please specify)</li> <li>Energy efficiency measures (please specify)</li> <li>Other (please specify)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Number of community members demonstrating or deploying low-GHG technologies</li> <li>Total value of energy or technology services provided (US dollar equivalent)</li> </ul>				
CCM4	<ul> <li>Tonnes of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies:         <ul> <li>Low carbon transport practices (please specify)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Total value of transport services provided (US dollar equivalent)</li> </ul>				
CCM5	<ul> <li>Hectares of land under improved land use and climate proofing practices</li> <li>Tonnes of CO2 avoided through improved land use and climate proofing practices</li> </ul>				
Land de	egradation (LD) & Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)				
LD1	<ul> <li>Hectares of land applying sustainable forest, agricultural and water management practices</li> <li>Hectares of degraded land restored and rehabilitated</li> </ul>				
LD3	<ul> <li>Number of communities demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices</li> </ul>				
Interna	tional Waters (IW)				
IW	<ul> <li>Hectares of river/lake basins applying sustainable management practices and contributing to implementation of SAPs</li> <li>Hectares of marine/coastal areas or fishing grounds managed sustainably</li> <li>Tonnes of land-based pollution avoided</li> </ul>				
Persiste	nt Organic Pollutants (POPs)				
POPS	<ul> <li>Tons of solid waste prevented from burning by alternative disposal</li> <li>Kilograms of obsolete pesticides disposed of appropriately</li> <li>Kilograms of harmful chemicals avoided from utilization or release</li> </ul>				
Capacit	y Development, Policy and Innovation (all focal areas)				
CD	<ul> <li>Number of consultative mechanisms established for Rio convention frameworks (please specify)</li> </ul>				

	SGP OP5 results indicators
	<ul> <li>Number of community-based monitoring systems demonstrated (please specify)</li> <li>Number of new technologies developed /applied (please specify)</li> <li>Number of local or regional policies influenced (level of influence 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5)</li> <li>Number of national policies influenced (level of influence 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5)</li> <li>Number of people trained on: project development, monitoring, evaluation etc. (to be specified according to type of training)</li> </ul>
Liveliho	oods, Sustainable Development, and Empowerment (all focal areas)
	Livelihoods & Sustainable Development:
	<ul> <li>Number of participating community members (gender disaggregated) (Note: mandatory for all projects)</li> </ul>
	Number of days of food shortage reduced
	<ul> <li>Number of days of food shortage reduced</li> <li>Number of increased student days participating in schools</li> </ul>
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(Note: estimated economic impact of investments to be determined by multiplying infrastructure investments by 5, all others by 3).

## **Empowerment:**

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