



The GEF- Small Grants Programme Country Programme Strategy for the Sixth Operational Phase

Period: 2015 – 2018

Country: THE GAMBIA
Resources to be invested: US \$3. 3 million
Co-funding: US \$1. 5 million (GEF MSP)

Table of contents

1.0 Background	7
1.1 Summary background on SGP country programme	7
2.0 SGP country programme niche	9
3.0 OP 6 strategies	11
3.1 Cross-cutting OP 6 grant-making strategies	11
3.2 Landscape/seascape-based OP6 grant-making strategies	12
3.3 Selection criteria for the target landscape/seascape	12
3.4 Opportunities for synergy with other initiatives/partners	13
3.5 Additional funds and resources to be mobilised	15
3.6 Global Biodiversity significance of the selected landscapes/seascapes	15
3.6.1 Kiang West National Park	15
3.6.2 Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve	15
3.6.3 Jokadou National Park	16
3.7 Description of the selected landscapes/seascapes	16
3.7.1 Location	16
3.7.2 Climate	17
3.7.3 Geology and soils	17
3.7.4 Vegetation	17
3.7.5 Biodiversity	18
3.7.6 Socio-economic conditions	18
3.8 Selected priority initiatives for OP 6	18
4.0 Landscape Baseline Assessment and SEPL of the target area	20
5.0 Major threats of the Landscapes/Seascapes	21
6.0 Major opportunities of the target landscapes/seascapes	22

7.0	The Landscape/Seascape strategy	22
7.1	Vision	22
8.0	Main Outcomes and Impact Indicators	23
8.1	Project Outcomes and Indicators	23
9.0	Typology of Potential projects	24
10.0	Criteria for Project Selection	25
11.0	Identified priority intervention areas for the selected landscapes/seascapes	25
11.1	Innovative Agroecological Practices	27
11.2	Wetland restoration	27
11.3	Promoting sustainable livelihoods	28
11.4	Capacity building	29
12.0	Grantmaker+ strategies	29
13.0	CSO-Government Dialogue Platform	30
14.0	Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions	31
15.0	Policy Influence	31
16.0	Social Inclusion	31
17.0	Knowledge Management	33
18.0	Communications	34
19.0	Monitoring and Evaluation	37
20.0	Results Framework	38
21.0	Resource Mobilization	44
22.0	Risk Management	45

List of Maps

Map 1:	Location map of The Gambia	7
Map 2:	Locations of the 3 protected areas	19
Map 3:	Administrative regions of The Gambia	45
Map 4:	The 3 selected landscapes/seascapes for OP 6	45

List of Tables

Table 1:	List of relevant conventions and national/regional plans or programmes	9
Table 2:	SGP contribution to national priorities/GEF 6 cooperate results	10
Table 3:	M&E plan at the country level	34
Table 4:	Consistency with SGP global programme components	37
Table 5:	Description of risks identified in OP 6	43

Annexes

Annex 1:	Scoping Report	46
Annex 2:	Baseline Assessment Report	49
Annex 3:	Administrative regions of The Gambia	69
Annex 4:	The 3 selected landscapes/seascapes for OP 6	70
Annex 5:	Protected Areas and Corridor Communities	70

ACRONYMS

ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
ACR	Annual Country Review
AMR	Annual Monitoring Report
BBWR	Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	Community Based Organisation
COMDEKS	Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative
COMPACT	Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation
CPMT	Central Programme Management Unit
CPS	Country Programme Strategy
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FSP	Full Sized Project
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ICCA	Indigenous and Community Conserved Area
IDB	Islamic Development Bank
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural development
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
JNP	Jokadou National Park
KWNP	Kiang West National Park
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEA	Multilateral Environment Agreement
MOA	Memorandum Of agreement
MSP	Medium Sized Project
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action
NAP	National Action Programme
NAPA	National Adaptation Plan of Action
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NC	National Coordinator
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NIP	National Implementation Plan
NPFE	National Portfolio Formulation Exercise
NSC	National Steering Committee
OP	Operational Phase
PA	Protected Area
PAGE	Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutant
PRCM	Regional Coastal and Marine Conservation Programme
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategic Paper
RAMSAR	Convention on wetlands of international importance
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SE4ALL	Sustainable Energy for All
SEPL	Socio- Ecological Production Landscape

SGP	Small Grants Programme
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
STAR	System for Transparent Allocation of Resources
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDAF	United National Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP CO	United National Development Programme Country Office
UNFCCC	United National Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
VDC	Village Development Committee

Section 1

1.0 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).¹ 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.*”

1.1 Summary background on the SGP Country Programme



Map 1: Location of The Gambia

The Gambia joined the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme in 2008 being the third year of the fourth operational phase. In late 2009, the programme administered its first set of grants to Civil Organisations. The fifth Operational Phase (2011 - 2014), was the first full operational cycle the country programme went through.

In the fifth operational phase, 59 community-based projects were awarded to civil society organizations in the focal areas of Biodiversity conservation, land degradation, sustainable forest management, climate change mitigation, protection of international water bodies, phasing out of chemicals and cross-cutting

¹ 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.

capacity development. The total value of grants awarded amounted to US \$1, 732, 000 and co-funding totaling about 50 % of the total cash financing by the GEF.

Among the different projects financed, biodiversity conservation accounted for about 32% of the total awarded, followed by land degradation accounting for about 23% of the total. In addition to regular projects financed during OP 5, 2 strategic projects were also implemented which replicated and up-scaled innovations in two critical ecosystems in two different parts of the country with successful outcomes.

Capacity limitations within CSOs, particularly among CBOs were major challenges the programme had to deal with during the fifth operational phase. A strategic approach was adopted to address the shortcomings by targeting change agents working at the grassroots level who received training on proposal development to enable them submit good quality proposals on behalf of CBOs in their respective communities. Additional capacity building projects were also financed targeting CSOs including the first knowledge fair showcasing environment and sustainable development best practices. To facilitate information flow among different partners and organisations, an SGP- grantee network was established linking more than 75 CSOs across the country.

Significant results were registered by SGP in The Gambia during OP 5 implementation across the different focal areas. Among them, large amounts of degraded agricultural lands were restored back to productivity by implementing soil and water conservation measures in critical watersheds. In mangrove ecosystems, more than 30 hectares of degraded mangrove habitats were restored to vegetation in the western part of the country. Community forest conservation schemes were supported in some communities with re-forestation initiatives including tree planting in degraded forest reserves and open farmlands. Sustainable livelihood activities such as bee keeping, soap, body cream, candle making and vegetable gardening schemes for women, were supported in many communities as part of livelihood enhancement.

In OP 5, the country programme received 2 major international awards in recognition of outstanding accomplishments. The Equator Prize was awarded to a CSO led by women in 2012 and The Wolfgang Newman Energy Globe Award was awarded to a youth organisation in 2013 for innovative work in climate change mitigation among certain coastal communities.

The SGP also collaborated with a GEF FSP regional project on endemic ruminant livestock conservation by co-funding the community livelihood components with some significant impacts registered in the target areas.

In selected communities across the country, SGP supported local community-led efforts in sustainable forest management by providing technical and financial support to facilitate their participation in the community forestry management schemes. These efforts have helped to stem the tide of deforestation in affected communities.

A great deal of awareness at the national level has been created in the area of energy conservation through the use of energy-efficient cooking stoves with the production and promotion of various prototypes of cooking stoves across the country.

2.0 SGP country programme niche

The Gambia is a signatory to various Multilateral Environmental Conventions (MEAs) and has implemented various initiatives to address environmental issues of global concern. Below are some important MEAs which have been ratified and in various stages of implementation.

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

Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	June, 1994
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	1999
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	July, 2014
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	June, 1994
UNFCCC National Communications (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd)	2003, 2011
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	2015
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA)	Dec, 2007
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	1996
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	2000
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	2002
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	2005
Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	2011
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	2005
GEF-6 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	June, 2015
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies ²	1984
Minamata Convention on Mercury	(Signed) May, 2014

In pursuance of its development objectives, The Gambia has adopted a 3-pillared approach to sustainable development hinged on promoting economic growth, social development and environmental protection. Various strategies have been adopted to address issues of food security, poverty reduction specifically targeting the youthful population, women empowerment and environmental security. In 2014, the government created a new Ministry of Water Resources, Climate Change, Forestry, Parks and Wildlife Management with an added mandate to vigorously address climate change issues.

In OP 6, SGP will work closely with the relevant CSO stakeholders to compliment and add value to the national development goals and outcomes. The community-led initiatives to be supported will be in line with the stated national policy goals and objectives thus ensuring a high degree of complementarity.

The SGP programme will also complement the UNDP CO system strategies such as The Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) which is focusing on key areas including environmental protection and sustainable human development. Table 2 outlines the different initiatives SGP aims to complement in OP 6.

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 ³ relevant to national priorities/other agencies ⁴	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"> - NBSAP process - Programme of Work on Protected Areas. - Gambia PA Network and Com. Livelihood improvement project. - RAMSAR convention. - Agric. & NRM Policy. 	<p>CPS would contribute to the UNDP's Ecosystems and Biodiversity Strategy: unlocking the potentials of PAs.</p> <p>Will also complement UNDP work on promoting use of natural res. Thru. Community-based NRM initiatives. .</p>
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"> - FAO climate smart agric. Project. - Ministry of Agric. SLM project. 	CPS will complement UNDP – UNDAF Pillar 1: Environmental sustainability and disaster risk reduction and services operationalized.
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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Abidjan Convention - The Regional Coastal and Marine Conservation Programme (PRCM) in West Africa 	SGP would complement UNDP CO programme on promoting growth based on creating employment and livelihoods for the poor and the socially excluded.
Energy access co-benefits	<i>Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NAMA (2015) - Will complement National Energy Policy - Climate Change Policy (2016) - SE4ALL initiative 	SGP work in promoting energy access co-benefits would contribute to UNDP CO Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative and NAMA projects on renewable energy for rural communities..

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>	Would be involved in implementation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Stockholm convention - Montreal Protocol - Minnamata convention 	UNDP CO support to chemicals management will be complimented.
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"> - Decentralization policy (2012) - GEF NGO Network and others to enhance capacity of CSOs in MEA implementation and strengthen networks for information exchange. 	-SGP programmes in this area would UNDP development forums regularly convened for its partners. - Will complement UNDAF programme on promoting access to best practices at national & local levels.
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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Gender Policy (2010 – 2020) - Programme For Accelerated Growth and Employment (PAGE). 	Would complement UNDP's Country Programme Action Plan (Outcome 2): promoting sustainable livelihood security for disadvantaged groups will be strengthened.
Contribution to global knowledge management platforms	<i>Contribute to GEF KM efforts</i>	Would work with partners to actively contribute to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digital Library - Communities Connect 	Will compliment UNDP CO work programme on promoting technology transfer through South-South Dialogue.

Finally, efforts to link up and complement GEF FSP/MSP already started in OP 5, will be stepped up in OP 6. SGP was involved in the GEF 6 national Portfolio Formulation Exercise where national priorities for GEF intervention were identified and agreed upon by country stakeholders thus uniquely placing SGP to play an important role during this operational phase.

3.0 Operational Phase 6 Strategies

3.1. Cross-cutting OP6 grant-making strategies

From the national level scoping exercise which took account of the relevant national strategies in support of MEA implementation and the opportunities offered by SGP, 4 critical cross-cutting areas were selected for SGP support outside of the landscape/seascape strategic areas. These 4 areas are: Innovative Climate Smart Agro-Ecology, Energy Access Co-benefits, local to global chemical coalitions and CSO-Government dialogue platforms. These 4 strategic initiatives will be allocated approximately 30% of OP 6 funding.

3.2 Landscape/seascape-based OP6 grant-making strategies

In the wake of declining GEF resources in OP 6, a strategic approach was adopted to prioritize SGP programme interventions in The Gambia. During this operational phase, 3 sites have been selected through consensus among the stakeholders based on a defined set of criteria among which was the need to focus on a geographical hotspots and the presence of other partner/donors so as to achieve maximum impacts. Based on the experiences of the fifth operational phase where the interventions were scattered all over the country, separated by geographical space and disconnected on the landscape, OP 6 programme approach aims to create connectivity among interventions particularly habitats for effective biodiversity conservation.

As such the OP 6 approach will be based on identifying important ecosystems and will adopt a landscape/seascape approach for their conservation and sustainable use. The new programme approach will primarily be geared towards supporting local communities in the conservation of their landscapes/seascapes based on the ecosystem approach to ensure connectivity among habitats and ecosystems as well as enhancing their resilience in the context of *‘societies living in harmony with nature’*. In summary, the landscape/seascape approach is an integrated way of working at scale, linking biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods, food security and resilience.

At the national level, three (3) priority sites have been selected for implementation of the Community Landscape/Seascape conservation approach namely: Kiang West National Park (KWNP), Jokadou National Park (JNP), and Bao-Bolong Wetland Reserve (BBWR). KWNP is located in The Lower Region while both JNP and BBWR are located in the North Bank Region respectively. The 3 national parks are wildlife protected areas and contain some of the country’s remaining biodiversity both terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity.

Baseline assessments were conducted using the ‘Toolkit for the indicators of resilience in Socio-ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes’ (SEPLs) as the main guiding document. Socio-ecological Production Landscapes and seascapes are described as ‘bio-cultural mosaics of habitats and land and sea uses where the interaction between people and landscapes maintains or enhances biodiversity while providing humans with the goods and services needed for their wellbeing’. It is generally agreed that SEPLs harbor biodiversity that provide local communities with ecosystem services around the world for many years. With a rapidly expanding human population and increasing demands coupled with the introduction of different forms of land use, the capacity of SEPLs to meet human needs in terms of goods and services has been undermined in many places.

3.3 Selection criteria for the target landscape/seascape

In the selection of the 3 landscape/seascape sites as priority areas for programme intervention, a number of important factors were taken into consideration namely:

- The 3 selected areas represent the 3 most important biodiversity- rich ecosystems of global importance in the country and major hotspots where biodiversity is under major pressure.
- The existence of opportunities for achieving synergy and complementarity with GEF MSPs or MSPs within the target areas. In the selected landscapes/seascapes a GEF-funded project called “Gambia Protected Areas Network and Community Livelihood Project” will be implemented and thus offer excellent opportunities for co-funding possibilities and achieving greater programme impacts. The SGP support will be used to fund activities not covered by the said project and it would ensure that there would be no duplication of efforts and resources. This MSP project to be implemented over a 4-year period with up to US \$1.5 million in financing and a further estimated US \$4.0 million in co-financing from another IFAD and The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) project, aims to strengthen the national protected areas network focusing on the 3 PAs (KWNP, JNP & BBWR). The project will also focus on the communities living within and around the 3 PAs by helping them adopt sustainable practices to enhance the resilience of their SEPLs.
- One of the main objectives of The Gambia Protected Areas Network and Community Livelihood Project is to contribute to the national goal of increasing the PA area to 10% by adding some 15, 000 ha to the protected estate, thus increasing the national total PA coverage from 6% to 7.4% of The Gambia’s land area. This objective will be achieved by focusing on the 3 PA sites namely: Kiang West National Park (KWNP), Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve (BBWR) and Jokadu National Park (JNP). This goal is in line with the SGP goal of enhancing biodiversity conservation by linking habitats and providing corridors for wildlife.
- Within this SGP – PA’s project, another partnership will be forged with another partner - The National Agricultural Land and Water Development Project which is funded by IFAD and IDB whose goal is to enhance food security of the rural farming communities by introducing biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices among rural farming communities. This project has agreed to fund the community-based land management activities in the selected landscapes/seascapes thus offering more opportunities for greater results.

Based on the above considerations for achieving a win-win situation for all concerned parties, SGP for its OP 6 programme implementation in The Gambia decided to form a partnership with the “*Gambia Protected Areas Network and Community Livelihood Project*” by targeting the same landscapes/seascapes in OP 6.

3.4 Opportunities for synergy with other initiatives/partners

“*The Gambia Protected Areas Network and Community Livelihood Project*” funded by the GEF will be implemented by The Department of Parks and Wildlife Management and executed by UNDP. This project also target the same 3 PAs as the SGP and will therefore bring in significant amounts of co-

funding resources. A parallel co-funding arrangement will be followed with each party setting out clearly defined areas of activities to be funded by each project.

“The Gambia Protected Areas Network and Community Livelihood Project” to be implemented over a 4-year period at a total cost of US \$1. 5 million, aims to strengthen the national protected areas network and management effectiveness, focusing on a cluster of priority Protected Areas (Jokadu National Park, Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve and Kiang West National Park). The project aims to expand Jokadu National Park by 5,000 ha to connect to Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve and further expand Kiang West National Park by another 10, 000 ha. The expansion of the 3 PAs will provide habitat connectivity among the 3 sites and play a significant role in biodiversity conservation which in the past suffered from habitat fragmentation. The project will target 70,000 people that exert significant pressure on the integrity of these PAs and yield immediate global environmental benefit, through increased integrity and management efficiency of Protected Areas and their surrounding buffer zones.

More importantly, the project will lead to the restoration of natural productivity and conservation of the habitats of a number of plant and animal species and valuable ecosystems. Globally significant biodiversity will be conserved and valuable ecosystem services will be safeguarded.

OP 6 SGP Country Programme Strategy (CPS) will strengthen and support The Gambia’s development agenda which includes the Vision 2010 food security blueprint, The Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment (PAGE) among others.

The CPS will also contribute towards the realisation of some of The Gambia’s development partners notably:

UN Development Assistance Framework Outcome(s) particularly

Pillar 1, Outcome 3 – Environmental sustainability and disaster risk reduction systems and services operationalized.

UNDP Country Programme Action Plan Outcome(s) & Output(s):

Outcome 2 – Sustainable livelihood security enhanced for the disadvantaged groups through the promotion of income diversification opportunities and better management of environmental resources.

Output 2.3 – Sustainable use of environmental resources enhanced.

UNDP Ecosystems and Biodiversity Strategy:

Signature Programme 2 - Unlocking the potential of protected areas (PAs), including indigenous and community conserved areas, to protect biodiversity while contributing to sustainable development.

Key Action Area: Strengthen PA systems and their ability to conserve biodiversity and maintain and enhance ecosystem services.

3.5 Additional funds and resources to be mobilised

An estimated US \$4 million additional is expected to be mobilised as co-funding from the “*National Agriculture and Land Development Project*” (NEMA) whose activities will focus on promoting sustainable land management practices among the communities in the selected landscapes/seascapes. The UNDP has agreed to commit US \$120, 000 from its TRAC resources to the “*The Gambia Protected Areas Network and Community Livelihood Project*” over the 4-year period.

3.6 Global Biodiversity significance of the selected landscapes/seascapes

3.6.1 Kiang West National Park (KWNP) is located in Kiang West District of The Lower River Region and was created and designated as The Gambia’s first PA in 1987. The objective was to provide for the protection, conservation and management of the ecological integrity, diverse wildlife, natural habitats and natural heritage resources and to offer opportunities for economic, recreation, education and scientific purposes. It is considered as the best managed PA in the country with a management plan developed in 1992 and executed through a partnership with 5 of the villages living around it. With an area of 11, 526 ha, the park comprises vast areas of semi-natural ecosystems and one of the most important remaining reservoirs of wildlife in The Gambia.

The park is reported to have the largest concentration of primates and with over 250 bird species recorded, makes it one of the country’s premier wildlife refuge. There are 5 villages living in close proximity to the park but with its intended expansion with an additional 10, 000 ha, the number of villages living close to its proximity will increase to 15.

3.6.2 Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve (BBWR) is a tidal wetland complex located on the North Bank of the River Gambia, directly across the river from KWNP. It extends from the river to The Gambia’s borders with Senegal and offers the potential for bilateral cooperation on biodiversity conservation between the two countries. The reserve consists of six major tributaries which together form a wetland complex of approximately 22, 000 hectares in size. In 1996, BBWR was designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. It is rich in avifauna with over 268 bird species recorded. The reserve has important fish species which provide a cheap source of protein to the local communities. There are 23 villages that surround the reserve with a total population of 51, 556 (*Population and Housing Census, 2013*).

3.6.3 Jokadu National Park (JNP) is a newly designated PA with a land area of 15, 028 ha located on the western fringe of BBWR in the North Bank Region and covers 3 districts. It also consists of a wetland system fringing the river from Jurunku village in Upper Nuimi District to Kinteh Kunda Jannehya in Lower Badibou District. A major portion of the wetlands (approx. 90%) of JNP are used mostly for fishing. The wetland ecosystems include creeks, swamps, vegetated islands, and one of the best mangrove areas in the Gambia. It also includes forested areas on the landward part near the village of Tambana,

adjacent to Kumali Forest Park. The terrestrial and wetland habitat and species assemblage are overall similar to those in KWNP and BBWR. Through “*The Gambia Protected Areas Network and Community Livelihood Project*” - JNP will be expanded by an additional 5, 000 ha to connect to BBWR.

The park’s mangrove ecosystem has recorded five species of mangroves namely *Rhizophora mangle*, *Rhizophora harisonii*, *Laguncularia racemosa*, *Conocarpus erectus* and *Avicennia nitida*. Other species of flora recorded include *Schoenoplectus* spp, *Paspalum vaginatum*, *Sesuvium portulacastrum*, *Typhae australis*, *Phragmites australis*, *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, *Terminalia avicenoides*, *Terminalia macroptera*, *Nauclea latifolia*, *Combretum glutinosum*, *Combretum micrantum*, *Cassia siberiana*, *Detarium senegalensis*, *Strophantus samentosus*, *Lophira lanceolata*, and *Schlerocary abirrea*.

All 3 Protected Areas are located within close proximities and bisected by the River Gambia and experience similar threats which include: bushfires, illegal tree felling, agricultural encroachment, overgrazing, illegal hunting, salinization of riverine wetlands and mangrove die-back. These threats are exacerbated by increasing human population demands on environmental goods and services coupled with climate change and loss of biodiversity.

3.7 Description of the selected landscapes/seascapes

The landscape/seascape areas selected for the implementation of the Socio-ecological production landscape/seascape model consist of 3 sites: Kiang West National Park, Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve and Jokadu National Park.

3.7.1 Location

Kiang West National Park (KWNP) is located in Kiang West District in the Lower River Region. It is located approximately latitude 16°:15’ to 16° West and Longitude 13°:15° to 13°:30° North. Kiang West District is a fairly large district composed of 3 districts (Kiang West, Kiang Central, Kiang East) with a population of 12, 754. The region is considered the poorest region in the country and has been heavily affected by out migration over the years and is considered the least populated district in the entire country.

Jokadou National Park (JNP) is located in the North Bank Region and span 3 administrative districts at latitude 16°:15° to 16° West and Latitude 15°:45° to 13°:30° Degrees North. Jokadu district has a population of 19, 993. As a newly created PA, JNP will receive considerable project support from *The Gambia Protected Areas Network and Community Livelihood Project*” to make it fully operational.

Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve (BBWR) is located in the North bank Region at approximately Latitude 13°:15° and 30°:30° North and Longitude 15°:45° to 16° West. The park is a complex of wetlands stretching into Norther part of Senegal and covers a land area of 22, 000 ha on The Gambia side. BBWR has been designated as a RAMSAR site and is considered a wetland of international importance with a rich variety of fauna and flora.

3.7.2 Climate.

The selected landscape/seascape areas have a tropical semi-arid type climate characterised by a short intense rainy season of 3 – 4 months from June to October followed by a long dry period. The rainfall ranges from 1, 200 mm – 800 mm per annum with a peak period in August. The temperatures average about 36 degrees centigrade in summer to 26 degrees centigrade in winter. The relative humidity ranges from above 80% percent during the wet months to below 30% in the dry months. In general, the area is considered suitable for agriculture but moisture is the most limiting factor due to the prolonged dry period.

3.7.3 Geology and Soils

The target area lies within the tertiary sedimentary basin which has been classified as “*The Sene-Gambian Plateau*” stretching from Mauretania to Sierra Leone. The plateau is mostly composed of sandstone sedimentary rock parent material. Like most of The Gambia, the land surface of the area was derived from this sandstone material laid during the late tertiary period. The soils derived from continental terminal deposits consist of highly weathered detrital sediments made up of clayey sand with quartz gravel and clay. The soil deposits have been subjected to several phases of transport and subsequent deposition by fluvial and Aeolian agents. The composition of the soils are dominated by quartz and clay with smaller percentages of other resistant minerals. Three (3) landscape units can be recognised on the general landscape namely: The plateau, the side slopes and the lowlands with each unit having distinct soil types.

The soils derived from Continental Terminal parent material are well drained but have a low chemical fertility, Cation Exchange capacity (CEC) of the clay fractions is approximately 6 meq/100g. Organic carbon content is generally low (less than 1%) with the Cation Exchange Capacities (CECs) in the range of 1.5 – 5.5 meq/100g. Base saturation is usually fairly high, (between 40 and 100%) in which calcium generally predominates. Phosphorus is generally low (3-6 ppm/100 gm soil).

3.7.4 Vegetation

The vegetation of the area consists of savannah woodlands characterized by shrubs and open grasslands. Wooded areas consisting of dense vegetation and assorted species of native tree species are mostly found in the protected areas and in the community forest reserves where human activity has been largely controlled. Mangroves dominate the inland coastlines along the river and the extensive network of creeks found in the area. The natural vegetation of the area has been heavily modified by humans and is the main causes of land degradation.

3.7.5 Biodiversity

The selected landscape/seascapes are rich in biodiversity and contain important resources which contribute towards the wellbeing of communities in the area. The area has various ecosystems ranging from closed to open woodlands, wetlands, tidal flats and mangroves. The dominant terrestrial vegetation types consist of *Prosopis africana*, which has been overexploitation and near extinction, *Terminalia macroptera*, *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, *Terminalia avicenoides*, *Terminalia macroptera*, *Nauclea latifolia*, *Combretum glutinosum*, *Combretum micrantum*, *Cassia siberiana*, *Detarium senegalensis*, *Strophantus samentosus*, *Lophira lanceolata*, *Daniela olievera* etc. One of the selected landscape/seascape areas – Kiang West, has been adversely affected by illegal logging.

All 3 areas have significant amounts of mangroves containing the 5 most common species found in The Gambia: *Rhizophora mangle*, *Rhizophora harisonii*, *Laguncularia racemosa*, *Conocarpus erectus* and *Avicennia nitida*. The mangrove areas are important breeding ground for marine life which are important source of food for the local populations.

3.7.6 Socio-economic conditions

The overwhelming majority the communities in the area are small scale subsistence farmers who grow both cash crops for export and food crops for local consumption. The total population of the 3 areas is about 70, 000 (*Population and Housing Census, 2013*). The leading cash crop of the area is groundnuts (*Arachis hypogea*) followed by early millet, sorghum and rice. Sesame is another cash crop recently introduced in the area and mostly grown by women farmers. Most farm families, particularly women, keep some local breed of livestock mostly: Djallonke sheep, West African Dwarf Goats and chicken.

Due to poor soils and the lack of appropriate farm implements, food insecurity in the area is considered high. Most households supplement their incomes through petty trading and the male members of the communities often migrate to the urban centres after harvests to carry out petty jobs to supplement their incomes.

3.8 Selected priority initiatives for OP 6

From the 8 priority initiatives of GEF – SGP in OP 6, The Gambia selected 4 priority areas for intervention to focus its grant portfolio during the period 2015 – 2018. The OP 6 approach for SGP hopes to consolidate and further multiply the landscape/seascape community governance model based on the Satoyama (COMDEKS) initiative.

Below is a map showing the location of the 3 selected landscapes/seascapes:



Map 2: Locations of the 3 Protected Areas (Source: Gambia PA Network & Community Livelihood Project)

The 4 selected strategic initiatives which will be the focus for the OP6 Country Programme Strategy are:

- *Community landscape/seascape conservation.*
- *Climate smart innovative agro-ecology.*
- *Low carbon energy access co-benefits.*
- *Local to global chemical management coalitions.*

The Community landscape/seascape strategic initiative to be implemented in the 3 selected landscapes/seascapes, will be allocated approximately 70% of SGP funding. The remaining 30% of funds will be allocated to areas outside the selected landscapes/seascapes focusing on 3 strategic initiatives namely: Climate smart innovative agro-ecology, Low carbon energy access co-benefits and Local to global chemical management coalitions. Within the selected landscapes/seascapes, project interventions will adopt an integrated model to achieve synergies and make greater impacts on the ground.

At the same time, the other remaining strategic initiatives of OP 6 such as promoting social inclusions covering gender and women empowerment, youth and marginalized communities will be incorporated into the 4 chosen strategic initiatives based on their cross-cutting nature.

4.0 Landscape Baseline Assessment and SEPL of the target area

For the conduct of the baseline analysis of the SEPLs in the target areas, an assessment team comprising of experts drawn from different organisations met for a briefing session in Mansa Konko in LRR to go through the toolkit and get the team oriented on the methodology. At the conclusion of the orientation training, a sensitization programme was conducted at the 3 sites for the community members to introduce the objective of the exercise, the procedures and expected outcomes.

The set of indicators for resilience in SEPL developed by the *Satoyama* initiative was used during the assessment. The resilience indicators were developed in line with the four major goals of the *Satoyama* initiative, namely ecosystems protection and the maintenance of biodiversity; agricultural biodiversity; knowledge, learning and innovation; and social equity and infrastructure. Participants covering a diversified group of stakeholders working in the target area including extension personnel of different agencies as well as local authority members from the areas took part in the community level assessments.

The community level consultations kicked off with the first assessment workshop for Kiang West National Park conducted from 26 – 27 October 2015. This was followed by the consultations for Jokadou National Park from 2 – 3 November 2015 and finally Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve from 4 – 6 November 2015. The exercises involved 60 villages clustered into 6 sites of satellite villages. During the resource mapping exercises organised in the form of focused group discussions. Two major landscape/seascape typologies were recognised: Uplands and Lowlands with 9 subunits based on land uses and identified as follows:

1. *Farmlands.*
2. *Wildlife Protected Areas (PAs).*
3. *Community forest reserves.*
4. *State forest parks.*
5. *Floodplains (Lowland rice fields).*
6. *Tributary Inland valleys.*
7. *Hills.*
8. *Mangroves wetlands.*
9. *Fallow fields.*

The Upland typologies consists of Farmlands, PAs, Community forest reserves, State forest parks, hills and fallow fields. The Lowland typology consist of mangrove wetlands, Tributary inland valleys and Floodplains.

For each landscape/seascape unit identified, extensive discussions were conducted along the guidelines of the toolkit on the 20 indicators of resilience designed to capture the different aspects of the landscape/seascape namely ecological, agricultural, cultural and socio-economic. For each indicator, the assessment team provided a translation in the local language and a consensus was reached on the exact meaning of each. After comprehension of the indicators, scoring also by group consensus was done on

each indicator using a matrix ranging from one (1) to five (5), 1 meaning the landscape performs very poorly on that criteria and 5 meaning maximum resilience) for each criterion.

5.0 Major threats of the Landscapes/Seascapes

The target landscapes/seascapes have provided many environmental goods and services to the communities living within and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Over the course of many decades, these services have been put under severe stress greatly lowering their capacity to deliver. Community members recognise this factor and have come to the realisation that their way of life is under threat if they continue “business as usual”. During the discussions, community participants identified the following threats:

- Declining soil fertility levels of farmlands and declining crop yields.
- Frequent bushfires which have destructive effect on the land, vegetation and feed availability for livestock at critical times of the year Deforestation due to illegal logging in the forests leading to soil erosion on the landscape/seascape.
- Land use conflicts between crop farmers and livestock herders.
- Loss of indigenous breeds of ruminant livestock.
- Extinction of wildlife species due to habitat loss and hunting and climate change.
- Overexploitation of forest produce and fisheries for commercial purposes.
- Low levels of agricultural biodiversity and local knowledge documentation.
- Lack of alternative sources of income such as vegetable production during off season for the women folk, and fruit tree production.
- Lack of appropriate waste disposal methods leading to the prevalence of certain diseases in the communities.
- Lack of access roads to rice fields in the areas.
- Limited storage and marketing facilities for agricultural produce.
- Lack of alternative sources of energy for cooking and lighting purposes.
- Low capacity levels of CBOs in the areas of natural resource governance.

6.0 Major opportunities of the target landscapes/seascapes

The landscapes/seascapes of the target areas offer a number of opportunities for the realisation of both national and local development goals. At the national level, there are projects operating in these areas in the areas of agriculture, health, education, communications and rural development among others. All these interventions have a community focus with the objectives of improving the lives of rural communities. The landscape/seascape approach to community livelihood improvement can only add value to these initiatives and further strengthen the human and capital resources of the target areas. In the Kiang West District for instance there is a field station for The International Trypanotolerance Centre (ITC) executing programmes in livestock health (combating trypanosomiasis), improving livestock breeds through nutrition, housing, the provision of essential drugs and creating market opportunities for livestock farmers. The ITC has set up market facilities and cottage industries for livestock products in the area which can be regarded as important assets for the area. The 3 target areas have well established networks of CBOs, government and NGO extension agents working directly at the grassroots level.

7.0 The Landscape/Seascape strategy

The landscape/seascape strategy seeks to promote the concept of an integrated approach to landscape/seascape management. The approach promotes cooperation among the different actors on the landscape/seascape for better management of resources in order to enhance food production, improve livelihoods by diversifying income sources and conserve biodiversity by enhancing the resilience of the Socio-ecological Production landscapes/seascapes indicators.

Based on this concept, data on the status of the Socio-ecological Production Landscapes/Seascapes generated from the baseline assessments, was formulated into a landscape/seascape strategy whose different components are outlined below:

7.1 Vision

The vision of the communities in the target landscapes/seascapes is in line with the overall vision of the *Satoyama* initiative whose stated goal is: “*societies living in harmony with nature*”. The programme seeks to achieve “*A thriving socio-ecological production landscape/seascape where local communities engage in sustainable management and utilization of natural resources for increased productivity, conservation/restoration of biodiversity for wealth creation and continuous flow of ecosystem services*”. By adopting the landscape/seascape conservation approach, communities living in the target areas will employ resource conservation and management practices contained in the landscape/seascape strategy to ensure the realization of this goal.

8.0 Main Outcomes and Impact Indicators

The major outcomes of the landscape/seascape community conservation approach that are expected to be achieved for realizing the above vision are:

1. Degraded ecosystems in the landscape/seascape restored through sound environmental practices including land restoration, vegetation improvement and water quality and quantity restoration.
2. Different ecosystems connected on the landscape/seascape and biodiversity conservation greatly enhanced.
3. Increased agricultural outputs realized as a result of the adoption of smart agro-ecological practices such as agro-forestry practices, natural soil fertility restoration practices, integrated crops/livestock farming practices etc.
4. Local governance structures established/strengthened and resources use conflicts among the different actors minimized.

8.1 Project Outcomes and Indicators

In order to achieve the desired outcomes of the landscape/seascape strategy, 4 main project outcomes and indicators have been identified.

Outcome 1:

- Degraded ecosystems in the landscape/seascape restored through best environmental practices.

Indicator for Outcome 1:

- Number of hectares of landscape/seascape where sustainable land use practices including land restoration, vegetation improvement and water quality and quantity restoration are being practiced.

Outcome 2:

- Different ecosystems connected on the landscape/seascape and biodiversity conservation greatly enhanced.

Indicator for Outcome 2:

- Number of hectares of different landscape/seascape connected and conserving biodiversity.

Outcome 3:

- Improved agricultural outputs realized as a result of the adoption of smart agro-ecological practices such as agro-forestry practices, natural soil fertility restoration practices, integrated crops/livestock farming practices etc.

Indicators for Outcome 3:

- Increased incomes of community members adopting innovative Agroecological practices.
- Increased yields from farms adopting innovative Agroecological practices.

Outcome 4:

- Number of community-based institutions created or strengthened who are engaged in integrated landscape/seascape conservation and resolving landscape/seascape conflicts.

Indicators for Outcome 4:

- Number of community-based institutions created or strengthened practicing integrated landscape management.
- Number of landscape/seascape use conflicts resolved.

9.0 Typology of Potential projects

For the realization of enhanced Socio-ecological Production landscapes/seascapes of the target areas in terms of increasing their resilience and their connectivity, a number of potential projects were proposed. The projects will aim at restoring degraded landscapes/seascapes, promote the protection of critical ecosystems such as wetlands and mangroves, agricultural diversification, the introduction of climate smart innovative Agroecological practices, investing in energy access co-benefits and promoting sustainable livelihood activities for the local communities. The potential projects must adopt an integrated approach addressing all the critical linkages between the 3 GEF OP 6 focal areas: namely Biodiversity conservation, Climate Change and Land Degradation in a holistic manner. The specific project types are given in Annex 2 of the baseline assessment report.

10.0 Criteria for Project Selection

The objective of the landscape/seascape strategy is to enable the realization of the stated vision through support for community-based initiatives and actions. To fulfill this objectives, potential projects or initiatives must satisfy certain requirements among them the following:

- The project must contribute towards realizing the vision of the *Satoyama* initiative i.e. contributing towards actualizing the concept of “*communities living in harmony with nature*”.
- The project must be of strategic importance to the landscape/seascape and contribute significantly towards the restoration of goods and services of the ecosystems while at the same time addressing the causes of degradation.
- The project must ensure environmental sustainability, biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource use, mitigate or adapt to climate change and ensure that appropriate safeguards are taken into consideration.
- The project must preserve cultural heritage and must not lead to the displacement or resettlement of populations, particularly vulnerable communities.
- Must mainstream gender, empower women and ensure that the role of women is clearly defined.
- The project must be relevant to communities, the landscape/seascape and enhance the livelihood of the communities.
- The project must address the range issues of the landscape/seascape through an integrated approach addressing the linkages between biodiversity, land degradation, climate change and livelihoods.
- The project must be cost effective, use resources efficiently and have the potential for replication in other landscapes/seascapes.
- Unless otherwise stated, the project should preferable be implemented within a period of 12 months.

11.0 Identified priority intervention areas for the selected landscapes/seascapes

From the analysis of threats identified in the landscapes/seascapes during the community level consultations, resource degradation was singled out as the leading threat facing the landscapes/seascapes in the target areas. Land degradation in particular was a major issue affecting both the ecosystem functions and livelihoods of the communities that depend on them for sustenance. Many factors were said to be responsible for this trend which included deforestation, shifting cultivation practices, bush fires, mono-cropping among others. Both the landscapes/seascapes have provided many goods and services to the communities from time immemorial but these are reported to be under many threats and there is an

urgent need to reverse the trends. Although some measures have been taken to address some of the threats in the past, these however have been largely reported to be inadequate.

The various SEPLs found in the target areas represent major ecosystems such as farmlands, wetlands, mangrove ecologies, wildlife protected areas, community forest reserves, gardens and rice fields are under various levels of threats according to the evaluation of the indicators for SEPL resilience. The assessment further revealed that there are no effective protection measures put in place even though while there may be some existing ones, these are not being effectively enforced. Expansion of farmlands by farmers practicing shifting cultivation has greatly affected the vegetation of the areas and brought along some undesirable changes on the landscapes/seascapes such as the formation of gullies, soil salinization, acidity and poor soils. Bush fires occur regularly during the long dry periods of the year further destroying the natural vegetation including grasses which are important livestock feed posing serious challenges to cattle and small ruminants. Illegal logging mainly for fuelwood, has adversely affected the resilience of the wildlife protected areas, state forest parks and community forest reserves. Measures to curb illegal logging has also largely been ineffective. With the exception of Kiang West National Park landscape/seascape, fuel wood availability is scarce leading to chronic shortages in supply of household domestic energy for cooking and heating purposes. The local governance structures set up to regulate land use problems are either weak or nonfunctional. The assessment also revealed that the main driving force for the degradation of the SEPLs is the level of poverty in the areas. In the absence of alternative and diversified sources of incomes, the communities heavily depend on the exploitation of the natural resources to support their livelihoods.

In summary, the main environmental challenges confronting the landscape/seascape of the area can be summarised as (1) Increasing habitat destruction, (2). Unsustainable farming practices; (3) inadequate institutional/governance capacity, (4). Lack of alternative livelihoods and (5) lack of energy access. A direct consequence of this has been the declining crop yields from the farmlands leading to food insecurity and rising poverty among the communities.

From the analysis of the issues for the different SEPLs based on real and perceived threats and opportunities having the greatest potential to enhance community welfare in terms of the vision of the Satoyama initiative, the following 4 issues were identified for community action:

- *Innovative Agroecological practices.*
- *Wetland restoration.*
- *Promoting sustainable livelihoods*
- *Energy access co-benefits.*

The above mentioned 4 issues which are interrelated, if adequately addressed, could greatly enhance the resilience of the SEPLs in the target areas. Detailed discussions on these 4 key issues follows below:

11.1 Innovative Agroecological practices

The baseline assessment revealed that ecosystem degradation as the main factor affecting the performance of the SEPL and their resilience. As agrarian communities, people of the areas are directly dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods. Confronted with declining agricultural productivity stemming from land degradation triggered by poor agricultural practices and climate change, farmers in the area are no longer able to produce enough food crops to feed their families. Thus, their income levels have been steadily declining resulting in high levels of poverty. Food security has been threatened leaving the communities vulnerable to disease and health problems particularly among children. The discussions identified factors such as drought, bush fires, deforestation and low soil fertility levels as the main issues that need to be addressed.

Various attempts have been made by government and NGO partners to address some of these challenges of ecosystem degradation and some of these community interventions would need to be either strengthened or scaled up. To reverse ecosystem degradation and build the resilience of the SEPLs for continued prosperity of the local communities, innovative Agroecological practices would offer holistic and suitable solutions to the problems identified.

Agroecology has been describes as both a science, a practice and a social movement which provides for sustainable agriculture. The system uses basic ecological principles in its design and management combining production and conservation of natural resources on the same production units. By adopting innovative Agroecological practices, farmers will be able to manage the risks associated with climate change and enhance the productivity of their farmlands.

11.2 Wetland restoration

There are significant areas of wetlands dominated by mangroves in the selected areas which are considered vital to the livelihoods of the communities. Mangrove wetlands are unique ecosystems that play a vital role in climate change, food security and provide a range of environmental goods and services to the communities. The mangrove ecosystems are however under severe stress resulting in high levels of degradation in some communities.

The assessment revealed that this unique ecosystem considered very vital by the communities to their welfare and survival is also under severe threat. The major factors cited include drought, oyster harvesting and logging for building materials. The communities in a number of places such as Kiang West and Jokadu Districts had initiated some mangrove restoration activities which have been successful. The 3 PAs all have extensive degraded mangrove areas that need to be restored.

11.3 Promoting sustainable livelihoods

Poverty has been recognized as a driving force for environmental degradation. The baseline assessment revealed that in the 3 landscapes/seascapes target areas, the poverty levels are considerable high compared to the rest of the country. The communities are mostly depended on rain-fed agriculture for their livelihoods. Crop yields were reported to have been on a steady decline for many years leading to rising poverty levels among the communities.

To address poverty and reduce pressure on the natural resources, alternative sources of incomes need to be introduced. This will not only diversify income sources but will also create employment opportunities for vulnerable groups like women and youth. Project types that could be introduced to promote sustainable livelihoods may include bee-keeping and its associated cottage industry, small ruminant rearing for women, fishing, eco-tourism, aquaculture, vegetable gardening, orchard establishment, credit and loan schemes for organized entrepreneur groups among others.

11.4 Energy access co-benefits

During the community level consultations, Climate change was identified as a major factor affecting the lives of the local communities. Human induced climate change continues to be the main culprit for global temperature rises and global warming. Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) continue to build up in the earth's atmosphere driven mainly by industry and agriculture. As developing countries strive to achieve sustainable development, they need to achieve that goal through a low carbon pathway.

The impacts of GHGs on climate patterns negatively impacts on global temperatures, health, ecosystem resilience, food security and social stability. Irreversible damages could result from global temperature increases leading to sea level rises which poses major threats to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and low-lying countries such as The Gambia.

In OP 6, SGP's work in the climate change strategic initiative will focus on Energy Access co-benefits to local communities by promoting energy access to those communities that are not connect to the national electricity grid. Renewable energy technologies will be promoted to achieve multiple environmental, social and economic benefits. Work on Energy Access co-benefits will seek to achieve the goals in environmental protection, education, gender equality and women empowerment, health, agriculture and income generation for the local populations.

The Gambia has recently adopted its Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) for rural electrification using Renewable Energy (RE). The NAMA is a voluntary non-binding policy instrument providing a framework for pursuing the country's development agenda whilst at the same time contributing towards GHG mitigation efforts. Under the NAMA framework, opportunities exist to leverage additional support from other sources for effective GHG mitigation and the attainment of the

Sustainable Development targets specifically, The Gambia's Vision 2020. The NAMA for The Gambia has 5 key policy objectives namely:

- Increase the level of renewable energy and contribute to the national long term target of increasing the share of renewable energy within the power generation sector;
- Reduce GHG emissions in the power generation sector;
- Increase the rural population's access to sustainable electricity;
- Encourage an increase in rural community income generation, and improve rural livelihoods and;
- Increase the level of private sector participation within the power sector.

In The Gambia an estimated 73% of energy comes from the burning of wood fuel derived from the country's forests. For domestic household energy, wood fuel remains the leading source and the quest to meet the increasing demands have resulted in environmental degradation in the country side. Health issues caused by smoke inhalation from indoor pollution pose major risks to women and children. Based on the common objectives between SGP and NAMA, there are opportunities for collaboration in OP 6.

11.5 Capacity building

Capacity building is a crucial component of CSO development and would be strengthened through various project supported initiatives. To sustain both the activities and gains among various stakeholders registered in OP 5, initiatives such as stakeholder workshops, networking through the various platforms, policy dialogues, information dissemination, advocacy etc. would be supported further.

The landscape/seascape conservation approach to be piloted in the selected communities is a relatively new concept in The Gambia and as such would require building capacity among CSOs on the discipline. Since this aspect is critical to the outcomes of OP 6, the first set of grants would therefore be devoted to capacity building in landscape/seascape approach, gender mainstreaming in projects and other relevant topics.

To compliment and reinforce the gains that will be registered by the proposed interventions, it is equally important to address the issue of inadequate governance capacity of the communities. The majority of the target communities already have in place local governance structures in the form of Village Development Committees that are responsible for decision-making at the community level. The assessment revealed that the majority of these structures are either weak or non-functional. Therefore, there will be a need to further strengthen them in order to play effective roles in efforts in natural resources management.

12.0 Grantmaker+ strategies

In the face of decreased global funding amounts in OP 6, SGP is expected to go beyond its traditional role of simply providing grants to CSOs and take on such roles as building the capacity levels of CSO and

local communities among others so as to achieve greater impacts from programme interventions. The Grantmaker+ role is expected to achieve a number of objectives:

- Provide value-added activities into SGP programmes and build capacity of communities and CSOs,
- Bridge gaps between SGP projects and MSPs/FSPs in order to achieve greater impacts,
- Facilitate the dissemination of new technologies and innovations among different stakeholders,
- Build social capital to increase resilience and impacts.

In pursuance of the above objectives, the following set of activities will be pursued in OP 6:

- Developing the capacity of CSOs through stakeholder workshops and targeted capacity building workshops.
- Create/strengthen networks to facilitate dialogue and information flow among SGP grantees and partners.
- Promote activities geared towards enhancing SGP visibility i.e. knowledge fairs and foster partnerships particularly with financial institutions to fund CSO initiatives and innovations.
- Provide links to local and global markets for SGP products.

Both the NSC and the SGP Country team are expected to play major roles in the Grantmaker + activities. The NSC and the NC will devote a considerable amount of their times to providing assistance to CSOs in preparing sound project proposals, facilitating access to additional donor funding, promoting and facilitating CSO-government dialogues through various development for a. Within the NSC, the specialised TAG will continue to provide technical guidance to both the NSC and CSOs on technical matters to relating to project development and implementation.

13.0 CSO-Government Dialogue Platform

Given their comparative advantage in working directly at the grassroots level and their knowledge of local challenges faced by communities, CSOs indeed have a wealth of knowledge on many aspects of development. This knowledge tends to be confined within themselves and not shared with decision-makers and planners to influence local and national policies. To bridge this gap, CSO – government dialogue platforms will be set up to promote information exchange and create a bridge to link grassroots organisations to local and national planning processes. This bridge is vital to building trust and promoting a cordial working environment between CSOs and government in addressing environmental challenges and achieving sustainable development.

In OP 5, support will be provided to the CSO networks to build their capacity on analysing, documenting and disseminating environmental best practices among the different stakeholders.

Contributions towards the attainment of the SDGs will be a criteria in the CPS for award of grants and mechanisms will be put in place for CSO achievements to be captured in the national reporting systems for SDG monitoring.

Existing networks will be strengthened and further support will be provided to the SGP Grantee Network already established and operational to play a vital role in information sharing to influence policy. There is already a network of farmer Field Schools which provides a platform for information sharing among farmers in the country. During OP 5, a few SGP grantees had utilised this platform to promote best practices among farmers in different communities.

14.0 Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions

In the modern world, chemicals have become a part of our daily lives as they are utilised in almost all economic activities ranging from agriculture, industry and medicine. At the same time it is widely recognised that the use of chemicals posed real dangers to human health and the environment. As a vulnerable group, the poor are disproportionately affected by the dangers posed by chemicals.

In The Gambia, chemical usage is particularly high among vegetable growers who are mostly women and children. A wide variety of agrochemicals are readily available at local weekly markets all over the country. At such market outlets, the products are not labelled and the active ingredients and instructions for usage are absent. This situation poses real health risks to both the users and consumers of vegetable products in the country.

Waste management is a growing problem in The Gambia particularly for the urban centres. Existing waste collection, transport and disposal systems are dysfunctional resulting in high levels of urban pollution.

Electronic waste (e-waste) is also a growing problem in the country with the influx of second hand imported electronic goods.

The strategic approach to the Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions will be based on Innovations and piloting/testing of small-scale practices at the community level with a focus on 4 thematic areas:

- (1). **Pesticide management** - including finding alternatives to DDT, introduction of non-chemical alternatives, IPM in agriculture and innovations that minimise the use and generation of waste products.
- (2). **Waste Management** - focusing on avoidance of open burning, community-based waste collection, sorting, recycling, integrated waste management and awareness raising.
- (3). **Heavy Metals** – to support community-based innovations and technologies that avoid the use and release of heavy metals and other chemicals in in local industry.

- (4). **Coalitions and Networks** - to include the certification of locally produce/products, development of certification/guidelines, promoting links between producers and consumers and advocacy to influence chemicals import and export..

15.0 Policy Influence

SGP initiatives will continue to generate useful lessons and best practices and these outcomes will be captured and documented by grantees and programme management for the purpose of informing and influencing policy. At the local level, SGP initiatives will seek ways of complimenting and supporting local development plans and work closely with local governance structures such as the Local Government Authorities who would be challenged to co-fund projects operating in their administrative areas. At the community level, Village Development Committees (VDCs) will be co-opted as part of the M&E teams of projects in their areas with a view to fostering information exchange and influencing local policy making processes. This should not be difficult because SGP grantees are already working with the VDCs in some areas.

At the national level, there are a number of sectoral development strategies under implementation. These include The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA), The National Communications to the UNFCCC, The National Action Programme to Combat Desertification among others. These development strategies are undergoing period updates and SGP will become a partner in these processes by making sure that relevant data collected at the local level feeds into these updates.

16.0 Promoting Social inclusion

Empowering marginalised communities and vulnerable groups has always been a strong area of the SGP support and considerable achievements have been registered. Promoting gender equality and women empowerment particularly in the selected landscapes/seascapes will be a strong element of this CPS where the selection criteria for potential projects includes these criteria. Women's perceptions with regards to the indicators of resilience for the Socio-ecological production landscapes/seascapes was captured, critically analysed and formulated into the typology of potential projects for the selected landscapes/seascapes. Within the selected landscapes/seascapes, projects seeking to establish community conserved areas will be supported.

Youth groups will be targeted and will receive considerable support during OP 6 to implement initiatives that promote youth empowerment in environmental management. A number of environmental clubs have already been established and had received considerable SGP support to conduct environmental sensitization activities in schools and communities and the development of environmental curriculum in the school syllabus. Youth organisations had played active parts in environmental restoration activities

such as mangrove planting and tree planting in degraded ecosystems and have been champions of SGP interventions in many localities. Others vulnerable groups such as disabled persons will also be taken into consideration during project selection by the NSC.

17.0 Knowledge Management Plan

The generation, documentation and dissemination of lessons and best practices would be an important aspect of programme implementation. Knowledge generated on new innovations during project implementation will be documented and made available to potential users as part of the information sharing process. To make this exercise a reality, every awarded project would be required to include this as an activity with a budgetary allocation in the proposal.

Different information materials would be developed using various types of knowledge materials which would be disseminated among stakeholders. These would include publications, brochures, posters, videos and photo stories and case studies.

Networking among grantees and partners would be facilitated to share information, exchange ideas and promote the replication of success stories. Already SGP grantee networks have been established during OP 5 and these would be further strengthened and supported to fulfill this role. The SGP country website would be updated regularly to provide information of completed project outcomes and lessons. The project management team would continue its primary role of providing both technical and administrative support to all stakeholders.

Capacity building of CSOs on knowledge management will be continued and those with success stories will be encouraged to disseminate their products on the ‘Communities Connect’ platform to reach a wider audience in the context of ‘South-South exchange’.

All grant recipient organisations will be required to contribute to the generation and documentation of best practices and lessons learned. As such, each project approved for funding will be required to allocate a portion of its budget to knowledge management. The knowledge generated from project execution will be made available in different formats to suit the different stakeholders and will consist of the following products:

- Technical publications – highlighting new innovations and experiences.
- Case studies: Each grantee should develop a brief case study documenting activities and highlighting best practices and lessons learned from project implementation.
- Policy papers – will highlight the achievements, lessons learnt and most importantly, the changes brought about by the project which needs to be mainstreamed into local and national strategies. The policy papers will be circulated to local government authorities, government and development partners.

- Brochures.
- Posters.
- CDs/DVDs/Photo stories.
- Farmer Field Days – Through Farmer Field Schools, field days will be organized to showcase best practices and innovations among farmers and development partners including local authorities. The objective of Farmer field days will be to encourage replication and upscaling of best practices and new innovations.

18.0 Communications Strategy

A communications strategy designed to keep all parties who have a stake in the project informed in a timely and accurate manner will be developed. This is an important aspect of programme management designed to keep all stakeholders abreast of project progress and ensure that required actions are taken at the right time to address issues that may come up periodically during execution.

In the selected landscapes/seascapes, all projects operating within will be required to come up with their own communication strategy to engage all the key players who may or may not be involved directly in project implementation.

At project management level, information will be provided to the NSC in the form of periodic or quarterly progress reports, mid-term progress reports and end of year progress reports. At the end of each field M&E visit, a summary report on the status of each project visited will also be provided to the NSC.

The communications strategy will also require working closely with the media to highlight the work of SGP particularly the success stories at the grassroots level. Information exchange will be facilitated through the publication of brochures, posters, case studies for the different audience.

19.0 Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

The M&E plan will consist of 2 different levels: (1). Programme level and (2) project level each with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.

Table 3 below outlines the different processes for M&E at the programme level where the SEPL indicators measured during the baseline assessment will be monitored on an annual basis.

Table 3. 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 ⁵ 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) ⁶	Enable efficient reporting to NSC	NC presenting to NSC	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per year in June

⁵ 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.

⁶ The country programme should be reviewed in consultation with the NSC members, national Rio Convention focal points, and the associated reporting requirements. The Annual 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.

Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) ⁷ 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

At the project level, the following will be applied:

For each individual grant, the following M&E processes will be applied:

Ex-ante Visits: The project team will conduct ex-ante visits to the project sites to conduct a risk analysis upon grant approval by the NSC and prior to the signature of the MOA. The findings of the ex-ante will be presented to the grantee for consideration.

2. Project level indicators: The SEPL indicators will be used for project monitoring and assessing progress. The grantee may include other relevant indicators.

3. Field monitoring visits: Every project will be visited at least twice: upon receipt of the first progress report and the second progress report from the grantee. Additional field visits may be undertaken depending on circumstances. During the field monitoring visits, NSC members and staff of other institutions with expertise in M&E will be invited to come along. During the visits, beneficiary community members must participate to assess progress on set indicators.

4. Progress reports: Grantees will be required to submit both financial and progress report before the release of the next disbursement. The financial report should provide details on all expenditures incurred during the reporting period along with original receipts and invoices. The half-yearly progress reports should be submitted to the NC along with a financial report. The NC should ascertain that the project milestones are achieved before approving the next disbursement.

⁷ 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.

5. Final project evaluation report: Grantees will be required to submit a final report summarizing global benefits and other results achieved, outputs produced, and lessons learned. The final report should also include a final financial statement.

6. Aggregation of project results: At the end of each project execution, Project Management will compile the project results which will be aggregated and compiled at the programme portfolio level to assess both impacts and progress on the status of project implementation and set targets.

20.0 Results Framework

Table 4. Consistency with SGP OP6 global programme components

OP6 project components	CPS targets	Activities	Indicators	Means of verification	Social and Environmental Safeguards
<p>SGP OP6 Component 1: <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>3 sites comprising of 65 communities covering 56, 000 ha. in land area, selected as priority landscape and seascape areas in The Gambia is protected and connected on the landscape as habitats for biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>Focus on 2 major typologies: Uplands (Farmlands, PAs, Community forest reserves, State forest parks, Hills, Fallow fields) and Lowlands (Mangrove wetlands, Tributary inland valleys and Floodplains) within the selected landscapes/seascapes receiving approx.70% of OP 6 grant-making resources.</p> <p>Projects will seek to promote conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and restore/enhance ecosystem goods and services to communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Farmland restoration.</i> • <i>Mangrove/wetland restoration.</i> • <i>Agro-forestry.</i> • <i>Farm boundary plantings.</i> • <i>Capacity building.</i> • <i>Livelihood enhancement activities.</i> • <i>Soil and water conservation.</i> • <i>Vegetation restoration</i> • <i>Community forestry.</i> • <i>Integrated crop-livestock farming.</i> • <i>Land use planning.</i> • <i>Promotion of energy saving stoves.</i> • <i>Formation of natural resources committees.</i> • <i>Participatory M&E.</i> 	<p>-65, 000 hectares of PAs conserved with different ecosystems connected on the landscape.</p> <p>- 50, 000 hectares of farmlands practicing community landscape/seascape conservation.</p> <p>-10, 000 hectares of wetlands restored and 20 tons of CO2 avoided.</p> <p>-25% increase in agricultural outputs realized from farmlands.</p> <p>- 8 different livelihoods projects initiated & supported.</p> <p>-20, 000 ha. under ICCAs.</p> <p>-At least 3 NRM committees formed in the 3 target areas.</p>	<p>Surveys, M&E reports.</p> <p>Surveys, M&E reports.</p> <p>Progress reports, M&E reports.</p> <p>Yield surveys.</p> <p>Livelihood surveys.</p> <p>Project progress reports.</p> <p>M&E reports, Registration certificates.</p>	<p><i>Landscape/seascape integrity maintained.</i></p> <p><i>Gender mainstreamed into projects.</i></p> <p><i>Cultural heritages protected, biodiversity conserved, settlements preserved and livelihoods of communities enhanced.</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>Climate- smart agricultural practices which are important to building climate resilience, reduce GHG emissions, conserve biodiversity, restore land productivity and achieve food security will be integrated into priority production landscapes/seascapes and along the PA buffer zones and forest corridors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Integrated crop/livestock farming.</i> • <i>Agro-forestry.</i> • <i>Soil and water conservation.</i> • <i>In situ conservation of indigenous crop, plant and livestock species.</i> • <i>IPM practices.</i> • <i>Climate smart agriculture.</i> • <i>Capacity building on NRM governance.</i> • <i>Seed banking.</i> • <i>Trade and Knowledge fairs.</i> • <i>Organic farming.</i> • <i>Farmer field schools.</i> 	<p>-40, 000 hectares of land put to climate smart agro-ecology practices.</p> <p>-25% increase in crop yields</p> <p>- Guidelines on composting developed for women vegetable schemes.</p> <p>-10% increase in income levels among practicing farmers.</p> <p>-10 farms practicing IPM practices.</p> <p>- Local governance structures established/strengthened in all 3 sites.</p> <p>-2 Trade and Knowledge fairs held.</p> <p>-1 farmer field school initiative supported.</p> <p>-Seed banking initiatives supported in 3 communities.</p>	<p>Surveys, M&E reports.</p> <p>Yield surveys, Interviews.</p> <p>Publication.</p> <p>Income surveys.</p> <p>M&E reports, Surveys.</p> <p>Surveys, M&E reports.</p> <p>Registration certificates, Meeting minutes.</p> <p>Report, videos.</p> <p>Report, video.</p> <p>Report.</p>	<p><i>Projects reduce GHG emissions.</i></p> <p><i>Gender mainstreamed.</i></p> <p><i>Critical habitats protected.</i></p> <p><i>Livelihoods of affected communities enhanced.</i></p>

<p>SGP OP6 Component 3: <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>To provide low carbon clean energy to communities that are off the national grid with the aim of achieving multi benefits (health, education, local industry, employment, agriculture, food security etc.).</p> <p>Focus will be on 2 typologies of projects: Solar energy and Clean efficient stoves.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Solar electricity generation for communities providing multiple benefits in lighting, agriculture, health and economic activities.</i> <i>Development and promotion of energy saving stoves for community households.</i> 	<p>-10 households achieving energy access with locally adapted community solutions, with co-benefits estimated and valued⁸</p> <p>-2 community pilot RE projects avoiding 2, 000 tons of CO2 emissions.</p> <p>-2, 000 clean efficient stoves distributed among 2, 000 households with 1, 095.0 tons of CO2 emissions avoided.</p> <p>-100 solar cookers provided to communities avoiding 55.0 tons of CO2 emissions.</p>	<p>Household energy surveys, M&E reports.</p> <p>Household surveys on energy cost savings, Health benefits, Educational benefits, Income generation, CO2 avoidance,</p>	<p><i>Gender mainstreamed.</i></p> <p><i>Critical habitats protected.</i></p> <p><i>Livelihoods of affected communities enhanced.</i></p>
<p>SGP OP6 Component 4: <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>Innovative tools and approaches developed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pesticide management solid waste management (plastics, e-waste, medical waste and so on), heavy metals management, and local to global chemical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Innovative community-based pesticide management.</i> <i>IPM practices including non-chemical alternatives among farmers.</i> <i>Innovative waste management practices.</i> <i>Support to networks on chemical management.</i> <i>Chemicals management projects</i> 	<p>-2 capacity building projects on IPM targeting 150 farmers implemented.</p> <p>-1 national network on chemicals management established/strengthened.</p> <p>-2 IPM projects targeting women vegetable farmers and eliminating use of POPs in</p>	<p>-Training reports.</p> <p>-Registration certificate, Reports.</p> <p>-Project progress report, Surveys.</p>	<p>Critical habitats and human health protected.</p>

⁸ Only applies to lead countries in this strategic initiative

	management coalitions	<i>targeting youth, gender, and the disabled.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Certification and development of guidelines.</i> • <i>Awareness creation.</i> 	<p>production chain and 0.5 tons of pesticide use avoided.</p> <p>-2 innovative waste management projects demonstrated, avoiding 1.0 tons of chemical release avoided.</p> <p>-1 producer group on non-chemical usage supported and certificated.</p> <p>- Guidelines on IPM developed.</p>	<p>-Project progress report.</p> <p>-Registration certificate.</p> <p>-Pamphlet.</p>	
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 5:</u> <i>CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms (Grant-makers+):</i></p> <p>5.1 SGP supports establishment of “CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms”, leveraging existing and potential partnerships, in at least 50 countries</p>	<p>“CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms” is now part of expanded OP6 Grant-makers+ role.</p> <p>The Dialogue Platforms will focus will be on forming a broad-based coalition for chemical management by influencing policy at the local and national level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Capacity building for CSOs to access non-GEF funds.</i> • <i>Stakeholder workshops.</i> • <i>Support to GEF- CSO network.</i> • <i>Networking and information exchange.</i> • <i>Technical Assistance to CSOs by NSC, NC becoming lobbyists.</i> 	<p>-2 Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms* initiated.</p> <p>-1 GEF- CSO network established.</p> <p>-2 stakeholder workshops on mainstreaming chemicals in projects targeting 150 government, partners and CSOs conducted.</p> <p>-100 man hours of NSC time devoted as TA to CSOs.</p>	<p>-Reports</p> <p>SGP Global Database</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>	

<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 6:</u> <i>Promoting Social Inclusion</i> (Grant-makers+):</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>The CPS adopts a social inclusion approach as another element of its Grant-maker + role targeting women, youth, disabled persons vulnerable and marginalized populations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Gender mainstreaming capacity development training for CSOs, NSC staff, NSC and other partners.</i> • <i>Support to women-led projects.</i> • <i>Projects targeting youth and disabled persons.</i> • <i>Marginalized and vulnerable communities' criteria included in project selection.</i> 	<p>-2 capacity building projects on gender mainstreaming for CSOs, NSC, NC, PA and partners targeting 150 persons.</p> <p>-At least 30% of projects led by all-women groups.</p> <p>-5 projects led by youth groups.</p> <p>-Support to 2 projects targeting 60 disabled persons.</p> <p>-10% of projects target marginalized and vulnerable communities.</p>	<p>-Training reports.</p> <p>-Guidelines for gender mainstreaming.</p> <p>-Project progress reports</p> <p>-Project progress reports.</p> <p>-Guidelines developed for mainstreaming youth and disable persons in projects.</p> <p>-Guidelines developed for targeting marginalized and vulnerable communities.</p> <p>SGP Global Database.</p>	<p>Human rights promoted.</p> <p>Gender, women empowerment, youth & disabled persons interests promoted.</p>
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<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 7:</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>7.2 South-South Community Innovation Exchange Platform promotes south-south exchanges on global environmental issues in at least 20 countries.</p>	<p>Connections developed between CPS and global priorities for the digital library and SSC Innovation Exchange Platform.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation and dissemination of best practices. • Regular contributions by NC and PA to the Digital Library • Contributions by grantees to ‘Communities Connect’. • Participate in ‘South-South Community Innovations Exchange Platform’. 	<p>-5 country innovations by CSOs shared and disseminated at the global level via the Digital Library.</p> <p>-5 grantees contribute articles to ‘Communities Connect’</p> <p>-Global database regularly updated.</p>	<p>-5 Articles on innovations contributed to Digital Library.</p> <p>-5 articles contributed by grantees to “Communities Connect”.</p> <p>SGP Global Database</p>	<p>N/A</p>
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21.0 Resource Mobilization Plan

To enhance the sustainability of the SGP Country Programme, the following resource mobilization plan has been developed. The plan will make use of the opportunities offered by other projects and programmes operating in the targeted areas.

First and foremost, SGP-funded projects will be encouraged to include a livelihood component that would generate revenue to sustain the project activities after SGP support comes to an end. For projects operating at the national level, SGP will endeavor to form partnerships and raise needed co-financing from such sources.

Capacity building programmes will be implemented to enhance the technical competence of NGO/SGP community which should translate into the sectors being able to mobilize resources from other sources.

Partnerships with the private sector such as banks and credit and savings associations will also be explored. The membership of the NSC will be strengthened by coopting additional members from the private sector and the ministry responsible for the national budget to lobby for additional funds for CSO activities.

At the country level, traditional donors such as The British High Commission, The US Embassy, Government of Japan, The Swiss Government and The EU Representative, all have small grants windows for CSOs. Grantees will be encouraged to contact such donors by providing them with the needed information.

At the regional/local level, Local Government Authorities raise and allocate funds to development projects in their respective areas. There are opportunities to get additional funds from such authorities to finance local development projects in their areas of jurisdiction.

To be more strategic and make use of existing opportunities, SGP projects must mainstream the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the government's poverty reduction strategies and in that way be in a position to attract co-funding.

SGP's experience and track record of effective and efficient administration of public funds for community-based initiatives will be marketed as a comparative advantage so that other development agencies and projects could use SGP as a delivery mechanism to administer projects on their behalf.

22.0 Risk Management Plan

The risk management plan will be based on the UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards which seeks to mainstream social and environmental sustainability in its programmes and projects to support sustainable development. The plan will ensure that risks that may pose problems in the attainment of project objectives are identified and adequately mitigated. The following risks have been identified and will constitute the main elements of the risk management plan:

- **Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment** – SGP-funded projects must be gender-responsive in their design and implementation and seek to identify and integrate the different needs, constraints, contributions and priorities of women, men, girls and boys into its projects, programmes and initiatives.
- **Environmental Sustainability** – SGP-funded projects must promote sustainable land management and their associated biodiversity and ecosystem functions.
- **Biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resources use** – SGP projects should not cause adverse impacts to critical habitats and ecosystems and environmentally sensitive areas such as protected areas, endangered species and livelihoods of local communities.

The risks identified will be tracked during the implementation of the OP6 CPS and reviewed during the CPS Annual Review exercise. During the review, the degree of risk, or probability of risk may be adjusted. The risk register will be adjusted by either removing those considered not relevant or new ones added as they are identified.

7.1 The table below identified the anticipated risks and the mitigation measures that will be put in place during implementation of the CPS:

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
Gender equality & Women empowerment	High	High	Projects must mainstream gender in design & implementation.
Environmental sustainability	Low	Medium	Projects must promote sustainable use of natural resources.
Biodiversity conservation & sustainable natural resource use	Low	Low	Projects must protect critical habitats, conserve biodiversity and ensure sustainable use of the natural resources.

Annex 1: **Scoping Report**

August 2015

Introduction

In 2008, The Gambia joined the global Small Grants Programme and in the following year- 2009 began making its first set of grants to Civil Society Organisations. At the end of the 5th Operational Phase, a total amount of US \$1. 2 million was committed to 75 projects across the various focal areas.

Despite this relatively short period of time, SGP has registered some significant achievements which positively affected the lives of a considerable number of people in rural communities across the country. Among the achievements include the creation of a network of SGP grantees that links CSOs and development agencies and partners. This network continues to play an important role in sharing of information and experiences across disciplines, regions and sectors. The programme initiated many innovations and technologies geared towards addressing specific problems. On issues dealing with land degradation, SGP initiatives were successful in reversing land degradation trends in affected communities by enabling land users adopt simple soil and water conservation measures on their land and other means of generating natural soil fertilities through cultural and land husbandry practices.

Climate change mitigation has also been an important focal area where SGP also worked in empowering communities to embark on climate mitigation measures including restoration of mangrove and wetland ecosystems. The work on these unique ecosystems was an important part of biodiversity and climate change measures by local communities.

Energy conservation and the promotion of efficient energy uses was another area where considerable work has been done. Prototypes of improved energy saving cooking stoves have been produced, distributed and popularized among households as a climate mitigation strategy.

Capacity building has been a focus of SGP operations in The Gambia since programme implementation began. The capacity limitations of CSOs was recognized very early on and considerable resources was allocated in that area in a bid to improve the situation.

The programme has gained national wide coverage operating in all the regions of the country and has become a prominent source of funding for CSOs. In additional, it has leveraged additional funding for some CSOs to implement environment initiatives at the community level.

A great deal of awareness at the local level was created in the area of pesticides and chemical management and this has contributed to highlighting and bringing to the forefront the dangers posed by chemicals to human health and the environment.

Despite its short period of being in existence in the country, has achieved 2 international awards in recognition of its contribution to finding solutions to environmental issues. The 2 awards are the UNDP Equator Prize in 2012 and the Wolfgang Newman Globe Energy Award in 2013. These and other achievements are discussed in section 1 of the CPS.

OP 6 CPS Strategy Consultations and Scoping Exercise

The development of the SGP Country Programme Strategy process for the Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF (GEF 6) started with a scoping exercise and a series of consultations among the different stakeholders first and foremost to take stock of the achievements of SGP in The Gambia since it started awarding grants in late 2009 and to identify priority areas for programme intervention including the selection of landscape/seascape pilot areas.

At the national level, the National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) for GEF 6 started in June 2015 with the invitation by the National GEF Committee to the SGP National Coordinator to become an official member on the committee. This committee provides leadership for GEF activities in the country in terms of strategic directions and is responsible for monitoring all GEF – funded projects (MSPs/FSPs) in The Gambia. The first meeting also held in June 2015 discussed about the GEF STAR 6 allocation to The Gambia amounting to US \$1.0 million. Led by the NSC, negotiations began for assessing the SGP STAR allocations from the STAR and conclude in August 2015 when an amount of US \$1, 040, 000 was approved for SGP for the 6th Operational Phase 2015 – 2018.

The scoping exercise for SGP began at the inaugural meeting for the newly constituted NSC held on 29th July 2015. The objective of the scoping exercise was to take stock of SGP achievements in the last operational phase with a view to drawing useful lessons from past experiences and to be in a better position to redirect the programmes based on those achievements and experiences. The scoping exercise also took into consideration the opportunities offered by various MEAs that are being implemented by The Gambia (Table 1) and how these strategies could be further harnessed in OP 6 to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The exercise reviewed in detail the new strategic approach for GEF 6 and the need to adopt a strategic approach in line with the new programme directions emphasizing the necessity to adopt an integrated approach to programme implementation to ensure that more impacts are realized on the ground. The exercise also reviewed the achievements registered during OP 5 and further suggested on ways to make the programme more cost effective in terms of resources. There (3) suggestions were proposed to make SGP effective and relevant in light of limited resources available for country programmes:

- Selecting a thematic area in a given geographic region and concentrate all SGP activities in that area,
- Selecting critical hotspots or ecosystems that are under serious biodiversity threat for SGP interventions,

- Downsizing and scaling down on SGP interventions to a minimum level.

The review exercise also looked at ways of strategizing approaches in view of limited resources for OP 6 and consolidating earlier gains by SGP in the country. It reviewed the work of other development projects and programmes currently being implemented with a view to forge partnerships. This will achieve the goal of creating synergies among projects ultimately leading to the creation of more impacts. Projects and programmes in the areas of Agriculture and the Environment sector were discussed with an agreement that this objective needs to be pursued further.

While the elaboration of the OP 6 CPS was ongoing and expected to be completed after the baseline analysis in the selected landscape/seascapes, the scoping exercise would identify those areas outside the landscape/seascope areas in which grant making can proceed immediately.

The areas identified and which be allocated 30% of programme funds were:

- Climate smart agro-ecology
- Low carbon energy access co-benefits
- Local to global chemical management coalitions
- CSO-government policy planning dialogue platforms.

During the first GEF 6 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise workshop convened by the GEF Operational Focal Point in June 2015 which was well attended by a majority of NGOs, CBOs and all the Local Government Representatives from all the Regions to identify and discuss the priority areas for the STAR in GEF 6. The SGP made a presentation on the new strategic directions of SGP in OP 6 outlining the new areas of intervention. The plenary discussions also looked at ways of achieving synergies between SGP interventions and the MSPs/FSPs. In light of the important role SGP was playing in complementing GEF MSP/FSPs, the SGP national Coordinator was nominated to be a member of the national GEF Committee whose main role was to monitor all GEF-funded projects and programmes in the country.

The following criteria was adopted for the selection of target landscapes/seascapes:

- The landscape/seascope should offer opportunities for complementarity with existing or planned GEF – MSPs/FSPs in light of the new strategic directions of making impacts in OP 6.
- The areas must also offer opportunities for synergy with other government, NGO or other with possibilities of achieving greater cofunding outside GEF resources.
- The selected landscapes/seascapes hotspots of biological diversity.
- The selected landscapes/seascapes should be vulnerable areas or communities where climate, food security and poverty challenges are major factors and planned interventions have the potential to make impacts.

Annex 2: **Baseline Assessment report on the selected landscapes/seascapes for OP implementation**



Introduction and background

A key element of SGP's implementation in OP6 will be the development of landscape/seascape approaches within the Country to better focus grant-making and promote strategic programming and clustering of small grant projects with the aim to achieve greater impact and lead to synergies and opportunities for scaling up.

SGP will focus on supporting and coordinating concrete actions at the grassroots level by providing small-scale finance for local community-led projects within given priority landscapes, to achieve landscape-scale impacts in developing countries. SGP will also review, analyze, and codify results of these on-the-ground actions to distill and disseminate lessons which can be used for replication within the country and in other parts of the world. In the selected landscapes/seascapes, community level consultations were conducted as part of the CPS development process.

Objectives

The broad objectives of the assessment was to 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". The specific objectives were to work with community members within the landscape/Seascapes target areas to generate relevant data necessary for biodiversity conservation, land management, climate change mitigation and sustainable livelihood enhancement activities within communities living within the socio-ecological production landscapes/seascapes to maintain, rebuild, and revitalize landscapes, for the development and finalization of the Country Programme Landscape Strategy

Scope

Landscape/seascape assessments were conducted for the 3 selected landscapes/seascapes: Kiang West National Park (KWNP), Jokadou National Park (JNP) and Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve (BBWR). A total of 63 villages (Annex 5) were involved in the assessments. These communities either live around the 3 protected areas or are close by and have an influence on their functioning and wellbeing.

Kiang West National Park was established in 1987 as a protected National park and sanctuary for a variety of fauna and flora. It was surveyed and demarcated and has a total size of 11, 526ha and a distance of 115km along its periphery. It is located in Kiang West District along the South Bank of the River Gambia and stretches westward toward the interior of Kiang West District. It is approximately 145 km from the coast.

With a co-management strategy adopted and implemented, this has resulted in the present state of the rich variety of biodiversity found within the park. This park is regarded as one of the few PAs that still harbor different varieties of the country's fauna and flora.

The results of the scores on the resilience of the landscapes/seascapes of KWNP are presented in the table below:

Score card for Kiang West National Park SEPLS

Questions for score	Common understanding of the group	Group score/ Trend
Landscape/seascape biodiversity and ecosystem protection		
1. Landscape/seascape diversity		
Is the landscape/seascape composed of diverse natural ecosystems (terrestrial and aquatic) and land use?	The landscape/seascape are composed of diverse ecosystems but this is reducing because the forest resources are depleting as well as fish stock in the rivers. This is attributed to illegal excessive mining of the natural resources in both the terrestrial and aquatic zones.	5↑
2. Ecosystem protection		
Are there areas in the landscape/seascape where ecosystems are protected under formal or informal forms of protection?	There are areas protected under the fishing, forest Acts as well as the ANR Act but respecting these Acts is minimal and that is continuing. The protected areas are being intruded into by people.	3↑
3. Ecological interaction between different components of the landscape/seascape		
Are ecological interactions between different components of landscape/seascape considered while managing natural resources?	Considerations are given to Ecological interactions, but very limited because sound forest resource and fish resource extraction practices are not observed	3↑
4. Recovery and regeneration of the landscape/seascape		
Does landscape or seascape have the ability to recover and regenerate after extreme environmental shocks?	The landscape and seascape cannot recover and regenerate itself because logging and the use of illegal fishing nets are uncontrolled even though there regulations against them	3↑
Biodiversity (including agricultural diversity)		
5. Diversity local food systems		
Does the community consume a diversity of locally produced food?	There is a verse diversity of local foods available in the area and they are produced within as well as mainly consumed them too. However, rice which is the main staple food is the only mainly imported food.	3↑

Questions for score	Common understanding of the group	Group score/ trend
6. Maintenance and use of local crop varieties and animal breeds		
Are local crop varieties and animal breeds conserved and used in the community?	Local crop varieties and animal breeds are conserved and used by the communities. However, there qualities have started diluting with the introduction of new foreign crop varieties and animal breeds by agricultural department	5↑
7. Sustainable management of common resources		
Are common resources sustainably managed?	With the current situation of the forest and fish stock reduction in the rivers are clear indications that common resources are not properly managed.	2↑
Knowledge and innovation		
8. Knowledge in agriculture and conservation practices		
Does the community develop, improve and adopt new agricultural, fisheries, forestry and conservation practices and/or revitalizes traditional ones to adapt to changing conditions, including climate change?	Some new innovations and conservation practices have been used by the communities in the field of agriculture, fisheries and forestry. However, this is minimally practiced due to the low level of monitoring and supervision as well as enforcement of regulatory frameworks created to enhance environmental protection and improvement.	3↑
9. Tradition and knowledge related to biodiversity		
Are local knowledge and cultural traditions related to biodiversity transmitted from elders and parents to younger people in the community?	Local knowledge related to biodiversity is being transmitted to the young by elders although minimal. Most of the traditional knowledge is not transmitted because it is seen to be rudimentary and not scientific by the present young generation coupled with the introduction of western education brain washing the mindset of the younger ones of their tradition and culture. Traditional knowledge transfer use to be high but now the trend is reducing significantly. The situation is also worsened by the limited documentation culture of that knowledge by the elders.	3↑
Questions for score	Common understanding of the group	Group score/ trend
10. Documentation, access and exchange of agricultural biodiversity		
Is agricultural biodiversity and associated knowledge documented,	Documentation of biodiversity related knowledge is low due to low literacy levels in those days	2↑

accessed and exchanged?	particularly in English. Only a few elites in Arabic might have been documenting but even access to those records is not possible to everyone. Some did not also see documentation as important.	
11. Women's knowledge		
Are women's knowledge, experiences and skills recognized and respected at household, community and landscape/seascape level?	Generally women's knowledge is not mostly recognized and accepted by most men, however, some degree of recognition is now being accorded to women's knowledge in biodiversity related issues thanks to gender advocacy activities.	4↑
Governance and social equity		
12. Right in relation to land/water and other natural resources management		
Does the community have customary/and formally recognized rights over land (seasonal) pastures, water and natural resources?	Customary and formal rights over land do exist but rights differ in terms of ownership and access between men and women particularly in land. Women have equal rights for access to land with men but unequal rights for ownership which based on traditional and customary believes. However, for other natural resources there is high equity.	3↑
13. Community-based governance		
Is there a multi-stakeholder landscape/seascape platform or institution able to effectively plan and manage landscape resources?	Multi-stakeholder platforms and institutions do exist such as ANR Committee at regional level. Inter-village institutions such as farmer platform, livestock owners' association also do exist but they cannot ensure effective coordination of programs between them.	4↑
14. Social capital in the form of cooperation across the landscape/seascape		
Is there connection, coordination and cooperation within and between communities for the management of natural resources?	There are connections, coordination and cooperation within and between communities in resource management but is every minimal due to limited meetings and planning of activities together.	4↑
Questions for score	Common understanding of the group	Group score/ trend
15. Social equity (including gender equity)		
Is access to resources and opportunities fair and equitable for all community members, including women at household, community and landscape level?	There is high equity to resources and opportunities for both male and female at household, community and landscape level. Women also do participate in decision making in resource management.	4↑
Livelihoods and well-being		
16. Socio-economic infrastructure		
Is the socio-economic infrastructure	Although there is an increase in socio-economic	3↑

adequate for the needs of the community?	infrastructures they are not adequate for the communities. More road networks need to be improved as well as more school, more drugs to health centers, electricity and portable drinking water facilities	
17. Human health and environmental conditions		
What is the general health situation of local people also considering the prevailing environmental conditions?	Health situations are not good considering the environmental conditions.	4↑
18. Income diversity		
Are households in the community involved in a variety of sustainable, income generating activities?	People are involved in a number of income generating activities in the area that are derived from the biodiversity but this is minimal	4↑
19. Biodiversity-based livelihoods		
Does the community develop innovative use of the local biodiversity for its livelihoods?	Tree trunks and branches are used for making stools, bamboo bed types are produced from stick, plant protection fences produced made from sticks and bee keeping.	3↑
20. Socio-ecological mobility		
Are households and communities able to move around between different production activities and locations?	Households and communities are highly movable around between different production activities and locations and the only mobility area regulated is the forestry sector.	3↑

Proposed interventions

Upon completion of the discussions on the 20 sets of resilience indicators for the landscapes/seascapes, the next stage of the exercise focused on the identification of possible areas of interventions to address the issues identified. The following areas of possible interventions were proposed for the Kiang West landscapes/seascapes:

1. Woodlot establishment and tree planting

The landscape/seascape of Kiang West National Park is seriously threatened by deforestation. This condition has left the landscape/seascape to high chances of soil erosion and the disappearance of many wildlife species.

2. Provision of protected grazing areas for livestock

The habitual occurrence of bushfires during the dry season in the landscape poses problems to herdsmen whose livestock are left with no fodder. This is posing serious threat in the area for successful livestock management. With the availability of fodder for livestock throughout year will enhance the availability of other livestock products such as milk and quality meat for improve living standards

3. Enhance and support the multiplication of indigenous ruminant species

During the discussions, the need for keeping and at the same time increasing the number of our indigenous ruminant species was much emphasized. Awareness has indicated that there is an increasing trend of extinction of some of the species. The retention of the local indigenous ruminants will help preservation of quality livestock for enhanced economy particularly the local people of the area

4. Encourage and support the re-introduction of extinct wildlife and ensure the protection of the existing ones.

The negative effects of bushfires and logging in the landscape has reduced the number of trees in the area. The discussions revealed that currently certain tree species are very low and these tree species are very important in maintaining a proper forest cover.

5. Provision of skills that will enhance value addition to forest products and their marketability.

With the current trend of illegal youth migration to Europe as well as rural-urban migration, it is believed that with the provision of diverse skills training to the youths will help in curbing migration. The training in value addition will increase the consumption of healthy free forest products and earn the community members good income.

6. Provide adult literacy programme for women to document and acquire knowledge on Agricultural- biodiversity and various livelihood skills.

Considering the low level of documentation that the study has revealed on biodiversity knowledge of the landscape, the provision of adult literacy program for the community members will enhance knowledge documentation and information sharing in future.

7. Capacity building on sustainable fishing practices and provision of fishing gears/equipment.

Revelations concerning the dwindling level of fish stock in the area due to poor fishing practices and the pollution of the water sources as a result of environmental and climate changes, building the capacity of the fishing population on sustainable fishing practices will enhance the natural restoration efforts of the aquatic system.

8. Promote sustainable vegetable gardening through the provision of fencing materials and inputs

The uncoordinated nature of gardening practices in the area is contributing to poor yields and a lot of negative environmental impacts particularly rampant clearing of the land cover coupled with deforestation. Practices relating to wrong methods of pesticides application is increasing the tendency of contamination of vegetable products and the entry these chemicals into food chain.

9. Restoration of threatened economic plants and roots in the forest e g *Pterocarpus-erinaceus* (-keno), 'Wild yam, Mahogany-Jalo tree and 'Kembo' tree.

In view of the economic importance attached to some plants highlighted above, it is deem important to restore such tree species to avoid their disappearance as they are highly exploited currently.

10. Restoration of extinct medicinal plants in the forest. (e.g. '*prunus africana*'- 'kotuto', '*katinyankumu*' and *combretum* species- 'jambakatango')

The assessment revealed the alarming rate of losing most of our medicinal plants and trees. This trend according to the study is on the increase and can be countered by the restoration of these species. Nowadays the shift has begun for people to use more of herbs than the conventional drugs for curing many diseases. The restoration effort will also enhance the amalgamation efforts of herbs and conventional drugs for curing some of the new diseases emerging.

11. Promotion of sustainable fruit tree development e.g. establishment of cashew and mango orchards

Embarking on these livelihood skills will enable the community members to earn incomes all year around. This opportunity will enhance good standard of living in terms of the ability to provide the basic needs of the household/family. Local trade and businesses in the products will also encourage local job opportunities and even reduce rural-urban migrations. The practices will encourage environmental greening.

12. Sensitization on bushfire control measures

The continuous bushfire outbreaks can be abated by putting up viable measures for discouraging perpetrators from the practice. This will be enforced with rigorous awareness creation through community meeting and workshops on the negative impact of bushfires on our environment. How to enforce the existing regulations on fire control are some of the best management options that could be applied.

13. Sensitization on environmental sanitation issues e.g. solid and liquid waste management practices.

The study has revealed some constraints on how to manage solid and liquid wastes that are generated in the communities. This situation is encouraging breeding grounds for pest and some of the causative agents of certain diseases in the community e.g. (malaria, diarrhea, dysentery and others). Sensitization meeting shall aim to educate the community the best practices in disposing solid and liquid wastes to designated dumpsites. It will also help in the formation of environmental committees or clubs at the community level.

14. Sensitization on the wildlife-human conflict issues e.g. stock routes and destruction of crops

The study has found out a lot of destruction of farm crops are caused by some of the wildlife species e.g. (monkeys, baboons, etc.) every year. Conflicts during the rainy season between herdsman and farm owners are on the increase every year. This situation is creating and fueling lot of disputes at communal level. The sensitization program shall contain measures and plans of how to curb these conflicts on sustainable manner.

15. Provide sustainable communication networks e.g. access road to farm lands & rice fields.

Access to some of the rice fields and farming land areas have been drastically damaged due to by water erosion. This has post a significant threat to production and productivity in both lowlands and upland agriculture. Therefore with interventions in dyke and contour bond construction, lost agricultural farmlands in both the lowlands and upland

recovery will be enhanced. Production and productivity will also be improved thus reducing food insecurity

16. Promote cereal banks, markets and cold rooms for perishable products from the forest and vegetable gardens.

The creation of cereal banks will enhance the protection and retention of local seeds varieties thereby ensuring their availability to the markets. With poor temperature conditions coupled with high humidity, local wild food cannot be preserved for long without favorable storage conditions. Cold stores will ensure preservation and storage of perishable vegetables and such forest fruits for value addition

17. Construction of contour bonds and dykes to enhance water retention and minimize siltation

Revelation was made about the high level of siltation taking place in the lowland areas hampering rice production and other forms of farming. The study also revealed the need for water conservation techniques in the lowland areas boosting successful crop and rice cultivation practices. Construction of dykes and contour bonds will enhance these practices

18. Promote sustainable renewal energy practices for enhancing re-forestation.

Encouraging the use of new technologies relating to energy consumption e.g. (use of improved cooking stoves and solar panels for lighting) will enhance the less dependency on fossil fuels and use of forest resources which are already under pressure. The solar panels will not only provide light for the communities but will also be used for charging mobiles phones in remote areas to improve communications

19. Increase awareness on the importance of consuming diverse locally produced foods

Efforts towards increasing the consumption level of locally produced foods as the dictum goes 'grow what you eat and eat what you grow' will encourage large scale of farming. Farming thus will begin to serve as a big employer of some of our jobless youths with the nerve syndrome to take the back way for greener pastures

20. Promoting private forestry development

Identifying interested partners and encouraging them on private/commercial forestry practices will reduce the high dependency rate on State forest and Community forest. Furthermore, the imitative will encourage employment opportunities in the local communities and helped in the re-forestation of the landscape/seascape.

21. Capacity building for local groups on proper landscape and seascape conservation and protection

Forming committees for the sustainable protection of the landscapes/seascapes will encourage the sustainable exploitation of resources in these ecosystems. Building the capacities of the committees shall enable them to serve as watchdogs for the proper management of the landscapes and defining clear roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders and partners.

22. Support and train community groups on the establishment of community tree nurseries

Provision of the nursery environment for sustainable propagation and restocking of the forest with a variety of plants and tree species is an important pre-requisite for reforestation practices in the landscape/seascape protection. With the training opportunity for the community groups in this intervention will ensure the retention of local knowledge on local useful tree species valuable to both the environment and livelihoods of human beings in general.

23. Rehabilitation of mangroves watersheds and other economic ecological areas. This will involve the identification and transplanting of areas with mangrove diebacks

Jokadou National Park (JNK)

Jokadou National Park is a newly created PA located in North Bank Region covering 2 districts with an area of 15, 028 ha. comprising of a complex systems of different wetland types. The landscape/seascape assessment for Jokadou National Park was were conducted in two sites involving 66 participants selected from 20 communities.

Findings

The following presents the results of the scores assigned by the participants to the 20 indicators of resilience to landscapes/seascapes of JNP:

Score card for Jokadou National Park SEPLS		
Questions for score	Common understanding of the group	Group score/ Trend
Landscape/seascape biodiversity and ecosystem protection		
1. Landscape/seascape diversity		
Is the landscape/seascape composed of diverse natural ecosystems (terrestrial and aquatic) and land use?	The landscape/seascape was composed of diverse ecosystems but this is reducing because the forest resources are depleting as well as fish stock in the rivers. This is attributed to illegal excessive mining of the natural resources in both the terrestrial and aquatic zones.	4↓
2. Ecosystem protection		
Are there areas in the landscape/seascape where ecosystems are protected under formal or informal forms of protection?	There are areas protected under the fishing, forest Acts as well as the ANR Act but respecting these Acts is minimal and that is continuing. The protected areas are being intruded into by people.	4 ↓
3. Ecological interaction between different components of the landscape/seascape		

Are ecological interactions between different components of landscape/seascape considered while managing natural resources?	Considerations are given to Ecological interactions, but very limited because sound forest resource and fish resource extraction practices are not observed	2↑
4. Recovery and regeneration of the landscape/seascape		
Does landscape or seascape have the ability to recover and regenerate after extreme environmental shocks?	The landscape and seascape cannot recover and regenerate itself because logging and the use of illegal fishing nets are uncontrolled even though there regulations against them	4↑
Biodiversity (including agricultural diversity)		
5. Diversity local food systems		
Does the community consume a diversity of locally produced food?	There is a verse diversity of local foods available in the area and they are produced within as well as mainly consumed them too. However, rice which is the main staple food is the only mainly imported food.	2↑

Questions for score	Common understanding of the group	Group score/ trend
6. Maintenance and use of local crop varieties and animal breeds		
Are local crop varieties and animal breeds conserved and used in the community?	Local crop varieties and animal breeds are conserved and used by the communities. However, there qualities have started diluting with the introduction of new foreign crop varieties and animal breeds by agricultural department	4↑
7. Sustainable management of common resources		
Are common resources sustainably managed?	With the current situation of the forest and fish stock reduction in the rivers are clear indications that common resources are not properly managed.	2↑
Knowledge and innovation		
8. Knowledge in agriculture and conservation practices		
Does the community develop, improve and adopt new agricultural, fisheries, forestry and conservation practices and/or revitalizes traditional ones to adapt to changing conditions, including climate change?	Some new innovations and conservation practices have been used by the communities in the field of agriculture, fisheries and forestry. However, this is minimally practiced due to the low level of monitoring and supervision as well as enforcement of regulatory frameworks created to enhance environmental protection and improvement.	4↑
9. Tradition and knowledge related to biodiversity		
Are local knowledge and cultural traditions related to biodiversity transmitted from elders and parents to younger people in the community?	Local knowledge related to biodiversity is being transmitted to the young by elders although minimal. Most of the traditional knowledge is not transmitted because it is seen to be rudimentary and not scientific by the present young generation coupled with the introduction of western education brain washing the mindset of the younger ones of their tradition and culture. Traditional knowledge transfer use to be high but now the trend is reducing significantly. The situation is also worsened by the limited documentation culture of that knowledge by the elders.	3↑
Questions for score	Common understanding of the group	Group score/ trend
10. Documentation, access and exchange of agricultural biodiversity		
Is agricultural biodiversity and associated knowledge documented,	Documentation of biodiversity related knowledge is low due to low literacy levels in those days	4↑

accessed and exchanged?	particularly in English. Only a few elites in Arabic might have been documenting but even access to those records is not possible to everyone. Some did not also see documentation as important.	
11. Women's knowledge		
Are women's knowledge, experiences and skills recognized and respected at household, community and landscape/seascape level?	Generally women's knowledge is not mostly recognized and accepted by most men, however, some degree of recognition is now being accorded to women's knowledge in biodiversity related issues thanks to gender advocacy activities.	4↑
Governance and social equity		
12. Right in relation to land/water and other natural resources management		
Does the community have customary/and formally recognized rights over land (seasonal) pastures, water and natural resources?	Customary and formal rights over land do exist but rights differ in terms of ownership and access between men and women particularly in land. Women have equal rights for access to land with men but unequal rights for ownership which based on traditional and customary believes. However, for other natural resources there is high equity.	3↑
13. Community-based governance		
Is there a multi-stakeholder landscape/seascape platform or institution able to effectively plan and manage landscape resources?	Multi-stakeholder platforms and institutions do exist such as ANR Committee at regional level. Inter-village institutions such as farmer platform, livestock owners' association also do exist but they cannot ensure effective coordination of programs between them.	2↑
14. Social capital in the form of cooperation across the landscape/seascape		
Is there connection, coordination and cooperation within and between communities for the management of natural resources?	There connections, coordination and cooperation within and between communities in resource management but is every minimal due to limited meetings and planning of activities together.	4↑
Questions for score	Common understanding of the group	Group score/ trend
15. Social equity (including gender equity)		
Is access to resources and opportunities fair and equitable for all community members, including women at household, community and landscape level?	There is high equity to resources and opportunities for both male and female at household, community and landscape level. Women also do participate in decision making in resource management.	3↑
Livelihoods and well-being		
16. Socio-economic infrastructure		
Is the socio-economic infrastructure adequate for the needs of the	Although there is an increase in socio-economic infrastructures they are not adequate for the	3↓

community?	communities. More road networks need to be improved as well as more school, more drugs to health centers, electricity and portable drinking water facilities	
17. Human health and environmental conditions		
What is the general health situation of local people also considering the prevailing environmental conditions?	Health situations are not good considering the environmental conditions.	4↑
18. Income diversity		
Are households in the community involved in a variety of sustainable, income generating activities?	People are involved in a number of income generating activities in the area that are derived from the biodiversity but this is minimal	4↑
19. Biodiversity-based livelihoods		
Does the community develop innovative use of the local biodiversity for its livelihoods?	Tree trunks and branches are used for making stools, bamboo bed types are produced from stick, plant protection fences produced made from sticks and bee keeping.	4↑
20. Socio-ecological mobility		
Are households and communities able to move around between different production activities and locations?	Households and communities are highly movable around between different production activities and locations and the only mobility area regulated is the forestry sector.	4↑

Proposed interventions

Assessment was carried out for all the 20 indicators of the landscape/seascape and in the process the information generated included problems identified, possible interventions to address them. The findings/observations identified the following areas for possible interventions and project design

Recommendations for possible interventions in Jokadou National Park

- Improvement of access roads between villages in the landscape/seascape.
- Support women association in the provision of fencing materials, boreholes and garden seeds to promote sustainable gardening.
- Support women farmers with cold rooms for the sustainable storage of their perishable garden produce.
- Creation of diversions to control flood and soil erosion in the landscape
- Training on Environmental Impact Assessment to discourage illegal sand mining and other bad practices of environment exploitation
- Establishment of community woodlots and supporting private forestry initiatives in the upland

- Introduction of ('seneya stove' and bio-char) to promote sustainable energy provision and reduce dependency on fuel energy
- Revitalize fishermen platform by providing them training on the best practices of sustainable fishing through the provision of fishing implements and inputs.
- Support small scale livestock owners association in the sustainable multiplication of the endemic ruminant species
- Provide capacity building/training on how to make compost to reduce dependency on imported chemical fertilizer
- Establish site management committees and provide them training for the sustainable management of dykes constructed to prevent salt intrusion and enhance water retention
- Sensitize farmers on the negative impacts of climate change on agriculture and train them on skills that will enhance their resilience
- Encourage and promote mangrove restoration in the seascape by providing the communities with mangrove seedlings
- Support tree nursery program to enhance sustainable tree planting all year around in the landscape
- Enhance agricultural production of women farmers by supporting them with farming implements and inputs.
- Provide training on the safe use of agro-chemicals and pesticides.
- Construction of salt intrusion barriers to prevent salt water in the rice growing areas.
- Provide adult literacy programs for women farmers to encourage documentation and readership.
- Support the construction and the establishment of cereal banks to enhance the sustainable safe storing of seed varieties.
- Provide training on sustainable exploitation of common natural resources.
- Provide training for VDCs and local authorities for sustainable protection and management of biodiversity.
- Improve access road to rice fields and farm lands in order to maximize sustainable agricultural production
- Provide training on the enforcement of the different Laws and Acts in Agriculture and Natural Resources Management (ANR)
- Provision of cottage industries for helping to add value on different landscape/seascape products for their marketability.

Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve

Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve is the largest PA in The Gambia comprising 22, 550 ha in size mostly of wetlands and is transboundary in nature stretching into the northern part of neighboring Senegal.

The baseline assessments for BBWR landscapes/seascapes was conducted at 3 sites from 4th - 6th November 2015.

Findings

The scores on the 20 indicators for the BBWR landscapes/seascapes are summarized in the table below:

Score card for Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve SEPLS		
Questions for score	Common understanding of the group	Group score/ Trend
Landscape/seascape biodiversity and ecosystem protection		
1. Landscape/seascape diversity		
Is the landscape/seascape composed of diverse natural ecosystems (terrestrial and aquatic) and land use?	The landscape/seascape was composed of diverse ecosystems but this is reducing because the forest resources are depleting as well as fish stock in the rivers. This is attributed to illegal excessive mining of the natural resources in both the terrestrial and aquatic zones.	4↓
2. Ecosystem protection		
Are there areas in the landscape/seascape where ecosystems are protected under formal or informal forms of protection?	There are areas protected under the fishing, forest Acts as well as the ANR Act but respecting these Acts is minimal and that is continuing. The protected areas are being intruded into by people.	3 ↓
3. Ecological interaction between different components of the landscape/seascape		
Are ecological interactions between different components of landscape/seascape considered while managing natural resources?	Considerations are given to Ecological interactions, but very limited because sound forest resource and fish resource extraction practices are not observed	3↓
4. Recovery and regeneration of the landscape/seascape		
Does landscape or seascape have the ability to recover and regenerate after extreme environmental shocks?	The landscape and seascape cannot recover and regenerate itself because logging and the use of illegal fishing nets are uncontrolled even though there are regulations against them in place.	4↑
Biodiversity (including agricultural diversity)		
5. Diversity local food systems		
Does the community consume a diversity of locally produced food?	There is a verse diversity of local foods available in the area and they are produced within as well as mainly consumed them too. However, rice which is the main staple food is the only mainly imported food.	4↑

Questions for score	Common understanding of the group	Group score/ trend
6. Maintenance and use of local crop varieties and animal breeds		
Are local crop varieties and animal breeds conserved and used in the community?	Local crop varieties and animal breeds are conserved and used by the communities. However, their qualities have started diluting with the introduction of new foreign crop varieties and animal breeds by agricultural department	4↓
7. Sustainable management of common resources		
Are common resources sustainably managed?	With the current situation of the forest and fish stock reduction in the rivers are clear indications that common resources are not properly managed.	4↑
Knowledge and innovation		
8. Knowledge in agriculture and conservation practices		
Does the community develop, improve and adopt new agricultural, fisheries, forestry and conservation practices and/or revitalizes traditional ones to adapt to changing conditions, including climate change?	Some new innovations and conservation practices have been used by the communities in the field of agriculture, fisheries and forestry. However, this is minimally practiced due to the low level of monitoring and supervision as well as enforcement of regulatory frameworks created to enhance environmental protection and improvement.	3↓
9. Tradition and knowledge related to biodiversity		
Are local knowledge and cultural traditions related to biodiversity transmitted from elders and parents to younger people in the community?	Local knowledge related to biodiversity is being transmitted to the young by elders although minimal. Most of the traditional knowledge is not transmitted because it is seen to be rudimentary and not scientific by the present young generation coupled with the introduction of western education brain washing the mindset of the younger ones of their tradition and culture. Traditional knowledge transfer use to be high but now the trend is reducing significantly. The situation is also worsened by the limited documentation culture of that knowledge by the elders.	3↓
Questions for score	Common understanding of the group	Group score/ trend
10. Documentation, access and exchange of agricultural biodiversity		
Is agricultural biodiversity and associated knowledge documented,	Documentation of biodiversity related knowledge is low due to low literacy levels in those days	2↓

accessed and exchanged?	particularly in English. Only a few elites in Arabic might have been documenting but even access to those records is not possible to everyone. Some did not also see documentation as important.	
11. Women's knowledge		
Are women's knowledge, experiences and skills recognized and respected at household, community and landscape/seascape level?	Generally women's knowledge is not mostly recognized and accepted by most men, however, some degree of recognition is now being accorded to women's knowledge in biodiversity related issues thanks to gender advocacy activities.	4↓
Governance and social equity		
12. Right in relation to land/water and other natural resources management		
Does the community have customary/and formally recognized rights over land (seasonal) pastures, water and natural resources?	Customary and formal rights over land do exist but rights differ in terms of ownership and access between men and women particularly in land. Women have equal rights for access to land with men but unequal rights for ownership which based on traditional and customary believes. However, for other natural resources there is high equity.	4↑
13. Community-based governance		
Is there a multi-stakeholder landscape/seascape platform or institution able to effectively plan and manage landscape resources?	Multi-stakeholder platforms and institutions do exist such as ANR Committee at regional level. Inter-village institutions such as farmer platform, livestock owners' association also do exist but they cannot ensure effective coordination of programs between them.	4↓
14. Social capital in the form of cooperation across the landscape/seascape		
Is there connection, coordination and cooperation within and between communities for the management of natural resources?	There connections, coordination and cooperation within and between communities in resource management but is every minimal due to limited meetings and planning of activities together.	2↓
Questions for score	Common understanding of the group	Group score/ trend
15. Social equity (including gender equity)		
Is access to resources and opportunities fair and equitable for all community members, including women at household, community and landscape level?	There is high equity to resources and opportunities for both both male and female at household, community and landscape level. Women also do participate in decision making in resource management.	4↑
Livelihoods and well-being		
16. Socio-economic infrastructure		
Is the socio-economic infrastructure adequate for the needs of the	Although there is an increase in socio-economic infrastructures they are not adequate for the	3↓

community?	communities. More road networks need to be improved as well as more school, more drugs to health centers, electricity and portable drinking water facilities	
17. Human health and environmental conditions		
What is the general health situation of local people also considering the prevailing environmental conditions?	Health situations are not good considering the environmental conditions.	4↑
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Does the community develop innovative use of the local biodiversity for its livelihoods?	Tree trunks and branches are used for making stools, bamboo bed types are produced from stick, plant protection fences produced made from sticks and bee keeping.	3↑
20. Socio-ecological mobility		
Are households and communities able to move around between different production activities and locations?	Households and communities are highly movable around between different production activities and locations and the only mobility area regulated is the forestry sector.	5↑

Proposed interventions

The assessment was completed for all 20 indicators and in the process; the information generated included problems identified, possible interventions to address the problems. The findings/observation resulting from the exercise in BBWR identified the following potential projects:

- Support and encourage private woodlot and orchard establishment to increase collective commitment and care for sustainable land management.
- Sensitize the VDCs and Ward Development Committees on ANR policies for better management of the biodiversity.
- Train the area communities on the new techniques of renewable energy technologies (Bio-char and 'seneya stove')
- Improvement of inter- village access roads.
- Construction of dykes to prevent salt intrusion in the lowland areas.
- Encourage and support the establishment of tree nursery programs in the landscapes/seascapes.
- Improvement of access roads to rice fields.
- Construction of diversions to minimize the negative effects of soil erosion.

- Encourage massive tree planting programs in the upland areas to minimize soil erosion and siltation of the rice fields.
- Support adult literacy programs in the area to enhance readability and writing skills.
- Provide capacity building in the areas pesticides and chemical management.
- Provide cereal banks and train farmers on the best practices of preserving crop seed varieties
- Support and encourage gardening by providing fencing materials and inputs for women farmers.
- Provide cold rooms and markets for women farmers to enhance horticultural production.
- More sensitization on the measures of controlling bush fires
- To encourage the consumption of sea protein and reduce dependency on imported chicken legs provide more fishing implements.
- Support and encourage mangroves restoration by providing the communities with mangroves seedlings.
- Provide training for the area platforms on communication skills amongst themselves and also the sustainable exploitation of common natural resources
- Support and encourage market days for only traditional agricultural products to enhance dependency on locally provided products
- Train farmers on compost making and importance of depending on organic manure.
- Support and encourage the establishment of fish ponds.
- Sensitize the area communities on gender policy and women's Act 2010 to enhance balance in decision making.

Indicators for the landscapes/seascapes.

Within the 3 selected sites selected for implementation of the landscapes/seascapes conservation approach, a number of indicators were identified during the baseline assessments. These indicators would form the basis of project interventions in the 3 areas and which would contribute towards SGP project goals at the national level as well as directly towards achievement of global targets. The indicators identified during the baseline assessments include the following:

- The 3 constitute a combined land area of 65, 000 hectares which is in need of conservation and rehabilitation to become a conducive habitat for biodiversity and for continue provision of ecosystem goods and services to the local population. As 3 sites which are also PAs, the 3 sites also could contribute greatly towards the realization of biodiversity global targets. SGP project activities would be geared towards connecting the 3 sites to serve as corridors for biodiversity and to rehabilitate the various ecosystem constituents which have degraded over time mainly due to human influence.
- More than 25, 000 of wetlands exist within the 3 sites with Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve alone constituting 22, 000 hectares. Within these wetland complexes, there are highly degraded mangrove ecosystems which would have to be rehabilitated through mangrove

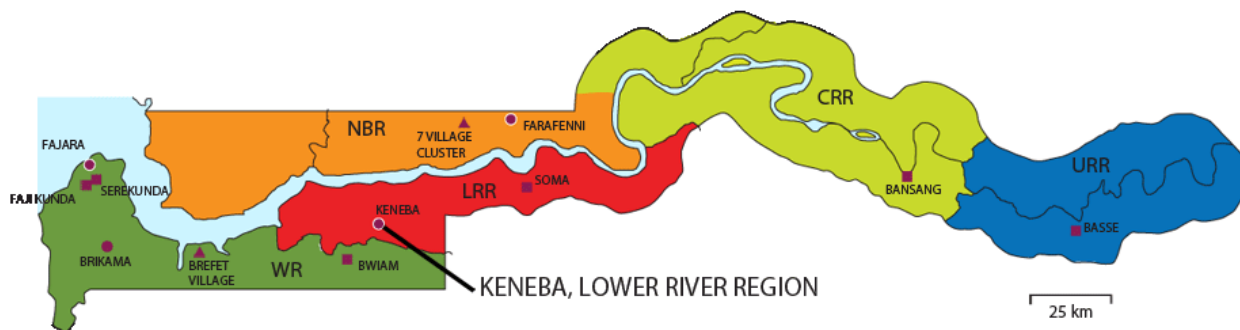
restoration activities as mangroves play vital roles in biodiversity conservation, storm protection for coastal communities, groundwater recharge and breeding grounds for fish and oysters.

- There is about 50, 000 hectares of farmlands that are considered highly degraded and farmers would have to adopt landscape/seascape conservation practices to restore land productivity and increase agricultural yields. The use of simple soil and water conservation measures such as contour bunds on the uplands, anti-salt and water retention dykes on the lowlands, farm boundary windbreak planting, agro-forestry could be adopted on such farmlands.
- Lands surrounding the 3 PAs in the selected landscapes/seascapes are considered highly degraded due to tree cutting for the supply of wood fuel to the local populations. About 20, 000 hectares of such lands can be set aside as ICCAs where community forestry schemes or community woodlots could be practiced.
- Weak governance among the communities was identified as a constraint in addressing natural resource management issues. The ones that already exist are dysfunctional and need strengthening to play vital roles in managing community-based initiatives and projects including M&E.
- In light of the dangers by chemical usage in agriculture and their high prices, farmers in the selected landscapes/seascapes need to adopt innovative agro-ecological practices which integrate crop and livestock farming with minimal or non-usage of chemicals. Composting could be an effective low cost environmental practice for improving soil fertility levels. About 40, 000 hectares of farmlands in the areas could adopt this strategic initiative. Organic farming would be highly suitable and those farms practicing this approach would go through a certification process for their produce.
- Integrated Pest management is another option that would eliminate the use of chemicals in the areas. This practice would include the use of biological methods to control common crop pests and diseases.
- None of the communities are connected to the national electricity grid. The lack of power sources poses serious constraints for the advancement of these rural communities. The provision of cheap, clean alternative energy sources would open up a lot of opportunities in the areas of education, agriculture, health, local businesses and other areas.
- To address energy access issues and the high rates of deforestation, the use of energy efficient stoves should be promoted. Studies have shown that the conventional 3-legged stoves consume on average about 2 kg of wood fuel to cook a meal for an average Gambian household. While cooking, the conventional stove emits about 3 kg of CO₂ into the atmosphere. In a year that translates to about 3, 285 kg of CO₂. By comparison, an efficient stove consumes only 1 kg of wood fuel to cook a meal, releasing only 1.5 kg of CO₂. In a year, that translates to about 548 tons of CO₂ release. For the project, 2, 000

energy efficient stoves would be distributed among 2, 000 households and this would save about 1, 095 tons of CO₂ from being released. The efficient stoves would also create employment, reduce deforestation, reduce indoor pollution and reduce health risks for women and children. In addition to energy efficient stoves, another 1, 000 solar stoves would be built and distributed among households to address energy access issues.

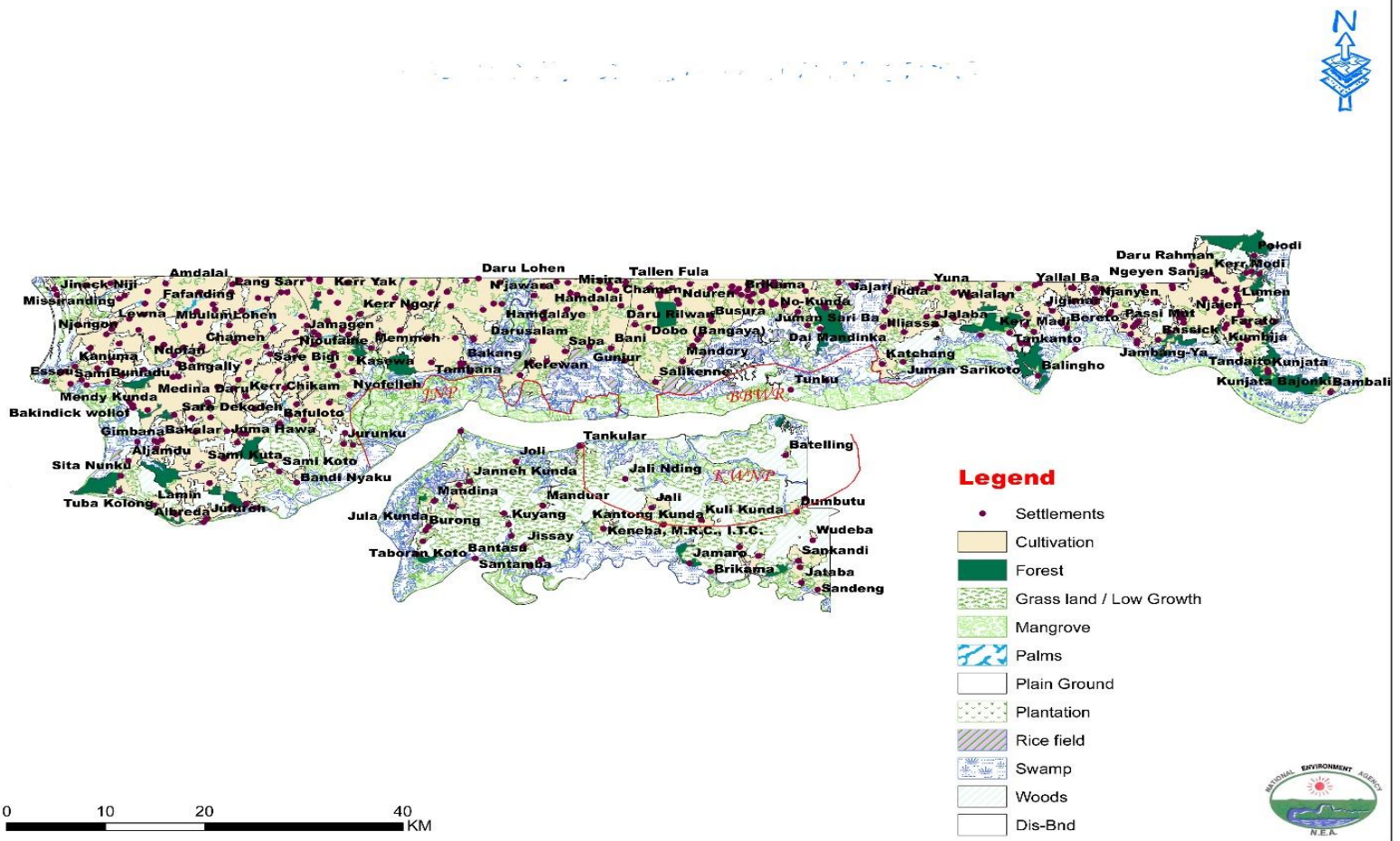
- To address the high levels of poverty prevalent in the 3 selected landscapes/seascapes, income generating economic activities would have to be created for the local populations. This will directly contribute towards reducing pressures on the natural resources within the 3 PAs as well as the surrounding environments.

Annex 3: **Administrative regions of The Gambia**



Administrative Regions:

WR – Western Region
LRR – Lower River Region
NBD – North Bank Region
CRR – Central River Region
URR – Upper River Region



Annex 5: PROTECTED AREAS AND CORRIDOR COMMUNITIES

BAO BOLONG WETLAND RESERVE

1. JAMMEH KUNDA
2. SALIKENNI
3. MANDORY
4. KINTEH KUNDA
5. MARONG KUNDA
6. KARANTABA
7. BUSURA
8. NJABA KUNDA
9. MINTEH KUNDA
10. NOO-KUNDA
11. DAI
12. KEKUTA KUNDA
13. BURENGYA
14. NJIE KUNDARING
15. JALI KUNDA WOLOF

16. CONTEH KUNDA SUKOTO
17. CONTEH KUNDA NIIGII
18. BURAN KUNDA
19. ILLIASSIA
20. INDIA
21. JAJARI
22. JUMANSARR BA
23. KATCHANG
24. JUMANSARR KOTO
25. ALIKALI KUNDA
26. YALAL
27. JIRON
28. DUNTU MALAN
29. YALLAL TANKONJALA
30. FARAFENI

KIANG WEST NATIONAL PARK

1. DUMBUTO
2. WUROKANG
3. KWINELLA
4. BATELLING
5. TENDABA
6. WUDEBA
7. SANKANDI
8. JIFARONG
9. BAJANA
10. KULIKUNDA
11. MANDUAR
12. JALI
13. KENEBA
14. TANKULARR
15. KANTANG KUNDA

JOKADU NATIONAL PARK

1. DASILAMEH
2. DARU FODAYBA
3. KARANTABA
4. BAKANG
5. TAMBANA
6. MUNYAGEN
7. KUNTAIR
8. MEMMEH
9. KABA KOTO

10. CHAMUNDING
11. KASEWA
12. MALICK NANA
13. NYOFELLEH
14. JURUNKU
15. CHILLA JURUNKU
16. KEREWAN
- 17. KINTEH KUNDA**

***CORRIDOR BETWEEN JOKADU NATIONAL PARK AND BAO BOLONG WETLAND
RESERVE***

1. SAABA
2. GUNJUR
3. BANNI