

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

**COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY
FOR GEF OP6**

COUNTRY: UKRAINE



KYIV

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List of Acronyms

ABS - Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing
 ACR - Annual Country Report
 AMR - Annual Monitoring Report
 CBD - Convention on Biological Diversity
 CPS - Country Programme Strategy of the GEF SGP
 CSOs - Civil Society Organizations
 ESD – Education for Sustainable Development
 FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
 FSP – Full Size Project
 GEF - Global Environment Facility
 IAPs - Integrated Approach Pilots
 ICCAs - Indigenous peoples and community conserved territories and areas
 M&E - Monitoring & Evaluation
 MENR - Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
 MES - Ministry of Education and Science
 NAMA - UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
 NAP- UNCCD National Action Programmes
 NBSAP - National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
 NC - National Coordinator of the GEF SGP
 NCSA - GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment
 NIPSC - National Implementation Plan Stockholm Convention on POPs
 NPFE - GEF-6 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise
 NPFES - National Portfolio Formulation Exercises
 NSC - National Steering Committee of the GEF SGP
 OP - Operational Phase of the GEF
 PA - Programme Assistant of the GEF SGP
 POPs - Persistent Organic Pollutants
 PRA - Performance and Results Assessment
 SAP - Strategic Action Programme
 SAPs - Strategic Action Programmes
 SEPLs - Socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes
 SES - UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards
 SGP - Small Grants Programme of the GEF
 TBD - Landscape/seascape baseline assessment indicators
 UNCCD - UN Convention to Combat Desertification
 UNDP - United Nations Development Programme
 UNEP - United Nations Environment Program
 UNFCCC - UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
 WB - World Bank

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GEF SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY FOR OP6

COUNTRY: UKRAINE

OP6 resources (estimated US\$): US \$ 3 050 000

- a. Core funds: US \$ 400 000**
- b. OP5 remaining balance: Not available**
- c. STAR funds: US \$ 2000 000**
- d. Other Funds to be mobilized: US \$ 600 000 (UNDP –GEF FSPs - grant projects);
US \$ 50 000 (EU-NGO Project).**

Country Programme Strategy (CPS) document serves as a framework for the country programme operations and provides a programmatic guidance for development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) in Ukraine. The strategy sets basic project eligibility criteria and specifies types of projects to be funded through the programme. This document is designed to align SGP's operational phase strategies to that of the GEF and be in accord with the national environmental priorities of Ukraine responding to the requirements of global environmental conventions (UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNCCD, POPs), as well as documents related to national development and poverty reduction. Finally, the CPS identifies the strategic results to be addressed by the country programme during the sixth GEF Operational Phase (January 2015 - June 2018). The target audience addressed in this document is the project proponents (CBOs, NGOs and community groups), central, regional and local government bodies, bilateral and multilateral donors, private sector, National Steering Committee and the SGP country programme team.

1. Introduction to the GEF and SGP

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a global partnership among 183 countries, international institutions, CSOs, and the private sector that aims to address global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives.

The GEF was established in 1991 and serves as an independent financial mechanism to assist countries in fulfilling their obligations under the following Conventions they have signed and ratified: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The GEF's mission is the protection of the global environment with a particular purpose: achievement of global environmental benefits through funding programs and projects in the following six areas of work: biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, chemicals and waste, and sustainable management of forests (REDD+).

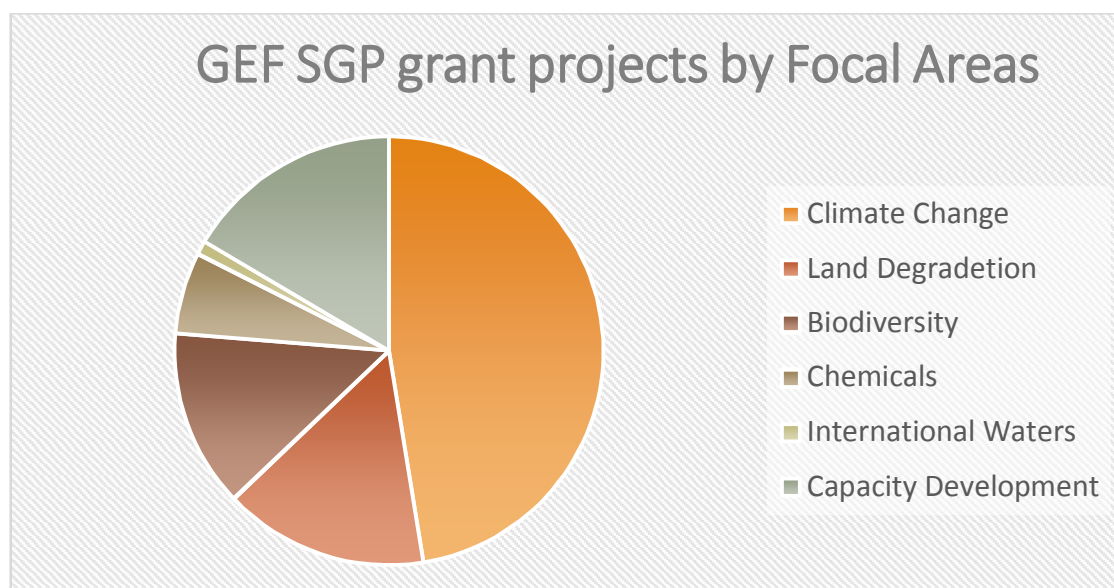
The GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) was launched in 1992 following the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The programme is funded by the GEF as a corporate programme and implemented by the UNDP on behalf of the GEF partnership, and is executed by the UNOPS. SGP supports activities of NGOs and community-based organizations in developing countries towards conservation of biodiversity, climate change abatement, protection of international waters, prevention of land degradation and reducing the prevalence of harmful

chemicals and waste through community-based approaches while generating sustainable livelihoods¹. It is based on the understanding that global and regional environmental problems can best be addressed if local people are involved and direct community benefits and ownership are generated. SGP provides a series of demonstration projects for further scaling up, replication and mainstreaming. At the global level, the SGP programme goal in OP6 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.” The diversity of civil society organizations which have been steadily and increasingly participating in GEF SGP activities include community based organizations and groups, indigenous peoples groups, NGOs, women’s groups, research and academic institutions, youth, and the private sector. Currently, there are over 125 participating countries in the GEF SGP in five world regions: Africa, Asia/Pacific, Arab States, Europe/CIS and Latin America/Caribbean.

2. SGP country programme - summary background

Ukraine became the SGP participating country in 2009. The SGP country programme was officially launched with appointment of the National Coordinator in 2010.

During 2010 the National Steering Committee was established, and the Country Programme Strategy was developed and approved. During 2010 - 2015, SGP Ukraine was allocated US\$ 3 896 208 of the GEF OP4 and OP5 resources. The allocated funds were committed in eighty grant projects addressing six GEF SGP thematic areas with geographic spread out over four regions of Ukraine. In the GEF/SGP perspective, Chernihiv, Zhytomyr, Rivne, and Lugansk regions were considered as the geographic area with an accent on activities in the following focal areas: climate change, capacity development, and, to the extent possible, biodiversity protection, chemicals, land degradation, international waters.



Pic.1 Distribution of OP5 Projects by Focal Areas

¹ Action at the local level by civil society 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).

In general, during OP4 and OP5 the country programme ensured a good start-up of the SGP in Ukraine and considerably contributed to the GEF mandate by registering concrete achievements in the GEF priority areas, as well as improvement of local people's well-being and community empowerment.

By reaching out to the significant number of poor and vulnerable groups in marginalized communities, SGP Ukraine proved to be a fast, effective and friendly delivery mechanism for GEF resources that are used to safeguard the environment, alleviate poverty, promote social inclusion and empowerment. Therefore, 70 of 80 grantees represented provincial non-governmental or community-based organizations, and 60 were women-led CSOs. The project beneficiaries included children from remote areas, patients of Malyn hospital, elderly people in Zhytomyr, Internally Displaced People from Eastern Ukraine, as well as kindergarten children, women and other socially vulnerable groups in a number of rural areas.

In OP5, the SGP country programme also diversified its funding sources by serving as a delivery mechanism for non-GEF donors. Thus, apart from traditional GEF resources, the SGP country programme in Ukraine utilized US\$ 190,000 for implementation of the EU-funded initiative: *Strengthening environmental governance by building the capacity of NGOs in Ukraine*. On top of serving a delivery mechanism, SGP Ukraine, through a range of strategic partnerships, succeeded in mobilizing huge resources from partner organizations and businesses to replicate and scale-up its successful initiatives. Consequently, the project-level co-financing comprised US\$ 2 140 681 in cash and US\$ 1 600 103 in-kind, leveraged through parallel funding from diverse sources, including UNDP CO Projects, as well as beneficiary communities, local authorities, private sector.

Contributing to fulfilment of the GEF's mandate, the SGP Ukraine projects in OP5 resulted in specific achievements generating the global environmental benefits, such as:

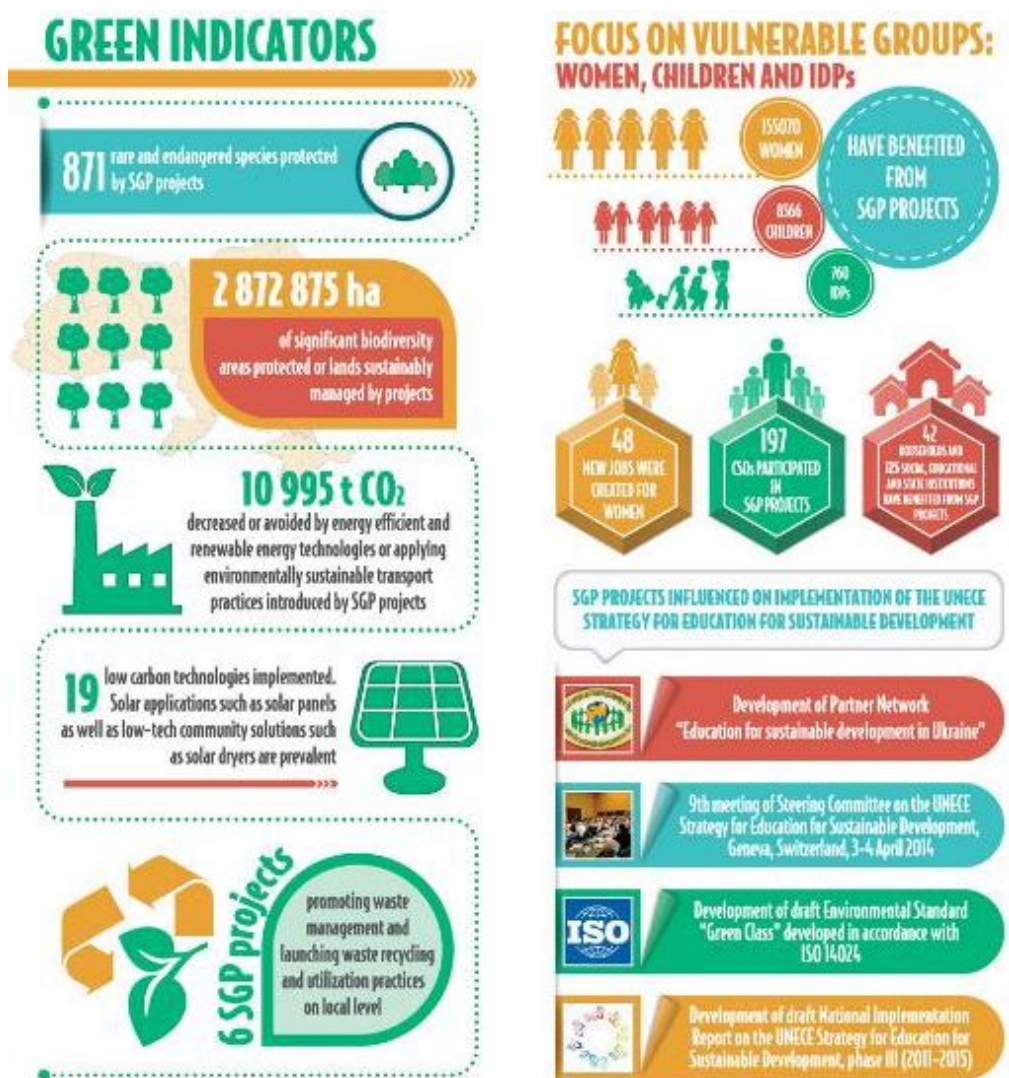
- Protection of 871 rare and endangered species;
- Protection, rehabilitation or sustainable management of 2 872 875 ha of significant lands by SGP Projects;
- Reduction of 10 995 tons of CO₂ by installation of renewable energy technologies or applying environmentally sustainable transport practice;
- 19 low carbon technologies implemented.

GEF SGP provides assistance in mobilizing additional resources, especially in cash, from partner international organizations, governments and businesses; troubleshoots different operational issues faced by the grantees during the project implementation; provides guidance to the grantees on development of high quality knowledge products; facilitates continuous knowledge sharing and experience exchange among the SGP grantees network and beyond for replication and scaling-up of the best practices by the GEF and non-GEF donors. As a result, GEF SGP contributes to the community based approach to local sustainable development and facilitates the collaborative relationship between communities, local authorities, partners on issues of development and environment.

Successful community-based work on local energy-efficient solutions in Ukraine and the network of energy efficient projects have led to local and national policies that further support these initiatives. In GEF 5, SGP promoted activities that expand the impact of projects beyond the community. They have influenced national or regional policy-making. SGP work to promote socially inclusive development particularly on gender equality and women's empowerment has expanded over five years of SGP in Ukraine. 70 % of the Projects has actively partnered with women at the local level and many projects were women-led.

At the country level GEF SGP Ukraine has already started supporting the establishment of CSO-Government policy dialogues, National platform, public hearings, etc. GEF SGP encouraged participation of CSOs in the National Consultation and Rio+20 Conference, initiated discussion on developing in Ukraine a Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR), which was recently ratified by the Parliament of Ukraine.

SGP in Ukraine has already moved from standalone projects to a consolidated approach in such a way that, spatially and thematically, each project supported, complements the others, thereby creating a greater impact at a faster rate. Experience, knowledge and partnerships of past operational phases will serve as a foundation for effective use of limited resources of SGP in OP6. Given that partnerships are critical for SGP implementation both in technical and financial terms, the country programme will further strive to maintain and expand existing partnership relations with bilateral and multilateral donors, UN agencies, private sector and government for complementarity and cost-sharing opportunities addressing the linkages between environment and poverty in OP6.



Pic.2 GEF SGP Ukraine: OP5 results

3. SGP country programme niche

At the global level, in its 6th Operational Phase (OP6) SGP 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”. The GEF SGP has defined seven key strategic initiatives that guided the process of National CPS OP6 preparation and lead countries to prioritize and select based on national priorities and capacities: *Community landscape conservation, Climate smart innovative agro-ecology, Low carbon energy access co-benefits, Local to global chemical management coalitions, CSO-government policy and planning dialogue platforms, Promoting social inclusion (Gender mainstreaming, Youth involvement and Indigenous Peoples fellowships), Global reach for citizen practice based knowledge programme (Digital library of community innovations and South-South community innovation exchange).*

3.1. Relevant environmental conventions and treaties

Until now, Ukraine has ratified and signed numerous international multilateral environmental agreements (Conventions and Protocols) and most of them are tied to the GEF strategic priorities. The list of relevant Rio Conventions ratified by Ukraine and national planning frameworks is illustrated in Table 1 below:

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)	Parliamentary Act 1994.11.29 №257/94-BP
First to Fifth National Reports	July, 1997, March, 2007, April, 2007, June, 2010, April, 2015.
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	National Strategy on Biodiversity Conservation 2005 - 2025 was approved by the Government (Decree as of September 22 # 675)
National Action Plan for the Programme of Work on Protected Areas	Submitted to CBD on June, 2012
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Parliament Act N 435/96-BP dated 29.10.96, BBP, 1996, N 50, p. 277
Nationally Determined Contributions Ukraine	January, 2016
UNFCCC National Communications (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th)	1999; 2006; 2009
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	N/A
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	Parliamentary Act N 61-IV (61-15) dated 04.07.2002,

	BBP, 2002, N 36, p. 267
National Concept to combat land degradation and desertification	Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, Resolution dated October, 22, 2014, № 1024-p
Stockholm Convention (SC)	Signed by Ukraine 22.05.2001, Parliamentary Act N 949-V (949-16) dated 18.04.2007, BBP, 2007, N 30, p. 396
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	Transmission pending
The World Bank's Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for Ukraine for 2012-2016	Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for Ukraine covering the period of 2012-2016 (Endorsed by World Bank's Board of Directors in February 2012)
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	01.09.2004 - 30.12.2007
GEF-6 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	N/A
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies	Strategic Action Programme for the Dnipro Basin and Implementation Mechanisms developed in 2007
Law of Ukraine on the main principals (strategy) of the State Environmental Policy of Ukraine till 2020	Approved on 21 December, 2010, N 2818-VI

It should be mentioned that according to the Ukrainian legislation, international agreements have supreme legal force and become constituent of the country's legal system. The norms stipulated in the international agreements are subject to immediate execution and need to be specified in the national legislation of Ukraine. Overall, CSOs in Ukraine are aware of the Rio Conventions. However, their knowledge and awareness is limited to understanding of the conventions and relevant national plans adopted to implement them in very general terms. Therefore, firstly, the SGP assumes to improve knowledge and understanding among communities and CSOs in sufficient details so that they can promote self-development and meaningful involvement in the national implementation of the conventions and national plans.

3.2. Complementarity and synergy with other initiatives

SGP Ukraine will use OP6 resources to support implementation of national priorities in relation to GEF-6 strategic directions and help the country achieve the objectives of the global conventions. The programme will promote involvement of CSOs and community-level partners in processes related to implementation of the convention guidelines in conformity with SGP OP6 project document and the CPS. Moreover, as part of *Grantmaker+* support services, the country programme will continue assisting CSOs (particularly CBOs) in project development and formulation, and facilitate their access to resources of SGP and its partners.

“Grantmaker+” role of SGP will be based on the programme's experience and assets that were built up over the years and will create value beyond grant-making by SGP. It is recognized, that SGP has full capacity to set up a

“Grassroots Reach” communication channel for use not only by SGP but also by the government, GEF, other international donor agencies, and the private sector interested either as a business partner on marketing sustainable products or in CSR partnership. For the new GEF Focal Areas, like Land Degradation, the GEF SGP Ukraine will open room for functional upscaling into GEF or other donors FSPs, and political scaling through efforts to influence the work on major strategic document on the National level with the involved Ministries and other stakeholders. The results of the SGP projects will form a good basis for transformational change towards better land management in Ukraine. GEF SGP will use UNDP’s Chornobyl experience in applying a holistic “area-based development” approach aimed at restoring a sense of community self-reliance by showing local people that they themselves hold the key to their lands recovery, will serve as a template for community-based efforts across Zhytomyr and Kyiv Polissya. Expanding early successes of the UNDP, this effort will emphasize community empowerment, building a spirit of activism, and helping overcome “victims’ syndrome,” as residents re-build basic infrastructure and meet other urgent needs.

Gender equality and women’s empowerment through proactive promotion of women-led projects, mainstreaming gender in all relevant projects is of significant importance in SGP work. It forms solid background for further national and global networking of women grantee-leaders for knowledge-sharing and policy advocacy. The previous work will contribute to Ukraine SGP’s strategy on gender mainstreaming and women’s empowerment.

In the past period NGO’s and communities were actively involved in successful implementation in numerous project financed by GEF SGP Ukraine. Most frequent fields of assistance were climate change with a special focus on low carbon emission actions, energy efficiency and RES – solar for heat, and action in the area of biodiversity (agrobiodiversity), capacity development and community mobilization, work with youth and women in remote areas.

For successful implementation of the foreseen GEF SGP Ukraine actions, it is crucial to promote and support the active involvement of the local communities and CSO sector in transferring and accommodation of the national priorities on local level through:

- a) actively participation in downscaling of the defined national priorities on a local level taking in consideration local conditions;
- b) prioritization of the defined measures and actions according local conditions;
- c) intensification of the cooperation and networking among the civil society and local authorities and
- d) active participation in definition of modalities and pathways for successful implantation of country priorities through transfer of know-how and actively involvement in the implantation of country programmes, projects and monitoring plans.

UNDP’s Social and Environmental Standards (SES) are comprehensively considered in the CPS in order to reduce environmental and social risks of SGP interventions. Those SES include three cross-cutting principles² and seven standards³, to be used by the country programme while selecting SGP projects in OP6. To ensure individual projects are in compliance with safeguards requirements, the SGP country team will use project SES checklist during the projects screening, as detailed in Annex 1. The checklist questions are also included in the SGP’s application assessment form used by the TAG/NSC during the project review and assessment process. The SES criteria will be duly communicated to the stakeholders during the SGP team workshops and consultation meetings.

² The three cross-cutting principles that apply across all UNDP programmes and projects are the following: Human rights; Gender equality and women empowerment; Environmental sustainability.

³ The standards, applied at the project level are the following: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management; Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation; Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions; Cultural Heritage; Displacement and Resettlement; Indigenous Peoples; Pollution Prevention, Resource Efficiency

Table 2 provides descriptions of GEF SGP contribution to national priorities on selected SGP OP6 strategic initiatives.

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

SGP strategic initiatives	OP6	GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	SGP Country Programme niche relevant to national priorities/other agencies	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"> - Improvement of biodiversity-related management system inside and outside SPAs, and enlargement of protected area network; - Reduction of direct pressure on biodiversity through promotion of sustainable use by local communities; - Implementation of studies, capacity development and knowledge management activities in biodiversity protection and sustainable use of natural resources; - Promotion of sustainable agro- and eco-tourism to generate sustainable income and preserve the environment; 	Facilitate better management of the PA network by establishing institutional set-up, providing technical and financial support through promoting community participation and co-management modalities to increase local ownership and improve livelihoods
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"> - Promote integrated natural resource management and sustainable land use practices at ecosystem and farming systems to prevent land degradation; - Improvement of pasture (remote) and hay-field management system; - Promotion of organic agriculture and other forms of sustainable farming production that improve functioning of agro-ecosystems; - Reduction of risks and vulnerability of agriculture related to natural disasters and climate-change; - Promotion of on-farm preservation of genetic resources; - Improve marketing opportunities for farmers and competitiveness of agro products; - Restoration of degraded forests and afforestation to maintain/enhance carbon sink in forest lands; - Raising the public awareness about desertification and other environmental issues, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting value-chain development through the establishment of cooperatives, market access promotion, and sustainable agricultural practices incorporating disaster preparedness jointly with FAO, UNDP and EU and build capacity to address diverse farming and rural development needs; - Considering SGP Ukraine as a potential grant delivery mechanism for GEF FSP “Development and Commercialization

SGP strategic initiatives	OP6	GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	SGP Country Programme niche relevant to national priorities/other agencies	Complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
			and promotion of public participation in land policy formulation	of Bioenergy Technologies in the Municipal Sector in Ukraine”
Energy access co-benefits		<i>Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promoting energy saving and renewable energy generation, including development of incentive mechanisms; - Supporting increased use of solar heating systems and improvement of energy efficiency in buildings; - Ensuring environmentally sound energy supply in compliance with the commitments under the global environmental conventions; - Supporting new ventures to promote development of the energy efficient and renewable energy technologies; - Providing large-scale information and awareness raising campaigns among all stakeholders on use of renewable energy sources and energy conservation, as well as related environmental and social benefits; - Promoting ESD principles in work with Pas, youth, children, other groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting use of innovative renewables and implementation of energy efficiency measures and promoting application of SE4ALL principles; - Assist the Government in addressing climate change and energy conservation through formulation of mitigation and adaptation policies; improvement of legislation to promote development of low carbon technologies - Considering SGP Ukraine as a potential grant delivery mechanism for GEF FSP project “Transforming the Market for Efficient Lighting”, - Implementing EU-NGO Project and pilots on Education for Sustainable Development
Local to global chemicals coalitions		<i>Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raising public awareness and knowledge on issues and risks related to POPs and harmful chemicals; - Reducing/eliminating the releases of POPs and other hazardous chemicals into the environment and impact on human health; 	Reducing the risk to human health and environment through sound management of hazardous chemicals and contaminated sites

SGP strategic initiatives	OP6	GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	SGP Country Programme niche relevant to national priorities/other agencies	Complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
		<i>concern</i>	- Promoting application of modern and safe methods for solid waste management	
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"> - Deepening the possibilities for CSO-Government partnerships to promote transparent participation of NGOs and CSO networks in national policy formulation as well as implementation, monitoring and evaluation of strategic programs; - Develop capacity of local and national civil society stakeholders 	<p>Supporting frameworks and dialogue processes to ensure meaningful involvement of civil society and citizens in national and local development and policy formulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Considering SGP Ukraine as a potential grant delivery mechanism for GEF FSP project “Integrating Rio Conventions Provisions into Ukraine’s National Policy Framework”
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"> - Ensuring implementation of principal recommendations of the <i>UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</i> and of the <i>Beijing Conference</i> and fulfilment of the obligations assumed by Ukraine under other ratified international documents on gender equality; - Ensuring equal participation of men and women in all aspects of social life to foster the socio-economic, political, cultural development of the country; - Promote participation of youth in the political, economic and cultural life - Promote environmental peacebuilding in affected communities. 	<p>Targeting socially excluded and vulnerable groups including: people living below the national poverty line; women in rural areas, including women-led households; persons with disabilities; youth, particularly unemployed youth;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To introduce environmental peacebuilding in the affected communities
Contribution to global knowledge management platforms		<i>Contribute to GEF KM efforts</i>	- Supporting science, technologies and innovation-based knowledge development and targeted application of gained knowledge in education and different spheres of economy;	Providing financial assistance, experience, knowledge and development of analytical products for

SGP strategic initiatives	OP6	GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	SGP Country Programme niche relevant to national priorities/other agencies	Complementation between the SGP Country Programme and UNDP CO strategic programming
			- Developing and implementing competitive and efficient science and education policies, with a special focus on developing innovative technologies	evidence-based decision-making, innovation and unconventional solutions

4. OP6 strategies

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

- (a) Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation,
- (b) Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology,
- (c) Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits, and
- (d) Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions.

These strategic initiatives are designed to foster synergies among the GEF focal areas and deliver integrated solutions through utilization of about 70% of OP6 grant-making resources. Up to 30% of remaining OP6 funds (Core and STAR) may be directed to support cross-cutting projects at national level outside the selected landscape area. These projects support capacity development; knowledge management; policy and planning; CSO-government dialogues platforms as well as other important initiatives that will enhance reputation and strategic positioning of the SGP country programme.

4.1. Landscape-based OP6 grant-making strategies

For SGP Ukraine's focused action during the GEF OP6, there have been selected two distinctive areas within the existing SGP geographical focus area as main target landscapes. One is selected as a mixed forest zone covering the entire territory of Zhytomyr and Kyiv Polissya. For second area the entire territory of high importance steppe zone (Priazovye steppes with granite and sandstone extraction of Zaporizhia and Donetsk regions; sand steppes of Kherson region, covering 95 000 km² of the territory of Ukraine), was selected (to be named Steppe area for this assessment and Strategy), representing Ukrainian steppe landscape which is the only virgin and unique in Europe.

The entire selection process has been guided or conducted with application of a number of criteria identified for this purpose and facilitated with intensive discussions, interviews and consultations with NC, NSC, civil society groups, local authorities, community associations and other stakeholders within a short time span. The suggested SGP OP6 Strategic Initiatives have also been not less important factors selecting the two landscapes. The current SGP Ukraine's geographical focus area covered 4 out of 24 oblasts and as instructed by SGP CPMT, one to three landscapes were needed to be selected within this focus area. For taking up the task, the following criteria have been worked out:

- The number of community groups within landscape(s).
- The number of marginalized community groups within landscape(s).

- Poverty level in the communities within landscape.
- The socio-ecological importance of landscapes/ecosystems.
- Chances/possibilities for conducting landscape-wide activities.
- Possible maximum rate of coverage of communities at landscape level.
- Possibility of using SGP successful grantees for transferring their knowledge and experience to communities within the selected landscapes.
- Location of biodiversity hotspots.
- Representation of Ukraine's geographical zones.
- Environmental significance of the selected landscape.
- SGP and UNDP experience and lessons learned in working with communities to contribute global environmental benefits.

Selection of the landscape area of focus for the SGP in OP6 was carried out taking into consideration of the poverty level in the communities, UNDP CO strategies and approaches, SGP's lessons learned, available funding for grant-making, niche, opportunities, challenges and potential for synergies, based on the public consultation meetings and discussions with national authorities and local stakeholders.

Upon selecting the two landscapes a map (Picture 3.) was created and referenced during the followed landscape-based baseline assessment are given in Annex 9.1. for comparing with results of the same assessment to be conducted at the end of OP6.

The SGP in Ukraine will develop an integrated country portfolio that contains projects that are linked thematically and geographically with the successfully implemented and on-going GEF MSPs and FSPs. The GEF SGP projects will aim at creating synergies between projects, contribute to global environmental and human development benefits. The completed, ongoing and planned activities where GEF is the leading source of funding, are catalyzing environmental awareness to the local public to accomplish certain visible results on a local level. The GEF SGP aims to create close links with these projects and their results. Since the GEF funded projects are in the areas where SGP will be present, SGP will continue to work with communities for global environmental benefits, improved livelihoods and strengthened empowerment.

The GEF SGP will build synergy with the UNDP-GEF Biomass Project related to the disseminating knowledge on the local level and introducing participatory approach. It is foreseen that the preliminary GEF SGP projects results and experience will be used by the ongoing GEF FSP "Transforming the Market for Efficient Lighting". The GEF SGP will contribute to the Government priority areas near Chernobyl and aim at contributing to the GEF full size project "Conserving, Enhancing and Managing Carbon Stocks and Biodiversity while Promoting Sustainable Development in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone through the Establishment of a Research and Environmental Protection Center and Protected Area". GEF SGP as a grant delivery mechanism for the GEF FSPs in the landscape will be used.



Picture 3. Map showing the two target landscapes

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

During OP6, the SGP plans to involve 150 new community groups in the programme from the two targeted landscapes. Most of projects will be designed in a way that each grant is led by a successful grantee community or NGO and involves a range of new communities, covering the entire landscapes or at least considerable portions of the landscapes. This approach will enable the lead community or NGO to easily transfer their practice-based knowledge, experience and lessons learned to new community grantees. Also, this scheme is fully in line with the current reduced country allocation on one hand and with opportunities continuously increasing for current communities on the other. It is anticipated that each grant will involve new communities with their own increasing co-financing potentials and resources. The landscape approach using the said scheme will much reduce risks of failure and instead increase opportunities and chances for new communities to produce much greater results than individual projects do. It also increase SGP's opportunity to organize peer-to-peer trainings among different communities.

To enhance synergy between the SGP OP6 strategic initiatives to achieve greater impact from multifocal approaches at landscape level, there will be promoted strategically important project themes that will mutually support each other at landscape level in the short and long run.

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

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

- Management and Development of Community Protected Areas;
- Management and Development of Riparian Areas;
- Triple-win (community land conservation, job creation and poverty reduction) activities to gain benefits with regard to social, economic and environmental aspects/respects;
- Sustainable grassland management;
- Community Innovations;
- Forest and ecosystem restoration activities that also enhance landscape connectivity and increase landscape resilience;
- Activities supporting diversification of livelihoods and income generation connected to biodiversity conservation;
- Improvement of access to credit and market through development of appropriate business plans;
- Establishment of local working groups, networks or associations of community organizations at landscape level;
- Support for participatory decision-making and planning processes/ mechanisms and knowledge sharing;
- Capacity building for local governance on issues related to landscape problems and opportunities through policy dialogue, etc.

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

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

4.2. OP6 strategic initiatives

Community Landscape Conservation

The landscape approach is an integrated way of working at scale, creating linkages between biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods, food sovereignty and resilience. Within the selected landscape area the SGP country programme will support: *i)* demonstration of sustainable livelihood practices based on conservation and sustainable use of biological resources, including agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry, and tourism; *ii)* introduction of working models of community conservation practices that create benefits for local people; and *iii)* demonstration of community-level practices for reducing nutrient flows and land-based pollution to transboundary water bodies and empowering communities through IWRM practices.

The planned activities should result in better functioning of ecosystems, regulating air quality, climate, water cycle, erosion and natural hazards, pollination etc., as well as providing non-timber products, fuelwood and other benefits to local communities. Through direct involvement in SGP activities, the local population will increase awareness and appreciation of benefits of multiple ecosystem services, and gain knowledge and practical experience of biodiversity-friendly income-generating activities. It is believed, that community participation will also increase project efficiency and sustainability of results. The planned activities will intersect with other strategic initiatives of the SGP in OP6, thus ensuring synergism and coherence between the SGP-funded initiatives in the target area.

Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology

Application of the climate-smart innovative agro-ecology in the target area will help guide actions to transform and reorient agricultural systems to effectively and sustainably support development and food security under a changing climate. In the context of food security and development goals in the target area, the following 3 main objectives shall be addressed: *i)* sustainably increasing food security by increasing agricultural productivity and incomes; *ii)* building resilience and adapting to climate change; and *iii)* developing opportunities for reducing greenhouse gas emissions compared to expected trends. Therefore, the country programme under this theme will provide practical support to innovative agro-ecology practices that integrate land, water, livestock and biodiversity for improvement of ecosystem-based services and sustenance of local livelihoods. In the long run, these activities are expected to mitigate land degradation, increase productivity, strengthen farmers resilience, reduce agricultural emissions and increase carbon storage.

Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits

Under this strategic initiative, the SGP country programme will support demonstration of locally adapted innovative low-carbon technologies providing sustainable energy services and enhancing energy security. These interventions are aimed to reduce GHG emissions and deforestation, improve carbon sequestration and climate resilience (reduced vulnerability to landslides, droughts etc.), as well as generate health benefits. It is envisioned that through the SGP seed funding successful projects will be replicated and scaled up, and be commercialized by the private sector. Facilitating the shift towards access to low carbon energy will help alleviate poverty in rural areas, where high energy prices directly affect the vulnerable groups. In addition, the country programme will invest in local capacity building to develop and implement innovative low-GHG technologies and energy efficient appliances. Knowledge sharing to highlight best practices and lessons from SGP demonstrations will be also supported.

Local to global chemical management coalitions

In this priority area, SGP will focused its activities on *i)* pesticide management in agriculture and organic farming; *ii)* reduction of chemicals usage and contamination; *iii)* avoidance of open burning of solid waste; and *iv)* capacity development, awareness raising and knowledge sharing. In particular, the SGP country programme will support practical solutions of safe disposal and management of harmful chemicals and waste through joint efforts with national and international actors. The programme will invest in the development of local capacities for environmentally sound management of harmful chemicals through demonstration of models at the

community level. Given the common nature of chemicals and waste management issues for many countries, SGP will foster knowledge exchange and collaboration among local and global partnerships and initiatives (e.g. IPEN, IPEP etc.) and promote involvement of national stakeholders through awareness raising, educational campaigns and global knowledge networks.

4.3. Grantmaker+ strategies

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

- i) assisting communities, local NGOs and other stakeholders as “*Barefoot Consultants*” to develop relevant proposals for accessing non-GEF sources of funding;
- ii) setting up a “*Grassroots Reach*” communication channel to be used by the government, GEF, other donors, and responsible businesses; and
- iii) supporting a “*CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platform*”.

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

4.3.1. Capacity building of stakeholders

In parallel to the capacity development component included in each grant project, the SGP country team will further implement a series of targeted skills building activities to address the lack of proficiency among the programme proponents. In particular, through stakeholder meetings, knowledge sharing events, proposal development workshops and individual consultations, the SGP team, jointly with the NSC members and invited experts, will assist CSOs (particularly local NGOs and CBOs) in project ideation, design and development. It is believed, that immediate engagement of stakeholders in SGP programming through capacity building interactions, will improve their understanding on SGP OP6 strategic directions called to effectively tackle environmental and linked socio-economic issues addressed by GEF. Moreover, it will create a strong local ownership for the stakeholders, thus strengthening the project results and sustainability beyond the SGP grant funding.

4.3.2. CSO-Government dialogue platform

The GEF SGP will continue to encourage replication of the positive past experience for the linking the CSO’s with governmental institutions (local or national) with CSOs higher involvement and partnership. At least one CSO-government dialogue platform is expected to be established as the part of the landscape approach learning process, but also from the other project activities through the transfer of the local government institutions’ responsibility to the CSO’s sector, where applicable. The GEF SGP will stimulate the process of formalization of the CSO-government platform as a part of the project(s) approach.

The SGP country programme will support establishment of CSO-government dialogue platforms aimed at promotion of the role of CSOs, uptake of good practices, influence policies and enhance communications.

Above all, SGP Ukraine will help CSOs enhance their capacities to engage in national policy analysis and dialogue processes related to environment and sustainable development policies in an informed and skilled manner. During the OP6, the SGP will initiate and facilitate at least two CSOs-local government policy and planning dialogue platforms within the selected landscapes and one CSOs-central government policy and planning dialogue platform at the national level in close cooperation with other programmes, projects and some of leading national environmental NGOs. As part of activities to achieve the objectives, there will be worked out and implemented a CSOs/Community Education and Leadership Program which includes a series of trainings to improve or enhance their negotiating skills, knowledge of national policy and legislative acts and issues basically on environment and development, conceptual understanding of convention guidelines and of roles of CSOs and rural communities in the implementation of multi-lateral environmental agreements.

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

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

4.3.3. Policy influence

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

To inform and influence policy, the SGP will work at two levels, national and local, reaching the parliament, central and local governments through the established CSOs-Government Dialogue Platforms, GEF SGP Grantees' Network and some leaders of communities, applying and disseminating the best SGP practices, experiences and lessons learned over the last 5 years. SGP facilitation will focus mainly on empowering local communities in understanding and negotiating policy issues and strengthening their capacities that will enable communities to participate in reviewing policy, developing new policy documents or proposing amendments and changes to policy documents.

4.3.4. Promoting social inclusion

The Constitution of Ukraine upholds the principle of equality between men and women and in general terms, the country's legislation respects the rights of women and guarantees their protection. The law providing for equal opportunities for men and women was passed in 2006, but lacks sufficient force to compel the punishments that it lists as the right of those who suffered gender-based discrimination. Sex role stereotypes also persist concerning the primacy of a woman's ideal role as wife and mother, which limits women's ability to rise in the professional and public world. This effect is exacerbated by the low level of female participation and representation in decision-making bodies. Ukraine ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1981, and the Optional Protocol on violence against women in

2003. The Gender Inequality Index is 0.335, placing it in 57th place (out of 146 countries). Ukraine's 2011 Global Gender Gap Index ranking is 0.6861, placing it in 64th place (out of 135 countries). Women are particularly affected by poor economic development due to several factors. The main most important source of non-farm income is remittances, coming from the seasonal labor migration of male workers to other countries. In many households in Ukraine, as a result of male migration, women have to led households: a rising trend especially in rural parts of the country. As a rule, households led by women are likely to be the poorest. Women receive on average 30% less than men for their work in Ukraine.

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

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

- Promoting of active participation of women in the project design, implementation and M&E;
- Mainstreaming gender in all relevant projects;
- Designating a gender focal person in the NSC who looks at gender considerations;
- Including gender review criteria in the project proposal template and project review sheet for the NSC;
- Supporting the networking, strengthening and creation of women associations and organizations and connecting them with regional and global networks;
- Producing knowledge and guidance materials in gender mainstreaming in community projects;
- Proactively promoting women-led projects;

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

- Designating a youth focal person in the NSC who looks at youth involvement in SGP;
- Promoting youth leadership in SGP supported activities;
- Creating an opportunity and window for youth to act as a group or network to realize their innovative ideas and initiatives;
- Assisting in formation of youth groups or clubs or networks;
- Empowering youth representation and championing their involvement in national and global eco-competitions and negotiation processes;
- Assisting in youth learning processes;
- Cooperating with youth organizations and associations;
- Adding an indicator "number of projects led by youth" to the CPS review criteria; and
- Supporting Annual Forum "Children for Environment: The Future We Want!".

SGP Ukraine is committed to further address gender mainstreaming during the GEF-6 by aligning with the GEF Policy on Gender Mainstreaming, inclusion of specific gender targets in the OP6 CPS document and using gender-sensitive indicators, expansion of partnerships with women organizations and provision of trainings to

SGP national staff, NSC members and grantees. Besides, the country programme will collect, record and report sex-disaggregated data by including gender disaggregated data in the project proposal template as well as progress and final reports, which will be reposted in the SGP database.

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

Another focus group for OP6 inclusive strategy of SGP Ukraine will be vulnerable and marginalized people that are mostly existent in small, remote, and isolated rural communities. Those are particularly disadvantaged because of a certain consequence, including disabled or unable to work (physically, mentally or health-wise), rural elderly people, unemployed, resettled people due to natural disasters or due to the armed conflict in the Eastern Ukraine. Besides, as part of efforts on promotion of social inclusion, women-led households will be considered among the high priority focus groups.

4.3.5. Knowledge management

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

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

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

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

- SGP best practice and community participation - a 10 minute documentary video;
- Materials on GEF SGP Grantees Network activities;
- Establishment of SGP Information Dissemination and Public Training Centre;
- A SGP training module - Guide for grantee-partners on project cycle management, reporting, participatory monitoring and evaluation;
- Case studies on selected most successful grants;

- Annual infographics on SGP results in Ukraine;
- All Ukrainian CSO newspaper “Development and Environment”

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

The knowledge products to be generated over the next four years will be shared widely with the private sector, communities, farmers, other local stakeholders for replication and up-scaling purposes in the forms of publications, video and photo stories by posting on youtube.com, Twitter and the SGP Ukraine web resource www.sgpinfo.org.ua, and also through knowledge and trade fairs, local, national and international events, SGP community consultants, National CSOs Networks, grantees and community centers.

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

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

4.3.6. Communications Strategy

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

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

The target groups (or “audiences”) of the SGP country programme Communication Strategy include: *i)* CSOs and communities within and outside of the selected landscape zone; *ii)* government counterparts; *iii)* private

sector; iv) UN Agencies; v) donor community; vi) Ukrainian organizations abroad; vii) mass media; viii) direct beneficiaries and public at large.

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

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

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

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

Key messages:

“The SGP is a unique programme that contributes to solving some of the world’s most pressing environmental problems while ensuring sustainable livelihoods through a successful, country-driven, grassroots approach”.

“SGP helps local communities build on their traditional knowledge and practices and access new information and technologies in order to improve livelihoods while contributing to protection of global environment”.

Key communication channels and tools:

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

5. Expected results framework

Table 3 below shows the OP6 global project components and global targets (in number of countries) as described in the GEF CEO Endorsement document. Using the logical framework approach, it presents a set of country level results that address the OP6 focus area situation analysis detailed in the Baseline Assessment Report (Annex 4). In particular, the logical framework matrix shows the overall Objective of SGP in Ukraine; details expected results at grant project (Output) and country programme (Outcome) levels; specifies approximate number and typology of projects; as well as features activities planned under

respective target Outcome. In fact, these are the key elements used for planning, approving, evaluating and monitoring the SGP projects.

Table 3. Consistency with SGP OP6 global programme components (Results Framework)

1 CPS Outcomes	2 Typology of projects (Approx # of projects)	3 Project-level activities necessary to achieve the results/Outputs	4 CPS Outcome/Impact Indicators	5 Means of verification
OP6 CPS OBJECTIVE: <i>Enhance local capacity for addressing global environmental issues through community-based approaches and actions that complement and add value to national and global level strategies</i>				
OUTLINE OF THE TARGET LANDSCAPE AREA: <i>Steppe Landscapes in the South -East Ukraine and Mixed Forests Zone of Kyiv and Zhytomyr Polissya</i> (Approximately 70% of OP6 grant-making resources)				
SGP OP6 COMPONENT 1: COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE AND SEASCAPE CONSERVATION				
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				
CPS Outcome 1: Improved conservation, sustainable use and management of important terrestrial and riparian ecosystems through community-	1.1 Incorporating nature-friendly practices into community livelihoods for sustainable use of biological resources and management of ecosystems (Approx # of projects: 5)	1.1.1 Supporting domestic activities that depend on bio-resources, including agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry, and tourism to sustain local livelihoods; 1.1.2 Raising awareness on biodiversity and ecosystem services and increasing knowledge on bio-resources management for sustenance of ecosystems and livelihoods	1.1.1 At least 800 ha of landscape are positively influenced through demonstration of domestic livelihood practices on conservation and sustainable use of biological resources in target communities; 1.1.2 At least 250 community members have increased understanding on benefits of ecosystem services and knowledge on biodiversity-friendly livelihood practices including agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and ecotourism	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams Baseline assessment comparison variables (use of conceptual models and partner data as appropriate)

1 CPS Outcomes	2 Typology of projects (Approx # of projects)	3 Project-level activities necessary to achieve the results/Outputs	4 CPS Outcome/Impact Indicators	5 Means of verification
based actions	1.2 Promoting effective community-oriented forms of conservation in support of critical protected areas, biodiversity hotspots and ecological corridors (Approx # of projects:7)	1.2.1 Introducing working models of community conservation practices and community co-management of state PAs to maximize biodiversity conservation and associated benefits for local people; Synergy with UNEP – GEF Project on Protected area in Chornobyl 1.2.2 Raising awareness on conservation of sensitive areas and habitat, and increasing understanding about the importance and value of biodiversity as well as economic activities contributing to its protection at community level	1.2.1 At least 25000 ha of state PA and/or community conservation territory benefited from financially viable models of wildlife management and conservation; At least 200 community-level stakeholders have increased awareness on value of biodiversity critical ecosystems, as well as understanding on biodiversity-friendly livelihood practices in and around conservation areas	Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) CPS Review (NSC inputs)
	1.3 Promoting community-based approaches for sustenance of transboundary riparian ecosystems (Approx # of projects: 3)	1.3.1 Promoting integrated water resources management at river basin level and demonstrating community-level practices for reducing nutrient flows and land-based pollution to transboundary water bodies; 1.3.2 Supporting knowledge sharing and capacity development of stakeholders in integrated transboundary watershed management	100 tons of pollutants to transboundary river systems are avoided by demonstration of innovative community-based actions and approaches; 1.3.2 At least in 7 communities authorities and stakeholders (CBOs, NGOs) increased their knowledge about transboundary water issues and capacities to develop and implement local plans for sustaining wrm.	
SGP OP6 COMPONENT 2: CLIMATE SMART INNOVATIVE AGROECOLOGY				

1 CPS Outcomes	2 Typology of projects (Approx # of projects)	3 Project-level activities necessary to achieve the results/Outputs	4 CPS Outcome/Impact Indicators	5 Means of verification
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				
CPS Outcome 2: Climate smart agro-ecological practices are introduced to mitigate land degradation, increase sustainable productivity, strengthen farmers' resilience, reduce agricultural emissions and increase carbon sequestration	2.1 Developing and promoting agro-ecological innovations to reduce agricultural emissions, increase carbon storage on farmland and enhance resilience of people, farms and ecosystems to climate change (Approx # of projects: 10)	2.1.1 Promoting innovative climate smart agro-ecological practices, aiming at restoration and conservation of land, agrobiodiversity and associated agro-ecosystem services from pastures, haylands and other productive landscapes; 2.1.2 Enhancing local capacity for climate-smart agro-ecological innovations that integrate land, water, livestock, biodiversity, and environmental management to improve ecosystem health and sustain local livelihoods; 2.1.3 Promoting knowledge sharing on agro-ecological innovations that reduce agricultural emissions and enhance carbon stocks in biomass and soil	2.1.1 At least 4 proven techniques and practical approaches in crop and livestock production are demonstrated (e.g.-mulching, intercropping, conservation agriculture, organic farming, crop rotation, resilient food crops, integrated crop-livestock management, agroforestry, improved grazing and water management); 2.1.2 At least in 15 communities authorities and farmers have adequate capacities to implement integrated natural resource management practices for enhancement of multiple agro-ecosystem services; 5 knowledge products on various practical mechanisms for increasing carbon sinks and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in agricultural systems are generated and shared	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams Socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes (SEPLs) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) CPS Review (NSC inputs)

1 CPS Outcomes	2 Typology of projects (Approx # of projects)	3 Project-level activities necessary to achieve the results/Outputs	4 CPS Outcome/Impact Indicators	5 Means of verification
SGP OP6 COMPONENT 3: LOW CARBON ENERGY ACCESS CO-BENEFITS 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				
CPS Outcome 3: Locally adapted low-carbon technologies are demonstrated, diffused and commercialized	3.1 Enhancing capacity of local communities to apply low-carbon technologies (Approx # of projects: 10)	3.1.1 Supporting demonstration, replication, scale-up and knowledge sharing of innovative low-GHG technologies that proved to be feasible and cost-effective; 3.1.3 Raising public awareness on climate change mitigation measures and related environmental and social benefits	3.1.1 At least 10 innovative locally adapted application on low-carbon technology (micro-solar, micro-hydro, biogas and methane energy generation, and fuel-efficient stoves) developed, tested and documented; 3.1.2 At least 40 NGOs/CBOs, local authorities and/or community-level stakeholders demonstrated locally feasible low-GHG technologies; 3.1.3 Local population in at least 10 project communities has increased awareness on low-carbon energy co-benefits (resilience, ecosystem effects, income and health)	AMR, country reports AMR, global database, country reports Special country studies (applies to lead countries) CPS Review (NSC inputs)
SGP OP6 COMPONENT 4: LOCAL TO GLOBAL CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT COALITIONS 4.1 Innovative community-based tools and approaches demonstrated, deployed and transferred, with support from newly organized or existing coalitions				

1 CPS Outcomes	2 Typology of projects (Approx # of projects)	3 Project-level activities necessary to achieve the results/Outputs	4 CPS Outcome/Impact Indicators	5 Means of verification
in at least 20 countries for managing harmful chemicals and waste in a sound manner				
CPS Outcome 4: Innovative and practical solutions to chemicals and waste management are introduced by fostering knowledge exchange and collaboration among local and global partnerships	4.1 Promoting innovative community-based tools and approaches for safe management of harmful chemicals and waste (Approx # of projects: 2)	4.1.1 Supporting practical models of safe disposal and management of harmful chemicals (including POPs) and waste through joint efforts with leading national and international actors; 4.1.2 Advocating for safe management of chemicals and promoting involvement of national stakeholders through awareness raising and educational campaigns and global knowledge networks	4.1.1 At least 1 innovative and practical solution to safe management of chemicals and waste (pesticide, plastics, e-waste, medical waste, heavy metals) is piloted / tested, documented and disseminated with support from local and global chemicals coalitions and/or networks; 4.1.2 At least 100 community members and local-level stakeholders have increased awareness and knowledge on chemical safety and waste management related issues	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams Strategic partnership with IPEN country partners Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) CPS Review
SGP OP6 COMPONENT 5: CSO-GOVERNMENT POLICY AND PLANNING DIALOGUE PLATFORMS (Grant-makers+)				
5.1 SGP supports establishment of “CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms”, leveraging existing and potential partnerships, in at least 50 countries				

1 CPS Outcomes	2 Typology of projects (Approx # of projects)	3 Project-level activities necessary to achieve the results/Outputs	4 CPS Outcome/Impact Indicators	5 Means of verification
CPS Outcome 5: Enhanced capacities of CSOs and community-level stakeholders for meaningful engagement in national policy analysis and dialogue processes related to environment and sustainable development	5.1 Promoting CSO-Government collaborative models and approaches to inform and influence policy at the local, regional and national levels (Approx # of projects: 3)	5.1.1 Supporting establishment of CSO-government dialogue platforms to promote the role of CSOs, uptake good practices, influence policies and enhance communications; 5.1.2 Using experiences and lessons learned from the CSO-led projects to influence changes in regulations and national laws, and incorporate local level insights to national consultative dialogues related to international environmental and sustainable development processes; 5.1.3 Implementing targeted capacity building to address lack of corresponding professional knowledge and skills among the SGP proponents and other stakeholders	5.1.1 At least 2 CSO-government policy planning dialogue related to environment and sustainable development is supported; 5.1.2 At least 2 SGP experience or best practice is provided to the government for influencing central and/or local policy development and formulation; 5.1.3 At least 1 proposal development workshop or other capacity building activity is conducted by the SGP team and/or NSC members in each administrative region	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams SGP Global Database Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) CPS Review
SGP OP6 COMPONENT 6: PROMOTING SOCIAL INCLUSION (Grant-makers+)				
6.1 Gender mainstreaming considerations applied by all SGP country programmes; Gender training utilized by SGP staff, grantees, NSC members, partners 6.2 Involvement of youth and disabled is further supported in SGP projects and guidelines and best practices are widely shared with countries				
CPS Outcome 6: Gender		6.1.1 Mainstreaming gender issues through the SGP programme and incorporating within the SGP project cycle	6.1.1 100% of SGP projects funded in OP6 addressed gender equity issues as a mandatory cross-cutting requirement;	Individual project reporting by SGP country

1 CPS Outcomes	2 Typology of projects (Approx # of projects)	3 Project-level activities necessary to achieve the results/Outputs	4 CPS Outcome/Impact Indicators	5 Means of verification
mainstreaming considerations applied by the SGP country programme in Ukraine			6.1.2 A designated gender focal point on the NSC provided expertise on gender issues and facilitated review of any gender components of projects	teams SGP Global Database Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) CPS Review
CPS Outcome 7: Youth and differently abled people are involved in SGP projects		7.1.1 Promoting active involvement of youth and disabled in SGP projects	7.1.1 At least 2 project funded in OP6 engaged the youth or differently abled people; 1.2 A designated youth and children focal point on the NSC promoted youth participation and leadership in projects	
SGP OP6 COMPONENT 7: GLOBAL REACH FOR CITIZEN PRACTICE-BASED KNOWLEDGE PROGRAM (Grant-makers+)				
7.1 Digital library of community innovations is established and provides access to information to communities in at least 50 countries				
CPS Outcome 8: Digital library of community innovations is actively used by SGP stakeholders and partners		8.1.1 Collecting and archiving SGP best practices for sharing the knowledge generated by civil society and community-based organizations	8.1.1 At least 20 knowledge materials or documents are uploaded for online sharing	SGP Global Database Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) CPS Review

6. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)⁴ is an essential component of SGP and intends to measure progress and achievements both at project and country programme levels. It is conducted on a regular basis in the course of implementation of different stages (planning, execution and completion) to identify problems and assess whether the targets set are being achieved. M&E activities are represented through different types of reports that help the country programme and its projects to maintain accountability, achieve sustainability, allow for replicability, as well as extract and communicate lessons learned. The findings and lessons learned from M&E will be used to improve the programme and projects design and implementation, and will enable SGP grantees to carry on project activities after the grant period is over.

It is one of the programme principles that the SGP grantees deeply involve local communities and other stakeholders in a participatory self-monitoring and assessment/evaluation process at project level. It is believed that the involvement of project beneficiaries in M&E process will promote mutual understanding about the project's approach, contribute to community "ownership", as well as enable capacity building and apply lessons learned from project and programme experience.

At country level, the M&E process mainly involves: development and implementation of the programme M&E plan, which is based on the indicators and targets set in Table 3 of the CPS (Logical Framework); compilation and communication of lessons learned, and annual reporting to the Central Programme Management Team and NSC. Table 4 below provides the key M&E tools and templates at the country program level.

Table 4. 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 stakeholder, grantee	Covered under preparatory grant	At start of operational phase
Annual Country Programme Strategy Review	Learning; adaptive management	NC, NSC, CPMT	Covered under country programme operating costs	Reviews will be conducted on annual basis to ensure CPS is on track in achieving its outcomes and targets, and to take decisions on any revisions or adaptive management

⁴ Monitoring focuses at tracking the progress of project activities and achievement of planned outputs. It allows project participants to keep track of project activities, to determine whether project objectives are being met, and to make the necessary changes to improve the project's performance.

Evaluation refers to a periodic activity aimed at assessing the relevance, performance, effects and impact of a project within the framework of the stated objectives. The evaluation includes an explicit appraisal on whether the project has met its stated objectives in terms of the GEF focal area and operational programmes and if not, it reveals and analyses the reasons.

				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)	Enable efficient reporting to NSC	NC presenting to NSC	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per year in June
Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) Survey (based on ACR)	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF; presentation of results to donor	NC submission to CPMT	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per year in July
Strategic Country Portfolio Review	Learning; adaptive management for strategic development of Country Programme	NSC	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per operational phase

As seen from Table 4, the CPS is a living document, which is a subject for revision by the NSC on a periodic basis, in consultation with the national stakeholders. The country programme, therefore, will assess progress towards the CPS outcomes to identify appropriate adaptive management measures or review of the Strategy, as necessary. Annual country reports will enable aggregation of country inputs by CPMT for global reporting.

Table 3 describes the logical framework approach of the CPS both at programme and project levels, which provides the basis for M&E. It indicates expected results at the programme level (CPS targets and indicators), their consistency with SGP OP6 global programme component and means of verification. It also specifies approximate number and typology of projects and features activities planned under respective target Outcome. In effect, these are the key elements of the M&E framework to track programme implementation progress and assess the performance within the set time (OP6).

The Baseline Assessment Report (Annex 3) identifies the “starting point” from which change can be measured at different results levels - before implementing project or programme activities. By means of indicators, programme/project progress and accomplishments can then be compared with the baseline, and hence evaluated. An indicator should be logically connected with the baseline and easily measurable.

Indicators to measure the expected results at country programme level (Outcomes) are agreed with the NSC upon the approval of the CPS, while for the project level results (Outputs) indicators are determined by the NC and grantees. Thus, at project level M&E process implies planning, coordination, systematic reporting, and agreement upon these and other issues by all project participants before projects are undertaken.

Project-level M&E and reporting is described in Annex 5.

The NC will undertake at least two monitoring visits per project realization, preferably at intermediate and final reporting. Upon necessity and as possible, respective members of the NSC will also participate in site visits. The site visits will give the NC/NSC the opportunity to observe the actual implementation of the project and confirm the information contained in the interim and final reports of grantees. During site visits, the NC will collect materials and information, make photos, etc., in order to document lessons learned and to demonstrate the environmental and sustainable livelihood impacts of the SGP activities. After each site visit the NC/NSC member(s) will prepare a monitoring record indicating observations, recommendations and respective measure to be taken. This report will be provided to the grantee and the NSC if requested.

Apart from the interim progress reports, the grantee will prepare a final report upon completion of the project. The final report must cover the life of the project, the objective achieved, expected and actual results, lessons learned, perspectives or replication and other interesting aspects of the project. The report should also include the project sustainability aspects. If necessary, the NC will ask for additional information or clarification.

7. Resource mobilization and sustainability

The Resource Mobilization Plan will be realized in two basic ways, namely, attracting potential donor communities through successes of individual grants at the project level and overall achievements of SGP itself at the programme level. Moreover, SGP will allocate more time to assist and support grantees and other non-grant communities in their resources mobilization efforts to realize its Grantmaker + role. For this purpose, connecting them with donors and potential funding sources will be essential for success.

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

Currently, there are a number of funding sources in the country the SGP continues working with over OP6 for resource mobilization at both project and programme levels. Those are UNDP, EU, National NGOs, local communities, etc. . Here, main activities to be carried out by SGP include but not limited to connecting communities to suitable organizations, conducting trainings for communities on preparation of proposals to access other donor and funding facilities, assisting communities to apply for government funds and facilitating the GEF SGP Ukraine Network CSOs in mobilizing resources from domestic and foreign sources. The SGP will assist its grantee communities to apply for international grants and seek opportunities for itself to serve as a delivery mechanism.

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

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

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

No.	SGP OP6 project components with strategic initiatives	Potential donors and other funding facilities for co-financing or parallel financing
1	SGP OP6 Component 1: <i>Community Landscape Conservation</i> .	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), UNDP, EU, GIZ.
2	SGP OP6 Component 2: <i>Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology</i> .	UNDP, Local communities, EU, Private sector, Farmers
3	SGP OP6 Component 4: <i>Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions</i> .	UNDP, National Regional Development Fund, Private sector
4	SGP OP6 Component 5: <i>CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms (Grant-makers+)</i> .	“Education for Sustainable Development” CSOs Network and State Environmental Academy (in-kind co-financing for creating and organizing dialogue platforms)
5	SGP OP6 Component 6: <i>Promoting Social Inclusion (Grant-makers+)</i> .	UNDP
6	SGP OP6 Component 7: <i>Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge program (Grant-makers+)</i> .	“Education for Sustainable Development” CSOs Network and State Environmental Academy (in-kind co-financing for creating and organizing dialogue platforms)

SGP resources mobilization targets will be achieved through intensive advertising SGP activities, disseminating information on achievements and organizing knowledge events. At least one knowledge fair should be supported by the GEF SGP grant.

SGP Ukraine will consider partnership and co-funding opportunities from both traditional and non-traditional sources. Resource mobilization activities will be carried out through the following directions:

- Assessment of interests and priorities of international donor and development agencies and identification of opportunities for partnership and co-financing;
- Attraction of private sector in SGP projects co-financing, also as a part of corporate social responsibility;
- Mainstreaming SGP projects with UN agencies and GEF-funded larger projects;
- Mainstreaming SGP projects with SDGs implementation and poverty reduction programmes for expanded co-financing;
- Exploring opportunities for complementarity and cost sharing with state-funded projects and initiatives at local level.

8. Risk Management Plan

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

Table 6. Description of risks identified in OP6

Describe identified risk	Degree of risk (low, medium, high)	Probability of risk (low, medium, high)	Risk mitigation measure foreseen
Negligence or no adequate understanding of the importance of agro-ecological measures (bio-fertilizers, wind protection belts, etc.) by some communities	Medium	Medium	This issue will be addressed through organizing field demonstrations-showcases of particular innovations, trainings and study tours to educate and convince communities and local government and other stakeholders within the landscapes.
No adequate legislative acts on community protected areas and community landscapes	Medium	Medium	Work closely with central and local governments for their support to grantee communities. Immediately start with creating CSO-government policy and planning dialogues at both national and local levels.
Local stakeholders' individual interests inhibit viable cooperation and local decision-makers are not well aware of the importance of agro-ecological measures and community protected areas.	Low	Low	This problem will be resolved through conducting a broader awareness raising activities among those who need it. Workshops and meetings will be used to educate or convince stakeholders and decision-makers. Awareness raising, convincing and other required activities will be conducted in close cooperation with the GEF SGP Grantees' network.
Climate risks may lead to re-distribution or even loss of biodiversity and reducing food supply and livelihood potentials of communities.	Medium	High	Overall, the GEF OP6 CPS is designed to enhance community landscape resilience in the long run. However, potential risk reduction measures against worsening climate change effects will be taken at the level of individual projects during their implementation, considering the specifics of projects and levels of threats.
Insufficient awareness on SGP OP6 among executive agencies (corresponding Ministries, regional and local self-governance authorities) and business entities.	Medium	Medium	Continued discussion, consultation and information dissemination on SGP OP6 principles and approaches in Yerevan and marzes.
Insufficient understanding and lack of interest among SGP project proponents	Medium	Medium	Implementation of a series of consultation meetings, capacity development, sharing the case studies of successful SGP OP5

(NGOs, CBOs, etc.) on environmental issues and SGP OP6 strategic directions.			projects to promote active participation in the SGP process.
Community-level stakeholders do not acknowledge benefits of sustainable use of natural resources and thus, lack motivation to participate in project activities.	Medium	Medium	Building capacity of community-level stakeholders on rational use of natural resources and supporting their practical involvement in eco-friendly activities as a sustainable source of income.
Lack of corresponding professional knowledge and skills among the stakeholder NGOs and CBOs on formulation of grant applications, and development of project proposals.	Low	Medium	Intensify support services within <i>Grantmaker+</i> initiative, the country programme will continue assisting CSOs (particularly CBOs) in project development and formulation, and facilitate their access to resources of SGP and its partners.
Low confidence on ensuring the sustainability of the results of the projects implemented within SGP OP6.	Medium	Medium	To achieve sustainability of the projects implemented, and allow for replicability, lessons learned will be extracted and correspondingly communicated as part of M&E activities, among other things.
National policy does not quickly adopt/uptake the best practices and lessons learned from the SGP projects.	Medium	High	The project will use all possible mechanisms to ensure lessons learned are transferred to national level. Where necessary, the project will complement existing mechanisms by developing its own bottom-up transfer mechanisms - e.g. local working groups, seminars, or lobbying on specific issues.
Low participation of social excluded groups, especially people suffered from the conflict in the East of Ukraine	Medium	Medium	Additional promotion, direct and consultation with CSO's represent and advocate social excluded groups. Introducing pre-feasibility grant Promoting the mentoring approach Follow UNDP CO guidance on work in the affected areas.

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

9. National Steering Committee Endorsement

NSC members involved in OP6 CPS development, review and endorsement	Signatures

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

ANNEX 1: Project Environmental and Social Screening Checklist

Name of Project			
Name of Organisation			
Type of Organisation			
	Y es	N o	Comments
Overall Project Quality			
Clear statement of the objectives of the project in alignment with OP6 strategic initiatives			
Realistic planning of activities and deliverables			
Realistic definition of project budget in agreement with project objectives and activities			
Sensible assessment of risks and challenges associated with the project and design of appropriate solutions			
Potential adverse impacts to people and the environment have been avoided, managed and mitigated in line with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards?"?			
Management Capacity			
Efficient use of management and organizational tools for effective implementation of the project			
Clear definition of responsibilities/tasks/activities			
Sensible design of a M&E plan including clear indicators to track progress			
Sensible design of a Knowledge & Management Plan for knowledge sharing			
Sensible design of a communication plan for dissemination and policy advocacy			
Sustainability			
Identification of possible co-funding sources			
Sustainability through rendering funds cooperative, micro-credits, others			
Recognition of project importance and relevance to the community			
Inclusiveness			
Active involvement of women in decision-making and overall activities			
Active involvement of indigenous people in decision-making and overall activities			
Active involvement of youth in decision-making and overall activities			
Gender Mainstreaming			
Men and women had an active participation in the project design and it responds to the needs of both			
The impact of the project on women and men has been analyzed (please look at division of labor, work load and access to resources and services)			
The project explained what the outcomes are for men and women and aims to benefit both men and women			
The project provides gender disaggregated data on active participants and beneficiaries			
Men and women are part of the project management structure in an balanced manner (i.e. the project management team should be composed by both men and women and if possible in equal representation to ensure they have a say in decision making)			

ANNEX 2: Contribution of the SGP Ukraine to SDG targets

SDGs	Expected Contribution
SDG 1: NO POVERTY End poverty in all its forms and everywhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Diversification of income-generating opportunities; ✓ Increase of capacity for viable economic practices; ✓ Creating new employment opportunities
SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improved livelihoods by reduced cost or increased income; ✓ Promoting sustainable agriculture to ensure food safety, healthy agricultural products and good health; ✓ Enhanced resilience of people and ecosystems to the effects of climate change
SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Contribution to the Education for Sustainable Development process in Ukraine by promoting it to the policy decision makers; ✓ Formation of public awareness on sustainable livelihood
SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Promotion of equal involvement of men and women in SGP funded project activities ✓ Empower women to take actions
SDG 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Supporting decentralized, demand-driven, innovative, low-cost, and community-based water resource management and water supply and sanitation projects in rural areas; ✓ Restoring water-related ecosystems and strengthening the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management (Dniper river basin)
SDG 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Supporting demonstration, replication and scaling-up of locally feasible low-carbon technologies; ✓ Promoting knowledge sharing and capacity building for development and implementation of innovative low-GHG technologies
SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Enhancing the capacity of local communities to adapt to climate change and improve their resilience
SDG 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Promoting sustainable use of natural resources aimed at improving ecosystem health; ✓ Introducing innovative and practical solutions to chemicals and waste management
SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Reduction of GHG emissions through provision of access to clean energy, sustainable transport, improving energy efficiency and land use practices; ✓ Promoting agro-ecological innovations that reduce agricultural emissions and enhance carbon stocks in biomass and soil; ✓ Empowering local communities to become more resilient to severe climate events and variability

<p>SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Incorporating biodiversity-friendly practices into community livelihoods for sustainable use of biological resources in production landscapes and management of ecosystems; ✓ Promoting effective community-oriented forms of conservation in support of critical protected areas, biodiversity hotspots and ecological corridors; ✓ Enhancing local capacity for addressing environmental degradation
<p>SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Synergizing efforts of CSOs and community-level partners to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs nationally and globally; ✓ Promoting development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of SGP best practices to bring the knowledge generated by civil society and community-based organizations to wider audience, aiming to influence global environmental governance and goals

ANNEX 3: Analysis of the potential for complementary and synergy of OP6 strategic initiatives with UNDP/UN System, donor and NGO-funded projects and programs

Name of the agency / organization		Project (donor)	Partnership opportunities for complementarity and synergy within the landscape area	Geographic focus (marzes)
UNDP projects and UN Agencies:				
1	UNDP	Capacity Development: Integrating Rio Convention Provisions into Ukraine's National Environmental Policy Framework	1. Support to CSOs capacity development and empowerment 2. Supporting sustainable livelihood opportunities through SGP grant delivery mechanism	Kyiv, Zhytomyr, Poltava regions and East of Ukraine
2	UNDP	Development and Commercialization of Bioenergy Technologies in the Municipal Sector in Ukraine	1. Support to local CSOs capacity development 2. Support to community landscape planning for improved ecosystem services and climate risk reduction	Poltava region
3	UNDP	Transforming the Market for Efficient Lighting	Supporting alternative livelihood opportunities and energy efficiency through SGP grant delivery mechanism	Ukraine, all regions
4	UNEP	Conserving, Enhancing and Managing Carbon Stocks and Biodiversity in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone	Complementing SGP initiatives through community activities in newly created PA and buffer zone	Chernobyl exclusion zone and affected territories
Donor agencies, International projects and NGOs:				
5	EU	EU-NGO Project “Strengthening Environmental Governance by Building the Capacity of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)”	Promotes sustainable development and improved environmental management through more effective civil society participation in environmental governance.	Ukraine, all regions
6	EU	EaP Green Programme	Build networking for CSOs and introducing green economy approach	Ukraine, all regions
7	EU	“Community based approach to local development” Project	Promotes sustainable socio-economic development It mobilizes local authorities, community organizations and private sector to plan and carry out together projects aimed at improving the living conditions of people in urban and rural areas.	Ukraine, all regions
8	Slovak Government	Ukraine Energy Efficiency Secretariat and Expert Hub	Capacity development for the Government and CSOs	Kyiv

ANNEX 4

GEF SGP OP6 Country Programme Strategy Consultations and Scoping Exercise for Ukraine Summary Report

GEF SGP Capacity Development Project “Creating sustainable communities – Building local capacity” had a component for Development of the GEF 6 SGP National Strategy Framework and Priority Landscape Assessment. As a first step to elaboration of the Country Programme Strategy (CPS), “All Ukrainian Environmental League”, well known national NGO, initiated consultation and scoping process to communicate and build capacities about the OP6 and its strategic initiatives, identify the priority directions for programming in OP6 in line with the national priorities, discuss the potential for synergy with UNDP and other partner agencies, and to select the landscape area of the focus to ensure that SGP grant-making is strategic and achieves greater impacts.

For SGP Ukraine’s focused action during the GEF OP6, there have been selected two distinctive areas within the existing SGP geo-graphical focus area as main target landscapes. One is selected as a mixed forest zone covering the entire territory of Zhytomyr and Kyiv Polissya. For second area the entire territory of high importance steppe zone (Priazovye steppes with granite and sandstone extraction of Zaporizhia and Donetsk regions; sand steppes of Kherson region, covering 95 000 km² of the territory of Ukraine), was selected (to be named Steppe region for this assessment and Strategy), representing Ukrainian steppe landscape which is unique in Europe.

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

The current SGP Ukraine’s geographical focus area covers 4 out of 24 oblasts and as instructed by SGP CPMT, one to three landscapes were needed to be selected within this focus area. For taking up the task, the following criteria have been worked out:

- The number of community groups within landscape(s).
- The number of marginalized community groups within landscape(s).
- Poverty level in the communities within landscape.
- The socio-ecological importance of landscapes/ecosystems.
- Chances/possibilities for conducting landscape-wide activities.
- Possible maximum rate of coverage of communities at landscape level.
- Possibility of using SGP successful grantees for transferring their knowledge and experience to communities within the selected landscapes.
- Location of biodiversity hotspots.
- Representation of Ukraine’s geographical zones.
- Environmental significance of the selected landscape.
- SGP and UNDP experience and lessons learned in working with communities to contribute global environmental benefits.

The consultation and scoping process included meetings and discussions with the government stakeholders, sectoral experts and civil society representatives, local self-governance authorities, representatives of local communities, academia, UNDP country office and other partners. The comments and suggestions presented during the meetings were mainly in line with the measures, envisaged in the national strategic documents, such as the Strategy of National Ecological Policy of Ukraine 2020, the Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2015-2020, regional environment protection programmes, UNDAF, etc.

The process of consultation and scoping included four broad elements: 1) communication, outreach and capacity development about OP6; 2) multi-stakeholder consultations to achieve broader consensus on the country programme approach in OP6; 3) selection of the landscape area of focus to achieve greater strategic impact through clustering of projects and achievement of synergies; and 4) discussion and identification of criteria for priority grants outside the selected target landscape.

1. The outreach and capacity development about OP6 was carried out by the GEF SGP team in Ukraine, NSC members, experts of NGO “All Ukrainian Environmental League”, NGO Network “Education for Sustainable Development”, NGO “Center for Civic Education”, CSO Network “Green Zhytomyrshchyna”, State Environmental Academy, State Specialized Scientific-Production Enterprise “Chernobyl Radiological Center (Ecocenter)”, members of the National Environmental Council, who delivered special presentations, explaining the need to focus SGP on landscape areas for achievement of greater cumulative and synergistic effects, and also shared experience of successful projects and community innovations from the previous Operational Phases of the GEF SGP (see Annex 1 for photos).

2. Multi-stakeholder consultations included discussions with the members of the SGP National Steering Committee, government partners, international organizations, local and national NGOs and other civil society representatives. As a result of consultations a broad consensus was reached on the country programme approach in OP6, and it was agreed that the SGP should focus on a landscape area, in order to achieve greater strategic impact through clustering of projects and achievement of synergies. An online survey for all interested stakeholders on SGP project typology was available online during 4 months of consultations.

3. Selection of the landscape area of focus for the SGP in OP6 was carried out taking into consideration of the poverty level in the communities, UNDP CO strategies and approaches, SGP’s lessons learned, available funding for grant-making, niche, opportunities, challenges and potential for synergies, based on the public consultation meetings and discussions with national authorities and local stakeholders. Taking into consideration the above-mentioned criteria, discussions with scientists and relevant sectoral experts, as well as independent assessment, the following 4 candidate landscape areas were worked out and discussed:

- a. Mixed forests zone: Zhytomyr, Kyiv oblasts – Zhytomyr and Kyiv Polissya (covering 33 000 km² of the territory of Ukraine);
- b. Forest-steppe zone: Vinnytsia, Cherkasy, Chernihiv, Chernivtsi oblasts (covering 202 000 km² of the territory of Ukraine);
- c. Steppe zone landscape (covering 250 000 km²);
- d. High importance steppe zone - Slobozhanshchina steppes with chalk extraction, Priazovye steppes with granite and sandstone extraction of Zaporizhia and Donetsk regions; sand steppes of Kherson region (covering 95 000 km² of the territory of Ukraine);

To get the opinion of the local communities and CSOs on the proposed target landscape options, as well as to identify possible alternative landscapes, six public consultation meetings were organized in Kyiv, Zhytomyr, Malyn, Chornobyl, Zaporizhzhya, Sarny, Eastern Ukraine between the period of July 1 - October 1, 2015. The meetings were aimed at communicating with the partners and stakeholders about the GEF strategic priorities in OP6, increasing their capacity and understanding on the process of elaboration of the Country Programme Strategy for Ukraine within the GEF SGP OP6, discuss different target landscape options for the OP6 and identify the most appropriate one. Each meeting lasted for half a day and in total 200 participants from the representatives of NGOs, community-based organizations, self-governance authorities, regional administration, educational institutions and other local stakeholders participated in the meetings.

Each meeting consisted of 2 main parts. In the first part the main focus was on capacity building and identification on priority directions of GEF SGP OP6, linking them to the priority needs of the Ukrainian and existing environmental and social challenges in the communities of the country. In the second part baseline information on the main principles of the GEF SGP was communicated to the stakeholders, experience of some of the successful projects from the previous operational phases were presented and possible options of following target landscapes for the OP6 were discussed. The participants were asked to prioritize the proposed landscapes according to their vision or propose alternative target landscape, which are prioritised according to their social and environmental needs and challenges.

Parallel to the public consultation meetings with the local stakeholders the meetings with the Governmental officials and UNDP were organized. The members of the SGP National Steering Committee (NSC) were also present at the meetings. During the meetings detailed information on the GEF SGP OP6 was presented, and the main principles and stages for elaboration of the CPS for Ukraine were discussed. One of the main topics of the meetings was identification of target landscape(s) for OP6 grant-making. Also, during the meetings criteria were identified for priority grants outside the target landscape.

On 1 December 13, 2015 the SGP NSC meeting was held, and one of the items of the meeting agenda was discussion of the works conducted by “All Ukrainian Environmental League” NGO, particularly proposed landscape area for the GEF SGP OP6 in Ukraine. The discussions of the proposed priority landscape led to a new option of the priority target landscape, which is the steppe landscape and mixed forest landscapes of the Zhytomyr and Kyiv Polissya zone (covering approx. 40% of the territory of Ukraine). Such decision was made taking into account the need to have more cumulative and targeted impact, and considering the fact that this zone includes more vulnerable ecosystems from the point of view of climate change, where the highest biomass production is concentrated. It was stressed, that SGP should work in synergy with other donors and local government to support communities in Chornobyl affected areas. Ukraine’s peculiarity is the presence of the steppe ecosystem, which is unique for Europe, and Dniro’s powerful water ecosystem, with its diverse natural landscapes. However, also “unique” is the widespread technogenic violation of natural ecosystems and landscapes, especially the radioactive pollution of forest and forest steppe areas as a result of the Chornobyl catastrophe, which had a planetary scale. Local communities in the landscape are vulnerable.

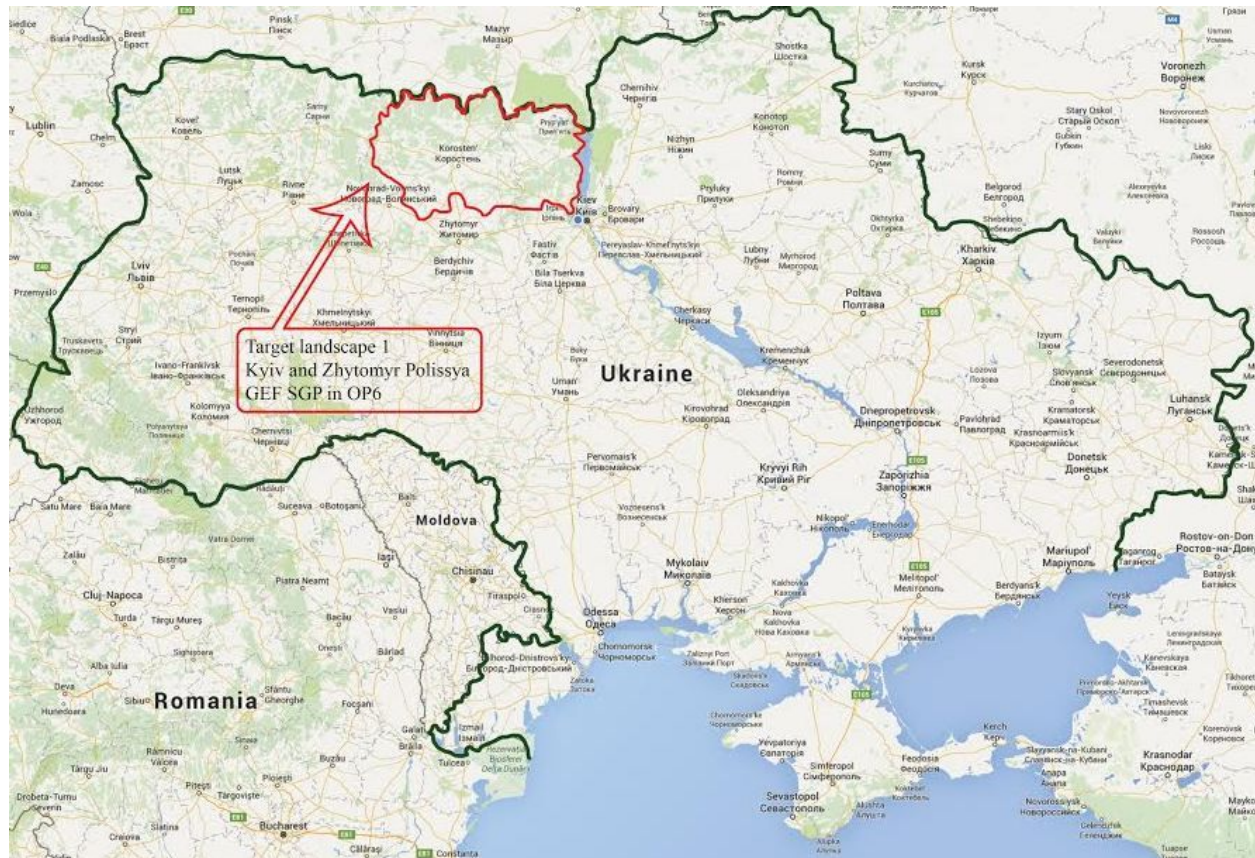
The poverty level in local communities was considered during the targeted landscape selection process.

Annex 2 presents the map of the selected landscape area of focus for the GEF SGP OP6 for Ukraine. It shows rayons on the maps of Zhytomyr and Kyiv regions, grouped as for the environmental issues, protection of natural landscapes, living standards in the communities, “uniqueness”, historical and cultural value.

Identification of the quality of the territory was done through the work on aggregated statistical data, the results are based on arithmetical mean value and mean-square / standard deviation.

Based on this approach we identified the following landscape objects in Zhytomyr oblast: Volodar-Volynskiy, Emilchynskiy, Korosten, Lugynskiy, Malynskiy, Narodytskyi, Ovruch, Olevsk, Chervonoarmiisk, Chernyahiv, Radomyshl districts.

Kyiv oblast: Borodyanka, Vyshgorod, Ivankiv, Kyevo-Svyatoshyn, Makariv and Polissya districts.



Map 1.

Steppe climate zone occupies 40% of Ukrainian territory. This area is the most influenced by agriculture and industry. Natural steppe landscapes are preserved on the area of 1-3% of the initial volume and are highly fragmented. However, the largest part of Central Europe steppe landscapes is in Ukraine. Near a third of all flora and fauna species, protected at national, international and local levels in Ukraine are samples of steppe ecosystems. Usually, these unique landscapes are of high natural value and high endemism level. Steppe landscapes are typically presented by areas that are not suitable for arable farming: beams, slopes, extraction of sandstone, granite, chalk, valleys and canyons of the rivers. It can be a part of existing protected areas or agricultural lands, preserved as a result of extensive sustainable use (cattle grazing, haying). In this case, agricultural landscapes, formed on the steppes place, are not in terms of sustainable use and are rapidly degrading, making worse communities' well-being and prospects of life.

Steppe zone economy is based on a large-scale arable farming, traditionally formed due to chernozem presence. Chernozem is historically formed as a result of specific interaction of natural steppe flora and climate. Agricultural development caused the loss of natural flora and soil degradation. Loss of soils causes reduction of agriculture efficiency. Thus, agromelioration activities through afforestation are usually performed in Ukraine; it does not lead to soil recovery and agricultural use of lands and does not facilitate regional biodiversity rehabilitation. Instead of this, grassland projects are implemented in very rare cases, partially due to economy reorientation and loss of collective farming, which was considerably oriented to beef and dairy production in the steppe zone in Soviet times.

Further steppe landscapes conservation is possible only through sustainable use of steppe areas and agricultural lands that surround them. However, there is lack of information in Ukraine regarding location, conditions and biodiversity of steppe areas and practical aspects – use of steppe areas in

agriculture, protection and use in terms of global climate change. Communities have no information on methods of sustainable environmental management, organic farming, energy conservation etc.

A number of local projects on sustainable use of steppe landscapes needs to be implemented to spread sustainable environmental management practices, to develop ecological consciousness in terms of global climate change. Irreversible loss of natural landscapes will come first in the steppe zone.

Strategic steppe landscapes for SGP implementation (areas and population density of the region are calculated within the boundaries of 25 km long area around strategic natural steppe landscapes):

Slobozhanshchina steppes with chalk extraction on Krasna, Derkul, Aydar, Yevsug rivers (Lugansk region), Siverskyi Donets (Lugansk and Donetsk regions) and Oskil River (Kharkiv region) is a unique landscape (valley of each river including neighboring agricultural lands is 5 km wide), which is characterized by a large number of rare flora species. Most surrounding area is plowed, influenced by climate change, located within the boundaries of 2 natural zones: Forest steppe and Steppe.

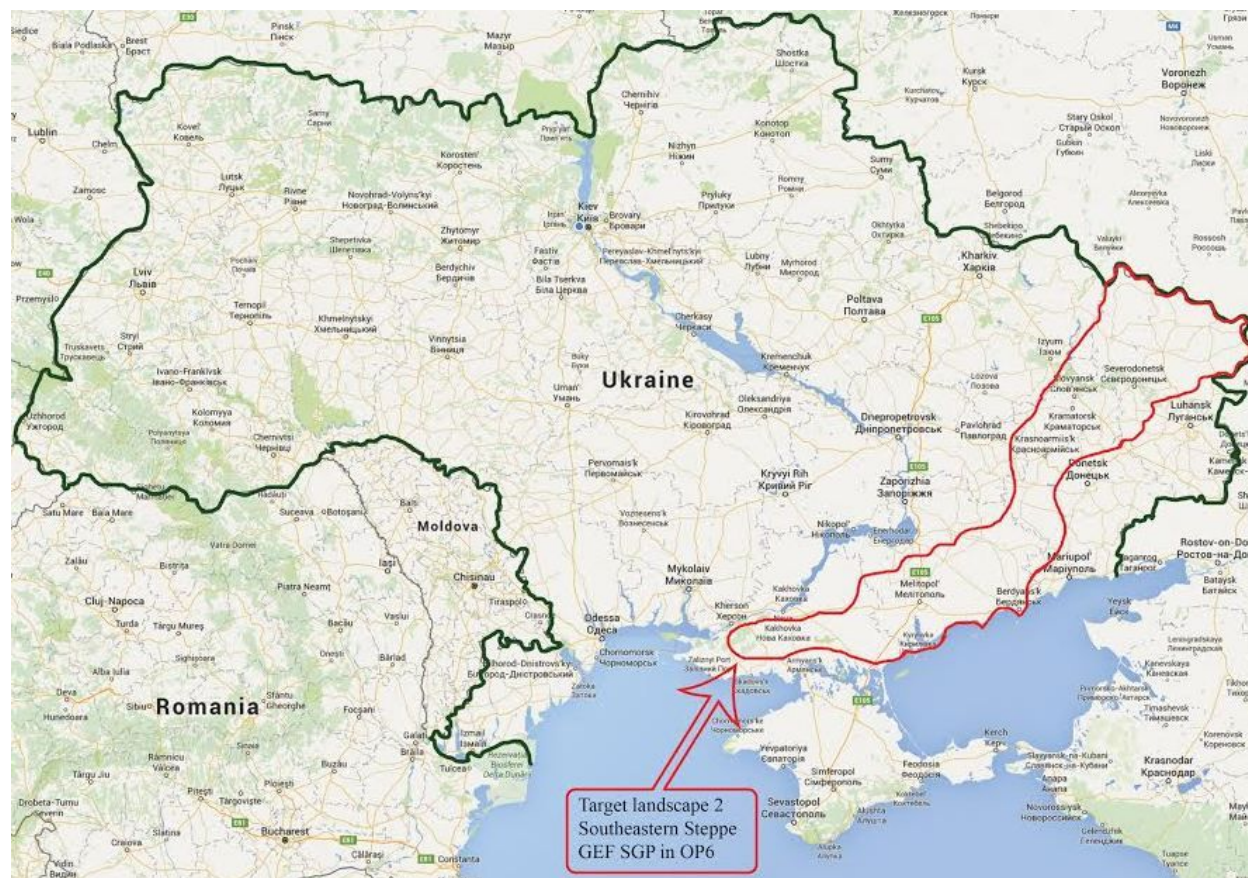
25-km long area around natural steppe landscapes which are significantly influenced is 3,2 mln ha. Population: 466 000 persons in the agricultural part and 445 000 persons in Kupyansk, Slavyansk, Rubezhnoye, Lysychansk, Severodonetsk, population density in the region without industrial cities is 14 persons for 1 km², total population density is 24 persons for 1 km².

Area, which is influenced the most by agricultural activities is located very close to natural landscapes within the boundaries of 5 km. Total area is 0,8 mln ha.

Map 3 shows general view of the identified steppe landscape, it's natural elements, that it firms:

- for north of Lugansk region – rivers, with chalk extraction. Each are has 50 km corridor of agricultural lands, influencing natural steppe landscape. Community sustainable practice in the area is very important.

- for maritime area – rivers of Pryazovya. Each area has 50 km corridor of agricultural lands, influencing natural steppe landscape (marked in yellow); as well as areas of sand maritime steppe (marked in red), surrounded by 25 km buffer zone of agricultural lands.



Map 2.

Mainly region is focused on agricultural activity. Kupyansk agglomeration is located in the western part of the region on Oskil River; little less than half of the population is focused in several industrial centers along Siverskyi Donets River (Slavyansk, Rubezhnoye, Lysychansk, Severodonetsk) in the south. Further sustainable development of the area should be oriented to agriculture.

Priazovye steppes with granite and sandstone extraction of Zaporizhia and Donetsk regions; sand steppes of Kherson region. Canyon of Berda River is a unique landscape with granite extraction and morphological features of the canyon. It covers Valley of Berda River and agricultural landscapes located near 5 km from the river bed. Numerous flora and fauna species, registered in the Red Book and international protection lists, can be found on slopes and mountains of the canyon. 100% of the area, adjacent to the canyon is plowed. Moreover, this landscape covers valleys of Kalmius River, Molochna River etc (Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia regions); sand steppes along the right bank of Dniepro River and shores of the Black and Azov seas and wetland complex Syvash (Kherson region).

25-km long area around natural steppe landscapes is 2,5 mln ha in Priazovye (population: 566 000 persons in the agricultural part and 730 000 in Melitopol, Berdyansk, Mariupol) and 1,6 mln ha in Kherson region (population: 330 000 persons in the agricultural part and 333 000 persons in Kherson and Kakhovka seaports).

Area, which is influenced the most by agricultural activities is located very close to natural landscapes within the boundaries of 5 km. Total area is 1,4 mln ha.

Mainly region is focused on agricultural activity, although there is an industrial center Mariupol and also Melitopol and Berdyansk (56% of Priazovye region population). This is the place where the majority of industrial enterprises are located; it leads to pollution of atmosphere and surface water. For easier reference for communities, 30 administrative rayons were identified within the proposed landscape. They are as follows.

Lugansk region: Novopskovskiy, Bilovodskiy, Stanychno-Luganskyy, Novoaidarskiy, Bilokurakynskiy, Svativskiy, Troitskiy, Milovskiy, Starobilskiy, Markivskiy, Popasnyanskyy, Kreminskyy districts; Donetsk region : Slovyanskyy, Bahmutskyy, Kostyantynivskyy, Dobropilskyy, Krasnolimanskyy, Volnovaskyy, Volodarskiy, Pershotravnebyi; Kherson region: Bereslavskyy, Kahovskyy, Ivanivskyy, Bilozerskiy, Tsyuryupynskyy, Novotritskyy, Genicheskyy, Holoprystanskyy, Skadovskyy, Kalanchatsky rayons.

Zone of mixed forests of Ukraine is represented by Ukrainian Polissya. The southern boundary is near the Ravi-Ruska, Lviv, Zolochiv, Shepetivka, Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Nizhyn, Glukhov. It is characterized by a low-lying terrain, gravel, sand and sand-clay deposits. The soils are sod-podzolic and bog. pine, oak and pine and oak-hornbeam forests are the most of the common on this territory.

Nature reserves: Polissya, Rivne, Cheremyskyy; National Parks: Shatsky, Mezynskyy Desna-Starogutskiy.

Due to differences in geological structure and relief within the zone of mixed forests are six physiographic regions: Volynske Polissya, Zhitomirskoe Polissia, Kyivske Polesie, Chernigvskoe Polesie, Novgorod-Siverske Polesie, Male Polesie. For SGP interventions Kyiv and Zhytomyr Polissya were considered as the target landscape.

4. During the meetings with the national and local stakeholders the issue of grant-making outside the selected landscape area was also discussed, given that in OP6, up to 30% of grant resources could be allocated outside the landscape area, provided that these funds are utilized strategically. The discussions mainly focused on identifying directions and criteria of grant funding, to be allocated to projects outside the landscape.

Based on the comments received, the following priority directions were identified for financing the SGP 6th phase projects outside the selected landscape (up to 30%):

- Introduction of innovative technologies and management approaches in line with the concepts of green economy;
- Supporting CSO-government dialogue platforms that promote civil society engagement with government in the context of multilateral environmental agreements;
- Strengthening the capacities of stakeholders aimed at involving them in national policy analysis and dialogue related to environmental governance as well as information and knowledge management;
- Provision of new opportunities for partnerships and replication;
- Supporting ecological education and awareness raising;
- Effect of national networks, coalitions to address environmental issues;
- Policy issues dialogue and planning between civil society and government.

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

- Being in line with SGP OP6 strategic initiatives;
- Promoting increase of population well-being in local communities;
- Being consistent with national strategic and policy approaches;
- Being consistent with the concept of ecosystem approach;
- Ensuring social inclusion, particularly gender and youth.

Annex 1. Public Consultation Meetings



Public consultation meeting in Kyiv



Public consultation meeting in Kyiv



Public consultation meeting in Malyn



Public consultation meeting in Sarny



Public consultation in Eastern Ukraine

Annex 2. Selected Target Landscape for the SGP Country Program Strategy of Ukraine



Map 3.

ANNEX 5

Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting Strategy

Background

The SGP-Ukraine views monitoring and evaluation as a participatory process, which enables capacity building and understanding and applying lessons learned from the projects' experiences.

Project monitoring and evaluation serves several purposes, facilitates the identification and resolution of problems enhances project performances and ensures congruence with the GEF criteria, provides the basis for technical and financial accountability builds local capacity to implement and manage projects successfully and promote the identification and dissemination of lessons learned by participants themselves.

SGP-Ukraine has, from the beginning, insisted on clearly defined indicators of performance in all projects. No SGP-Ukraine project can be approved without explicit statement of how it will be monitored and evaluated, including where possible quantifiable indicators and targets. All project proposals will also be required to present a "Risk Analysis" stating the critical assumptions and external factors upon which the achievement of project objective depends.

This practice will be reinforced and further refined on the basis of feedback from ongoing projects. In due course, group meetings bringing together managers from different projects will be used in formulating, monitoring and evaluating new projects. These peer-based workshops will evolve monitoring strategies that are best suited for the types of field projects being funded by SGP-Ukraine.

Each field project partner is required to submit Progress Report and the SGP Team to ensure this will follow a systematic follow up procedure. These PRs will also identify any assistance needed by project partners in the form of technical, social, financial or other inputs that were not foreseen at the time of preparing the project report. The NC and PA will, to the extent possible, arrange for provision of these inputs and provide advice on any mid-course corrections needed.

The multidisciplinary expertise available with TAG, NSC members and the GEF FSPs will be available to SGP-Ukraine for identifying, monitoring and evaluating projects. The SGP Team will undertake a mid-term review and project end evaluation of each project with help from NSC/TAG members or independent consultants to track progress and verify results.

SGP-Ukraine will document Project fact sheets/case studies arising out of the project, reflecting both successes and failures, and disseminate these widely.

Formats

The formats given in the SGP Monitoring and Evaluation Framework Document will be used with necessary adaptations (if required). The formats will incorporate indicators for measuring the progress towards the objectives set out; the effectiveness of processes; gender and participatory aspects of the project and the impact of the project.

Ongoing monitoring

Monitoring involves the collection and analysis of data about project activities. The data should be easy to understand. It allows project participants to keep track of project activities to determine whether project objectives are being achieved and to make whatever changes are necessary to improve the project performance.

The SGP Team will be in communication with the CSOs in their areas, during the course of the projects. Organizations will submit progress reports, giving details of activities and progress, measured against targets, as also statement of income and expenditure.

- The SGP team will analyze these reports and keep track of the projects and give feedback to the organizations to make online corrections where necessary. They shall also inform the NC and NSC about the progress of the projects, problems faced, etc.
- Each project will be visited preferably once in six months, or definitely before the release of the second and third installments. The visiting team will interact extensively with the implementing organization and stakeholders, and will also see the physical progress. A report, in a pre-decided format, shall be made of the visit. Feedback, comments and suggestions will be given in writing to the organization and reported to NC and NSC.
- The release of the second and third installments shall be dependent on satisfactory reports from the organization and the visiting team, and utilization certificates from the organization.

Project Evaluation systems

(i) Mid Term Evaluation (MTR):

Evaluation considers the results and effects of a project in terms of the local and global environment and the quality of life of the participants. It should include an explicit appraisal of whether the project has its stated objectives in terms of the GEF focal area and operational programme, if not analyze the reasons.

While the project proposal is being developed, care shall be taken to ensure that measurable outputs and outcomes are detailed therein. All reporting will be done against these.

- It will be ensured that each approved GEF/SGP project should include an M&E plan with appropriate indicators. The NGOs will be guided to include M&E costs in their project budgets to ensure that the grantees are able to carry out their M&E plans.
- The reporting formats will have sections for feedback from various stakeholders involved.
- The reporting formats will encourage introspection and reflections on learnings by the implementing NGOs.

Evaluation of projects is generally done towards the end of the project implementation and should be included along with monitoring in project design.

(ii) Online and Mid-course Corrections

- Each time a release of grant installment is to take place, a team would be visiting the project and making a report. This report would clearly specify whether the next installment is to be released, released conditionally, or the project terminated. In case termination of the project is recommended, the case shall be discussed at the UNDP CO, and be put up to the NSC, with the recommendations of the visiting team and the comments of the SGP team. The NSC will take the final decision about the termination of the project.
- If the visiting team recommends major changes in the project as proposed, these recommendations will be discussed and put up to the NSC for final decisions. Ordinarily, such changes should not involve changes in overall budget.
- Where there is need for extension of time of the project, NC will give its recommendations, discuss this and give its comments, and the final decision will be taken by the NSC.

(iii) Final Evaluation

- The NGO shall prepare a report on completion of the project.
- The projects will be evaluated in terms of impact.

- SGP team, the organization and the stakeholders will together reflect on and evaluate the project, its outcomes and learning and prepare a report on this. The reflection may be done in a workshop mode.

SGP project evaluations should include a participatory component. Participatory monitoring and assessment involves early consultation with the community members and stakeholders about project design, the problems to be addressed, potential courses of action community resources which can be brought to bear and the role of external support, participatory research to complete baseline information, participatory definition and agreement on project concept, consensus about the project objectives and activities.

Both Monitoring and Evaluation require information about the current state of relevant features of the community or locality usually focusing on the environmental problem in the GEF focal areas and corresponding operational programme before the project activity begins. This is called baseline data. This information is normally used to identify and construct the indicators of the project progress and accomplishments can then be compared to the baseline and hence evaluated.

While a monitoring and evaluation framework should be systematic, it should also allow for unexpected occurrences and results.