

## **SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY FOR OP6**

**JULY 2015-JUNE 2018**



*Socotra Island*

### **YEMEN**

**OP6 resources (estimated US\$)**

- a. Core funds:400,000**
- b. OP5 remaining balance: 300,000**
- c. STAR funds: 2,205**
- d. Other Funds to be mobilized:500,000**

**Approved on May 24, 2016**

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACR	Annual Country Report
BD	Biodiversity
CBD	UN Convention on Biological Diversity
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CC	Climate Change
CITES	Convention of the International Trade of Endangered Species
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
CO	Country Office
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon Dioxide
CPMT	Central Programme Management Team
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CZM	Coastal Zone Management
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
EPC	Environmental Protection Council
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GIZ	German International Development
GOY	Government of Yemen
HDI	Human Development Index
IW	International Water
KM	Knowledge Management
Km/Km <sup>2</sup>	Kilometer/Kilometer square
LD	Land Degradation
LDCs	Least Developing Countries
MAI	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
MEAs	Multi-Environmental Agreement
MFA	Multifocal Area
MOWE	Ministry of Water and Environment
NAMA	UNFCCC National Appropriate Mitigation Action
NAP	National Action Programme
NAPA	UNFCCC National Adaptation Plan of Action

NCSA	GEF-National Capacity Self-Assessment
NIP	Stockholm Convention, National Implementation Plan
NIP	National Irrigation Programme
NPFE	GEF-6 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise
NSC	National Steering Committee
ODS	Ozone Depleting Substance
	GEF Operational Phases 3-6
PA	Programme Associate
PAs	Protected Areas
PERSGA	Regional Organization for the Conservation of Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
SAPs	Strategic Action Programmes
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SFD	Social Fund for Development
SGP	Small Grant programme
STAR	System of Transparent Allocation of Resources
TCP	Technical Cooperation Project
TDA	Tihama Development Authority
UNCCD	United National Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Security and safety
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
WHS	World Heritage Site

## **Background:**

The Republic of Yemen “Yemen” is located at the south-west of the Arabian Peninsula (12° and 19° N and longitudes 42° and 55° E), and covers an area of about 527,970 km<sup>2</sup>. Yemen has high population growth of 2.88% and the projected total population of 26.7 million inhabitants (2015), with 40.9 % being under the age of 15 years. The main occupations are Agriculture and fisheries, self employment, trades, technical and educational, machinery handcrafts and others taking a proportions of 33, 16, 15, 10, 6, 9 and 11% respectively. The high population growth coupled with low gross national products resulted in high inflation rate 11.2% in 2010. The average annual share per capita (2006-2010) was US\$1159. This indicates that Yemen is a low-income country and belongs to the group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The population under poverty line in 2010 was 33.2% and under the absolute poverty 16.15% .It's ranked by UNDP as 154 out of 187 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI), 2013. It's also estimated that about 80% of the poor people are found in rural and remote areas of the country. The high population coupled with low natural resources base makes Yemen one of the poorest countries of the Middle East. Natural resources are under enormous pressure from over-exploitation by growing population and poverty. Water is the most scarce resources being mainly used for agriculture, domestic and industrial uses at a proportion of 91, 7 and 2% respectively (2010). Recent development and political turmoil will lead to escalating poverty that exacerbates pressure on natural resources.

The overall humanitarian situation and the food insecurity is deepening and about 21.2 million People are in need of some form of assistance out of which 14.4 million people are now food insecure. 7.6 million People are severely food insecure which require an immediate emergency food assistance. Ten Governorates (half of the country) are in emergency phase of acute food insecurity. The food security outcome in areas under emergency and crisis is expected further deterioration unless the humanitarian response urgently reaches the affected populations. Until the recent cessation of hostilities, the continued escalation of the conflict seriously resulted deterioration of the food security outcomes for populations under crisis and emergency in the active conflict areas in the affected governorates. Evidence is clear in response to shortage of energy for domestic needs resulted in woodlands destruction and loss of biodiversity claimed by sever firewood trade.

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

**1.1. Achievement and lessons learnt:** The Small Grant Programme (SGP) operates in Yemen since September 2004. The first grants' projects were made in May 2005. Since then, country programme focused its activities in seven geographical areas declared by the government as a protected area and with 30km radius. Adopting geographical focus was in response to the concern over the large area of the country, to create impacts and effective backstopping and monitoring. Despite the weak CSOs and CBOs communities added to scarce co-financing opportunities, the programme managed to deliver sound interventions on BD, CC, LD and livelihood and created real changes in the selected focuses. In turn, selected geographical focuse areas have responded differently to their needs and readiness to participate in addressing environmental problems and benefiting from SGP support. The following table describes the grants allocations, projects funded and co-financing.

Table (1) Projects' distribution among geographical focuses and co-financing during OP3-OP5

Description	Mahrah	Dhamar	Hadramout	Hodiedah	Shabwah	Aden	Socotra	Total
Funded Projects	7	2	2	17	1	0	48	77
GEF Fund	139,215	39,392	92,539	532,111	13,028	0	1,570,508	2,386,793
Cash Co-Fin.	6,923	20,448	0	627,928	0	0	964,836	1,620,135
In-kind Co. Fin.	156,696	120,175	54,002	320,036	13,742	0	1,762,981	2,427,632
Total Funding	302,834	180,015	146,541	1,480,075	26,770	0	4,298,325	6,434,560
GEF: Co-Funding Ratio	1:1.18	1:2.75	1:1.42	1:1.78	1:1.05	0	1:1.74	

**1.2. Important results:** Since OP3 through to OP5, Yemen country programme covered six geographical concentrations indicated in the table (1) above. The focus areas with the most tangible results in two geographical focuses are Socotra and Hodiedah where majority of grant projects were made. The following results were achieved in the two areas:

- 1.2.1. Rain-water harvesting: The subject of water scarcity receives major attention stimulated by community's needs that resulted in high level of co-financing. Rain-water harvest for human and animal uses comprised the largest number of projects. The estimated rain-water harvested so far is over 100,000 cubic meters at one time but amount can be tripled in each season depending on the rainfall amounts.
- 1.2.2. Flood irrigation of agriculture land: Since agriculture nearly claimed about 80% of the national water requirement, spate irrigation received considerable support benefiting large areas of highly productive landscapes. Five projects in flood irrigation and management benefited over 20,000 ha with accompanied benefits such as CO2 avoidance, Soil fertility enhancement and desalinization and ground water table subsidies
- 1.2.3. Water-use efficiency: Seven projects were funded in Socotra and Hodiedah targeting water-use efficiency in domestic and agriculture irrigation. Projects in Socotra are benefiting over 500 women gardens and households whereas in Hodiedah the projects are benefiting 30,000 ha of agriculture land.
- 1.2.4. Renewable energy access: A total of 15 projects aimed at assisting local communities using renewable energy for water pumping for domestic use and homes electrification. These types of projects are growing in demand due to shortage of energy exacerbated by crises and shortage of conventional fuel.
- 1.2.5. Capacity building for women: Generally, each project funded includes capacity building, awareness rising and there were several projects that solely targeted capacity building.
- 1.2.6. Projects aimed at capacity building of local women in Socotra, where a total of 700 women were trained in home gardens management and vegetables production.
- 1.2.7. During previous phases (OP3-OP5) where a total of 77 projects were funded committing total GEF fund US\$ 2,386,793 (37.1%) and total co-financing of US\$ 4,047,767 (62.9 %). So far, satisfactory results achieved most notably in land degradation, biodiversity conservation and climate change focal areas. Projects replication and mainstreaming were common in most cases within the LD, BD and CC focal areas especially in Socotra.
- 1.2.8. Mainstreaming is secured in different regions where SGP projects are integrated with several Government and Bilateral projects under executions in three geographical regions. This

enables additional resources and technical expertise provided by key development and environmental institutions while also building up long-term partnership.

- 1.2.9. Most supported projects supported the GEF focal areas objectives were also directly linked to communities' livelihood and economic activities. SGP has become an outstanding programme in the Island of Socotra (WHS) after its support to mitigate drought impact on communities and livestock thereby ensuring sustainable development goals (SDGs). One of these projects won the Equator Initiative (EI) prize for its initiative in demonstrating that eco-tourism can be a tool for biodiversity conservation and livelihood improvement of communities in Socotra.
- 1.2.10. Collective impact of projects under land degradation and climate change mitigation assisted farming communities to reduce carbon emission through accessing flood irrigation and water use efficiency in agriculture and for domestic purposes. Increasing dependency of agriculture on spate irrigation significantly reduced use of conventional energy sources, CO<sub>2</sub> emission, and saved important fuel resources that can be qualified as between 50-100% depended on seasons.

Table (2) Level of funding in GEF focal areas during OP3-OP5

Focal Area	Projects	GEF-SGP Funding	Co-financing		Total
			Cash	In-kind	
Biodiversity	22	735,584	398,053	765,850	1,899,487
Climate Change Mitigation	17	465,565	265,708	32,1709	1,052,981
International Water	3	54,510	27,158	45,194	126,862
Land Degradation	29	973,365	876,655	1,085,124	2,935,144
Persistent Organic Pollutants	0	0	0	0	0
Multi Focal Areas	6	157,769	52,561	209,755	420,085
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>2,386,793</b>	<b>1,620,135</b>	<b>2,427,632</b>	<b>6,434,560</b>

### 1.3. Lessons learnt:

Lessons learnt from previous phases led to selecting two land/seascapes; being the Red Sea Coastal (Hodiedah -Taiz) and Socotra to address SGP initiatives in OP6. These received majority of grants in previous phases being 48 and 17 % of total projects. Wider replication of lessons learnt is needed in order to extend impacts. Results achieved and impacts created required further complimentary projects and consolidation of gained results. During OP6 more projects are expected under BD, LD and CC due to the strong relevance of these focal areas to social and economical activities as demonstrated by the high number of grants made in the past. Hence, concentrating in these focal areas will help in addressing critical environmental issues and attract significant co-financing.

In both selected Land/seascapes there have been already several partnerships with Government institutions and Bilateral projects to accommodate collective efforts that addresses mutual interest. There is a need to continue building up partnership in order to extend benefits to more communities through mutually funded projects. SGP sees that such partnership provide not only co-financing but also the technical backstopping to ensuring proper design, cost reduction and successful interventions.

- 1.4. **Current situation:** Yemen is currently suffering from civil war leaving inevitable impacts on humans and resources. The impacts are of short and medium term impacts. The impact can last longer if causes are prolonged and suffering becomes deeper. SGP will be considered as major opportunities for CSOs and CBOs to approach for financial help towards finding local solution to local problems. The two selected Land/Seascape(s) are:

- 1.5. **Red Sea Coastal:** It's the coastal strip of Hodiedah and Taiz Governorates and adjacent Islands. These are extending from Luhayyah (Hodiedah) to Bab-El-Mandeb (Taiz) with total length of 300 km and about an average depth of 30 Km. The area is rich in natural and



biological resources. Due to the region being highly significant in food production that supplies most parts of Yemen, the production base is so wide, productivity is high and the pressure on natural resources is considered a threat. The region received in previous phases' modest number of projects and require more funding to cover more land and sea areas and secure more replication for better results and wider impact.

#### 1.6. Socotra:

The Island of Socotra being a World Heritage Site (WHS) located in the Indian Ocean some 400km off shore Yemen. With its globally important biological diversity that progressively suffer from deterioration due to development pressure is an important landscape to address in OP6. During OP3, OP4 and OP5 SGP deliver substantial grants projects in this area resulted in addressing environmental issues and communities' livelihood. Socotra received 62% of the projects and 66% of GEF funding. Alternatively it showed the highest co-funding contribution 67.4%. In Socotra despite in previous phases, the majority of grant projects were related to LD and BD focal areas and yet more are required to address other focal areas and communities livelihood. Hence programme needs to continue working there to achieve more positive results especially Socotra is being WHS and communities are less paid attention to by Government in the past.

#### 1.7. Advantages of the selected areas:

- 1.7.1. *The Red Sea Coastal land/seascape:* This region is of national importance for food security and biological diversity. In this region, the first ever wind mills generating electricity is planned due to its wind potential. In addition, the many islands and marine habitats that is of national and global importance resides in these landscapes. The plains are intersected by several Wadis that convey rain flood water from the western and southern escarpments to the Red Sea. There are five major flood diversion projects aimed at diverting flood water for wider agriculture land in upper Wadis allowing vast areas of agriculture land to access flood irrigation. This in turn deprived lower and coastal agriculture land from previously accessed to flood. Alternatively, tube well irrigation is used in coastal areas causing saline intrusion in some areas on the coast. The following advantages of being in these two landscapes are discussed below:
  - 1.7.1.1. Social: Coastal region is heavily populated and communities are fully dependant on natural resources (terrestrial and marine). Eighty percent (80%) of communities are employed in the agriculture and fishery sources.
  - 1.7.1.2. Economical: The coastal region with its natural resources base have a high turnover of resources e.g. agriculture products that considered as the main supplier for most of the country. Agriculture and fisheries products are providing the food security safety nets county wide.
  - 1.7.1.3. Environmental: The marine, coastal, plains and foothills are potentially rich in biodiversity that is facing enormous pressure due to overutilization by man and animals. The marine also are subjected to pollution from land based activities as well as those resulting from sea navigation. Examples of such environmental issues are as follow:
    - 1.7.1.4. Depletion of ground water: Dependency on ground water irrigation reduce water table to Lower and coastal beneficiaries depending on the wells for irrigation water causing sea intrusion and land degradation due to incremental salinity level of ground water. Further, heavy land use causes deterioration of soil quality. Livestock is the most practiced agriculture activities undertaken by poor and landless communities members resulted in high grazing pressure and vegetation deterioration.
    - 1.7.1.5. Land resources deterioration: Land resources are porn to deterioration caused by over exploitation, erosion from floods and wind and salinity.
    - 1.7.1.6. Ground water salinity: Lack of effective access to spate irrigation caused heavy uses of tube well for irrigation that results in water table level decrease and sea intrusion.

- 1.7.1.7. Biodiversity loss: Due to over exploitation of vegetation cover for grazing, fuel wood collection and trade, vegetation cover is decreasing resulting in uncountable loss and vanishing of biological resources in number and distribution.
- 1.7.1.8. Overfishing: Due to heavy fishing with the use of improper fishing methods has led to massive destruction of reef habitats.
- 1.7.1.9. Partnership and mainstreaming: Over OP3-OP5, SGP managed to build up good partnership with the regional development Authority in Hodiedah where several mutually supporting projects were implemented successfully. It's obvious that more partnership will be realized once SGP coverage expands into the new geographical zones.
- 1.7.1.10. Vulnerability: The ecosystem in the coastal area is highly vulnerable due to climate change impact with low community resilience. Most of land is arable and subjected to draught resulting in species distribution and loss of agro biodiversity. Communities in the selected area need support to enable reduce impacts.
- 1.7.2. *Socotra*: It's one of the regions where SGP managed to build good reputation through making developmental changes in communities' live that is much appreciated by communities and policy makers. The majority of projects are addressing LD, BD and CC. The SGP funded projects induced noticeable changes in communities' livelihood. Replication was widely adopted in projects' that were funded after successful results were obtained. Reasons for continuing supporting communities of Socotra under the OP6 phase are as follows:
  - 1.7.2.1. Vulnerability: Socotra Communities are highly vulnerable due to droughts exacerbated by full dependency on natural resources exploitation by communities. This is practiced through intensive grazing of livestock beyond carrying capacity of the vegetation resources.
  - 1.7.2.2. Biological Importance: Since Socotra was declared a World Heritage Site (WHS), there is a need to support communities' efforts to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity resources.
  - 1.7.2.3. Participation: Socotra communities, given that they are much more aware, are prepared to participate in finding solutions to environmental problems relevant to GEF focal areas and are ready to substantially contribute to all projects.
  - 1.7.2.4. Geographical Location: Socotra location which is close to the Indian Ocean makes it vulnerable to natural disasters e.g. hurricanes.

## **1.8. SGP contribution towards MDGs:**

SGP-yemen contributed in various ways towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in all of its funded projects. Each project can contributed towards one or more SDGs. A direct contribution can be found strongly related to all SDGs to various extent. There are in the following projects:

- 1.8.1. *Capacity building*: Project focused on capacity building for CSOs and CBOs in income generation activities e.g. women gardens, Bee-keeping, awareness led to better understanding among communities of the environment, equip them with skills to secure income generation and better livelihood.
- 1.8.2. *Water projects*: The majority of funding assists communities in securing save water for animals, household uses and sanitation that contributed to several interrelated SDGs.
- 1.8.3. *Clean energy*: Several projects were funded to assist remote communities accessing the use of renewable energy in water pumping and homes electrification.
- 1.8.4. *Gender equality*: The involvement of women was secured through funding women-led projects of involving gender in the implementation of projects and their activities.
- 1.8.5. *Poverty and hunger reduction*: Several projects were funded targeting improve access to flood irrigation towards boosting agriculture production and reducing production cost that benefiting rural communities and environment. Further, several project aimed at involving communities exist in or around protected areas in eco-tourism aimed at improving their income and validating protected areas management and conservation.

- 1.8.6. *Partnership:* Over the past phases OP3-5, SGP built up good relation with existing institutions in their mandated geographical regions towards joint funding of projects and securing technical support to grantees.

**Table (3) SGP means and frequencies of contribution towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

SDGs	Frequencies.*	Means
No Poverty	31	- Income generation activities (agriculture and ecotourism) - Saving & reducing production cost (spate irrigation)
No Hunger	22	- Secure additional food resources - Water use efficiency for food production
Good health and wellbeing	29	- Improved nutrition and welfare - Availability of water and electricity
Quality Education	9	- Building adult capacity through training - Renewable energy for home electrification improved education
Gender equality	39	- Women led projects - Involvement of women in each project - Ensure women benefits in all projects - Reduce women labour
Clean water and sanitation	39	- Secure safe water resources - Improve household sanitation
Affordable clean energy	14	- Use of renewable energy in water pumping and domestic electrification
Decent work and economic growth	32	- Secure income generation from agriculture, honey and ecotourism
Industry, innovation and infrastructure	27	- Innovative mechanisms e.g. revolving fund - Small scale infrastructure for irrigation and hospitality established - Recycling of bio-waste e.g. fish offal as fertilizer
Reduced inequalities	10	- Priority was given to remote areas and less developed communities
Sustainable cities and communities	39	- Living standard and difficulties facing remote communities were hindered. - Communities capacity building targeted to provide reasonable services and products
Sustainable consumption and production	10	- Renewable energy for lighting - Gardens' food production - Rain-water harvest
Climate Action	30	- Reduce use of conventional energy - Replacing
Life below water	4	- Reduce solid waste dumping into Seashores
Life on land	36	- Reduce causes of land degradation due to animal and human activities - Protect land resources from erosion and degradation
Peace, Justice and strong institutions	7	- Encourage communities working together - Improve institutional capacity of CSOs and CBOs
Partnership for the goals	11	- Build up partnership with existing institutions

\*Frequencies: Each SGP funded project was addressing several SDGs

## 1.9. Future SGP adherence to SDGs:

- 1.9.1. *Red Sea coasta:* SGP will continue its efforts towards addressing SDGs in its selected landscap and seascapes in an attempt to consolidate previous achievement and widen coverage areas and beneficiaries. The selected land/seascape along the Red Sea was extended south words to cover wider areas that are expected to applies for more projects hence wider addressing targeted areas and communities in all SDGs.
- 1.9.2. *Socotra:* It's one of the regions where SGP managed to build good reputation through making developmental changes in communities' live that is much appreciated by communities and policy makers. The majority of projects are addressing LD, BD and CC. The SGP funded projects induced noticeable changes in communities' livelihood. Replication was widely



adopted in projects' that were funded after successful results were obtained. Reasons for continuing supporting communities of Socotra under the OP6 phase are as follows:

- 1.9.2.1. **Vulnerability:** Socotra Communities are highly vulnerable due to droughts exacerbated by full dependency on natural resources exploitation by communities. This is practiced through intensive grazing of livestock beyond carrying capacity of the vegetation resources.
- 1.9.2.2. **Biological Importance:** Since Socotra was declared a World Heritage Site (WHS), there is a need to support communities' efforts to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity resources.
- 1.9.2.3. **Participation:** Socotra communities, given that they are much more aware, are prepared to participate in finding solutions to environmental problems relevant to GEF focal areas and are ready to substantially contribute to all projects.
- 1.9.2.4. **Geographical Location:** Socotra location which is close to the Indian Ocean makes it vulnerable to natural disasters e.g. hurricanes.

## 2. SGP country programme niche

**2.1. Country priorities:** Since 1996, Yemen has stated its priorities through preparing national planning framework, strategies and signed and ratified relevant conventions and treaties.

Table (4). List of relevant conventions and national/regional plans or programmes ratified or signed by Yemen

Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	February 21st , 1996
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	2000, 2004, 2005
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	Not Yet
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	February 21st , 1996
UNFCCC National Communications (1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> )	2001 , 2011, not yet
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	Not Yet
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	March 2009
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	21st February 1996
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	1996
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	January 2004
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	2005
Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	2003-2005
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	2007
GEF-6 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	November 2015
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies	2004/5
Minamata Convention on Mercury	Signed 21/3/2014
Vienna Convention on Ozone layer protection	21st February 1996
Montreal Protocol on substances depleting the Ozone layer, London and Copenhagen adjustments	21st February 1996
Basel Convention regarding hazardous substance and its movement cross borders	21st February 1996
Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)	September 9th, 2006
Convention of the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES)	1997
Bio safety Protocol	January, 2006
National plan of Action for Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.	2005

## 2.2. Support to national priorities:

Since 1990, Yemen established the Environmental Protection Council (EPC) attached to the cabinet aimed at addressing environmental policies at high level in Yemen. EPC lately led to the establishment of the Ministry for Water and Environment (MWE). MWE through its Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) coordinate most relevant conventions and frameworks indicated in the table above. Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MAI) coordinate the activities related to UNCCD. The Government of Yemen (GOY) proceeded with national plans to fulfill its commitment e.g. Coastal Zone Management (CZM), Protected Areas (PAs) network, national Environmental law (2005), National Biodiversity Strategy and action plan, and World Heritage Site (WHS) declarations. The GOY alone or in cooperation with other donors facilitated several national funding programmes e.g. Social Fund for Development (SFD), credit schemes to assist communities in addressing environmental, economical activities and livelihood improvement. Recently and in response to climate change and recent crises with the availability and prices of conventional fuel, the Government adopted new policy aimed at accelerating the adoption of renewable energy for livelihood and development. Such was demonstrated through the provision of 20% of total value and duty free renewable energy commodities. Further, GOY allowed wider public participation a long side Government effort to address environmental and economical

development through involving Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). Currently, there are nearly 1,000 CSO's working in selected areas. Despite low capacity, some of the CSO's managed to do considerable work and are capable of implementing projects on a regional and national levels. CSO's capacity is one of the limiting factors to effective involvement in this importance sector. In the light of country situation suffering from civil war, there still a number of environmental and institutional issues that require continuous work to reduce their impact on communities' livelihood and environment which are:

- Water shortage nationwide indicated by the lowest water ration per capita globally
- Depletion of ground water resources in the highlands causing drop in water table and causing sea intrusion in coastal zones.
- Absence of water ration policies to reduce speed of water acquifers and develop water resources
- Soil erosion by flood destroying the ecosystem at higher elevation and blocking it in lower level causing sever erosion to agricultural land
- Absence of efficient solid waste disposal and recycling outside urban areas resulting in waider pollution.
- Increase rate of poverty and limited energy sources increase dependeny on vegetation as source of fuel cause extreme pressure on vegetation and biodiversity.
- Terraces system and rain-fed dependent agriculture (eratic) does not support decent livelihood led to its neglegance, breakdown, loss of soil and vegetation and loss of environmental value of the eco-system.
- Land degradation and deterioration country wide in highlands, slopes, coastal, wetalnds and mangroves.
- Road development across the country without proper environmental impacts mitigation causing sever destruction of most fertile land resources in lower elevation and coastal siltation.
- Sea pollution due to land based activities with solid and liquied waste being carried by floods to the Sea.
- Land use change that cause loss of habitats especially in coastal areas.
- There is no recycling of used oil hence burned of dump in land.
- Low capacity implementing and enforcing biodiversity protection from violating trade with endangered species.
- Over-exploitation of natural respources causing reduction in their species numbers and distributional ranges.
- Occurance of natural disaster extended droughts and hurricans impacting agriculture, biodiversity and rangeland.
- Weak management of the fishery sectors organizing utilization of marine resources led to destruction of coral, over collection of marine biodiversity and reducing productivity.
- Slaughtering of marine turtles and accidental fishing of turtles and dolphins are eveident.
- Wide spread of invasive/ alien species that are mostly overwhelmed indigenous species.
- Increasing poverty exacerbated by conflict drives wider society towards depleting natural resources for living and trade.
- Lack of sufficient policies to create jobs and self financing to youth and unemployed people to seek environmentally friendly activities.
- Use and import of chemical principally pesticides without control and/or safety measures led to cases of misuses and illegal dumping of expired materials.
- Monopoly of funding opportunities (only by government) to allow benefitieries to access funding sources that can speed up developments e.g. renewable energy in agriculture, income generating activities, etc.
- Weak inforcement of laws reduces banks from funding projects via loans to individuals or groups.

The above issues are escalated by concomitant socio-economic status of the people in the country. High level of population growth, unemployment, high inflation rate and gender inequality led to sever and more difficult situation to reverse.

### **2.3. Potential for complementary and synergy:**

The selected Landscape/Seascape have projects that are complementary and synergies with OP6 strategic initiatives in the followings manner:

#### **2.3.1. Government funded projects and programmes:**

- Selected areas are of priority in national policies.
- The selected land/seascapes are important areas with high environmental, social and economical values.
- Selected land/seascapes contains Islands, Coastal, plain and foothills of significant values.
- The Island of Socotra is of global biodiversity importance and declared world Heritage Site (WHS).
- The Red Sea coastal and adjacent plains have (Hodiedah and Taiz Governorate) significant population and rich natural resources.
- Strengthen existing partnership with Governmental institutions and regional projects.
- Provides for recruiting new partners in OP6.
- In most cases there had been several cases of mainstreaming SGP funded projects with Government/bilateral funded projects increase level of complementary and secured results.

#### **2.3.2. UNDP CO/UN System**

- Complement UNDP project in Socotra "Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation in Local Governance"
- Complement UNEP projects in Socotra
- Further strengthen results achieved in previous GEF projects in the Red Sea region.
- Partnership with PERSGA who is involved in protecting Red Sea environments.

#### **2.3.3. GEF Funded projects:**

- Synergize with FSP GEF-UNEP project in Socotra: Support to the Integrated Program for the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Socotra Archipelago, Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE)/ Environment Protection Authority (EPA);
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and UNDP initiatives
- Contribute to consolidate Protected Areas Management in the country

#### **2.3.4. Major donors and programmes:**

- National Irrigation Programme (NIP) targeting improve irrigation technologies and water uses efficiency in Agriculture, Funded from bilateral and government sources. SGP and NIP enter into partnership in funding three projects in OP5. Currently the programme reach an end due to bilateral funding.
- Tihama Development Authority (TDA); multidisciplinary agriculture and rural development. During Op5, TDA acted as projects partners to most projects funded in their mandatory region. It's hope that partnership will continue to exist in OP6.

#### **2.3.5. CSOs-led projects and programmes:**

- There are several projects in the fishery sector supporting fishing cooperatives and CSOs in coastal areas of which are the followings:
  - o Economic opportunities fund operates under the Yemen cabinet, funded by Government and bilateral
  - o Fund for the development of agriculture and fisheries production, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation,
  - o Bilateral projects executed by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nation which are:

Project	Objectives	Period & funding
Emergency provision of fisheries livelihoods inputs and training to coastal communities in conflict affected Governorates of Yemen.	Members of coastal communities supported to have more secure livelihoods	2013-2014, FAO TCP
Support to fishing communities directly affect by cyclones Chapala and Megh	Provide essential supplies and equipment in areas directly affected by cyclone Chapala and Megh to enable fishers in Socotra, Hadramaut and Shabwah governorates to return to work allowing communities to re-commence income generation and supply of fish to the market.	2015\2016, UN Pooled Fund
Up-grading of seafood quality standards, value addition and increase of exports	Up-grade seafood quality standards and processing high value added products to increase Yemeni exports to regional and international markets	2015\2016, UN Pooled Fund

- Providing support to fishery development and management
- Assist local fishermen to use environmentally friendly fishing methods
- Capacity building to fishermen cooperatives and coastal CSOs

Table (5) 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/seascape conservation	<i>Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The selected areas are remote areas that are rich in biodiversity and natural resources.</li> <li>- Selected areas support large population and national economy</li> <li>- Multidimensional threats facing BD coincide with low institutional capacity and legislations</li> <li>-Weak CSOs capacity and coverage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Implemented a project that declared several protected areas and their management plans e.g. Ottma, Bura, Kamaran, Aden, Hadhramout, Hawf and Socotra.</li> <li>-Implemented project on mainstreaming Socotra Biodiversity conservation in local governance.</li> <li>-Support to the Integrated Program for the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Socotra Archipelago</li> </ul>
Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology; Community landscape/seascape conservation	<i>Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Farming systems and communities need support accessing renewable energy for agriculture and domestic uses.</li> <li>-Assisting farming communities securing spate irrigation addressing LD and CC issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-UNDP implemented project for fog harvesting in Socotra in an attempt to solve water shortage for human and livestock and solid waste recycling to enable unemployed people securing income.</li> <li>- Agro biodiversity and climate Change Adaptation.*</li> </ul>



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/seascape conservation	<i>Promotion of collective management of trans-boundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services</i>	-Red Sea coastal and Islands is an example of SGP project that supports conservation of international water. - Marine biodiversity will be addressed under this theme.	-Regional Organization for the Conservation of Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment (PERSGA) and the Red Sea coastal area are good fit into this theme.
Energy access co-benefits	<i>Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path</i>	-Both selected Land/seascapes are in dire need for barriers' removal for the use of renewable energy in farming systems and domestic uses.	-UNDP/EU solar project: Introduction of solar energy
Local to global chemicals coalitions	<i>Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern</i>	-SGP will target project dealing with pesticides and solid waste disposal management	- Government set up locations for solid waste dumping in main concentration and main cities. - Project supported by UNEP "Delivering the transition to energy efficient lighting"
CSO-Government dialogue platforms	<i>Enhance capacity of civil society to contribute to implementation of MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and national and sub-national policy, planning and legal frameworks</i>	-Priority will be given to upgrade CSOs capacity to build up bridges towards active dialogue with Government institutions addressing environmental issues.	Youth observatory -Engagement of youth in economic activities
Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)	<i>GEF Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Gender Equality Action Plan and GEF Principles for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples</i>	-Priority will be given to women inclusion in projects activities and further priority to Women CSOs and projects.	-Women economic empowerment
Contribution to global knowledge management platforms	<i>Contribute to GEF KM efforts</i>	-Knowledge gained and lessons learnt will be communicated through relevant dissemination methods including but not limited to SGP database, and SGP knowledge platform.	

\* Agro biodiversity and Climate change Adaptation Project, Funded by GEF and Japanese Government US\$ 5m, Implemented by Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Civil Aviation Authority. Oct. 2010 - Jan. 2015.



### 3. OP6 strategies

#### 3.1. Cross-cutting OP6 grant-making strategies

The selected land/seascapes cover only part of the country; hence the 30% of grant making can be made outside these areas to support national initiatives and projects with wider scope. Cross cutting issue and examples of such projects are as follow:

- A project aimed to initiate CSOs/Government dialogue over certain policies and issues especially those led to revising existing and creating new policies relevant to GEF focal areas, revision of existing policies or legislations.
- Projects cover national or regional level outside selected areas that can't be addressed by local CSO's.
- Projects dealing with national issues that are relevant to GEF focal areas and can be implemented nationwide.
- Project dealing with CSOs capacity building.
- Mainstreaming SGP projects with ongoing projects at national level.
- Projects supporting networking at national level

#### 3.2. Landscape/seascape-based OP6 grant-making strategies

The two selected Land/seascapes in Yemen are far apart. Both were targeted in previous phases with The Red Sea Landscape being extended to cover the whole Land and theseascapes (ecosystems).

##### 3.2.1. *Red Sea Coast:*

- Half of this Landscape was already included in previous strategies and grant making, where it received 22% of projects and 22.3% of total funding. In OP6, the area is being extended to cover Red Sea coast and adjacent plains between Hodiedah and Taiz Governorates. It covers approximately 300 km of Red Sea coast and islands.
- The Action Plan for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden was established in 1982 with revisions in 1995 and 2005. Member states adopted the Regional Convention for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment (Jeddah Convention) and the attached protocol concerning regional cooperation in combating pollution by oil and other harmful substances in cases of emergency in 1982, which entered into force in 1985.
- Two additional protocols were adopted in 2005 concerning protection from land-based activities and conservation of marine biodiversity- establishment of a regional network of protected areas. More recently another protocol concerning facilitation of movement of personnel and equipment during emergency was adopted in 2009.
- The PERSGA was established in September 1995, and is the coordinating body involved in the implementation of the Regional Convention and Protocols, including the Action Plan. PERSGA also has the responsibility for the developing and implementation of the GEF supported, MEAs capacity building projects such as Strategic Action Program (SAP).
- Major threats to the environment and coastal/ marine resources include habitat destruction; non-sustainable use of living marine resources; navigation risks and risks from petroleum production and transport; urban and industrial hotspots; and rapid expansion of coastal tourism. Other concerns include the illegal disposal of pollutants by transiting vessels (GLADSTONE et al. 1999, UNEP 2006, PERSGA 2006).
- The GOY is fully aware of this region significance in food security (marine and terrestrial sources). Also receiving flood from most of the highlands that discharge its flood water west word to the Red Sea. Several projects from bilateral funding or government resources were located here to address economical and environmental issues.
- The aims of the selected two Landscapes and Seascapes are to consolidate previous phases' results and to enable further replication and lessons learning. In addition, consideration was

given for the country's situation and easy access to these regions. After discussion, the NSC is in support of the selection of the two Land/seascapes to work with during the current OP6.

### 3.2.2. Socotra land/seascape:

In the past phases (OP3-OP5), Socotra received the majority of projects (62%) and funding (66 %). The reason for such outcomes was due to the fact that Socotra is World Heritage Site (WHS); communities needed direct support that matches their role in conserving outstanding and internationally recognized biodiversity. In addition, Socotra communities' livelihood required immediate and effective improvement to match their role in conservation and sustainable uses of biodiversity and natural resources. Since the start of SGP grant making in 2005, Socotra has managed to create tangible impacts that is well appreciated by communities and policy makers. In order to sustain and further strengthen the impacts created, SGP needs to continue its support to CSO's and CBO's in Socotra until solid results achieved can be sustainably maintained. During OP6, there is a need to continue consolidating the results achieved so far. The best impact secured there was in Land degradation focal area but there is still need in BD, CC and IW focal areas.

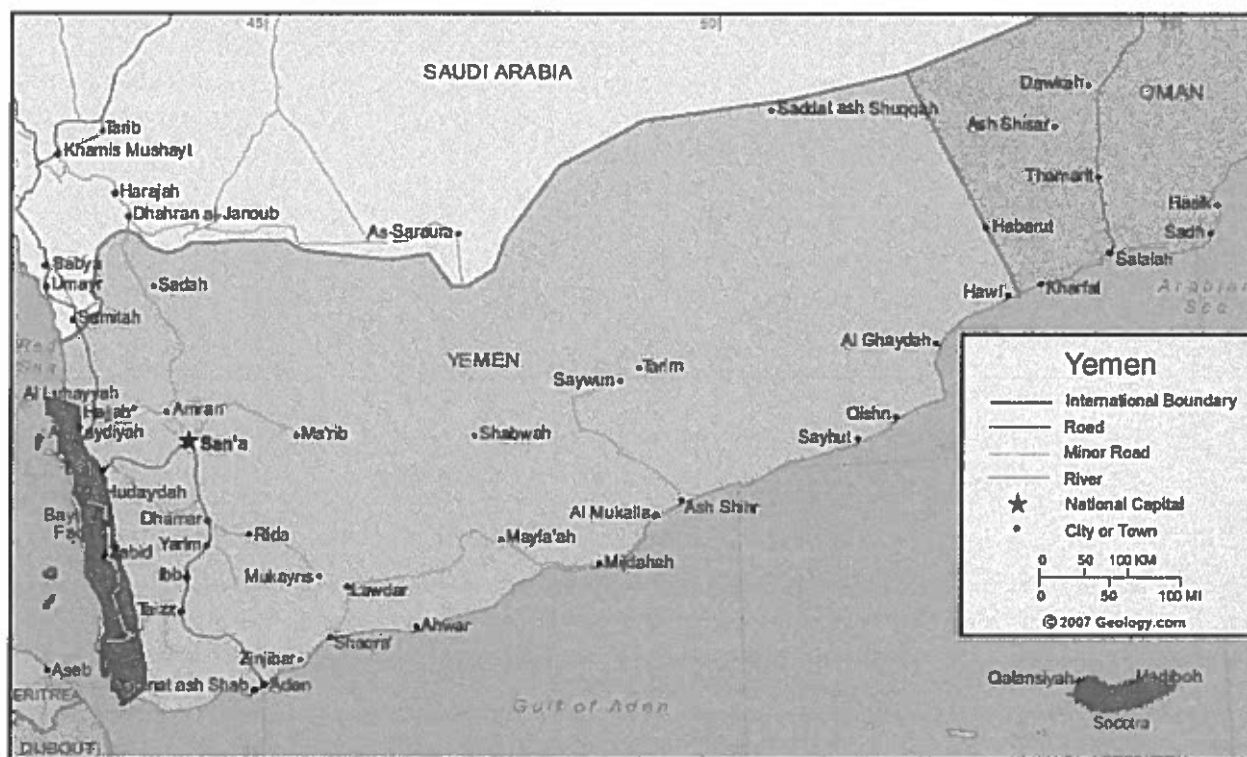
### 3.2.3. Baseline assessment concept:

- Over the previous phases since the engagement of SGP in the selected landscape and seascapes, common environmental problems existed and differ in their extents of need and urgency. Further, remote communication and discussion with partners in the respective regions confirmed the baseline information already at hand.
- In LD, selected land/seascape in the mainland Yemen will be obviously demanding support to tackle various issues relevant to land degradation e.g. land erosion due to floods, intensive land use, tube well vs. flood irrigation and salinity build up in agricultural land. In recent years with the high inflation of agricultural input in addition to erratic rainfall cause negligence to most arable lands leading to deterioration of soils.
- In CC, there is a need to assist local communities in removing barriers deterring use of renewable energy in agriculture and domestic purposes. Prevailing civil war in the country led to frequent fuel shortages negatively affecting agriculture activities. As a result, growing interest in renewable energy use in agriculture is evident but limited by its high cost. Provision of grants associated with recent government policy to provide a fix rate of 20% support to farmers. In this way, it's expected that adopting renewable energy will be encouraged by the policy leading to incremental CO2 saving in the future. It's expected that upon ceasing the civil war and the lifting up of the embargo, will reduce the cost of renewable hence high level adoption is expected as encourage by cheaper prices.
- In BD, whether related to domestic or wild species, progressive biological diversity lose and its distributional range are evident due to socio-economic factors that result in continuous pressure on biological resources. Many crops species varieties are vanishing or become limited their range and are not easily found. This was due to the shift in agriculture activities from rain-fed to fully irrigated agriculture system. Germplasm (plants and animals) are a major biodiversity loss that need conservation. This can be easily achieved through involvement of stakeholders most notably communities. Recent crises in energy led to excessive pressure on vegetation cover to secure fuel wood. Hence, improve fuel wood use efficiency and use of renewable energy for cooking will contribute positively to biodiversity conservation.
- In IW, despite the long distance apart, selected land/seascapes environmental similarities exist (Land and Sea). Being mainland and Island the extent and magnitude of problems are due to land base activities and over exploitation of marine resources. The severity and urgency is

exacerbated by the heavy population concentration. Hence mainland is much severely affected. Salinity intrusion, coastal zone degradation, marine pollution, overfishing are common problems.

- In POPs, solid waste is common problem in the whole country. In the coastal areas sources are from population concentration and washed down from mountains by floods. Solid waste disposal only exist in main cities where it's totally absent in rural areas. The collected solid waste in main cities are brought to common dump site and left to burn in the open space. Proper dumping sites and recycling are major opportunities.
- Selected Land/seascapes are mostly of rural and underdeveloped areas with low standard of living and high poverty and unemployment. The main occupation of most communities' members in these areas are as daily labours in the agriculture sector. There exist considerable numbers of CSOs in the landscapes but their lack of capacity is a major constraint. Therefore, building CSOs capacity will enhance their participation so that they can address local problems relevant to GEF focal areas, resources management and improve livelihood in these areas. The CSO's law permits them to an active involvement in all aspects. In Hodiedah the average number of CSOs that are newly established during 2008-2014 is about 65 per year. The expected number of active CSOs in Hodiedah and Socotra governorates are 300 and 80 respectively.
- Women are actively participating in resources utilization and provide daily labour along the Red Sea coastal areas. Women led CSOs are much less in number and have less capacity compared to their males' counterpart. Hence major focus and priority will be given to women CSOs' capacity building as well as grant making to allow their active participation in various activities.

Map indicating selected landscape and seascape in OP6



Indicates selected landscape and seascapes in OP6

3.2.4. *Priority initiatives in the selected land/seascapes:*

There is a difference between the two selected areas with regards to natural resources and environments. Such difference dictate the degree and extent of addressing each of the strategic initiatives highlighted below:

- 3.2.4.1. Community landscape/seascape conservation: Biodiversity and land degradation focal areas' relevant projects are expected to be the priorities as indicated by the role and magnitude of environmental impacts. It's expected that 40% of funding and projects will be made to address these areas. Under this, project aimed at biodiversity conservation and issues related to spate irrigation, water harvest and uses, genetic resources and protected areas will be supported.
- 3.2.4.2. Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology and energy access co-benefits are another priority where it will receive an equal amount to the above (40%) of funding and projects. Under this category projects addressing use of solar energy for various purposes will be funded.
- 3.2.4.3. The remaining strategic initiatives (Local to global chemicals coalitions; CSO-Government dialogue platforms; Social inclusion and Contribution to global knowledge management platforms) will claim 20% of funding and projects. It's obvious from experiences gained in previous phases that most requests for funding and communities efforts are geared towards theme under 1& 2 above.

3.2.5. *Specific strategy 2015-2018:*

In previous phases, SGP-Yemen managed to create significant impact in its selected geographical focuses which two areas are included in the current selected land/seascapes. Such results were not in all GEF focal areas but mostly in LD, BD and CC focal areas. The visible impact which is yet to be seen requires further follow up to reach its full scale and to be able to consolidate results. The communities and problems to be addressed exists in remote areas, where there is rich natural resources base, and are less developed and in dire need for help to overcome environmental concerns and provides sustainable uses.

Grant making during OP6 will address community livelihood issues relevant to GEF focal areas and achieving some of the SDGs. The two selected land/seascapes are found in Hodiedah-Taiz and Socotra Governorates. In both land/seascapes are found considerable CSOs and CBOs who are keen to participate in implementing and co-financing projects. The lessons learnt in previous phases where SGP grants yielded satisfactory results in bringing environmental and economical benefits to communities in these areas.

More attention will be given to gender mainstreaming and capacity building projects. Further, building up more and stronger partnership will continue in order to mobilize more resources and to avoid duplication. This is also allows SGP grantee to receive more support from existing regional project especially in technical issues.

3.2.6. *Synergy enhancement between initiatives:*

Better impact from multifocal areas' approaches will be secured through synergy between different initiatives in each location since the onset of proposal development. Upon receiving project concept and during the reconnaissance field visit SGP team check possible synergies between GEF OP6 initiatives and assist in building up common consensus among grantees to design project activities that finally contribute towards addressing multi-dimensional approach to solving environmental problem or enhancing communities livelihood. The NSC while reviewing project proposal can further check whether such concern is planned for in reviewed projects' proposals.

3.2.7. *Resources mobilization:*

SGP approach to mobilize resources in previous phases showed success through mainstreaming of SGP funded projects with existing projects funded by Government and Bilateral sources. Each grant applicant who secured additional resources will be spent according to project planned activities. As indicated in project proposal whether mobilized resources were handed over in cash or in kind and whether project partner will administer its

share. Reporting will be shared between all projects' partners. Due to prevailing circumstances in Yemen, resources mobilization will largely rely on mainstreaming with ongoing projects and institutional plans. Upon project partner is identified at early stages of project proposals development, roles cost share and reporting are agreed upon then.

### 3.2.8. *Landscape/seascape outside selected areas (30%):*

The scope of funding outside selected Land/seascapes will be devoted to initiatives that benefit more than one region or country-wide. The nature of projects and expected results will be applicable to more than one region or country-wide including crosscutting the selected Land/seascapes. Project replication and scaling up can fall under this category. The area outside land/seascapes is considered the highlands, western and southern escarpment of the country. Further, consideration will be given to areas' accessibility, co-financing and projects' results sustainability. The CSOs-government dialogue can fall under this category of projects.

## 3.3. Grant-maker+ strategies (2 pages)

### 3.3.1. *CSO-Government Dialogue Platform*

CSOs-Government dialogues have taken place under different initiatives by relevant ministries in the past. These are Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation; Ministry of Social Affairs; Ministry of Water and Environment; Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Ministry of Electricity (MOE) (Rural Electrification Authority (REA)). Each of these ministries are involved to a different extent in coordinating policies development and implementation in various Areas of Yemen. Strengthening projects support will be considered under projects to be funded projects outside selected Land/seascapes (30%).

Capacity building for CSOs will be given priorities in order to enable CSOs to actively involved especially post civil war situation. Such activities will be in the framework of nationwide need that need to be coordinated with relevant government institutions mandated to work closely with CSOs.

SGP-Yemen since it start, managed to mobilize various resources in building up partnership with existing projects in various regions. Further, SGP project were mainstreamed within existing projects or systems funded by bilateral Governments. With these steps if taken, considerable resources will be mobilized which will reduce the problem of co-financing. Dictated by recent circumstances in the country present strong challenges to address CSOs capacity building targets considering the challenges that capacity building requires multi sectoral collaboration (e.g. donors, national institutions and supporting policies).

### 3.3.2. *Policy influence*

Current situation in Yemen shows that it is necessary for national policies revision in the light of recent development in the country. Experience and lesson learnt from selected areas and nationwide suggest that some polices would need only some revision but also other needs to be created in order to address recent development e.g. enforcing protected areas management, natural resources uses, climate change mitigation related policies. Therefore, nationally mandated CSOs with relevant capacity can apply for grant to deal with creating new or enforcing existing policies at country level. This is needed to support regional and local action where local capacities are not able to implement or enforce required actions. An example of such is the implementation of protected areas management or coastal zones that are highly sensitive and experience progressive degradation. Further, a response will be given to request from CSOs with regards to responding to requirement by global conventions and agreements.

### 3.3.3. *Promoting social inclusion (mandatory)*

Gender mainstreaming and equality in projects' funding will be ensured by programme in funding projects in this phase. Gender equality will be started by offering equal representation at the NSC membership and women proposed projects will be given priority. Since previous phase's, gender inclusion was ensured through involvement of women and men in each funded project. There is evidence that women-led CSOs are less in numbers and than their men's counterpart hence priority

will be given to project targeting capacity building of CSOs led by women. Further, Youth, Ethnic group (Rare), disadvantage communities and disabled will be also given special attention and priority in the approval stage of funding. Programme objectives will be promoted using all outreach channels including media, personal contact and regional events and news.

#### 3.3.4. *Knowledge management plan*

Various plans will be followed for sharing and disseminating lessons learnt. Of these, producing knowledge products e.g. leaflets, posters, books, photo stories and videos will be prioritised. Involvement of wider media will be considered and budgeted for within each relevant project. Local and national workshops and training opportunities will also be undertaken to disseminate and share lessons learnt. Best practices and knowledge gathered will be disseminated to universities, research institutions and media as appropriate to widen their utilization and maximize beneficial impacts.

#### 3.3.5. *Communications Strategy*

Consultation with NSC and relevant stakeholders resulted in an agreement over selected land/seascapes. The selected land/seascapes were among the regions that SGP focused on in previous phases. A general agreement among NSC regarding is that the geographical focus outside selected land/seascapes for 30% grant making will be upheld. Upon completing the draft of CPS and have a common consensus over the it will be sought directly (workshop) or with remote contact or small local workshops for the stakeholders. The SGP team will ensure promoting the grant opportunities to all local CSOs in selected areas and at national level for those expected applicants outside selected land/seascapes. The draft CPS was sent to relevant stakeholders and partners in Hodiedah and Socotra that was appreciated. This indicates the reach of common consensus over the selected land/seascapes.

#### 4. Expected results framework

##### 4.1.OP6 Global project components, CPS Targets and Indicators

Table (6) Consistency with SGP OP6 global programme components

1 OP6 project components	2 CPS targets	3 Activities	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
<p>SGP OP6 Component 1: Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation:</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>Two landscapes and Seascapes are targeted:</p> <p><i>1-Red Sea coastal:</i></p> <p>The area extends from the foothills of the mountain (500m above Sea level, coastal plains and scrubs mostly agriculture and rangeland coastal zone with scrubs, wetlands, Mangroves, marine environment and Islands). The area is intersected by 7 major valleys (Wadis) bringing flood from mountains into the Sea. Four ecosystems are fully represented in this region.</p> <p><i>2-Socotra Island:</i></p> <p>Mainly rangeland with high endemism of fauna and flora; network of terrestrial and marine protected areas; Coastal habitats, marine environment including Sea grasses, coral reefs and other marine biodiversity (Dolphins, turtles, fishes, etc.) . Two ecosystems are found in Socotra (mountains and coastal). Two major activities are widely practiced (Grazing Livestock and Fishing).</p>	<p>At least ten projects are funded in both landscapes to address Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources as follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conserve endemic threatened species</li> <li>- Monitoring Coastal zone management</li> <li>-Strengthen linkages between conservation and sustainable livelihood.</li> <li>-Reforestation and Agroforestry management</li> <li>-Protection of watershed</li> <li>-Coastal zones' and Islands' habitats protection</li> <li>-Invasive species management and control</li> <li>- Introduction and support to a alternative energy sources e.g. cooking.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ten species of fauna and flora benefited through protection and monitoring of population and distribution.</li> <li>- At least 50,000ha (Agriculture, Coastal and Wetland) benefited from conservation and sustainable management of natural resources by 2018.</li> <li>- Five protected areas management improved through reduced invasive species' numbers and distribution, visitors management, community consensus and integration into the management plans.</li> <li>- Forty communities (50,000 people) in and around PAs directly benefited indicated by evaluation reports.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- projects' reports by grantees .</li> <li>- Report stating Species and land areas benefited.</li> <li>- Reports by others e.g. media if any.</li> <li>- Key livelihood improvement measured and valued.</li> <li>-Annual Monitoring report (AMR)</li> <li>-SGP team (NC, PA, NSC) monitoring visits reports</li> <li>-The NSC review CPS by July 2017.</li> </ul>
<p>SGP OP6 Component 2: Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology:</p> <p>2.1 Agro-ecology practices incorporating measures to reduce CO2 emissions and enhancing resilience to climate change tried and tested in protected</p>	<p><i>1. Red Sea Land/Seascape:</i></p> <p>1.1. Western mountains foothills; Tihama plains agro ecological; coastal scrub and rangeland.</p> <p>1.2.Promotion of use of renewable energy in irrigation and domestic purposes</p> <p>1.3.Increase dependency on spate irrigation and water</p>	<p>-Ten projects are funded addressing climate and land degradation aspects in both landscapes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-A 30,000 ha of agricultural land benefited from various interventions e.g. Spate &amp; improved irrigation techniques and CC friendly practices.</li> <li>- Adopting composting and organic farming in two locations e.g. 50 farms.</li> <li>-A 2,000 farms benefited from spate irrigation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Report of total land area benefited from flood irrigation, irrigation technologies and CC/LD friendly practices.</li> <li>-Projects' reports by</li> </ul>



1 OP6 project components	2 CPS targets	3 Activities	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
area buffer zones and forest corridors and disseminated widely in at least 30 priority countries	<p>use efficiency</p> <p>1.4. Conserving land resources due to erosion along water courses.</p> <p>1.5. Promote land resource management practices e.g. cropping, fertility and salinity</p> <p>1.6. Communities' livelihood given attention.</p> <p><i>2. In the Socotra Land/Seascape:</i></p> <p>2.1. Promoting plant cover management including re-forestation.</p> <p>2.2. Promote grazing management and integrating none livestock activities e.g. bee-keeping, eco-tourism and medicinal plants</p> <p>2.3. Women led small scale agriculture development</p> <p>2.4. Marine species management &amp; environment.</p> <p>2.5. Land-based pollutions mitigation put in place</p> <p>2.6. Fishing practices and resources management instituted where there is absence.</p>		<p>saving 50% of conventional fuel.</p> <p>- A 200 farms adopted renewable energy and/or improve irrigation systems.</p> <p>- A 30,000 ha of rangeland benefitted from improved management, conservation and reforestation.</p> <p>- Five indigenous crops benefited through conservation <i>in-situ</i> and germplasm production.</p> <p>- A 100 women households' gardens producing organic vegetables</p> <p>- A 50 fishermen practice responsible fishing in 1-2 sites</p> <p>-Aprevention of 3000 tons (10 ha) of soil from water erosion.</p>	<p>grantees on number of communities, farms and people benefited from SGP intervention.</p> <p>-Site monitoring visits by SGP Team and NSC.</p> <p>- Projects' evaluation reports</p> <p>ACL country report</p> <p>-Annual Monitoring report (AMR)</p> <p>---- CPS review by by NSC in July 2017.</p>
<p><b>SGP OP6 Component 3:</b></p> <p>Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits:</p> <p>3.1 Low carbon community energy access solutions successfully deployed in 50 countries with alignment and integration of these approaches within larger frameworks such as SE4ALL initiated in at least 12 countries</p>	<p>- A250-300 household access renewable energy for domestic uses.</p> <p>- A 50 farms accessed renewable energy for water pumping.</p>	<p>-Ten projects are funded to address the use of renewable energy. These projects assist local communities to adopt the use of renewable energy technologies in domestic and agriculture areas.</p>	<p>-A 250 homes use solar energy for lighting</p> <p>-A total of 50 farms access solar systems for water pumping benefiting 300 ha of agriculture land</p> <p>- Spate irrigation systems enhance &amp; maintained in 10 locations to support agriculture ca.300 ha.</p> <p>- Ca. 50 adopt water use efficiency irrigation system (500 ha.) reducing fuel use by 30%</p>	<p>- Grantees progress and final repors</p> <p>-Site monitoring visits by SGP Team and NSC.</p> <p>- ACR and AMR reports</p> <p>- Mid-term review achievement and CPS by NSC in July 2017.</p>
<p><b>SGP OP6 Component 4:</b></p> <p>Local to Global Chemical Management</p>	<p>Outline of innovative tools and approaches to:</p> <p>-Pesticide management</p> <p>-Solid waste management (plastics, e-waste, medical</p>	<p>-Two projects are funded to address proper disposal of solid waste and elimination of</p>	<p>- Solid waste are being recycled or properly disposed in four sites (transporting &amp; dumping)</p>	<p>-Grantees progress/final reports</p>

1 OP6 project components	2 CPS targets	3 Activities	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
Coalitions: 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	waste and so on), -Heavy metals management, and	hazardous substances including pesticides.	- Avoidance of burning ca. 200 tons of solid waste. - Awareness is raised among 200 farmers over non or proper use of pesticides in four locations -	- Ministry of Agriculture and irrigation reports about pesticides  - Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) - NC & NSC periodical monitoring visits  - Mid-term CPS review by July 2017.
<b>SGP OP6 Component 5:</b> CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms (Grant-makers+):  5.1 SGP supports establishment of "CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms", leveraging existing and potential partnerships, in at least 50 countries	- CSOs are designated by Government to implement and Monitor 2-3 policies relevant to environment.	- Two projects are funded addressing CSOs-Government dialogue	- At least One CSO successfully review on relevant policy.	- Grantee reports - Individual project reporting by SGP country teams - SGP Global Database - Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) - Country Programme Strategy Review
<b>SGP OP6 Component 6:</b> Promoting Social Inclusion (Grant-makers+): 6.1 Gender mainstreaming considerations applied by all SGP country programmes; Gender training utilized by SGP staff, grantees, NSC members, partners 6.2 IP Fellowship programme awards at least 12 fellowships to build capacity of IPs; implementation of projects by IPs is	- Women are involved in all projects activities to various extents (women led projects and or are participating in each projects. - Women roles are assessed by NSC in the review of all projects proposals - Gender equality is ensured  - Youth and disabled projects are funded	- Five projects are funded addressing the involvement of women-led CSOs. -  - Two projects are funded addressing Youth and disabled mainstreaming and knowledge sharing	- Support five women-led projects aimed at mainstreaming women needs and capacity building. - Capacity building enhanced for 100 women - A 200 women involved in 10 SGP funded projects  - Youth (200) and disabled (50) are involved in various activities and projects in two locations	- Projects' reports on number of communities and women benefited- SGP team monitoring reports. - Reports and photos are uploaded into SGP database. - Result uploaded into SGP database. - Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) - NC annual

6



1 OP6 project components	2 CPS targets	3 Activities	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
supported in relevant countries 6.3 Involvement of youth and disabled is further supported in SGP projects and guidelines and best practices are widely shared with countries				report on results secured  - NC and NSC, CPS midterm review by July 2017.

## **5. Monitoring & Evaluation plan**

### **5.1. Periodical monitoring:**

Periodical monitoring will be carried out by SGP team (NC, PA and NSC) to each region. In the visit project team (Grantees) and some of the beneficiaries are met to discuss project implementation and participation of communities as indicated in the project monitoring plan included in project proposal. Necessary adjustment and briefing will be discussed with grantees in the field to ensure project smooth implementation, assessing indicators to secure stated results. Annual Country Report (ACR) will be an aggregated project level results and will include detail description of progress made in the CPS as set out targets in each landscape and Seascapes. The results from completed projects will be aggregated to consolidate lesson learnt.

### **5.2. Sites' Monitoring visits:**

At least three to four monitoring visits are carried out to each project by SGP team (NC, PA and NSC). The aims are for backstopping projects' teams, rendering any difficulties and monitoring of project progress. A field visit report is prepared after each visit. In each visit, documenting status of project activities implementation, difficulties encountered, results obtained and lesson learnt. Each project team produced two progress reports prior to each project funding disbursement that is verified by SGP Team. At the end of each project and before closing, a final independent evaluation is carried out by independent party who involved beneficiaries of project through participatory evaluation workshop.

### **5.3. Reconnaissance visits:**

Upon receiving CSOs, CBOs and Communities project concept, SGP team ensures that the concept is genuinely made in participation of wider beneficiaries. Those eligible concepts must involved communities and beneficiaries to participate in full project proposal development carried out on site and in the presence of NC, PA or NSC (as applicable). In this way, communities' participation led to their awareness of the activities that will lead to solving their problems and ownership of proposed solutions.

### **5.4. Projects results aggregation:**

Projects results aggregations are based on realized results from each project that will be implemented and diligently monitored and evaluated during monitoring field visits. Finally and upon completion of each project results and lesson learnt, lessons will be extracted and disseminated to the SGP grantee networks in the country and at the global. An immediate adoption of lessons learnt will be included in new formulated projects.

Table (7) 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	At start of operational phase
Annual Country Programme Strategy Review	Learning; adaptive management	NC, NSC, CPMT	Covered under country programme operating costs	Reviews will be conducted on annual basis to ensure CPS is on track in achieving its outcomes and targets, and to take decisions on any revisions or adaptive management needs
NSC Meetings for ongoing review of project results and analysis	Assess effectiveness of projects, portfolios, approaches; learning; adaptive management	NC, NSC, UNDP Co	Covered under country programme operating costs	Minimum twice per year, one dedicated to M&E and adaptive management at end of grant year
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 per operational phase

## 6. Resource mobilisation plan

Several strategies will be followed towards ensuring sufficient co-financing in the selected land/seascapes. A consideration to reach possible donors will be made to secure co-financing; mainstreaming SGP funded project within ongoing projects funded by Government, Bilateral or private sector. Such strategy had proven successful in previous phases especially in the light of shortage of donors' community under prevalent country situation. The following ways will be tried to enhance or increase cash and in-kind co-financing at:

### 6.1. Project level:

- **Cash:** Community participation in project financing was successful in providing additional resources and ownership of projects. This will be secured through small percentage of cash co-financing. All possibilities will be take towards improve the level of cash co-financing e.g. mainstreaming with on-going projects implemented by government and private sectors.
- **In-kind:** The majority of projects funded in previous phases included significant beneficiaries' participation in the form of labours that led to high in-kind contribution. The percentage of high labour projects is common especially in rural areas where projects use local and available resources e.g. materials and labours.
- **Landscape/seascape level:** In each of these scapes and at the start of full project proposal development, an inventory of possible partners will be made. Beneficiaries are encouraged to make direct contacts with donors. The proposal will state clearly what each partner role and responsibility will be a long with budget of identified activities. The total portfolio of projects will be aggregated to make up for the co-financing required for the Land/Seascapes which has been identified as the focus for OP6.
- **Country level:** With the help of UNDP CO, effort will be made by NC and NSC to secure a country level resources from UNDP core funding or SGP acting as a delivery mechanism for large sized GEF and non GEF projects.

### 6.2. Partnership:

Other country programmes will be discussed with to allow for building partnership with existing institutions in the selected landscape and seascape in order to achieve complementary efforts and to avoid duplication. Such partnership helped programme in the past to secure cash co-financing and technical backstopping and the strategy will further explored and capitalized on. Building partnership in future is subjected to the restoration of peace in the country that can lead to better partnership or none.

### 6.3. Delivery mechanism:

Efforts will be made towards SGP offering to the available donors/partners in the country to act or excute projects on their behalf in the selected regions/landscapes and other parts of the country. It's expected that SGP might be able to secure several opportunities in the two selected landscape and seascapes. A favouring situation of insufficient security might drive more donors to search for delivery mechanism.

### 6.4. The "Grantmaker+" role

#### 6.4.1. Performing effective role:

Fund raising and resources mobilization were limiting factor in previous phases due to the following reasons:

- 6.4.1.1. **Remoteness:** Inaccessibility of CSOs in remote areas to donors' community hence was not able to secure any funding without the help of SGP (Team and NSC). In OP6, early coordination towards facilitating direct contact of remote CSOs with donors will be enhanced to ensure that additional resources and activities are implemented through grant makers + strategy.

- 6.4.1.2. Capacity: The low capacity of CSOs in the selected areas will continue to limit CSOs direct contact with donors. Hence SGP (Team and NSC) will continue to facilitate such contact.

The above strategies will enhance resources mobilization towards benefiting CSOs and communities in selected land/seascapes during OP6. The private sector will also be involved in the development of the countrywide strategy for undertaking activities outside the traditional grant making. The NSC member representing the private sector is expected to help in providing contacts and making collaboration and cooperation possible with the private sector. In previous phases, private sector provided several approved projects with cash co-financing.

## **7. Risk Management Plan:**

### **7.1. Environmental Risk:**

There are number of risks facing the programme on national and regional level with varying impacts.

- 7.1.1. Droughts: This is evident especially in Socotra where it's experienced once each 7-10 years with very low rainfalls that lead to the death of up to 60% of the livestock population most notably the Goats. Islands because of the nature of the ecosystem the impact on communities livelihood is more severe.
- 7.1.2. Hurricans and storms: This is in turn affect most the agriculture activities and forests/woodlands. Recent hurricans e.g. Chapala and Maiga caused severe damage to biodiversity in Socotra. To reduce its impact a follow up effort to rehabilitate the damage area and species can be funded by SGP, Local communities and other donors.
- 7.1.3. Social and political risk:
- 7.1.4. Ongoing civil war and its impacts: Prevailing civil war limits staff movement to parts of the selected land/seascape. It's experience that travel to one of these (Socotra) is temporarily not possible.
- 7.1.5. Security limits SGP team movement: Caused by civil war where travelling to some parts of the country is considered of high risk by United Nations Department of Security and safety (UNDSS)
- 7.1.6. Travel restriction for projects' monitoring: According to UNDSS, a security permit must be granted before each staff member travel to the field
- 7.1.7. Shortage of goods and services delaying projects activities implementation: In recent situation, the country come under siege led to high inflation of goods required by projects e.g. building material and renewable energy.
- 7.1.8. Inflation: due to the political turmoil in the country led to high inflation rate and local currency devaluation against foreign exchange. This inevitably led to an escalating prices of goods and services.

### **7.2. Co-financing:**

- 7.2.1. Low capacity of grantees in resources mobilization: Most grantees are located in remote rural areas where communities and CSOs lack capacity to secure co-financing. Alternatively SGP team and NSC provide accessive logistical and communication support to such cases.
- 7.2.2. Difficulty securing cash co-financing: CSOs found in remote areas are of potential for securing in-kind co-financing through conduting labours work and modest funding in thye form of skjilled labours.

### **7.3. Project Implementation delay:**

- 7.3.1. Shortage of goods and services: In such cased, grantees has to search for his required materials.
- 7.3.2. Inflation in currency and cost of goods and services: Only recently UN exchange rate was moved up to reduce the level of inflation. US exchange rate was librated against the USD allowed partitial compensation of the losses.
- 7.3.3. Delay in projects' activities implementation: in some cases and in order to enable grantee implement their projects, MOAs were renewed if required justification were fully acknowledge.



Table (8) 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
Civil War	High	High	Selected land/seascapes are not found in the center of conflict area. Hence, project can be implemented successfully with modest delay.
Monitoring	Medium	Medium	SGP team movement for monitoring is limited by security measures. Hence NSC and partners cannot participate in many M+E travel.
Slow implementation of funded projects	Medium	Medium	Due to lack and disturbances of fuel supplies lead to slow and delay of project activities implementation. Project MOAs will be extended to enable project completion when required.

#### 7.4. Risk tracking and mitigation:

The type of risk, the knowledge of its occurrence and the period till its impact is felt by affected communities and resources can be used to design mitigation efforts and or precautionary actions. In the presence of Government policies regarding national and local preparedness and with the help of other stakeholders SGP can function jointly with on going forces to mitigate the risks impact and severity. The SGP team (NC, PA and NSC) are taking account of risk tracking and management in the projects review process prior to funding approval.

- 7.4.1. Civil War and security:
- 7.4.2. Selected land/seascapes are far from core areas of conflict.
- 7.4.3. NSC and relevant partners assist in projects' proposals development and monitoring.
- 7.4.4. Intensive remote communication with grantees.
- 7.4.5. Monitor delay caused by ad hoc shortage of good and services.
- 7.4.6. Project MOU extended to enable projects' activities' completion.
- 7.4.7. Grantees and beneficiaries cover the deficit due to inflation.
- 7.4.8. Over the last two years, SGP Team managed to establish satisfactory communication and transparent relations with grantees to allow meaningful communication. Field monitoring was secured through voluntary third parties e.g. partners and development sectors who happened to be in the SGP' funded project zones. Readiness is expected to adopt any relevant measures that is felt to help mitigating risk and alleviate their impact on projects' progress.

#### 7.5. Co-financing:

- 7.5.1. SGP team and NSC assist grantees in identifying donors.
- 7.5.2. Mainstreaming projects on available vehicles.

#### 7.6. Project Implementation delay:

- 7.6.1. Grantees synchronized activities with goods and services availability.
- 7.6.2. Grantees and beneficiaries cover extra cost due to inflation.
- 7.6.3. Monitor delayed activities and allow for MOU amendments.

## 8. National Steering Committee Endorsement

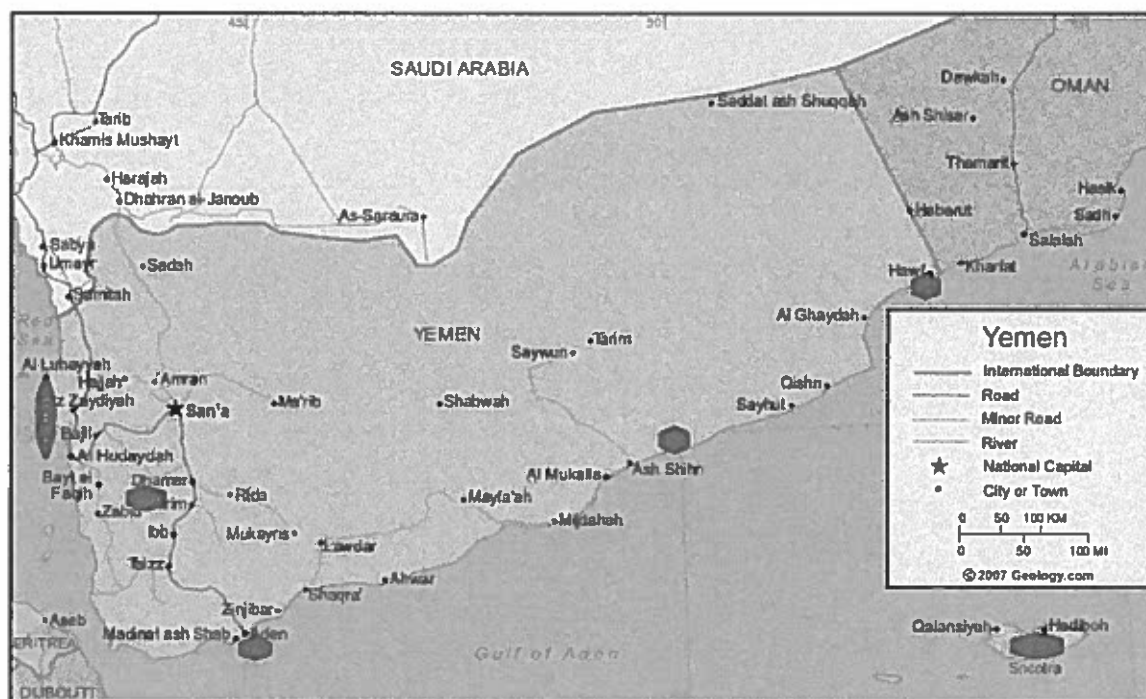
NSC members involved in OP6 CPS development, review and endorsement	Signatures
Fadhl Al-Nozaili	
Mohammed Al-Mashjari	
Fuad Ali	
Ali Al-Jabal	
Bushra Ishaq	
AbdulQawi Al-Kaisi	
Abdussalam Al-Janad	

## ANNEXES

### Annex (1). Landscape and Seascape Scooping exercise for SGP Yemen

#### 1. Background:

Since its inception in 2004 and the start of grant making in 2005, the GEF Small Grant Programme (SGP) in Yemen selected seven geographical focus areas for its implementation of projects. The aim was to focus effort in these identified areas in order for better impact from limited resources expected in OP6; provide better support to grantees and reduce management costs. The selection was also based on the relative importance for the conservation and community livelihood. The geographical boundaries for the SGP support was in all protected areas and within 30 km radius of ????? around each. This aimed at benefiting surrounding communities in exchange for their deliberation to the protection of habitats in the protected area and its surroundings. These are as indicated in the map below:



Indicates geographical focuses for grant making in OP3, OP4 and Op5

Over almost ten years of grant making, selected geographical focuses varied in utilizing such opportunities as expressed in the number of grants made in each geographical focus (table 1 below).

Table (1). Distribution of funded project among GEF focal areas and geographical focuses

Description	Mahara	Dhamar	Hadhramout	Hodiedah	Shabwah	Aden	Socotra	Total
BD	1	0	1	2	0	0	18	22
LD	2	2	0	10	0	0	15	29
CC	1	0	0	4	0	0	12	17
IW	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	3
POPs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MA	2	0	1	1	0	0	2	6
Total	7	2	2	17	1	0	48	77

The great variances among geographical focuses in the number of successful grants were attributed to the following factors:

1. Low number of relevant CSOs in these regions.
2. Status and capacity of CSOs/CBOs in these regions
3. Awareness of communities on the environment and their readiness to participate
4. The low impact of the environmental degradation of communities livelihood
5. Co-financing problems related to the funded projects.
6. Overall political, security and social situation in the country.

Table (2). Level of funding in each geographical focus

Description	Mahrah	Dhamar	Hadhramout	Hodiedah	Shabwah	Aden	Socotra	Total
Projects	7	2	2	17	1	0	48	77
GEF Fund	139,215	39,392	92,539	532,111	13,028	0	1,570,508	2,386,793
Cash Co-Fin.	6,923	20,448	0	627,928	0	0	964,836	1,620,135
In-kind Co. Fin.	156,696	120,175	54,002	320,036	13,742	0	1,762,981	2,427,632
Total Funding	302,834	180,015	146,541	1,480,075	26,770	0	4,298,325	6,434,560
GEF: Co-Funding Ratio	1:1.18	1:2.75	1:1.42	1:1.78	1:1.05	0	1:1.74	

## 2. Lesson learnt:

Over the past years OP3-OP5, it was evident that three regions captured most of grant projects which are Socotra, Hodiedah and Mahrah. This indicates that CSOs capacity and interest of stakeholders to participate in addressing their environmental problems. Further SGP intervention in these areas was well received and acknowledge by beneficiaries and policy making level.

The relationship between resources and communities' dependence is governing community interest in conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. The selected Land/Seascapes, recently experienced new developments due to war, natural disasters and policies that with no doubt will have an impact in the utilization of natural resources. An example of unavailability of energy sources (fuel and electricity) encourage communities to substitute for the use of renewable energy for their agriculture and domestic uses.

## 3. Selection of Land/Seascapes:

Under Op6, the aims of the selection of Land/Seascapes is to work at more focused impact oriented strategy. Based on lesson learnt and results gained in the past, the NSC is aware of the importance of continueing in replicating and spreading success stories and recommending that the programme should continue its grant making in these two identified land/Seascapes. Hence it's was the decision of the stakeholders and the NSC that the following to Landscape and Seascape will be main granting making area (70%) during OP6 and are described as follows:

### **3.1. Socotra:**

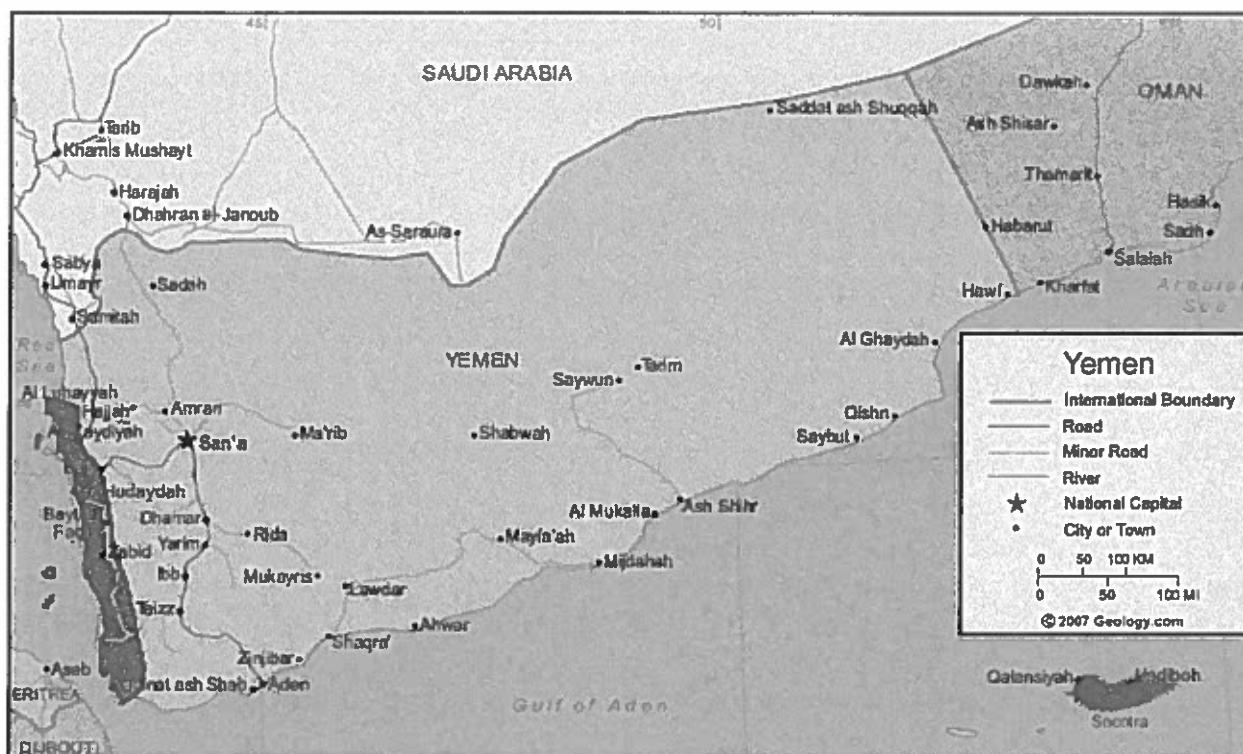
In the past phases (OP3-OP5), Socotra received the majority of projects in previous phases (48 out of 77= 62%) and funding (65.8 %). The reason for such heavy funding was due to Socotra being a World Heritage Site (WHS), communities needed direct support matching their role in conserving outstanding internationally recognized biodiversity. In addition that Socotra is under developed due to its location and natural environment. The SGP over its presence since 2005 in Socotra managed to create tangible impacts well recognized by communities and policy makers. In order to sustain and further secure the impacts created, SGP needs to continue its support to CSOs and CBOs sector in Socotra until solid and impactful results are achieved and sustainably maintained. There is a need to continue consolidating the results achieved earlier during OP6. The best results secured there was in Land degradation focal area e.g. enabling livestock herders of harvesting over 100,000 cubic meter of rain-water at any one time, reduce animal movement between grazing and water availability, provide rural women with enough water at homes to reduce their labour fetching water from distances away, improve living condition through better sanitation. This subject in particular, required more work invited by community readiness to participate in shortening the gap of water supply and demand by human and livestock.

Some results achieved to enable local community to realize immediate benefit from biodiversity conservation when eco-tourism facilities were established in the form of training and capacity building of local CSOs and CBOs equipped with eco-camp sites. Further, more work is needed in CC and other focal areas.

### **3.2. Red Sea Coast:**

The area extends between Hodiedah and Taiz Governorates. It covers the approximately 300 km of Red Sea coast and islands. The region was once subjected to a GEF project and in the mandate of the Regional Organization for the Protection of Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) based in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The exact boundaries include the islands, coastal and plains ca. 30 km wide along the Red Sea till Bab El-Mandeb. The area extends over long areas ca. 300km of extended territories.

The area is of high priority in government policies and economic values. The Plain are considered the most fertile land that produces invaluable agriculture and off farm products that are supplied to highlands areas and exported agriculture trade. The floods comes from higher mountains are considered critical to the plain that is diverted through flood irrigation systems built by the government in each of the wadis to enable full uses of flood water. Such projects contributed to LD focal area through provision of water for irrigating crops and subsidizing ground water, fertility and reducing soil salinity.



**Indicates selected landscape and seascapes under focus in OP6**

The aims of the selected two Landscapes and Seascapes are to consolidate previous phase's results and to enable further replication and lessons learnt. In addition, consideration was given for the country situation and easy access to these regions. After discussion, the NSC is in support of the selection of the two Land/Seascapes to work with during the current OP6.

#### Note:

In the prepoaration of land/seascapes scoping two modalities were followed. Such was the only possibility to reach consensus and agreement among stakeholders on such selection under on-going civil war circumstances.

1. Direct contact with stakeholders : Thorough this direct discussion s were held with relevant stakeholders of which the NC conducted all of them.
2. Remote stakeholders and partners were contacted and drafts were communicated to them .

It was obvious that under prevalent situation at the time there was no other mean to build up common consensus and get stakehoilders agreement on the selected landscapes and seascapes.

Participant of the landscape/seascope scoping exercise were principally the followings:

- NSC members
- Partners in both landscape/seascapes
  - o Hodiedah: Tihama Development Authority
  - o Socotra: Environmental Protection Authority