

The GEF Small Grants Programme

COMMUNITY ACTION GLOBAL IMPACT



Introduction

Since 1992, the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has been supporting civil society organizations (CSOs) around the world to take action to address critical environmental and sustainable development challenges.



KEY FACTS

- **GLOBAL INVESTMENT:** US\$526million and similar amount in co financing.
- **PORTFOLIO:** 19,500 projects in over 125 countries.
- **CATALYTIC SUPPORT:** grants of up to \$50,000, directly to local communities act as seed money to test new ideas on the ground that can then be replicated and scaled up.
- **SOCIAL INCLUSION:** works directly with communities. Target groups include indigenous people, women groups, and youth.
- **POLICY IMPACT:** engages CSOs in decision-making processes.
- **COUNTRY – DRIVEN:** decentralized structure of SGP encourages maximum country and community-level ownership and initiative.
- **NETWORKING:** promotes CSO networks at the national and global level.

OUR APPROACH

THE GEF SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME is rooted in the belief that global environmental problems can best be addressed if local people are involved and there are direct community benefits and ownership. The programme operates on the premise that sustainable development is achieved when **PEOPLE:**



Are organized
to take action

Can apply necessary
information and
knowledge



Have a measure
of control over
access to the natural resource base



Understand the
interdependence
between environment
and social and economic well-being

Practice sustainable
long-term resource management



SGP links global, national and local issues through a transparent, participatory and country-driven approach to project planning, design and implementation.

The principal objectives of SGP are to:



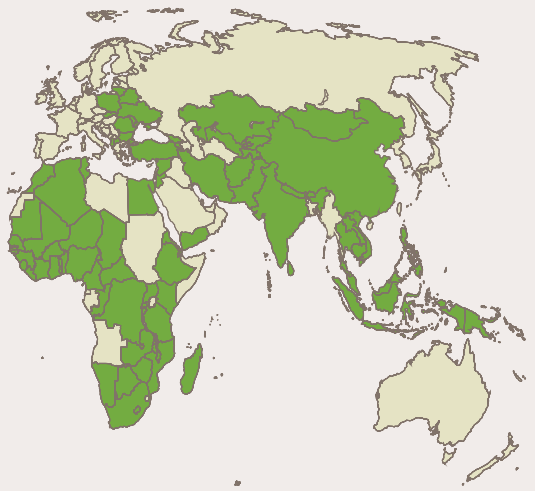
- **DEVELOP COMMUNITY-LEVEL STRATEGIES AND IMPLEMENT TECHNOLOGIES** that could reduce threats to the global environment.
- **GATHER LESSONS FROM COMMUNITY-LEVEL EXPERIENCE** and share successful strategies and innovations among CBOs, CSOs, host governments, development aid agencies, GEF and others working on a regional and/or global scale.
- **BUILD PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS OF STAKEHOLDERS** to support and strengthen community, CSO and national capacities to address global environmental problems and promote sustainable development.
- **ENSURE THAT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS** are understood and practiced by communities and other key stakeholders.

COVERAGE

125 ACTIVE COUNTRIES

110 COUNTRIES IN THE SGP GLOBAL PROGRAMME

15 UPGRADED COUNTRIES



HOW TO APPLY

SGP grants are made directly to community-based organizations (CBOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) in recognition of the key role they play as a resource and constituency for environment and development concerns.

The maximum grant amount per project is US\$50,000, but averages around US\$25,000.

Eligibility requirements

All project proposals submitted to SGP should:

- Explain how the proposed project objectives and activities would have a concrete impact and contribute towards the achievements of the goals under the SGP focal areas.
- Explain how the project is aligned to the targets and objectives of the SGP Country Programme Strategy(CPS) of their country.
- Be proposed and carried out by CBOs, NGOs or other Civil Society Organizations.

KEY STEPS IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The project proponent – a national CBO or CSO – contacts the SGP National Coordinator to receive project application guidelines and forms.

With assistance of the National Coordinator the proponent prepares a brief project concept paper and submits it to the National Coordinator.

The National Coordinator reviews and pre-screens the concept paper to check if it meets SGP's objectives agreed in the Country Programme Strategy (CPS).

If the project is found eligible, the project proponent prepares a project proposal. In some cases, this step may be supported by a planning grant.

Completed project proposals are submitted by the National Coordinator to the National Steering Committee (NSC).

The NSC reviews the proposal and either accepts it, rejects it, or returns it to the proposer with recommendations on formulating and refining the project data.

Approved proposals enter the national SGP portfolio. SGP grants are usually paid in three installments: an up-front payment to initiate the project; a mid-term payment upon receipt of a satisfactory progress report; and a final payment on receipt of a satisfactory project completion and final report.

NOTE: SGP allows flexibility and customization at the country level to allow the programme to respond to the local context. Please contact the National Coordinator in your country to find out how to apply. SGP does not charge a fee at any stage of the selection process.



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Below are the initiatives that SGP will focus on from 2015-2018

Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation

Using a multi-focal approach by involving communities in buffer zones and corridors, SGP will provide connectivity for complex landscape mosaics. Seascape approaches will support the implementation of inter-linked activities to systematically address waterbody environmental degradation.

Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology

SGP will target geographical areas that show declining productivity as a result of human induced land degrading practices and the impact of climate change by working in buffer zones of identified critical ecosystems, as well as in forest corridors.

Low-Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits

SGP will focus on providing bottom-up energy solutions that are low-cost and provide high potential for carbon emission reductions to satisfy the global demand for energy services of people without access to electricity and those that still rely on traditional biomass for cooking.

Local to global chemicals coalitions

Through this coalition, SGP will increase the phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern.

Grantmakers+

In addition to grant-making activities, SGP will undertake activities to enhance the overall effectiveness of SGP portfolio through:

CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms

Through these dialogues, SGP will support the civil society to provide inputs on key policies for environment and sustainable development.

Social inclusion

SGP will continue to target efforts to support greater social inclusion of marginalized groups, including women, indigenous peoples, youth and the disabled.

Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge

SGP will support enhanced knowledge exchange at the global level through a *Digital library of Community Innovations for the Global Environment* that will feature tested methods and technologies developed by SGP and other partners and CSOs; as well as a *South-South Community Innovation Exchange Platform* that will promote knowledge exchange between SGP countries to encourage cross country/region replication of good practices.



PARTNERSHIPS

SGP relies on multi-stakeholder cooperation and partnerships at every level.

From setting up management structures and providing funding mechanisms to taking action at the grassroots level, partnerships help extend the reach of SGP's work. **SGP has collaborated with over 250 partner organizations** worldwide, and thousands of partner organizations at the country level that have provided co-funding and other forms of cooperation. The synergies created by these multi-faceted collaborations directly contribute to the wide impact of grant activities. Below are a few examples of the current global partnerships:



COMMUNITY BASED ADAPTATION (CBA) – Funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia (DFAT), this programme supports efforts by communities to mainstream climate change adaptation, uptake of CBA lessons into relevant national and sub-national policies and development programmes in Small Island Development States as well as in other countries in the Mekong and Asia/Pacific region.



COMMUNITY BASED REDD+ (CBR+) – A partnership established between SGP and UN-REDD in early 2014, provides approaches and methodologies for the sustainable management of forests that assures full involvement of indigenous and local communities in REDD+ implementation. The project is being piloted in six countries.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT FOR THE SATOYAMA INITIATIVE (COMDEKS) – In partnership with the Satoyama Initiative, funded by the Japan Biodiversity Fund, this project is designed to support innovations and knowledge sharing of community-based solutions in biodiversity conservation, promotion of ecosystem services, agro-ecosystem management, development of alternative livelihoods, and strengthening of governance systems at the landscape level in 20 countries.

Supported by:



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation,
Building and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the German Bundestag

INDIGENOUS AND COMMUNITY CONSERVED TERRITORIES AND AREAS: GLOBAL SUPPORT INITIATIVE (ICCA GSI) – Under the partnership with the German Federal Ministry of Environment (BMUB), SGP will provide support to communities to further scale up their efforts in several Indigenous and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs) to promote increased advocacy, legal and policy reforms and exchange of knowledge in 26 countries.



EU NGO STRENGTHENING AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE PROJECT – Funded by the European Union, this project promotes sustainable development and improves environmental management by strengthening environmental governance and the capacity development of NGOs in 13 countries in Eastern Europe, Middle East and North Africa.



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