



SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

The GEF Small Grants Programme



Annual Monitoring Report

1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013

**GEF-SGP Annual Report
July 2012- June 2013**

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ACRONYMS

BD	biodiversity
CBA	community-based adaptation to climate change
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	community-based organization
CC	climate change
CD	capacity development
CESRIKI	Center for Scientific Research Indigenous Knowledge and Innovation
CFL	Compact Fluorescent Light
CO	Country Office (UNDP)
COMDEKS	Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative
COMPACT	Community Management of Protected Areas for Conservation
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPE	Country Portfolio Evaluation
CPMT	Central Programme Management Team
CPS	country programme strategy
CREMA	community resource management area
CSO	civil society organization
CWI	Community Water Initiative
DDT	Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane
DFZ	Diclofenac-free zone
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EO	Evaluation Office
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FSP	full-size project
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	greenhouse gas
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit GmbH
Ha	hectare
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
ICCA	indigenous peoples' and community conserved areas and territories
IKS	Indigenous Knowledge Systems
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IW	International waters
IWRM	Integrated Water resource Management
KM	Knowledge Management
LD	Land degradation
LDC	least developed country
LED	light emitting diodes
LFA	Logical Framework Approach
LIFE	Local Initiative Facility for Urban Environment
LMMA	Locally Managed Marine Areas
MIST	Ministry of Infrastructure, Science and Technology
MOA	memorandum of agreement
MPA	Marine Protected Area
M&E	monitoring and evaluation

MEA	multi-lateral environmental agreements
MSP	medium-size project
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NC	National Coordinator
NGO	nongovernmental organization
NHI	national host institution
NSC	National Steering Committee
OP	Operational Phase
OPV	open pollinated varieties
PA	Programme Assistant
PEF	Pacific Environment Fund
POP	persistent organic pollutant
PTF	Programme for Tropical Forests
RAF	Resource Allocation Framework
RBM	Results Based Management
RedLAC	Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds
REDD	Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
SCS	South China Sea
SECCP	Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Project
SGP	Small Grants Programme
SGP-PTF	Small Grants Programme for Operations to Promote Tropical Forests in Southeast Asia
SLM	sustainable land management
SIDS	small island developing states
SPA	Strategic Priority on Adaptation
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
STAR	System for Transparent Allocation of Resources
TACC	Territorial Approach to Climate Change
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TRAC	Target for Resource Assignment from the Core
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCSD	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNF	United Nations Foundation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
WB	World Bank
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WH LEEP	World Heritage Local Ecological Entrepreneurship Programme
WHS	World Heritage Site
WMA	wildlife management areas

FOREWORD

This second Annual Monitoring Report of the GEF Small Grants Programme's Operational Phase 5 covers the reporting period from July 2012 through June 2013. During this period SGP focused on the implementation of projects approved in OP5 as well as on building project portfolios in line with the new OP5 focal area objectives. To date the programme has funded over 16,500 community-based projects in over 130 countries, more than half of which are LDCs and SIDS.

This report has been prepared by staff of the GEF SGP Central Programme Management Team, based on annual reports submitted by country and sub-regional programmes, and information drawn from the GEF SGP global project database. Total fund delivery during the reporting period was over \$46 million from GEF funds, with 1,356 new grant projects approved, as well as over 3,300 ongoing active projects currently overseen by GEF SGP. The selected project results achieved in the biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, sustainable forest management, international waters, chemicals, and capacity development focal areas, draw upon the results reported by mature GEF SGP projects, many of which were completed during the reporting period.

In its 21st year, SGP demonstrated its built capacity for efficient delivery of innovative, demand-driven, community-based initiatives that produce local and global environmental benefits. SGP projects have responded to OP5 focal area objectives in measureable ways, for example, evidence to date suggests that the number of significant species protected has already surpassed the OP5 biodiversity target. Renewable energy and energy efficiency project numbers similarly exceeded the corresponding OP5 climate change target. Under land degradation, SGP engaged over 125,600 community members and improved management of over 76,000 hectares of grazing land during the past year. SGP contributed good community-based experiences on international waters management involving a number of international water bodies, and supported the implementation of 21 regional Strategic Action Programmes. Thirty seven SGP country programmes reported that the chemicals project portfolio had contributed to national policy development. In the new OP5 capacity development focal area, during the reporting year alone, 18 projects strengthened the capacities of 298 CSOs and 1,992 people to address environmental issues at the community level. The report includes quantitative indicators, illustrated by numerous tables, graphs, and images, as well as qualitative examples of on-the-ground activities in local communities.

SGP is constantly striving to meet the needs of new constituencies while continuing to support community-based organizations (CBOs) and other local civil society organizations (CSOs). Growing numbers of projects were reported with youth groups (31), indigenous peoples' organizations (98) with more than half in local languages, and women's organizations (277 completed in the reporting period and nearly 400 having incorporated gender elements). SGP has also expanded its mandate to 7 new countries during the reporting period, which are well on their way to being fully operational.

SGP's public face to the world, www.sgp.undp.org, has undergone design and technical transformations, which allow for better, more substantive access to numerous publics. Country programme portfolios, strategies, projects, and results are available on country pages, in addition to a user-friendly project database and a wide and diverse range of global and country level publications and audiovisual materials. Country programmes have ramped up their knowledge production, with nearly a thousand fact sheets, case studies, publications, and videos to their credit in the reporting period.

The programmes dedication to partnerships, policy influence, and sustainability has also remained unwavering with overall enhanced capacities and tools to realize these benefits. At the same time, SGP has been cognizant of the risks, challenges, and obstacles – some ongoing and some newly identified – which can prove to be stumbling blocks for programme and project progress if not addressed and mitigated. In this sense, the paramount challenge of OP5 thus far has been the protracted delay in receiving STAR funds, which impeded operations in a majority of countries. Among the other significant challenges, as reported by country programmes, were the perennial difficulties of working with CSOs with capacity gaps, identifying and nurturing donor partnerships, and country contexts complicated by political instability, legal constraints, and bureaucratic obstacles. In most cases, SGP country teams, supported by CPMT, have come up with satisfactory responses although a few intractable situations remain.

What is heartening is that despite multiple challenges, SGP country programmes flourish and have deepened their engagement with poor and remote communities and vulnerable populations, with greater commitment than ever, and with community-based results to match that demonstrate global environmental benefits.

Delfin Ganapin
Global Manager

1. INTRODUCTION TO SGP

Launched in 1992, the GEF Small Grants Programme supports activities of nongovernmental and community-based organizations in developing countries towards abatement of climate change, conservation of biodiversity, protection of international waters, reduction of the impact of persistent organic pollutants and prevention of land degradation while generating sustainable livelihoods.

Since its creation, GEF SGP has provided over 16,598 grants to communities in 131 developing countries.¹ Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as a corporate programme, GEF SGP is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of the GEF partnership, and is executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

Programme structure

GEF SGP is supported by a small team at UNDP headquarters in New York, known as the Central Programme Management Team (CPMT). CPMT has a total of 9 staff and is led by the SGP Global Manager.

SGP staff in the field consist of one (1) National Coordinator (NC) per country, supported by a Programme Assistant (PA) in most country programmes. The two sub-regional programmes based out of SGP in Fiji and Samoa respectively, are supported by Sub-Regional Coordinators (SRCs) and Sub-Regional Programme Assistants (SPAs).² GEF SGP country programme staff numbers amounted to a total of 188 staff as of end August 2013, including: 102 NCs, 2 SRCs, 82 PAs and 2 SPAs.³ GEF SGP country teams are usually based at UNDP Country Offices. In 18 countries they are hosted by CSOs that act as National Host Institutions (NHIs).

SGP NCs and PAs are UN-contracted to assure their “neutrality” in the grant-making process and with the expectation that they perform according to the highest professional and ethical standards of the UN.

The country programme and sub-regional programme staff within the SGP Global programme, report to the Global Manager and Deputy Global Manager, with authority delegated to 4 Regional Focal Points at CPMT for day to day oversight and support to regions. CPMT Regional Focal Points also serve in a technical capacity as Programme Advisors guiding programming and knowledge management in each of the GEF’s focal areas: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Land Degradation and Sustainable Forest Management, Chemicals and International Waters. A Knowledge Management & Communications Specialist, and two Programme Associates make up the remainder of the CPMT team.

The UNDP COs provide considerable active support to the successful implementation of GEF SGP at the country level, with the UNDP Resident Representative serving as a secondary supervisor of the NC, and as a member of the NSC, while UNDP programme staff provide support for programme synergy, partnerships, and resource mobilization. UNOPS, as the executing agency, provides overall financial and administrative support to the programme, while at the country level UNDP Country Offices act on behalf of UNOPS on financial transactions and administrative matters. A detailed GEF SGP organizational chart

¹ This figure includes country programmes that have been closed, as well as those that have been Upgraded.

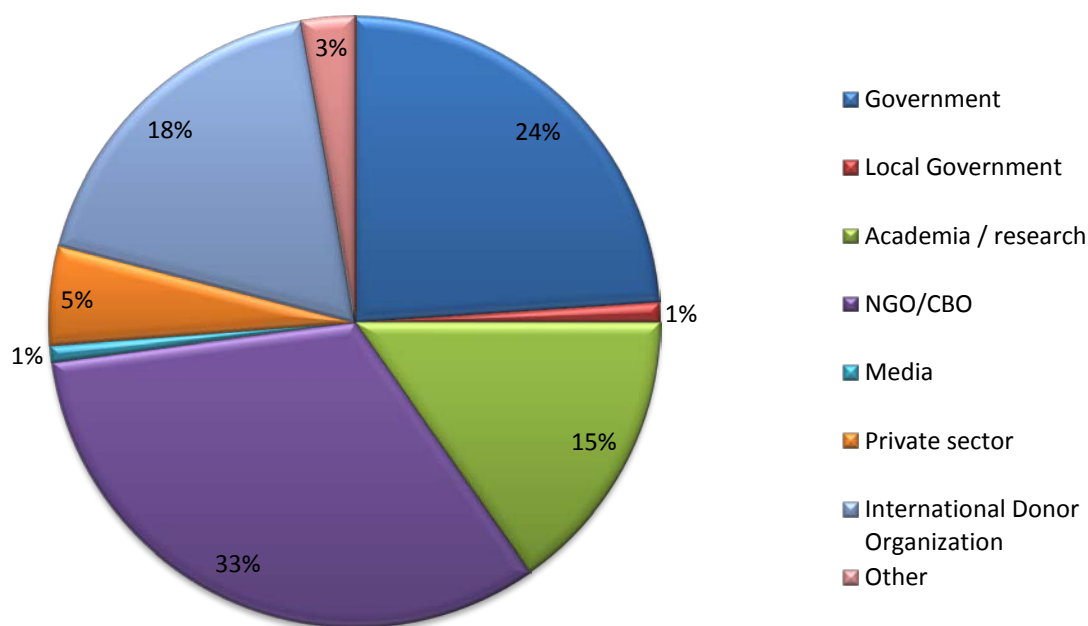
² The SGP Fiji Sub-regional programme also covers Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, and Tuvalu, while the Samoa Sub-Regional Programme covers Cook Islands, Niue, and Tokelau (funded from co-financing).

³ This number does not include SGP country programmes that have been Upgraded in OP5.

is shown in Annex 4, which shows the programme structures and relationships at global and country level.

In each country GEF SGP continues to rely on the highly effective and proven oversight and decision-making mechanism provided by the multi-stakeholder National Steering Committees (NSC). According to SGP Operational Guidelines, the NSC must comprise a majority of civil society members (including NGOs, CBOs, academia, research, and media), alongside members from relevant government bodies, private sector, UNDP and other donors. The diagram below shows the current global distribution of members from different stakeholder groups within NSCs. Globally, about one-quarter of NSC members are drawn from government, while nearly half are drawn from civil society (inclusive of NGOs, CBOs, academia, research, and media), and a little less than a quarter made up by private sector and international organizations (including UNDP). Three percent were categorized as “other,” generally individual technical experts in specific fields.

Table 1: SGP Global NSC composition



The total number of NSC members at present is 1107 globally, individuals who are contributing their time and knowledge on a voluntary basis for SGP. With nearly 104 NSCs involved in the Global SGP programme (including those in the Sub-regional programmes that cover multiple countries), this results in an average of around 11 members per NSC. NSC members are generally highly qualified, eminent and respected individuals in the country, who lend considerable skills, experience and expertise to SGP operations. The NSC serves as an effective body for promoting interaction and exchange between government and civil society stakeholders, as well as promoting cross-sectoral exchange between different sectors and disciplines.

The NSC provides important oversight for the programme on behalf of its partners and grantees. SGP Operational Guidelines stipulate a number of conditions to prevent any conflict of interest, such as preventing NSC members and CSOs directly related to them from submitting grant proposals during

their tenure on the NSC, and recommending regular rotation of NSC membership to stimulate new actors and organizations to become involved.

2. ANNUAL GLOBAL OVERVIEW OF SGP

This Annual Monitoring Report reviews the implementation and results of the GEF Small Grants Programme during the period 1 July 2012 through 30 June 2013. This is the second Annual Monitoring Report prepared by SGP during its ongoing 5th Operational Phase (OP5). The last AMR covered the period since the start of OP5 on 1 January 2011 to 30 June 2012.

Funding

In the course of this reporting period, the SGP received the full funding for OP5 that countries endorsed for it from the GEF 5 System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR). Table 2 below shows the three tranches of funding received by SGP in OP5.

Table 2: GEF Funding received by SGP in OP5 (This sum does not include the upgraded countries programs)

Project	Date of Approval		Amount
Global Core	PIF Approval by Council	18-Nov-10	
	CEO Endorsement	25-Apr-11	\$ 134,615,385
STAR I	PIF Approval by Council	9-Nov-11	
	CEO Endorsement	20-Apr-12	\$ 40,828,365
STAR II	PIF Approval by Council	12-Apr-13	
	CEO Endorsement	10-May-13	\$ 72,851,267

According to the GEF Council decision GEF/C.36/4, participating GEF SGP countries have differential access to OP5 core funding for the programme (with a priority given to new countries, LDCs and SIDS), aligned with a specific set of criteria for governments to endorse a portion of their national GEF5 STAR allocations to the programme for expanded community-based actions.⁴ Based on the above access criteria, in OP5 countries were allowed to allocate additional STAR funds to SGP. Some countries, particularly those with no or very low core funds, are very dependent on the STAR funds, and the delay in access to these funds has had an impact on the optimum utilization of funds for grant projects over the reporting period. Further details are provided in the section on “Global Issues and Challenges and Mitigating Actions.”

Annex 1 provides details regarding the GEF funding approved, co-financing realized, and funds disbursed as of 30 June 2012 by SGP under OP5, in addition to some past Operational Phase projects which continue to be active due to ongoing grant commitments.

⁴ <http://www.thegef.org/gef/node/150>

Annex 2 provides details on overall cumulative number of grant projects and funds committed, as well as co-financing leveraged at the project and programme level by all SGP country programmes as of the end of this reporting period.

Country coverage

Over the course of its successive phases, SGP has been active in supporting CSOs in a total of 131 countries (including three programmes that were closed in the past). During the current reporting year the SGP OP5 Global programme supported activities in 119 countries while 9 countries continued to run SGP programmes as Upgraded programmes funded through their own Full Size Projects (FSPs).

Table 3: SGP Country coverage

Categories of SGP countries	Names	Number
Countries active in the SGP Global OP5 programme during the reporting period⁵	(See Annex 2 for a full listing)	119
Countries Upgraded and funded through separate FSPs in OP5⁶	Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, India, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines	9
Country programmes closed	Poland, Lithuania, Chile	3
Total		131

A list of all active SGP country programmes is provided in Annex 2, along with cumulative grant funding and co-funding delivered since the start of GEF SGP in each country.

The following key developments may be noted in terms of country coverage in the reporting year:

- Establishment of 6 stand alone country programmes (formerly within the Barbados & OECS Sub-regional programme) in: Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines;
- Establishment of 3 stand alone country programmes (formerly within the Micronesia Sub-regional Programme) in: Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands and Palau;
- Start-up of 7 new SGP country programmes in: Afghanistan, Djibouti, Georgia, Guyana, Moldova, Sierra Leone, and Timor Leste.
- Closure of 2 country programmes as of 30 June 2013 in: Bulgaria and Romania (following these countries' accession to the EU);

⁵ Two countries included in this number, that were active during the reporting year – Bulgaria and Romania – have closed as of 30th June 2013. Thus the total number of countries in the SGP Global Programme will decrease by two in the next reporting period. In addition Slovakia, also an EU member country, will close its SGP programme by December 2014. Colombia is likely to be added in OP5, as it has received STAR funding.

⁶ The upgraded country programmes were not required to complete the country AMR survey conducted by SGP since they report separately in PIRs. However, some of these countries provided information and their contributions were included in the focal area and country challenges sections.

Further detailed information about the advance and present level of functioning of the new programmes is provided in the section on “Progress in OP5.”

GEF SGP currently includes 41 LDCs and 37 SIDS, with LDCs or SIDS constituting nearly 57% of all SGP country programmes.

Cumulative grant commitments

As a programme which has been active for 20 years, GEF SGP has funded a total of 16,598 projects since its inception in 1992 as a pilot initiative. While GEF funding forms the bulk of the grant resources channeled by SGP as a corporate programme of the GEF, the programme also acts as a delivery mechanism for other sources of funding that are complementary. The table below shows GEF and other sources of programme level co-funding delivered by SGP as of 1 August 2013.

Table 4: Total of GEF SGP Projects by all funding sources (amount in millions USD, drawn from SGP database on 1 Aug 2013):

Funding Sources	Number of Projects	Grant Amount
GEF STAR Funds	940	\$ 33.66M
GEF Core Funds	12,579	\$ 300.61M
GEF RAF Funding	2,151	\$ 60.85M
United Nations Foundation (UNF) - COMPACT ⁷	68	\$ 1.63M
Community Water Initiative (CWI)	153	\$ 2.76M
GEF Strategic Priority on Adaptation (SPA) CBA project	108	\$ 2.85M
EU – Programme for Tropical Forests (PTF)	119	\$ 2.84M
GEF Nile Basin Initiative	53	\$ 1.19M
New Zealand Aid Pacific Environment Fund	54	\$ 1.52M
AusAID – Mekong, Asia & Pacific and SIDS CBA	63	\$ 1.92M
COMDEKS ⁸	50	\$ 1.39M
UNDP TRAC ⁹	52	\$ 0.73M
South-South Cooperation	26	\$ 0.49M
Other ¹⁰	182	\$ 5.01M
Total	16,598	\$ 417.45M

SGP has cumulatively funded 15,669 projects from GEF resources, for a total grant amount of \$395m with total co-financing of \$534m leveraged at the project level (with roughly half of it being in-kind and in-cash). The table below summarizes the breakdown of projects, GEF grant funding and co-financing leveraged across the successive operational phases of the SGP as shown in Table 5 below.

Table 5: GEF SGP Projects by Operational Phase – cumulative since pilot phase (amount in millions USD, drawn from SGP database on 1 Aug 2013):

⁷ COMPACT stands for “Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation”.

⁸ COMDEKS stands for “Community Development and Knowledge Management in the Satoyama Initiative”.

⁹ Target for Resource Assignment from the Core

¹⁰ Co-financed projects marked as Other in the SGP database include for example, many country level co-financed programmes which delivered grants through SGP, such as a SIDA funded programme in Cambodia, and a government funded programme in Uruguay.

Operational Phase	Number of Projects	Grant Amount	Co-financing in Cash	Co-financing in Kind	Total Co-financing
Pilot Phase	632	\$ 11.30M	\$ 5.63M	\$ 6.98M	\$ 12.61M
OP1	858	\$ 14.73M	\$ 10.58M	\$ 7.86M	\$ 18.44M
OP2	4,347	\$ 93.02M	\$ 67.26M	\$ 82.68M	\$ 149.94M
OP3	2,967	\$ 73.26M	\$ 60.05M	\$ 55.74M	\$ 115.78M
OP4	4,203	\$ 117.18M	\$ 75.65M	\$ 71.90M	\$ 147.56M
OP5 (to date)	2,662	\$ 85.62M	\$ 35.75M	\$ 54.77M	\$ 90.52M
Total	15,669	\$ 395.12M	\$ 254.91M	\$ 279.93M	\$ 534.84M

New grant commitments during the reporting period

During the reporting period (1 July 2012 through 30 June 2013), a total of 1,356 grant projects were approved. The total amount of grant funding committed through these projects amounted to over \$46m coming from GEF funds (STAR, Core, and OP4 residual RAF funds¹¹). The co-financing leveraged was nearly 1:1 at the stage of project approval, with nearly \$44m in total (including in-cash and in-kind co-financing).

Table 7: New GEF SGP projects approved during the period July 2012 to June 2013 by GEF sources of Funding (amount in millions USD, drawn from SGP database on 1 Aug 2013):

Funding Sources	Number of Projects	Grant Amount	Co-financing in Cash	Co-financing in Kind	Total Co-financing
GEF STAR Funds	599	\$ 22.42M	\$ 7.00M	\$ 10.45M	\$ 17.45M
GEF Core Funds	715	\$ 22.36M	\$ 7.87M	\$ 18.02M	\$ 25.88M
GEF RAF Funding	42	\$ 1.42M	\$ 0.38M	\$ 0.14M	\$ 0.53M
Total	1,356	\$ 46.21M	\$ 15.25M	\$ 28.61M	\$ 43.86M

Active Portfolio of Grant projects

The total number of grant projects that were under implementation (including GEF as well as other donor funded grants) and were supervised and monitored during the reporting period by SGP amounted to 3,394 projects for a total grant value of over \$113m and total co-financing value of over \$122m.

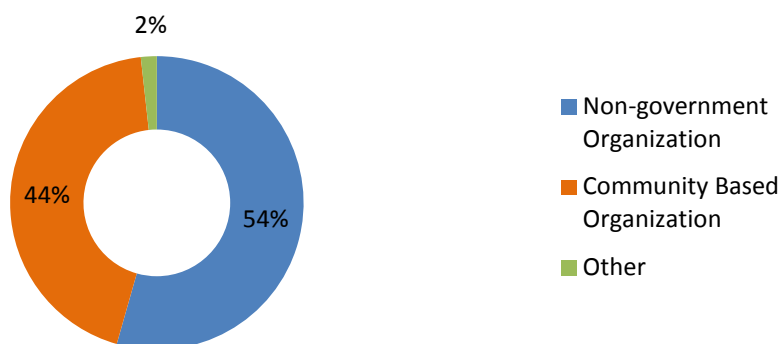
Table 8: GEF SGP Total Active Projects during the period July 2012 to June 2013 by GEF and other sources of Funding (amount in millions USD, drawn from SGP database on 1 Aug 2013):

¹¹ Remaining RAF funds from OP4 continue to be prioritized for commitment in a few SGP country programmes that have been unable to fully utilize these funds such as difficult security situations that resulted in delayed start up of SGP in Afghanistan and high staff turnover in SGP Papua New Guinea.

Funding Sources	Number of Projects	Grant Amount	Co-financing in Cash	Co-financing in Kind
GEF Funds	3,234	\$ 108.35M	\$ 50.74M	\$ 66.61M
GEF STAR Funds	877	\$ 32.38M	\$ 12.02M	\$ 16.94M
GEF Core Funds	1,994	\$ 64.08M	\$ 31.45M	\$ 44.00M
GEF RAF Funding	363	\$ 11.89M	\$ 7.28M	\$ 5.67M
Non GEF Funds	160	\$ 5.06M	\$ 2.07M	\$ 2.76M
United Nations Foundation (UNF) - COMPACT	3	\$ 0.07M	\$ 0.06M	\$ 0.00M
Community Water Initiative (CWI)	1	\$ 0.02M	\$ 0.00M	\$ 0.00M
EU – Programme for Tropical Forests (PTF)	8	\$ 0.19M	\$ 0.14M	\$ 0.02M
GEF Strategic Priority on Adaptation (SPA) - CBA project	13	\$ 0.58M	\$ 0.29M	\$ 0.88M
New Zealand Aid Pacific Environment Fund (PEF)	26	\$ 0.93M	\$ 0.03M	\$ 0.37M
AusAid - Mekong Asia Pacific & SIDS CBA	37	\$ 1.28M	\$ 0.36M	\$ 0.52M
UNDP TRAC	7	\$ 0.25M	\$ 0.56M	\$ 0.05M
COMDEKS (Community Development and Knowledge Management in the Satoyama Initiative)	46	\$ 1.29M	\$ 0.44M	\$ 0.60M
Other	19	\$ 0.45M	\$ 0.19M	\$ 0.32M
Total	3,394	\$ 113.41M	\$ 52.81M	\$ 69.36M

The portfolio of grant projects under implementation includes 54% of projects implemented by NGOs, 44% implemented by CBOs, with 2% categorized as “other” in the SGP database. Those listed as Other mainly include academic and research institutions, foundations, and other types of CSO grantees. The breakdown shows the share of projects implemented directly by CBOs to have increased slightly since the previous reporting year.

Table 9: GEF SGP Total Active Projects during the period July 2012 to June 2013 by Grantee Type (amount in millions USD, drawn from SGP database on 1 Aug 2013):

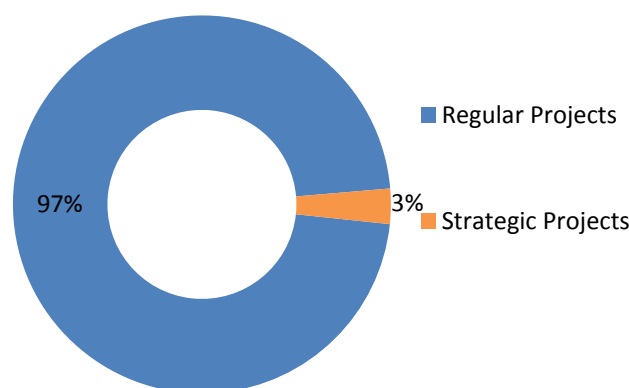


In accordance with SGP Operational Guidelines, SGP provides planning grants to grantees to further develop and elaborate proposals that have merit, but where the grantee needs assistance to fully prepare a sound project proposal for securing SGP grant funding. Planning grants have a ceiling of

\$5,000 and collectively amount to less than 1% of the funds of the active portfolio of projects under implementation. The ceiling for a planning grant and resulting SGP grant project should remain below \$50,000 for the grantee in one operational phase (except in the case of strategic projects described below).

In OP5, SGP Operational Guidelines permit funding of “Strategic grants” with a ceiling of up to \$150,000, in exceptional cases where a project may be deemed particularly strategic and able to result in significant and wider scale benefits, including at the portfolio level.¹² A special call for proposals is issued for Strategic projects and requires CPMT initial screening prior to final approval by the NSC. SGP’s currently active portfolio of projects shows that the large majority of projects (97%) consist of regular SGP grants with a ceiling of \$50,000, while 3% are Strategic grants that are higher than \$50,000 with a maximum GEF grant amount of \$150,000. As the portfolio matures in OP5, it is expected that the share of Strategic projects may increase slightly.

Table 10: GEF SGP Percentage of Total Active Projects during the period July 2012 to June 2013 by Project Category (amount in millions USD, drawn from SGP database on 1 Aug 2013):



In terms of the regional distribution of SGP’s active portfolio of projects, the diagram below provides a breakdown. Africa has the largest share of projects with 35% of the total, which represents a significant increase since the last reporting year when it had 31% of active grant projects. This is closely followed by Latin America and Caribbean region which accounts for 29% of active projects, while Asia and the Pacific has 21% of active projects (showing a decrease since the last reporting year when it had 26% of projects). The smallest SGP regions, Europe and CIS, and the Arab States, make up 8% and 7% respectively of the portfolio of active projects.

¹² A Strategic project window was first created in OP3 as a pilot initiative targeted more towards transboundary projects. Due to cumbersome approval procedures and difficulty in developing and implementing transboundary projects involving multiple SGP programmes, this window was not utilized in OP4. It has been reintroduced in OP5 to meet demands for scaled up efforts especially in “mature” SGP country programmes accompanied by a detailed guidance note, and more streamlined procedures for review and approval.

Table 11: GEF SGP Percentage of Active Projects during the period July 2012 to June 2013 by Region
(amount in millions USD, database drawn from 1 Aug 2013)

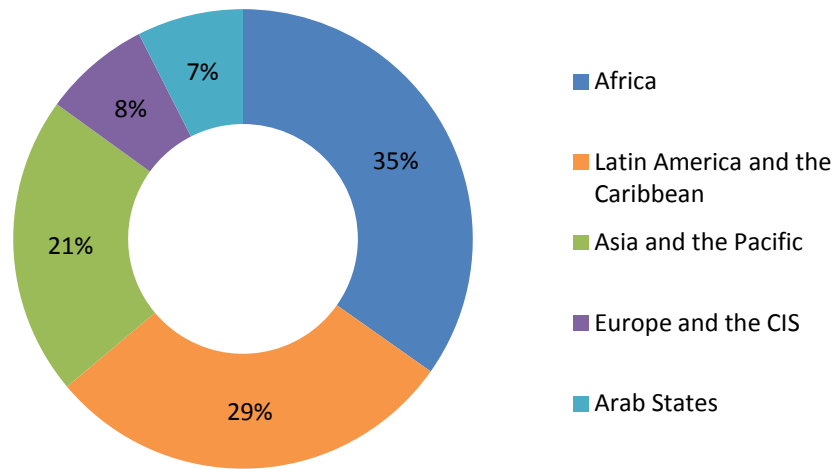
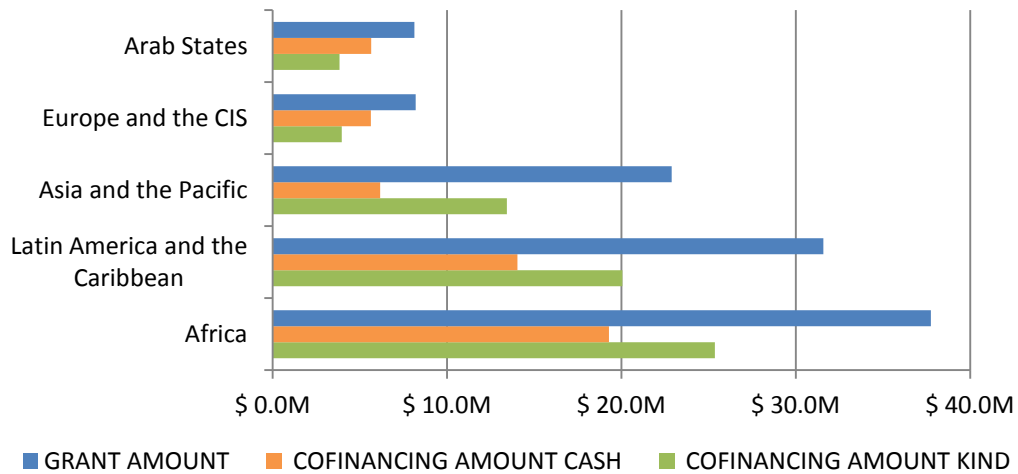


Table 12: GEF SGP Active Projects by Region



The chart above provides further details on the breakdown of the portfolio by region, including GEF grants, and in-kind and cash co-financing. Africa has the largest share of GEF grant funding followed by LAC, Asia and Pacific, Europe and CIS, and Arab States. The regional distribution of funds is reflective of the decision taken in SGP OP5 by the GEF Council to distribute higher levels of Core funding to LDCs and SIDS, and to countries new to SGP. For this reason Africa, with the largest number of new SGP country programmes added in OP4 and LDCs has the greatest level of GEF Core grant funding in the active

portfolio of projects. This is followed by the LAC region which has received generally high volumes of STAR funds endorsed, even though Core funding for many mature country programmes in this region was significantly reduced in OP5. The distribution does not therefore reflect the capacity of the country programmes or CSOs in the region, as many mature country programmes with high absorptive capacity and CSO demand received relatively low OP5 grant allocations. The total co-financing (including in-kind and cash co-financing) exceeded the GEF grant funding level in all regions with the exception of Asia and Pacific. In Europe and CIS, and the Arab States regions, the amount of cash co-financing raised has been higher than the in-kind co-financing.

The table below shows the distribution of the active portfolio by GEF focal areas. As in past years, Biodiversity continued to be the largest focal area, reflecting the historical strengths of the programme and the interest of many NGO and CBO grantees to address natural resource management issues. However, unlike past years, Land Degradation is now the second largest focal area in terms of ongoing grant projects, with 754 projects in the area. This is closely followed by Climate Change which has 737 ongoing projects in the active portfolio of projects. International waters and Chemicals had 161 and 134 ongoing projects respectively. The number of Multifocal area projects has declined significantly in view of the guidance provided by CPMT that each project should identify a primary focal area as well as one or more secondary focal areas where relevant. Thus while many SGP projects continued to have multiple benefits and relevance to more than one focal area, for better tracking and portfolio data, these are included under the primary focal area identified as the focus of the project. Capacity development was introduced as a new focal area in OP5, in alignment with the GEF 5 focal area strategies, which include the strategy for cross-cutting capacity development. SGP was required to limit the funding for capacity development projects to no more than 10% of the total grant funding for each country programme in OP5. According to the data provided below there are 107 active projects – however only 18 of these are newly funded under the new capacity development focal area, while others are grants that have crosscutting capacity development components but may be primarily under another focal area.

Table 13: GEF SGP Total Active Projects by focal areas (amount in millions USD, drawn from SGP database on 15 Aug 2013)¹³

Focal Area	Number of Projects	Grant Amount	Co-financing in Cash	Co-financing in Kind
Biodiversity	1,662	\$ 52.24M	\$ 22.17M	\$ 28.59M
Climate Change Mitigation	737	\$ 20.91M	\$ 13.76M	\$ 12.30M
International Waters	161	\$ 4.33M	\$ 2.47M	\$ 3.13M
Multifocal Area	117	\$ 3.08M	\$ 0.96M	\$ 2.07M
Chemicals	134	\$ 3.99M	\$ 1.93M	\$ 2.33M
Land Degradation	754	\$ 19.36M	\$ 8.14M	\$ 16.80M
Climate Change Adaptation	64	\$ 0.96M	\$ 0.19M	\$ 0.34M
Capacity Development	107	\$ 2.62M	\$ 0.98M	\$ 1.04M
Total	3,736¹⁴	\$ 107.50M	\$ 50.60M	\$ 66.60M

¹³ Note that the SGP database is dynamic and constantly updated by country programme staff. Therefore there may be slight discrepancies in number of projects and funding amounts based on the date on which the data was downloaded – e.g. data downloaded on 1 August may be slightly different from that on 15 August.

The 64 projects identified as Climate Change Adaptation are primarily funded by special projects such as that supported by the GEF Strategic Priority for Adaptation, and the AusAid-supported Community Based Adaptation project delivered through SGP. More details on this partnership is provided under the section on “Partnerships.”

The next section describes the progress achieved towards SGP’s objectives in each of the GEF focal areas. This information is based on country reports prepared by all SGP country programmes, reporting specifically on the cohort of grant projects that have been completed during the reporting year. Thus the examples and results reporting in the focal area sections draw upon quantitative indicators and qualitative information from 877 completed projects only, and do not consider ongoing grant projects that are still under implementation and which will be expected to report results in the future once they are completed.

¹⁴ Projects marked in the database with more than one focal area may be double counted under the relevant focal areas.

3. PROGRESS TOWARD OBJECTIVES

BIODIVERSITY

The biodiversity focal area of the GEF supports the implementation of the targets and priorities established by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). In line with the overall GEF-5 strategic priorities, the key focus for GEF SGP during OP5 has been to: (i) *improve the sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas through community-based actions*; and (ii) *promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions*.

During the OP5 reporting period running from July 2012 to June 2013, GEF SGP has focused its support in biodiversity conservation in and around protected areas (PAs) and indigenous and community conservation areas and territories (ICCAs); the sustainable use of biodiversity in production landscapes and seascapes; as well as the appropriate protection and transmission of traditional knowledge and genetic resources by culturally appropriate means.¹⁵

On the basis of figures submitted to CPMT in the on-line annual country reports, significant progress has been made during the reporting period in relation to key OP5 biodiversity targets. In particular, preliminary figures indicate that the number of significant species¹⁶ benefitted as a result of SGP project interventions already stands at more than 220% of the original OP5 target. Similarly, the number of individual PAs and ICCAs positively influenced through SGP support already stands at 322 – at least 70% of the target established for OP5. In terms of the spatial targets in hectares, SGP has positively influenced some 6.8 million hectares of PAs and ICCAs. A number of individual examples are presented in the next section. A summary of the overall progress based on BD indicators is provided in table 14 below.

Table 14: OP5 progress on biodiversity indicators

Indicators	Targets for OP5	Summary of Progress	
		Total area (ha) or # of species	Remarks
Number and hectares of ICCAs and other PAs positively influenced through SGP support	465 ICCAs and PAs positively influenced through SGP support	228 (PAs) 94 (ICCAs)	At this rate of implementation, the 322 PAs and ICCAs positively influenced is roughly 70% or nearly three quarters towards the expected target by the end of OP5.
	12,700,000 hectares of ICCAs and PAs positively influenced through SGP support	5,499,140 ha (PAs) 1,297,645 ha (ICCAs)	The combined total of roughly 6.8M hectares positively influenced represented over 50% of the OP5 benchmark. The overall target should

¹⁵ Methods include *inter alia* the development of community biocultural protocols, *in situ* seed banks, traditional knowledge journals, and local socio-ecological assessments which are relevant to the GEF mandate under the CBD Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), and the Inter-Governmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

¹⁶ Each SGP country programme was asked to report on the number of species under protection. When aggregated globally therefore, this figure may include some double counting of species that may have been protected in more than one country.

			be achieved under the biodiversity focal area objective by the end of OP5.
Number of significant species with maintained or improved conservation status	465 significant species benefited	1018	This target has been exceeded and stands at roughly 220% levels of achievements.

The table and figure below show the regional distribution of SGP projects addressing the conservation of protected areas, including globally recognized sites such as Biosphere Reserves, Ramsar sites, World Heritage Sites, as well as regional PAs (i.e. ASEAN heritage sites), and national/sub-national designated areas. The larger spatial extent of PAs targeted in Africa and Latin America is corroborated to some extent by the higher coverage of the region in terms of government-recognized PAs in these regions as compared with the Arab States, which has a comparatively smaller figure.

Table 15: Hectares of Protected Areas positively influenced through SGP projects in each region

Indicators	Africa	Arab States	Asia and the Pacific	Europe and the CIS	Latin America & Caribbean	Total
Hectares of PAs positively influenced through SGP support	2,832,943	22,900	814,438	179,072	1,649,787	5,499,140

Below are the results of a few selected projects on Biodiversity that closed during the reporting period. In **DR Congo**, an SGP project on sustainable bee-keeping in the province of Equateur has worked with indigenous pygmy hunter-gatherers and local communities. The project focused on the traditional practice of honey gathering, which often involved chopping down trees, in order to introduce improved bee-keeping techniques. The project contributed to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use through the conservation of 125 hectares of ICCAs, with a further 250 hectares of production landscapes adopting sustainable use practices in the collection of approximately 6 tons of honey, equivalent to US\$ 12,000 earned annually by the beneficiary communities.¹⁷

In **Ghana**, a series of SGP projects have put 200 hectares of land beside the Tano River, covering 15 communities living along a 10 kilometer stretch of land on both sides of the river, under natural regeneration. Working at the landscape level, SGP conservation efforts have addressed 10,000 hectares of globally significant biodiversity areas (GSBAs). The SGP projects have supported marginal forests within the transitional zone within the corridor, including at least 12 endangered pygmy hippopotamus which have been protected. Two new Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs) of 280 hectares have been created within the biological corridors of *Gbele* Resource Reserve and *Kulpawn* forest reserve. 500 farm families have been involved in the conservation of threatened native species within the *Fian* and *Tabease* CREMAs. With SGP support, the communities documented, mapped and

¹⁷ DRC/SGP/OP4/Y3/RAF/2010/03

managed 10 traditional sacred natural sites (SNS) within the Gbele Resource Reserve and promoted sustainable use of biodiversity/agro-biodiversity among the farmers. Adaptive management techniques for landscape level conceptual models of conservation interventions were also introduced. The project initiated dialogue with the local government and the Forestry Commission to include indigenous territories, CREMA and community conserved areas in policy.¹⁸

In **Kyrgyzstan**, the protection of IUCN Red List and endemic species of plants was one of the main priorities of the SGP country programme strategy for OP5. A number of projects have been achieving results at the national level through the planting of endemic species of plants on the Red List near local public health organizations. In one project, 28 public health organizations were selected through a national competition, and their employees planted over 1,000 rare and endemic trees (including a number of conifers such as *Picea schrenkiana*, *Juglans regia*, *Abies semenovii*). 1,322 employees of the public health organizations were trained in landscape gardening techniques near hospitals and polyclinics using the endemic plants. Video materials, leaflets and posters were also issued and distributed across 7 provinces of Kyrgyzstan. Within a second project, a group of public activists in Yirek village organized an “eco-patrol” that unites 174 men and 164 women involved in protection of the Red List and endemic species of animals.¹⁹ A tree nursery measuring 1,875 square meters for growing *Platyclusus orientalis* and *Juniperus virginiana* was also created.²⁰

In **Lebanon**, one SGP project entitled “Building a local network of living trees platform for the conservation of land resources in *Jabal Moussa*” has contributed to protection of 6,500 hectares of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Through the establishment of 3 plant nurseries, the project assisted with the propagation of 14 native plants, as well as protecting the fauna and flora in the reserve which includes 83 bird species (7 are regionally or globally threatened), as well as 14 species of mammals including the wolf, hyrax, and hyena (8 of which are regionally threatened, and 6 are declining significantly across the Middle East). The local people in the vicinity of the Biosphere Reserve were trained as rangers, in techniques for developing tree nurseries, and in the production of artisanal and traditional food products marketed to the reserve’s visitors. School students, youth groups and tourists visit the PA in organized tours hosted and guided by the reserve team, mainly composed of the local trained inhabitants.²¹

In **Madagascar**, one of the 40 COMPACT community projects in the South-West of the country, the *Tsara Omana* community, supported by WWF and GEF SGP, received the formal transfer of management of 2,208 hectares of forest in its territory by the Ministry of Forests in 2012. In this context of the devolution of decision-making on natural resource management in the country, the CBO have elaborated a management plan for their territory and a social contract for the resources under sustainable management. As part of the plan, 12 people conduct a regular forest survey every 2 weeks. After 3 years of SGP support, they have not reported any additional forest destruction. With the participation of all community members, the CBO established a 30 km firebreak; planted 20 hectares of *Jatropha Mahafaliensis* in degraded forests; and restored 80 hectares of degraded lands with maize, vinya, and green vegetables produced by 250 women. In one season, the community harvested 72 tons of agricultural food products which have been stored in a new warehouse, contributing significantly to

¹⁸ GHA/SGP/OP5/CORE/BD/11/18/005 and GHA/SGP/OP5/CORE/BD/12/24/011

¹⁹ Animal species include: *Aguila Chrysaetos Linnaeus*, *Strixaluco Linnaeus*, *Cupaet Usberlatur*, *Gyps Himalayensis Hume*, *Lynx*. Plant species include: *Tulipa Platystemon Vved*, *Calutea Brachyptera Sumn*, *Eminium Regeli Vved*.

²⁰ KYR/SGP/OP4/Y3/CORE/2010/04 and KYR/SGP/OP4/Y3/CORE/2010/12

²¹ LEB/SGP/OP4/Y2/CORE/2009/04

food security in the area. The multi-focal area GEF SGP project also equipped the community with solar panels where the small fees paid for electricity are added to a community fund. Family members also contribute to the community fund which is used to buy new seeds, to provide the children's food at school, and to support the forest surveys.²²

In **Iran**, in 2011 a group of herpetologists approached SGP for funding to protect a critically endangered species, the emperor Newt (*Neurergus kaiseri*). The natural habitat of the newt is a set of freshwater springs in the Zagros mountains (distributed across *Khuzestan* and *Lorestan* provinces). The main threat identified was a lack of awareness which has contributed to smuggling of the species from the wild to be sold in pet shops in larger cities. The GEF SGP project had three main components pertaining to awareness raising, policy impacts, and identification/mapping of new habitats. As the result of the project, DoE guards, mountaineers, railway personnel and policemen have all been trained. Posters were published and distributed in pet shops throughout the capital. The completed project was successful in raising public awareness about the importance of the species, and was able to add the habitats of the emperor newt (*Shevi Waterfall* and *Mohammad Ali Khan Bakhtiari Dej*) to the list of PAs under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environment. In addition, during the project 430 emperor newts were captured from smugglers and returned to the wild.²³

In **Morocco**, a GEF SGP project has contributed to improving the sustainability of the PA of *Sidi Ali Aguelmane* by introducing community sustainable management practices for medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs). More than 100 farmers were trained in cultivation and sustainable harvesting in order to sustainably manage 900 hectares of PA and improve the conservation status of five endangered MAPs (pyrethrum, grape hyacinth, mugwort, thyme and penny royal). Five other SGP Morocco projects, implemented in the Biosphere Reserve of the Argan tree (*Réserve de Biosphère de l'Arganeraie*) have contributed to the regeneration, conservation and improvement of the Argan tree – an endemic and economically valuable species is threatened by over-harvesting. The SGP project focused on planting 55,000 Argan saplings on 600 hectares of land, with corresponding outreach efforts to mobilize the local population and integrate them in the regeneration of the argan tree as part of the communal development plans. The project encouraged local people, who were previously reluctant to plant Argan for fear that the land would be taken over by the government, to plant the species again. The project has also helped strengthen the forest density in the Biosphere Reserve, a status granted in 1998 by UNESCO to protect 14.25% of the remaining forest cover in Morocco.²⁴

In **Nicaragua**, through a tourism initiative in Graytown with two ethnic communities (Branches and Kreoles), the GEF SGP has assisted in the protection of the Indio-Maiz, an extensive indigenous protected area covering a total of 3,180 km² which protects a well-preserved rainforest with important species of terrestrial and aquatic fauna. The SGP project addressed two particular targets: one to restore degraded areas of the region, and another to protect the threatened manatee species. In the coastal sea area, the SGP supported conservation actions on 4 acres of beach to protect the arrival of sea turtles on the nesting date, as well as to facilitate the release of turtle hatchlings.²⁵

In **Panama**, a series of GEF SGP projects at the portfolio level have assisted in training 18 indigenous community communicators in audiovisual technology (filming, editing and reproduction in remote

²² MDG/GEF-COMPACT2/OP4/Y1/RAF/2008/29

²³ IRA/SGP/OP5/STAR/BD/11/01

²⁴ MOR/SGP/OP4/Y2/RAF/2009/07

²⁵ NIC/SGP/OP5/CORE/BD/2012/05

communities with solar pico projectors). The network of “community communicators” have produced several short videos advocating for the creation of an ICCA in the *Ngabe* Comarca in the area of Cerro Santiago, which contains 9,000 hectares of primary forest and 2 endemic bird species. Another SGP project also supported the newly-created Ramsar site of *Damani-Guaviria* covering 24,000 hectares, and harboring a number of internationally recognized and endemic species including the Pigmy sloth, sea turtle nesting areas for the leatherback and hawksbill species, as well as manatees. The project addressed local threats associated with a hydro electrical power system, mining and tourism concessions for non-indigenous people, which go against the Comarca laws of the indigenous peoples. Additional biodiversity projects in Panama have also been supporting the sustainable use of biodiversity products created by local associations including honey, mangroves products, medicinal soaps, “*borojó*” wine, and marmalades. Besides 9,000 hectares under improved sustainable use management through 4 projects, SGP Panama is helping to reinforce business and marketing strategies through knowledge fairs, farmers markets and local exchanges.²⁶

In **Kazakhstan**, one GEF SGP project, “Support of local initiatives for sustainable conservation of Important Bird Areas (IBAs),” has addressed the conservation and rational use of IBAs by the local communities. The project engaged directly with the local inhabitants as the primary users of biological resources in conservation of IBAs, including wetlands. In this regard, 3 initiatives were launched in various regions of Kazakhstan: (i) *Korgalzhino* in Central Kazakhstan to save Lake *Zhumai* through snow retention in order to increase the incoming volumes of melt waters in spring to conserve the migration and nesting sites of 20 thousand migratory birds; (ii) development and approval of the sustainable use management plan for Lake *Saryshyganak* in Western Kazakhstan through the involvement of all users of natural resources in the area; and (iii) the sustainable management of Lake *Kyzylkol* in Southern Kazakhstan through the active involvement of local inhabitants in monitoring of migratory birds and environmental tourism development. The project is the first GEF SGP initiative whereby the local inhabitants have implemented a set of measures to enhance the effectiveness of the IBA system. The project scope, which covered 19,628 hectares, has focused on the conservation of 10 species enlisted in the Red Book of Kazakhstan.²⁷

In **Venezuela**, a GEF SGP project has contributed to the consolidation of a producer network involved in the cultivation, sustainable use, and marketing of organic cocoa in the *Caura* River Basin. The project focused on strengthening the technical and financial management capabilities with the indigenous peoples involved (Yekwana, Sanema/Yanomami, Hotis, Piapocos and Pemon). The project is located in the *Caura* Forest Reserve, part of the National System of Protected Areas, which contains large areas of intact forest and high biodiversity. The SGP project has supported different aspects of the supply chain for biodiversity products, and helped to consolidate the overall development strategy, including sustainable economic alternatives, of the indigenous peoples concerned.²⁸

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

The objectives for 5th Operational Phase (OP5) in the Climate Change Focal Area include: (i) *promoting the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level*

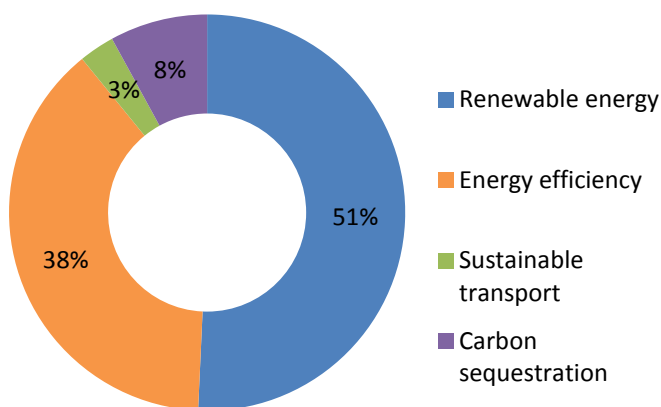
²⁶ PAN/SGP/OP4/Y3/RAF/10/26; PAN/SGP/OP4/Y3/RAF/09/19; PAN/SGP/OP4/Y2/RAF/09/09; PAN/SGP/OP4/RAF/08/01; and PAN/SGP/OP4/Y3/RAF/10/27

²⁷ KAZ/SGP/OP5/STAR/BD/12/10

²⁸ VEN-SGP-OP5-CORE-BD-11-04

(including provision of renewable energy and energy efficiency); (ii) promoting energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level and (iii) supporting the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry. Analysis of the projects completed during the reported period and those under implementation shows steady progression towards realization of these objectives in line with the indicators specified in SGP global project document.

Table 16: Distribution of Climate Change projects according to objectives



Renewable energy and energy efficiency projects contributing to objective i constitute the bulk of the portfolio, which is consistent with and even exceeds the OP5 targets specifying the largest number of projects for this objective. Access to renewable energy and low carbon technologies also constitute the main element of the proposed SGP strategy for OP6. Low carbon transport is a smaller part of the SGP portfolio, nevertheless significant innovations were produced. Carbon sequestration is a new area for OP5; the number of projects is lower than expected but this may be due to underreporting. In the next reporting period SGP country teams will be given more specific guidance on reporting such projects. Further analysis of the projects contributing to objective iii shows roughly equal regional distribution with the exception of Arab States, which is comprised of very few countries, many of which also faced significant political instability in recent years.

In terms of low carbon technologies deployed, solar applications, such as solar panels as well as low-tech community solutions such as simple solar driers, are prevalent. The countries deploying various solar technologies during the reporting period – cookstoves, dryers, refrigeration and water pumping – included **Albania, Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Armenia, Belarus, Ukraine, Bhutan, Bolivia, Niger, Cameroon, Senegal, Ethiopia** and **Benin**. In many cases the appliances were locally produced. Use of solar electricity and heating in residential buildings, health centers and schools, replacing fossil fuels, was piloted in **Burkina Faso, Cuba, Panama, Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Uruguay, Slovak Republic, Vietnam, Trinidad and Tobago** and **Cote d’Ivoire**. In all projects, community members maintained and installed the equipment, and vulnerable populations and youth were trained in its use and upkeep. In many cases, community development revolving funds, many involving women, were created. In **Mauritania** and **Peru** solar energy has supplied artisanal microenterprises with majority women workers, in line with the SGP special emphasis on women and youth empowerment.



Other technologies were deployed less extensively. LED lighting was used in **Belarus** and **Maldives**, micro -hydro – in **Dominican Republic** (reaching 2500 beneficiaries during the reporting period), **Malaysia, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Madagascar** and **Panama**. Locally appropriate biodigester models replacing the use of fire wood, LPG and other fossil fuels and also providing natural fertilizer, were deployed in **Lesotho, Bhutan, Thailand** and **Mauritius**, among other countries.

The regional distribution also shows the prevalence of energy efficiency applications in Europe and CIS where grid electricity is more widely available, and energy efficiency and supplementary renewable energy applications are more appropriate. **Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Slovak Republic** and **Belarus** deployed energy efficient technologies in buildings (mostly belonging to municipal housing, medical centers and other institutions serving the poor). In **Kazakhstan** demonstration of energy efficient heaters reduced the use of coal by 30%. As a result of the demonstration, the project has been replicated, benefiting 6,000 people. Innovative energy efficient housing from locally appropriate materials was piloted in **Mongolia** using technology transferred from Japan.

Improved stoves constructed from local materials for specific community needs are among the energy efficiency applications extensively deployed and replicated by SGP in countries that rely on firewood. Many of the projects in this reporting period, implemented in a number of countries including **Cuba, Guatemala, Guinea, Morocco, Guinea-Bissau, Nicaragua, Salvador, Ethiopia, Gambia, Namibia, Panama, India** and **Rwanda**, were led by women and combined energy efficient cook stoves with reforestation initiatives. In some countries, including **DRC, Nepal, Thailand** and **Cambodia**, improved stoves are locally produced, deployed in community enterprises, contributing to income generation as well as reduction of carbon emissions, including black carbon, and health risks. In **Guinea- Bissau, Kyrgyzstan** and **Cameroon**, the replication and sustainability of the technology was ensured by establishing woman-led community revolving funds. In **Liberia**, successful improved stove initiatives were replicated with the help of development partners and scaled up to a medium-size GEF project.

Sustainable transport projects have traditionally formed a smaller part of the SGP portfolio, which is also reflected in the OP5 targets. However, a number of innovative technologies and initiatives emerged in this area, such as electric vehicle technologies, city biking programs, and various youth activities.

In **Jamaica**, a new biodiesel convertor was developed by a local university in collaboration with “Engineers without Borders,” and community members, majority women and youth, were trained in biodiesel production. The new technology will now be demonstrated across the country. In **Ghana** and **Egypt**, successful youth initiatives focusing on production of bikes from locally available bamboo, and conversion of vehicles to natural gas, were implemented. The Egypt project has also contributed to national dialogue and policy formulation on sustainable transport and was scaled up through a GEF FSP. During the reporting period the majority of carbon storage projects focusing on forest preservation, reforestation and planting were implemented in Africa, including **Benin, Central African Republic, DRC, Malawi, Togo, South Africa** and **Burundi**. **Gambia** and **Mozambique** piloted carbon storage in the mangroves, potentially a new effective tool of emissions reduction, as mangroves are estimated to contribute to 10% of the global emissions from deforestation each year, while accounting for only 0.7% of the forest area destroyed.²⁹ In **Panama**, SGP continued supporting development of community carbon accounting methodology, which will be replicated in Peru later this year.

The majority of climate change projects implemented during the reporting period, regardless of the objective, also had an awareness component addressing the barriers to wider implementation of low carbon technologies, as well as improving understanding of climate change, and the benefits of carbon sequestration and climate smart agriculture. Countries reporting on successful awareness initiatives include **Barbados, Bhutan, Botswana, Ghana, Lebanon, Vietnam** and **Maldives**. Many countries, including **Turkey, Kazakhstan, Jamaica, Ukraine** and **Tajikistan** apply integrated approaches to removing barriers, involving civil society dialogues on climate change, demonstrations, and specific information campaigns targeting policy makers. Several countries including **Dominican Republic** and **Cote d’Ivoire** reported favorably influencing national policies on renewable energy by effectively targeting policymakers and disseminating SGP project success stories.

Based on the above review of the results achieved during the reporting period by GEF SGP Climate Change projects, it can be concluded that the portfolio is on track with the OP5 priorities set in the global project document. Many country programmes are testing innovative community technologies and approaches, and providing valuable models and lessons learned. In the new carbon sequestration area, results reporting needs to be improved under CPMT guidance.

Cuba used an integrated multifocal area approach to provide renewable energy access to a rural community, introduce more efficient cook stoves, and at the same time provide training in sustainable agriculture, prevention of land degradation and elimination of invasive species. The community is located in a remote mountain area in a biodiversity hot spot. The community gained access to solar energy and piloted energy efficient stoves, together contributing to a 50% reduction in wood consumption and replacement of kerosene, resulting in the estimated reduction of 54 tons of CO₂ per year. Two community members were certified in maintenance and operation of solar systems. Invasive species were eliminated on 78 hectares, which were then dedicated to agroforestry. Anti-erosive measures were applied to 30 hectares of highlands. 72 community members (including 30 women and 10 children) were trained in sustainable agriculture practices.

In **Panama**, a community methodology for carbon accounting was developed with support of McGill University (Canada). As a result of the project, 9.5 hectares have been reforested with agro-forestry systems with an estimated reduction of 261 tones of CO₂ per hectare for 25 years. The 12 participating

²⁹ Source: Daniel C. Donato et al. “Mangroves among the most carbon---rich forests in the tropics,” *Nature Geoscience* 4, 293–297 (2011).

families are receiving an income from a 25-year contract with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in the voluntary carbon market. In **India**, an innovative waste to energy and income generation project raised the social and economic status of 400 rag picker families and supported the sustainable management of plastic waste. In Bhopal City, nearly 2000 metric tons of plastic bags have, so far, been collected and re-processed as fuel pallets and used as fuel in cement plants. This has saved nearly 5,000 tons of CO₂ emissions from burning of plastic waste. Starting with 165 workers in 5 wards, the activities are now replicated in 21 wards with 1,465 rag pickers. A regular income of Rs.100 to Rs.150 per day (US \$2-3) is ensured for each rag picker. In addition, the rag pickers are linked with employment opportunities from other allied activities such as vermin composting, paper making units, etc.

In **Indonesia**, a community group elaborated a natural resources management and ecosystem restoration plan, adopting a REDD+ approach. As a result the community is better positioned to manage natural resources and conduct project planning through an established land use agreement. 150 community members have received training to increase their organizational capacity to manage natural resources, including technical and business knowledge.

In **Mauritius**, an effective and cost-efficient system for the treatment of livestock wastes generated multiple benefits. The wastes were converted into stable by-products that are utilized as fuel, fertilizer, feed and other biomass. It allowed the farmers to benefit from biogas and save on bottled LPG gas (192 LPG cooking gas cylinders per year or US\$ 2,037). The process also generates bio-slurry which is rich in nutrients that form excellent fertilizer for fodder crops. This project brought about a significant improvement in living conditions through the reduction of surface, air and groundwater pollution. The methane from the cow dung, which would have normally escaped into the atmosphere, is now extracted and used as a fuel, avoiding the emission of 10,000 m³ of CO₂ equivalent per year. In addition, the project has helped eliminate the use of chemical fertilizers, as the farmers now have access to about 10m³ of rich organic fertilizer a day. This has an additional benefit of improving the quality of water, as chemicals would usually leach into and contaminate groundwater. 24 community members (4 women and 20 men) are thus demonstrating and deploying low-GHG technologies.

In the **Slovak Republic**, an integrated approach to pilot a solution for energy supply in housing sector worked with a wide range of stakeholders, including residents, municipal authorities, academics, and the private sector, to find an optimal way for use of low-carbon technologies for heating and insulation. The project installed a thermal pump with 90 kW capacity for heating, combined with raising awareness and motivation of local citizens towards increasing energy efficiency by introducing the online measurement of energy consumption. The investment was implemented in residential housing with a majority of elderly or unemployed inhabitants. The project saved 50,3 tons of CO₂ equivalent during one heating season. The consumption of heat decreased by 80% from 1,054 GJ to 215 GJ. The financial savings, which amounted to US\$24 dollars (70% decrease compared to previous years), are transferred to a community environmental fund that will be used to re-pay the loan, as well as for improving the environment of the housing zone, based on the decision of the inhabitants.

LAND DEGRADATION

This focal area supports the implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). SGP's land degradation strategy is derived from the millennium ecosystems assessments and the 10-year UNCCD strategic plan, and aims to increase capacities of local communities and grassroots

institutions; improve community-based agricultural and forestry practices; and implement integrated approaches for pastoral, agricultural and forestry management. In OP5 phase two strategic priorities of the GEF are addressed: i) maintaining or improving the flows of agro-ecosystems services to sustain livelihoods of local communities; and ii) reducing pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscapes.

During this reporting period, of a global LD portfolio of 754 projects, Africa implemented the highest number of projects or 45% of the portfolio, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (18%) and Asia and the Pacific (17%), while the Arabs States and Europe and the CIS had the least number of projects, each contributing 10% of the portfolio.

Projects implemented during the reporting period focused on tree planting for carbon capture; water resources assessment and management; management and restoration of degraded sites; forest conservation through forest-based enterprises (e.g., bee-keeping); and sustainable pasture management systems. Projects included training in M&E and other innovative methods for assessing progress such as the use of participatory video, before and after pictures and satellite mapping. Through these projects, SGP engaged 125,601 community members and improved management of over 76,000 hectares of grazing land.

Table 17: A summary of progress reported by countries under the LD focal area included the following OP5 indicators

Indicators	Targets for OP5	Summary of Progress	
		Total area (ha) or # of communities	Remarks
Hectares of degraded land³⁰ improved (under forest, agricultural and water management practices)	150,000 hectares under improved agricultural, land and water management practices	76,106	At this rate of implementation, the result achieved is at 50.74% which is half way to the expected target by the end of the OP5. This is ahead of schedule and the overall target will most likely be achieved.
Number of communities demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices	At least 60,000 community members with improved practices that have reduced pressure on land and forests	125,601	This target has been exceeded by more than twofold and stands at 209%, an indication that SGP projects are reaching more community members than expected. This is probably due to the participatory nature of SGP and projects being demanded by the communities themselves.

³⁰ This figure includes the restoration and enhancement of 50,000 hectares of forests and non-forest lands initiated which is covered by the indicators of the number of hectares of land rehabilitated/restored (under range management, forestry and agriculture).

In Belarus, the successful results of a project³¹ to rehabilitate abandoned sandpits (unauthorized waste dumps) and prevent soil degradation in the *Minsk* region through afforestation activities have led, for the first time, to the elaboration and approval of a *Special State Program* for the rehabilitation of all open pits and illegal landfills in the country. The specific results achieved in this project include the rehabilitation of 27.1 hectares -of which 18.9 hectares were abandoned sandpits and 8.2 hectares were mini-landfills cleaned of unauthorized waste-, and 177,000 planted and reclaimed pine spruce seedlings on 27.1 hectares. In addition, more than 400 local volunteers and school children were engaged in tree planting and over 15,000 booklets and posters were published and disseminated among the local population and NGOs. Eight thematic workshops based on the experience and practices supported by SGP were held in all the regions of Belarus. The workshops were attended by over 300 representatives of NGOs, village councils, forestry and nature conservation organizations.



In Bhutan, “Community-based Sustainable Rangeland Management in Pangcom, Sakteng” project³² provides a good example of range management, in an area under immense pressure leading to degradation of range resources, coupled with 50% reduction of fuel wood consumption through fuel efficient stoves and solar energy. Sustainable management of degraded rangeland was made possible through a buffer that was created for 150 acres of the degraded area to avoid further degradation. The degraded area was protected and planted with over three thousand fast growing trees (willow

and local species). The fencing and plantation is regularly monitored and maintained. Up to 250 meters of retaining wall was constructed along the landslide area and at the base of the degraded area to stabilize and halt further landslides and erosion. To overcome the winter fodder shortage and reduce pressure on the rangeland, herders developed 60 acres of improved pasture to cover the shortages and reduce pressure on the rangeland. Nurseries were also developed to provide a sustainable supply of fodder trees.

In Barbados, an SGP grant³³ resulted in the planting of approximately 300 trees in Petite Martinique and Carriacou which are intended to aid in carbon sequestration over at least 10 years. A community-based water resource assessment was also completed which will assist the authorities in the water management on the islands. The project attracted a lot of attention from local stakeholders and was replicated at the national level. Specific results of this project included: i) community members trained in participatory video, rapid website development, e-mapping, google earth and online tools for analysis and planning, ii) an interactive website with guides, water management tools, and an online template for community analysis, planning, and management, iii) 57 persons (51 women, 6 men) were trained in organic backyard gardening and compost building and management; 37% of those trained (18 women, 3 men) have established their own backyard gardens and are now active gardeners utilizing the techniques learned during the project.

³¹ BLR/SGP/OP5/CORE/LD/11/01

³² BHU/SGP/OP4/Y3/CORE/09/02

³³ BAR/SGP/OP4/YEAR2/CORE/09/16

In **Cape Verde**, a project³⁴ to promote soil conservation actions in *Pai António* and *Cutelo Alto* communities in the areas surrounding the Fogo Natural Park, has put in place measures to restore degraded sites. Specifically, the communities engaged in soil conservation activities, which resulted in the construction of 200 m³ of dykes and 1,715 meters of anti-erosion terraces. These activities benefited 85 households, including 106 individuals of whom 15 are women. Some 2 hectares of degraded land were restored, which included slopes and runoff water lines.

In **the Palestine Authority**, the main purpose of the project “The reservation and treatment of soil degradation in Al Dhriyya through implementation of soil preservation techniques and water harvesting”³⁵ was to enhance the efficiency of rainfall water use by increasing the soil’s water absorption capacity thus improving agricultural productivity. The main outcomes of this project include: i) increasing the availability of rainwater per unit of cropping area in 262 *dunum Aldahreyaa* where the runoff rainfall was adjusted by the practices resulting in agricultural productivity increasing by 25%, ii) protection of agricultural soil in targeted areas where the erosions levels were stopped by the interventions; and iii) enhancement of plant diversity in the slope and drainage parts of targeted areas.

In **Papua New Guinea**, a project addressed tribal conflicts that had for many years resulted in destruction of large areas of forest. The local church in the area took on the initiative by looking for ways to restore peace to warring tribes and in particular educate them on the value of forests. Community education programs with respect to restoring law and order in the area and to applying interventions that involved the communities resulted in promoting better land practices. Project achievements include: i) Nurseries being built, tree species were identified and about 50,000 trees have already been planted. Every member of the community was encouraged to plant and participate in the tree planting exercise. Each individual is responsible for tending and monitoring the trees they planted to ensure their healthy growth. This collective activity has united the tribes who make up this particular community; and ii) A partnership was established with the local forest agency with at least 8,000 varied tree species bought from the government agency. Tree seedlings were evenly distributed to households and family members. Further, cash crop production to incorporate and enhance livelihood options in the same area has also been successfully put in place through this partnership.

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Given its crosscutting nature, projects in sustainable forest management were funded under climate change, land degradation and biodiversity focal areas. Most projects aimed at: *i) increasing ecological connectivity and improving forest biodiversity values at landscape levels; and ii) promoting good management practices in community and small holder forestry and rangelands.* Many of the projects during the reporting period concentrated on natural regeneration of forested lands and forests managed by households for timber and fuel wood needs. Communities sustainably managed forests for income generation activities, educational purposes and to enhance watershed protection functions.

The key lesson in the management of forests is that communities prefer joint management processes which ensure their participation, and in which communities, local authorities and other stakeholders have user rights to common forest resources. Therefore, preparation of management plans is central,

³⁴ CPV/SGP/OP5/Y2/CORE/LD/12/09

³⁵ PAL/SGP/OP5/CORE/LD/12/02

with an increasing focus on carbon credits since this form of climate mitigation is gaining ground because communities are increasingly aware of the potential benefits.

Table 18: A summary of progress reported by countries under the SFM focal area included the following OP5 indicators

Region	Number of completed Projects	Number of hectares restored with improved management practices (ha)
Africa	53	271,471
Arab States	0	-
Asia and the Pacific	18	85,658
Europe and the CIS	2	1,339
Latin America and the Caribbean	2	43,830
Total	75	402,298

While the SFM portfolio for the reporting period is relatively small with 24 countries reporting completed SFM projects and an additional 13 countries with projects at an advanced stage, it is nonetheless a portfolio with cross-cutting results and benefits. Some notable examples are described below.

In **Panama**³⁶, SGP supported the Forest Stewardship Certification from the SFC council for the sustainable use of 43,505 hectares of forest in two communities in the *Embera Wounaan Indigenous Comarca*. This project has been replicated in 3 more communities and is recognized by the Panamanian government as a model, thanks to the collaboration with WWF and ANAM.

In **Tajikistan**, a project mitigated climate change impact through conservation and joint management of the riparian woodlands in Kanibadam district, Sughd region. The community established demonstration plots for community-based forest management incorporating environmental considerations. This has created conditions for fauna populations to flourish in the area. The community established a rapid response team for conservation of the riparian woodlands composed of 8 members of the local Hunting and Fishing Society. 6,000 seedlings were planted on 6 hectares of the riparian woodlands and an estimated 204 tons of CO2 are being sequestered annually. To ensure sustainability, a green patrol composed of 30 schoolchildren was established and trained to undertake community patrols. In total, at least 1,000 community members have been involved in the project, including 486 men, 514 women, 90 children, and 22 community elders.

INTERNATIONAL WATERS

During the reporting period, SGP focused on supporting the implementation of regional Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs), and aligning its international waters programming with regional priorities as identified in the SAPs. To facilitate information exchange and support country programme, coordination with SAPs, an international waters newsletter was developed and disseminated to SGP networks and

³⁶ PAN/SGP/OP4/CORE/10/16

stakeholders. Ten regional profiles are being finalized to provide detailed guidance to country programmes for IW programming in ten transboundary waterbodies.

Efforts were undertaken to link up with UNDP-GEF Technical Advisors and UNEP Task Managers to identify opportunities for cooperation between SGP and full-sized projects (FSPs). New developments in such cooperation include: UNEP’s project “Implementing Integrated Land, Water & Wastewater Management in Caribbean SIDS” includes \$1 million to SGP; and UNDP is developing a project “Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem SAP Implementation” with \$5 million set aside for community work for which SGP is being considered as a delivery partner. During the reporting period, SGP has 161 active international waters projects with \$4.33 million GEF funding, generating \$5.60 million co-financing.

During the reporting period, SGP completed 30 international waters projects. Together with ongoing projects, SGP contributed good community-based experiences on international waters management related to a number of international water bodies, and support the implementation of 21 regional SAPs.

Table 19: A summary of progress reported by countries under the IW focal area included the following OP5 indicators

Indicators	Targets for OP5	Summary of Progress	
		# of SAPs or regional water management systems	Remarks
Number of SAPs to which SGP is providing implementation support	10 SAPs for which SGP is supporting on the ground implementation of regional priority actions	21	This target has been exceeded by more than twofold, which indicates that SGP has achieved a greater geographical coverage in international waters management than expected in the OP5 Prodoc.
Number of regional transboundary water management processes to which SGP is contributing good practices and lessons	15 regional transboundary water management processes to which SGP is contributing good practices and lessons	35	This target has been exceeded by more than 233%, which indicates that SGP has achieved greater impact than expected in terms of contributing its community-based practices and lessons to influence regional management processes.

In **China**, the “Demonstration Project on Promotion of the Ecological Aquaculture Mode to Reduce Land-based Pollution”³⁷ provides good practice on land-based pollution control, which contributes to SAP implementation in the South China Sea. Under this project, an eco-aquiculture model has been established with four demonstration bases, which can reduce 12,000 tons of aquiculture pollutants per year in the South China Sea and increase local incomes by \$48,940. 5,070 local people received training on eco-aquiculture, among them 2,030 women.

In **Egypt**, a project was implemented by the Environmental and Community Development Association³⁸ in Dandara, Qena Governorate. By the end of the project, the NGO succeeded in lining 6 km of irrigation

³⁷ CPR/SGP/OP5/CORE/IW/11/01

³⁸ EGY/SGP/OP4/Y3/CORE/2010/398

canals in 3 villages, resulting in preserving 64 carats of agricultural land which were degraded and uncultivated, and conserved nearly 3000 cubic meters of irrigation water in these villages. The project also raised the awareness of approximately 3000 small farmers on the importance of lining these canals as well as its environmental and economic impacts.



In **Tanzania**, a project³⁹ focused on sustainable transboundary water body management with community based initiatives. The following results were achieved: (i) strengthened Beach Management Units at 11 sites along Lake Victoria shores as a result of capacity building initiatives; (ii) 11 Voluntary Patrol Groups formed to conduct surveillance against illegal fishing and malpractices that pollute beaches; (iii) sustainable fishing practices adopted as a result of training over 5000 fisherfolk in sustainable fishing techniques ; (iv) Improvement in water quality; and (v) Increased rates of breeding due to conservation of fish breeding sites.

CHEMICALS

During the reporting period, SGP focused on piloting and testing approaches to community-based management of chemicals. Guidance was provided in particular on the expansion of the SGP focal area from “persistent organic pollutants” to “chemicals,” which includes e-waste, mercury and other heavy metals, lead, plastics, and solid waste. In the development and review of country programme strategies, SGP encouraged country programmes to develop and pilot some new areas in chemicals management. A global guidance document on e-waste hotspots was disseminated to support chemicals programming in e-waste management.

During the reporting period, SGP supported 58 new projects with \$1.94 GEF funding and \$2.14 million co-financing. 38 chemicals projects were completed during the reporting period, and 37 country programs reported that its chemicals portfolio has contributed to national policy development.

³⁹ TAN/SGP/OP5/Y1/STAR/LD/11/05

Table 20: A summary of progress reported by countries under the Chemicals focal area included the following OP5 indicators

Indicators	Targets for OP5	Summary of Progress	
		Tons of waste or # of countries	Remarks
Tons of waste avoided from burning	100 tons of waste avoided from burning	81,166	SGP chemicals portfolio has achieved 81% of its expected target as of the mid-point of GEF-5. With this rate of implementation, it is expected by the end of GEF-5 the target will be fully met if not exceeded.
Number of countries where SGP is contributing to the implementation of national plans and policies to address POPs, harmful chemicals and other pollutants	15 countries where SGP is contributing to the implementation of national plans and policies to address POPs, harmful chemicals and other pollutants	37	The target was exceeded by more than two and half folds. It indicates not only the greater than expected geographical coverage of SGP chemicals work, but also the national process that SGP is influencing or contributing to through its chemicals portfolio.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, a project⁴⁰ was implemented to reduce the use of fertilizers and chemical pesticides containing persistent organic pollutants (POPs) by creating wind break strips in several farms in Shaidan aiyl okrug, Nooken rayon, Jalal-Abad oblast. The following results were achieved: 46 farmer households were trained to use methods of organic, POPs-free agriculture. 99 farmers (44 men and 45 women) applied knowledge on organic agriculture on their lands. Farmers avoided using 156 kilograms of POPs and 26,000 of mineral fertilizers which thereby did not penetrate soils in the Nooken region. 52 hectares of land where chemicals had been used were rehabilitated.

In **Tajikistan**, a project⁴¹ undertook urgent steps in preventing chemical pollution of the environment by pesticides and toxic substances of the Kanibadam waste burial site (Kanibadam polygon) through the monitoring and investigation of the quality of the water and soil around the site. Chemical analysis of drinking water sources was conducted. Covered and open drainage systems were established to prevent and wash the toxic chemicals away. Information campaigns were organized to raise awareness of local people through booklets, seminars, focus groups, examples in mass media, and promotion of organic farming. 23 thousand people who live near the polygon of Kanibadam directly benefited from the project; 50% are children, 30% women, and 20% men. During project implementation about 4,000 tons of poisonous chemicals were stored and disposed of properly. 200 people were trained on the use of simple biological methods to protect plants and making compost. The project rehabilitated the ruined surface of the cemetery (0.14 ha) and the water supply system (500 meters long). The government of Tajikistan's Committee of Environment Protection co-financed this project and intends to continue supporting the project after SGP funding is over.

⁴⁰ KYR/SGP/OP4/CORE/08/39

⁴¹ TJK/SGP/OP5/Y2/PP/CORE/2013/08

In **Zimbabwe**, the Two-by-Two Waste Recovery and Management Trust⁴² is implementing a project in Epworth High Density Suburb on reducing the release of chemicals through building the capacity of the community to properly manage their waste. The project established a waste recycling project at Makomo and Zinyengere Primary Schools. The school children are also participating in waste recycling through separation of waste at the source. The students are separating recyclable plastic and paper for sale and biodegradables waste for making compost. Two by Two has also distributed 60 bins to Chitungu Primary School classes with each class receiving 2 bins. A total of 2700 containers were collected and used as tree seedling pots, including 1400 milk containers, 1100 Shake-Shake beer containers and 200 sugar containers. Besides using the containers as seedling pots, they are also for sale to Tisunungureiwo Cooperative in Mbare. The project expects to raise USD60.00 per ton from the sale of the plastic containers recovered. Besides working with the schools, the project targeted the clearing of illegal dumpsites around Chitungu and Reuben Shopping Centres. 3 illegal dumpsites were cleared and 3500kg of waste materials were removed. The exercise was aimed at raising community awareness on cholera and other environment-related illness like malaria which have affected more than 300 people in Epworth community. The community benefited from the clean-up programme as it reduced breeding sites for mosquitoes, rodents and houseflies that can cause ill health.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The capacity development (CD) stand alone focal area started in OP5, in alignment with the GEF Capacity Development Strategy, to enhance and strengthen the capacities of stakeholders to engage in consultative processes on environmental issues; generate, access and use information and knowledge; develop policy and legislative frameworks; implement and manage global convention guidelines; and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends.

While this focal area for grant-making was added in OP5, SGP has always worked to enhance and develop the capacities of civil society organizations and communities as a crosscutting issue in most GEF focal area projects. In fact, SGP is one of the main contributors to capacity development in the GEF, as virtually all SGP projects include capacity development elements. For example, the CC portfolio review concluded in 2012 found that 80% of climate change projects funded over the last 10 years included significant capacity development components.

The difference between SGP capacity development efforts in grants in the other GEF focal areas and the stand alone capacity development grants, is that the latter should address capacity development issues at the portfolio and programme level – as opposed to the project level – by increasing environmental awareness, sharing good practices from SGP experience, improving grantee project management and M&E skills, among others.

During this reporting period, SGP focused on providing more detailed guidance on the two key areas under the capacity development focal area: 1) to enhance the capacities of the CSOs to implement the global environmental conventions through stakeholder workshops, and 2) to exchange good practices and experiences on global environmental issues through knowledge fairs. Guidance notes were prepared and shared with SGP country teams on organization of stakeholder workshops and knowledge fairs. One-on-one guidance was provided to National Coordinators who wished to engage in these types of activities.

⁴² ZIM/SGP/OP4/Y3/CORE/2010/03

During this reporting year SGP supported 18 new CD projects including 3 knowledge fairs, 9 stakeholder workshops, 4 initiatives to improve community-based M&E tools and practices and 2 projects to enhance knowledge management at the community level. As a result the capacities of 298 CSOs were improved and 1,992 people enhanced their capacities to address environmental issues at the community level.

Table 21: A summary of progress reported by countries under the Capacity Development focal area

No. of projects completed	Number Of CSOs whose capacities were developed or improved	Number of people whose capacities were developed or improved
18	298	1,992

Several examples of CD projects during the reporting period can be highlighted. In **Dominican Republic** the country programme compiles all grantee requests to fund and undertake capacity development initiatives with other partners and works with the grantee to make sure the proposed CD grant will have a broad impact in enhancing the capacities of other CSOs as well as the grantee. Because the Dominican Republic SGP emphasized working in partnership with many organizations, the programme was able to support 3 knowledge fairs, 54 stakeholder workshops, 10 M&E initiatives and 25 knowledge management activities – with just *one* CD grant.



In **Nepal**, an M&E grant provided training on ‘participatory monitoring and reporting’ to 35 grantees which enhanced their skills to report on results. Since grantees now had a more active role in monitoring and capturing project results, an improvement in project performance was noted in the progress and end of project reports. As part of project activities, 19 completed projects were audited to understand grantee M&E capacities and tailor the training accordingly. Eleven success stories were documented in local languages and are in the final stage of publication for dissemination among the relevant stakeholders and to other development organizations.

In Ukraine, the project, “Community capacity development to contribute global environmental benefits,” built the capacities of local communities as well as selected grantees to develop, implement, report and monitor GEF SGP projects, training over 200 people. Key activities included the development of information systems and networks (such as the GEF-NGO Network in the Ukraine <http://gefua.net/en.html>); the analysis and codification of lessons learned; the dissemination of information and materials on GEF focal areas and key environmental issues; and the use and application of knowledge generated. The project contributed to Rio+20 consultations and position paper development by mobilizing and gathering Ukrainian public opinion on environmental challenges and people’s involvement in finding local solutions <http://www.undp.org.ua/en/media/42-energy-and-environment/1304-a-road-to-rio-starts-in-kyiv>.

In addition, in an effort to enhance the capacities of a wider audience, the project promoted the dissemination of SGP projects in the newspapers *Ecoweek* and *Development and Environment* as well as in the local media. As a result, the project also raised awareness among local people in remote areas, trained grantees in monitoring and evaluation, raised the number of good quality project proposals, and promoted the replication and scaling up of effective SGP initiatives. Finally, the project supported the participation of SGP grantees in the forum “Environment for Ukraine 2013” <http://group-expo.com/en/environment-2013.html>, thereby bringing local ideas into a national decision-making process. It also established 2 CSO consultative mechanisms and facilitated the membership of 3 SGP grantees in the Civil Society Advisory Council of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources. It was the first time that local CSO representatives became members of the Council. This partnership made it possible to link many other local CSOs and stakeholders with national consultations and decision-making processes.

4. ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

PROGRESS OF OP5

The reporting period covers the 2nd grant-making year of OP5 (Year 2) when the programme reached the mid-point of the four-year operational phase. The table below shows the grant funding allocated to country programmes globally in Year 1 and in Year 2, as well as recently for the Year 3 period (July 2013 – June 2014).

Table 22: Grant funding allocated to country programmes globally by year

Global grant allocation	Year 1 (USD)	Year2 (USD)	Year 3 (USD)	Balance (USD)
CORE	35,330,500	25,071,170	6,981,000	22,017,330
STAR	8,700,000	15,395,000	50,570,574	19,915,880
RAF		630,000		630,000
Total	44,030,500	41,096,170	57,551,574	42,563,210

The slight decline in grant funds allocated in Year 2 is due to the delay in accessing the full level of STAR resources endorsed by countries for SGP in OP5. Sixty seven countries only received the STAR funds when SGP's 2nd tranche of STAR funds was approved in May 2013. Notwithstanding the constrained resources in Year 2 for some countries, considerable progress was registered by most countries in achieving an excellent level of grant commitment and implementation. A few countries faced problems due to political issues, staff turnover, or low capacity, which are further mentioned in the section on "Global Issues and Challenges and Mitigating Actions." The RAF funds which are shown in the table above are left over from OP4 and have been allocated for the SGP Afghanistan now that the programme is operational there.

During the reporting period notable progress has been achieved in expanding SGP's mandate and presence to new countries, through the transition of nine countries previously within two Sub-regional modalities towards the establishment of fully functioning country programmes. In addition, seven completely new countries have also joined the SGP programme in OP5. Annex 7 lists the key benchmarks achieved in the start up and launch of these country programmes. As of the end of this reporting period, several countries have already had a call for proposals and have committed a first set of grant projects.

A major substantive output in the past year was the initiation of the strategic design of SGP in GEF 6, in parallel with the Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) instituted by the GEF Secretariat and the process of development of the GEF's vision 2020. CPMT, in close consultation with its country programme staff and in dialogue with UNDP and the GEF Secretariat, started the important work of identifying and formulating key programme directions for SGP in GEF 6. A detailed paper laying out SGP's proposed approach in its next (6th) Operational Phase was presented to UNDP and the GEF Secretariat. The vision

for SGP in OP6 includes further focusing areas for potential impact of the programme, as well as enhancing efforts for scaling up its lessons. It is proposed that SGP's grant making in OP6 focus on the following four key strategic initiatives that would build on knowledge and experience gained by SGP in the past, and that promote multi-sectoral and multi-focal approaches to addressing environmental problems:

1. Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation
2. Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology
3. Low-Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits
4. Local to Global Chemicals Management Coalitions

A summary of the key strategic initiatives envisaged for SGP to deliver in GEF6 is included in the Paper on "Draft GEF 6 Programming Directions" (GEF/R.6/07, March 08, 2013) which was presented at the GEF Replenishment Meeting in April 2013.

In addition, the programme continued through the year to present its results and knowledge at various national, regional and international fora, and major environmental events such as Conferences of the Parties of the global conventions. The discussion of "Knowledge Management and Communications" later in this section provides further details of these efforts. A major deliverable was the new SGP public website, launched by in June 2012, which has been continuously upgraded with new and updated knowledge products and publications from across the country programmes.

PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT

During the reporting year, CPMT strengthened its practice of providing guidance on an ongoing basis to country programmes and partners. In addition to the Technical Guidance notes for SGP programming in all focal areas prepared during 2011, during the reporting year CPMT issued several guidance documents to help SGP country teams to programme grant resources. The "Guidance Note on Strategic Projects" elaborated the objectives, expected outcomes, procedures and criteria for design and review of Strategic projects by SGP country programmes, NSCs and grantees.

CPMT support in strategic guidance, knowledge and overall implementation of **Biodiversity** focal area results, encompassed a number of key initiatives over the reporting year.

In regard to the immediate objective to "Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas through community-based actions":

- Lessons learned from COMPACT after 12 years of implementation in 9 participating SGP countries and launch of COMPACT Benchmark report at UNESCO World Heritage Committee
- Consolidation of work with UNEP, World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and ICCA Consortium in relation to role of ICCAs in support of Aichi 2020 targets established at CBD COP10
- Launch of ICCA Toolkit at World Indigenous Network (WIN) meeting in Australia
- World Heritage Local Ecological Entrepreneurship Programme (WH LEEP) partnership with Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) provided business development support grants as way to access biodiversity-friendly loans around World Heritage sites

In regard to the immediate objective on “Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions”:

- Participation in IUCN World Conservation Congress with SGP NCs and partners to share experiences on agrobiodiversity, ICCAs, COMPACT
- Finalization and launch of online SGP portal of biodiversity-based products at CBD COP11
- Case studies developed and country support provided in relation to Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) as emerging area of focus for the GEF

In the **Climate Change** focal area programmatic guidance was provided to SGP country teams, including resources and announcements. The most frequent requests from the NCs were related to strategic projects and specific individual guidance on how these projects can be developed and implemented in countries. CPMT facilitated coordination and provided guidance on links with GEF FSPs in collaboration with UNDP/GEF Regional Technical Advisors, partnerships with development banks, World Bank CIFs, Adaptation Fund, UNREDD, Sustainable Energy for All and others. In addition to guidance on potential partnerships, CPMT provided examples, facilitated discussion of new ideas and established new partnerships such as Community-based REDD+ (CBR+).

A ten-year Climate Change portfolio review was finished in the reporting period. Country teams were closely involved and ten case studies were developed in close collaboration with the NCs. The lessons learned and results of portfolio review were shared with the country teams.

A carbon accounting guidance note, relevant to both Climate Change (LULUCF) as well as the Sustainable Forest Management cross-cutting area, was prepared during the reporting period and is currently being finalized. It includes general guidance on project development as well as a tool adopted from the Winrock Carbon Accounting Calculator. In addition, the proposed CBR+ partnership initiative is expected to further support this focal area objective.

In the **Land Degradation** and **Sustainable Forest Management** areas, CPMT facilitated exchange of comparative local level experiences between countries on specific practices and innovations. Technical support and knowledge was shared from the synthesis of SGP grants from previous years, global events and networks, especially from the UNCCD *Landscan* network, as well as the recent UNCCD second scientific conference which provided a number of scientific studies and cases of replicable experiences. Countries have also been encouraged to participate and showcase their examples of innovation in global events such as “Land for Life,” organized annually by the UNCCD. Although SGP country programmes have not been successful in getting grants from competitions organized by the UNCCD,⁴³ SGP projects have been featured and feedback provided. Countries, such as Nigeria, Tunisia, Egypt and Palestinian Authority, have documented best practices which have subsequently been shared by CPMT with all SGP countries.

In relation to the immediate objective on “Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts on agro- and forest ecosystems and ecosystem services,” reviews of strategic projects and technical guidance was provided to Jamaica, Yemen, Nigeria and Zimbabwe.

⁴³ <http://www.unccd.int/en/Stakeholders/civil-society/CSOs-at-the-conferences/Pages/default.aspx>.

A guidance note on “Ecosystem based Adaptation” was produced by CPMT and is being used by country programmes to help develop projects with cross-cutting benefits in EBA under the CC, LD, and BD focal areas.

In the **Capacity Development** focal area, the following two guidance notes were elaborated to further guide country programmes, NSCs and grantees on the objectives, expected outcomes, procedures and criteria for awarding capacity development grants in the following areas as foreseen in the SGP Project document:

- Guidance note on Stakeholder Workshops
- Guidance note on Best Practice and Knowledge Fairs

In addition, SGP’s AusAid partnership on Community Based Adaptation, which provided important co-financing during the reporting year, produced a draft advisory note on how to strategically plan and mainstream CBA that is currently under review by CPMT.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Given the decentralized and demand driven approach of the programme, Knowledge Management (KM) is essential to create awareness among communities, donors, partners and other key stakeholders and to facilitate communication and exchange of experiences between the different country programmes. KM has been a critical element to ensure that lessons learned from project implementation are captured, analyzed and shared with key stakeholders. In this way the programme can promote learning within and across communities and countries, help replicate and scale up its impact, and inform policy.

At the global level, GEF SGP has continued to provide guidance on knowledge products and communications while also improving and producing new communication and knowledge management materials. It has developed and employed innovative knowledge exchange tools and shared valuable information and lessons learned with difference audiences, including the GEF Council and GEF Secretariat, UNDP, other donors, national governments, implementing agencies, GEF SGP grantees, NGOs, CBOs, GEF SGP National Coordinators and National Steering Committee Members, among others.

Many SGP projects and grantees have received national and international awards for their innovative and groundbreaking solutions to environmental and development challenges. These awards provide recognition and serve as a platform for further replication and scaling up of SGP supported practices. Annex 3 provides a list of the 41 awards received during the reporting year.

Online communications

In the reporting period, SGP continued to enhance its newly redesigned website www.sgp.undp.org and received 132,895 unique visitors between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013. The new website now features country pages that allow the public to view the portfolio in any SGP operating country, as well as find the country programme strategy, contact information, key results, stories, videos and testimonials. Viewers can also find concrete information on all SGP funded projects, which total more than 16,500, as well as information on partnerships, GEF focal areas and other resources including more than 200 global and country level publications, 250 plus videos , and over 50 case studies and fact sheets . As an example, the 20th anniversary publication, “20 Years: Community Action for the Global Environment,” launched in Rio, has been downloaded over 2,000 times.

At the global level, SGP has also improved its social media presence with over 1000 people actively SGP stories on Facebook. This effort has been in collaboration with UNDP and the GEF Facebook channels.

Articles about SGP project results

SGP continued to produce regular articles for publication on the GEF and SGP websites on an ongoing basis. These articles have allowed the programme to share knowledge with a wider audience. A selection of the articles produced and published during the reporting period can be found in Annex 5 of this report.

Scaling Up and Policy Impact Study

In an effort to document the long-term impact of SGP, CPMT is preparing case studies on SGP projects and sustainable practices that have been replicated, scaled up by others, or influenced policies around the world. A first set of case studies is expected to be finished by December 2013, but the experience in other countries will be documented in the coming years.

SGP participation in key conference and events

In addition, SGP shared its experience on managing environmental challenges at the community level through participation in key international events such as the ones featured below.

The SGP's Community Management of Protected Areas for Conservation initiative (COMPACT)] was prominently featured at the recent IUCN World Conservation Congress where SGP participated in a flagship panel convened by IUCN and UNESCO on "The World Heritage Convention at 40: Engaging the IUCN constituency for conservation and communities."

SGP also actively participated in the CBD COP11 through a series of side events, including one on UNDP support to achieve Aichi 2020 target 11 via recognition and protection of indigenous peoples' and community conserved areas and territories (ICCAs). SGP provided a brief introduction to the key speakers and an overview of UNDP support to ICCAs. SGP also participated in the side event "Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS): exploring past experiences and future opportunities for indigenous peoples and local communities through new synergies and partnerships."

Also at the CBD COP, SGP launched an online portal (www.biodiversity-products.org) in partnership with the Progreso Network to showcase SGP biodiversity products at the global level and stimulate further interest among potential buyers and markets to increase opportunities for small producers with the private sector. The regional catalogue on sustainable biodiversity products for Africa and the Arab States was also finished to coincide with the COP.



At the World Indigenous Network, UNDP, UNEP and SGP launched a new [toolkit](#) designed to assist civil society initiatives to voluntarily conserve ICCAs.

A side event during the 37th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, SGP launched the report "[COMPACT: Engaging Local Communities in the Stewardship of World Heritage](#)" on the results and lessons from COMPACT initiative over the span of 12 years. Launched in the year 2000, COMPACT was established as a partnership between the GEF SGP, the United Nations Foundation (UNF), and the

UNESCO World Heritage Centre to demonstrate how community-based initiatives can significantly increase the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation in globally significant protected areas.

SGP participated in the 2012 UNFCCC COP to share good practices and success stories. Two SGP projects were selected by the UNFCCC secretariat initiative, "Momentum for Change." as examples of grassroots transformational activities: "[Introduction of electric vehicles to Sri Lanka](#)," and "[Holistic approaches to community adaptation to climate change in Namibia](#)." SGP also shared lessons learned from the first REDD+ pilots in Panama and Mexico at the Forest Day Issues Marketplace organized by the UNFCCC secretariat.

SGP also participated in the UNCCD second scientific conference and showcased good examples coming from different SGP communities, landscapes and regions as well as from other practitioners. The SGP contribution was published and posted in the on the UNCCD website. A link to the conference proceedings in which global best practices were discussed and current innovations in LD were shared with the global community can be found at: <http://www.iisd.ca/vol04/enb04242e.html>).

Global level publications and KM Materials

Some of the global reports and publications produced during the reporting period that gather the knowledge generated across the GEF SGP portfolio and share experiences and best practices include:

- [A toolkit to support conservation by indigenous peoples and local communities: Building capacity and sharing knowledge for Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Territories and Areas -ICCAs](#)
- [COMPACT, Engaging Local Communities in Stewardship of World Heritage, 2013](#)
- [Community Water Initiative In Mali, Niger And Senegal: Creating Community-Based Water And Sanitation Schemes To Improve Food Security, Livelihoods And Resource Conservation](#)
- CWI: Delivering Water And Sanitation To Poor Communities
- 10+ Case Studies and Fact Sheets on SGP projects

Local level publications and KM materials

At the local level, each country programme works directly with communities in (i) capturing their lessons; (ii) conducting knowledge exchanges; (iii) organizing training workshops; (iv) establishing and nurturing networks of NGOs and CBOs; (v) working with the government in achieving national environmental priorities; and (vi) helping to scale up and replicate best practices and lessons learned.

SGP projects often become demonstration sites and training centers where local communities carry out peer-to-peer knowledge exchange, and development practitioners and local policymakers can observe tested methods and technologies developed by communities. These demonstration sites and knowledge exchanges are extremely important and effective in raising awareness and strengthening the capacities of local communities on key environmental and development issues.

Most country programmes produced fact sheets, case studies, posters, banners, flyers and reports in their own languages to fulfill communication, outreach and promotional needs at the local level. In table 23 you can find the KM and communication products produced during the reporting period by SGP country programmes and grantees.

Table 23: Number of KM and communication products produced by SGP country programmes and grantees.

Number of fact sheets/case studies	Number of brochures and publications	Number of videos/photo-stories
311	371	208

The following is a short list of some of these knowledge products generated in the reporting period:

- SGP Armenia produced 5 publications including one on “Energy Efficiency Measures And Solar Energy Use In Buildings”
- SGP Belize produced a manual on beekeeping and a handbook on agroecology
- SGP China produced a manual on intercropping in the forest, a booklet on “Environmental Protection Knowledge of Qinghai-Tibet Plateau,” a “Handbook on Waste Sorting and Recycling on Qinghai-Tibet Plateau” and a “Knowledge Handbook of Preventing Mercury Pollution,” among others
- SGP Macedonia produced 2 fact sheets and 3 brochures
- SGP Nicaragua presented a publication on project results and lessons learned in 2010-2011
- SGP Nepal elaborated a fact sheet on 22 Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
- SGP Peru created a cookbook of gourmet native potato recipes
- SGP Uzbekistan produced more than 5 fact sheets

REPLICATION, UP-SCALING, AND POLICY INFLUENCE

Because of the long-term presence of SGP in countries, the programme places great importance on replicating and scaling up good practices emerging from its portfolio, as well as on influencing policy by providing tested local-level sustainable development and environmental practices and approaches. Mature SGP countries are especially keen to document, share, and scale up good practices and lessons to create transformational change and expand the reach and impact of grant portfolios. The multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder SGP National Steering Committees (NSC) in each country plays a fundamental role in contributing to this process. As these voluntary bodies include representatives from different government agencies, UNDP, the private sector and civil society organizations (which are the majority), there are multiple opportunities for NSC members to support, through their networks and contacts, the replication and up scaling of the most promising projects and practices .

In terms of policy influence, SGP projects and practices have contributed directly to local, regional, national, and international planning and policy processes. SGP experiences and lessons learned have been recognized and incorporated in local and national policy development, and have influenced changes in municipal and provincial regulations, national laws, and have sometimes contributed local level insights to international environmental processes through the participation of SGP grantees and NSC members. Similarly, the creation and strengthening of SGP grantee and partner networks have been vital for convening and influencing policy dialogues at the national level.

It is, however, noteworthy that the replication and up-scaling of projects often influence policies and in turn, policies can support the replication and up-scaling of projects, so these processes are often interconnected.

Through a project for enhancing the capacity of local people in biodiversity conservation and ecotourism development, SGP **Kyrgyzstan** contributed to the development of the National Plan on Biodiversity Conservation and influenced policy through the close involvement of local environmental organizations in the discussion to elaborate the plan. Representatives of the National Academy of Science and the State Agency on Nature Protection and Forestry were also actively involved. In addition, based on the results and lessons learned, this SGP project led to the improvement of management plans for newly created national parks, such as the Sarkent National Park in Batken province.

In SGP **Dominica**, land degradation practices and lessons learned have influenced policies in the private sector. The Dominica Solid Waste Management Corporation is now implementing similar measures as those that emerged from SGP projects in many communities, including the building of collection units for garbage receptacles and the participation of the community residents in managing and safeguarding the bins. In addition, the planting of trees and ornamental species in open spaces where garbage were previously being dumped created more green spaces and parks within the communities. Environmental education signage and literature are also being produced. Finally, the waste management component of these projects is now being replicated in other communities by the Corporation as best practices.

During the reporting period, SGP **Vietnam** developed a co-management model in sustainable fisheries and marine resources management through promoting the role and participation of a communal fisheries association in the community of Vinh Phu, located in the biggest lagoon of Vietnam. Through this work, SGP was successful in developing an institutional framework for co-management of the area (about 36 hectares), which is designated by the province as the community-based area for sustainable fisheries. An agreement was signed by the district authorities for delegating the authority to the communal fisheries association and the community for managing the area. The provincial authorities are now very committed to community-based approaches in conservation and have designated eight community-based areas for sustainable fisheries in the lagoon. This SGP project also offers a model to be replicated in other areas.

In **Nigeria**, the success of SGP projects led to the establishment of a statewide conservation and sustainable forest management policy. The regulation is applied to degraded forests and for the maintenance of those that are not intensely degraded. SGP projects also created awareness in communities, which has led to the establishment of a bylaw on forest management. By witnessing the good results of the SGP project, surrounding communities bought into the opportunity, adopted the bylaw and are making efforts to establish formal structures for sustainable forest management.

Continuous advocacy with government agencies by SGP **Nepal** and its grantees contributed to the formulation of three national-level policies on the regulation of dangerous chemicals. First, the Supreme Court of Nepal gave the verdict on a lawsuit supported by the Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED) and the Health Care Foundation Nepal (HECAF), both SGP grantees, to enact suitable healthcare waste management regulations. In addition, the registration of Endosulfan, a toxic pesticide, has been stopped thank to the continuous advocacy of CEPHED with the respective government agencies. Finally, through the results of SGP projects, the Ministry of Health and Population has taken a progressive decision concerning the ban on import, purchase and use of mercury based equipment in the health sector.

As a result of the leadership of SGP **Panama** in sustainable practices for cattle ranching, a law was approved by the national congress to provide incentives to implement silvopastoral systems. SGP is

encouraging landowners to follow the steps alongside governmental institutions to make these incentives a reality. In addition, to the work on silvopastoral systems, **SGP Panama** worked with the National Bank to generate access to finance to SGP grantees and other CSOs. This is important because the Panamanian bank system was usually not friendly to local associations when opening a bank account. However, after a year of meetings with the National Bank, a new category of saving accounts for associations has been created. Currently, only SGP grantees are using this new type of savings account, but it is expected that other associations and cooperatives will start utilizing them as well.

In **Vanuatu**, a project on strengthening local capacity to improve soil quality using reforestation has been replicated and up-scaled by the Vanuatu Department of Forests: 2 demonstration agroforestry gardens and 17 local community nurseries were established in different islands. Moreover, SGP practices such as the use of vetiver grass in soil erosion control was integrated by the GIZ Climate Change Programme and is now promoted and replicated in other islands to address coastline erosion. Finally, strengthening local communities on conservation practices has proven to be successful in terms of marine resource replenishment. Currently, 6 neighboring communities have replicated the SGP model and are now establishing community conservation areas using traditional techniques within their fishing sites.

In **Turkey**, SGP supported the first project to remove the ghost fishing nets causing ecosystem damage totaling some US\$ 7 million each year. Based on this pilot, the NSC decided to support 2 more projects on this issue. The results of these SGP projects have been integrated and the good practices have been up-scaled into a GEF FSP called "Strengthening Protected Area Network of Turkey: Catalyzing Sustainability of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas" aimed at cleaning up ghost nets in 10 "no take" zones along the Aegean coasts. Moreover, the Ministry of Agriculture is currently in dialogue with the projects and the grantees to participate in the removal of whole ghost nets from the Izmir Bay sea ground, which would require the development of better tools and techniques.

Through SGP **Morocco's** project on the development of a community laundry, local and national partners were proactively involved in an approach of "learning together" to protect soil and water resources from the chemical pollution of detergents. This strategy has led to the replication, the up-scaling and the institutionalization of the project. With a budget of US\$ 300,000, the Oasis Program Tafilalet - a national government program - replicated this experience in three other oasis areas with more than 10,000 inhabitants. In addition, the National Initiative for Human Development (NIHD) integrated the issue of water pollution in its intervention strategy, by funding similar projects in other oasis sites. Finally, another SGP project aiming to regenerate and protect endangered date palm varieties and to secure water resources in the oasis of Tangarfa in southeastern Morocco, is being replicated by a local association involving 200 people with the financial support of the German Embassy.

Multiple GEF SGP country programmes contributed to the legal protection of species around the world. GEF SGP **Macedonia** contributed through two projects to the protection of autochthonic breed cattle *Busha* in the east, south and central part of Macedonia and at the same time to the promotion of organic dairy production. These two projects have been replicated and up-scaled in different regions of the country, and have also influenced national legislation.

SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is a guiding principle for SGP's operations and grant making. SGP country programmes aspire to incorporate sustainability in all funded projects and it is embedded in SGP's long term vision and presence in countries. SGP believes that through these projects, the programme is not only supporting progress towards resolving key environmental issues at the community level, but also a transformation towards more sustainable practices and lifestyles that will remain in communities after the projects have been completed, a combination of heightened environmental awareness, enhanced capacities and improved ecosystem management. Ensuring high levels of community ownership will in turn help to ensure the sustainability of project results.

Some of the strategies used by SGP to promote the sustainability of investments include clearly linking projects to national priorities through the country programme strategies (CPS), and facilitating the establishment of key partnerships and alliances with other groups or donors that can help sustain and even expand the work started by SGP. Knowledge fairs and stakeholder workshops are other means to enhance the capacities of SGP grantees in the GEF focal areas, as along with project management, finance and budgeting, enterprise development, and M&E, all of which have been fundamental in fostering the sustainability of SGP project results. Embedding sustainability components in the projects themselves is one of the most powerful strategies. For example, incorporating robust alternative livelihood and income generation components in SGP projects supports sustainability, as communities valorize, manage, and benefit from their natural resources. Providing access to key partners, such as the government, academia, international development agencies and the private sector, allows SGP grantees to mobilize resources to co-finance, replicate or scale up SGP practices. Media exposure and visibility is used not only to raise awareness and spread good practices but to attract possible donors. Finally, the presence and ongoing technical support of the National Coordinator and National Steering Committee are indispensable for creating and establishing key partnerships, incorporating relevant project components and approaches, and strengthening community capacities for sustainability.

In **Albania**, SGP believes that sustainability strategies cannot be developed and imposed on a community from outside, so the programme works with grantees to understand the opportunities and long term benefits of such strategies. To date, the most effective means to ensure project sustainability has been to build in economic benefits for communities along with global environmental benefits.

In **Cameroon**, as part of the mechanism put in place to promote gender equity and women empowerment, SGP has encouraged local grantees to establish a "Women Sustainable Development Fund" to support alternative sustainable livelihood options implemented by women. A women's selection committee approves the small loans that women use to buy seeds, materials and equipment for beekeeping, or run a small business such as processing cassava or marketing peppers; the loans are generally repaid over 3 to 6 months with a repayment rate of over 95%. The goal is to empower these vulnerable groups economically and socially, while also reducing the pressure on natural resources (on forests for fuel wood, on soils through unsustainable agricultural practices).



In **Central African Republic** the most common strategy at the country level is to make sure that the grantees value the products and results of the project and in this way, ensure that a percentage of the profits are reinvested to sustain the project. For example, in the project CAF/SGP/OP5/CORE/CC/12/01 women sell the excess of *Vigna subterranea* and with the profits they have funded reforestation of moringa and raffia.

In the **Dominican Republic**, each project has defined specific strategies for sustainability. For example, in micro hydro projects, each beneficiary pays for the electricity service (5-10 USD per month), and with this money the community covers the cost for maintenance, operation and equipment reposition of the micro hydro installed. The fund also supports productive activities to improve income generation at a local level. Furthermore, each community with a micro hydro continues with the forest protection and restoration activities started by the project, with the aim of maintaining and increasing the water flow which sustains the micro hydro project. In projects that relate to biodiversity conservation through ecotourism, communities define a business plan to make feasible their enterprise. In the case of organic production and agroforestry systems, each community is producing goods and services in a sustainable way, both for local use and for their transformation in finished products for local, national and international markets. Similarly, in **El Salvador, Maldives and Madagascar**, each SGP project includes sustainability components.

In **Ethiopia**, one of the key aspects of sustainability has been the establishment of core and technical committees at different levels to provide technical support to grantees in project implementation as well as to ensure wise use of project resources. In addition, SGP links grantees with micro finance institutions and works to help create new CBOs and to strengthened existing CBOs. In **Ghana**, besides ensuring high level of ownership, SGP has focused on developing specialized skills for women to diversify income sources, develop businesses, ensure quality standards, good trade practices and code of conducts in business. These practices have proved effective in ensuring the sustainability of projects. Training in resource management, financial record keeping and marketing techniques has been very beneficial to most of the grantees. SGP has also promoted further transfer of these skills by encouraging SGP grantees to offer training to other communities using a training of trainers approach.

To enhance the sustainability of its biodiversity related products, SGP **Indonesia** developed a strategy and partnership to promote the marketing of grantee products. An online free trade shop called Teras Mitra (www.terasmitra.com), which literally translates as “partner’s terrace”, is an initiative to bring SGP the products from SGP grantees and other CSOs to a wider range of customers in an effort to sustain its production. The partnership between Teras Mitra and SGP grantees continues even after the grants are completed. This tool helps SGP partners in marketing, market research, and other relevant issues that are difficult for remote communities to access. In addition, all SGP tools always incorporate gender considerations to ensure that project activities address the particular needs of women and allocate space for them in the decision-making process.

In **Maldives**, formation of partnerships between the NGOs and island councils are very much encouraged, as the island councils are the highest governing and responsible authority at island level; in projects that involve public goods or services (water, waste management), local councils even provide co-financing in cash, thereby fostering sustainability. SGP in **Panama** and **Uruguay** has worked on creating alliances and partnerships with key stakeholders as well as on promoting the dissemination of knowledge from SGP practices in different forums. In particular, Panama has partnered with 2 television channels.

In order to promote win- win approaches SGP **Uzbekistan** encourages the use of cost-benefit analysis by grantees to assess the viability of achieving environmental and economic benefits through sustainable management. After results of cost-benefit analysis sustainable management are disseminated widely to promote adoption by a larger audience.

KEY CONSTITUENCIES

GENDER

Gender mainstreaming and women’s empowerment are critical to SGP’s work and to the fulfillment of SGP’s mandate. In many cases, women are the primary caretakers of households and communities, and the ones most affected by environmental degradation. They also have highly specialized knowledge of natural resource conservation and use, including biodiversity, forestry, water and soil management. SGP believes women are important agents of change and thus should be meaningfully involved in environmental programming. In OP4, the SGP developed a policy on gender mainstreaming to guide programming on the national level. For example, gender participation is one of the main criteria considered for the approval of grants. Consequently, SGP country programmes promote gender mainstreaming at the earliest stages of the project cycle to ensure that both men and women participate in the initial stages of project conception and development as well in its implementation and monitoring and evaluation.

With regards to gender empowerment, 227 projects that were completed during the reporting period were led by women and 386 included gender considerations. In addition, a number of SGP country programmes have reported on using interesting strategies to promote gender equality, women’s empowerment and enhance the status of women. Many countries reported that creating appropriate conditions for the participation of women, such as taking into account the schedules and interests of women and their main challenges in the social and economic development of their community, was of critical importance.

Gender integration is reflected in programming across countries. In **Cuba**, SGP established a partnership with the Cuban Women’s Federation (FMC) to promote community work, and incorporated the gender strategy developed and implemented by the National Farmers Organization in the agricultural sector. In **Guatemala**, all projects are required to train at least two women on the use of the Almanario, the main project management tool, which itself focuses on involving women in project administration and management. In addition, women received training on gender issues, prevention of domestic violence and building self-esteem. Projects in **Zimbabwe** incorporated gender issues in their project design by ensuring that issues relating to gender-specific roles, division of labor and health were taken into consideration. In **Kazakhstan**, 10 of the 11 projects implemented by women’s groups focused on the improvement of women’s livelihoods, highlighting the importance of increasing economic independence for women’s and community empowerment. In **Mongolia**, on the other hand, none of the projects specifically aimed at promoting gender equality since women are already active members of the communities involved. In fact, the SGP Mongolia project portfolio shows a high degree of gender mainstreaming with more than half of the projects (27 out of 52) run by women-headed community groups. Similarly, in **Seychelles**, the clear majority of all projects are initiated by women and as a result, gender balancing in the Seychelles aims at ensuring that the interests and needs of both men and women are incorporated.

SGP projects in most countries have taken diverse approaches to gender equality in different focal areas. A project addressing date palm tree rehabilitation and water conservation in **Morocco** set out to identify vulnerable groups such as divorced women and widows as priority participants through community consultation workshops. As a result, more than 50 women contributed to the conservation of biodiversity by planting date palms, rehabilitating gardens and cultivating aromatic and medicinal plants. Two women have become members of the executive committee of the Association, and now weigh in on community decision making. This success has inspired other local partners to fund women’s projects. In **Peru**, a project on native potatoes highlighted the central role of women in the conservation and recovery of indigenous species, given that women are the custodians of indigenous and traditional knowledge. Their wisdom was recognized during the launch of a cook book with native potato recipes that was produced as part of the project.



In **Kyrgyzstan**, women were empowered to play a central role in mitigating climate change in their communities by facilitating their purchase of solar collectors for heating water. Given women's limited access to financial services, SGP incorporated gender dimensions into the project by creating a "mutual benefit fund" or special revolving fund that provided women with access to micro-loans. In addition, women conducted 15 workshops during which they trained community members on how to construct solar collectors for heating water. As a result, women's role in their communities was strengthened, cutting trees for fuel wood was reduced and ten families benefitted from access to a more convenient and cost-effective water heating system.

Concerned about local forest degradation in **Madagascar**, a federation of women weavers is working with communities that manage the forests of *Pandanus*, which provide the raw material for baskets. As a result, they developed a forestry management plan conserving *Pandanus* and planting and conserving *Scirpus*, an alternative source of raw material, which would also improve the quantity and quality of the baskets they produce. A post-project ecological assessment revealed that after three years, the *Pandanus* in the forests was healthier. In addition, 104 households benefited from planting *Scirpus*, helping 202 women and men to improve their biodiversity products. In addition, because their incomes have increased by 20%, families are now able to enjoy better nutrition for 10 months of the year, a significant improvement on the 6 months before project start.

Located in Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in **China**, a project addressing water degradation in the Yangzte River and grassland degradation of the Tanggulashan area, incorporated activities to advance women's status in their families and society. As a result, in addition to establishing a communal waste collection system, a range of alternative livelihood activities was introduced to reduce dependence on the grassland's ecosystem services. More than 20 women were able to find employment in local handicraft production and distribution as well as in eco-tourism. Consequently, women were able to increase their income, improve their social status and contribute to the conservation of 2400 hectares of grassland.

A waste management project in **Dominica** involved unemployed women in tree planting and the creation of green spaces in areas that had previously been used as waste dumping grounds. This allowed women to be involved in the management of the waste collection programme and led them to spearhead the composting component of the programme. In **Ghana**, a project addressing sustainable land management practices helped 20 women farmers establish individual agroforestry plots on farms bringing 35 hectares of degraded land under sustainable management. A central community nursery was also established to supply the seedlings and women farmers were introduced to technologies to reduce soil erosion and improve water conservation.

YOUTH

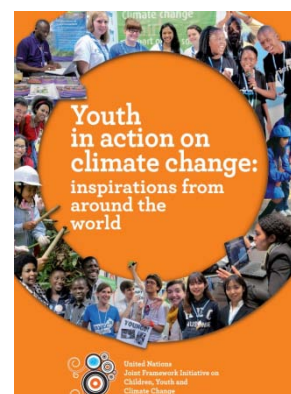
SGP privileges the participation of children and young people as the bearers of future commitments and efforts for the global environment and sustainable development. SGP seeks to strengthen its efforts in empowering youth to protect the environment. During the reporting year, SGP ensured that each country program National Steering Committee assigned a youth focal point to consider youth needs in project design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. Youth groups have become an important constituency for SGP. During the reporting period, 28 country programs supported 31 projects involving children and youth.

It should be noted that in a few projects, SGP works specifically with disadvantaged groups, such as orphans and disabled young people. In Sri Lanka, SGP supported a project focusing on the rehabilitation of intellectually and physically disabled youth through biodiversity conservation. The project promoted home vegetable garden cultivation for these youth in their centre premises. In Zimbabwe, Mutare Community Based Child Care Trust worked with households with orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in combating land degradation in the Chidazembe area. The OVC in the Chidazembe community have been struggling to survive after having lost their parents to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The environmental education and awareness raising activities that are often incorporated in SGP projects particularly engage children and youth, with the hope of long-term benefits through these users and protectors of the global environment in the future. Through one SGP project in Ukraine, over 1000 schoolchildren from over 15 schools participated in activities at an ecological information center, such as ecological conferences, roundtables, trainings, master-classes, etc. The SGP grantee established more than 20 partnerships with other educational institutions and created a regional youth ecological network served by a common environmental web portal.

Youth also actively lead and participate in project design and implementation. In Indonesia, an SGP project idea was developed and implemented that originated in a concern of several young people in Salatiga, Central Java. They felt that while Salatiga City, depends on natural springs, there is little respect for them. Many springs are allowed to dry, covered up for buildings or even filled with garbage. The young people came up with the idea to hold a Water Springs Festival/Festival Mata Air (FMA) on springs in Salatiga City and its vicinity so that anyone attending the festival can enjoy the clear spring water and its freshness, play and swim directly in the springs, or simply just have a moment of reflection. From 2006 to 2010 they organized the festival four times in Senjoyo, Kalitaman, Kalimangkak and back in Senjoyo, through trial and error arriving at increasingly successful efforts that have an impact.

SGP also contributed 4 case studies to the publication "Youth in Action on Climate Change: Inspiration from Around the World", a new publication of the United Nations Joint Framework Initiative on Children, Youth and Climate Change of which SGP is an active member. The publication made its debut at the Bonn Climate Change Conference where students and delegates from across the globe gathered to exchange ideas and mobilize for future action. The publication was launched at a side event organized by the UNFCCC Secretariat on June 11 where SGP participated. At the event, Tony Carritt from the European Commission, stated that SGP's bamboo bicycle project is an excellent example that should be replicated in time for the UNFCCC COP 19, so that all EU delegates could avoid transportation and take bamboo bikes to the conference from their hotels.



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

During the reporting period, at least **98 SGP projects** with indigenous peoples organizations were completed, with 53 working through local languages. The SGP countries with the highest number of IP projects were **Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Thailand** and **Vietnam**, each with over 10 SGP projects completed. Other SGP countries with sizeable portfolios of IP projects included Argentina, Brazil, Belize,

Botswana, Central African Republic, DR Congo, India, Malaysia, Mozambique, and Nepal. Nicaragua, Peru, Suriname and Tanzania. Some of the highlights of the portfolio are captured below.

In **Brazil**, an SGP project coordinated by the Center for Indigenous Work (CTI) has contributed to the management and governance of six *Timbira* indigenous territories. The project has promoted debates through regional workshops in indigenous villages about the “regularization” of indigenous territories, the impacts of big government development projects, territorial management plans, and biodiversity conservation. As a result of the project, each indigenous territory developed its own analysis using an “ethno-mapping” methodology, resulting in a defined long term “life plan”. The project promoted exchanges among the six indigenous peoples through a final consolidation workshop, which was later converted into a book.⁴⁴

In the **Central African Republic**, an SGP project implemented by the NGO Wa-Fango-Kode engaged indigenous Pygmy populations in the village of Pissarro in the reforestation of 2 hectares of fast-growing woody forest species whose leaves may be consumed by edible caterpillars. One hectare of forest was also enriched with another species (*Koko lianescente*) whose leaves are widely used for human consumption and other purposes.⁴⁵ In **DR Congo**, an SGP project on sustainable beekeeping in the region of Mbandaka also worked with indigenous Pygmy peoples and local communities to improve the practice of wild honey harvests. A second project in the province of Equateur assisted Pygmy women and their Bantu neighbors in the valuation of handicrafts and local art products based on their extensive traditional knowledge of the sustainable use of forest resources. The project has enabled the Pygmy populations to improve their level of household income and diminish over-harvesting pressure by local populations on the forest. Another SGP project in the same region of DR Congo has supported indigenous *Nkuete* peoples in regenerating native fruit trees in agroforestry plots.⁴⁶

In **Dominica**, the *Kalinago* indigenous territory is home to approximately 3,000 residents. An SGP project has contribute towards the preservation of the Kalinago heritage through training, research and documentation of medicinal herbs traditionally used by the indigenous people. The project aimed to contribute to the sustainable employment of the Kalinago through the sustainable use of the island’s biodiversity. Specific activities included training in the cultivation, packaging, processing and packaging of fruits, as well as marketing of herbs and micro business management. Through the cultivation of 10 acres of land with medicinal herbs, the project secured the commitment of a local agro processing plant to assist in capacity building and to facilitate the processing of the dried herbs which are packaged at Nature Fresh. Technical advice was provided to the growers (representing approximately 10 indigenous families) to ensure consistency and quality of processed biodiversity products.⁴⁷

In **Indonesia**, an SGP project “Pokja Organisasi A’Taimamus” involved three indigenous groups in the conservation of an ICCA, known as the Tiga Batu Tungku customary area. The three groups (*Amanatun*, *Amanuban* and *Molo*) are located in Timor Tengah Selatan regency, East Nusa Tenggara, and depend on tropical forests to satisfy their daily needs for firewood, fodder for cattle, and timber for construction. The indigenous people also use various plants for traditional medicine – most commonly leaves and bark, in addition to the sap, roots and wood. However, due to local government forestry practices, a number of customary forests have been destroyed, with big trees being cut down to be replaced by

⁴⁴ BRA/OP4/Y2/08/07. See also the photo-story on the project: <http://www.ispn.org.br/arquivos/photostory-brazil-cti-english.wmv>

⁴⁵ CAF/SGP/OP5/CORE/BD/12/01

⁴⁶ DRC/SGP/OP4/Y3/RAF/2010/03; DRC/SGP/OP4/Y3/RAF/2010/05 and DRC/SGP/OP4/Y3/RAF/2010/24.

⁴⁷ DMA/UNF-GEF/PH2/07/03

mahogany, teak, gemilia and acacia plantations. In addition, a number of mining licenses (actively challenged by the tribes) were given to companies to extract marble from hills guarded as sacred by the indigenous people, resulting in landslides and floods in the catchment area. At the request of the indigenous groups themselves, SGP Indonesia supported the conservation of the endemic biodiversity in the area by strengthening the customary decision-making body (the *lopo*) and recognizing local knowledge and wisdom to protect the Tiga Batu Tungku customary area (now governed by what is known as the “*ningkam haumeni* principles”), as well as reinforcing local food sovereignty through agriculture, weaving (*tenun*), and land conservation.⁴⁸

In **Malaysia**, four SGP projects, implemented almost completely by the indigenous peoples, have been completed during the reporting period. Two of the projects involved micro hydro installations whereby SGP grants provided both technical and financial support for design and construction of run-of-the river micro hydro projects to provide clean energy to indigenous peoples. A third project, on human-elephant conflict in the Endau Rompin National Park, also involved indigenous people as part of the inclusive conservation effort, whereby local indigenous farmers have been engaged as “crop-guards” to detect the location of elephant breaches, as well as to act as field tour guides. Lastly, another project developed the capacity of the indigenous *rungus* community to engage community eco-tourism, and explored alternative livelihoods through the production and marketing of virgin coconut oil planted in areas of degraded land.⁴⁹

In **Panama**, two of the three geographical foci in the SGP Panama National Strategy (Darién eco-region and coastal ecosystems) have very strong participation by indigenous peoples representing the 5 indigenous reservations in Panama. Most of the SGP projects during the reporting period paid special attention to indigenous people. In one instance, an SGP project on the sustainable management of lobster (*panulirus argus*) in Guna Yala has been experimenting with the replication of the artificial shades for lobster designed by Mayan communities with SGP support in other Caribbean countries (i.e., SGP COMPACT project in Punta Allen, Mexico). Besides the installation of 15 refuges and the training of 6 communities, the project has assisted in the conservation of the 46,341 hectares of coastal ecosystem in the Nargana protected area (which covers a total of 250,435 hectares).⁵⁰

In **Nicaragua**, an SGP project was developed and implemented by the *chorotegas* ethnic group through the installation of solar panels (benefitting 30 family households) and reforestation activities for degraded areas. Another project, with a creole community of African descent, designed and implemented an eco-tourism initiative based on the conservation of forest and fauna. The target area is expected to experience a significant increase in tourism promoted by the government through the construction of an international airport. With SGP support, the indigenous communities are fighting to keep their customs and cultures alive, and to define the terms by which they will engage and welcome tourists to their territories.⁵¹

In **Peru**, an SGP capacity building project on “Organic production and marketing of *sacha inchi*” was completed in the *Chazuta* and *Shanao* regions of San Martín. The project supported a number of high altitude indigenous forest communities in the conservation, sustainable use and recovery of *sacha inchi* known as the “nectar of the Incas.” Prior to the project, the crop had been at risk of over-harvesting, and

⁴⁸ INS/SGP/OP5/STAR/LD/11/10

⁴⁹ MAL/SGP/OP4/Y3/RAF/2009/05; MAL/SGP/OP4/Y3/RAF/2010/07; and MAL/SGP/OP4/Y3/RAF/2009/03

⁵⁰ PAN/SGP/OP4/Y3/RAF/10/20

⁵¹ NIC/SGP/OP5/CORE/BD/2012/05 and NIC/SGP/OP5/CORE/CC/2011/18

numerous challenges had been faced in the pulping process due to the fruit's hard cover which needed to be opened manually for individual peeling of the peanuts, which would allow the product to be sold at a higher price. Through participatory planning, improved propagation of the fruit tree was carried in conjunction with inter-planting with cocoa, a secondary cash crop. In addition, the NGO working with the indigenous group conducted a series of tests on the mechanical procedures of the pulping machine in order to improve the efficiency of sacha inchi commercialization. As a result of the SGP project, 100 indigenous families increased their annual income by 20%.⁵²



In **Suriname**, with SGP support a group of Maroon and Amerindian representatives (7 women and 2 men) received training in nursery techniques for the propagation of the *Acai* palm, that which grows naturally in the northeast of the country. The Acai palm fruits are popular both in Suriname, as well as increasingly in international markets. Producers of the fruit have, however, faced challenges in meeting demand due to inappropriate harvesting techniques. The naturally-occurring palms are often located in inaccessible areas (swamps), and the trees have very thin, tall trunks (which can reach up to 5 to 8 meters). Due to their height, the local people were inclined in the past to cut down the whole tree in order to get to the Acai fruits. Through the SGP project, three different nurseries were constructed with a total of 1,200 Acai trees planted on 6 hectares of land. With an expected harvest of Acai fruit after 3 to 4 years, the indigenous and maroon families have also been experimenting with new intercropping by planting vegetables in between the palm trees.⁵³

In **Thailand**, an SGP project “Rehabilitating Community Forest for Life and Environment” has worked on the Li River watershed (total area 34,500 sq. km), one of the 20 tributaries located within the Ping river basin flowing through the Gulf of Thailand to the South China Sea. Through SGP support provided to three cultural groups (*Tai, Yong* and *Karen*), the watershed is under consideration to be reclassified as a “limited production forest” which allows certain forms of agricultural practice. Similarly, a second SGP project “Developing Community Forest Model”, working with five cultural groups (northern *Thai, Karen, Kamu, Mien*, and *Hmong*) has helped establish committees of indigenous leaders focused on the

⁵² PER/OP4/RAF/08/34

⁵³ SUR/SGP/OP4/RAF/2010/02

sustainable management of the watershed of the Ngao river, one of the seven tributaries of the Wang river basin (total area 10,793 sq. km).⁵⁴

In **Zimbabwe**, an SGP project with the Traditional Health Trust in Chipinge worked with the indigenous *Ndau* people (derived from a Shona word *Ndauyetu* meaning “our place”). The ancestors of the current *Ndau* people were warriors from Swaziland who intermarried with the local people. In Zimbabwe, the group is well known for their traditional knowledge of ethno-medicines. With SGP support, the project involved the collection of endangered indigenous medicinal plants, the seeds of which were subsequently stored in a gene bank, along with the protection and transmission of indigenous knowledge through the establishment of a framework for documenting and publishing medicinal plant research based on the specialized herbalist knowledge of elders (both men and women).

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

Although SGP operations are decentralized and take place in diverse geographical, cultural, political and social contexts across the globe, the analysis of reporting by 109 SGP country programmes reveals a number of distinctive yet shared challenges. Among them are those posed by the complex nature of work with CSOs, partnership development, operational issues and working with NSCs. Additionally, many countries identified challenges related to particular aspects of the country context, which may be unique to specific country situations.

Table 24: Common challenges identified by SGP country programmes



Complex nature of work with CSOs

Derived from the very mandate of SGP, it is understandable that the complex nature of working with CSOs would be reported by 56% of SGP countries, making it one of the most common challenges. SGP works with grassroots communities that often lack the capacities to develop, implement, or report on a project successfully. This is reported to be a challenge by 36 countries.

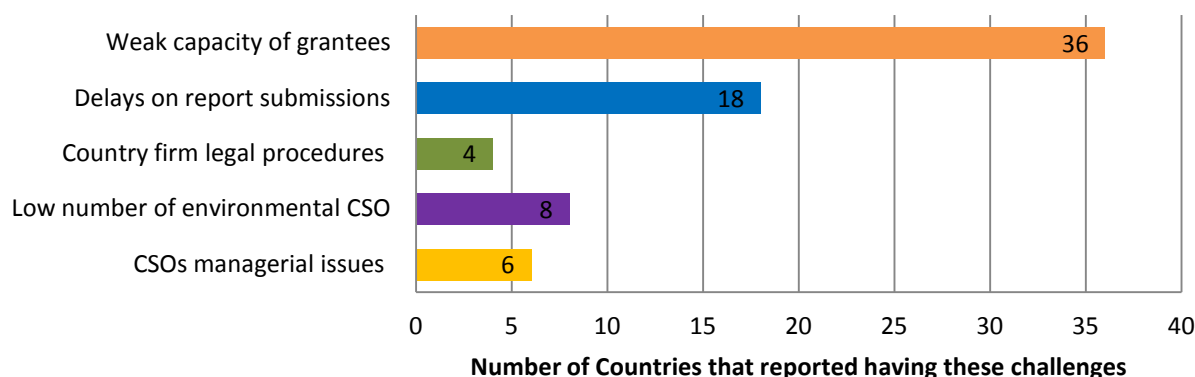
The low capacity of grantees is often the reason for grantee delays in submitting project interim and final reports, which was reported as a challenge by 18 country programmes. Such delays in timely reporting cause overall delays in the implementation of grant projects. Several countries are working creatively to help grantees document and report progress in grant implementation and upon project

⁵⁴ THA/SGP/OP4/Y3/CORE/10/05 and THA/SGP/OP4/Y3/CORE/10/06

completion, for example through site visits, before and after pictures, and photo stories that can be prepared by grantees.

SGP works with CSOs around the world with very different experiences and capacities. Some are organizations that have recently been established, and need to build their capacities to undertake activities. Others may be limited by country requirements that only legally registered CSOs may participate. A small number of countries reported the challenge of the low number of CSOs that understand and engage in environment protection, which requires greater outreach and awareness creation among CSOs about global environmental issues. This is mentioned, for example, by new programmes such as those in Afghanistan, Moldova, and St. Lucia. A key purpose of SGP is therefore to strengthen CSO capacity to engage effectively in addressing global environmental issues.

Table 25: Challenges due to the complex nature of work with CSOs

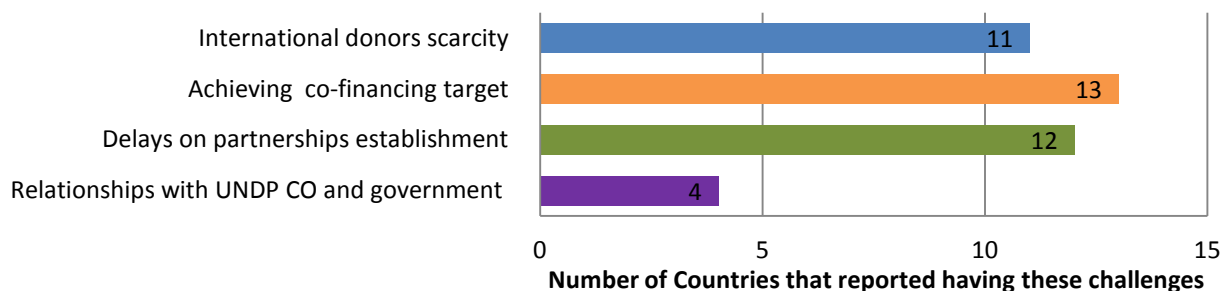


CSO management issues and management turnover are also reported as challenges by five countries. Concerns about the need to stringently screen and monitor grantee integrity and honesty were raised by two countries.

Partnership development challenges

SGP country programmes are expected to develop partnerships at different levels for different purposes. 42% of SGP country programmes report that partnership development is a challenge. Some SGP countries refer to the scarcity of international donors in-country and the lack of national partnership options as obstacles to achieving their targets on partnership development (Guinea, Macedonia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Peru, Senegal, Togo, Uruguay, and Uzbekistan).

Table 26: Partnership development challenges



Reaching co-financing targets is another challenge that is deemed to be directly connected to the shortage of international or national donors (Albania, Belarus, Congo DR, Egypt, Macedonia, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Peru, Jamaica, and Slovak Republic).

Problems and delays encountered during the process of forming and establishing partnerships are reported as a challenge by SGP Belize, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Malawi, Nepal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia and Uganda. Support from the UNDP CO and national or local government are reported to be another factor affecting partnership development (Guatemala, Pakistan, Venezuela, Cote d'Ivoire).

Operational challenges

Among the top three challenges encountered during the reporting period is the timely preparation and endorsement of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), which acts as the legal agreement between the Grantee and UNDP on behalf of UNOPS and facilitates disbursement of funding. The need to reduce the time elapsed between NSC project approval and MoA signature is reported as a challenge by 39% of SGP country programmes. In addition to grantee capacity, as mentioned above, some country programmes report other issues that may lead to delays in disbursements and put project implementation at risk, such as:

- banking issues
- internal ATLAS⁵⁵ issues
- poor grantee reporting capacities and project payments
- a national requirement to channel funds through the Department of National Budget
- UNDP COs not fully familiar with SGP procedures

NSC challenges

Slightly over a third (34%) of SGP country programmes reported that the effective operation of the NSC can be challenge. NSC members come from different sectors, such as academia, NGOs, media, government or international donors, and are primarily environmental experts who volunteer their time to SGP country programmes. All project proposals are reviewed, evaluated and approved (or rejected) by the NSC. Therefore, the participation of a quorum of NSC members in meetings is quite important. Yet, due to other obligations of NSC members, or factors that fall beyond SGP control, 11 country programmes reported that it is difficult to schedule NSC meetings. On the other hand, SGP Seychelles reports that reduction of the number of NSC members has improved NSC functionality.

The diverse sectoral and thematic expertise of NSC members is considered invaluable for project proposal review and support during implementation and M&E. Yet the short tenure (usually two years) of NSC members is reported as a challenge by SGP Albania and Vanuatu, while in the case of the Slovak Republic, resignation of NSC members is reported to be a challenge.

The NSC is a volunteer body. However, four SGP countries reported that some NSC members found the volunteer concept difficult to understand, even though NCs had addressed this issue by stressing the

⁵⁵ ATLAS is an enterprise resource management tool for a number of UN agencies.

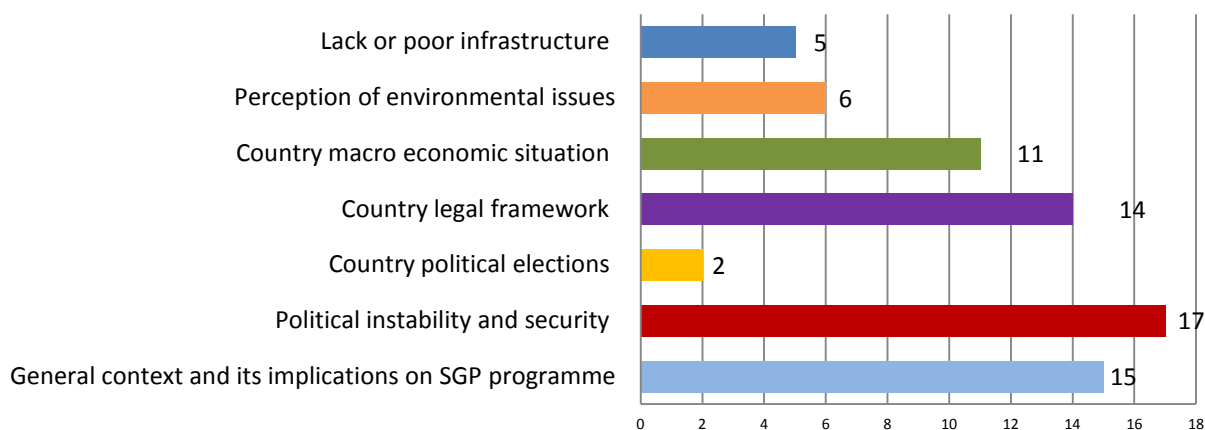
fact that the SGP Operational Guidelines specify that NSC members volunteer their time and technical expertise to SGP country programme.

Strengthening the capacities of new NSC members is a challenge reported by four SGP country programmes. One country recommended that the NSC should be more supportive regarding establishment of stronger linkages with national experts and government.

Country Context Challenges

Operating in more than 120 developing countries, individual SGP country challenges may vary in magnitude and nature, subject to a range of specific factors; 60% of SGP countries report country context challenges, making this type the most prevalent one.

Table 27: Common challenges due to Country Context



Number of Countries that reported having these challenges

General political, economic, social, cultural or demographic factors may interact or have an impact on SGP operations and implementation, reported as a challenge by 15 country programmes.

Political instability and security situations are challenges that have a significant impact on a number of SGP programmes, as reported by SGP Central African Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Nicaragua, Syria, Venezuela, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.

In the broad area of country political climate and government stability, some SGP country programmes report the following challenges:

- National political elections that result in new governments and designation of new GEF political and operational focal points
- Legal frameworks that may constrain successful SGP project implementation (reported by SGP Brazil, China, Cuba, Ethiopia, India, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Panama, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Turkey and Uruguay)

- Governmental perception of environmental issues and turnover of Ministry of Environment staff, level of environmental expertise in the country, or CSO involvement with environmental issues, are reported by six SGP programmes as challenges.

The country's macroeconomic situation is reported as an implementation challenge by SGP Haiti, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Peru, Tajikistan, Uganda, Ukraine, and Macedonia.

Since SGP projects may be located in remote areas, poor or missing infrastructure is another challenge that is reported by SGP China, Bhutan, Botswana, Guyana and Tajikistan.

Other challenges

Other challenges reported by some SGP country programmes fall under three broad categories:

- General administrative and human resources challenges, reported by SGP Dominica, Dominican Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Mozambique, Philippines, Samoa, and Tanzania. The limitations on management and administrative costs may have a negative impact on the services provided by SGP.
- Supportive relations with government and UNDP Country Offices are important to achieving SGP objective. However, three countries reported challenges in maintaining these relationships.
- Timely STAR funding allocation for SGP was reported by SGP Honduras, Nigeria, Sri Lanka as a challenge that will influence the successful implementation of OP5 in these countries.

SOLUTIONS AND OTHER MITIGATING ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

Working with local, poor, and marginalized communities to achieve global environmental benefits is the core of SGP operations, thus successful SGP implementation necessitates actions that will help communities reach their potential and eventually empower them to exercise their rights to sustainable development.

Therefore, local SGP staff and NSC members invest considerable time reaching out to potential grantees, supporting them from project proposal development through implementation, and in reporting and knowledge management. This formal and informal training and mentoring, sometimes on a daily basis, help to ensure successful project implementation, and in the long run, results that reflect the SGP mandate.

One of the innovations of this operational phase is the introduction of capacity development (CD) projects that directly contribute to enhance community capacities to locally address global environmental issues. (See Section 3 "Progress toward Objectives" for further information on these projects.) Thus SGP has promoted projects that offer options for networking and community cooperation, as one of the ways of enhancing local capacities and working with CSOs.

Wide community participation and project ownership from the very first steps of project development are key elements of working well with CSOs and contribute to improving management skills and reporting capacities. The following are methods reported to be effective towards these ends:

- Establishment of local community committees or local project steering committees as in case of SGP Belize, Ghana or Cameroon.
- SGP participatory field visits and broad interactions with local communities. As a matter of practice each project is visited and evaluated in participatory fashion by SGP staff or NSC members. These field visits are good opportunities for enhancing community project management and M&E skills. Yet administrative budget constraints can put participatory project evaluation at risk and could compromise successful project implementation.
- In-kind co-financing is another approach that contributes to community participation and project ownership. While working with grassroots, marginalized communities, their in-kind contributions (time, labor, resources) are essential for establishing participation and ownership.
- SGP project proposal and narrative and financial reporting forms are in local languages and are meant to be easy to be understood. Moreover SGP staff provide informal and formal training on project management, reporting and knowledge management. SGP planning grants also help to ensure sound proposal development. UNV or Peace Corps volunteers, intermediary partners, project mentors, and support of the GEF NGO network are in different ways helpful for building CSO capacities.

NSC support and active engagement with SGP projects is instrumental for overcoming implementation obstacles. In this regard, strengthening NSC membership by involving top national experts is very important. Given NSC term limits, other ways of securing expert strategic guidance, such as through technical advisory committees and working groups that support the NSC, have been created by many SGP country programmes.

Partnership development at country and project level is essential in supporting SGP as an effective delivery mechanism of local and global environmental benefits. SGP country programmes have utilized various methods such as:

- Proactive engagement with local and national government and institutions
- Strengthening relationships with UNDP Environment Cluster group leader and specialists
- Grantees are encouraged to participate and promote SGP in all relevant activities
- SGP knowledge materials are widely circulated not only among SGP grantees but to CSO networks as well as to national and international organizations, including potential donors
- Coverage of SGP projects by local and national media, projects site visits by journalists, government, NGOs, and donors, establishment of SGP grantee networks, all contribute to increasing SGP recognition and likelihood of attracting partners

On other specific challenges identified by countries in their annual reports, CPMT follows up on an individual basis or through its Regional Focal Points to help discuss and resolve these challenges. Monitoring and troubleshooting missions may also be undertaken by CPMT staff where needed. In cases where there are broader challenges, such as political and economic concerns, insecurity etc., CPMT staff maintain close contact with national coordinators and UNDP country offices to help mitigate risks to the programme.

GLOBAL ISSUES AND CHALLENGES AND MITIGATING ACTIONS

Delay in access to STAR funds, as mentioned in Section 1, has been the overriding challenge during the reporting period. A meeting was held in November 2012 between the GEF CEO and the UNDP/GEF Executive Coordinator where it was agreed that SGP's access to remaining STAR resources endorsed for

the programme would be prioritized. The STAR II funds were eventually approved at the PIF stage in February 2013 and at CEO endorsement stage in May 2013, so that programming of these resources can begin immediately.

However, the late access to the STAR II funds – nearly two and half years since the start of the Operational phase – means that recipient countries will have a compressed time-frame within the operational phase to deliver this funding. This has also meant that some countries operated at sub-optimal levels of funding during the reporting period, with either no or little grant funding available as their STAR funds remained unavailable. This delay has especially affected the following 12 countries which had fully committed their small Core funds by end of Year 1, and remained without any grant funds through Year 2 as STAR funding was not yet available.

Table 28: Countries without STAR funds for grant-making in Year 2 of OP5

COUNTRY	Yr1 Grant allocation (CORE funds)	Yr2 Grant allocation (No Funds available)	Yr 3 Grant allocation (STAR funds)	Remaining Balance (STAR)
Albania	200,000	0	400,000	80,000
Botswana	350,000	0	700,000	132,000
Cote d'Ivoire	200,000	0	1,000,000	120,000
El Salvador	500,000	0	700,000	100,000
Ghana	350,000	0	700,000	100,000
Honduras	500,000	0	1,500,000	420,000
Jordan	350,000	0	200,000	40,000
Sri Lanka	350,000	0	1,500,000	420,000
Tunisia	350,000	0	200,000	40,000
Uganda	350,000	0	1,500,000	404,000
Zimbabwe	350,000	0	1,000,000	264,000
Total	3,850,000	0	9,400,000	2,120,000

As a mitigating action to counter the effect of funding delays, SGP has, however, been active in initiating new co-financed programmes designed to be delivered through SGP (e.g. AusAid CBA, COMDEKS funded through the Japan Biodiversity fund, and the EU NGO Strengthening programme which is expected to become fully operational in the coming year). These partnerships provide programme level co-financing to the GEF funds and facilitate programming in areas that are complementary to GEF focal areas, e.g. adaptation to climate change, socio-ecological landscapes, and environmental governance and civil society strengthening. These partnership programmes have been a timely course of grant funding for

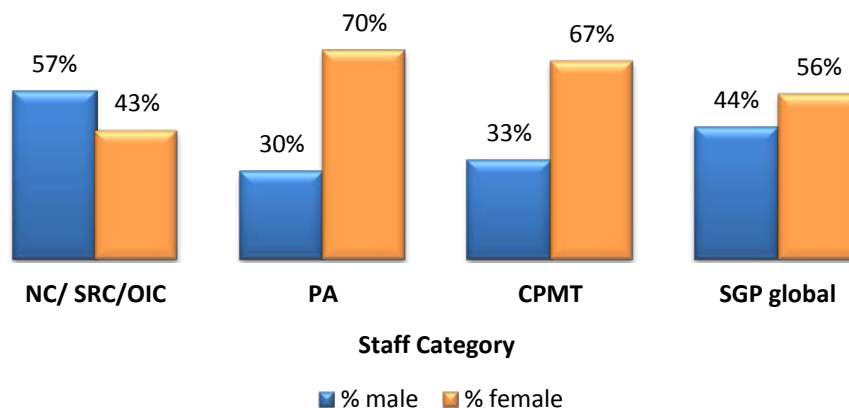
some countries that experienced delays in access to STAR funds, and helped mitigate some of the effects of delay (e.g. Ghana, Ethiopia).

With the expanding scale of SGP operations, it is necessary to provide stronger supervision to sustain the global coherence of the programme, while continuing to allow for country driven approaches. The increase in SGP programmes by 16 new countries becoming operational in the reporting year (9 transitioned from former sub-regional programmes into stand alone country programmes, and 7 new country programmes) has continued to stretch the capacity of the CPMT. Given its compact structure, with only 9 staff members to guide and oversee operations in 119 country programmes, it is of critical importance that the CPMT team is located together in a central global location. This allows for close coordination and interaction with UNDP, the GEF Secretariat and UNOPS which is invaluable for the successful implementation and sustainability of the programme. In addition the close cooperation of team members allows for greater efficiency, continuous learning, and supports implementation of multi-focal approaches and initiatives.

5. ASSESSMENT OF MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE

GEF SGP continued to promote gender parity in its staffing. During the reporting year, overall SGP staff figures show that the majority of SGP staff were women. While a slightly higher percentage of men than women filled the positions of National Coordinators, the Programme Assistant positions employed more women than men, as did the positions at CPMT. The table below provides additional details:

Table 29: SGP global staff gender balance



All SGP Country Programmes are required to have a designated gender focal point on the NSC to provide expertise on gender issues and facilitate review of any gender components of projects. At the end of this reporting year, SGP NSCs were in compliance with this policy, with few exceptions where country programmes are either still in the early stages of establishment or the NSCs were in the process of being renewed.

During the reporting year SGP also recommended country programmes to designate a youth focal point on the NSC to be able to further promote youth participation and leadership in projects. Ninety one countries have already reported the designation of a focal point on the NSC to follow youth issues, while others are in the process.

In countries where there are significant populations of indigenous peoples, it is a best practice of SGP to also have a focal point and representatives of indigenous peoples on the NSC.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In OP5 GEF SGP agreed to report on an annual basis through an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), which is submitted by the programme to UNDP and the GEF. In the June GEF Council report on AMR (C.44.05) the text referring to SGP was included on p. 55, point 157: *"In discussions between the GEF Secretariat and UNDP it was agreed that GEF SGP would submit one consolidated AMR in Sept/October of each year. This report would include the financial data as well as the substantive aspects of the implementation of*

the program. This report covering the period January 1- June 30, 2012 can be found here: www.thegef.org/gef/sgp".

This is the second AMR prepared and submitted by SGP and it is based on data gathered through annual reports from NCs in all GEF SGP country and sub-regional programmes, containing information on key results, implementation progress and challenges, partnerships and lessons of projects that were completed during the reporting through a global survey exercise. The annual reports are reviewed and analyzed by CPMT, together with figures and data drawn from the SGP global database, and compiled into a global report that also reflects CPMT's global perspective, comparative assessment of key results in specific focal and thematic areas, as well as overall programme progress and implementation issues. Based on feedback received on the previous AMR, CPMT continued to refine and improve the template of the country annual reports to obtain better data and information on the elements and results in the global AMR. A few quantitative indicators per focal area were included as well as more detailed questions on other key elements such as SGP engagement with youth, gender and indigenous peoples.

In addition, during this reporting period SGP invested in the further improvement of the SGP project database. Priority was accorded to ensuring accuracy of data entry for OP5 and OP4 projects and on training staff to avoid common errors and gain a better understanding of the system. The information from phases previous to OP4 was archived in view of the difficulties in finding correct data from over 10 years ago. As a result of this exercise, 62 SGP staff members received training during the reporting period on how to input or correct information in the project database through a series of teleconferences. In terms of on-going support and monitoring, every time the KM specialist and the two programme associates (Finance and Knowledge Management) identify errors in the database, they follow up with each of the countries to correct the data.

Beginning in 2013, the CPMT KM Programme Associate is monitoring the database entries and helping correct the data on a permanent basis. In addition to the AMR and project database improvements, CPMT contributed to the GEF annual report and gender report, a series of reports for the UNFCCC via UNDP and the GEF, and complied with all UNDP M&E reporting systems and requirements, including the ROAR. Finally, CPMT sent a number of guidance notes on innovative practices that NCs and grantees can use to monitor their portfolio.

PARTNERSHIPS

As foreseen in its project document and Operational Guidelines, SGP at the global CPMT and country programme levels actively pursues opportunities for cementing partnerships and mobilizing additional resources from donors that can leverage and complement the funding provided by the GEF.

During the reporting year, SGP continued to manage several important global and regional partnerships and donor co-financed programmes. Further details regarding these programmes are provided in Annex 8. These included the following long-running programmes, which were concluded within the reporting year, and their final results and lessons captured in a number of reports and technical publications:

- Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation (COMPACT)

- World Heritage Local Ecological Entrepreneurship Programme (WH LEEP)
- Community Water Initiative (CWI)
- South China Sea (SCS) Project

In addition, the following key partnership programmes continued implementation, with a number of ongoing technical support activities and/or grant-making on the ground in several SGP country programmes:

- Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS)
- Community Based Adaptation (CBA)
- ICCA Global Consortium

A key partnership during the reporting period was the AusAid funded Mekong and Asia-Pacific (MAP) and SIDS Community Based Adaptation Programme. The programme, now in its fourth year of implementation in the MAP region, has progressed well with nine projects completed during 2012 and 12 projects expected to complete by December 2013. The programme, which was extended in 2011 to cover all SIDS, is in the second year of implementation in most of these countries. The SIDS CBA programme has engaged stakeholders and started to develop and implement project concepts. Sixteen (16) full-size projects and 13 planning grants were approved with 10 more countries working closely with grantees to finalize project concepts and complete the approval process.

The CBA portfolio of projects at present has the following characteristics:

- 35% of projects address agricultural management (including land stability and food security)
- 30% of projects focus on integrated land/sea impacts management
- 24% of projects address fresh water security
- 8% are focused on building resilience in marine management
- 3% address the crosscutting issues of awareness creation and knowledge management

To facilitate knowledge exchange and upscaling in the more mature countries in the CBA programme, a regional workshop for the MAP region was held in July 2013 in Sri Lanka with good participation: over 100 participants, including the UNDP GEF Adaptation PTA, government, CSOs and scientists from the region. It received considerable electronic and print media coverage, both locally and globally. At this forum NCs show-cased their projects results, discussed challenges and policy lessons, as well as strategies for up scaling and replicating regional best practices.

The COMDEKS programme with the goal to develop sound biodiversity management and sustainable livelihood activities with local communities to maintain, rebuild and revitalize socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes, continues to test highly complementary directions for the SGP programme. It is also helping to promote further integration between environmental and social development and livelihoods objectives. The programme is in its second year of implementation and is funded by the Japan Biodiversity Fund, in partnership with with the Ministry of Environment of Japan, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), and the United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS). COMDEKS is implemented by UNDP and delivered through the GEF SGP.

A new partnership programme, recently approved in April 2013 and to be delivered through SGP, is the EU NGO Strengthening Programme funded by the European Commission. This programme will promote

sustainable development and improved environmental management in target countries through more effective civil society participation in environmental governance, which complements SGP's capacity development efforts. The programme will provide additional funds for grant-making in 13 countries in the Arab States and Eastern Europe and CIS region.

Finally, at the tenth meeting of the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board held during 26-27 June 2013, a concept note on Community Based REDD+ (CBR+) programme to be delivered through the SGP in 6 pilot countries was approved. Further details and a programme document will be developed in the course of the coming year to operationalize this new co-financing programme.

GRANT APPROVAL PROCESS

SGP continues to monitor and facilitate the quick turnaround of projects from concept to implementation on the ground. While screening and review procedures vary across countries, as determined by different National Steering Committees and found to be most suitable given local contexts and conditions, considerable assistance is provided by National Coordinators and Programme Assistants in building capacities of grantees, for many of whom SGP is the first source of funds they have accessed.

Together with UNOPS, CPMT continues to track the time it takes from NSC approval to signature of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the grantee and UNDP. In cross checking entries on the SGP database for a random sample of 10 countries, it was found that at best it took as little as one day to get MOAs signed following NSC approval, while in the worst case it took 38 days. For the majority of countries the time lapse till MOA signature was between 1-3 weeks. In countries where delays were experienced, some of the contributed factors included:

- The general practice by the NSC to provisionally approve certain projects with comments, where the proponent is required to address certain aspects of the proposal prior to MOA signature
- The time taken in getting proponents to properly complete MOA forms, including banking details
- Translation of documents in different language versions (in some countries)
- Delays in review by UNDP management, in particular in those countries without a UNDP Country office presence
- Problems in access of SGP project staff to UNDP's Atlas system (in a country where SGP is hosted in an NHI).

UNOPS and CPMT will continue to work with country programmes that have experienced challenges to see how best to expedite the process of MOA signature after NSC approval, while recognizing that in some cases additional time is warranted because of the learning and capacity development required in finalizing project proposals and preparing documentation needed for MOAs.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Potential risks to GEF SGP can be divided into Programmatic risks which have the potential to affect the ability of the programme to realize its goals, and Operational risks which may affect day to day operations and financial management of the programme. These sets of risks are addressed below.

PROGRAMMATIC RISKS

It was noted in the GEF SGP OP5 CEO endorsement document for Core funding (January 2011), that given SGP's experience of the past 20 years there are few unforeseen risks to be expected, and risk mitigation measures are already in place for known risks. However, the following risks were identified in the document and are being tracked by SGP. Some additional risks have also been identified during the implementation of OP5. The table below presents the possible risks, as well as the mitigation measures implemented. Updates on the occurrence of some risks are also included.

Table 30: Programmatic Risks and mitigation measures

Risk	Level of risk	Mitigation measures/ Updates
The variation in grant allocations for countries from Core and STAR – with some countries no longer eligible for SGP core resources, and thus becoming wholly dependent on receiving a sufficient STAR allocation that ensures cost-effectiveness of the program – was identified as another risk.	Significant	<p>This is a significant risk for some country programmes that have received limited or no STAR funds to sustain a viable SGP programme, or limited Core allocations. GEF SGP has scaled down operations in some countries. A decision on levels of access by countries to GEF resources needs to be revisited in the design of SGP in GEF6.</p> <p>It is strongly recommended that the allocation of resources be managed by CPMT in an adaptive manner considering the absorptive capacity and performance of countries and the practice of pre-determined country based allocations be discontinued.</p>
The challenge of working directly with CBOs and NGOs that have a low level of technical and management capacity. This challenge has been extensively discussed in Section 4.	Moderate	<p>Building grantee capacity, linking and networking grantees, and working in a flexible manner.</p> <p>Continuous oversight and monitoring of the SGP portfolio in each country by SGP country team, CPMT, the UNDP CO and the NSC.</p> <p>However adequate staffing and funding for capacity development, site visits and monitoring are necessary for the programme to manage risks in capacity constrained contexts.</p>
The upgrading of 10 countries to be implemented as "stand-alone" FSPs in OP5 was identified as another possible risk.	Moderate	<p>This risk has been largely mitigated through the constant support from UNDP towards the upgrading process. On the positive side, upgrading countries have gained access to greater levels of funding. However the transition process for some has been lengthy, with a long gap in new grant making during this period.</p>
The addition of new country programmes, in LDCs, SIDS, and/or countries in conflict/post-conflict situations was identified as another potential risk for SGP.	Moderate	<p>Currently SGP is suspending its programme in Syria until the political situation changes. Similarly, in Central African Republic, the SGP, in collaboration with the UNDP Country Office, is taking stock of the security situation on the ground in order to assess whether the programme can continue.</p>

In the meantime, SGP has started up in new countries like Afghanistan, and East Timor. Considerable progress has been made, however, additional complex challenges may still need to be faced.

SGP is also active in several SIDS and other countries where UNDP does not have local Country Office presence. These programmes may come under Sub-regional or multi-country offices that are distant and may increase costs of operations and oversight.

The additional capacity constraints, or logistic and security related requirements of programme implementation in difficult contexts, will be assessed on an ongoing basis to be able to plan for and deliver realistic outcomes.

<p>Delays in programme implementation in certain countries, for example those that can result from a broad review by governments of their overall development priorities and in cases where the government requires a re-clarification of its working relationship with civil society.</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>This was identified as a risk in last year’s report. SGP has found that these broad governmental processes can affect SGP by bringing regular grant making processes to a standstill until change/consultation processes are completed. While the occurrence of such risks is limited, effects in specific countries can lead to significant delay in programme implementation. For example, in one country grant-making is stalled pending a resolution of such issues, while in another, progress has been made recently to re-activate grant-making activities after a hiatus of two years.</p> <p>In two other countries, SGP had to answer questions raised by the government regarding SGP’s requirement of a CSO majority in NSC membership. Dialogue and discussions were held over the reporting year, which have helped to address concerns and provide clarification on SGP’s Operational Guidelines.</p>
<p>The overall expansion of the GEF SGP to a greater number of countries was identified as another potential risk.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>The overall level of effort for coordination and implementation at the central level has increased as a consequence.</p> <p>The adequate staffing of the CPMT is an important element in ensuring effective oversight.</p>
<p>Potential climate change effects were identified as another risk, particularly with respect to biodiversity and land degradation.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>SGP has been piloting community based adaptation measures through the Strategic Priority for Adaptation (SPA) CBA project, and in 38 global SIDs as well as 4 Mekong basin countries through the co-financing provided by the Australian Aid CBA project.</p> <p>These ongoing projects are providing valuable</p>

methodologies and field tested results and approaches from working with communities in different contexts.

CPMT has prepared several guidance notes, and KM products that are accessible to all SGP countries. In addition, two workshops on CBA were organized during the reporting year to facilitate exchange and networking of knowledge.

Other emerging risks

Low

During the reporting year many countries continued to face local challenges as described earlier in the section on Country level Challenges. For example the Arab spring has created challenges in several countries (due to change in government, NSC membership etc.). The extent of changes and the consequences remain to be fully understood and determined as of this time, however CPMT and country programmes remain in close coordination on key matters.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

SGP is executed by UNOPS, which is responsible for ensuring high standards of fiduciary management and providing legal, administrative and operational support to the programme. UNOPS has an Operational Directive through which all personnel are made aware of the Internal Control and Risk Management Framework instituted to ensure accountability for the management of funds in the performance of their duties.

UNOPS employs a Risk Management Strategy with a set of specific risk management techniques and standards that are applied for identifying, planning, implementing and communicating risks in operational matters. The purpose of the Risk Management Strategy is to integrate a risk management approach within the day-to-day project management activities of SGP country programmes, in order to mitigate the occurrence of any risk or threat as well as to exploit any opportunities.

The risk management strategy is binding for all SGP personnel in discharging their responsibilities. It aims to regulate the use of SGP funds and is monitored for consistent application. The following table sets forth the strategy guidelines for operational risk mitigation for SGP:

Table 31: Guidelines for operational risk mitigation in SGP

Risk Category	Risk Impact	Likelihood	Mitigation Strategy
Misappropriation of Funds	High	Low	Standard MOA Procedures, UNOPS standards for financial M&E at local level; 50% first installment rule
Timely commitment of grant allocations	Medium	Medium	Develop project pipelines (hard, medium and soft)
Timely MOA completion of MOA	Low	Medium	Have the MOAs signed by UNDP Res Rep and grantee within two weeks of NSC meeting
Database Management	Low	Medium	Maintain the Database up to date

Project Accounting (PO and Vouchers entered wrongly)	Low	Low	POs and Vouchers are correctly entered with correct Chart of Account (COA)
Double accounting	High	Low	Expenditure report analysis (Reporting tools), Database
Financial reporting errors and untimely reporting	High	Low	Dashboard Reporting Tool and Management Workspace and SGP Database
Over-expenditure of projects (exceeding grant allocation, COB)	Medium	Low	Dashboard Reporting Tool and Database
Un-ethical Behavior & Conflict of Interest	High	Low	All SGP Personnel complete the Ethics online course. NCs, PAs and NSC members sign the Ethical Statement
Incorrect Procurement Process	Low	Low	Local: UNOPS SOPs and UNDP CO oversight; Global: UNOPS leads process and has produced standardized guidance
Incorrect HR Process	Low	Low	Local: UNOPS SOPs and UNDP CO oversight; Global: UNOPS leads process and has produced standardized guidance; SGP PRA System
Poor Performance	High	Low	PRA Assessment
Non-compliance with legal standards	Medium	Low	UNOPS has produced standard templates and reviews each legal document; legal advice available
Deterioration of Security Situation	High	Low to Medium	MOSS compliance assessment and frequent review / updates; Security Tests
Asset Management	Low	Low	Inventory is maintained up to date, assets are tagged and obsolete assets are disposed timely
Document Management	Low	Low	UNOPS Document Retention Policy
Mandatory Trainings	Medium	Medium	All mandatory trainings on UNOPS Learning and Development Intranet are completed

6. FINANCIAL DELIVERY

The total expenditure over the reporting year (1 July 2012 till 30 June 2013) of GEF SGP, including the ongoing phase (OP5) as well as some ongoing commitments of prior operational phases, amounted to a total delivery of \$52.7m. Of this, the majority of the funding (\$48.6m) was drawn from the OP5 phase funding.

Table 24: GEF SGP Delivery (1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013)

SGP Operational Phase	Actual Expenditure (USD)
Operational Phase 2 (OP2)	1,886,164
Operational Phase 3 (OP3)	78,463
Operational Phase 4 (OP4)	2,157,093
Operational Phase 5 (OP5)	48,677,252
Total	52,798,973

ANNEX 1: BASIC DATA ON SGP OPERATIONAL PHASES

This table presents the list of projects, and data on project status from OP2 through OP5.

SGP Operational Phase	GEF ID	Agency ID	Focal Area	Region	Project Title	Trust Fund	Implementation Start	Proposed Implementation End	Revised Implementation End	Actual Implementation End	Grant Amount	GEF Disbursements as of June 30, 2013	Estimated Co-finance at CEO Endorsement	Materialized Co-finance as of June 30, 2013	SGP Evaluation Date	Status
		(Optional)	BD, CC, IW, LD, ODS, CH, MFA	AFR, ECA, EAP, LAC, MNA, SA, Regional, Global		GEF / MT F/L DCF /SC CF	MM/DD/YY YY	MM/DD/YY YY	MM/DD/YYYY	MM/DD/YY YY	(US\$)	(US\$)	(US\$)	(US\$) (*)	MM/DD/YYYY	CEO Endorsed, Under Implementation, Cancelled, Withdrawn, Completed
Phase 2	1484	2341	MFA	Global	SGP OP2	GET	2/19/2002	2/18/2003		05/26/2004	20,711,552	20,711,552	22,000,000	101,422,998	3rd Independent Evaluation April 28, 2003	Completed
Phase 2	1818	2341	MFA	Global	SGP OP2	GET	2/19/2003	2/18/2004		02/28/2005	26,997,000	26,997,000	27,000,000			Completed
Phase 2	2367	2341	MFA	Global	SGP OP2	GET	2/19/2004	2/18/2005	12/31/2012	12/31/2012	31,225,480	31,054,480	28,000,000			Completed
Total Phase 2											78,934,032	78,763,032	77,000,000			
Phase 3	2580	3343	MFA	Global	SGP OP3	GET	2/1/2005	1/31/2008		12/18/2006	47,000,000	47,000,000	34,000,000	125,429,944	4th Independent Evaluation 2008	Completed
Phase 3	2592	3343	MFA	Global	SGP OP3	GET	3/1/2006	2/28/2009		09/03/2007	25,000,000	25,000,000	25,000,000			Completed
Phase 3	2593	3343	MFA	Global	SGP OP3	GET	3/1/2006	2/28/2009		04/01/2008	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000			Completed
Phase 3	3145	3343	MFA	Global	SGP OP3	GET	3/1/2007	2/28/2010	12/31/2013		20,000,000	17,713,641	20,000,000			Under Implementation
Total Phase 3											107,000,000	104,713,641	94,000,000			
Phase 4	3228	3952	MFA	Global	SGP OP4	GET	7/1/2007	6/30/2010	6/30/2015		106,000,000	98,484,144	147,000,000	168,243,161	5th Joint Evaluation (On-going)	Under Implementation
Phase 4	3514	3952	MFA	Global	SGP OP4 (RAF)	GET	7/1/2008	6/30/2010		09/03/2009	13,647,498	13,647,498				Completed
Phase 4	3515	3952	MFA	Global	SGP OP4 (RAF)	GET	7/1/2007	6/30/2010		12/07/2009	3,999,093	3,999,093				Completed

Phase 4	3871	3952	MFA	Global	SGP OP4 (RAF 2)	GET	11/24/2009	6/30/2010	6/30/2015		45,211,963	37,601,876	44,500,000			Under Implementation
Total Phase 4											168,858,554	153,732,611	191,500,000	168,243,161		
Phase 5 (**)	4329	4561	MFA	Global	SGP OP5 (Core)	GET	1/1/2011	12/31/2014	6/30/2015		134,615,385	65,629,130	134,615,385	90,481,809		Under Implementation
Phase 5 (**)	4541	4561	MFA	Global	SGP OP5 Implementing the program using STAR resources I	GET	1/1/2011	12/31/2014	6/30/2015		40,828,365	10,328,457	40,890,000			Under Implementation
Phase 5 (**)	4678	4561	MFA	Global	SGP OP5-Implementing the program using STAR resources II	GET	1/1/2011	12/31/2014	6/30/2015		73,764,729	194,085	76,716,000			Under Implementation
Total Phase 5											249,208,479	76,151,672	252,221,385	90,481,809		

(*) Information drawn from SGP project database, with OP2 information starting from 2003

(**) The upgraded countries are excluded from OP5 given that they are under separate budgets

Note: This project expenditures report should not be considered as UNOPS certified financial report. Certified financial reports can be obtained from UNOPS HQ Finance office.

ANNEX 2: SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES GRANTS AND CO-FINANCING

Country	Year started (*)	GEF SGP Funding Sources			Co-Financing			
		Number of Projects	Average Grant Size	Total GEF Grants	Project level Co-financing	Additional financing co-at country programme level	Total Co-financing	
AFGHANISTAN	2013	7	\$ 48,117	\$ 336,817	\$ 359,256	\$ -	\$ 359,256	
ALBANIA	1999	209	\$ 11,389	\$ 2,380,290	\$ 1,216,976	\$ -	\$ 1,216,976	
ALGERIA	2012	7	\$ 35,697	\$ 249,882	\$ 62,473	\$ -	\$ 62,473	
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	2013	5	\$ 11,242	\$ 56,212	\$ 635,514	\$ -	\$ 635,514	
ARGENTINA	2006	110	\$ 20,444	\$ 2,248,846	\$ 2,674,426	\$ 130,091	\$ 2,804,517	
ARMENIA	2009	29	\$ 34,483	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,941,377	\$ -	\$ 1,941,377	
BAHAMAS	2011	25	\$ 16,892	\$ 422,303	\$ 549,728	\$ -	\$ 549,728	
BARBADOS (Sub-region)	1994	112	\$ 20,490	\$ 2,294,872	\$ 3,033,903	\$ -	\$ 3,033,903	
BELARUS, REPUBLIC OF	2006	85	\$ 35,704	\$ 3,034,833	\$ 3,604,485	\$ -	\$ 3,604,485	
BELIZE	1993	196	\$ 26,795	\$ 5,251,763	\$ 4,959,475	\$ 280,090	\$ 5,239,564	
BENIN	2007	54	\$ 32,405	\$ 1,749,872	\$ 1,966,613	\$ -	\$ 1,966,613	
BHUTAN	1999	110	\$ 25,409	\$ 2,795,016	\$ 2,109,421	\$ -	\$ 2,109,421	
BOLIVIA	1997	284	\$ 27,421	\$ 7,787,444	\$ 8,323,227	\$ 511,159	\$ 8,834,386	
BOTSWANA	1993	158	\$ 26,587	\$ 4,200,686	\$ 9,325,649	\$ -	\$ 9,325,649	
BRAZIL	1995	317	\$ 25,478	\$ 8,076,613	\$ 12,611,905	\$ -	\$ 12,611,905	
BULGARIA	2006	121	\$ 32,642	\$ 3,949,709	\$ 5,506,440	\$ -	\$ 5,506,440	
BURKINA FASO	1994	152	\$ 33,170	\$ 5,041,795	\$ 3,188,647	\$ 49,276	\$ 3,237,923	
BURUNDI	2010	29	\$ 46,128	\$ 1,337,726	\$ 1,140,638	\$ -	\$ 1,140,638	
CAMBODIA	2005	69	\$ 36,177	\$ 2,496,222	\$ 2,361,680	\$ 5,365,779	\$ 7,727,460	
CAMEROON, REPUBLIC OF	2007	73	\$ 30,433	\$ 2,221,596	\$ 2,518,351	\$ 304,393	\$ 2,822,744	
CAPE VERDE	2010	61	\$ 19,855	\$ 1,211,175	\$ 747,243	\$ 238,703	\$ 985,946	

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	2010	35	\$ 28,327	\$ 991,458	\$ 930,689	\$ -	\$ 930,689
CHAD	2007	50	\$ 24,920	\$ 1,245,985	\$ 1,013,881	\$ 361,097	\$ 1,374,978
CHILE	1994	257	\$ 27,331	\$ 7,024,145	\$ 5,757,169	\$ 80,812	\$ 5,837,981
COMOROS	2007	54	\$ 31,991	\$ 1,727,497	\$ 1,248,727	\$ 29,000	\$ 1,277,727
COSTA RICA	1993	601	\$ 21,726	\$ 13,057,191	\$ 17,247,937	\$ 55,149	\$ 17,303,086
COTE d'IVOIRE	1993	214	\$ 20,193	\$ 4,321,370	\$ 3,537,867	\$ 28,728	\$ 3,566,595
CUBA	2005	70	\$ 38,502	\$ 2,695,114	\$ 7,137,186	\$ -	\$ 7,137,186
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	2010	57	\$ 30,239	\$ 1,723,649	\$ 836,559	\$ -	\$ 836,559
DOMINICA	1995	70	\$ 24,450	\$ 1,711,479	\$ 1,972,710	\$ 333,257	\$ 2,305,967
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1994	369	\$ 21,433	\$ 7,908,796	\$ 23,698,376	\$ -	\$ 23,698,376
ECUADOR	1993	291	\$ 33,931	\$ 9,873,911	\$ 13,577,265	\$ 179,060	\$ 13,756,325
EGYPT	1994	300	\$ 22,307	\$ 6,692,202	\$ 5,779,023	\$ -	\$ 5,779,023
EL SALVADOR	2003	142	\$ 24,094	\$ 3,421,361	\$ 5,071,298	\$ -	\$ 5,071,298
ERITREA	2009	22	\$ 47,045	\$ 1,034,998	\$ 3,286,206	\$ -	\$ 3,286,206
ETHIOPIA	2006	135	\$ 27,406	\$ 3,699,804	\$ 3,147,569	\$ 1,369,980	\$ 4,517,549
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA (Sub-region)	2005	50	\$ 27,324	\$ 1,366,179	\$ 1,341,225	\$ 1,050,021	\$ 2,391,246
FIJI sub-region (Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu)	2005	83	\$ 36,024	\$ 2,989,965	\$ 2,551,117	\$ 1,307,610	\$ 3,858,727
GAMBIA	2009	42	\$ 24,494	\$ 1,028,760	\$ 389,797	\$ -	\$ 389,797
GHANA	1993	173	\$ 22,582	\$ 3,906,717	\$ 5,509,558	\$ 1,123,445	\$ 6,633,003
GUATEMALA	1997	337	\$ 11,664	\$ 3,930,652	\$ 6,229,543	\$ 1,109,949	\$ 7,339,492
GUINEA	2010	39	\$ 29,455	\$ 1,148,750	\$ 782,945	\$ -	\$ 782,945
GUINEA-BISSAU	2011	22	\$ 28,811	\$ 633,837	\$ 539,389	\$ -	\$ 539,389
HAITI	2008	30	\$ 38,485	\$ 1,154,555	\$ 1,850,140	\$ -	\$ 1,850,140
HONDURAS	2002	131	\$ 26,499	\$ 3,471,385	\$ 7,725,964	\$ 2,035,248	\$ 9,761,212
INDIA	1996	279	\$ 25,843	\$ 7,210,119	\$ 11,343,671	\$ 2,152,409	\$ 13,496,080
INDONESIA	1993	425	\$ 18,681	\$ 7,939,518	\$ 8,714,054	\$ 999,710	\$ 9,713,765
IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)	2001	224	\$ 22,495	\$ 5,038,960	\$ 26,391,779	\$ -	\$ 26,391,779
JAMAICA	2005	65	\$ 33,912	\$ 2,204,297	\$ 2,712,066	\$ 1,623,722	\$ 4,335,788
JORDAN	1993	184	\$ 32,609	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 12,112,788	\$ -	\$ 12,112,788

KAZAKHSTAN	1997	285	\$ 20,460	\$ 5,831,241	\$ 7,542,191	\$ 1,816,341	\$ 9,358,532
KENYA	1993	280	\$ 31,372	\$ 8,784,176	\$ 5,582,044	\$ 1,187,168	\$ 6,769,213
KYRGYZSTAN	2002	258	\$ 13,840	\$ 3,570,842	\$ 3,747,269	\$ -	\$ 3,747,269
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	2009	62	\$ 37,586	\$ 2,330,332	\$ 365,761	\$ 323,514	\$ 689,275
LEBANON	2006	53	\$ 33,006	\$ 1,749,302	\$ 1,874,708	\$ -	\$ 1,874,708
LESOTHO	2008	42	\$ 32,824	\$ 1,378,591	\$ 1,644,851	\$ -	\$ 1,644,851
LIBERIA	2009	41	\$ 28,756	\$ 1,179,000	\$ 518,010	\$ 35,000	\$ 553,010
LITHUANIA, REPUBLIC OF	2001	104	\$ 25,108	\$ 2,611,280	\$ 9,992,689	\$ -	\$ 9,992,689
MACEDONIA, THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF	2006	78	\$ 20,091	\$ 1,567,080	\$ 1,979,805	\$ -	\$ 1,979,805
MADAGASCAR	2008	188	\$ 21,019	\$ 3,951,500	\$ 3,370,200	\$ 78,662	\$ 3,448,862
MALAWI	2009	39	\$ 33,333	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,798,116	\$ 39,600	\$ 1,837,716
MALAYSIA	2001	131	\$ 36,321	\$ 4,758,096	\$ 13,989,849	\$ -	\$ 13,989,849
MALDIVES	2010	27	\$ 29,747	\$ 803,157	\$ 506,203	\$ -	\$ 506,203
MALI	1994	312	\$ 26,862	\$ 8,380,801	\$ 17,202,993	\$ 706,861	\$ 17,909,854
MAURITANIA	2002	137	\$ 25,592	\$ 3,506,045	\$ 3,053,052	\$ 1,364,419	\$ 4,417,471
MAURITIUS	1996	136	\$ 31,443	\$ 4,276,273	\$ 8,894,942	\$ 215,298	\$ 9,110,240
MEXICO	1994	556	\$ 23,937	\$ 13,308,762	\$ 15,773,807	\$ 470,819	\$ 16,244,627
MOLDOVA	2013	5	\$ 21,884	\$ 109,419	\$ 230,999	\$ -	\$ 230,999
MONGOLIA	2003	369	\$ 7,344	\$ 2,709,993	\$ 3,086,147	\$ -	\$ 3,086,147
MOROCCO	2000	152	\$ 29,041	\$ 4,414,223	\$ 9,063,228	\$ 1,278,204	\$ 10,341,432
MOZAMBIQUE	2005	136	\$ 19,713	\$ 2,680,905	\$ 1,515,840	\$ -	\$ 1,515,840
NAMIBIA	2003	73	\$ 27,108	\$ 1,978,902	\$ 2,353,307	\$ 4,025,421	\$ 6,378,728
NEPAL	1998	163	\$ 33,378	\$ 5,440,548	\$ 6,684,235	\$ 179,795	\$ 6,864,030
NICARAGUA	2004	146	\$ 18,901	\$ 2,759,495	\$ 2,634,235	\$ -	\$ 2,634,235
NIGER	2004	110	\$ 31,076	\$ 3,418,393	\$ 3,333,151	\$ 1,159,339	\$ 4,492,490
NIGERIA	2009	74	\$ 28,350	\$ 2,097,869	\$ 1,495,300	\$ -	\$ 1,495,300
PAKISTAN	1994	221	\$ 28,568	\$ 6,313,563	\$ 11,108,632	\$ 2,132,061	\$ 13,240,694
PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY	1999	120	\$ 32,799	\$ 3,935,925	\$ 1,847,173	\$ 512,511	\$ 2,359,684
PANAMA	2007	99	\$ 21,411	\$ 2,119,704	\$ 2,279,890	\$ -	\$ 2,279,890
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	1994	160	\$ 13,805	\$ 2,208,776	\$ 292,729	\$ 73,328	\$ 366,057

PARAGUAY	2011	22	\$ 26,538	\$ 583,840	\$ 953,647	\$ -	\$ 953,647
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA	2010	37	\$ 44,571	\$ 1,649,133	\$ 1,627,447	\$ -	\$ 1,627,447
PERU	1999	256	\$ 34,674	\$ 8,876,431	\$ 6,469,231	\$ -	\$ 6,469,231
PHILIPPINES	1992	283	\$ 31,723	\$ 8,977,541	\$ 6,613,730	\$ 250,896	\$ 6,864,626
POLAND	1994	383	\$ 17,634	\$ 6,753,858	\$ 24,437,433	\$ 26,160	\$ 24,463,593
ROMANIA	2005	95	\$ 33,111	\$ 3,145,566	\$ 3,298,963	\$ -	\$ 3,298,963
RWANDA	2006	52	\$ 44,697	\$ 2,324,251	\$ 1,803,987	\$ 70,713	\$ 1,874,700
SAINT LUCIA	2012	5	\$ 27,852	\$ 139,260	\$ 124,305	\$ -	\$ 124,305
SAMOA sub-region (Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau)	2005	122	\$ 15,977	\$ 1,949,140	\$ 967,549	\$ 1,495,953	\$ 2,463,502
SENEGAL	1994	221	\$ 34,425	\$ 7,607,940	\$ 4,868,042	\$ 897,749	\$ 5,765,791
SEYCHELLES	2010	24	\$ 48,961	\$ 1,175,062	\$ 944,159	\$ -	\$ 944,159
SIERRA LEONE	2013	13	\$ 26,856	\$ 349,131	\$ 334,560	\$ -	\$ 334,560
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	2010	70	\$ 25,929	\$ 1,814,997	\$ 2,376,930	\$ 370,764	\$ 2,747,695
SOLOMON ISLANDS	2009	25	\$ 21,311	\$ 532,780	\$ 143,840	\$ -	\$ 143,840
SOUTH AFRICA	2003	85	\$ 44,442	\$ 3,777,598	\$ 7,080,646	\$ -	\$ 7,080,646
SRI LANKA	1994	329	\$ 19,630	\$ 6,458,359	\$ 3,457,534	\$ 670,187	\$ 4,127,720
SURINAME	1997	94	\$ 25,454	\$ 2,392,645	\$ 2,222,394	\$ 107,950	\$ 2,330,344
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	2005	45	\$ 41,727	\$ 1,877,735	\$ 1,694,702	\$ -	\$ 1,694,702
TAJIKISTAN	2010	32	\$ 25,549	\$ 817,554	\$ 1,192,130	\$ 237,470	\$ 1,429,600
THAILAND	1994	380	\$ 16,231	\$ 6,167,795	\$ 8,753,928	\$ 584,330	\$ 9,338,257
TIMOR-LESTE	2013	6	\$ 14,352	\$ 86,114	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOGO	2010	48	\$ 25,629	\$ 1,230,200	\$ 617,863	\$ -	\$ 617,863
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	1995	87	\$ 23,683	\$ 2,060,444	\$ 2,559,124	\$ 178,649	\$ 2,737,773
TUNISIA	1993	151	\$ 31,376	\$ 4,737,750	\$ 10,197,947	\$ -	\$ 10,197,947
TURKEY	1993	228	\$ 21,236	\$ 4,841,847	\$ 7,251,873	\$ 606,276	\$ 7,858,149
UGANDA	1998	145	\$ 30,042	\$ 4,356,094	\$ 4,257,405	\$ 688,291	\$ 4,945,696
UKRAINE	2010	50	\$ 45,821	\$ 2,291,057	\$ 2,273,410	\$ -	\$ 2,273,410
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA	1997	225	\$ 28,675	\$ 6,451,949	\$ 3,248,783	\$ 2,224,154	\$ 5,472,937
URUGUAY	2006	95	\$ 23,997	\$ 2,279,759	\$ 2,836,689	\$ 187,391	\$ 3,024,080
UZBEKISTAN	2008	59	\$ 26,232	\$ 1,547,702	\$ 2,024,586	\$ -	\$ 2,024,586

VANUATU	2008	26	\$ 32,612	\$ 847,918	\$ 723,416	\$ 384,739	\$ 1,108,155
VENEZUELA	2010	54	\$ 39,291	\$ 2,121,717	\$ 2,776,884	\$ -	\$ 2,776,884
VIET NAM	1999	161	\$ 27,129	\$ 4,367,840	\$ 3,733,502	\$ 1,403,242	\$ 5,136,743
YEMEN	2006	57	\$ 28,066	\$ 1,599,763	\$ 2,701,374	\$ -	\$ 2,701,374
ZAMBIA	2008	38	\$ 39,474	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 816,564	\$ -	\$ 816,564
ZIMBABWE	1994	145	\$ 32,129	\$ 4,658,704	\$ 14,425,868	\$ -	\$ 14,425,868
		15669	\$ 25,217	\$ 395,119,992	\$534,845,728	\$ 46,701,943	\$ 581,547,671

Data drawn from the database on 15 August 2013

ANNEX 3: AWARD WINNING GEF SGP PROJECTS

The list below includes SGP projects and grantees which received national and international awards during the period July 2012 – June 2013.

2013

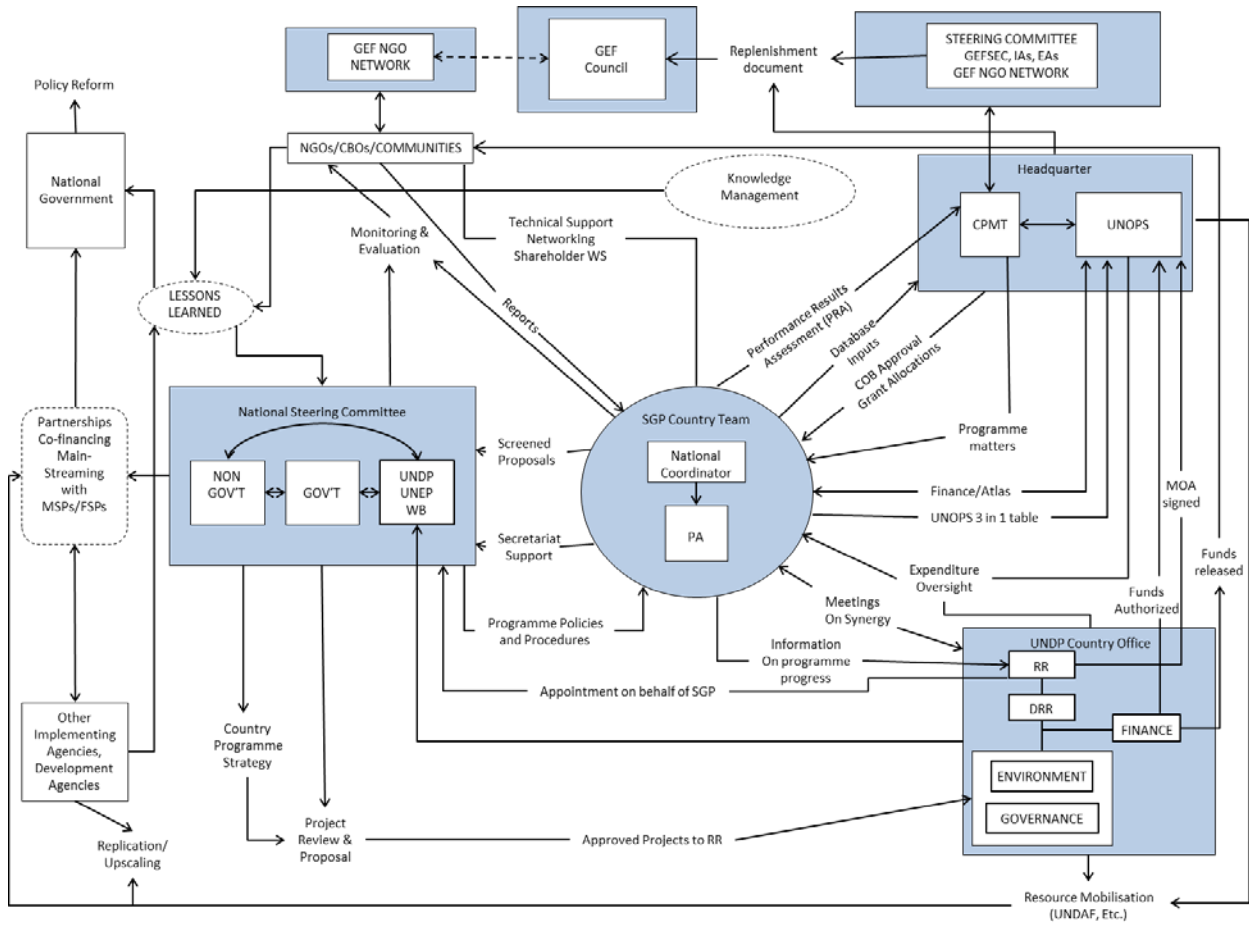
- James A. Waight Conservation Award – **February, Belize**
- Tourism Lifetime Achievement Award – **May, Belize**
- Rural Women that Produce a Sustainable Brazil – **March, Brazil**
- ATABEY – **June, Dominican Republic**
- ATABEY – **June, Dominican Republic**
- ATABEY – **June, Dominican Republic**
- ATABEY – **June, Dominican Republic**
- Wolfgang Neumann Energy Globe National Award – **June, Gambia**
- 2nd Runner Up International Road Federation InARoad Awards – **March, Ghana**
- UN Habitat/Dubai International Best Practice Award – **Ghana**
- Best Entrepreneur Award – **March, India**
- Plant Genome Savior Farmers' Recognition Award – **April, India**
- The Goldman Environmental Prize – **April, Indonesia**
- Kalpataru Awards – **Indonesia**
- Female Food Heroes Indonesia – **Indonesia**
- Green Africa Award – **June, Mauritius**
- Global Leadership Award – **May, South Africa**
- The Mitchel Batisse Award – **May, South Africa**
- The Whitley Gold Award – **May, Turkey**
- The Whitley Gold Award – **May, Turkey**

2012

- National Public Welfare Figure Prize of Water Conservation – **December, China**
- 2012 Model of Transparency – **December, China**
- Brugal Cree En Su Gente – **Dominican Republic**
- Brugal Cree En Su Gente – **Dominican Republic**
- Samsung Generations for Peace Award – **Ghana**
- Talented Conservator Award – **September, India**
- 2nd Prize Sitaram Rao Case Study Competition – **November, India**
- Coastal Award 2012 – **Indonesia**
- CARDI/CTAMEDIA Awards on Climate Change Reporting – **Jamaica**
- Jamaica Environmental Action Awards – **Jamaica**
- Recognition for Mainstreaming Climate Change – **October, Mauritius**
- Order of the Polar Star – **December, Mongolia**
- Momentum for Change Award – **December, Namibia**
- Design-S Award – **July, Namibia**
- Red Dot Best of the Best Design Award – **July, Namibia**
- Curator's Choice Award – **Namibia**

- International Forum Product Design Gold Award – **Namibia**
- Devi Annapurna Award – **October, Nepal**
- National Tree Festival Prize – **Niger**
- Community Peace Building Award – **September, Nigeria**
- Gypsy Spirit Award – **October, Slovak Republic**

ANNEX 4: GEF SGP ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



ANNEX 5: COMPENDIUM OF ARTICLES ON SGP PROJECTS AND PROGRAMME

[Introducing organic food production and reducing the use of chemical products in Zimbabwe](#)

[Celebrating 20 Years of the GEF Small Grants Programme at Rio+20](#)

[Launch of the Renewable Energy Centre by the Caribbean Maritime Institute in Jamaica](#)

[GEF SGP Mauritius grantee presents marine conservation efforts at the International Coral Reef Symposium in Australia](#)

[GEF SGP Participation In The Economic Forum of the Americas, Montreal 2012](#)

[Improved water resources management in the Ma'la Plateau on Socotra Island](#)

[GEF SGP Armenia supports reproduction of the Sevan trout \(*Salmo ischchan kessler*\) in the Lake Sevan catchment basin](#)

[GEF CEO Dr. Ishii visits KENVO project site in the Kikuyu Escarpment Forest, Kenya](#)

[GEF SGP's Community Management of Protected Areas for Conservation \(COMPACT\) initiative builds new partnerships at the IUCN World Conservation Congress](#)

[GEF SGP project launches wooden pellet production facility to promote alternative fuel in Ukraine](#)

[Ukrainian school children join 'The Green Wave' campaign: in celebration of the International Day of Biodiversity](#)

[TRY Oyster Women Association celebrates receiving the UNDP Equator Prize 2012](#)

[The Renewable energy and energy efficiency practices to combat climate change in Teplychne community](#)

['Local Action, Global Benefits' to drive new Small Grants Programme for Afghanistan](#)

[GEF SGP Belarus supports the remediation of open pits and landfills in the Minsk region](#)

[In memoriam: Danielius Pivorius](#)

[Protecting lobster populations on Abaco Island through sustainable harvesting practices in the Bahamas](#)

[Grantee from SGP China receives the 2012 Transparent Action Award from One Foundation](#)

[Coastal Award 2012: A recognition for the Belitung Coastal Community Group for Developing Ecotourism in Kepayang Island, Indonesia](#)

[GEF SGP China wins 2012 National Public Welfare Figure Prize of Water Protection](#)

[Organic Farming in Suriname](#)

[GEF SGP Botswana: Celebrating the past by learning for a sustainable future](#)

[Innovations from SGP Sri Lanka and Namibia Showcased at UNFCCC Momentum for Change](#)

[The GEF SGP is launched in Saint Lucia](#)

[SGP is implementing a portfolio of over US\\$16 million in Community Based Adaptation](#)

[Five new grants approved in SGP Seychelles](#)

[SGP Seychelles Launch of the Community-Based Adaptation Programme](#)

[RAMSAR Secretary General visits a GEF Small Grant Programme in Zimbabwe](#)

[SGP is launched in Guyana](#)

[Two SGP projects win Green Oscar](#)

[SGP launches new ICCA toolkit](#)

[SGP's work with youth was highlighted at Bonn Climate Change Conference](#)

[COMPACT 12-year report launched at UNESCO World Heritage Committee](#)

[The GEF SGP is launched in Sierra Leone](#)

ANNEX 6: KEY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMMES OF GEF SGP

Name of Partnership	Goal	Funding Amount/ Duration	Focal Area	Countries covered	Partner/ Donor	Key activities
Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation (COMPACT)	Demonstrate how community-based initiatives can significantly increase the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation in globally significant protected areas	\$3,000,000 (2005 to 2013)	Biodiversity Multi-focal area/ICDP programme	Belize, Dominica, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritania, México, Philippines, Senegal, Tanzania	United Nations Foundation (UNF) as donor, with UNESCO and IUCN as partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Lesson learning exercise underway since 2011 through monthly webinars, review of projects with international consultant, closure of country operations. * Joint events with UNESCO WHC, IUCN World Heritage programme at CBD COP11 (Oct 2012) and IUCN World Conservation Congress (Sept 2012) * Launch of COMPACT 12-year report at World Heritage Committee (June 2013) * Carry out terminal evaluation and organize final workshop before operational closure on 30 Sept 2013
World Heritage Local Ecological Entrepreneurship Programme (WH LEEP)	Provide eligible community-based enterprises with technical training needed to enable them to receive affordable loan financing	\$1,000,000 (2006-2013) \$1,000,000 (CI co-financing)	Biodiversity	Belize, Dominica, Kenya, Madagascar, México, Tanzania	United Nations Foundation (UNF) as donor + Conservation International Verde Ventures programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * CI Verde Ventures to programme/obligate full complement of approximately 40 business development support (BDS) grants to SMEs * Review CI Verde Ventures biodiversity-friendly loan pipeline * Carry out evaluation before operational closure on 30 Sept 2013
ICCA Global Consortium	Support recognition of indigenous and community conserved areas and territories (ICCAs)	\$150,000 (UNDP)	Biodiversity Multi-focal area	Global (all SGP)	UNDP Ecosystems and Biodiversity (EBD) programme, Equator Initiative, The Christensen Fund, CBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * UNDP contract with ICCA Consortium for CBD COP11 preparations and global communications/ KM system * Preparation and launch of ICCA Toolkit with

					Secretariat	UNEP WCMC at World Indigenous Network (May 2013)
Community Water Initiative (CWI)	Support community water and sanitation activities	\$1.95	Water & Sanitation	Mali, Niger and Senegal	Gov of Luxembourg	Successfully closed the program with a final donor report produced and submitted, and a global CWI overview produced and disseminated. Knowledge management grants were undertaken in all three countries, producing key knowledge products (a substantive report and a video were produced in each of the country). Knowledge Fairs were organized.
UNDP-UNEP South China Sea (SCS) Partnership	Support the implementation of regional Strategic Action Plan (SAP) of the SCS	\$694,512	IW	Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam	UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project	Successfully closed the partnership. A final report was submitted. Supported the development of regional guidelines to guide country programmes in international waters programming to support SAP implementation.
Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS)	Develop sound biodiversity management and sustainable livelihood activities with local communities to maintain, rebuild and revitalize socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes	USD 10,000,000 (2011-2016)	Biodiversity Conservation Multi-focal area	Phase 1 (since 2011): Brazil, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Fiji, India, Malawi, Nepal, Slovakia and Turkey Phase 2 (since June 2013): Bhutan, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Kyrgyzstan, Indonesia, Mongolia Namibia, and Niger	Funded by the Japan Biodiversity Fund established within the CBD Secretariat Implemented by UNDP, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment of Japan, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), and the United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS).	Target landscapes have been identified in Phase 1 countries. Country Programme Landscape Strategies have been approved in Ethiopia, Cambodia, Fiji, Ghana, India, Malawi, Nepal, Slovakia, and Turkey. Resilience Indicators developed by UNU-IAS and Bioersvity International have been piloted in COMDEKS project sites to measure and understand socio-ecological resilience of target landscapes/ seascapes. 47 community-based projects funded to increase the resilience of targeted landscapes and seascapes. Key knowledge products (including quarterly newsletters produced.
EU-NGO Strengthening Project	Promote sustainable development and improved environmental management in target	USD 3,300,000	Capacity Development	Armenia, Belarus, Ukraine, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, occupied Palestinian territory, Tunisia	Funded by the European Commission	A comprehensive guidance note prepared with criteria for grant-making, typology of projects, branding guidelines, project proposals template and NGO self-assessment questionnaire.

	countries from two neighbouring regions of the European Region through more effective civil society participation in environmental governance			(phase 1); Envisioned for 2014: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Algeria, and Morocco (phase 2)		EU representatives designated to participate in the SGP National Steering Committee (NSC) in deliberations relevant to this project. First call for proposals launched in phase 1 countries (in English, Arabic, French, Russian and Ukrainian).
Community based Adaptation (CBA)	<p>The Goal of the SIDS and MAP CBA Programme is three-fold:</p> <p>i) To improve the adaptive capacity of communities, thereby to reduce vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change risks,</p> <p>ii) To provide countries with concrete ground-level experience with local climate change adaptation, and</p> <p>iii) To provide clear policy lessons and mainstream with national processes and up scale practices across scale.</p>	MAP: US\$ 5,475,463 and SIDS: 6,331,484	Climate Change-Adaptation	<p>MAP Countries: Cambodia, Sri Lanka Vietnam, and Laos, Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Timor Leste</p> <p>SIDS Countries: Cape Verde, Comoros, Mauritius, Sao Tome & Principe, Maldives, Seychelles, Antigua & Bermuda, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, St. Kitts & Nevis, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Lucia, St. Vincent & Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago.</p>	AusAid	<p>The following are the key outcomes of the programme:</p> <p>Realization and mainstreaming of adaptation to climate change at the community level</p> <p>Realization and mainstreaming of adaptation to climate change at the community level</p> <p>Lessons and practices from SIDS CBA initiatives included in relevant national and sub-national policies and development programmes</p> <p>Up scaling practices and sharing knowledge for increased up take of community based adaptation experiences from SIDS CBA documented for replication purposes</p>

ANNEX 7: PROGRESS OF NEW SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

NAME OF COUNTRY	IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS	DATES
Afghanistan	NC recruited	July 2012
	NSC established	Oct 2012
	CPS developed	Feb 2013 (approval date)
	Call for proposals	Feb 2013
	Grant projects funded	Jun 2013
	Formal launch	Oct 2012
	Stakeholder workshop	Nov 2012
Antigua & Barbuda	NC recruited	November 2012
	NSC established	March 2013
	CPS developed	April 2013
	Stakeholder workshop	March-June 2013
	Grant projects funded	April and 8th May 2013
Barbados	NC recruited	January 2013
	NSC established	April 2013
	CPS developed	Ongoing
Djibouti	NC recruited	April 2013
	NSC established	Ongoing
	CPS developed	First draft Aug 2013
Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)	NC recruited	Feb 2013
	NSC established	Ongoing / some changes
	CPS developed	Dec 2011 (previous SRC task)
	Call for proposals issued	Ongoing
	Grant projects funded	Ongoing
	Stakeholder workshop	June to August 2013 (different states of FSM)
Georgia	NC recruited	Nov 2012
	NSC established	Jan 2013
	CPS developed	Mar 2013
	Call for proposals issued	Jun 2013
	Grant projects funded	Planned in Oct, 2013
	Formal launch	Mar 2013
	Stakeholder workshops	Held on 18 June, 25 June, 2 July, 9 July in Tbilisi; 1st July in Bolnisi and 8th July in Kutaisi
Grenada	NC recruited	October 2012
	NSC established	July 2013
Guyana	NC recruited	June 2012
	NSC established	September 2012
	CPS developed	March 2013
	Call for proposals issued	May 2013
Marshall Islands	NC recruited	March 2013
	NSC established	Ongoing / some changes
	CPS developed	July 2013
	Call for proposals issued	Ongoing

NAME OF COUNTRY	IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS	DATES
	Grant projects funded	Ongoing
Moldova	NC recruited NSC established CPS developed Call for proposals issued Grant projects funded Formal launch	Sep 2012 Jan 2013 Mar 2013 Mar 2013 Jun 2013 Mar 2013
Palau	NC recruited NSC established CPS developed Call for proposals issued Grant projects funded	Jan 2013 Ongoing / some changes May 2013 Ongoing Ongoing
Sierra Leone	NC recruited NSC established CPS developed Call for proposals issued Grant projects funded Formal launch Stakeholder workshop	October, 2012 February, 2013 December, 2012 February, 2013 March, 2013 June, 2013 December, 2012
St. Kitts & Nevis	NC recruited NSC established CPS developed	August 2013 Under development Under development
St. Lucia	NC recruited NSC established CPS developed Grant projects funded Formal launch	February 2012 May 2012 October 2012 9 projects approved in NSC meetings 2012 and 5 in 2013) February 2013
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	NC recruited NSC established CPS developed	July 2013 Under development Under development
Timor Leste	NC recruited NSC established CPS developed Formal launch Stakeholder workshop Call for proposals Grant projects funded	July – Aug 2012 Sep 2012 Nov 2012 Nov 2012 Dec 2012 Jan 2013 Expected for the first allocation will be done in August - mid-September 2013.

8. CREDITS

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