



SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme



SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME RESULTS REPORT (FY 2017-2023)

PANAMA



COUNTRY REPORT CARD

FY 2017-2023

PORTFOLIO PROFILE SINCE INCEPTION			
Country Programme Name	Panama		
Year Started	2007		
	GEF	Non-GEF	Total
Number of projects	262	31	293
Grant amount committed	5,846,204	690,000	6,536,204
Project level co-financing in cash	1,228,782	273,002	1,501,784
Project level co-financing in kind	5,630,610	449,120	6,079,730
Total co-financing *	8,271,514		
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	5	5	15	15	14	19	19	92
Climate Change	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	4
Capacity Development	-	1	-	3	1	-	2	7
Total Projects Completed	6	7	17	18	15	19	21	103

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	5	5	15	15	14	19	19	92
Number of Protected Areas (PAs) positively influenced	5	2	7	5	7	12	9	47
Hectares of PAs	118,339	41	3,145	894,927	900,000	127,806	8,120	2,052,378
Number of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCAs) positively influenced	-	-	-	4	5	2	4	15
Hectares of ICCAs	-	-	-	322,009	4,304	127,806	24,132	478,251
Number of biodiversity-based products sustainably produced	6	9	15	35	60	70	64	259
Number of significant species conserved	18	30	379	26	28	299	201	981
Number of target landscapes/seascapes under improved community conservation and sustainable use	-	2	3	2	2	3	3	15
Hectares of target landscapes/seascapes under improved community conservation and sustainable use	-	400,000	944,223	545,000	545	900,000	1,364	2,791,132
Climate Change								
Number of climate change projects completed	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	4
Did the country programme address community-level barriers to deployment of low-GHG technologies? (yes/no)	Yes	-	Yes	-	-	-	-	2
Number of typologies of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2

	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 **
successful demonstrations or scaling up and replication								
Number of households achieving energy access co-benefits (ecosystem effects, income, health and others)	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	10
Breakdown of projects								
Low carbon technology and renewable energy projects	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Capacity Development								
Number of capacity development projects completed	-	1	-	3	1	-	2	7
Number of civil society organizations with strengthened capacities	-	4	12	13	4	-	4	37
Number of community-based organizations with strengthened capacities	-	8	26	43	25	-	18	120
Number of people with improved capacities to address global environmental issues at the community level	-	118	253	279	76	-	740	1,466
GRANTMAKER PLUS								
CSO-Government Dialogue								
Number of CSO-government dialogues supported	6	9	5	2	2	3	2	29
Number of CSO/CBO representatives involved in the dialogues	158	30	157	200	150	27	53	775
South-South Exchange								
Number of South-South exchanges supported	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	4
Gender								
Number of gender responsive completed projects	6	6	17	18	15	19	21	102
Number of completed projects led by women	2	5	8	10	8	11	10	54

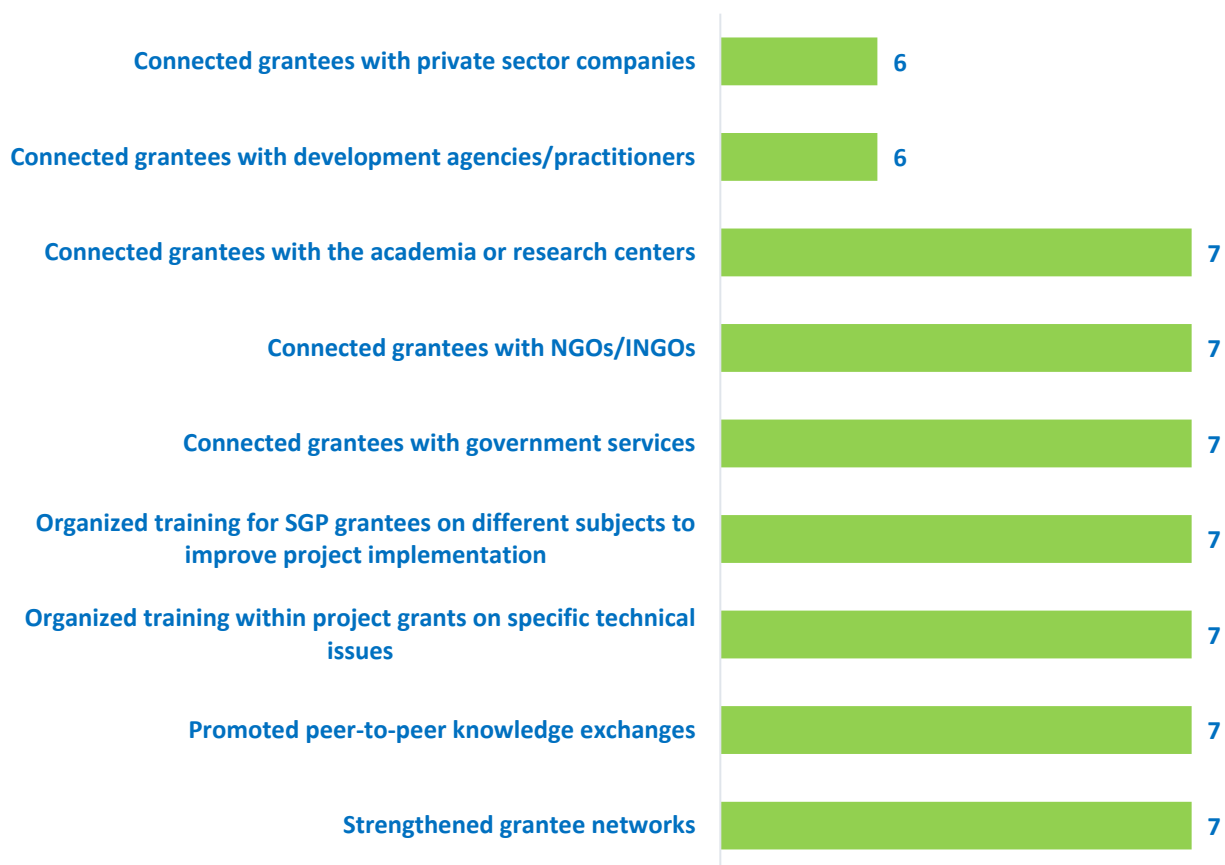
	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
Programme Management: NSC gender focal point (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	7
Indigenous Peoples								
Number of completed projects that included indigenous peoples	1	3	8	9	7	14	13	55
Number of indigenous leaders with improved capacities	11	5	29	48	59	38	336	526
Programme Management: NSC IP focal point (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	6
Ways to encourage IP projects								
Proposals accepted in local languages (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	Yes	5
Proposals accepted using participatory video (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	-	-	Yes	-	Yes	4
Involved indigenous peoples in NSC and/or TAG (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	7
Enhanced outreach and networking with indigenous people's groups (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	7
Youth								
Number of completed projects that included youth	3	3	10	12	8	15	18	69
Number of youth organizations	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Programme Management: NSC youth focal point (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	7
BROADER ADOPTION (Scaling up, Replication, Policy Influence, Improving Livelihoods)								
Projects replicated or scaled up	1	1	7	3	9	8	7	36
Projects with policy influence	2	1	2	2	9	5	2	23
Projects improving livelihoods of communities	5	5	12	12	13	20	19	86
PROGRAMME EFFECTIVENESS								

	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 **
Peer-to-peer exchanges conducted	3	7	30	14	73	40	43	210
Community-level trainings conducted	18	30	40	57	118	113	168	544
Number of projects monitored through field visits	17	29	36	59	39	37	40	257
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT								
National Steering Committee								
Number of NSC meetings occurred during the reporting period	3	5	4	5	7	4	4	32
Average number of NSC members that participated in each NSC meeting	8	7	7	6	8	7	7	7

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF KEY RESULTS

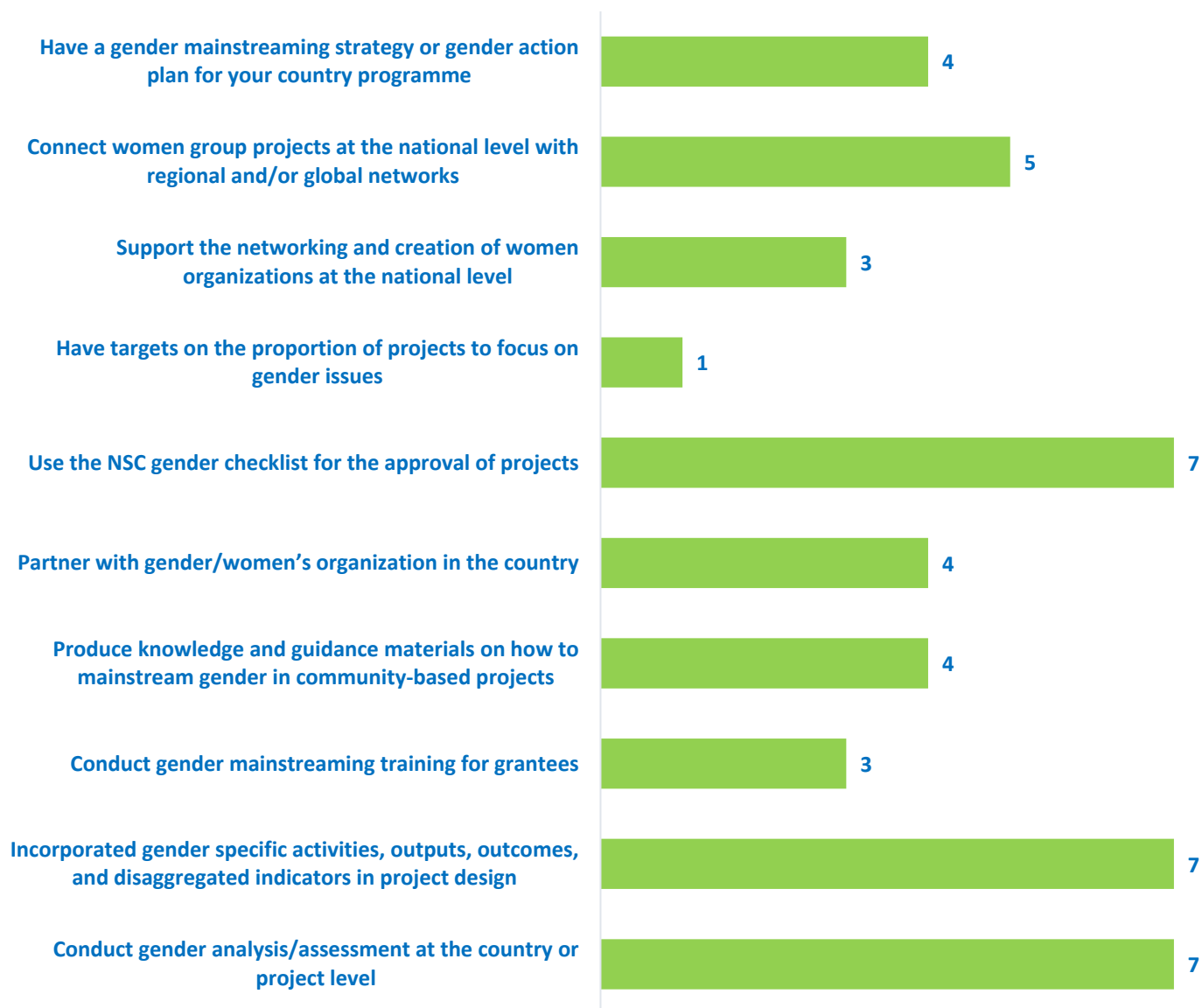
Interpreting the Green Bars in Graphs: The presence of green bars indicates the number of years that the country programme has achieved specific results. If a green bar is absent, it signifies that while the associated result is not observed in the country programme, it is still evident in the overall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

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



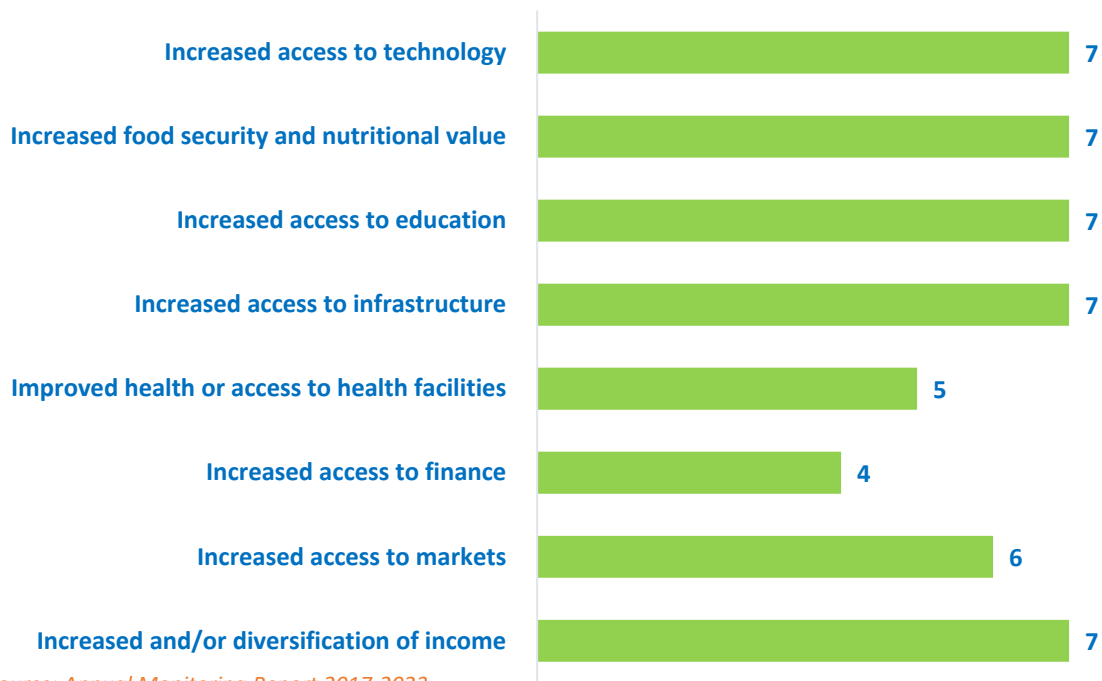
Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

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



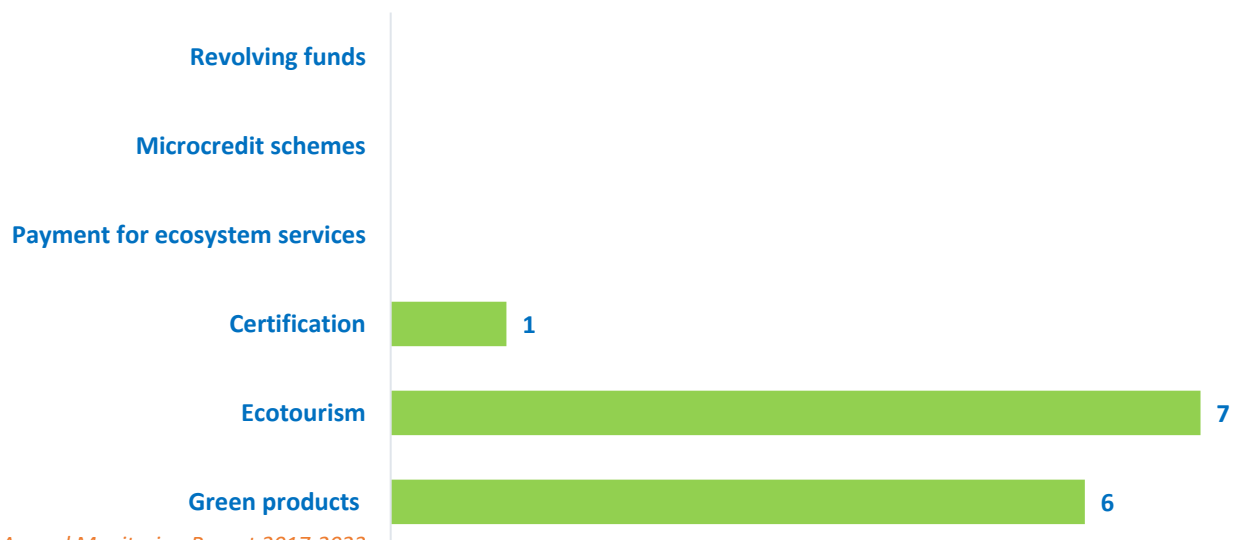
Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

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



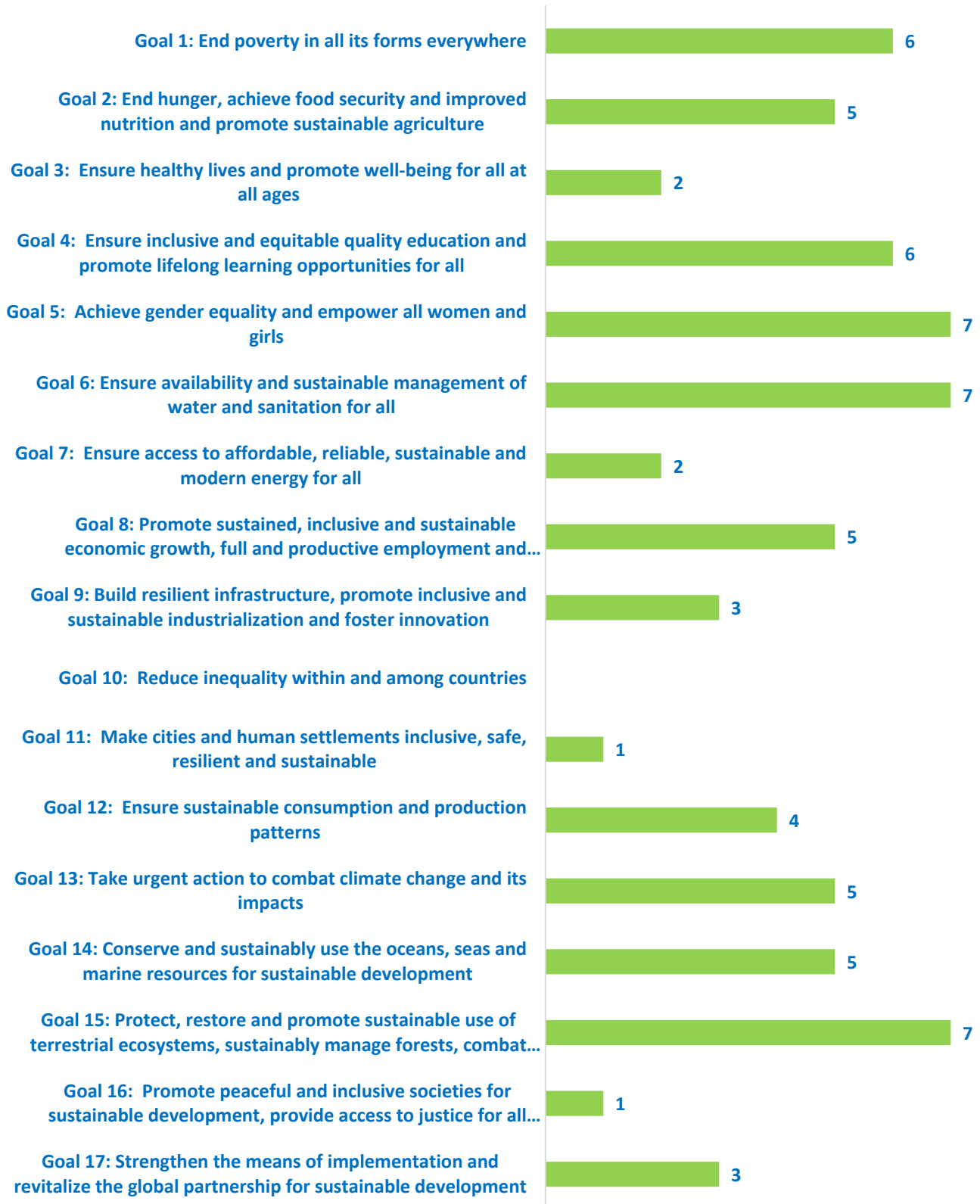
Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

**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

Biodiversity

In **Panama**, SGP supported grantee, *Fundacion Agua y Tierra*, in the capacity building of 3 community organizations in the special management zone of the southern area of Veraguas. In particular, the project was designed and implemented to consolidate actions related to sea turtle's conservation on the Panamanian Pacific coast. This involved working in network with 31 community-based organizations of the area of Mata Oscura, Veraguas Province in the Special Maine-Coastal Management Zone, improving their technical and organizational capacities, and starting a shared Environmental Education Plan. One of the most important outcomes was the consolidation of a Network that began with a few members of the pacific and escalated to a national level, in a partnership with the Ministry of Environment. The members of this network called PANATORTUGAS (<https://panatortugas.org/>) are community-based organizations and national and international NGOs who voluntarily work for the conservation of sea turtles and put into practice the agreements made by Panama in the Interamerican Convention for the Protection of Sea Turtles (CIT). This project won the Ford and Rana Dorada prizes and have been selected as a speaker in the Earth Optimism Summit organized by Smithsonian in Panama. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2016-2017)**

CSO-Government Dialogue

In Belarus, Belize, Brazil, Lesotho, Ecuador, Mozambique, **Panama** and Venezuela relied on landscape approach as an entry point to initiate the dialogues at the regional level. In **Panama**, the dialogues resulted in strengthened landscape governance and stronger collaboration between the civil society and the Government. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2016-2017)**

South-South Exchange

In **Panama**, SGP supported a South-South exchange project on community-based tourism that the country has implemented together with Colombia, Costa Rica and Mexico. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the exchange of knowledge is currently taking place virtually between 10 community organizations from Colombia, 9 from Panama, 3 networks from Mexico. These targeted groups will later go to Costa Rica to learn about the experience of the Community Tourism Network in order to implement what they have learned in each country. The involvement of the Ministries of Environment and Tourism of Panama and Colombia in this process, will allow the project to influence public policy in these two countries, while the efforts made by Costa Rica and Mexico are already positively influencing sustainable community tourism in the nations. In addition, dissemination is being carried out in Latin America through 'Travolution Radio', which allows replication and increases the scope of this process; podcasts are being made from each organization and the programmes of the virtual training sessions are transmitted to an audience that fluctuates daily between 80 and 100 people from different Latin American countries as well as in live events which have reached 600 persons connected. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2020-2021)**

Social Inclusion – Gender

In **Panama**, SGP supported grantee, Fundación Académica Isthmus (Isthmus Academic Foundation) along with the School of Architecture and Industrial Design, to support women artisans from the community group 'Leaves of Darién workshop', who have produced recycled paper made of natural fibers since 1997. The project site was Jaqué, a rural coastal town in Darién, Panamá, and focused on linking the work of the women artisans with paper consumers, providing necessary infrastructure to improve the production and quality of the paper, in addition to training the craftswomen in new techniques of production and handling the machinery, and teaching good marketing practices. The School of Architecture and Industrial Design collaborated by connecting young students with women artisans for redesigning the paper-based products, improving the value chain and marketing strategies. For example, the use of anionic starch as a biodegradable binder resulted in higher quality paper. In addition, the production techniques of the women artisans were video-documented. Some key lessons learned during the project includes exploring new plant species for paper fibre; the importance of having a functional workspace and machinery to facilitate project growth; the

importance of imparting knowledge and training the youth of the community to ensure sustainability. In all, 80 people benefitted from the project, including 35 women and 35 children. The project empowered the women artisans to develop a stronger marketing plan for their products, both in domestic and international markets. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2019-2020)**

Social Inclusion – Indigenous Peoples

In **Panama**, the Organization of Indigenous Women United for Diversity of Panama (Organización de Mujeres Indígenas Unidas por la Diversidad de Panama) completed a project rescuing the traditional knowledge about the conservation of jaguars and felines to raise the awareness among the Guna and Embera people of the Nargana and Alto Bayano protected area. The project focused on reviewing the relationship between jaguars and indigenous peoples narrated through the stories of indigenous peoples. Guna and Embera boys and girls attended virtual and face-to-face workshops. More than 200 mothers, fathers, and daughters actively participated in all activities. As a result, at the end of 2021, plays were staged in three indigenous communities. In the capital city, two theaters were set up for indigenous children. Two publications, a storybook in 3 languages, as well as systematization of experience were produced. Another project completed by the Foundation for the Development of the Wounaan People (Fundación para el Desarrollo del Pueblo Wounaan) focused on the development of communities through the conservation of their natural resources and biodiversity, as well as the cultural and idiomatic recovery of traditional knowledge through actions of community governance, sighting, and ecological restoration. The Woounaan bird conservation efforts were led by indigenous leaders of the Wounaan community in three territories with the aim of rescuing their native language and cultural knowledge, which was of great importance for the community. As a result, a list of 168 species of birds was developed in three languages (Spanish, Wounaan, and English), indigenous peoples' traditions regarding birds were compiled, and an illustrated storybook titled *Wooun Meu* for children and young people was translated into three languages. The project has been widely scaled by another cooperation agency. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2021-2022)**

In **Panama**, *Fundación Panameña de Turismo Sostenible (Panamanian Foundation for Sustainable Tourism)* completed a project strengthening community tourism organizations in the *Naso* region by implementing various structural improvements, acquiring necessary equipment, and promoting community tourism. These efforts enhanced the organizational capacities of *Naso* organizations in ethnotourism and ecotourism. The project provided comprehensive training to the indigenous community of the *Naso Comarca*, covering various cross-cutting issues related to tourism services, entrepreneurship, community connections, finances, gender, and first aid. The training not only empowered the community members with new skills but also facilitated community exchanges outside their regular areas, allowing them to strengthen their technical capacities and gain new insights, particularly in areas such as permaculture and food security. The project's focus on teamwork and utilizing the strengths of each individual contributed to the success of the tourist route, which is now led by the communities themselves. By supporting tourism companies and indigenous peoples through the *Sustainable Network of Rural and Community Tourism (SOSTUR Network)* in Panama, the project not only created new sources of employment but also valued the local culture and contributed to the overall sustainability of the region.

In total, 600 indigenous people benefitted from the project, with 390 women and 210 men being among the beneficiaries. As an outcome of the project, the *Panama Tourism Authority* increased its support for tourism in the *Naso Comarca*, recognizing it as a model for indigenous tourism and further contributing to its growth and development. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2022-2023)**

Scaling up, Replication and Policy Influence

In **Panama**, the Inter-American Development Bank is planning a larger follow-up project to an SGP grant in the Darien region (Canglon village) which demonstrated the sustainable extraction of oil from coconuts. The Agency intends to continue working with the communities involved in implementing the SGP grant.

In another project, in **Panama**, SGP project led to the creation of *first of its kind* network of civil society and non-governmental organizations in the country focused on sea turtle conservation, and contributed to National Strategy for Sea Turtle Conservation which has been approved by Panama's Ministry of Environment. The

objective of project was on consolidating a set of scattered civil society actions relating to sea turtle conservation along the Pacific coast of Panama. Panama has a total of 2,490 kms of coastline (1,267 kms in the Caribbean, and 1,203 kms in the Pacific), where five of the seven species of sea turtles in the world come to nest. Two of these five species are critically endangered (*Eretmochelys imbricata* and *Dermochelys coriácea*) and three species endangered (*Caretta caretta*, *Lepidochelys olivacea*, *Chelonia mydas*). In the province of Azuero, Panama has two of the eleven beaches in the world where the phenomenon of large-scale beach nesting, or "arribadas", of the *Lepidochelys olivacea* takes place. Over the last five decades, on account of threats including rampant egg collection; turtle capture in coastal waters; destruction of nesting habitat; by-catch through fishing nets; and extreme climatic phenomena; the marine turtle population in Panama has declined drastically, bringing them to the brink of survival. In addition, tourism promotion in Panama does not sufficiently consider ecosystem sustainability, resulting in weak plans for coastal marine development; unplanned construction of hotel and residential infrastructure; poor management of waste discharges; as well as intermittent compliance with environmental laws. In this context, SGP Panama has supported a network of committed communities, groups and organizations as major allies to help conserve endangered marine turtles at national, regional and international levels. SGP project has involved working to: (i) strengthen a network of 31 community-based organizations in the region of Mata Oscura, Veraguas Province, in the Special Marine-Coastal Management Zone; (ii) improve the network members technical and organizational capacities; and (iii) initiate a shared Environmental Education Plan. An important outcome from the project has been the consolidation of the PanaTORTUGAS network that began with a few members along the Pacific coast, and has now, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, expanded at the national level. Along with national and international NGOs, the majority of the members of the PanaTORTUGAS network are community-based organizations (CBOs) who provide the day-to-day volunteer work for the conservation of sea turtles and put into practice the agreements made by Panama in the Interamerican Convention for the Protection of Sea Turtles. The network also involves work with artisan women by recycling plastics as part of the Environmental Education Plan. The SGP-supported network has been recognized at the international level, having won the Ford Foundation and 'Rana Dorada' prizes, and was also recently selected as a case study in the 'Earth Optimism Summit' organized by Smithsonian in Panama. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2016-2017)**

In **Panama**, SGP-supported community-based ecotourism project has been replicated in multiple areas. The indigenous *Wounaan People Development Foundation* in Puerto Lara, Darien Province, under the SGP project rehabilitated trail and reforested degraded areas for community-based tourism. The project promoted conservation and monitoring of birds in the area and developed and trained local community guides for birdwatching. This successful initiative is now replicated in Maje, in the communities of Río Hondo and Platanares. These projects have also contributed to Panama's National Bird Counting and reported new species of birds and help promote conservation of areas of high biodiversity. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2018-2019)**

ALIGNMENT OF OP7 COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES

List of relevant conventions and national/regional plans or programmes:

Convenios + marcos de planificación nacionales	Fecha de ratificación/celebración 2017
Plan Estratégico Nacional de Estado al 2030, alineado con los ODS al 2030	01/17/1995
Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica (CDB)	
Estrategia y plan de acción de la Convención de Diversidad Biológica del CDB	1997
Protocolo de Nagoya sobre Acceso y Participación	05/03/2011
Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre Cambio Climático	05/23/1995
Comunicaciones nacionales sobre la CMNUCC (1.ª, 2.ª y 3.ª)	2000-2011-2018
Medidas de mitigación apropiadas para cada país de la CMNUCC	2011
Planes de acción nacionales de adaptación de la CMNUCC	2011-2016
Contribuciones Nacionales Determinadas a nivel nacional en cumplimiento del Acuerdo de París	2015
Convención de las Naciones Unidas de Lucha contra la Desertificación	04/04/1996
Programas Nacionales de Acción de la CNULD	2000/2002/2006
Convenio de Estocolmo sobre Contaminantes Orgánicos Persistentes	05/23/2001
Plan nacional de aplicación del Convenio de Estocolmo	2008
Convenio de Minamata sobre el Mercurio	2013
Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (Agenda 2030 de las Naciones Unidas)	2015
Programas de acción estratégicos para masas de agua internacionales compartidas	1999

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.