



SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME RESULTS REPORT (FY 2017-2023)

LESOTHO



COUNTRY REPORT CARD

FY 2017-2023

PORTFOLIO PROFILE SINCE INCEPTION			
Country Programme Name	Lesotho		
Year Started	2008		
	GEF	Non-GEF	Total
Number of projects	117	-	117
Grant amount committed	3,527,408	-	3,527,408
Project level co-financing in cash	716,433	-	716,433
Project level co-financing in kind	3,998,232	-	3,998,232
Total co-financing *	4,714,665		
Source: SGP database as of 2023			
* Total co-financing = Total project level co-financing (in cash and in kind) + Non-GEF grant amount committed			

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023
Focal Area Distribution (by completed projects)								
Biodiversity	3	1	-	-	2	1	7	14
Climate Change	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Land Degradation	-	8	-	1	5	1	12	27
Capacity Development	-	-	2	2	-	-	1	5
International Waters	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Chemicals and Waste	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Total Projects Completed	4	10	2	4	8	2	21	51

Source: Reporting by Country Programme as part of Annual Monitoring Process (2016-2023)

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
** Kindly note the total values 2016-2023 have undergone comprehensive quality assurance that supports aggregation of results over time. This includes removal of duplicative data over time and/or inclusion of more results based on verification by SGP country teams.								
PROGRESS TOWARDS FOCAL AREA OBJECTIVES								
Biodiversity								
Number of biodiversity projects completed	3	1	-	-	2	1	7	14
Number of Protected Areas (PAs) positively influenced	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	4
Hectares of PAs	2	-	-	-	-	6,500	-	6,502
Number of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCAs) positively influenced	1	1	-	-	1	2	2	5
Hectares of ICCAs	10	2	-	-	2	20	150	180
Number of biodiversity-based products sustainably produced	-	-	-	-	2	-	5	7
Number of significant species conserved	10	10	-	-	8	-	-	10
Number of target landscapes/seascapes under improved community conservation and sustainable use	3	1	-	-	1	1	2	6
Hectares of target landscapes/seascapes under improved community conservation and sustainable use	22	2	-	-	2	16	150	188
Climate Change								
Number of climate change projects completed	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Did the country programme address community-level barriers to deployment of low-GHG technologies? (yes/no)	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	3
Hectares of forests and non-forest lands with restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks initiated through completed projects	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	17

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
Number of typologies of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations or scaling up and replication	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Number of households achieving energy access co-benefits (ecosystem effects, income, health and others)	-	-	-	-	190	-	-	190
Breakdown of projects								
Low carbon technology and renewable energy projects	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks projects	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Land Degradation								
Number of land degradation projects completed	-	8	-	1	5	1	12	27
Number of community members with improved actions and practices that reduce negative impacts on land uses	-	2,469	-	-	1,776	445	5,000	9,690
Number of community members demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices	-	2,469	-	-	1,776	420	5,500	10,165
Hectares of land brought under improved management practices	-	18,357	-	5	3,581	4	550	22,497
Number of farmer leaders involved in successful demonstrations of agro-ecological practices	-	-	-	15	1	8	-	24
Number of farmer organizations, groups or networks disseminating climate-smart agroecological practices	-	8	-	1	5	1	18	33
International Waters								
Number of international waters projects completed	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Number of seascapes/inland freshwater landscapes	2	3	-	2	1	-	-	5

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
Land based pollution reduced (tons)	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
Hectares of river and lake basins converted	5	5	-	-	3,581	-	-	3,591
Hectares of seascapes covered under improved community conservation and sustainable use management systems	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,591
Chemicals and Waste								
Number of chemicals and waste projects completed	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Solid Waste avoided from open burning (kg)	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	51,000
Number of national coalitions and networks on chemicals and waste management established or strengthened	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Community-Based Tools/Approaches Deployed as Part of the Portfolio								
Solid waste management (reduce, reuse, and recycle)	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	1
Awareness raising and capacity development	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	2
Capacity Development								
Number of capacity development projects completed	-	-	2	2	-	-	1	5
Number of civil society organizations with strengthened capacities	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	9
Number of community-based organizations with strengthened capacities	-	-	8	4	-	-	14	26
Number of people with improved capacities to address global environmental issues at the community level	-	-	582	31	-	-	170	783

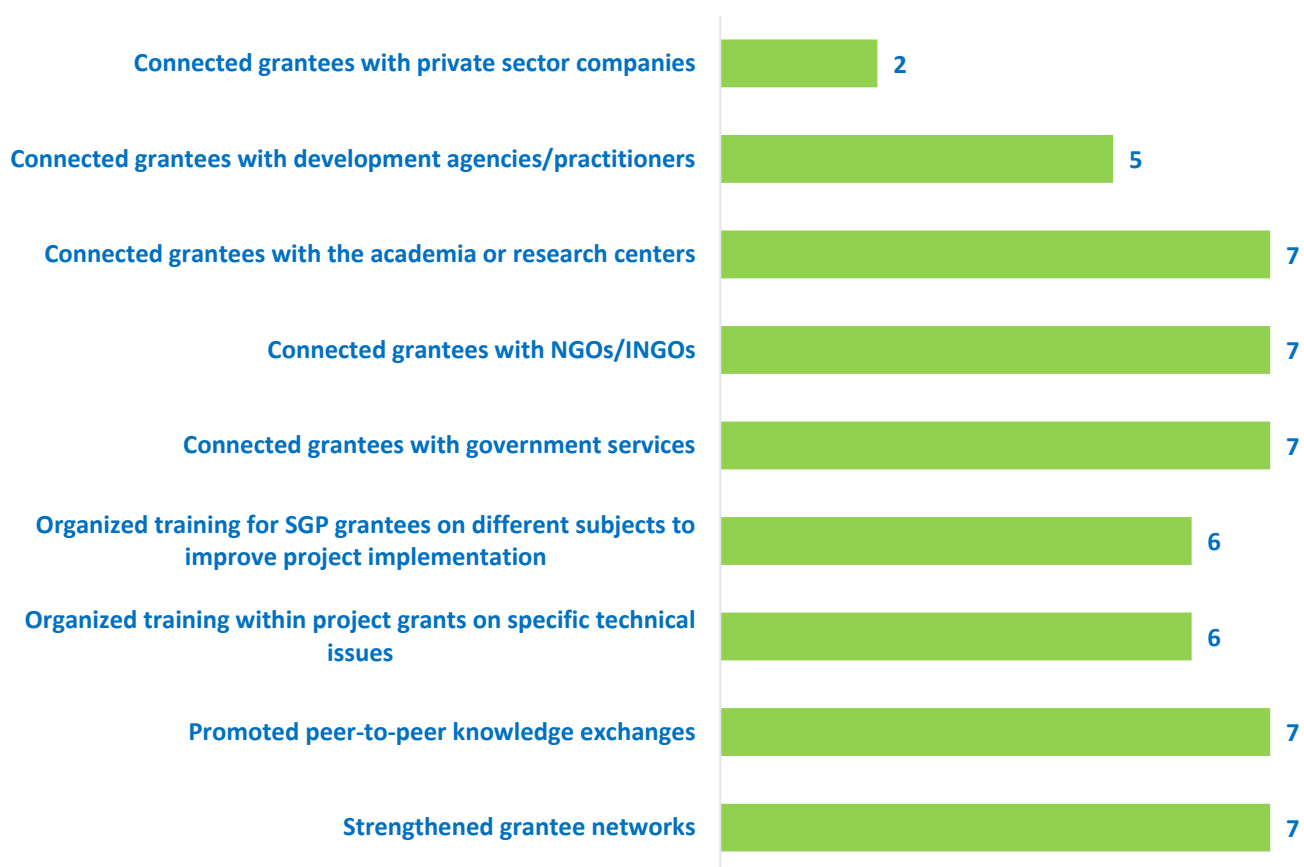
	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
GRANTMAKER PLUS								
CSO-Government Dialogue								
Number of CSO-government dialogues supported	2	2	5	1	1	2	-	13
Number of CSO/CBO representatives involved in the dialogues	30	32	308	10	8	15	-	403
South-South Exchange								
Number of South-South exchanges supported	-	1	-	-	-	2	2	5
Gender								
Number of gender responsive completed projects	4	10	2	4	6	2	21	49
Number of completed projects led by women	1	2	2	1	3	1	5	15
Programme Management: NSC gender focal point (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	7
Indigenous Peoples								
Number of completed projects that included indigenous peoples	-	9	3	1	6	-	13	32
Number of indigenous leaders with improved capacities	-	-	8	4	-	-	-	12
Ways to encourage IP projects								
Proposals accepted in local languages (yes/no)	-	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	-	Yes	4
Enhanced outreach and networking with indigenous people's groups (yes/no)	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	Yes	4
Youth								
Number of completed projects that included youth	2	9	3	1	6	2	12	35
Number of youth organizations	2	-	1	4	-	-	-	1
Programme Management: NSC youth focal point (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	2

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BROADER ADOPTION (Scaling up, Replication, Policy Influence, Improving Livelihoods)								
Projects replicated or scaled up	1	-	-	-	3	1	4	9
Projects with policy influence	4	-	1	1	2	-	4	12
Projects improving livelihoods of communities	4	-	-	1	8	2	20	35
PROGRAMME EFFECTIVENESS								
Peer-to-peer exchanges conducted	1	5	-	3	2	-	4	15
Community-level trainings conducted	-	4	-	-	-	-	6	10
Number of projects monitored through field visits	21	13	18	11	19	16	6	104
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT								
National Steering Committee								
Number of NSC meetings occurred during the reporting period	3	5	3	3	3	2	5	24
Average number of NSC members that participated in each NSC meeting	7	6	6	6	6	5	5	6

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF KEY RESULTS

Interpreting the Green Bars in Graphs: The presence of green bars indicates the number of years that the country programme has achieved specific results. If a green bar is absent, it signifies that while the associated result is not observed in the country programme, it is still evident in the overall aggregated SGP portfolio.

Number of Years Country Programme Deployed Capacity Development Strategies (Over 7-year reporting period from 2017-2023)



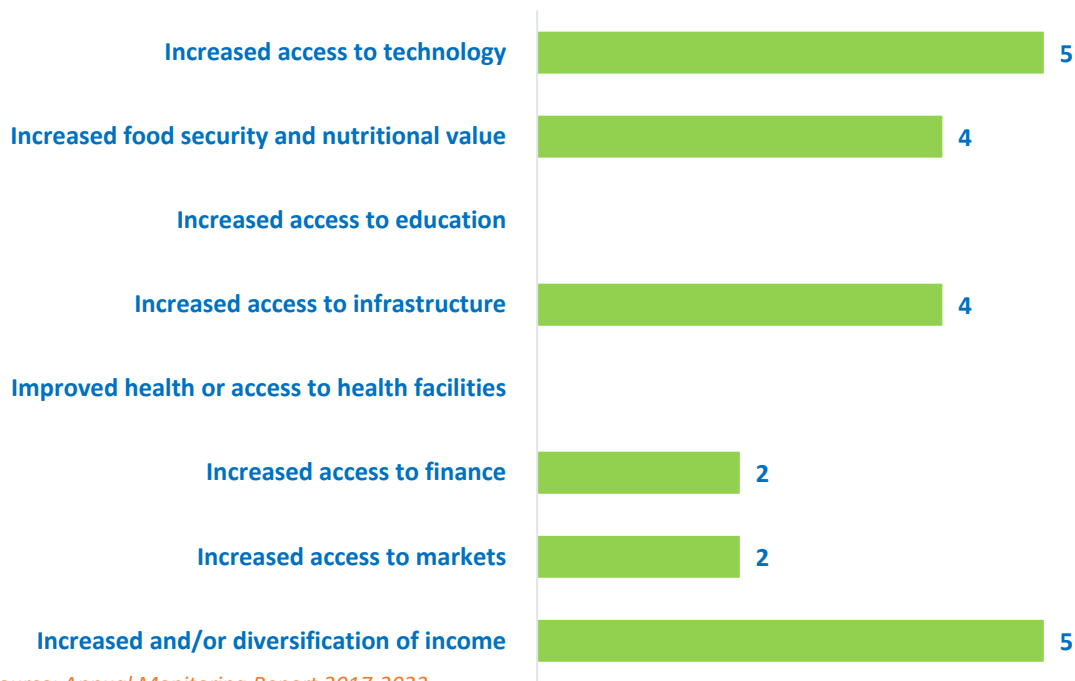
Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

**Number of Years Country Programme Deployed Gender Mainsreaming Strategies
(Over 7-year reporting period from 2017-2023)**



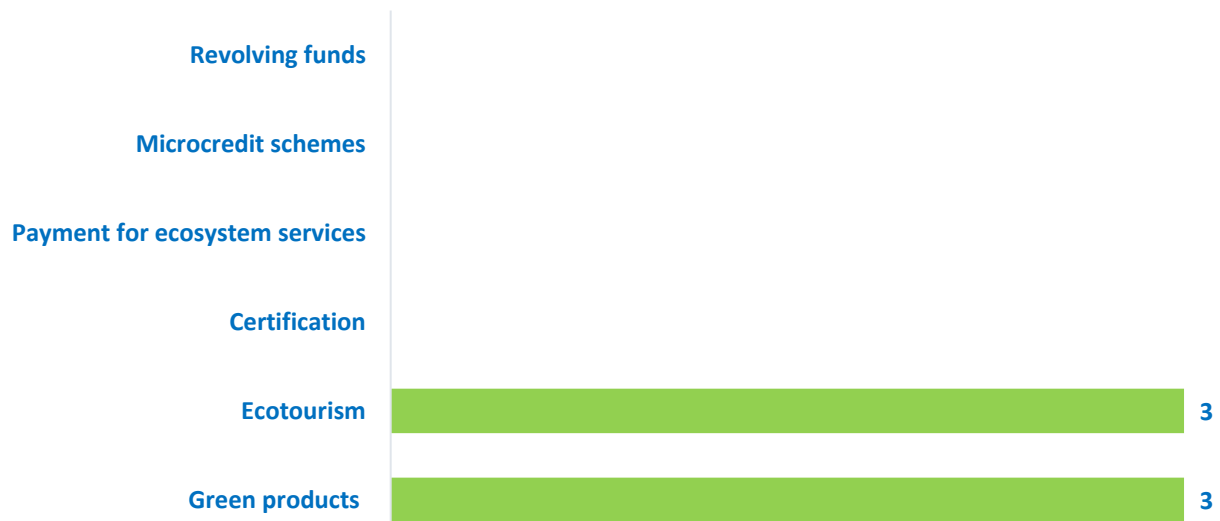
Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

**Number of Years Country Programme Deployed Strategies to Improve Community Livelihoods and Quality of Life
(Over 7-year reporting period from 2017-2023)**



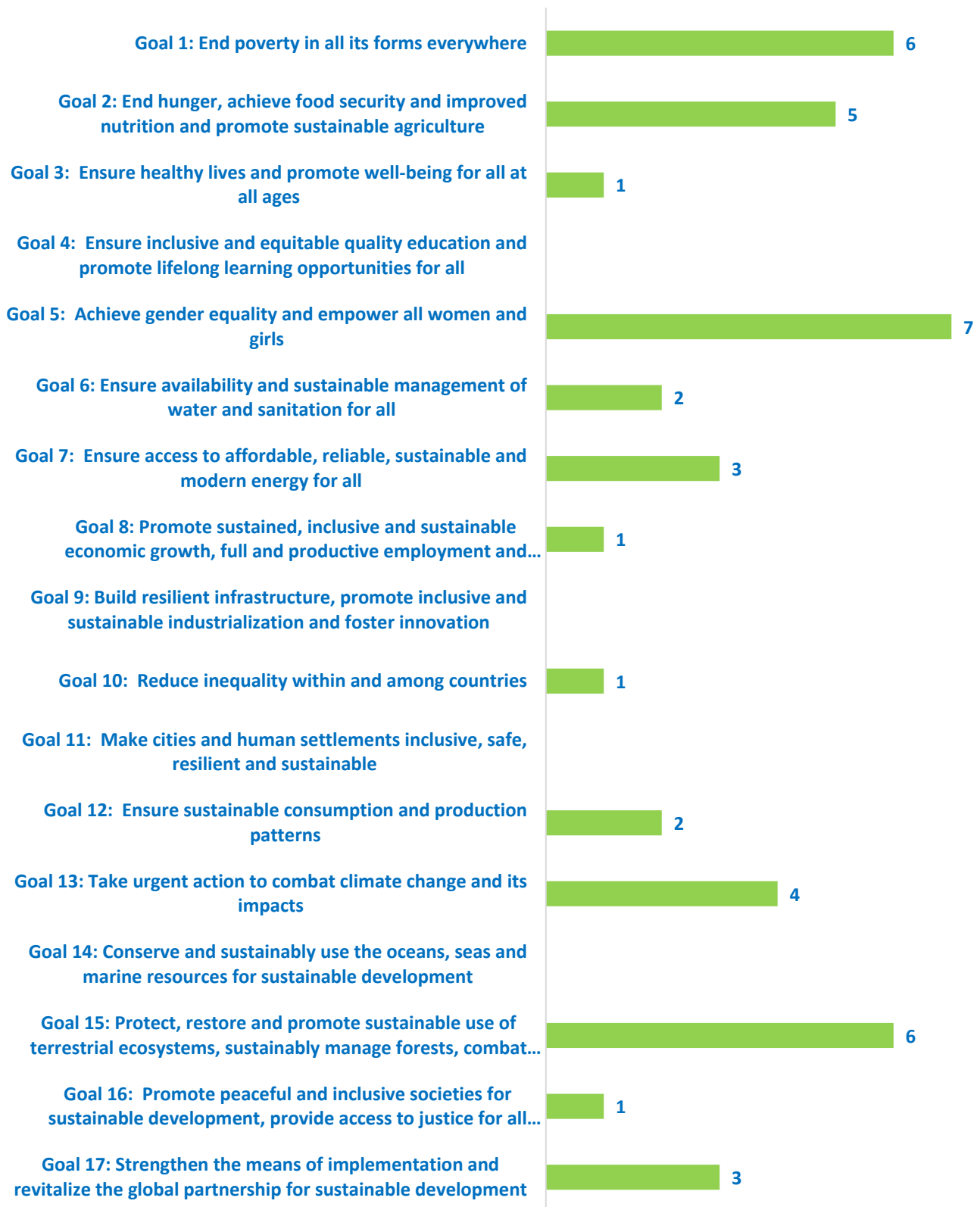
Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

**Number of Years Country Programme Deployed Market-based and Financial Mechanisms to Improve Community Livelihoods
(Over 7-year reporting period from 2017-2023)**



Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

**Number of Years Country Programme Addressed Sustainable Development Goals
(Over 7-year reporting period from 2017-2023)**



Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

EXAMPLES OF PROJECT RESULTS

International Waters

In **Lesotho**, SGP supported a project whose overarching goal was to increase the availability of water through rehabilitation of the wetlands and management of rangeland, contributing to flourishing international waters and improving livelihoods gained through production of wool and mohair. The project targeted the rangeland and wetlands areas of *Letšeng-la-Terai (Tlaeng Pass to Motšeremeli)* in the *Khubelu* watershed. Rangeland mismanagement and unsustainable use of wetlands in this area have led to the diminishing of water sources for valuable livestock and overall environmental degradation. This situation poses a serious threat to international waters and local livelihoods of wool and mohair farmers. Using the traditional community collective work system “*Matsema*” (a self-organized volunteer group at the village level), 345 local community members (169 women, 89 men and 87 youth) were mobilized to construct 8 gabions (48 meters in length), 240-meter stone lines and diversion furrows protecting 5 hectares of wetlands, making up 8% of the Palustrine wetlands system found in Lesotho highlands. Run-off velocity has been significantly reduced, resulting in noticeable sedimentation behind the constructed structures. The project site is located in the area earmarked for up-scaling of GIZ supported *Khubelu* Sponges project. 60 herd-boys who were the strongest link in range resources management and future livestock owners, were equipped with good land and livestock husbandry skills through participation in rehabilitation activities and training on sustainable range management, brush control, wetlands rehabilitation and protection and sustainable use. Project implementation was in collaboration with departments of *Water Resources and Range Resources* supported by local authorities, resulting in strengthening of partnerships for integrated catchment management (ICM). After the project completion, the grantee partner GROW continued to convene periodic meetings for all *Mokhotlong* grantees to share ideas and experiences/lessons, for greater impact of interventions in the district through strengthening the network of grantees in the district. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2017-2018)**

Capacity Development

In **Lesotho**, SGP supported a project led by GROW to improve the capacities of 8 grantees within the priority landscapes (3 in Qacha’s Nek and 5 in Mokhotlong Districts). As a result, executive committees and other members of these grantees (132 men and 104 women in all) received training in project management, leadership, conflict resolution, resources and community mobilization, partnership building, monitoring and evaluation techniques, and financial management. The overall result is that there was marked improvement in the delivery of project activities and the quality of reports submitted. As the learning and networking platforms were organized particularly in the district of Mokhotlong, healthy competition among grantees was initiated and as a result, the delivery rate and achievement of results were improved significantly. Peer-to-peer exchange visits also complemented these platforms. The conflict resolution training enhanced cooperation among grantees and their technical committee members, leading to increased participation of members in project activities. Over and above this, GROW itself has gained some expert skills in proposal development and it is working with some local community-based organizations (CBOs) including SGP beneficiaries to access new and additional funds from elsewhere. Furthermore, through interactions with the 8 grantees, GROW has identified a capacity gap that exists in CBOs and this has prompted it to initiate the establishment of a volunteer programme targeting unemployed young graduates. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2018-2019)**

CSO-Government Dialogue

In **Lesotho**, recommended and supported by the NSC, outreach activities were conducted towards small CBOs, mainly grazing and herders’ association in the only district in the country without grantee partners since the launch of SGP Lesotho. A briefing session was held at the District Administrator’s Office about the SGP approach, its processes, and procedures. In the end, a call for proposals was announced. A follow-up session for selected heads of department, local authorities, and local CSOs was held with the same objective. During the session, CSO representatives and local authorities presented various challenges they faced in their respective villages, with the Range Resources Technical Officer and the District Environment Officers facilitating the discussions, providing responses, and advising on possible ideas for project concept development. Among the 15 CSOs that attended the session, 10 of them submitted project concepts, out of which eight were

selected for SGP support. All of the CSOs received strong support from the Department of Environment, Department of Range Resources Management, Department of Agriculture, Urban Council, and the Office of the District Administrator. A grant award and MOA signature ceremony facilitated and officiated by an NSC Member and the District Administrator with key government institutions in attendance was held, where the local chief and community councilors, the District Coordination Office for Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation, and the Department of Police pledged their support for the grantee projects. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2021-2022)**

South-South Exchange

Through joint funding from UNDP Lesotho TRAC funds and UNESCO World Heritage Centre and in collaboration with the Maloti Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site (MDPWHS) Management, **Lesotho** and **South Africa** exchanged knowledge to create COMPACT Site Strategies -- one for Lesotho and one for South Africa -- for co-managing the site. This consultative process culminated at the transboundary level where stakeholders from both countries converged for the validation and clearance of the three strategies for submission to UNESCO for review and approval to pave the way for full scale COMPACT implementation in the MDPWHS. The journey which brought together civil society organizations, local authorities and community conservation forums, government representatives at provincial, district, national and transboundary levels strengthened the cooperation between Lesotho and South Africa for conservation in the MDP; and has strengthened community involvement in the management of the WHS. The two sides met three times at Midmar in South Africa for review and alignment of baseline assessment reports for the two countries; for validation of country COMPACT site strategies; and for validation of the Joint Results framework and MDP COMPACT Site Strategy in readiness for submission to UNESCO for their review and approval for implementation. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2017-2018)**

Social Inclusion – Gender

In **Lesotho**, SGP supported women-led *Serumula Development Association* is working to protect a community botanical garden in Tšenekeng in Semonkong. Five plant species gazetted by the Government of Lesotho as endangered and protected by law were planted in the garden. The association, also worked with a local community group to register as a legal entity to run the initiative as a venture. The village chief, who is a member of the group, received an award during the 2016 Energy and Climate Change Women Recognition Award, for her contribution to biodiversity conservation. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2016-2017)**

In **Lesotho**, a project completed by *Technologies for Economic Development* supported women-led nature-based enterprises. Five districts, namely *Maseru, Mafeteng, Quthing, Botha Bothe, and Qacha's Nek*, have been identified as prime locations for honey production. To maximize the honey production potential in these hotspots, preparations are currently underway to establish fully equipped honey collection hubs in three strategic locations among the selected districts. Conducting a beekeeping training themed "*Let there be honey in Lesotho*", the project benefited 44 participants, including 37 women, 7 men, and 31 youth, who acquired essential beekeeping skills. Additionally, hive production training resulted in the production of over 200 hives and 50 trap boxes, distributed among trainees to stimulate business growth. The introduction of the top bar beehive as an affordable option has shown promise in addressing challenges faced by traditional hives, offering valuable insights for future policy development in beekeeping.

With country-wide consultations and national dialogues on beekeeping, the organizational structure for beekeeping is evolving. This includes the formation of district networks and committees, with the ultimate goal of establishing the *National Beekeepers Association* as the apex body. The project has ignited a strong interest in beekeeping particularly among women, as well as members of the security sector, and even Her Majesty the Queen, who sees beekeeping as a significant employment opportunity for women and girls. Moreover, collaboration with *Caritas Lesotho* has resulted in the establishment of a financing mechanism that improves access to finance for women involved in beekeeping and the cottage industries related to wool and mohair products, enabling at least 12 women entrepreneurs to access loans and expand their businesses. The project has also facilitated networking and capacity building among beekeepers, with 11 farmers from the targeted districts participating in the *22 Africa Regional Beekeeping Symposium*, where they received more than seven awards for their contributions to

the sector. Local honey products are being tested through collaboration with local universities to ensure quality and market readiness. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2022-2023)**

Social Inclusion – Youth

In **Lesotho**, poor range resource management practices including overstocking and uncontrolled fires have resulted in severe land degradation and destruction of natural and domesticated bee nests/hives. This has become a challenge for both livestock farmers and beekeepers. Maseepho Beekeeping Cooperative Society is a youth-led organization involved in beekeeping and advocacy for the protection of bees and honey production. Being a mountain-region-based organization with limited experience in developing project proposals and entering into and managing an agreement, the grantee partner is one of 8 CBOs awarded planning grants to engage a consultant who took them through the journey of elaborating project concepts into viable project proposals. The planning grant to develop a project on sustainable honey production generated a lot of interest among unemployed youth of Qacha's Nek district. As a result, the SGP country team in Lesotho received a lot of inquiries. Through linkages established during grant awards, MOA signature ceremonies and joint mentorship sessions for all planning grant awardees, Maseepho received requests for and was obliged to training 3 grantees (Sehlabathebe Grazing Association, Ramatšelisiso Grazing Association and Snake Park and Tourist Information Centre) in the district in beekeeping and honey production. The initiative strengthened networking among the 4 grantees. 30 members of the Cooperative (20 men and 30 women) participated in the project proposal development process, benefitting from planning and reporting mentorship sessions. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2017-2018)**

ALIGNMENT OF OP7 COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES

Lesotho is party to multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and it has elaborated strategies, action plans and programmes to facilitate their implementation. These elaborations have recommendations on priority areas of action and institutional arrangements for implementation of the proposed interventions. Of relevance are the following which are directly related to GEF focal areas and operational programs.

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)		January 10 th 1995
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)		2000
Lesotho: 1 st , 3 rd and 4 th National Reports on CBD		May 2 nd 2014
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)		November 12 th 2014
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)		November 7 th 1995
UNFCCC National Communications	1 st National Communication	2000
	2 nd National Communication	2013
	3 rd National Communication	Process started in 2015 and is on-going
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)		
UN Convention to Combat Désertification (UNCCD)		September 12 th 1995
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	Completed in 1999 and reviewed in 2005 to align it with major national policies	2005
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)		January 23 rd 2002
Stockholm Convention National Implémentation Plan (NIP)		February 26 th 2009
Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)		2005
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)		2007
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies ¹⁴	Development and adoption of a Strategic Action Programme for balancing water uses and sustainable natural resource management in the Orange-Senqu River transboundary basin	2009 - 2014
	Support to the Orange-Senqu River Strategic Action Programme Implementation	2018
Minamata Convention on Mercury		12 th November 2014

Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
GEF-7 National Dialogues	
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	1997
Paris Agreement	January 20 th 2017
Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Paris Accord	
UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	
Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) for the UN SDGs	2019

UNDP-implemented Small Grants Programme is delivering integrated results at the country level supporting local level capacities aligned with multiple Multilateral Environmental Conventions. This includes support to work for CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), UNFCCC Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) and National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA), UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP), and localization of Sustainable Development Goals, amongst many others.

METHODOLOGICAL BASIS OF COUNTRY REPORT

- Results aggregations over time are only for completed projects.
- With SGP's rolling modality, results reflect all ongoing operational phases during the indicated period. Please refer to the total projects completed on the first page for information in this regard.
- The source of reported results is the annual monitoring process, which is part of the annual monitoring requirements for each country programme. Additionally, evaluative evidence sources have also been leveraged, if available for the country programme.
- This results report benefits from extensive quality assurance. All information across all countries in the portfolio is harmonized, verified, and evidenced before being reported. Several layers of this quality assurance have been implemented in the generation of this report and there are no result duplications across years. This point is important not only for a specific unit of measurement (i.e., indicator selected) but also for results aggregation across years in a given operational phase. Reported results include both direct and indirect global-environmental and socio-economic benefits. This is due to SGP's work in two key areas:
 - SGP works towards behavioural change at individual, organizational, and community levels. Social determinants that shape human interaction with the environment play an important role, especially at the community level, as sustainability and the continuation of environmental gains often depend on them. These factors include positive shifts in knowledge, attitudes, practices, social and cultural norms, and conventions. Such interventions shape not only demand but also communication between community leaders and other influencers in promoting the adoption of environmentally friendly behaviours and practices. Often, SGP projects have ripple effects that go well beyond the direct scope of the project, emphasizing the importance of measuring indirect impact.
 - Encouraging Community Action for Environmental Change. For many years, SGP has focused on promoting and supporting local community groups to bring about broader and sustainable environmental change. This approach is a key aspect of SGP's work and recognizes the power of motivated community groups to create significant impact and drive positive transformation. Community group action refers to informal gatherings of individuals and organizations in the community who share a common belief and purpose. It involves taking practical steps over time to address environmental and socioeconomic challenges and creating positive change. This grassroots-level approach relies on the active involvement and empowerment of the community, with the initial efforts acting as a catalyst for further mobilization. By encouraging self-governance and involving those most affected by the issues, community action can extend its influence to more people in the community, underscoring the importance of measuring indirect impact.