

**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY – GEF  
SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME – SGP**

**GEF SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME  
STRATEGY FOR OP6  
2015-2018**

**COUNTRY: BELARUS**

**MINSK, 2016**

## Contents:

Acronyms:.....	3
1. SGP Country Programme Strategy for OP6 .....	4
2. SGP country programme niche (3 pages).....	7
3. OP6 strategies .....	15
4. Expected results framework .....	24
5. Monitoring & Evaluation plan (1 page) .....	31
6. Resource mobilization plan (1 page) .....	33
7. Risk Management Plan (1 page).....	34
8. National Steering Committee Endorsement.....	36
9. Annexes .....	37

## ACRONYMS:

**ABS** - Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing  
**AMR** - Annual Monitoring Report  
**CBD** - UN Convention on Biological Diversity  
**CBO** – Community based organization  
**CSO** - Central Statistics Office  
**EE technologies** - Energy efficient technologies  
**GDP** - Gross domestic product  
**GHG** – greenhouse gas  
**MEAs** - multilateral environmental agreements  
**NAMA** - Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions  
**NAP** - National Action Programme  
**NAPA** - National Adaptation Plans of Action  
**NBSAP** - CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan  
**NC** – National Coordinator  
**NCSA** - National Capacity Self-Assessment  
**NGO** – non-governmental organization  
**NIP** - National Implementation Plan  
**NPFE** -National Portfolio Formulation Exercise  
**NSC** – National Steering Committee  
**NSDS** - National Strategies for the Development of Statistics  
**PA** – Programme assistant  
**POPs** - Persistent Organic Pollutants  
**PPP** - purchasing power parity  
**PRSP** - Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper  
**RES** - Renewable Energy Science  
**SAP** - Strategic Action Programme  
**SDGs** – Sustainable Development Goals  
**SEP** – South-East Part  
**SGP** - The GEF Small Grants Programme  
**SPA** – Specially Protected area  
**UNCCD** - UN Convention to Combat Desertification  
**UNDAF** - United Nations Development Assistance Framework  
**UNDAP** - United Nations Development Assistance Plan  
**UNDP** – United Nations Development Programme  
**UNECE** - The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
**UNESCO** - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
**UNFCCC** - UN Framework Convention on Climate Change  
**UNICEF** - United Nations Children's Fund  
**UNIDO** - United Nations Industrial Development Organization

## 1. SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY FOR OP6

-----  
[Times New Roman 11 font in text, 10 font in tables, except where otherwise indicated]

### REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

#### OP6 resources (estimated US\$)<sup>1</sup>

- a. Core funds: 400.000 US\$
- b. OP5 remaining balance: 1,767
- c. STAR funds: 1.000.000 US\$
- d. Other Funds to be mobilized:

#### Background:

As a GEF corporate programme, SGP aligns its operational phase strategies to that of the GEF, and provides a series of demonstration projects for further scaling up, replication and mainstreaming. Action at the local level by civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities is deemed a vital component of the GEF 20/20 Strategy (i.e. convening multi-stakeholder alliances to deliver global environmental benefits and contribute to UNDP's Strategic Plan and focus on sustainable development).<sup>2</sup> At the global level, the SGP OP6 programme goal is to “effectively support” the creation of global environmental benefits and the safeguarding of the global environment through community and local solutions that complement and add value to national and global level action”.

---

<sup>1</sup> The level of SGP OP6 resources is an estimated total of: (i) the GEF6 core grant allocation (to be reviewed annually by CPMT on the basis of performance, co-financing and strategic partnerships, demonstrated NSC commitment rates, and UNOPS delivery); (ii) approved STAR resources; as well as (iii) other sources of third party cost sharing & co-financing (country, regional and/or global levels). Note that countries with remaining OP5 balances that have not been pipelined, will be expected to use these balances in line with the OP6 strategic approach in order to be coherent in terms of SGP programming and results expected.

<sup>2</sup> The initial SGP OP6 concept was incorporated into the strategic directions for the overall GEF-6 replenishment, and subsequently approved by the GEF Council paper “GEF Small Grants Programme: Implementation Arrangements for GEF-6” (GEF/C.46/13) in May 2014.

## SGP country programme - summary background

GEF SGP is recognized as one of the leaders among international donor organizations operating in Belarus since January 2005, because it promotes local empowerment, mobilizes local resources to solve community problems, helps communities develop their capacities to address environmental problems by managing project resources. GEF SGP seeks to increase participation and enhance responsibility of communities for their decisions and to encourage them to share costs, with the ultimate objective to ensure a long-term sustainability and a high multiplier effect of the efforts. The project strategies are based on sustainable development concepts: to maintain the balance between human economic and social needs and environmental imperatives.

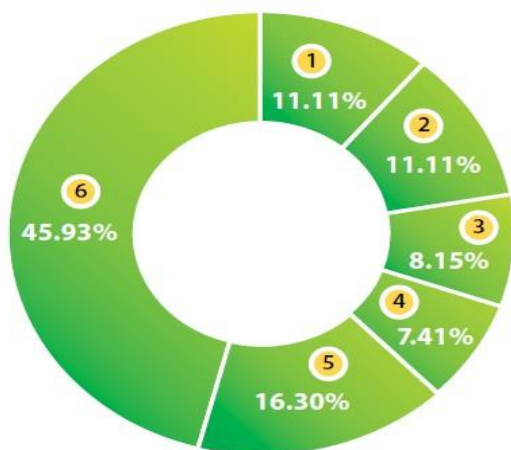
GEF SGP provides funding up to \$50,000 per project for community actions. A decision to provide grants is made by the National Steering Committee of GEF SGP that includes representatives of Belarus' government, offices of the UN Development Program and the World Bank in the Republic of Belarus, non-governmental organizations and scientific community of Belarus. GEF SGP is managed by the national coordinator with the support of the UNDP country office. 126 pilot projects (Table 1) have been implemented by GEF SGP in Belarus since 2006. The majority of them aim to respond to various challenges and to adapt to climate change (45.93 % of the total). Considerable resources have been directed to preserve biodiversity (16.30%) and to build up capacities of local communities in implementing environmental actions (11.1 %) (Fig. 1). About 28 % of the projects aim to combat land degradation and persistent organic pollutants and to protect international watercourses. The distribution pattern of the GEF SGP resources across the focal areas is similar to that of the supported projects (Fig. 2). The GEF SGP funds (up to \$50,000 per project) empower local communities to implement specific projects and achieve desirable results. More than that, by allocating funds for community action GEF SGP also helps mobilize additional resources. As a rule, GEF SGP encourages beneficiaries to make an equal contribution. Thereby, the average project amount is in the range from \$75,000 to \$150,000.

In Belarus GEF SGP supports civil society leadership and capacity building to carry out environmental action.

Табл. 1. Количество и бюджет проектов ПМГ по приоритетам ГЭФ с 2006 года  
Table 1. Number and budget of the SGP projects across the GEF focal areas since 2006

Тематический приоритет ПМГ ГЭФ GEF SGP focal areas	Кол-во проектов Number of projects	Сумма гранта, USD Grant, USD	Софинансирование, USD Co-financing, USD	% софинансирования % of co-financing
Изменение климата Climate change mitigation	62	2,594,153	2,877,068	111%
Биоразнообразие Biodiversity conservation	22	737,412	870,779	118%
Стойкие органические загрязнители Elimination of persistent organic pollutants	15	584,567	530,277	91%
Дегradация земель Prevention of land degradation	11	503,288	390,961	78%
Международные водотоки Protection of international waters	10	301,011	296,604	99%
Повышение потенциала НКО Capacity building of NGOs	6	271,086	59,566	22%
<b>Общий итог Total:</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>4,991,517</b>	<b>5,025,255</b>	<b>101%</b>

During the Fifth Operational Phase local NGOs utilized twice as much funds as in the Fourth Operational Phase; it demonstrates that their potential in elaboration and implementation of local projects has increased (Fig. 3). GEF SGP in Belarus has two geographical priorities but is not limited by them. The first one covers the Pripjat area; the second one is located along the boundary of Belarus with Poland, Lithuania and Latvia. Following its basic principles, GEF SGP has supported 55 projects in five focal areas during its Fifth Operational Phase.



- 1 Повышение потенциала  
Capacity building of NGOs
- 2 СОЗ  
Elimination of persistent organic pollutants (POPs)
- 3 Дegrаdация земель  
Prevention of land degradation
- 4 Международные водотоки  
Protection of international waters
- 5 Биоразнообразие  
Biodiversity conservation
- 6 Изменение климата  
Climate change mitigation

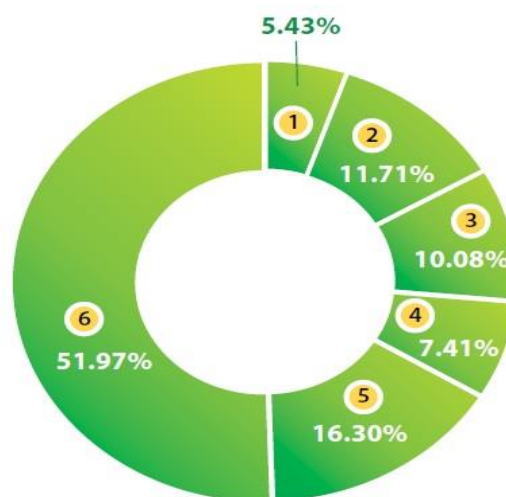
Рис. 1. Долевое распределение тематики проектов, поддерживаемых ПМГ ГЭФ, по приоритетам ГЭФ по всем операционным периодам

Figure 1. Distribution of the GEF SGP projects across the GEF focal areas for all the operational phases

- 1 Повышение потенциала  
Capacity building of NGOs
- 2 СОЗ  
Elimination of persistent organic pollutants (POPs)
- 3 Дegrаdация земель  
Prevention of land degradation
- 4 Международные водотоки  
Protection of international waters
- 5 Биоразнообразие  
Biodiversity conservation
- 6 Изменение климата  
Climate change mitigation

Рис. 2. Долевое распределение выделяемых финансовых ресурсов ПМГ ГЭФ по приоритетам ГЭФ по всем операционным периодам

Figure 2. Distribution of the GEF SGP resources across the GEF focal areas during all the operational phases



In OP6, SGP Belarus is expected to receive US\$400,000 from the GEF Core funds for grant-making across GEF focal areas, which is subject to review annually by CPMT on the basis of the country programme performance, demonstrated commitment and delivery rates. Also, the country programme has US\$1,000,000 endorsed from OP6 STAR resources for climate change mitigation thematic area. The latter will be utilized in line with the GEF-SGP OP6 strategic approach outlined in this Strategy paper.

Experience, knowledge and partnerships of past operational phases will serve as a foundation for effective use of limited resources of SGP in OP6. Taking into account that partnerships are critical for SGP implementation both in technical and financial terms, the country programme will further strive to maintain and expand existing partnership relations with bilateral and multilateral donors, UN agencies, as well as private sector and government for complementarity and cost-sharing opportunities addressing the linkages between environment and poverty in OP6.



## 2. SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME NICHE

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

Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Parlament Decree №2358-XII 10.06.1993
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	19 November 2010, № 1707 (2011-2020)
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	22 May 2014, (Decree of the President № 235 from 22 May 2014)
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Decree of the President № 177 from 10 April 2000
UNFCCC National Communications (1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> )	1st 2003; 2n, 3rd, 4th 2006; 5th 2009, 6th 2013.
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	n/a
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	no
UN Convention to Combat Désertification (UNCCD)	Decree of the President № 393 from 17 July 2001 27.11.2001
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	Decree of Ministry of Environment 28.01.2011 № 8-P
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	22 May 2001
SC National Implémentation Plan (NIP)	27 June 2011 r. (Decree of the President № 271)
Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	no
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	2003-2005
GEF-6 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	no
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies <sup>3</sup>	2014 (Dnieper/Dnipro – Dnipro Basin Strategic Action Programme and Implementation Mechanisms)
Minamata Convention on Mercury	Not ratified, signed on 24.09.2014
National Strategy of Sustainable Socio-Economical Development of Belarus until 2030	Adopted by the Council of Ministers, 10 Feb 2015
State Program “Protection of the Environment and Sustainable use of Natural Resources” for 2016-2020	Adopted by the Council of Ministers, 17 Mar 2016 № 205
State Program of Development of South-East part of Mogilev region	Adopted by the Decree of the President № 235 from 8 Jun 2015

2.2. Given the country environmental priorities as represented in Table 1 above, what are the opportunities (relate this also to assessments of accomplishments in section 1 above) to promote the meaningful involvement of communities and civil society organizations in their further development or updates as well as national implementation? Which of these priorities need immediate preparation and capacity building for

<sup>3</sup> Please identify existing IW regional projects and the regional SAPs adopted by countries sharing international waterbodies so as to align SGP local interventions. Please check this website to find some of the SAPs:  
<http://iwlearn.net/publications/SAP>

(i.e. climate COP 21 will be by December 2015, SDGs will be adopted in September 2015 and countries will then develop national implementation plans, etc.) so that opportunities for community and CSO involvement in them are fully exploited?

In the GEF 6th Operational Phase, SGP Belarus will reflect country's priorities for community-driven approaches to addressing global environmental issues. In the coming four years of the SGP in Belarus, GEF 6<sup>th</sup> Operational Phase will be a continuation of the ongoing modality and operational framework. Following national and regional consultations, special priority will be given to support activities in South-Eastern part of Mogilev region taking into account the implementation of the landscape approach.

The GEF/SGP Belarus will support the following types of interventions: demonstration aimed to achieve measurable improvements in the state of globally important environment, while helping to generate income and create employment in rural areas (with special focus on Mogilev region); capacity building to improve organizational skills and institutional mechanisms in designing, implementation and monitoring of policies, plans, and projects; targeted research, monitoring and evaluation; policy dialogue and information dissemination as well as raising awareness among stakeholders. Emphasis will be placed on the projects that address both the GEF criteria, national environmental priorities and community needs, and provides clear and measurable outputs after the project is finished.

The priority will be given to the projects that are multi-functional and involve as many components as possible with special attention to activities in the area of adaptation of climate change mitigation. The projects should be also focused on contribution to implementation of relevant SDGs.

Projects should aim to seek one to one co-financing in order to show the applicants interest and commitment to the project and for project sustainability and ownership. For the same purpose, activities that link environmental issues and income generation or cost saving and also improve livelihoods will be given special emphasis.

Implementation of the GEF SGP in Belarus provides many opportunities for already existing NGOs and CBOs as well as those groups, which are in their development stage. The Program will specifically work with NGOs and CBOs in Mogilev region to contribute to growth of economically poor areas, primarily rural-based households and communities whose livelihoods could be improved through their participation in environmental projects.

In view of the aforementioned, the Strategic Objective of SGP country programme in Belarus is to demonstrate that implementation of small-scale projects by local communities and CSO partners can lead to significant benefits for local livelihoods and environment, and at the same time contribute to global environmental benefits:

Goals of SGP GEF in Belarus are:

1. Integration of global environmental priorities into national environmental and conservation actions on local level;
2. Demonstration of community-level strategies and technologies, which can decrease threats for global environment by means of replication;
3. Ensuring of global environmental and local community benefits in key-areas of GEF activities in frame of landscape approach;
4. Strengthening of partner relations between governmental environmental agencies, environmental NGOs and local communities for solving of environmental problems and advancing sustainable development.



In frame of achieving its goals, SGP Belarus will also focus on the following cross-cutting issues:

- a. advancing of climate-smart solutions on local level in Belarus,
- b. Addressing existing and emerging national and local environmental threats;
- c. Development of socially responsible financial mechanisms to support environmental innovations;
- d. Promotion Education for Sustainable Development
- e. Capacity development of environmental CSOs in Mogilev region and national CSOs for their effective engagement in environmental governance and implementation of the newly launched Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Overview of the potential for complementary and synergy of the SGP strategic directions with the government, UNDP/UN System, donor-funded and NGO-led initiatives has identified a set of topics that will be considered for partnership and co-funding opportunities during the OP6.

The Government of Belarus has consistently applied efforts to reduce and terminate the use of ozone-depleting substances in industry and agriculture<sup>4</sup>. Installation of dust and gas-traps increased the proportion of trapped and neutralized emissions from stationary sources from 77% in 1990 to 88% in 2010. From 1990 to 2010, GHG emissions went down from nearly 140 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent per year to about 90 million tons CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent. The UNCT and the Government will cooperate to reduce the amount of pollutants discharged into the atmosphere from 6, 62 tonnes/km<sup>2</sup> in 2013 to 6, 49 tonnes/km<sup>2</sup> in 2020.

In 2013, Belarus set national targets in the field of water management and water supply and sanitation in order to fulfil the obligations under Protocol on Water and Health. The pollution of water by urban wastewater discharges, agricultural and industrial producers remains a challenge. The main pollutants are biogenic. The UN will assist the Government in reducing the waste water and pollutant discharge into water objects. UNECE and UNDP will support the Government in transboundary cooperation on water management and climate change adaptation in the Neman River basin. Assistance is also being planned by UNECE for development of river basin management plans and mechanisms for exchange of data in transboundary basins according to principles of the UNECE Water Convention.

Waste management, having significant implications for disease burdens, remains one of the priority areas in the field of environmental protection. The country generates more than 1400 types of waste, including toxic (hazardous) waste whose production slightly increased recently, but whose share in the total generated waste decreased from 3.1% in 2000 to 2% in 2010 and whose procession has exceeded the volume generated<sup>5</sup>. UNDP will assist the country in reducing hazardous waste storage of 1 – 3 hazard class from 87% in 2013 to 65% of the figure in 2020.

The country has 1240 Specially Protected Areas, including 1 natural reserve, 4 national parks, and 94 wildlife sanctuaries of national importance, 267 wildlife sanctuaries of local importance, 306 natural territories of national importance and 568 natural territories of local importance. As of 1 March 2015, Specially Protected Areas represent 1797 thousand hectares (8,6% of the country area), including the area of the natural reserve

<sup>4</sup>The Scientific-Research Economic Institute of the Republic of Belarus (2012). 'Sustainable Development of the Republic of Belarus Based on Green Economy Principles', National Report, Minsk, 2012.

<sup>5</sup> The Scientific-Research Economic Institute of the Republic of Belarus (2012). 'Sustainable Development of the Republic of Belarus Based on Green Economy Principles', National Report, Minsk, 2012.

and national parks – 475 thousand hectares; the area of wildlife areas - 1307 thousand hectares; and the area of nature sanctuaries – 15 thousand hectares. Besides the development of a system of Specially Protected Areas a wide range of measures is being used for preservation of natural ecosystems and protection of biological and landscape diversity, including development of a national ecological network, transfer to users of water objects and land plots of rare and typical biotopes that will be protected by such users, areas of growth of wild plants and dwellings of wild animals included in the Red List of the Republic of Belarus.

Raising environmental awareness and promoting measures aimed at ensuring sustainable behavioural changes of the population with regard to the environment are cross-cutting priorities. UNDP, UNECE, UNICEF, UNIDO and UNESCO will implement measures aimed at environmental education and raising awareness about environmental protection and sustainable natural resources management.

Belarus established more than 120 technical standards and regulations for fuel, energy resources and energy-consuming products. Belarus reduced its energy intensity from 0.69 tons of oil equivalent per thousand of 2005 USD of GDP (PPP) in 1990 to about 0.23 t.o.e. in 2010<sup>6</sup>. UNECE estimated that the measures with the greatest potential for improving energy efficiency are the use of EE technologies in industries, beneficial use of secondary material and energy resources (use of RES), heat supply optimization, high efficiency power generation installations and increased efficiency of boilers and furnaces. During the course of the UNDAF 2016-2020, UNDP, UNEP and other UN agencies will cooperate with the Government, state bodies, enterprises and NGOs to assist in reducing GDP energy intensity.

Belarus has a significant potential in the development of renewable energy sources. Belarus has joined the International Renewable Energy Agency, has adopted the Law on Renewable Energy (2010) and the National Programme for Development of Local and Renewable Energy Sources for 2011-2015<sup>7</sup>. Despite that, the share of renewable energy sources increased only slightly over the last years: from 4.5% in 2005 to 5.6% in 2013 in gross energy resources consumption. UN agencies will mobilize resources to assist in increasing the share of primary energy produced from renewable energy sources in the total amount of energy consumed from 5.5% in 2015 to 6% by 2020.

SGP Belarus is committed to manage its programme activities in a way to contribute to the outcomes expected from the UNDAF by 2020. In particular, the country programme will be contributing towards the UNDAF thematic area 3: Environmental Protection and Sustainable Environmental Management Based on the Green Economy Principles and in particular to the Outcome 3.1:

- By 2020, policies have been improved and measures have been effectively implemented to increase energy efficiency and production of renewable energy, protect landscape and biological diversity and reduce the anthropogenic burden on the environment.

Also, implementation of the proposed strategy will compliment to the National UNDP priority: Preservation of the natural potential for future generations, preservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests,

---

<sup>6</sup>[http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2013/12/09/000461832\\_20131209105632/Rendere d/PDF/774580CASOP1320C0disclosed060130130.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2013/12/09/000461832_20131209105632/Rendere d/PDF/774580CASOP1320C0disclosed060130130.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> The Scientific-Research Economic Institute of the Republic of Belarus (2012). 'Sustainable Development of the Republic of Belarus Based on Green Economy Principles', National Report, Minsk, 2012.

combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss; urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all (NSDS 2030; draft SDGs); environmental sustainability (Post-2015 national consultations).

As part of the strategy for complementarity and synergy, the country programme will also strive to mainstream its activities in environmental and social programmes financed by the government, such as Program of Socio-Economical Development of South-East part of Mogilev region. It is believed that SGP incremental funding will scale-up the impact of state-funded initiatives and foster CSO-government partnership.

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

1 SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	2 GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	3 Briefly describe the SGP Country Programme niche <sup>8</sup> relevant to national priorities/other agencies <sup>9</sup>	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>- Improvement of effectiveness of management of SPAs, and enlargement of protected area network;</li> <li>- Improvement of terrestrial and ecosystems and biodiversity protection, restoration of disturbed habitats;</li> <li>- Reduction of direct pressure on biodiversity through promotion of sustainable use by local communities, and introduction of eco-system services accounting;</li> <li>- Promotion of sustainable agro- and eco-tourism to generate sustainable income and preserve the environment;</li> <li>- Increase of environmental management capacity of local communities and CSOs to improve conservation and sustainable use of biological resources in and around SPAs</li> </ul>	<p>“Clima-East: Conservation and sustainable management of peatlands in Belarus to minimize carbon emissions and help ecosystems to adapt to climate change” UNDP project.</p> <p>Preservation of the natural potential for future generations, preservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</p>

<sup>8</sup> “Niche” refers to the role or contribution that the Country Programme is best fitted to perform and for which the other stakeholders agree with

<sup>9</sup> Describe only for those OP6 strategic initiatives which will be programmed by the SGP country programme.

<p>Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology; Community landscape/seascape conservation</p>	<p><i>Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To support CSOs initiatives aimed at the development of organic agriculture;</li> <li>- Introduction and development of innovative water management practices and technologies in agriculture;</li> <li>- Promote integrated natural resource management and sustainable land use practices at ecosystem and farming systems to prevent land degradation;</li> <li>- Improve marketing opportunities for farmers and competitiveness of agro products;</li> <li>- Restoration of degraded forests and afforestation to maintain/enhance carbon sink in forest lands;</li> <li>- Implementation of activities contributing to sustainable forest management in line with the international agreements;</li> </ul>	<p>“Clima-East: Conservation and sustainable management of peatlands in Belarus to minimize carbon emissions and help ecosystems to adapt to climate change” UNDP project</p> <p>Growth and development are inclusive and sustainable, incorporating productive capacities that create employment and livelihoods for the poor and excluded.</p>
<p>Community landscape/seascape conservation</p>	<p><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></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting the improvement of surface and groundwater quantity and quality and innovative approaches to rational use of water resources</li> <li>- Improvement of public awareness and public participation in the water sector decision-making process;</li> <li>- Supporting community initiatives eliminating causes of land-based sources of pollution (e.g. sustainable handling of organic and non-organic fertilizers and manure, etc.)</li> <li>- Supporting community based activities (small scale, cost-effective or ecological) in cleaning small rivers and lakes joining international waters and sustaining their livelihoods.</li> </ul>	<p>Addressing integrated water resource management</p>

Energy access co-benefits	<i>Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy generation, including development of incentive mechanisms;</li> <li>- Supporting new ventures to promote development of the energy efficient and renewable energy technologies;</li> <li>- Supporting the development of plans of climate neutrality for municipalities and territories;</li> <li>- Supporting awareness-raising and educational activities to increase public and stakeholders interest to the energy efficiency.</li> </ul>	Inclusive and sustainable solutions have been adopted to achieve increased energy efficiency and universal modern energy access
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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raising public awareness on issues and risks related to POPs and harmful chemicals pollution;</li> <li>- Increasing capacity for public participation in chemicals management;</li> <li>- Reducing/eliminating the releases of POPs and other hazardous chemicals into the environment and impact on human health (including chemicals in products, Hg, lead in paint, and other);</li> <li>- Promoting application of modern and safe methods for solid waste management (including waste prevention, zero waste approaches)</li> </ul>	Reducing the risk to human health and environment through sound management of hazardous chemicals and contaminated sites; Solutions developed at national and subnational levels for the sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste
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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To support activities, aimed on CSOs to enhance and strengthen their capacities to participate in consultative processes, implement MEAs guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends during the implementation of SGP projects</li> <li>- To support mechanisms of co-operation between environmental CSOs, and their networks and government agencies (including support of</li> </ul>	<p>“Support to Local Development in the Republic of Belarus” UNDP project.</p> <p>Supporting frameworks and dialogue processes to ensure meaningful involvement of civil society and citizens in national and local development and policy formulation</p>

		<p>Forum of Environmental NGOs of Belarus)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To support initiatives on environmental knowledge management, including the SGP web-site, work-shops, photo stories, environmental festivals, SGP Belarus network case studies, peer-to-peer learning, mass-media, etc.</li> </ul>	
<p>Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)</p>	<p><i>GEF Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Gender Equality Action Plan and GEF Principles for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensuring implementation of principal recommendations of the <i>UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</i> and fulfilment of the obligations assumed by Belarus under other ratified international documents on gender and social equality;</li> <li>- Ensuring equal participation of men and women in all aspects of social life to foster the socio-economic, political, cultural development of the country;</li> <li>- Promote participation of youth in the political, economic and cultural life</li> </ul>	<p>“Support to Local Development in the Republic of Belarus” UNDP project. Targeting socially excluded and vulnerable groups including: people living below the national poverty line; women in rural areas, including women-led households; persons with disabilities; youth, particularly unemployed youth; and border communities</p>
<p>Contribution to global knowledge management platforms</p>	<p><i>Contribute to GEF KM efforts</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expanding international cooperation in the field of environmental science and technologies;</li> <li>- Supporting science, technologies and innovation-based knowledge development and targeted application of gained knowledge in education and different spheres of economy, including “green economy”.</li> </ul>	<p>Providing financial assistance, experience, knowledge and development of analytical products for evidence-based decision-making, innovation and unconventional solutions</p>



### 3. OP6 STRATEGIES

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

In OP6, SGP in Belarus will target certain geographic landscape of significant importance (Mogilev region), where greater strategic impacts can be achieved with limited resources. Unlike the previous operational phases, in GEF-6, the programme will focus its grant-making from six focal areas and 11 immediate objectives to four priority themes that are multi-focal in character, as listed below:

- (a) Community Landscape Conservation,
- (b) Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology,
- (c) Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits,
- (d) Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions, and
- (e) Community-based actions for International Waters management

These strategic initiatives are designed to foster synergies among the GEF focal areas and deliver integrated solutions through utilization of about 70% of OP6 grant-making resources.

Up to 30% of remaining OP6 funds (Core and STAR) may be directed to support cross-cutting projects at national level outside the selected landscape area. These projects will support capacity development, knowledge management, policy and planning, CSO-government dialogues platforms as well as other important initiatives that will enhance reputation and strategic positioning of the SGP country programme.

Based on the comments received during the OP6 CPS consultations, the following programming directions were identified for the cross-cutting grant-making support in OP6:

- Promoting innovative technological solutions, management approaches and community participation tools in line with the concepts of “green” economy;
- Building capacities of NGOs for better participation in environmental policy analysis and formulation, as well as development of strategic and legislative documents relevant to environmental governance and sustainable development;
- Supporting ecological education and awareness raising on global environmental issues and relevant MEAs;
- Addressing significant and/or urgent environmental risks and threats in Belarus, including risks for biodiversity, ecosystems, water objects and other territories;
- Addressing risks, arising from climate change, including activities on climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- Supporting CSO-government dialogue platforms that promote civil society engagement with government in the context of multilateral environmental agreements;
- Provision of new opportunities for partnerships, knowledge generation/dissemination for replication and translation of the SGP lessons into policy.

The following criteria will be applied while selecting SGP 6<sup>th</sup> phase projects under the mentioned directions:

- Being in line with SGP OP6 strategic initiatives;
- Being consistent with national strategic and policy approaches;
- Promoting increase of population well-being in local communities;

- Ensuring social inclusion, particularly gender and youth.

---

### 3.2 Landscape/seascape-based OP6 grant-making strategies<sup>10</sup>

The process of the focus area selection was initiated with consultation and scoping exercise to communicate and build capacities about the SGP and its strategic initiatives in OP6, to identify the priority directions in line with the national development agenda and discuss the potential for synergy with UNDP and other partner agencies. Taking into account the position of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, Ministry of the Environment, the consultations aimed to achieve broader consensus on the country programme approach in OP6 to achieve greater strategic impact through clustering of projects and achievement of synergies. The major stakeholders included National Focal Points of the Rio Conventions, government officials, UNDP country team, sectoral experts, NGOs and community-based organizations, academia and other partners. The comments and suggestions presented during the meetings were mainly in line with the major national strategic documents, such as National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2030, and the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus #235 from 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2015 “About Development of South-East territories of Mogilev region”.

Selection of the landscape area of focus for SGP in OP6 was carried out taking into consideration the available funding for grant-making, niche, opportunities, challenges and potential for synergies, as well as based on the public consultation meetings and governmental environmental priorities. Public consultations and discussions were held during the National Forum of Environmental NGOs in Belarus (2015), National GEF Conference (2016), National Environmental Forum (2015), as well during stakeholders meeting in Mogilev (2016). More than 200 participants from the representatives of NGOs, community-based organizations, self-governance authorities, regional administration, educational institutions and other local stakeholders took part in the consultations.

The results of the overall consultation process presented to the SGP NSC, led to the landscape option, which is **the South-East part (SEP) of Mogilev region of Belarus (Krichev, Klimovich, Krasnopolye, Kostyukovich, Slavgorod, Cherikov, and Hotimsk districts)**. This zone was approved by the NSC as a priority focus area for OP6 SGP grant-making in Belarus. Such decision was made considering the need to have more cumulative and targeted impact in the territory affected by consequences of Chernobyl Catastrophe.

---

<sup>10</sup> Refer to the various guidance documents on landscape/seascape selection and assessments.



Picture 1. South-East districts of Mogilev region

South-East part (SEP) - is 28.3% of the territory in the south-east of Mogilev region, with about 130 thousand inhabitants or 12.2% of the total population of the region. Economic and demographic situation in SEP remains difficult for many years, mainly because of the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. Over the past 10 years the number of SEP population decreased by 16.8%, which is higher than the corresponding figures for the region and the country.

For the development of SEP there was signed the Presidential Decree of June 8, 2015 № 235 "On the socio-economic development of the south-eastern part of the Mogilev region" and approved the Program of socio-economic development of SEP of Mogilev region for the period up to 2020 (including territories of Klimovichi, Kostyukovichskij, Krasnopolye, Krichev, Slavgorod, and Cherikov Khotimsk districts).

Areas of SEP except Khotimsk have undergone long-term radioactive contamination. In general, the territory of SEP is very important for biodiversity. There are 11 species of birds and animals, which are listed in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus. To protect them, and other unique natural sites there are several local wildlife protected areas and natural monuments of local and national importance. There are also plans to establish a new biological reserve in the region. The presence of forest exclusion zones contributed to the growth of the wolf population and the reduction of its fodder led to the exit of predators in the settlements and the attack on the people. Threats to biodiversity include rapidly spreading invasive plant species: Cow Parsnip of Sosnowski (*Heracléum sosnówskyi*) and Canadian Maple (*Acer saccharum*). Water system of SEP is represented by river Sozh with its many tributaries flowing into the Dnieper. In the last 3 years Sozh was not overflowed because of the lack of snow, as well as the possible impact of mining and reclamation. Shallowing leads to depletion of fish resources, which is enhanced by overgrowing of floodplains bushes due to the termination of fodder.

Among cross-cutting environmental problems the region is facing overgrowing by bushes of various territories, including radioactive-polluted territories, forest fires and field burns, shallowing of rivers and increasing shortage of drinking water. In addition, the region is completely dependent from external energy supply.

The region needs the support from GEF SGP in order to increase environmental sustainability and complement the efforts of the government in this area. The efforts of the GEF SGP will be more effective while enhancing the human potential in the region, which is relatively weak today. It is important to strengthen the capacity of CSOs and CBOs in the area of development and implementation of projects. Today among all CBOS and CSOs in the region only 1 CSO and 3 CBOs (out of 40) have experience of projects implementation.

The rationale for selection of the target landscape for the SGP in Belarus is detailed in the participatory Baseline Assessment Report (Annex 2).

The OP6 CPS consultations with different stakeholders in the selected region have identified the following possible priorities for grant-making support in the South-East part (SEP) of Mogilev region:

*I. Common for all districts:*

- The long-term radioactive contamination of the region reveals itself as follows:
  - 1) by restricting the use of the natural area development potential (agricultural lands, forests, floodplains),
  - 2) by increasing the production cost (involves additional costs of protective measures),
  - 3) by exacerbating the already difficult demographic situation (the highest migration outflow of the population);
  - 4) by increasing the social burden on the state to ensure radiation safety living conditions for the population.
- Low cost and energy efficiency of the real economy.
  - 1) the production technology requires modernization;
  - 2) most businesses and organizations suffer from high debt load;
  - 3) poor diversification and lack of production aimed at the external market;
  - 4) lack of professional staff;
  - 5) unclaimed vacant production, educational and cultural premises in rural areas;
  - 6) lack of services, for example, no slaughter facilities.

- Low private enterprise activity in manufacturing and agriculture, which requires the support of environmentally friendly and safe organizational and developmental practices of private business (organic farming, production of import-substituting products, etc.).
- Land degradation related to the interruption of human activities and land overgrowth.
  - 1) large-scale floodplain overgrowth by trees and shrubs, which reduces the spawning areas, production of cattle food and has a negative impact on biodiversity;
  - 2) spatial distribution of invasive plants: Sosnowski hogweed and Canadian maple;
  - 3) the increase in the number of sparsely populated rural areas and their overgrowing with trees and shrubs, which requires significant resources to maintain the landscaping;
  - 4) the need to restore the hydrological regime of small peat bog areas;
  - 5) forest and grassland fires (burns), especially on the land with limited economic activity due to the radioactive contamination.
- Shallowing rivers and declining fish resources due to the global warming and warm snowless winters, inefficient melioration systems, mining activities, floodplains and fallow lands overgrown with bushes. The shallowing of rivers caused the extinction of such species as the eel, the bream and the pike-perch.
- Poor quality of drinking water, mainly because of the high iron content, with water deferrization stations required everywhere. There are more and more communities with water leaving the wells and drinking water supply required. In addition, the quality of water in many mine shafts is unsatisfactory;
- Air pollution and pollution of surface and underground water bodies with wastewater in the districts of the south-eastern part of Mogilev region is insignificant, with the exception of three major industrial and agricultural districts: Kostyukovich, Klimovich and Krichev. The air and water protection measures shall ensure the environmental safety of the territory.
- The increase in the timber waste volume. Wood processing is one of the most profitable and rapidly developing economic activities. The increase in wood production volumes entails large amounts of lumber waste, hardly suitable for further use because of the lack of wood chip and pellet production equipment. Besides, the only boiler in the region working on wood chips as a fuel is the one in Klimovich.
- low awareness of the population and many professionals of organizations and enterprises in the field of resource and energy conservation.
- High depreciation of water treatment plants and storm drainage systems in major cities of the region;
- Increased threat of forest and field fires, especially on polluted territories.

## *II. Unique for one or several districts:*

- the mining pit safety in Kostyukovich, Klimovich and Krichev districts, which require upgrading and creating the safe recreation environment. There are a number of small mining pits in other districts as well that can be forested or transformed into public recreational and leisure facilities;
- recycling large livestock facility waste, which poses a threat to the ecology of rivers and the entire region. Such facilities are in Cherikov and Klimovich districts;



- high anthropogenic load on the unique natural sites, for example, the "Blue Krynica" Source, a natural site of national importance. Up to 100,000 people visit this place during the high season, with between 5 and 10 thousand at a time on the Makavei holiday;
- threats to biodiversity. There are nesting areas of the roller and the black stork as well as the bear habitats etc. in the territory of Slavgorod, Cherikov, Krasnopolye and Khotimsk districts. It requires strengthening the environmental activities and regulating the access to the territory. One of the most important activities is quality monitoring in the areas most densely populated by protected species of animals and birds;
- threatening liquidation of unique industries based on the natural potential of the area: sheep breeding and flax growing in Khotimsk districts;
- the risk of weediness and destruction of natural and man-made ecosystems, for example, the "Ash grove" and the "Ivan's farm" in Krasnopolye district;
- the continuing decline in groundwater levels around mining pits, which will increase the number of the settlements with neither access to drinking water from wells nor central water supply (Krichev district);
- the increase in the number of predator raids on settlements registered in the settlements adjacent to depopulated areas. There are cases of wolves attacking people (Krasnopolye, Cherikov, Kostyukovich districts).

### III. The growing points in SEP could be as follows:

- Forestries and their tree and shrub nurseries, as well as "School Forest farms", set up in cooperation with the Department of Education (Kostyukovich district), summer camps in Klimovich district.
- Cooperation on the use of equipment to take care of the floodplains;
- Cluster approach to fundraising in tourism and region promotion, which involves of the regional development agency creation.
- Vocational schools and colleges, able to launch new courses appreciated in today's job market (e.g. alternative energy equipment maintenance, tourism etc.), which will increase the competitiveness of educational institutions and their popularity with students.
- Cooperation with religious organizations that motivate and urge the locals to develop. A striking example is the village of Vydrinka in Krasnopolye district, the villages of Lesnaya and Golubaya Krynica in Slavgorod district;
- Large water bodies, which are vital for the local population, as well as make the area attractive for people and potential investors. For example, the Paluzhskoe water reservoir in Krasnopolye district, the unique recreation facilities at the Besed river in Kostyukovich district.
- The unique production facility development, such as trout farming in Kostyukovich district mining pits.
- Setting up alternative energy generation parks (Kostyukovich, Slavgorod, Khotimsk and Klimovich districts).



### **Possible priorities for OP6 Strategic initiatives in the South-East part of Mogilev region:**

- Adaptation of forest sector of SEP of Mogilev region to climate change consequences, with special focus to radioactive polluted territories (establishing of remote fire monitoring system in polluted forest territories and preparation of fire response measures – several districts);
- Rehabilitation of water regime on the territory of SEP of Mogilev region and development of plan of actions for climate change adaptation measures (there is a common need to address the general shoaling of Sozh, which is important part of local ecological system and source of income for local communities);
- Restoration of wetland meadows in Sozh river basin as important territories for traditional grazing and biodiversity conservation;
- Increasing capacity of local nature conservation and monitoring bodies and organizations;
- Supporting of development of local business initiatives based on ecosystem services.

### 3.3. Grant-maker+ strategies <sup>11</sup>

Apart from regular grant-making, non-grant support services will be also provided by the SGP during the 6<sup>th</sup> Operational Phase, such as institutional building, knowledge networking, and policy advocacy. The new “*Grantmaker+*” support mechanism will be introduced based on the SGP experience, knowledge and assets accumulated over the years and create value beyond grant-making. SGP Belarus, therefore, will assume the role of a “*Grantmaker+*” to organize the additional support services and added value especially for CSOs/CBOs from Mogilev region through the following approaches:

- i) Providing trainings and advice on capacity buildings for local organizations on project design, project management and implementation, and fundraising, including support in development of relevant proposals for accessing non-GEF sources of funding;
- ii) supporting the establishment of a “*SCO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platform*”.

The OP6 *Grantmaker+* strategies and related activities may either be outside of the selected landscape zone, or promote partnership building, networking and policy development within the target areas.

#### 3.3.1. CSO-Government Dialogue Platform

The SGP country programme will support establishment of CSO-government dialogue platforms aimed at promotion of the role of CSOs, uptake of good practices, influence policies and enhance communications. Above all, SGP Belarus will help local and regional CSOs enhance their capacities to engage in national policy analysis and dialogue processes related to environment and sustainable development policies in an informed and skilled manner. Using the trust built with both CSOs and Government, SGP will act as a “bridge” and facilitate collaborative discussions on identified issues, where the interests of citizens and communities will be duly represented. It is believed that creation of functional dialogue platforms at the national and sub-national levels will bring CSO needs and ideas to the Government, allow sharing knowledge,

---

<sup>11</sup> The OP6 Grant-maker+ strategies and related activities may either be outside of the selected landscape/seascapes, or promote partnership building, networking and policy development within the target areas.

best practices and lessons learned from CSO projects that government can scale-up and integrate into national policy and planning.

During OP6, SGP Belarus will build on experience and lessons learned from OP-5 projects, especially the CSO-Government collaborative models supported through the EU-NGO project funding, to further inform and influence policy at the local, regional and national levels.

### 3.2.2. Policy influence

SGP's long-term and active presence makes the programme in a favourable position to influence national policy formulation processes. SGP Belarus will continue using experiences and lessons learned from its projects to influence changes in national and regional regulations, and contribute local level insights to national consultative dialogues related to international environmental processes. Policy advocacy and change means may include direct advocacy campaigns, knowledge production and policy influence by SGP-empowered CSO networks. Furthermore, SGP will strive to make best use of its strong partnership relations with key governmental and non-governmental players and policy makers, as well as influential donors to ensure a strong support in mainstreaming SGP's best practices and approaches into the national policies.

### 3.2.3. Promoting social inclusion (mandatory)

The GEF Small Grants Programme has a long history of investing in local actions that foster social inclusion, while achieving global environmental and development objectives. In OP5, women, youth and other vulnerable groups, remained the largest category of SGP beneficiaries in Belarus. Given that women empowerment and youth engagement have been two important initiatives of SGP, NSC has designated a focal point for gender and youth, respectively to track grant-making towards women and youth focused projects.

SGP Belarus is committed to further address gender mainstreaming during the GEF-6 by aligning with the GEF Policy on Gender Mainstreaming, inclusion of specific gender targets in the OP6 CPS document and using gender-sensitive indicators, expansion of partnerships with women organizations and provision of trainings to SGP national staff, NSC members and grantees. Besides, the country programme will collect, record and report sex-disaggregated data by including gender disaggregated data in the project proposal template as well as progress and final reports, which will be reposted in the SGP database.

In OP6, the country programme will further promote and strengthen involvement of children and youth in design and implementation of the SGP-funded initiatives, as well as their leading role in addressing global environmental benefits. Acknowledging the integral role of youth participation in any debate on the future development of Belarus, SGP Belarus will work closely with youth and youth-support organizations to ensure that youth are informed, engaged and empowered to contribute to sustainable human development and resilience of their communities.

Another focus group for OP6 inclusive strategy of SGP Belarus will be vulnerable and marginalized people that are mostly existent in small, remote communities affected by Chernobyl catastrophe and located in South-East part of the Mogilev region.

#### 3.2.4. Knowledge management plan

Knowledge management strategy implies the collection and dissemination of information concerning the experience gained from each individual project and the entire project portfolio across the GEF thematic areas. The objective of the knowledge management efforts is to facilitate the flow of knowledge and experience, leverage lessons learned from both successful and unsuccessful projects, and to replicate and scale-up good practices and community innovations. At the country level, best SGP practices will be used as an influence mechanism for development and formulation of national policy for implementation of environmental conventions and development agendas. At the global level, examples of tested technologies, comparative advantage and experience of the country programme from OP6, as well as previous phases, will be shared and disseminated through SGP Digital Library of Community Innovations and South-South Community Innovation Exchange Platform.

Knowledge management will be one of the key activities of the SGP Belarus. Knowledge and experience gained through SGP projects will be collected and consolidated in handbooks, factsheets, case studies, films and video materials. This information will then be widely disseminated among practitioners to determine the best practices and strategies and to compare and share experience. Experience will also be shared at seminars, meetings, public presentations, knowledge fairs and through different electronic networks and media. Training programmes, workshops and visits to demonstration sites conducted within the SGP projects are of special importance in the knowledge management aspect.

SGP Belarus will encourage continuous knowledge sharing among the present and past grantees to share best practices and lessons learned; document best practices distributed; create a "directory of expertise" among SGP grantees to call upon each other for advice; develop websites and e-groups for regional groupings.

SGP Belarus will ask applicants to include a component for demonstration and knowledge dissemination in proposed projects. Regular short "press releases" will be prepared and disseminated in electronic and/or printed form by the grantees for updating the public on the past (successes, awards, recognitions, etc.), present and future activities. The grantees will be required to ensure continuous and open exchange of knowledge and lessons learned with other applicants. The accessibility of information will be a requirement to all SGP participants.

#### 3.2.5. Communications Strategy

SGP communication strategy focuses on communication and participation with a view to strengthening collaboration and creating partnerships. It is closely linked to SGP knowledge management system and aims to ensure engagement of key stakeholders and CSOs in the country programme activities, build relationships and foster partnerships; as well as to articulate the contribution of the SGP to the national priorities, GEF mandate, and UNDP country programme document and communications strategy.

The target groups (or “audiences”) of the SGP country programme Communication Strategy include: *i*) CSOs and communities within and outside of the selected landscape zone; *ii*) government counterparts; *iii*) private sector; *iv*) UN Agencies; *v*) donor community; *vi*) mass media; *vii*) direct beneficiaries and public at large.

To facilitate the uptake of good practices and enhance communications, the above-listed target audiences will be provided with tailor-made, easy to read, up-to-date and eye-catching information on best practices, community innovations and lessons learned that may contribute towards improving policy and decision-making at national and local levels.

## 4. EXPECTED RESULTS FRAMEWORK

4.1. Please fill in the table below (Table 3) which shows in Column 1 the OP6 global project components and global targets (in number of countries) as described in the GEF CEO Endorsement document.

For your SGP country programmes, put in Column 2, 3, and 4 your national-level CPS targets, activities, and indicators for each of the relevant integrated (multi-focal area) OP6 strategic initiatives you have selected to focus on (countries may select to work on all or only some of the priority initiatives).

The indicators and targets identified in the CPS should include some that contribute to the global portfolio level indicators of SGP OP6<sup>12</sup> as identified in the OP6 CEO Endorsement Document’s Results Framework, while including others that are specific to the national or landscape/seascape context (that may be identified through a detailed baseline assessment process).<sup>13</sup>

For Column 5, put in any additional means of verification that is applicable and practical to your country and selected landscape/seascape.

<sup>12</sup> For more information refer to the SGP OP6 CEO Endorsement Document, Annex A “Project Results Framework”.

<sup>13</sup> Specific indicators and targets relevant to grant-making in selected landscape/seascape areas of focus should be identified through the baseline assessment process, which will identify typologies of community projects in the landscape or seascape relevant to country priorities and the selected SGP OP6 strategic outcomes.

Table 3. Consistency with SGP OP6 global programme components

1 OP6 project components	2 CPS targets	3 Activities	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 1:</u> <i>Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation:</i></p> <p>1.1 SGP country programmes improve conservation and sustainable use, and management of important terrestrial and coastal/marine ecosystems through implementation of community based landscape/seascape approaches in approximately 50 countries</p>	<p><i>Outline of proposed landscape areas of focus at the country level</i></p> <p><i>Number and typology<sup>14</sup> of landscapes/seascapes: 1 target areas for approx. 70% of OP6 grant-making resources</i></p> <p><i>List of IW SAPs supported in river/lake basin management and coastal and ocean management (e.g. in the areas of habitat management, fisheries and land-based pollution)</i></p>	<p>Incorporating nature-friendly practices into community livelihoods for sustainable use of biological resources and management of ecosystems (Supporting domestic activities that depend on bio-resources, including agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry, and tourism to sustain local livelihoods; Raising awareness on biodiversity and ecosystem services and increasing knowledge on bio-resources management for sustenance of ecosystems and livelihoods) (Approx # of projects: 4)</p> <p>Promoting effective community-oriented forms of conservation in support of forest ecosystems, critical protected areas, biodiversity hotspots and ecological corridors (Introducing working models of community</p>	<p><i>Target # of hectares</i></p> <p><i>Landscape baseline assessment indicators (TBD)</i> <i>See Annex 1 and 2</i></p> <p><i>Number of community members with improved livelihoods related to benefits from protected ecosystems</i></p> <p><i>Number of significant species with maintained or improved conservation status</i></p> <p><i>Number and hectares of significant ecosystems with</i></p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Baseline assessment comparison variables (use of conceptual models and partner data as appropriate)</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p>

<sup>14</sup> Typology here means the kind of landscape (mountain, low-lying plain, valley, riverine, etc.) and seascape (wetland/mangrove, river basins, bays, seagrass to corals, etc.). There could also be a combination of a landscape with a seascape (i.e. from upper watersheds to coastal mangrove, seagrass and coral ecosystems) which is actually preferred as it covers the continuum of related ecosystems and communities. For the other initiatives, typology means the practice/technology utilized such as solar, mini hydro, wind, biogas, clean efficient stoves, etc. for energy access and co-benefits and organic farming, silvopasture, agroforestry, etc. for climate smart innovative agroecology.

		<p>conservation and monitoring practices to maximize biodiversity conservation and associated benefits for local people, and to decrease the negative consequences of Chernobyl catastrophe) (Approx # of projects: 2)</p> <p>1.3 Promoting community- based approaches for conservation and sustainability of transboundary river ecosystems (Promoting integrated water resources management at river basin level and demonstrating community-level practices for improving of water regime of transboundary water bodies) (Approx # of projects: 2)</p>	<p><i>maintained or improved conservation status</i></p> <p><i>Hectares of forests and non-forest lands with restoration and enhancement initiated</i></p> <p><i>Number of SAPs to which SGP is providing implementation support</i></p> <p><i>Number of regional transboundary water management processes to which SGP is contributing good practices and lessons</i></p>	
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 2:</u> <i>Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology:</i></p> <p>2.1 Agro-ecology practices incorporating measures to reduce CO2 emissions and enhancing resilience to climate change tried and tested in protected area buffer zones and forest corridors and disseminated widely in at least 30 priority countries</p>	<p><i>Outline of proposed agro-ecology practices, climate resilience, including integration into priority production landscapes and seascapes</i></p>	<p>Developing and promoting agro-ecological innovations to reduce agricultural emissions, increase carbon storage on farmland and enhance resilience of people, farms and ecosystems to climate change (Promoting innovative climate smart agro-ecological practices, including organic agriculture, aiming at restoration and conservation of land, agrobiodiversity and associated agro-ecosystem services from pastures, haylands and other productive landscapes) (Approx # of projects: 4)</p>	<p><i>Target # of hectares</i></p> <p><i>Landscape/seascape baseline assessment indicators (TBD)</i> <i>See Annex 1 and 2</i></p> <p><i>Hectares of production landscapes under improved sustainable use practices, leading, where possible, to certification through recognized</i></p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes (SEPLs)</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p>



			<i>environmental standards that incorporate biodiversity considerations (supported by SGP)</i>	
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 3:</u> <i>Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits:</i></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><i>At least one innovative typology of locally adapted solutions demonstrated and documented</i></p> <p><i>At least (insert appropriate country target number) households achieving energy access Co-benefits such as resilience, ecosystem effects, income, health and others rigorously estimated<sup>15</sup></i></p>	<p>Enhancing capacity of local communities to apply low-carbon technologies (Supporting demonstration, replication, scale-up and knowledge sharing of innovative low-GHG technologies that proved to be feasible and cost-effective;</p> <p>Enhancing capacities of CSOs and community-level stakeholders in developing and implementing innovative and locally applicable low-carbon technologies;</p> <p>Raising public awareness on climate change mitigation measures and related environmental and social benefits)</p> <p>(Approx # of projects: 7)</p>	<p><i>Number of typologies of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations for scaling up and replication</i></p> <p><i>Number of households achieving energy access with locally adapted community solutions, with co-benefits estimated and valued<sup>16</sup></i></p>	<p>AMR, country reports</p> <p>AMR, global database, country reports</p> <p>Special country studies<sup>17</sup></p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p>

<sup>15</sup> Only applies to lead countries in this strategic initiative

<sup>16</sup> Only applies to lead countries in this strategic initiative

<sup>17</sup> Only applies to lead countries in this strategic initiative

			<i>Number of national or international partners or agencies are aware of SGP practices and lessons</i>	
<p><b>SGP OP6 Component 4:</b> <i>Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions:</i></p> <p>4.1 Innovative community-based tools and approaches demonstrated, deployed and transferred, with support from newly organized or existing coalitions in at least 20 countries for managing harmful chemicals and waste in a sound manner</p>	<p><i>Outline of innovative tools and approaches to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>pesticide management</i></li> <li>• <i>solid waste management (plastics, e-waste, medical waste and so on),</i></li> <li>• <i>heavy metals management, and</i></li> <li>• <i>local to global chemical management coalitions</i></li> </ul>	<p>Promoting innovative community-based tools and approaches for safe management of harmful chemicals and waste</p> <p>(Approx # of projects: <b>3</b>)</p>	<p><i>Target # beneficiaries (gender, youth, indigenous peoples, and disability disaggregated)</i></p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Strategic partnership with IPEN country partners</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>
<p><b>SGP OP6 Component 5:</b> <i>CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms (Grant-makers+):</i></p> <p>5.1 SGP supports establishment of “CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms”, leveraging existing and potential partnerships, in at least 50 countries</p>	<p><i>Outline of CPS focus for “CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms” as part of expanded OP6 Grant-makers+ role</i></p>	<p><i>Global level OP6 priority</i></p> <p><i>Cross-cutting priority for the CPS at the national level</i></p>	<p><i>Target # “CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms initiated (at least 1 – with regional focus – Mogilev region) CSO networks strengthened</i></p> <p><i>At least 1 CSO capacity building mechanism is supported;</i></p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>SGP Global Database</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>

<p><u><b>SGP OP6 Component 6:</b></u> <i>Promoting Social Inclusion (Grant-makers+):</i></p> <p>6.1 Gender mainstreaming considerations applied by all SGP country programmes; Gender training utilized by SGP staff, grantees, NSC members, partners</p> <p>6.2 IP Fellowship programme awards at least 12 fellowships to build capacity of IPs; implementation of projects by IPs is supported in relevant countries</p> <p>6.3 Involvement of youth and disabled is further supported in SGP projects and guidelines and best practices are widely shared with countries</p>	<p><i>Outline of CPS approach to social inclusion, including assumptions with regards to national content for supporting vulnerable and marginalized populations</i></p>	<p><i>Global level OP6 priority</i></p> <p><i>Cross-cutting priority for the CPS at the national level</i></p> <p><i>Mainstreaming gender issues through the SGP programme and incorporating within the SGP project cycle</i></p>	<p><i>Target # beneficiaries (gender, youth, indigenous peoples, and disability disaggregated)</i></p> <p><i>Target # indigenous fellows (individuals) 100% of SGP projects funded in OP6 addressed gender equity issues as a mandatory cross-cutting requirement;</i></p> <p><i>A designated gender focal point on the NSC provided expertise on gender issues and facilitated review of any gender components of projects</i></p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>SGP Global Database</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>
<p><u><b>SGP OP6 Component 7:</b></u> <i>Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge program (Grant-makers+):</i></p> <p>7.1 Digital library of community innovations is established and provides access to information to communities in at least 50 countries</p>	<p><i>Connections between CPS and global priorities for the digital library and SSC Innovation Exchange Platform</i></p> <p><i>(i.e. examples of tested technologies, comparative advantage and experience of SGP country programme)</i></p>	<p><i>Global level OP6 priority</i></p> <p><i>SGP country teams (NC and PA) global database inputs</i></p> <p><i>Collecting and archiving SGP best practices for sharing the knowledge generated by civil society and community-based organizations</i></p>	<p><i>Target # of country innovations to be shared and disseminated at the global level (at least 2)</i></p> <p><i>At least 15 knowledge materials or documents are uploaded for online sharing</i></p>	<p>SGP Global Database</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>

7.2 South-South Community Innovation Exchange Platform promotes south-south exchanges on global environmental issues in at least 20 countries				
---	--	--	--	--

## 5. MONITORING & EVALUATION PLAN

The projects' monitoring and evaluation system is equal to all projects under SGP Belarus. It is based on the reporting documentation required by SGP globally and some additional requirements for SGP Belarus. That system is based and involves global GEF SGP OP 6 Project and Programme level indicators in the GEF focal areas.

Every project proposal includes identification of expected impacts and impact indicators. The NSC members, NC and PA are responsible to help potential grantees to identify all the indicators. During NC project proposal site visits he always uses this opportunity to help grantees to learn more about Global UN Conventions, GEF and SGP requirements and to finally identify with them and project stakeholders indicators and how the project results and impact will be achieved.

The project proponents are responsible for monitoring and evaluation the achievement of impacts, objectives and production of the project outputs. For each indicator especially on impact level the potential grantees describe how the measurement has to be done. The frequency of monitoring visits by NSC members and/or NC/PA depends on the complexity of the tasks to be sold by NGO/CBO in the project and their experience but not less than twice during the project period in accordance with the project time-table.

All the grantees report to the SGP NC and NSC at the end of each disbursement with detailed description what has been done and how the results were measured. Each progress report is submitting data on the level of achievement of all indicators listed in the project proposal. Thus the progress is documented in the periodical progress reports subject of approval by the SGP NC. That is a requirement for any other funds transfer to the beneficiary. The final evaluation of the project is done by NC and NSC members during final workshop at the end of the project. As a rule at the final workshop stakeholders among them representatives of local authorities, Ministries of Environment, Forestry, Agriculture, UNDP, etc. or their bodies at the regional level and NC evaluates the results achieved on the ground and how and where the project can be up scaled or replicated. If the impact of the project can be measured in a year or so like in cases of reappearance of rear species an additional monitoring visit is foreseen in the project document.

Table 4. M&E Plan at the Country Programme Level

<b>M&amp;E Activity</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Responsible parties</b>	<b>Budget source</b>	<b>Timing</b>
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 <sup>18</sup> 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	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) <sup>19</sup>	Enable efficient reporting to NSC	NC presenting to NSC	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per year in June
Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) <sup>20</sup> 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

<sup>18</sup> The CPS is a living document, and should be reviewed and updated as deemed necessary by the NSC on a periodic basis as part of the annual strategy review.

<sup>19</sup> The country programme should be reviewed in consultation with the NSC members, national Rio Convention focal points, and the associated reporting requirements. The Annual Country Report should be presented at a dedicated NSC meeting in June each year to review progress and results and take decisions on key adaptive measures and targets for the following year.

<sup>20</sup> The AMR Survey will essentially draw upon information presented by the country in the Annual Country Report (ACR) with few additional questions. It will enable aggregation of country inputs by CPMT for global reporting.



## 6. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION PLAN

The SGP has been acknowledged by country-level and global partners as a much needed initiative for Belarus that can be effective in meeting community development needs while at the same time addressing global environmental problems. As such, it has the potential to attract substantial co-financing from a diversity of sources. SGP will continue to identify the potential donors engaged in supporting community-based development issues in addition to those that make contributions to environmental initiatives. This is particularly important given that two primary objectives in this aspect are to cover baseline costs of communities' development needs associated with SGP projects and to ensure projects and programme sustainability in the future.

Resource mobilization efforts will target traditional and innovative funding sources including: bilateral and multilateral organizations within and outside the UN system; international and national charitable foundations and NGOs; national environmental funds; national and local governments; and the multinational and national private sector. Effective and efficient use of funds raised is necessary to maintain and attract donors. Reporting in the appropriate formats and agreed timeframes will be a priority concern for the Program.

The aim of resource mobilization strategy of SGP Belarus is to achieve at minimum 1:1 co-financing to the GEF grant allocation and to cover part of SGP admin costs at the program level.

This aim will be achieved mainly by the following actions:

1. 1:1 requirement for each project co-financing is foreseen for all GEF thematic focus areas.
2. The co-financing partnership shall be established at the project level with the National Environmental Fund managed by the Ministry of Environment (MoE), National Fund for the implementation of new technologies managed by the Committee of Science and New Technologies (CSNT) and the Republican Department of Energy Efficiency (DEE).
4. An Agreement is planned to be reached between SGP Belarus and UNDP CO for co-financing at the project level from UNDP TRAC funds.
5. Negotiations will be continued with International donors acting in Belarus such as EU Programmes, USAID, SIDA as well as EU and US Embassies in Belarus to establish strong cooperation for co financing SGP projects.
6. Program level partnership with at least one international donor in Belarus will be reached.
7. The strategic partnership will be enhanced by close cooperation with medium and full size GEF funded projects managed by UNDP and WB to leverage the usage of GEF funds.
8. The co-financing partnership for projects implemented in the selected landscape (South-East part of Mogilev region) shall be established with Regional and district executive committees for co-financing of the projects under the State Program of Development of South-East part of Mogilev Region.

The geographic and thematic focus areas of SGP Belarus are linked to environmental priorities and plans of the economic activities at the national and municipal levels as well as to the priorities of the International donors. All these provide solid ground for substantial co-financing. The co financing at the projects' level during GEF OP5 and GEF grant allocation was about 100%. That is why we believe that in most cases the co-financing ratio in OP6 would exceed the 1:1 requirement. Each NGO and CBO implementing a project will be required to document and report all attracted co-financing, for which the SGP team will provide guidance and assistance.

## 7. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Main risks identified during preparation of the CPS are presented in the Table 5.

Table 5. Description of risks identified in OP6






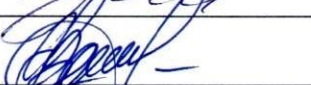
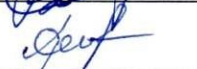

Describe identified risk	Degree of risk (low, medium, high)	Probability of risk (low, medium, high)	Risk mitigation measure foreseen
Belarus is not a priority for many bilateral donors, which creates a challenge in mobilizing resources for CSOs.	Medium	Medium	Increased number of bilateral donor consultations, based on CPS, establishing new forms of private partnerships
Insufficient awareness on SGP OP6 among executive agencies (corresponding Ministries, regional and local authorities, Department on Humanitarian assistance) and business entities.	Medium	Low	Presentation of new phase of SGP to all involved stakeholders on national and regional levels; active role of NSC members and NC.
Insufficient understanding and lack of interest among SGP project proponents (NGOs, CBOs, etc.) on environmental issues and SGP OP6 strategic directions.	Medium	Low	Running of informational events and consultations on SGP strategic directions and priorities among potential project proponents
Community-level stakeholders in Mogilev region does not have sufficient capacity to develop and implement SGP projects	Medium	High	SGP introduces a capacity building program directly focused on CSOs/CBOs in Mogilev region
Community-level stakeholders do not acknowledge benefits of sustainable use of natural resources and thus, lack motivation to participate in project activities.	Medium	Low	Building capacity of stakeholders, and making the link between sustainable use of resources and economical benefits
Low confidence on the ensuring the	Medium	Low	The SGP country team will stimulate project

sustainability of the results of the projects implemented within SGP OP6.			implementers to pay significant attention to the sustainability questions, and will examine this issue during M&E.
National policy does not quickly adopt/uptake the best practices and lessons learned from the SGP projects.	Low	Medium	This is indeed a long process, however GEF SGP has a long history of introducing changes into the national legislation, and this experience will be used during the OP6.
Project implementers will not be able to register SGP projects according national procedure for humanitarian projects	High	Low	SGP office will provide consultations on registration issues to all grantees and will facilitate necessary support.

The mentioned risks will be tracked during the OP6 programme implementation and revised through CPS review. Then, the degree of risk, or probability of risk may be adjusted. If necessary, initially identified risks may be also removed and new ones added with appropriate mitigation measures.

## 8. NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT

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

NSC members involved in OP6 CPS development, review and endorsement	Signatures
Y. Solovjev, Chair of the SGP Belarus NSC	
A. Zhdanovich, Member of the SGP Belarus NSC	
V. Baitchorov, Member of the SGP Belarus NSC	
I. Tchoulba, Member of the SGP Belarus NSC	
N. Minchenko, Member of the SGP Belarus NSC	
E. Klochan, Member of the SGP Belarus NSC	
I. Voitekhovich, Member of the SGP Belarus NSC	
A. Shybitskaya, Member of the SGP Belarus NSC	

## 9. ANNEXES

### **Annex 1: OP6 landscape/seascape baseline assessment**

Participatory OP6 landscape/seascape baseline assessment (please attach report)

### **Annex 2: OP6 donor partner strategy annexes**

Please attach a detailed CPS Annex for specific partnership with donor partners as required (i.e. Australian government-funded SIDS CBA; Community Based REDD+ (CBR+) with UN-REDD; Japanese government supported *Satoyama*-COMDEKS initiative, EU NGO governance programme, and German BMUB Global ICCA Support Initiative).