

**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY'S SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME
IMPLEMENTED BY UNDP AND EXECUTED BY UNOPS**

**COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY
FOR GEF OP6**

COUNTRY: MONGOLIA



ULAANBAATAR

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AMRs.	Annual Monitoring Reports
ASGM	Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining
Aimag	Province in Mongolia
Bagh	Lowest Administrative Unit in Rural Areas of Mongolia
BIOFIN	Biodiversity Financing
CBO	Community based Organization
CCAs	Community Conserved Areas
CD	Compact Disk
COMDEKS	Community Development and Knowledge Management for Satoyama Initiative
CPMT	Central Programme Management Team
CPS	Country Programme Strategy
DVD	Digital Video Disk
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	German Society for International Cooperation
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
Khoroo	Lowest Administrative Unit in Urban Areas of Mongolia
Khural	Local Council
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MRPA	Mongolia's Network of Managed Resource Protected Areas
NC	National Coordinator
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPA	National Protected Areas
NSC	National Steering Committee
OP	Operational Phase
PA	Programme Assistant
SEPL	Socio-Ecological Production Landscape
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGP	Small Grants Programme
Soum	County or village in Mongolia
TV	Television
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNOPS	United Nations Office For Project Services
WWF	World-Wide Fund For Nature

GEF SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY FOR OP6

COUNTRY: MONGOLIA

OP6 resources (estimated US\$): US \$ 460,000

- a. **Core funds: US \$ 400,000**
- b. **OP5 remaining balance: Not available**
- c. **STAR funds: N/A**
- d. **Other Funds to be mobilized: US \$ 40,000 (WWF - parallel financing);
US \$ 20,000 (Partnership for Development NGO - contribution
to SGP in implementing Grantmaker+ strategies)**

1. SGP country programme - summary background

Mongolia is a unitary state with a central government and three levels of sub-national governments. Administratively, Mongolia is divided into 21 aimags and a capital city; aimags are divided into 330 soums and 1575 baghs; the capital city is divided into 9 districts and 135 khoroos. In the wake of democratic transitions across socialist countries during the end of the 80s and early 90s, Mongolia has embarked on the path to liberal democracy and market economic structure that spurred the emergence of diverse parties, non-governmental organizations and private-owned enterprises. As for the political system, Mongolia chose in its constitution passed in 1992 to introduce parliamentary democratic institution with specific privileges and strong role of the President who is directly elected by popular vote. The unicameral parliament consists of 76 members who are directly elected from 76 electoral districts on a first-past-the-post principle. Mongolia has a dual system in which administrative and territorial unit has both a governor and a local council.

Mongolia, with a land area of about 1.6 million sq.km. and a population of 3.0 million is the world's most sparsely populated country. The land ranges from desert, semi-desert in the south to grassy steppe and forest mountains in the north, and rocky mountains in the west and south-west. Arable land is estimated to constitute only 0.8 percent of this vast country. Landlocked between Russia and China, Mongolia has shown steady growth in the recent years.

The Parliament passed the national Green Development Strategy and other laws in 2014, including laws on minerals, preservation of cultural heritage and a package of renewed environmental laws in 2012.

Land/pasture degradation, desertification, adverse effects of climate change, biodiversity loss, depletion of water resources and forests/green mass, pollution, poor governance and lack of strong environmental laws and regulations' enforcement mechanisms remain the most pressing environmental problems in the country.

Land degradation and desertification can be seen the most serious problem in the country. According to reports of Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism, 78 percent of pastureland has been degraded and another 20.0 percent has a tendency towards degradation. In Mongolia, 73.9 percent of land is occupied by agricultural area, 9.4 percent by forest land, 15.6

percent by reserve land, 0.6 percent by water land, 0.3 percent by settlements and, 0.2 percent of land is covered by road and transportation networks.

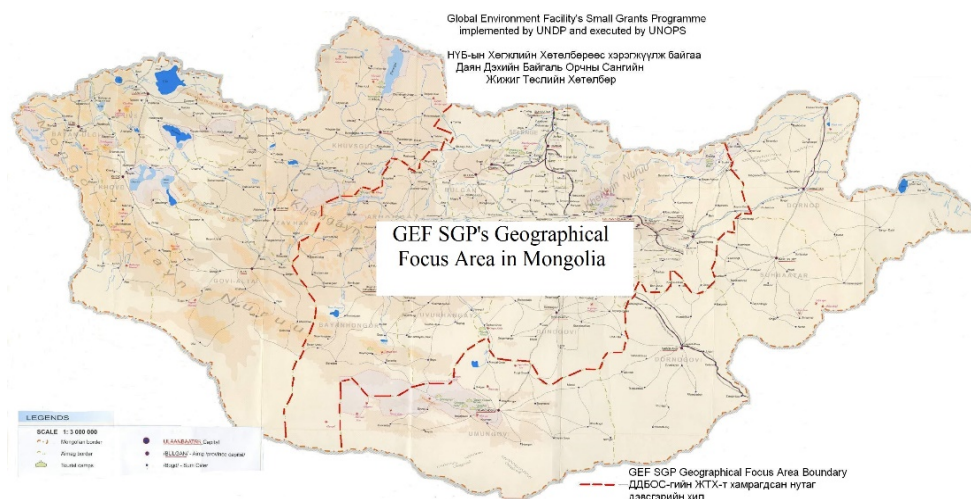
Rapid deterioration and loss of biodiversity is considered as a result of combined effects of climate change and those mentioned above. The country has the last remaining populations of a number of animal species internationally threatened or endangered. However, its biological resources have been facing increasing threats from mining expansion, industrial and other economic activities and rapid depletion of land and natural resources such as green masses, water, etc. In the recent past an ineffective control of illegal hunting greatly contributed to dramatic decrease of some species.

Seventy years of meteorological records (1940-2010) show that the country's average temperature has been increased by 1.56°C over the same period with the greatest increase (3.6°C) being recorded during winter in the mountainous west. Accordingly, droughts have become frequent.

According to the statistics, total water resources of Mongolia are estimated as 599km³ from which ground water, lakes and glaciers + rivers make up 83.7%, 10.5% and 8.5%, respectively. Water resources have been rapidly depleted mainly due to poor management, depletion of watersheds, frequent droughts and drop in precipitations due to climate change, over-utilization of ground water resources for mining and other industrial purposes, illegal logging and steppe wild fires.

Forests and other green masses have been depleted as a consequence of inadequate forest management, illegal logging, gold and other deposits mining, lack or absence of reforestation, obsolete harvesting and wood processing technology, forest wild fires, forest pests and diseases and low self-rehabilitation capacity due to climatic factors such as dryness, low humidity, long cool seasons and strong winds.

The Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) in Mongolia has been running its activities since 2003 in cooperation with local NGOs and CBOs, covering 11 (Arhangai, Bayanhongor, Bulgan, Darkhan-Uul, Dundgobi, Gobisumber, Orhon, Selenge, Tuv, Hentii and Uvurhangai) out of 21 aimags. The geographical focus area covers 11 out of 21 provinces, covering 36 % of country's total land area with 31 % of total population. See Picture 1 below.



Picture 1. Map showing GEF SGP' Geographical focus area

Having reviewed activities conducted and results achieved over the past 13 years of SGP operation in Mongolia, it can be concluded that the programme has gone through the following three basic stages with main activities mentioned in each stage:

Stage 1. Assistance in formation of new CBOs (NGOs) and start of creative attempts (2003-2004). Main activities: establishment of community owned tree nurseries, community owned fruits and fruit tree gardens, community groves, support to community forestry groups established, hand-made briquettes, fighting land degradation and soil erosion, pasture improvement efforts, conservation of some animal species like pray birds, etc.

Stage 2. Learning by doing and capacity building on conservation measures (2005-2008). Main activities: continued support on community gardens/fruit cultivation/tree nurseries, community forestry, community based natural resources management, community bee keeping, renewable energy and energy efficiency options, rehabilitation of degraded land and pasture, waste management and plastic recycling etc.

Stage 3. Advancement in creativity, conservation, community development and organization (2009-2014). Laying foundations for community tourism, continued support on community forestry, community conserved areas, fish breeding and conservation, marketing for some biodiversity products such as seeds, seedlings, fruits, juice, jam, fruit oil and felt items, experience and knowledge exchange among grantees, more renewable energy use options such as biogas and solar and water flow operated pumps, pasture management and combating desertification, CBOs networking and establishment of “Partnership for Development” GEF SGP grantees’ network.

As of November 2015, there have been implemented 412 small grants by rural communities and local NGOs with a total funding of US \$ 2,995,768 from GEF. The average funding amount per grant is US \$ 7,271. In addition to the above projects, the SGP Mongolia has implemented 19 COMDEKS community projects with a total funding of US \$ 430,352 during 2013-2015, not including the first and last projects that have dealt with baseline studies and strategy development. It is to briefly note that the COMDEKS project has brought a number of new concepts and understandings together with 20 indicators of residence and contributed a lot to community conservation and development efforts in the country. Community members have become well aware of the Satoyama Initiative and understand the importance of production landscapes in environment protection and overall ecosystem functioning. As integrated approach has been applied at landscape/ecosystem level, cooperation between community groups as well as among different community members has much enhanced and strengthened. The significance of joint action or activities at entire ecosystem is now well recognized by communities. Thereby, the COMDEKS project has become an excellent preparation exercise and prerequisite to enter GEF OP6 with good experience and knowledge, particularly at the landscape level.

It is seen that since the very beginning the programme has continued pushing hard on community forestry and sustainable land/pasture management in close cooperation with local community groups. In fact, these two areas have been really priorities and challenges for the country for decades and SGP had come in time to work on them. SGP has also made considerable progress in conserving globally significant biodiversity and creating sustainable livelihoods for poor rural

communities. Developed and further widened with involvement of SGP, the community forestry practices have significantly been contributing to nature conservation, ecosystem services improvement and wellbeing of communities in the country. There have been established over 800 community forestry groups within the SGP geo-graphical focus area. Community capacity has been much improved to fight land degradation and desertification, using their seedlings produced and pasture regulatory activities.

The provision of ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation has been achieved through implementation of measures such as promotion of community protected areas, assistance in their rehabilitation, bee keeping to increase pollination of plants both in protected areas and productions zones, planting and growing medicinal herbs in greenhouses, promotion of eco and agro tourism and collectively administering several community protected areas. Over the last 10 years bee keeping has been rehabilitated at the community level with assistance of SGP and as of today the number of bee colonies country-wide has already exceeded the peak level recorded at the end of socialism (1990).

Community fruit gardens and community owned tree nurseries initiated and supported by SGP have now become not only a new income generating and livelihood supporting activity, but greatly contribute back to the development of communities themselves.

The concept and importance of riparian areas are now well known to communities and the management of riparian areas has gradually been becoming a part of their daily activities.

SGP has greatly contributed to networking and institutional development of grantee communities. There had been GEF SGP Mongolia Community Network in existence for over the last 6 years, which has recently transformed into a national NGO named “Partnership for Development”, uniting SGP grantee communities. The NGO now acts in close cooperation with SGP to accelerate the development of grantee communities by mobilizing their internal resources. In the past the SGP had supported many NGOs and made 14 of them closer partners who generously assist SGP in its different activities, including workshops, seminars, field trainings, study tours and M&E. Close partnership also helps them grow professional.

As preparatory measures to shift to OP6 smoothly and based on previous experiences, the SGP has launched and tested several important initiatives on agro-ecology and community landscape conservation with innovative measures, including the producing of bio-fertilizers and bio-char made of livestock manure, development of special green zones as reserve pastures and growing green fodders to relief pressures on pasture.

With these and other innovative activities the SGP country programme is well prepared to continue assisting rural communities and CSOs in OP6, partnering with successful grantee communities and NGOs including the GEF SGP Network NGO “Partnership for Development” and mobilizing resources from local development funds, international donors, including Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and WWF. In OP6, the SGP is intended to involve 180-200 new community groups in the programme by implementing bigger grants led by successful grantee communities and professional NGOs to ensure smooth and quick transfer of SGP experiences and knowledge to new communities.

It has been SGP's strategic approach and as such, the country programme has always kept in mind that successful grantee communities and NGOs that grow professional have been and will be main partners for everything SGP is mandated with in the country. Therefore, the SGP will further develop and strengthen cooperation and partnership with the mentioned parties as a foundation for the effective implementation of SGP initiatives not only in OP6, but far beyond.

2. SGP country programme niche

Mongolia is a party to all the Rio Conventions. Hence the SGP country programme needs to assist the country in fulfilling its international obligations and national environmental priorities, in particular those priorities, obligations and commitments associated with rural communities and CSOs. Table 1 presents Rio conventions and national planning frameworks relevant to SGP for delivering the programme in cooperation with CBOs and other CSOs.

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)	1 June, 1993
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	10 July, 1996
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	20 December, 2012
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	1 June, 1993
UNFCCC National Communications (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd)	2001, 2010
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	January, 2010
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	being developed
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	22 August, 1996
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	4 June, 2003
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	17 May, 2002
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	2006
Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	3 July, 2003
GEF-6 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	2010
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies (Tumen river SAP)	1999
Minamata Convention on Mercury	28 September, 2015

Overall, CSOs in Mongolia are more or less aware of the Rio Conventions. However, their knowledge and awareness is limited to understanding of the conventions and relevant national plans adopted to implement them in very general terms. Therefore, firstly, the SGP assumes to improve knowledge and understanding among communities and CSOs in sufficient details so that they can promote self-development and meaningful involvement in the national implementation of the conventions and national plans. Here, plain language conventions guidelines will play a major role. Secondly, the SGP will assist capable NGOs to grow professional on particular themes or conventions, and proactive successful grantee communities to become SGP certified skilled communities that can lead and implement a grant on relevant activities with new grantee communities. Table 2 provides descriptions of SGP contribution to national priorities on selected SGP OP6 strategic initiatives.

Table 2. SGP contribution to national priorities / GEF-6 corporate results

1. SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	2. GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	3. Briefly describe the SGP Country Programme niche relevant to national priorities/other agencies	4. Briefly describe the complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
Community landscape conservation	Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	<p>SGP will play a leading and catalytic role in the development and strategic expansion of Mongolia's emerging Community Conserved Area system through establishment of a national network of CCAs to ensure the integrity of country's community landscapes/ ecosystems to ultimately secure the viability of the nation's globally significant biodiversity, while the country challenges the creation of a new legal framework that will establish a firm foundation for community conservation areas to become an effective part of Mongolia's NPA system.</p> <p>Relevant project and programs to cooperate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity and adaptation to climate change project funded by German government has commenced in October 2015 which includes a community component relevant to SGP activities; • National programme on protected areas (on-going since 1998); • National Programme on biodiversity conservation (on-going since 1996). 	<p>SGP activities complement with, and give support to, the GEF funded UNDP implemented project named "Mongolia's Network of managed resource protected areas (MRPA) that supports the creation of a new legal framework which will lead CCAs to tracking with IUCN categories IV, V, and VI, allowing for community based management and regulated natural resource use.</p> <p>UNDP implemented global BIOFIN project is commencing now.</p>
Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology; Community landscape conservation	Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	<p>SGP is fully prepared to play a vital role in reversing land degradation in the targeted socio-ecological production landscapes with introduction and use of country specific agro-ecological measures such as community produced bio-fertilizers and bio char, community crop field protection belts and other relevant innovative practices for increasing vegetative cover and soil organic carbon as well as for ensuring efficient use of natural capital in crop and livestock production systems to ultimately promote and recognize landscape management, using all possible community and livelihood based options.</p> <p>SGP assistance will be essential in strengthening new community forestry groups that account over 800 in the target area.</p>	<p>UNDP Mongolia is going to implement two projects, one on land degradation and the other on landscape management. They are namely:</p> <p>UNDP Land degradation offset project.</p> <p>"Multiple landscapes project" to be implemented by UNDP and funded by GEF</p> <p>The land degradation project is going to commence soon, while the concept is being formulated for the second.</p>
Local to global chemicals coalitions	Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of	Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) is identified as a source of mercury emission. Mongolia is known to be one of the ASGM hotspots. Mongolia has ratified the Minamata Convention on Mercury on 28 September, 2015.	

	POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern	<p>SGP is intended to test and prove some community practices that make a significant contribution to the current discourse.</p> <p>There is National Programme on POPs revised and approved on 18 October 2014. The first National Programme on POPs was approved in 2006.</p>	
CSO-Government dialogue platforms	Enhance capacity of civil society to contribute to implementation of MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and national and sub-national policy, planning and legal frameworks	SGP will act as a facilitator to establish a CSOs-government dialogue platform, engaging a group of selected/or elected community representatives together with relevant officials from Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism in regular policy and planning dialogues. To ensure and achieve this task the SGP will facilitate consultative processes and dialogues among CSOs including SGP grantees and representatives of other community groups, preparation of knowledge products and adequate information on convention guidelines, contribution and roles of CSOs and communities to implementation of MEAs. SGP will also provide assistance in understanding and raising awareness of national policy, planning and legal frameworks related to CSOs and rural communities, environment and landscape development.	
Social inclusion (gender and youth)	GEF Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Gender Equality Action Plan and GEF Principles for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples	<p>SGP is going to effectively promote the gender mainstreaming with bringing experience, knowledge and interests of women and men grantees to community conservation and development efforts.</p> <p>The country programme is prepared to reach and cover more poor and marginalized communities and involve the youth in the programme implementation to fulfill its social inclusion plan and objectives.</p> <p>Working with a group of people with disabilities to contribute to the implementation of National Programme to support persons with disabilities (2006) is believed to bring more positive results and good experience to SGP.</p>	<p>UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017 will be a key policy document to follow by SGP to ensure that gender equality and the empowerment of women are integrated into every aspect of project implementation by grantees.</p> <p>SGP will also follow on UNDP Youth Strategy 2014-2017 to socially include and empower the youth for sustainable future.</p>
Contribution to global knowledge management platforms	Contribute to GEF KM efforts	As the country programme has gradually been maturing and noting the fact that it has implemented a number of COMDEKS projects, it becomes a priority for SGP to produce many valuable knowledge products including case studies, photo stories and videos to share with global communities and contribute to GEF knowledge management efforts. SGP is prepared to produce a number of knowledge products to "Communities Connect" Knowledge Library.	While the UNDP Knowledge Management Strategy for 2014-2017 is considered to be one of the main documents to follow on, the SGP country programme will closely work with UNDP advocacy team to produce and disseminate knowledge materials.

3. OP6 strategies

3.1. Cross-cutting OP6 grant-making strategies

During consultations and talks with communities and other SGP stakeholders, many community and local association representatives from the SGP geographical focus area have expressed their concern over the expected reduction of funding for the area and stressed the importance of using 30 % of SGP country allocation very efficiently for tackling a few challenging issues by covering as many as possible communities at the ecosystem/landscape level. In this sense it has been critical to identify themes of cross-cutting OP6 projects that can be supported in the SGP geographical focus area, where many communities still need SGP assistance. To identify those projects, two important facts have been taken into consideration. One is that in the past SGP has supported many individual projects in the area and it is time now to work more on networking, knowledge, policy, planning and institutional and development issues. The second is that today's opportunities for new or non-grantee communities have much increased, compared to those of 10-15 years ago. It means that the above mentioned issues are equally important for them as well.

There have been identified the following project themes that can be supported outside of the selected landscape focus areas:

- Mercury reduction and management

Rural Mongolians traditionally have relied on livestock husbandry as an economic activity to support their nomadic lifestyle. In the early 1990s, due to the collapse of the socialist system, any industries closed resulting in high unemployment and a dramatic increase in poverty. Within a decade, from the early 1990s to 2003, the number of artisanal miners rose from zero to 100,000, creating a serious challenge to both policy makers and the general public. To the miners Artisanal and Small-scaled Gold Mining (ASGM) was an alternative source of income and a way to survive. Attempts to stop ASGM have not succeeded till today. Recent statistics from the Mineral Resources Authority of Mongolia suggest that ASGM occurs in over 100 soums/counties in 18 out of 21 provinces with about 61000 artisanal miners.

- Creation of community-government dialogue platforms

As many of SGP grantees get mature and developed, their voice tends to influence others, including policy makers and planners. It is time for SGP Mongolia to organize its grantees and other communities to get involved in policy and planning dialogues with local and central governments. First of all, SGP's role in this important process would be the facilitation of consultative and dialogue processes with training and preparation of all relevant information. To create and support community-government dialogue platforms, SGP is considering to initiate a Community Education and Leadership Program among rural communities.

- Knowledge management platforms

Knowledge management must be a vitally important activity and a necessary step for SGP Mongolia after its 13 years operation in the country. Obviously, there have been generated a lot of knowledge, experience and lessons learned by over 250 community groups involved in SGP activities in the past. GEF SGP in Mongolia intends to create a digital library of national community innovations and practice-based knowledge to promote knowledge exchange among SGP and other

communities in the country and to support “Communities Connect” Global SGP Knowledge Library.

- Innovations in agriculture and conservation practices

Today, the entire country is in a great need for innovation in the outdated agricultural and conservation practices, first of all, to slow down the alarming rate in the loss of soil fertility in agricultural lands as well as to change in the old methods of conservation in order to immediately convert to organic farming and the approach of conservation at the landscape/ecosystem level.

- Promotion of biodiversity (including agro-biodiversity) products

SGP’s last experience shows that support to community livelihoods through different activities has strengthened communities and greatly enhanced their capabilities to deal with conservation measures. In this respect, biodiversity products play many essential roles, specially in income-generation and local food system diversification.

- Capacity development

More emphasis will be given to capacity development activities than ever before through project inception workshops, stakeholders workshops, proposal development workshops, trainings and other activities. Special attention will be paid to organizing project inception workshop(s) at the beginning of grant implementation.

3.2. Landscape-based OP6 grant-making strategies

For SGP Mongolia’s focused action during GEF OP6, there have been selected two distinctive areas within the existing SGP geo-graphical focus area as main target landscapes. One is selected as a forest steppe landscape covering the entire territory of Selenge aimag with inclusion of northern parts of neighboring Khentii, Tuv and Bulgan aimags (to be named North Central Region for this Strategy), which all together include more than half of Mongolia’s 1200 community forestry groups. For the second area there has been selected the entire territory of Dundgobi aimag with inclusion of small pieces from Tuv aimag territory (to be named Dundgobi region for this Strategy), which represents almost half of country’s territory as a Gobi steppe landscape.

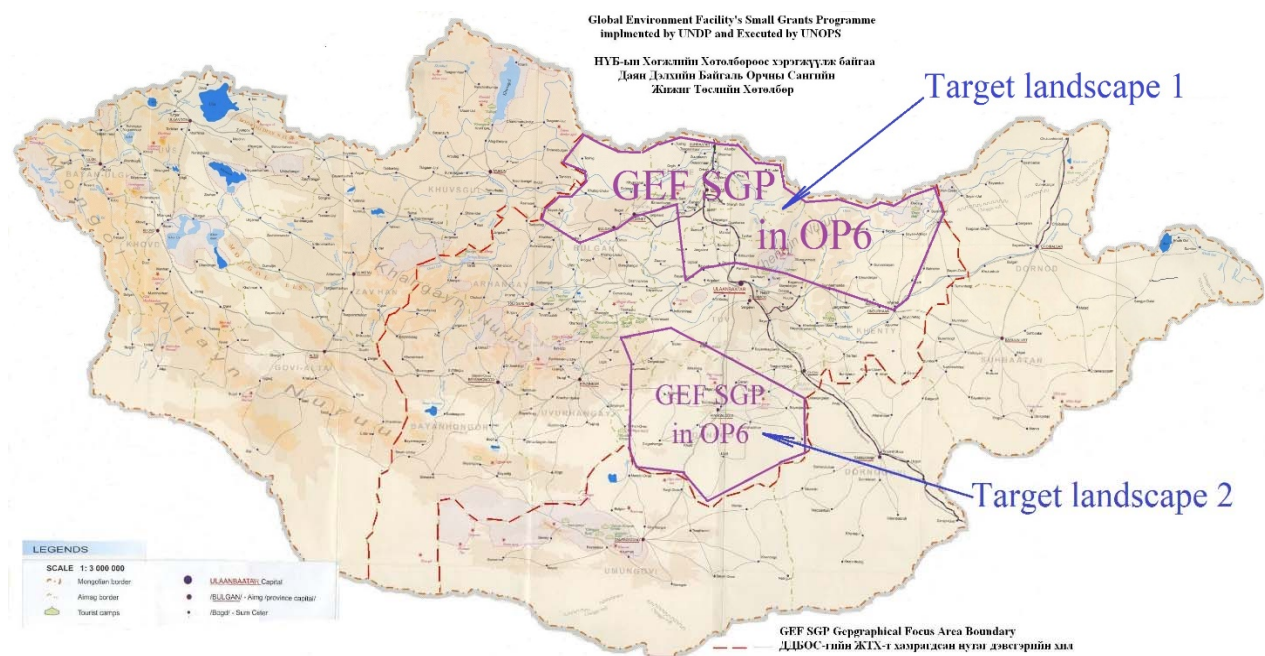
The entire selection process has been guided or conducted with application of a number of criteria identified for this purpose and facilitated with intensive discussions, interviews and consultations with NC, NSC, civil society groups, local authorities, community associations and other stakeholders within a short time span. The suggested SGP OP6 Strategic Initiatives (Community landscape conservation and Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology) themselves have also been not less important factors for selecting the two landscapes.

Up until today the SGP Mongolia geographical focus area has covered 11 out of 21 aimags. However, for OP6 it is instructed by SGP CPMT to select 1 or 2 or maximum 3 landscapes for SGP

to spend 70% of its annual grant budget. For selection of landscapes, the following criteria have been worked out:

- The number of community groups within landscape(s);
- The number of community forestry practitioners within landscape(s);
- The number of marginalized community groups within landscape(s);
- The socio-ecological importance of landscapes/ecosystems;
- Chances/possibilities for conducting landscape-wide activities;
- Possible maximum rate of coverage of communities at landscape level
- Possibility of using SGP successful grantees for transferring their knowledge and experience to communities within the selected landscapes;
- Location of biodiversity hotspots;
- Representation of Mongolia's geographical zones.

Upon selecting the two landscapes a map (Picture 2.) was created and referenced during the followed landscape-based baseline assessment that had produced results in data and diagrams which have been used for the Strategy development and are given in Annex 9.1. for comparing with results of the same assessment to be conducted at the end of OP6.



Picture 2. Map showing the two target landscapes

The North Central region (target landscape 1) basically represents forest and mountain steppe areas of Mongolia. Forest area is one of the geographical zones that are heavily influenced by humans in the country with destructive activities and incidents such as timber cutting, human induced forest fires, illegal logging, poaching, etc. The region covers approximately 124,000 km² of land which is

about 22 % of the existing SGP Mongolia geographical focus area and 7.9% of country's total land area. The selected North Central region is a perfect area to further develop community forestry and community protected areas for exercising and implementing the SGP OP6 Strategic Initiative on Community Landscape Conservation as the region accommodates about 60 % of Mongolia's community forestry practitioners and covers many potential places that can be developed into community protected areas. In this regard, we mention that forests are an essential player supporting many ecosystem services. Moreover, the protective functions of forests are quite important and valuable in the semi-arid zone. The value of dry forests to human life is greatest and forest products are an important source of income for the poor in this ecosystem. Dry forests provide food, medicine, energy and shelter not only for rural populations, but equally for wildlife as a whole. Mongolia is poor in forest resources. Land with forest resources occupies only about 9.1% of the country's territory. In addition, forest and pasture depletion is among the five most pressing environmental problems which include desertification, water resources depletion, climate change effects and environmental pollution. The selected landscape also covers country's main crop and vegetable growing areas. Therefore, it is a distinctive place to implement the second SGP OP6 Strategic Initiative-Innovative Climate-Smart Agro-ecology. Also there is an urgent task to improve the resilience of this critical landscape as it faces climate change dangers or risks that have already started affecting the area adversely. It is a fact that over the last 7 decades Mongolia has experienced an increase of 1.56⁰ C in annual mean temperatures, changes in the duration of heat and cold waves, and changes in the pattern and predictability of rainfall. High mountain glaciers are melting in a rapid rate, and permafrost is degrading significantly. The groundwater table is falling and land degradation and desertification have worsened as a result of water shortages and lack of precipitation. Extreme weather events such as drought and *dzud* (blizzard-like) have also increased in frequency and intensity. All of these phenomena are attributable to or aggravated by climate change, and will increasingly damage the livestock and other agricultural sectors.

The Dundgobi region (target landscape 2) selected for SGP intervention in OP6 is a part and representative of Mongolia's famous Gobi and steppe landscapes. The region covers approximately 78,000 km² of Gobi-steppe landscape being gradually affected by desertification and land degradation. It is about 14 % of the existing SGP Mongolia's geographical focus area and 5 % of country's total land area. The region's major landscapes and landmarks are hills, tiny groves of bushes, small streams, springs, salt lakes, wells, rocks, steppes, small vegetable fields, grazing lands, roads, small factories, mines, bridges, power lines, villages, schools, houses, hospitals, dispensaries, temples, service centers, etc. Under the worsening effects of climate change, the region has been facing a number of potential problems and risks including desertification, soil erosion, land degradation and climate hazards. With a few species of caragana the landscape is under threats of climate related calamities like droughts, blizzards, land degradation, wild fires, animal diseases that may harm livestock and some crops like barley, oats, rye, potatoes, cabbages, carrots, beets, onions, tomatoes, planted sea buckthorn (all in small quantities) and significantly reduce or make extinct some wild animals like antelopes, wolves, steppe foxes, badgers, rabbits and marmots.

This landscape is in a great need to implement a series of innovative climate-smart agro-ecological measures directed to rangeland management, climate resilient development and combating desertification and land degradation with particular activities such as green belts, silvo-pastoral systems and community green infrastructure.

During OP6, the SGP plans to involve 180-200 new community groups in the programme from the two targeted landscapes. This objective is ambitious, but achievable, because of landscape approach. Most of projects will be designed in a way that each grant is led by a successful grantee community or NGO and involves a range of new communities, covering the entire landscapes or at least considerable portions of the landscapes. This approach will enable the lead community or NGO to easily transfer their practice-based knowledge, experience and lessons learned to new community grantees. Also, this scheme is fully in line with the current reduced country allocation on one hand and with opportunities continuously increasing for current communities on the other.

It is anticipated that each grant will involve at least 20 or more new communities with their own increasing co-financing potentials and resources. Today, the situation is different than 10-15 years ago. A series of opportunities have been provided to local communities. Bank services including loan and lending are now closer to communities than ever before. There have been established local development funds in each and every soum. Markets are becoming accessible even to poor communities, if they work and produce. What do poor and marginalized communities need to do for nature conservation and sustainable development? First of all, they need knowledge, skills and some guidance in their interested fields. Here, SGP comes to assist. Although overall responsibility for each grant implementation is taken by NC, the lead communities or NGOs who implement the grants will assume some heavy duties and play essential roles in producing results among 20 or more communities at landscape level. During the recent consultations and dialogues, there have been talks and discussions about such an approach. Many successful grantees have expressed their sincere interest in doing that as they see it a great opportunity for all to learn from each other, enhance capacity and develop together evenly at the landscape level, quickly spreading individual results all over the entire landscape. Moreover, the landscape approach using the said scheme will much reduce risks of failure and instead increase opportunities and chances for new communities to produce much greater results than individual projects do. It also increase SGP's opportunity to organize peer-to-peer trainings among different communities.

To enhance synergy between the SGP OP6 strategic initiatives to achieve greater impact from multifocal approaches at landscape level, there will be promoted strategically important project themes that will mutually support each other at landscape level in the short and long run. List of themes includes for Community Landscape Conservation Strategic Initiative:

- Management and Development of Community Protected Areas;
- Management and Development of Riparian Areas;
- Triple-win (community land conservation, job creation and poverty reduction) activities to gain benefits with regard to social, economic and environmental aspects/respects;
- Sustainable grassland management;
- Community Innovations;
- Forest and ecosystem restoration activities that also enhance landscape connectivity and increase landscape resilience;
- Activities supporting diversification of livelihoods and income generation connected to biodiversity conservation;
- Improvement of access to credit and market through development of appropriate business plans;

- Establishment of local working groups, networks or associations of community organizations at landscape level;
- Support for participatory decision-making and planning processes/ mechanisms and knowledge sharing;
- Capacity building for local governance on issues related to landscape problems and opportunities through policy dialogue, etc.

And for Innovative Climate-Smart Agro-ecology Strategic Initiative:

- Diversification of agricultural landscapes and agro-forestry systems, including silvo-pastures, windbreaks, shelterbelts, riparian forest buffers and integration of crops, livestock and trees in the context of climate change adaption;
- Promotion of bio-fertilizer production by using livestock manure and development of vermiculture;
- Community seed banks;
- Support for initiatives on crop diversification, livestock production and crop-livestock-trees integration;
- Sustainable farming by communities;
- Integration of crops, livestock and trees in the context of climate change adaption;
- Support on community garden development in areas under community forestry scheme;
- Promotion of multipurpose and multi-tree plantations for ecosystem resilience and local livelihoods support.

3.3. Grant-maker+ strategies

With emergence of the requirement for new approach to demonstrate SGP's relevance in the context of decreased funding and reduced number of projects in OP6 and the fact that SGP works with low-capacity communities and organizations, there has been increased SGP's Grantmaker+ role with first-hand objectives to offer value-added activities to build capacity of communities and CSOs, foster greater impact, bridge gap between SGP projects and FSPs, facilitate dissemination and uptake of new technologies and approaches and to build social capital to increase resilience and impact.

Conducting diverse activities directed to setting up institutional and financial support mechanism to increase impact nationally and globally and developing capacity of local and national civil society stakeholders, SGP's Grantmaker+ mechanism will function to assist communities and CSOs with non-grant services such as capacity building, knowledge management, improving policy, networking and helping them with preparation of proposals to donor, government and other funding facilities.

3.3.1. CSOs-Government Dialogue Platform

There are about 1650 nature conservation community groups established and registered in Mongolia. As of today, the SGP has worked with about 300 of them. During the OP6, the SGP will initiate and facilitate at least two CSOs-local government policy and planning dialogue platforms within the selected landscapes and one CSOs-central government policy and planning dialogue platform at the national level in close cooperation with other programmes, projects and some of

leading national environmental NGOs. As part of activities to achieve the objectives, there will be worked out and implemented a CSOs/Community Education and Leadership Program which includes a series of trainings to improve or enhance their negotiating skills, knowledge of national policy and legislative acts and issues basically on environment and development, conceptual understanding of convention guidelines and of roles of CSOs and rural communities in the implementation of multi-lateral environmental agreements.

While the Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism of Mongolia is the main partner to work at the national level, a couple of local governments will be invited for cooperation in establishing local level policy and planning dialogue platforms.

The dialogues or platforms to be established at the national and local levels aim to bridge local communities/CSOs to national policy development and planning, ensure their participation in planning, policy and strategy development processes, enhance communications for joint activities to implement multi-lateral environmental conventions and sustainable development goals (SDGs), or for activities that can be carried out by CSOs on behalf of the government, and build on the trust and good working relations developed between CSOs and central and local governments.

3.3.2. Policy influence

To inform and influence policy, the SGP will work at two levels, national and local, reaching the parliament, central and local governments through the established CSOs-Government Dialogue Platforms, GEF SGP Grantees' Network and some leaders of communities, applying and disseminating the best SGP practices, experiences and lessons learned over the last 13 years.

There are three key policy making bodies in the country with regard to communities: Parliament at the national level, Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism at the highest executive level and aimag and soum khurals and governments are at the local level. The SGP country programme will facilitate and cooperate with the GEF SGP Grantees' Network to reach and influence these bodies when they make policy regarding communities and local associations. SGP's facilitation will focus mainly on empowering local communities in understanding and negotiating policy issues and strengthening their capacities that will enable communities to participate in reviewing policy, developing new policy documents or proposing amendments and changes to policy documents.

Another key SGP activity on policy influence will be directed to facilitating and assisting its Grantees' Network to broadly advertise SGP experiences and best practices and lobby relevant bodies to create a Community Advisory Group either at the Standing Committee on Environment and Rural Development of the Parliament or at the Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism for having access to policy review and development processes.

3.3.3. Promoting social inclusion

According to watchdog organization (Social Watch), Mongolia has the best level of gender equality in East Asia and is among the few countries in the world that have reached a MEDIUM level of gender equality. Mongolia's 81 points rank her twelve points above the East Asia & Pacific average, which stand at 69. Her

neighbor Russia reaches 75 points, while China shows 64. Then country is second best in the region, one point below New Zealand (82) and one point above Australia (80).

As it has done in the previous phases, the SGP continues to engage and target women, supporting gender equality considerations into SGP activities in OP6. SGP will support efforts to increase women's access to and ownership and management of ecosystem goods and services and ensure equal participation of women, including young women and marginalized groups, in project implementation, planning, decision making and governance processes by:

- Promoting of active participation of women in the project design, implementation and M&E;
- Mainstreaming gender in all relevant projects;
- Designating a gender focal person in the NSC who looks at gender considerations;
- Including gender review criteria in the project proposal template and project review sheet for the NSC;
- Supporting the networking, strengthening and creation of women associations and organizations and connecting them with regional and global networks;
- Producing knowledge and guidance materials in gender mainstreaming in community projects;
- Proactively promoting women-led projects;
- Partnering with professional NGOs and organizations to enhance and scale up community efforts priority areas-community based adaptation, socio-ecological landscapes, community based REDD+, community conserved areas, civil society strengthening and environment governance; and
- Collecting, recording and reporting sex-disaggregated data by including gender disaggregated data in project proposal template, progress report and final report – to be reported in database and AMRs.

In OP 6 the SGP will strongly encourage and promote youth involvement in country portfolio programming and strengthen their participation in different nature conservation and landscape resilience enhancing activities by:

- Designating a youth focal person in the NSC who looks at youth involvement in SGP;
- Promoting youth leadership in SGP supported activities;
- Creating an opportunity and window for youth to act as a group or network to realize their innovative ideas and initiatives;
- Assisting in formation of youth groups or clubs or networks;
- Empowering youth representation and championing their involvement in national and global eco-competitions and negotiation processes;
- Assisting in youth learning processes;
- Cooperating with youth organizations and associations;
- Adding an indicator “number of projects led by youth” to the CPS review criteria; and
- Supporting youth participation in landscape resilience building, planning, decision making and governance processes.

3.3.4. Knowledge management plan

The GEF SGP has operated in the country for 13 years already and implemented 412 small grants as of October 2015 in cooperation with CSOs, including rural communities. Over the above period the programme has produced many tangible results and it's now time to manage the best knowledge and disseminate the lessons learned and good practices to other parts of the country. Therefore, the SGP's knowledge management related activities over OP6 need to be concrete and carefully planned. As knowledge

management, specially the production of knowledge materials requires time and professional skills, some knowledge producing and disseminating institutions and experts have been contacted for talks on possible cooperation over the next four years.

The key objectives of SGP-Mongolia's knowledge management plan for OP6 are the following:

- Raise awareness of the SGP mission, activities and impact among target audiences;
- Heighten credibility of the SGP;
- Improve effectiveness and impact of SGP; and
- Leverage lessons learned from both successful and unsuccessful projects, and to replicate good practices;

After carefully studying SGP's past activities and achievements and consultations with some stakeholders, the following knowledge products have been identified to be produced:

- Achievements and experiences of GEF SGP in Mongolia - a 20 minute documentary;
- A TV series on GEF SGP Grantees Network activities;
- Establishment of SGP Information Dissemination and Public Training Centre in Bayangol soum of Selenge aimag;
- A SGP DVD lesson series - Guide for beginners: seedlings, trees, vegetables and community gardens;
- Four case studies on most successful grants;
- Community Biodiversity Products – a catalogue of biodiversity products of SGP in Mongolia;
- Project leaflets on 10 most successful SGP grants/activities;
- Booklet “Nature Conservation Customs and Rituals of Mongolia”.

The knowledge products to be generated over the next four years will be shared widely with the private sector, communities, farmers, herders and other local stakeholders for replication and up-scaling purposes in the forms of publications, video and photo stories by posting on youtube.com, Facebook pages and the SGP country programme website-www.sgpmongolia.org, and also through knowledge and trade fairs, local, national and international events, SGP community consultants, “Partnership for Development” NGO-SGP National Network of grantees and community centers. As our previous experience shows that replication is mostly taken by neighboring communities, while up-scaling is done by private sector. Therefore, informing and supplying small private companies at the provincial and soum levels with knowledge products will be the way to up-scaling.

Key audiences who deemed to also be important partners in implementing this knowledge management plan are successful grantees, participants and stakeholders including national and local governments, GEF implementing agencies and other donors conducting similar activities, SGP community consultants, “Partnership for Development” NGO-SGP National Network, media, private sector, national committees on environmental conventions, relevant international and national NGOs and foundations, conservation communities (scientific community, environmental academia and institutions, movements, NGO networks), NSC members, and GEF operational focal point.

All of SGP products to be generated in OP6 will be translated into English and shared through the OP6 digital library and global South-South exchange.

Apart from the above said knowledge products, there will be conducted the following country programme re-current activities in accordance with availability of funds:

- Maintain and regularly update the SGP soft photo library;
- Maintain regularly update the Country programme website;
- Regularly update Power Point Presentation about SGP;
- Continuously review and update SGP global database;
- Develop CDs and DVDs on Community Conservation Highlights;
- Organize Knowledge/Trade Fairs;
- Assist successful/capable community members in reporting success events from around his/her region and producing knowledge materials;
- Use important meetings and national events and other means as a key to reach target audiences;
- Develop video documentaries/presentations on best practices and booklets on traditional knowledge;
- Organize study tours, exchange visits with involvement of local authorities, donors and government officials to flagship SGP grant results and products;
- Compile lessons learned on projects in the form of best practices;
- Undertake or participate visibly in high-profile events in support of resource mobilization;
- Compile materials and tools useful for community level advocacy and outreach, especially with focus on participatory techniques.

3.3.5. Communications Strategy

The role of communication is critical in coordinating community conservation and livelihoods improvement activities among donors and government agencies, in promoting effective cooperation between SGP and its stakeholders to enhance community landscape resilience and in mobilizing additional resources for assisting local communities, specially disadvantaged and marginalized, among many other beneficial activities for all stakeholders.

This Communication Strategy will be implemented through the communication elements described below:

Advocacy. The SGP in Mongolia will engage in upstream policy work, knowledge generation and supportive advocacy action to inform and influence legislative debates in the interest of rural communities, in particular the most disadvantaged and vulnerable.

Visibility. In the past, there has been a risk for SGP to attract too many high level government officials and even members of parliament and be influenced by them, while the programme worked with many individual community groups. It is proved that the SGP office had received several telephone calls from parliament members and government officials in the past with requests of assisting communities in their respective constituencies and even their relatives. The risk has been minimized now as the SGP is going to basically conduct their activities within the two selected landscapes and therefore, it is critical now to raise SGP visibility higher and higher for the benefits of poor and marginalized communities.

Partnerships. Since SGP works in close collaboration with civil society organizations and local governments, the Communication Strategy reinforces the need for nurturing existing partnerships, based on lessons learned and forge new ones to galvanize support for the SGP.

Strategic partnerships and collaborative relationships SGP optimize its comparative advantage in dealing with communities and CSOs to enhance landscape resilience and improve livelihood potentials and provide an opportunity to promote a participatory approach to planning, implementation and monitoring of SGP grants.

Target audiences. The following categories have been identified as most important target audiences:

- Grantees and rural communities;
- Parliament;
- National and local governments;
- Civil Society Organizations;
- GEF implementing agencies and other donors conducting similar activities;
- National Committees on environmental conventions;
- National Youth and Women organizations;
- Conservation communities (scientific community, environmental academia and institutions, movements, NGO networks);
- National Steering Committee members;
- GEF National Focal Points;
- Mass Media;
- Private sector.

Key messages:

“The SGP is a unique programme that contributes to solving some of the world’s most pressing environmental problems while ensuring sustainable livelihoods through a successful, country-driven, grassroots approach” and “SGP helps local communities build on their traditional knowledge and practices and access new information and technologies in order to improve livelihoods while contributing to protection of global environment”.

Key communication channels and tools:

- Mass media (TVs, newspapers and journals);
- Social media (website www.sgpmongolia.org, Facebook pages, other web-based and mobile technologies.
- Public events (Knowledge Fairs, site visits with involvement of local residents, authorities, donors and government officials, important national and international meetings and workshops, SGP mobile exhibitions, etc;)

4. Expected results framework

The expected results of this CPS will be measured with the indicators (Column 4, Table 3) against the CPS targets set on each of the three OP 6 strategic initiatives as well as on Grantmaker + strategic components described in Column 2). The CPS targets have been set in close consistency with or in support of the OP6 global project components and global targets described in Column 1.

The SGP will conduct the measurement with indicators against the CPS targets a twice, midterm and towards the end of OP6. See the Table 3 in the next page.

Table 3. Consistency with SGP OP6 global programme components

1.OP6 project components	2. CPS targets	3.Activities	4. Indicators	5. Means of verification
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 1:</u> <i>Community Landscape Conservation:</i></p> <p>1.1 SGP country programmes improve conservation and sustainable use, and management of important terrestrial and coastal/marine ecosystems through implementation of community based landscape/seascape approaches in approximately 50 countries</p>	<p>The target landscapes at the country level consist of two distinctly separate areas within the existing SGP geographical focus area. One is selected as a forest steppe landscape covering the entire territory of Selenge aimag with inclusion of northern parts of neighboring Khentii, Tuv and Bulgan aimags, which all together include more than half of Mongolia's 1200 community forestry groups. The second area was selected as a Gobi steppe landscape which can represent at least half of country's entire territory.</p>	<p><i>Approximately 15 projects.</i></p> <p>Innovative practices on development and networking of community protected areas in and around socio-ecological production landscapes</p>	<p><i>500,000 hectares</i></p> <p><i>Baseline Assessment Indicators(COMDEKS):</i> <i>-Landscape diversity.</i> <i>-Ecosystem protection.</i> <i>-Ecological interactions between different components of the landscape.</i> <i>-Recovery and regeneration of the landscape.</i></p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP grantees</p> <p>Field monitoring and evaluations</p> <p>Baseline assessment comparison variables, using conceptual models and partner data as appropriate.</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p>
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 2:</u> <i>Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology:</i></p> <p>2.1 Agro-ecology practices incorporating measures to reduce CO2 emissions and enhancing resilience to climate change tried and tested in protected area buffer zones and forest corridors and disseminated widely in at least 30 priority countries</p>	<p>There will be implemented three major agro-ecological measures among others to enhance resilience to climate change in socio-ecological production landscapes and around community protected areas. Activities include landscape-wide production of bio-fertilizer and bio char to be made from animal wastes for improving soil structure and quality, establishment of vegetable and crop field protection belts and collection of native/endemic seeds to develop community seed bank and contribute local food system .</p>	<p><i>Approx. 15 projects</i></p>	<p><i>5000 hectares of protection belt and 100,000 hectares use bio-fertilizers and bio char.</i></p> <p><i>Numbers of farmer leaders; Number of farmers' association;</i> <i>Baseline Assessment Indicators (COMDEKS):</i> <i>-Diversity of local food system.</i> <i>-Sustainable management of common resources.</i> <i>-Innovation in agriculture and conservation</i></p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP grantees</p> <p>Field monitoring and evaluations</p> <p>Socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes (SEPLs)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p>

			<i>practices.</i>	
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 4:</u> <i>Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions:</i></p> <p>4.1 Innovative community-based tools and approaches demonstrated, deployed and transferred, with support from newly organized or existing coalitions in at least 20 countries for managing harmful chemicals and waste in a sound manner</p>	<p>Reduction or elimination of mercury use in artisanal and small-scaled gold mining will be the major objective of SGP. Its intervention will be targeted to the current hot spots first with awareness raising and education activities, and then appropriate practical steps directed to reduce or eliminate mercury use will follow upon their identification. At the same time community based tools and approaches to the problem will be worked out and deployed.</p>	<p><i>Approx. 3 projects</i></p>	<p><i>Target 3000 beneficiaries (gender, youth, indigenous peoples, and disability disaggregated)</i></p> <p>Phase out of mercury use by artisanal and small scaled miners (poor communities are often these miners) is an area where SGP support is very relevant and will be effective.</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP grantees</p> <p>Field monitoring and evaluations</p> <p>Strategic partnership with government agencies</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 5:</u> <i>CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms (Grant-makers+):</i></p> <p>5.1 SGP supports establishment of “CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms”, leveraging existing and potential partnerships, in at least 50 countries</p>	<p>SGP Mongolia will provide its support to establishing Community-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platform by strengthening, leveraging and expanding the existing SGP grantees network with involvement of other leading non-grantee communities to fully represent communities at the national level.</p> <p>Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism will be the main partner at the national level, while a number of dialogue platforms will be initiated at the local level. As part of activities to achieve the objective, there will be worked out and realized a Community Education and Leadership Program among grantee communities.</p>	<p><i>Cross-cutting priority for the CPS at the national level</i></p>	<p><i>Community –Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platform initiated at the national level.</i></p> <p><i>At least three Community-Local Government Policy and Planning Dialogue platforms initiated.</i></p> <p><i>The GEF SGP grantees network in Mongolia which has formed into so called “Partnership for Development” NGO strengthened</i></p>	<p>Strategic partnership with Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism as well as with grantees’ network.</p> <p>Field monitoring and evaluations</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p> <p>Possibly individual project reporting by SGP grantees</p>
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 6:</u> <i>Promoting Social Inclusion (Grant-makers+):</i></p>	<p>Gender mainstreaming will be considered as a criteria for every proposal review process. Reaching and</p>	<p><i>Cross-cutting priority for the CPS at the national level</i></p>	<p><i>Target 10000 beneficiaries (gender, youth, indigenous peoples, and disability disaggregated)</i></p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP grantees</p> <p>Field monitoring and</p>

<p>6.1 Gender mainstreaming considerations applied by all SGP country programmes; Gender training utilized by SGP staff, grantees, NSC members, partners</p> <p>6.2 Involvement of youth and disabled is further supported in SGP projects and guidelines and best practices are widely shared with countries</p>	<p>empowering poor and marginalized communities will be an essential part of SGP social inclusion policy to ensure gender equality and the empowerment of women in their conservation and development efforts.</p> <p>SGP will strongly encourage and promote youth involvement in country portfolio programming and strengthen their participation in different nature conservation and landscape resilience enhancing activities. The involvement of youth and disabled in the programme implementation is considered to be a measure to further enrich the programme with more innovations, ideas, experience and achievements.</p>			<p>evaluations</p> <p>Partnership with national governmental and non-governmental gender and youth organizations</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>
<p>SGP OP6 Component 7: <i>Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge program (Grant-makers+):</i></p> <p>7.1 Digital library of community innovations is established and provides access to information to communities in at least 50 countries</p> <p>7.2 South-South Community Innovation Exchange Platform promotes south-south exchanges on global environmental issues in at least 20 countries</p>	<p>GEF SGP digital library of national community innovation and practice-based knowledge will be established in cooperation with Partnership for Development NGO, the official SGP grantees network to promote knowledge exchange among SGP and other communities in the country and to support “Communities Connect” Global SGP Knowledge Library</p>	<p><i>SGP country teams (NC and PA) global database inputs</i></p>	<p><i>5 of country innovations are shared and disseminated at the global level</i></p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP grantees</p> <p>Partnership with “Partnership for Development” NGO</p> <p>Cooperation with successful grantees</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>

5. Monitoring & Evaluation plan

The present M&E Plan is based on the indicators and targets set in Table 3 of the CPS. For monitoring purposes at the programme level these indicators will be tracked to measure actual results against the CPS targets and that process will actually provide systematic and periodic information on progress towards the targets which will be reported on to the CPMT through the Annual Country Reports (ACR). Evaluation at the programme level will be done through individual project evaluations, using progress and final reports, the information collected through field monitoring and other sources such as studies, reviews and interviews with stakeholders. Monitoring and evaluation results will then be used to determine the impact of interventions, assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of this Strategy and to identify appropriate adaptive management measures as well as potential sources for developing knowledge products. Both monitoring and evaluation will be participatory, involving local officials, representatives of local associations and non-grantee communities and other relevant stakeholders at the landscape level.

Landscape Specific Project Level M&E has been designed that prior to its approval, each project will have to identify the specific landscape strategy outcome(s) to which it will have to contribute and monitor the corresponding indicators. Progress towards the outcome will be updated using the grantees' progress reports and field monitoring records. Additionally, the individual project will have an indicator system aligned with GEF SGP OP5 indicators. Individual project M&E Plan is presented in Table 4.1 below.

Table 4.1. 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 or Three Project Progress and Financial Reports (<i>depending on agreed disbursement schedule</i>)	Grantees, NC, PA	At each disbursement request
Project Workplans	Grantees, NC, PA	Duration of project
NC Project Proposal Site Visit (<i>as necessary / cost effective</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 (<i>as necessary / cost effective</i>)	NC, NSC, External party	Following completion of project activities
Prepare project description to be incorporated into global project database	PA, NC	At start of project, and ongoing as appropriate

Project monitoring and evaluation will be organized and led by the National Coordinator during project site visits with involvement of the grantee organization, community leader and members, representatives of local government, SGP local consultants and some members of the NSC, when they are available. After monthly field monitoring and evaluation plan is approved by UNDP DRR, the NC informs those who will be invited for participatory monitoring. When M&E starts, each participant is given a M&E record paper which is completed and returned it to the NC at the end of the process for further consolidated analysis and documentation. Each grant is considered to be visited at least twice for M&E purposes.

Detailed description of the country level M&E Plan to monitor the implementation of the CPS, with particular reference to the targets and indicators set in Table 3 within the two selected landscapes is given in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2. M&E Plan at the Country Programme Level

M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible parties	Budget source	Timing
Country Programme Strategy elaboration	Framework for identification of community projects	NC, NSC, country stakeholders, grantee	Covered under preparatory grant	Start of OP6
Annual Country Programme Strategy Review	Learning; adaptive management	NC, NSC, CPMT	Covered under country programme operating costs	June, every year
NSC Meetings for ongoing review of project results and analysis	Assess effectiveness of projects, portfolios, approaches; learning; adaptive management	NC, NSC, UNDP	Covered under country programme operating costs	Three meetings per year. Each with time allocated for M&E and adaptive management.
Annual Country Report (ACR)	Enable efficient reporting to NSC	NC presenting to NSC	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per year in June
Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) Survey (based on ACR)	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF; presentation of results to donor	NC submission to CPMT	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per year in July
Strategic Country Portfolio Review	Learning; adaptive management for strategic development of Country Programme	NSC	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once during OP6

Mongolia as a country that has implemented COMDEKS projects and accordingly conducted landscape-wide baseline assessments in the two selected landscapes at the beginning of elaboration of this Strategy, there will be conducted ex-post assessments to determine the actual impacts of SGP interventions during OP6, particularly with regard to landscape diversity and ecosystem protection, biodiversity, knowledge and innovation, governance and social equity and livelihoods and well-being.

This M&E plan will significantly contribute to establishing a landscape-based innovative approach for continuous improvement in the planning and implementation of individual projects and ensure right directions in supporting local community activities to maintain and rebuild landscapes with collecting and disseminating knowledge and experiences from successful actions for replication and up-scaling and developing sound biodiversity management and sustainable livelihood practices in the target landscapes through periodic review of this Strategy, country Portfolio and results of individual projects.

6. Resource mobilisation plan

The Resource Mobilization Plan will be realized in two basic ways, namely, attracting potential donor communities through successes of individual grants at the project level and overall achievements of SGP itself at the programme level. Moreover, SGP will allocate more time to assist and support grantees and other non-grant communities in their resources mobilization efforts to realize its Grantmaker + role. For this purpose, connecting them with donors and potential funding sources will be essential for success. Resources mobilization is now a difficult task not only for SGP, but for other programmes due to two facts. One is that the number of donors has been reduced as Mongolia had recently become a middle-income country. The other is a deep economic crises the country has been in over the last three years. There are two development funds, namely Local development fund and Soum development fund, both are operational in each soum of Mongolia, but have negatively been affected by the current economic crises.

However, the amount of resources, specially in-kind resources that will be mobilized by SGP in OP6 is predicted to be much greater than those in previous phases, because of landscape approach and accordingly the SGP is going to implement bigger grants at the landscape level, covering as many community groups as possible in one grant, requiring more investment and labor from them.

Currently, there are a number of funding sources in the country the SGP continues working with over OP6 for resource mobilization at both project and programme levels. Those are Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), UNDP, WWF, World Vision International, World Conservation Society, The Nature Conservancy, GIZ, Soum Development Fund and Local Development Fund (government funds) and Mongolian Women Fund (NGO administered fund). Here, main activities to be carried out by SGP include but not limited to connecting communities to suitable organizations, conducting trainings for communities on preparation of proposals to access other donor and funding facilities, assisting communities to apply for government funds and facilitating the GEF SGP Mongolia Network NGO in mobilizing resources from domestic and foreign sources. The SGP will assist its grantee communities to apply for international grants and seek opportunities for itself to serve as a delivery mechanism on behalf of SDC.

To perform the Grantmaker+ role, more emphasis and priority will be given to helping communities and local NGOs develop proposals to access other donor and funding facilities by organizing brainstorming sessions to generate innovative project ideas, sharing best practices and experiences, offering exploratory meeting to discuss their needs, and conducting project development workshops combined with trainings on relevant subjects and themes.

Another important objective of SGP-Mongolia in OP6 is to continue assisting the GEF SGP Network which has transformed into an official NGO in 2014, to make it a co-financing partner for grants and

country programme non-grant costs. The network is prepared to participate in domestic bids and conduct different activities on contractual basis.

Cooperation with private sector is an important way of mobilizing resources for achieving results at the landscape level. SGP will promote resource mobilization from private sector with its best practices, successes, knowledge products and experiences which would be a value for them, specially for small business holders. Target scheme is worked out and given in Table 5.

Table 5. Target scheme on resource mobilization from donors and other funding facilities

No.	SGP OP6 project components with strategic initiatives	Potential donors and other funding facilities for co-financing or parallel financing
1	SGP OP6 Component 1: <i>Community Landscape Conservation.</i>	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), UNDP, WWF, World Vision International, World Conservation Society, The Nature Conservancy, GIZ.
2	SGP OP6 Component 2: <i>Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology.</i>	Soum Development Fund and Local Development Fund; Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), UNDP, private sector.
3	<u>SGP OP6 Component 4: Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions.</u>	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
4	<u>SGP OP6 Component 5: CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms (Grant-makers+).</u>	“Partnership for Development” GEF SGP Network NGO and Rural Green Growth Institute NGO (in-kind co-financing for creating and organizing dialogue platforms)
5	<u>SGP OP6 Component 6: Promoting Social Inclusion (Grant-makers+).</u>	Mongolian Women Fund
6	<u>SGP OP6 Component 7: Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge program (Grant-makers+).</u>	“Partnership for Development” GEF SGP Network NGO and Rural Green Growth Institute NGO (in-kind co-financing for creating and organizing dialogue platforms)

SGP resources mobilization targets will be achieved through intensive advertising SGP activities, disseminating information on achievements and organizing knowledge events.

7. Risk Management Plan

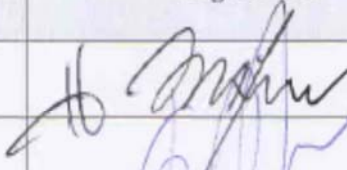
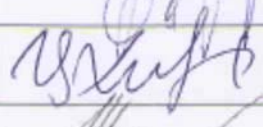
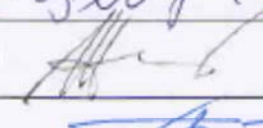
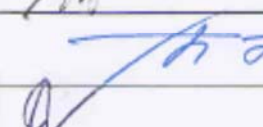
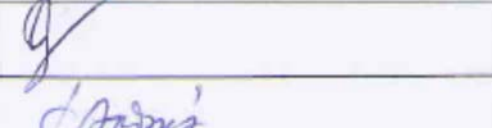

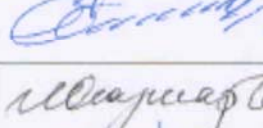

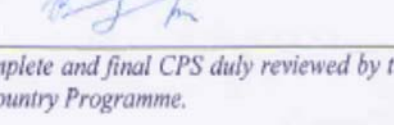

The UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards has been applied for identification of risks during the preparation of this Strategy and did not identify any significant environmental and social risks associated with the proposed Strategy. In general, the Strategy will greatly contribute towards improving resilience of community landscapes, reducing land degradation and maintenance of ecosystem quality through which local communities will improved livelihood potentials and well-being. However, there have been identified a few risks that may result in the implementation or success of the Strategy. Risks identified have been described in Table 6.

Table 6. Description of risks identified in OP6

Describe identified risk	Degree of risk (low, medium, high)	Probability of risk (low, medium, high)	Risk mitigation measure foreseen
Negligence or no adequate understanding of the importance of agro-ecological measures (bio-fertilizers, wind protection belts, etc.) by some communities	Medium	Medium	This issue will be addressed through organizing field demonstrations-showcases of particular innovations, trainings and study tours to educate and convince communities and local government and other stakeholders within the landscapes.
No adequate legislative acts on community protected areas and community landscapes	Medium	Medium	Work closely with central and local governments for their support to grantee communities. Immediately start with creating CSO-government policy and planning dialogues at both national and local levels.
Local stakeholders' individual interests inhibit viable cooperation and local decision-makers are not well aware of the importance of agro-ecological measures and community protected areas.	Low	Low	This problem will be resolved through conducting a broader awareness raising activities among those who need it. Workshops and meetings will be used to educate or convince stakeholders and decision-makers. Awareness raising, convincing and other required activities will be conducted in close cooperation with the GEF SGP Grantees' network.
Climate risks (frequent droughts, low precipitation and temperature rise, etc.) may lead to re-distribution or even loss of biodiversity and reducing food supply and livelihood potentials of communities.	Medium	High	Overall, the GEF OP6 CPS is designed to enhance community landscape resilience in the long run. However, potential risk reduction measures against worsening climate change effects will be taken at the level of individual projects during their implementation, considering the specifics of projects and levels of threats.

These risks and the mitigation measures will be continuously monitored throughout the implementation of the CPS and updated during the CPS Annual review for adjustments on degree of risk or of probability, removal or adding new risks with appropriate mitigation measures identified.

8. National Steering Committee Endorsement

NSC members involved in OP6 CPS development, review and endorsement	Signatures
Mr. Enkhtaivan. N	
Ms. Erdenechimeg. B,	
Mrs. Khishigt T	
Ms. Chimeg. J	
Mr. Galragchaa	
Ms. Munkhchuluun. B	
Mrs. Erdenee	
Dr. Otgonbileg. Kh.,	
Dr. Oyunjargal. L	
Ms. Siilegmaa. B (MSc)	

Note: The signature of endorsement at this point is for the complete and final CPS duly reviewed by the NSC and agreed as the guide to the implementation of OP6 by the SGP Country Programme.

9. Annexes:

9.1. Community Landscape Baseline Assessment Report

9.2. Country Programme Landscape Strategy for COMDEKS