

SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme

25
years |  gef



50
YEARS

Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

The GEF Small Grants Programme
**ANNUAL MONITORING
REPORT FY: 2015-2016**

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Resilient nations.*

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The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems. Since then, the GEF has provided \$14.5 billion in grants and mobilized \$75.4 billion in additional financing for almost 4,000 projects. The GEF has become an international partnership of 183 countries, international institutions, civil society organizations, and private sector to address global environmental issues.

The GEF's 18 implementing partners are: Asian Development Bank (ADB), African Development Bank (AFDB), Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Conservation International (CI), Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Foreign Economic Cooperation Office – Ministry of Environmental Protection of China (FECO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Fundo Brasileiro para a Biodiversidade (FUNBIO), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), West African Development Bank (BOAD), World Bank Group (WBG), World Wildlife Fund U.S. (WWF).



The Small Grants Programme (SGP) is a corporate programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since 1992. SGP grantmaking in over 125 countries promotes community-based innovation, capacity development, and empowerment through sustainable development projects of local civil society organizations with special consideration for indigenous peoples, women, and youth. SGP has supported over 20,000 community-based projects in biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, prevention of land degradation, protection of international waters, and reduction of the impact of chemicals, while generating sustainable livelihoods.

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Acronyms

ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
ACE	Action for Climate Empowerment
ACPER	Annual Country Portfolio Evaluation Report
ASADAS	Community Water Management and Aqueducts Committees
AMR	Annual Monitoring Report
BD	Biodiversity
BMUB	German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety
CBA	Community-based Adaptation to Climate Change
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	Community-based organization
CBR+	Community-based REDD+
CC	Climate change
CD	Capacity development
CH	Chemicals
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CESRIKI	Center for Scientific Research, Indigenous Knowledge and Innovation
CFL	Compact Fluorescent Light
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CIWP	Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project
CO	Country Office (UNDP)
CO₂	Carbon dioxide
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
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia
DLDD	Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought

DFZ	Diclofenac-free zone
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
DPO	Disabled people's organization
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EO	Evaluation Office
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FSP	Full-size project
GEB	Global environmental benefits
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
HA	Hectare
HACCP	Hazard analysis and critical control points
HQ	Headquarters
ICCA	Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Areas and Territories
ICCA GSI	Global Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas Support Initiative
IKS	Indigenous Knowledge Systems
INMIP	International Network of Mountain Indigenous Peoples
IPEN	International POPs Elimination Network
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IPO	Indigenous peoples' organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
IW	International waters
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
KM	Knowledge Management
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LCB	Local consultative body
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
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MAP	Macon Asia and Pacific
MFA	Multi Focal Area
MIST	Ministry of Infrastructure, Science and Technology
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement

MPA	Marine Protected Area
MEA	Multi-lateral environmental agreements
MSP	Medium-size project
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan
NC	National Coordinator
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NHI	National host institution
NSC	National Steering Committee
OECM	Other effective area-based conservation measure
OP	Operational Phase
OPV	Open pollinated varieties
PAS	Protected Areas
PEF	Pacific Environment Fund
PIF	Project Identification Form
PIR	Project Implementation Review
PLWHA	People living with HIV/Aids
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
SEA4ALL	Sustainable Energy for All
SECCP	Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Project
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SGP	Small Grants Programme
SGP-PTF	Small Grants Programme for Operations to Promote Tropical Forests in Southeast Asia
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SMNP	Simien Mountain National Park
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SPA	Strategic Priority on Adaptation
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community

SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
STAR	System for Transparent Allocation of Resources
TACC	Territorial Approach to Climate Change
TEK	Traditional ecological knowledge
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TRAC	Target for Resource Assignment from the Core
TV	Television
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
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNEP-WCMC	UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
UNF	United Nations Foundation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UN-REDD	United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
USD	US Dollar
WB	World Bank
WCIP	World Conference on Indigenous Peoples
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WH	World heritage
WH LEEP	World Heritage Local Ecological Entrepreneurship Programme
WHS	World Heritage Site
WIN	World Indigenous Network
WMA	Wildlife management areas
WPC	World Parks Congress
YR	Year

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SGP is a corporate programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since 1992. SGP projects are designed to be small and support innovation and self-implementation by poor and vulnerable communities and local civil society organizations in need of capacity building. While initially small, successful community-based projects serve as models for replication and scaling up and provide important approaches for development to be relevant on the ground and, hence, sustainable. SGP projects show ways by which inclusive development protective of the environment can be effectively implemented.

By providing grant funding and hands on technical support directly to communities facing environmental challenges, SGP promotes user driven innovation. The technologies and solutions that are locally piloted are often socially adapted, cost effective, easily maintained and sustainable. SGP enables the broader adoption of such innovative practices through its advocacy and knowledge management efforts. SGP's complete annual monitoring report 2015-2016 describes several community led innovations that have been replicated and scaled up and shared with other communities through south-south exchanges.



PORTFOLIO

1 JULY 2015 – 30 JUNE 2016

525
NEW
PROJECTS

1,142
COMPLETED
PROJECTS

3,490
ONGOING
PROJECTS



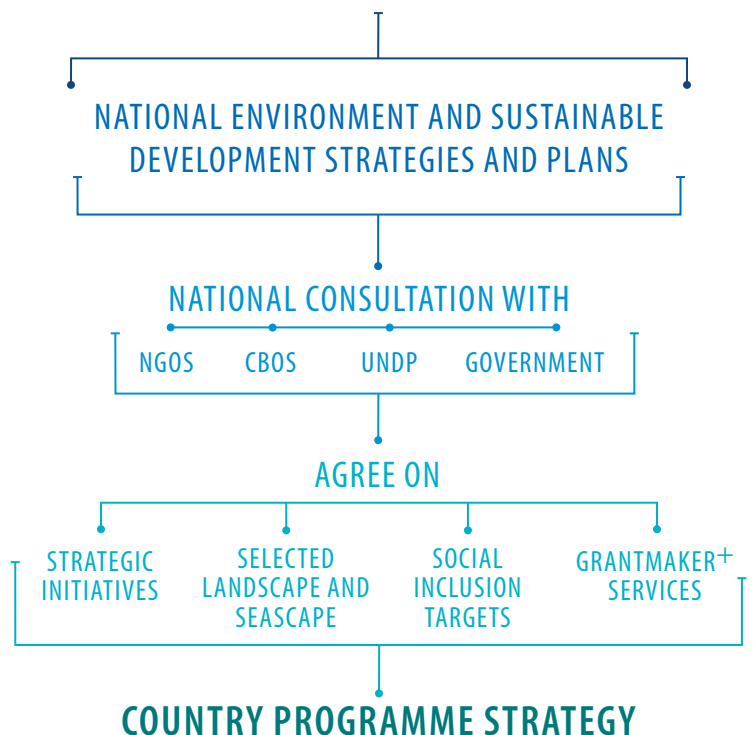
FUNDING

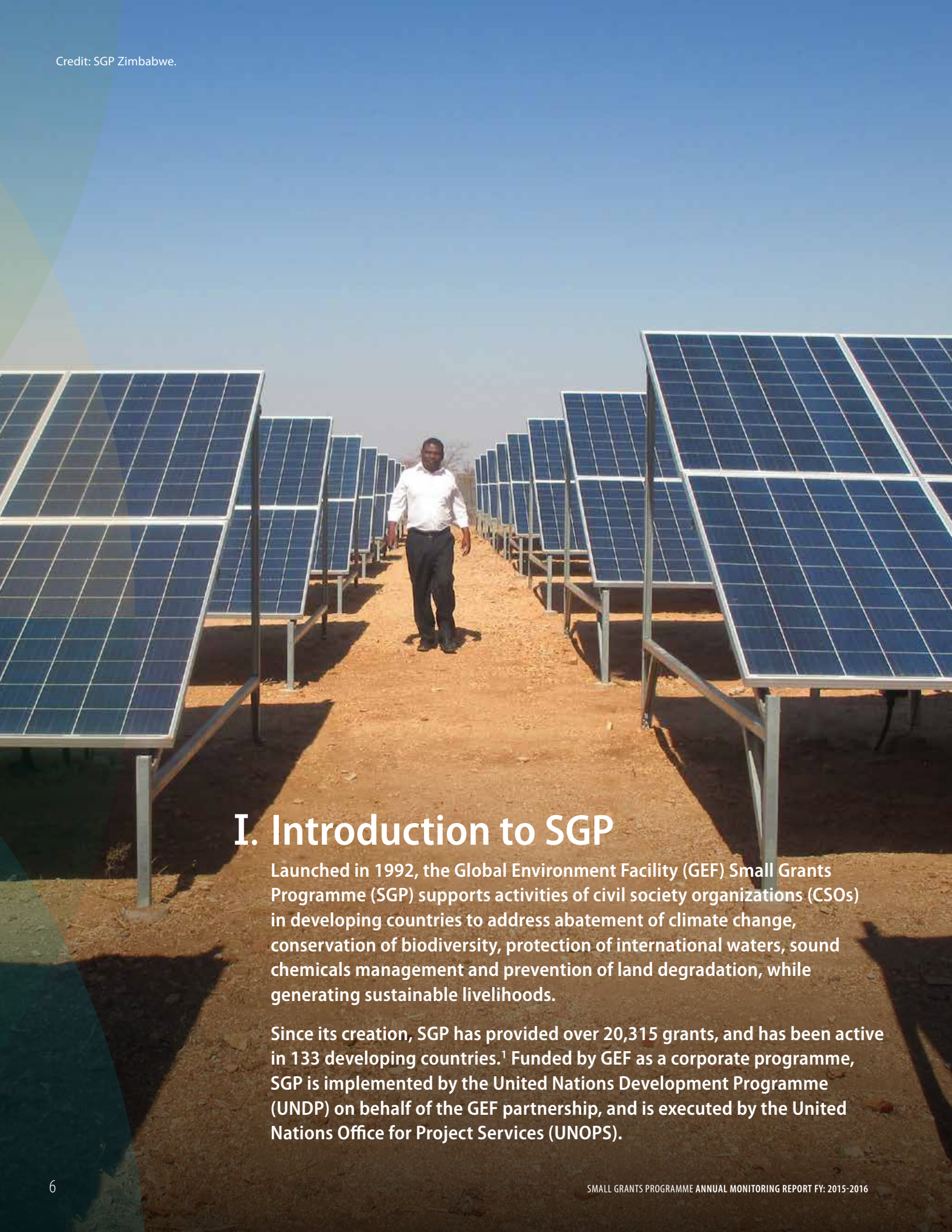
THE ACTIVE PORTFOLIO OF GRANT PROJECTS FUNDED BY GEF AMOUNT TO 3,142 PROJECTS FOR A VALUE OF

\$111
USD MILLIONS
PROJECTS FOR A VALUE

\$112.5
USD MILLIONS CO-FINANCING
LEVERAGED

COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS





I. Introduction to SGP

Launched in 1992, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) supports activities of civil society organizations (CSOs) in developing countries to address abatement of climate change, conservation of biodiversity, protection of international waters, sound chemicals management and prevention of land degradation, while generating sustainable livelihoods.

Since its creation, SGP has provided over 20,315 grants, and has been active in 133 developing countries.¹ Funded by GEF as a corporate programme, 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

The Global GEF Small Grants Programme 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 nine staff and is led by the SGP Global Manager. The Global SGP provides oversight for 111 country programmes.

SGP staff in the field consists of one National Coordinator (NC) per country, supported by a Programme Assistant in many country programmes. 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 SGP country programme staff numbers amounted to a total of 181 staff as of end July 2015, including: 100 NCs, 2 SRCs, 76 Programme Assistants and 3 SPAs.³ SGP country teams are usually based at UNDP Country Offices (COs). In nine countries they are hosted by CSOs that act as National Host Institutions (NHIs). SGP NCs and Programme Assistants 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 four Regional Focal Points at CPMT for day-to-day oversight and support to country programmes in the different 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.

Following a policy of Upgrading introduced in 2010, nine SGP country programmes were Upgraded at the start of GEF 5, while six were upgraded at the start of GEF 6. These 15 SGP countries are funded under GEF Full Sized Projects and are supported by a Global Coordinator based in



UNDP/GEF headquarters with country level oversight provided by UNDP Country Offices. All Upgraded programmes follow SGP Operational Guidelines and procedures.

UNDP AND UNOPS

UNDP is the implementing agency of the SGP and provides general programmatic oversight for the programme, which is based in the UNDP/GEF Unit. UNDP COs provide active support to the successful implementation of 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 COs act on behalf of UNOPS for financial transactions and administrative matters. A detailed SGP organizational chart is shown in Annex 4, which shows the programme structures and relationships at global and country level.

NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEES

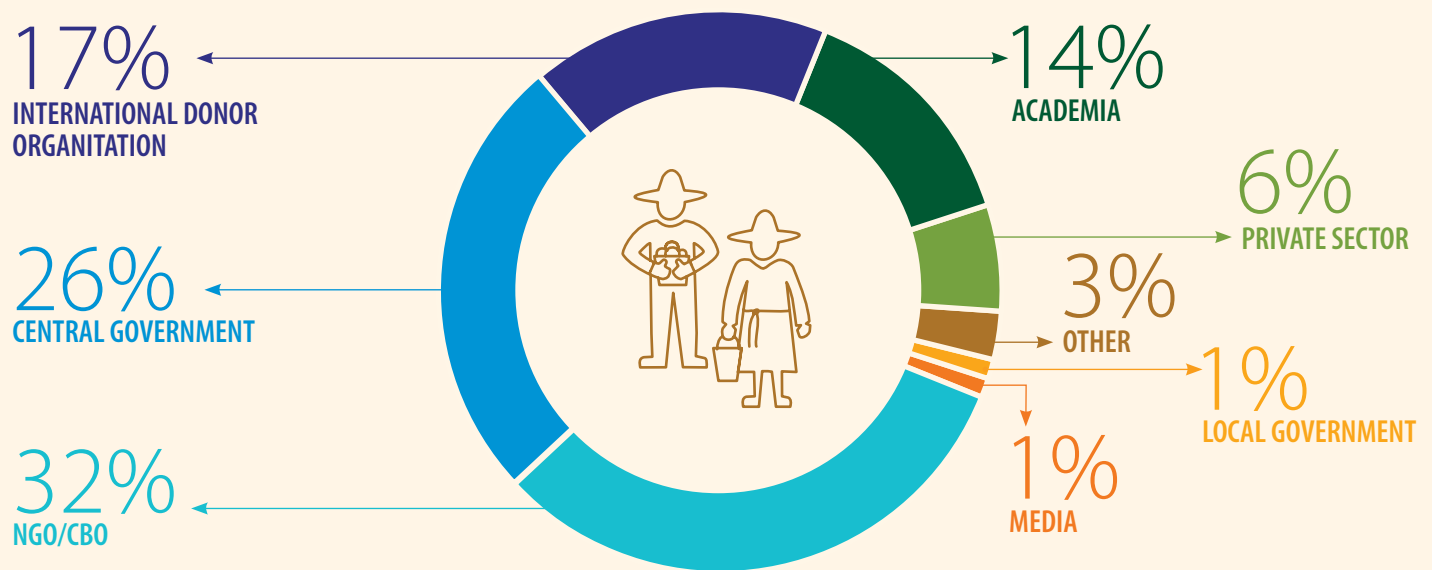
In each country SGP continues to rely on the effective, proven oversight and decision-making capabilities of the multi-stakeholder National Steering Committees (NSC). The NSC promotes interaction and exchange between government and civil society stakeholders, as well as fostering cross-sectoral exchange between different sectors and disciplines.

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 nine SGP Country Programmes that were Upgraded at the start of OP5.

FIGURE 1: SGP GLOBAL NSC COMPOSITION



According to SGP Operational Guidelines, the NSC is comprised of a majority of civil society members (including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community based organizations (CBOs), academia, research, and media), alongside representatives of relevant government bodies, the private sector, UNDP and other donors. The diagram below shows the current global distribution of members from different stakeholder groups within NSCs worldwide. Globally, about one-quarter of NSC members are drawn from government, while over 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). Consistent with previous years, about six percent of NSC members were drawn from the private sector, while three percent were categorized as “other,” generally individual technical experts in specific fields.

SGP presently benefits from the voluntary inputs of 1,125 individuals⁴, who are contributing their time and knowledge towards SGP by serving on an NSC. With nearly 113 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 ten members per country. NSC members are generally highly qualified, eminent and respected individuals in the country, who

possess technical expertise in one or more of the GEF focal areas and lend their skills, experience and expertise to SGP operations.

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, as well as recommending regular rotation of NSC membership to stimulate new actors and organizations to become involved.

All SGP Country Programmes are required to have a designated focal point on the NSC to provide expertise on gender issues and facilitate review of any gender components of projects. SGP also recommends Country Programmes to designate a youth focal point on the NSC to be able to further promote youth participation and leadership in projects. 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. During this reporting year, 98 countries reported having a gender focal point, 90 reported having a youth focal point and 35 an Indigenous peoples focal point.

⁴ This figure does not include the nine SGP countries that were Upgraded in OP5. Pacific countries managed under a sub-regional modality from SGP Fiji and SGP Samoa, which may have national focal groups, are also not included in this figure.



II. Annual Global Overview of SGP

This Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) reviews the implementation and results of the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) during the period 1 July 2015 through 30 June 2016. This AMR covers the last year of SGP's 5th Operational Phase (OP5) and the first year of its 6th Operational Phase. The previous AMR covered the period from 1 July 2014 through 30 June 2015.

GEF FUNDING

The SGP Global Programme was approved to receive US\$140m (inclusive of Agency fees)⁵ in Core funding in the Replenishment of GEF6. This amount is in keeping with a similar level of contribution in GEF5 from Core funds. Additionally, specific access criteria were laid out in the Council Paper on SGP Implementation Arrangements in GEF6, and limited access by SGP to supplementary System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) funds has been approved by the SGP Steering Committee.

In July 2015 SGP received approval for the first tranche of GEF Core funding of US\$67,307,692 for its 6th Operational Phase (OP6). A second Tranche of GEF Core funding of an equal amount is expected to be received within the next reporting period. At the same time, submission of a Global Project Identification Form (PIF) is foreseen for the STAR funds likely to be endorsed by several countries for SGP during the next reporting period.

TABLE 1A: GEF FUNDING RECEIVED BY SGP IN OP6 (not including the Upgraded Country Programmes)⁶

	DATE OF APPROVAL	AMOUNT (USD) ⁷	
PROJECT GLOBAL CORE	PIF Approval by Council	30 • October • 2014	–
	CEO Endorsement	9 • July • 2015	\$67,307,692




In OP5, SGP received total funding of USD 255m (of which US\$140m was approved from GEF5 Core funds and the rest from STAR). Table 1b below shows the breakdown

of OP5 funding by Core and STAR funds and the successive tranches of funding received by the SGP Global Programme during OP5.

TABLE 1B: GEF FUNDING RECEIVED BY SGP IN OP5 (not including the Upgraded Country Programmes)⁶

	DATE OF APPROVAL	AMOUNT (USD) ⁷	
PROJECT GLOBAL CORE	PIF Approval by Council	18 • November • 2010	–
	CEO Endorsement	25 • April • 2011	\$134,615,385
STAR I	PIF Approval by Council	9 • November • 2011	–
	CEO Endorsement	20 • April • 2011	\$40,828,365
STAR II	PIF Approval by Council	12 • April • 2013	–
	CEO Endorsement	19 • September • 2013	\$72,851,267
STAR III	PIF Approval by Council	1 • May • 2014	–
	CEO Endorsement	20 • November • 2014	\$6,965,151



⁵ Amounting to a programme budget of \$134,615,384 excluding Agency fees.

⁶ Nine SGP country programmes were upgraded in OP5 and are now funded separately through national Full Sized Projects (FSPs). The Upgraded SGP countries include: Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, India, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, and Philippines.

⁷ Not inclusive of GEF Agency fees.

Upgrading countries: Nine mature SGP country programmes were “upgraded” in OP5 and funded through separate GEF Full Size Projects (FSPs). Table 1c below lists these country programmes, the GEF funding received by each, as well as the dates of each GEF CEO endorsement. While these countries report through separate annual Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs) to the GEF, they

also record grant project information in the SGP database and provide inputs to the annual survey of the country programmes that gathers information on the reporting year for the preparation of this overall AMR. The results from completed projects reflected in Chapter 3 include examples from SGP Upgraded Country Programmes.

TABLE 1C: TOTAL FUNDING FOR SGP UPGRADED COUNTRY PROGRAMMES IN OP5

UPGRADED COUNTRY PROGRAMMES	CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL	BUDGET ⁸ (US\$)
Bolivia	10-July • 2012	4,166,667
Brazil	5 • December • 2012	5,000,000
Costa Rica	24 • November • 2011	4,398,148
Ecuador	24 • November • 2011	4,398,145
India	27 • Janury • 2012	5,000,000
Kenya	28 • December • 2011	5,000,000
Mexico	2 • February • 2012	4,662,755
Pakistan	30 • November • 2011	2,777,778
Philippines	11 • December • 2012	4,583,333



In addition to the above, six additional country programmes are currently being upgraded during OP6 in line with GEF policy and upgrading criteria in the GEF Council Paper “SGP: Implementation Arrangements in GEF6”. These six countries, all long running and mature SGP country programmes, are preparing FSP proposals to fund their SGP programmes in OP6:

Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Peru, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Table 1d shows the status of project development for SGP Upgraded Country Programmes in OP6. Two countries, Brazil and Philippines, which started implementation of OP5 late are not listed below as they did not receive a STAR allocation in GEF6 and are expected to apply for funding in GEF7.

TABLE 1D: TOTAL FUNDING FOR SGP UPGRADED COUNTRY PROGRAMMES IN OP6⁹

UPGRADED COUNTRY PROGRAMMES	CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL	PIF APPROVAL	BUDGET ¹⁰ (US\$)
Bolivia	–	11 • March • 2016	3,634,703
Costa Rica	14 • March • 2016	28 • April • 2015	2,323,125
Ecuador	14 • June • 2016	MSP	1,826,484
Egypt	–	28 • April • 2015	2,843,241
India	–	–	5,342,466
Indonesia	–	28 • April • 2015	3,561,644
Kazakhstan	–	4 • May • 2016	2,649,726
Kenya	–	4 • May • 2016	3,561,644
Mexico	–	11 • March • 2016	4,429,223
Pakistan	–	11 • March • 2016	2,656,726
Peru	–	28 • April • 2015	3,196,672
Sri Lanka	–	28 • April • 2015	2,497,078
Thailand	–	–	2,381,620

⁸ These amounts represent the project budgets and are exclusive of GEF Agency fees.

⁹ This table shows currently available data and approval status of 13 Upgraded countries. Two countries, Brazil and Philippines are not listed as these programmes are still actively involved in programming of their OP5 projects and are expected to have new phase project submissions at a later date.

¹⁰ These amounts represent the project budgets and are exclusive of GEF Agency fees.

Coverage



40
LDCS

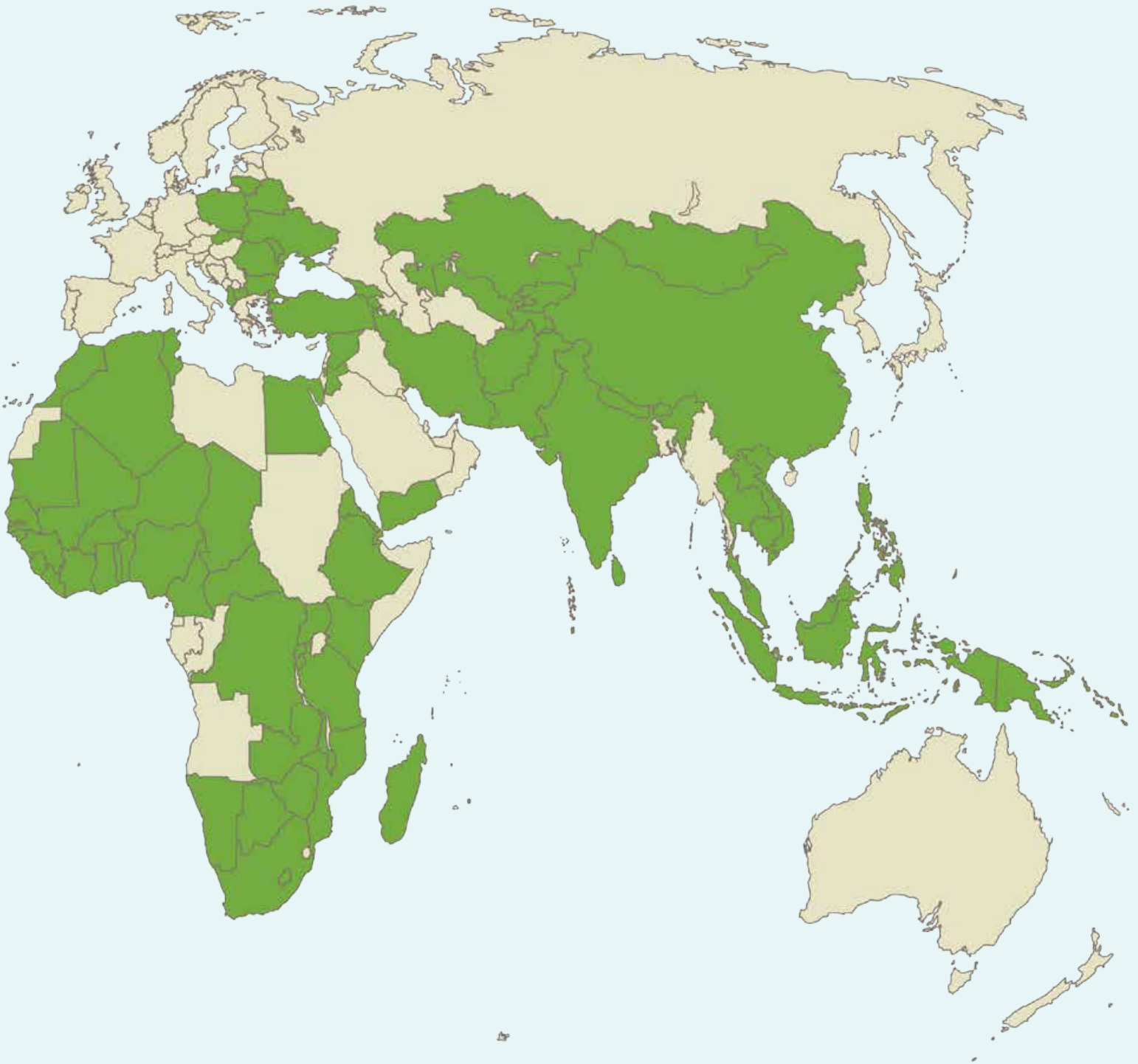
37
SIDS

LDCs and SIDS currently account for 59% of all SGP country programmes.

125 ACTIVE COUNTRIES

110 COUNTRIES IN THE SGP GLOBAL PROGRAMME

15 UPGRADED COUNTRIES



COUNTRY COVERAGE

Over the course of its successive phases, SGP has been active in supporting CSOs in a total of 133 countries.¹¹ The current number of countries in SGP is 126, comprised

of 110 countries active in SGP's Global Programme, 15 Upgraded Country Programmes, and one new Country Programme that has been started up in the Republic of Congo with recruitment of a National Coordinator in 2016.

TABLE 2: SGP COUNTRY COVERAGE

CATEGORIES OF SGP COUNTRIES	NAMES	NUMBER
Countries active in the SGP Global OP5 programme during the reporting period	(See Annex 1 for a full listing)	110
Countries Upgraded in OP5 and funded through separate FSPs in OP5 ¹²	Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, India, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines	9
Countries Upgrading in OP6 and expected to be funded through separate FSPs in OP6	Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Peru, Sri Lanka, Thailand	6
Country programmes closed	Poland, Lithuania, Chile, Bulgaria, Romania, Syria, Slovakia	7
Country programmes started	Republic of Congo	1
Total		133



SGP continued to expand its support to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) during the reporting year. The SGP Global Programme currently includes 40 LDCs and 37 SIDS, with countries that are LDCs or/and SIDs constituting 62% of all SGP Country Programmes.

CUMULATIVE GRANT COMMITMENT

First launched as a pilot in 1992, SGP has grown in size and coverage over the years and successive operational phases. Since its inception SGP has cumulatively funded 20,315 grant projects worth US\$541.7m in GEF and non-GEF resources in all SGP countries (those within the Global Programme as well as the Upgraded Country Programmes) (see Table 3a).

The total value of only GEF-funded grants under the SGP Global Programme amounts to 19,594 grant projects worth US\$514.4m (see Table 3b). Cumulatively SGP has raised USD 685.9m in co-financing at the project level (including in cash and in kind). The nine Upgraded countries have supported 721 GEF funded grant projects amounting to US\$27.31m with co-financing recorded at USD 26m.

The Tables (3a and b) show the breakdown of grant projects, grant funding and in-cash and in-kind co-financing recorded by SGP in its successive operational phases. Table 3a provides the breakdown for all SGP countries, inclusive of those in the Global Programme as well as the nine countries¹³ that were Upgraded at the start of OP5, while Table 3b provides this breakdown for the SGP Global Programme only (as such a breakdown is not relevant for the Upgraded countries, which were included within the Global Programme in previous phases).

As shown below SGP has grown in terms of volume of resources programmed and co-financing leveraged in the course of successive phases, with OP5 (2011-2015) constituting the largest phase with 6,378 projects funded for US\$208.5 million in GEF funding and US\$219.9m in total co-financing to date.

This overall level of co-financing exceeds the 1:1 target set by SGP, to raise co-financing globally to match the total value of GEF resources. It is important to note that the figure recorded in the SGP database reflects only the co-financing recorded at the level of individual grant projects, often

¹¹ This number includes seven country programmes that have been closed: Bulgaria, Chile, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Syria.

¹² The Upgraded Country Programmes also completed the AMR survey, and data on results and examples from these countries is included in this report. The Upgraded Country Programmes, as they are funded through the FSP modality, also report separately through PIRs. It is hoped that in future the double reporting burden on these countries can be lifted.

¹³ It is too soon to report such data for the six new countries being Upgraded at the start of OP6 as they have not commenced project implementation yet.



Credit: SGP Uruguay.

made up of multiple local and national sources of funding and in-kind support. This does not include the additional programme level co-financing leveraged by SGP at the global, regional or country level, or the value of donor

funded programmes which utilize the SGP as a delivery mechanism. Such programme partnerships are separately described in Chapter 4 under “Progress in OP5”.

TABLE 3A: SGP PROJECTS BY OPERATIONAL PHASE, INCLUDING UPGRADED COUNTRIES IN OP5¹⁴
(Cumulative since Pilot Phase) (in millions, US\$)

OPERATIONAL PHASE	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AMOUNT	CO-FINANCING IN CASH	CO-FINANCING IN KIND	CO-FINANCING TOTAL
Pilot Phase	602	10.63	5.16	6.66	11.82
OP1	877	15.21	10.66	8.00	18.66
OP2	4,489	96.10	69.60	83.57	153.18
OP3	3,206	78.20	63.27	58.63	121.90
OP4	4,595	128.26	81.07	76.92	157.99
OP5	6,378	208.57	91.34	128.62	219.96
OP6	168	4.75	0.91	1.57	2.48
Total	20,315	541.72	322.01	363.98	685.98

TABLE 3B: SGP PROJECTS BY OPERATIONAL PHASE, EXCLUDING UPGRADED COUNTRIES IN OP5¹⁴
(Cumulative since Pilot Phase) (in millions, US\$)

OPERATIONAL PHASE	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AMOUNT	CO-FINANCING IN CASH	CO-FINANCING IN KIND	CO-FINANCING TOTAL
Pilot Phase	602	10.63	5.16	6.66	11.82
OP1	877	15.21	10.66	8.00	18.66
OP2	4,489	96.10	69.60	83.57	153.18
OP3	3,206	78.20	63.27	58.63	121.90
OP4	4,595	128.26	81.07	76.92	157.99
OP5	5,659	181.30	80.55	113.38	193.93
OP6	166	4.70	0.91	1.57	2.48
Total	19,594	514.40	311.21	348.74	659.95

¹⁴ Includes GEF grants as well as those funded from other sources of grant funding.

NEW GRANTS COMMITTED

During the reporting period covered by this AMR (1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016) 525 new grant projects were approved and committed by SGP. Total grant funding thus committed amounts to US\$17.65m with the funding largely coming from STAR and Core sources in OP5, with small residual amounts of OP4 Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) still available in a few countries.¹⁶ Total co-financing in cash and in kind amounting to US\$11.55m has been recorded. The project level co-financing recorded was below

the 1:1 target, whereas in previous years co-financing has exceeded this target. This may be due to the inception of OP6 and the necessary support for consultation processes and capacity development support required in countries to lay the foundations for the new grant making phase.

Project commitment levels and funding amounts are expected to rise once OP6 is fully operational with all preparatory and strategic activities (such as the preparation and approval of Country Programme Strategies for OP6) fully implemented and solid project pipelines developed.

TABLE 4: NEW SGP PROJECTS APPROVED BY GEF SOURCES OF FUNDING, INCLUDING UPGRADED COUNTRIES IN OP5 (July 2015 to June 2016) (in millions, US\$)

FUNDING SOURCES	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AMOUNT	CO-FINANCING IN CASH	CO-FINANCING IN KIND	CO-FINANCING TOTAL
GEF Core Funds	302	11.45	1.53	4.38	5.91
GEF STAR Funds	218	5.97	2.93	2.34	5.27
GEF RAF Funding	5	0.23	0.15	0.22	0.37
Total	525	17.65	4.62	6.94	11.55



Credit: SGP Afghanistan.

¹⁶ Remaining RAF funds from OP4 continue to be prioritized for commitment in a few countries, notably SGP Afghanistan and SGP Papua New Guinea, which were unable to utilize these funds earlier due to delays and security challenges in the past.

ACTIVE PORTFOLIO OF GRANT PROJECTS

The total number of grant projects under implementation during the reporting period (including GEF as well as non-GEF donor funded grants), which were supervised and

monitored by SGP, amounted to 3,490 projects for a total grant value of over US\$123.9m and total co-financing value of over US\$121.5m (see Table 5). The active portfolio of grant projects funded by GEF amount to 3,142 projects for a value of US\$111m with co-financing leveraged of US\$112.5m.

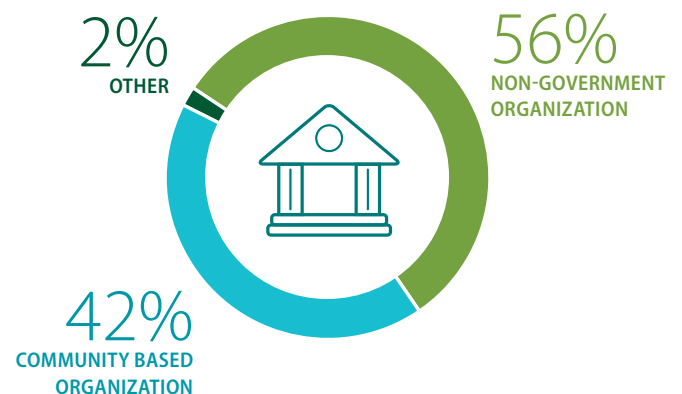
TABLE 5: SGP TOTAL ACTIVE PROJECTS BY GEF AND OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING, INCLUDING UPGRADED COUNTRIES IN OP5 (in millions, US\$)

FUNDING SOURCES	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AMOUNT	CO-FINANCING IN CASH	CO-FINANCING IN KIND
GEF Funds	3,142	111.67	68.44	44.09
• GEF STAR Funds	1,748	63.85	37.28	23.51
• GEF Core Funds	1,222	41.99	28.05	18.49
• GEF RAF Funding	172	5.83	3.12	2.09
Non GEF Funds	348	12.25	5.79	3.19
• DFAT-Australia – Mekong, Asia & Pacific and SIDS CBA	95	3.38	1.32	0.50
• COMDEKS[2]	91	2.93	1.87	0.96
◦ Community-based REDD+	68	2.34	0.90	0.19
• EU -NGO Strengthening Project	30	1.15	0.35	0.25
• New Zealand Aid – Pacific Environment Fund	16	0.52	0.28	0.01
• UNDP TRAC[3]	8	0.33	0.05	0.54
• ICCA GSI	4	0.20	0.05	0.01
• GEF Strategic Priority on Adaptation (SPA) CBA project	4	0.15	0.55	0.20
◦ Other	32	1.26	0.43	0.53
Total	3,490	123.92	74.24	47.28

TYPES OF GRANTEES

Since OP5, SGP is accessible by all types of civil society organizations (CSOs) for grant funding. The largest groups accessing SGP funding are NGOs and CBOs. The portfolio of grant projects under implementation includes 56% of projects implemented by NGOs, 42% 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.

CHART 3: SGP TOTAL ACTIVE PROJECTS BY GRANTEE TYPE, INCLUDING UPGRADED COUNTRIES IN OP5





Credit: SGP Afghanistan.

TYPES OF GRANTS

Following SGP Operational Guidelines, SGP provides planning grants to enable grantees to further develop and elaborate proposals which are seen to be in line with the Country Programme Strategy (CPS), but where the CSO requires support to fully prepare a sound project proposal to secure SGP grant funding. Planning grants have a ceiling of US\$5,000 and collectively amount to 3.6% of the funds of the active portfolio of projects under implementation. The total funding encompassing a planning grant and the resulting SGP grant project should remain below the ceiling of US\$50,000 per grantee organization in the case of all regular small grant projects.

In OP5, the SGP Operational Guidelines permitted funding of “Strategic grants,” with a ceiling of up to US\$150,000, in exceptional cases where a project may be deemed particularly strategic and likely to result in significant and wider scale benefits, including at the portfolio level.¹⁶ A special call for proposals is issued for Strategic Projects, which require CPMT initial screening prior to final approval by the NSC. SGP’s currently active portfolio of projects shows that the vast majority of projects (97%) consist of regular SGP grants with a ceiling of US\$50,000, while 3% are Strategic grants with amounts between US\$50,000 and US\$150,000. The number of Strategic projects that are currently active is 90 (out of 3,142 total GEF funded grant projects) and the total value of these projects is US\$10m (out of a total of US\$112m in active GEF funded grant projects).

¹⁶ A Strategic project window was reintroduced in OP5 to meet demands for scaled up efforts especially in “mature” SGP country programmes accompanied by a detailed guidance note, a call for proposals, and specific procedures for review and approval.

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION

In terms of the regional distribution of SGP's active portfolio of projects, Chart 4 provides a breakdown. Africa has the largest share of projects with 32% of the total, remaining consistent with the last reporting year when it had 33% of active grant projects. This is closely followed by Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) which accounts for 32% of active projects, while Asia and the Pacific has 27% of active projects (showing an increase since the last reporting year when it had 25% of projects). The smallest SGP regions, Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and the Arab States, make up 3% and 6% respectively of the portfolio of active projects.

Further details on the breakdown of the portfolio by region, including SGP grants and in-kind and cash co-financing, is presented in the chart below.

CHART 4: SGP ACTIVE PROJECTS BY REGION
(not including SGP Upgraded countries)

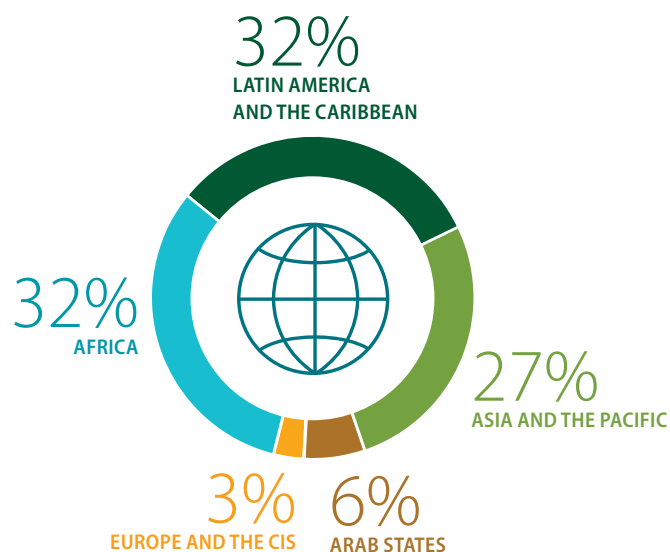
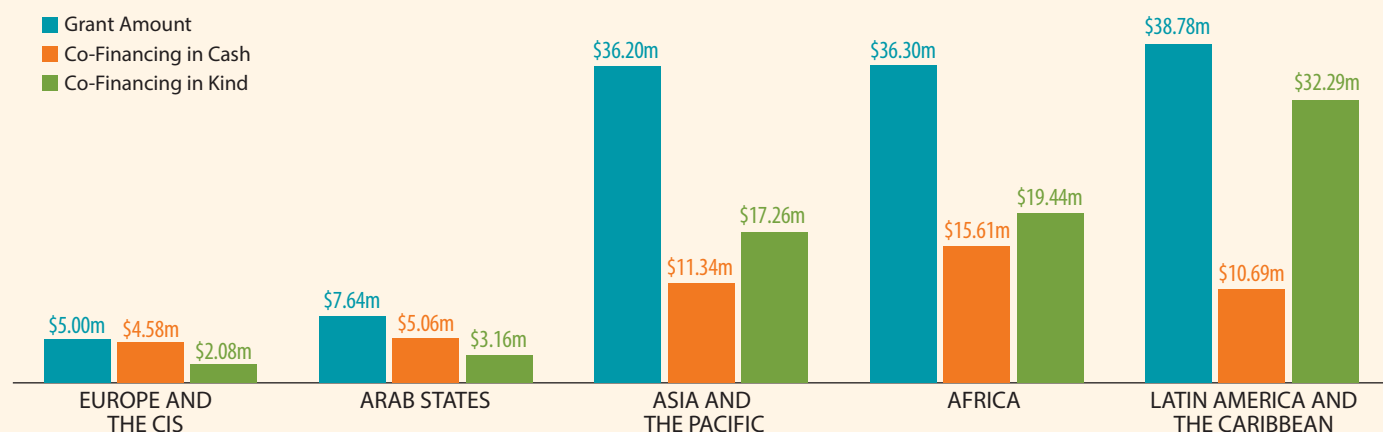


CHART 5: SGP ACTIVE PROJECTS BY REGION, INCLUDING CO-FINANCING
(including SGP Upgraded countries GEF Funds and Non GEF funds)



In this reporting period, the largest volume of resources in active projects was in the Latin America and Caribbean region, followed closely by Africa and Asia and the Pacific. The total co-financing (including in-kind and cash co-financing) exceeded the GEF grant funding level in most regions with the exception of Asia and the Pacific and Africa. 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.

FOCAL AREA DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVE PORTFOLIO

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 as well as the interest and priority accorded to this area by NSCs. Climate Change Mitigation projects represent the second

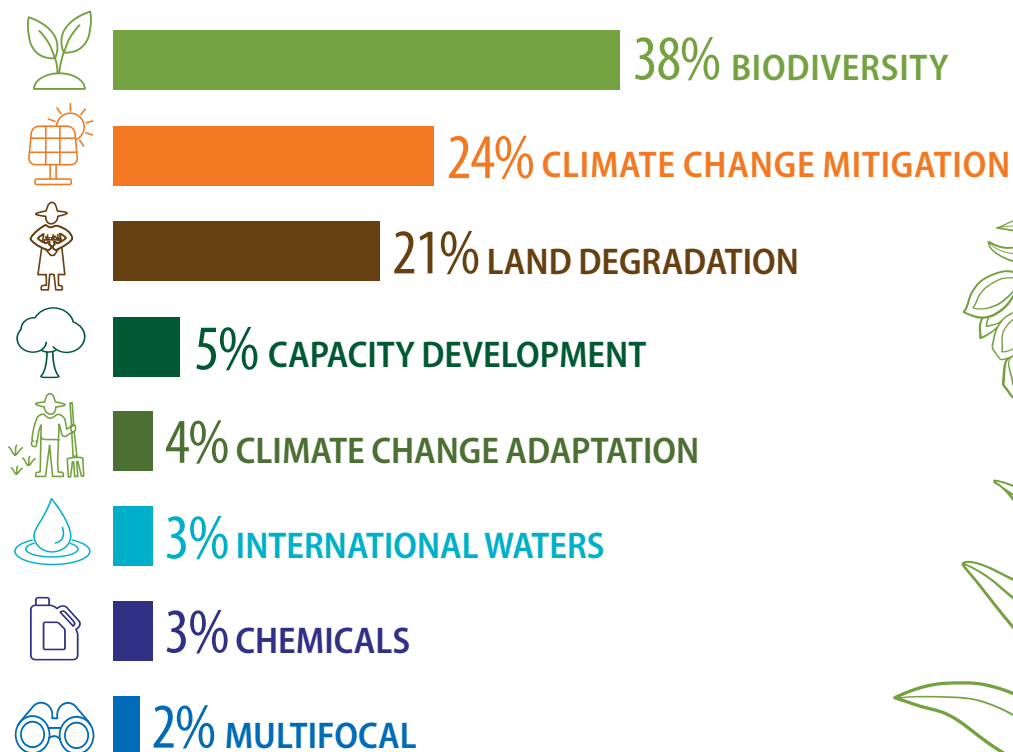
largest focal area in terms of ongoing grant projects, with 848 projects in the area. This is followed by Land Degradation which has 718 active projects. International Waters and Chemicals had 107 and 90 active projects respectively. There were 82 projects identified as Multi-focal area projects. Capacity 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 188 active Capacity development projects – making up only 5.4% of all active grant projects.

TABLE 6: SGP TOTAL ACTIVE PROJECTS BY FOCAL AREA¹⁷ Including Upgraded countries, and GEF Funds and Non GEF funds (in millions, US\$)

FOCAL AREA	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AMOUNT	CO-FINANCING IN CASH	CO-FINANCING IN KIND
Biodiversity	1,327	48.55	15.44	26.13
Capacity Development	188	6.73	1.31	2.01
Chemicals	90	2.95	1.17	2.40
Climate Change Adaptation	130	4.68	0.84	2.54
Climate Change Mitigation	848	29.06	13.65	17.22
International Waters	107	4.22	3.43	3.51
Land Degradation	718	24.95	10.42	18.74
Multifocal Areas	82	2.79	1.02	1.68
Total	3,490	123.92	47.28	74.24

FOCAL AREA DISTRIBUTION



¹⁷ Within these overall figures on the active portfolio managed by SGP, the projects funded from GEF grant funds account for 3,142 with a funding of US\$111.6m and total co-financing leveraged of US\$112.5m meeting the 1:1 co-financing requirement. Additionally, SGP acting as a delivery mechanism managed 348 grant projects in the past year funded from other sources, worth US\$11.42m with additional co-financing of US\$9.0m leveraged at the project level.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

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 GEF-funded grant projects that have been completed during the reporting year.¹⁸ Thus, the examples and results reported in the focal area sections draw upon quantitative indicators and qualitative information from 1,252 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. It should be

noted that the AMR each year reports on the results of grant projects completed within the reporting year, which may have been funded in different operational phases of the SGP. Given the local nature of most SGP projects, the time frame for project completion varies, on average, from 1-3 years. Thus, projects being completed during the reporting period include OP5 funded grants, and a very small number of OP4 grants that were committed at a much later stage and have reached completion only recently. As SGP builds on lessons learnt and the approaches tested and demonstrated in previous phases the scope and results of projects continue to be relevant to SGP's strategic directions in the current phase.



Credit: SGP Mauritius.

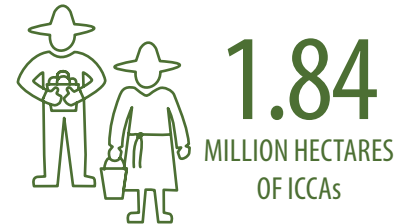
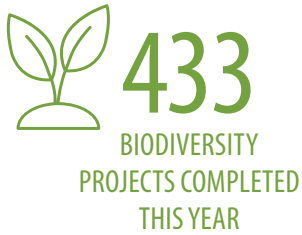
¹⁸ The information and figures presented hereafter in this report, as well as the project results described in Chapter 3, will refer only to the portfolio of GEF funded grant projects. Other additional non-GEF funded grant projects that have been implemented through SGP are not included, except for a brief description of such donor-funded partner programmes in the section on partnerships.

Girl studying under light provided with SGP support.
Credit: SGP Guatemala.

III. Progress Towards Objectives

Biodiversity

RESULTS



This 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 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 reporting period running from July 2015 to June 2016 (OP6 Year 1), SGP has focused its support to biodiversity conservation on the sustainable use of biodiversity in production landscapes and seascapes,

in and around protected areas (PAs) and in indigenous and community conservation areas and territories (ICCAs), as well as through appropriate protection and transmission of traditional knowledge and genetic resources by culturally appropriate means.¹⁹ During the reporting cycle, which coincided with the consultation period needed to prepare the OP6 Country Programme Strategies (CPS), the SGP financed approximately 33 new OP6 Year 1 biodiversity-related (BD) projects (including approximately 13 projects with multi-focal area benefits).²⁰

A number of individual examples are presented in the next section. A summary of the overall progress based on biodiversity indicators is provided in table 7.

¹⁹ 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 Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

²⁰ SGP global database download date on 29 July 2016.

TABLE 7: PROGRESS ON BIODIVERSITY INDICATORS IN OP5

INDICATORS	TARGETS FOR OP5	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS IN THE CURRENT REPORTING PERIOD	
		TOTAL AREA (HA) OR NUMBER 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	410 (PAs) 235 (ICCAs)	As of mid-2016, a total of 1,764 PAs and ICCAs have been positively influenced in OP5 ²¹
	12,700,000 hectares of ICCAs and PAs positively influenced through SGP support	8,414,981 ha (PAs) 1,845,061 ha (ICCAs)	In total, roughly 27.35m hectares have so far been positively influenced in OP5 ²²

In relation to the Aichi 2020 Target 11 to expand the global coverage of terrestrial and inland waters protected areas from 12% to 17% by 2020, SGP has channeled support both towards government listed protected areas (including through a special focus on the shared governance of globally significant protected areas), as well as “other effective area-based conservation measures” (OECMs) including the appropriate recognition of indigenous peoples’ and community conserved areas and territories (ICCAs) and protection of biodiversity in socio-ecological production landscapes (under the government of Japan *Satoyama/COMDEKS* programme). The results of these global efforts towards the CBD Aichi targets are being tracked through the SGP global on-line database, as well as increasingly through the United Nations Environment Programme’s World Conservation Monitoring (UNEP-WCMC) Global Registry on ICCAs.

Five workshop activities in support of the \$16.3M Global ICCA Support Initiative (GSI), a joint partnership between the SGP and the German Government, were organized during each of the SGP OP6 regional workshops in 2015: (i) Asia-Pacific (Feb 2015); (ii) Latin America & Caribbean (March 2015); (iii) Anglophone Africa (April 2015); (iv) Arab States, Europe & CIS (May 2015); and (v) Francophone Africa, (June 2015). The workshops served to introduce SGP National Coordinators in the target countries to: (i) the objectives of the ICCA GSI in support of the CBD Aichi targets 11, 14 and 18; (ii) the three GSI Work Packages focusing on grant-making, policy and knowledge,

and regional learning and exchange; as well as (iii) the draft ‘Security Index’ tracking tool for ICCAs (see partnerships table in the Annexes).

A number of other events were also held between UNDP-SGP and three ‘core’ global GSI partners (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Global Protected Areas Programme, UNEP-WCMC, and the Global ICCA Consortium), including the Steering Committee (SC) for the ICCA Registry, back-to-back with the World Database on Protected Areas in March 2015; the GSI Technical Advisory Group (TAG) at IUCN HQ in Nov 2015; the IUCN Task Force on OECMs in Jan 2016; as well as the SC for the IUCN World Commission on Protected Area in May 2016. Smaller sub-regional ICCA learning events were also organized with the ICCA Consortium in April 2015 in Cayembé, Ecuador, for the South American region (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru); in August 2015 for South-East Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam); and in February 2016 for Southern and Eastern Africa (Kenya, Namibia, Tanzania, and Zambia).

A total of **433** SGP biodiversity projects, drawn mainly from the preceding OP4 and OP5 operational cycles, were also completed during the 2015-2016 reporting period. The table below shows 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 Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs), and national/sub-national designated areas, such as private protected areas.

²¹ Total is composed of 1,119 PAs and ICCAs positively influenced according to the last AMR, plus 645 for the current reporting period from 2015-2016.

²² Total is composed of 17.1m ha according to the last AMR, plus 10.26m for the current reporting period.

KEY COUNTRY-LEVEL RESULTS THAT DEMONSTRATE PROGRESS TOWARDS OP5 BD OBJECTIVES

Belarus

In Belarus, a SGP project entitled 'Restoration of natural spawning areas in the floodplain of the Pripjat river in the middle Pripjat Reserve, Zhitkovichi district' was completed during the reporting period. The meadows of the Pripjat river floodplain are a natural conservation area which play an important role in the protection of biodiversity in Belarus, as well as for all of Europe. Scientific assessments conducted in four spawning areas in the floodplain found that regular harvesting of meadow vegetation and removal of unnecessary shrubs can significantly improve conditions for the spawning of fish. Through SGP support, the restoration of natural spawning grounds was carried out across 226 hectares. On the basis of the subsequent project monitoring, experts estimated that an increase in productivity of up to 30% resulted in each of the spawning areas. In addition, positive economic spin-off effects were generated via the collection of 340 tonnes of hay from the floodplain meadows, accounting for 40% of the needs of thirty families within the local community. Given local negotiations with regards to access to hay in the Zhitkovichi floodplain, 32 tonnes of hay were also sold to neighboring farms. Three articles were published about the project results, and 1,000 information booklets were published and distributed. Over the next four years, the system of harvesting hay from fish spawning grounds will be extended to a further 800 hectares.²³



Cape Verde

In Cape Verde, a SGP project worked to remove invasive species, while increasing the coverage of endemic and native plant species, in the *Monte Velha* forest, located inside Fogo Natural Park. In doing so, the partner sought to promote good environmental governance practices, the strengthening of forest fires prevention measures, and improved management capabilities of the protected area. Key activities undertaken included the removal of invasive plant species from 57 hectares within *Monte Velha*, which was complemented by the re-planting of 38,575 forest plants produced by local community nurseries, of which 3,381 were endemics. The project also created a fire-fighting buffer corridor around *Monte Velha* to prevent future forest fires. The corridor, approximately 25 to 50 meters in width and 800 meters in length, was strategically located near the local community, where there is a higher propensity for forest fires. Sensitizing activities were also implemented in the *Feijoal*, *Pai António* and *Cutelo Alto* local communities and their respective elementary schools. A total of 93 people participated in the awareness campaign (56 male and 37 female).²⁴



²³ BLR/SGP/OP5/Y3/STAR/BD/13/01

²⁴ CPV/SGP/OP5/Y4/CORE/BD/15/02

China

In China, a SGP project on the 'Sustainable development of ICCAs in two typical ecological systems in *Laozhai*, Guizhou province, and *Cuochi*, Qinghai province' was completed during the reporting period. The project supported the improved conservation of (a) 22,000 hectares of grassland in *Cuochi* (located in the region of Sanjiangyuan), and (b) 400 hectares of forest in *Laozhai* (located in Southern Guizhou karst area) – both areas considered as national priorities for biodiversity conservation under the National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (NBSAP). In the case of the village of *Cuochi*, located in the hinterland of the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau, source of the Yangtze, Yellow and Lancang rivers and thus widely known as “the water tower of Asia”, the SGP project supported the local community of 850 people to: (i) demarcate their sacred mountains and lakes as ICCAs, (ii) conduct biodiversity baseline surveys; and (iii) develop their sustainable management plan for the sacred mountains and lakes.

In case of the village of *Laozhai*, the SGP project worked with the local community to: (i) revive their local customary laws on conservation; (ii) provide 2,000 seedlings of Chinese yew (*Taxus chinensis*) to local people; (iii) mobilize the local government to provide 80 induction cookers to all households, reducing the demand for firewood; and (iv) deliver trainings on sustainable resource management and tree planting to 100 people (38 female and 62 male). As a result of the project, the *Laozhai* community also registered their ICCA with the Global ICCA Registry hosted by UNEP-WCMC. In recognition of their continuous conservation of their original forest, the 'Society, Entrepreneurs and Ecology' (SEE) Foundation awarded the 'SEE Ecology Award' to the *Laozhai* community in June 2015.²⁵

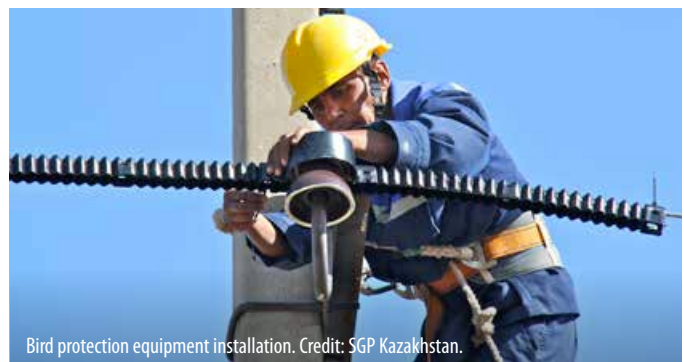


Credit: SGP China.

Kazakhstan

In Kazakhstan, a SGP project focused on the demonstration of measures to decrease the mortality rate of rare raptors (*Aquila heliaca*, *Falco cherrug*, *Aquila clanga*, *Aquila nipalensis*, *Circaetus gallicus*, *Aquila chrysaetos*) from regularly striking high voltage power lines. This involved the creation of a model site using “bird protection equipment”, capacity building of government officials, and a partnership with the private electrical operators of Central Kazakhstan. During implementation, a demonstration site of power lines equipped with the “bird protection” plastic guards was created to (i) provide tangible evidence of the effectiveness of the equipment; and (ii) raise the awareness of power line operators as a result of the field trials. The design of the bird protection technology was shared between all the organizations involved in the target *Karaganda* region, as well as with the 'National Committee of Forestry and Hunting' for further consideration.

Before the SGP project started, the raptor mortality rate in the *Karaganda* region of Central Kazakhstan was approximately 59 deaths (autumn 2012, spring 2013), of which 45 (76%) were rare raptors, including the Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*) and Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) listed in the IUCN Red list as vulnerable. As a result of the SGP project, 26 km of power lines were equipped with bird protecting devices, which proved themselves to be 99% effective, with only three deaths eventually occurring during the two-year period from 2014-2016. A special information board was established in the *Karaganda* EcoMuseum to share the project results. Realized in close partnership with the local electrical power company, the demonstration site has since become an innovation centre for Central Kazakhstan, capable of being widely replicated, and has contributed to the conservation and protection of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) across the region.²⁶



Bird protection equipment installation. Credit: SGP Kazakhstan.

²⁵ CPR/SGP/OP5/Y3/STAR/BD/13/02

²⁶ KAZ/SGP/OP5/Y2/STAR/BD/20

Suriname

In Suriname, a SGP project involving the sustainable harvesting of *carapa* fruits processed through a traditional technique into *carapa* oil for sale, recently finished during the reporting period. Through the project, 20 women received training in sustainable harvesting methods for a forest of 10,000 hectares, as well as marketing and entrepreneurship. One of the major results of this women-led project has been an increase in annual income. In 2012, annual income from the sale of *carapa* oil for 20 women was approximately US\$6,000. At the completion of the project, the number of women involved in *carapa* oil production had increased to 52 – resulting in a total annual income for the community of US\$32,000, as well as a stable income for the women who are now involved in training other communities in Suriname in sustainable harvesting methods. In another SGP project, the community received training in the sustainable use, preservation, and production of bamboo-based furniture. Twenty-seven people were trained in how to use bamboo, which can be easily planted and cultivated, as an alternative to the over-exploitation of tropical hardwoods across the country.²⁷



Woman processing the Carapa “paste”. The “Carapa paste” will be placed in the sun to allow for extraction of oil. Credit: SGP Suriname.

Togo

In Togo, many of the mountains and hills are rich in biodiversity – containing the sources of many of the rivers and aquifers providing fresh water to human populations – but they are also often fragile and threatened ecosystems. In this context, the majority of the “classified forests” of Togo (which were significantly degraded during the years of civil war) are located along the chain of mountains which run along the center of Northern Togo, including ‘Mount Alédjo-Kadara’, at an altitude of 850 metres, as well as ‘Mount Nafi’ and ‘Mount Barba’. A SGP project in Togo has focused on the restoration of these mountain ecosystems, aiming to reverse the rate of degradation of natural resources on the flanks of the mountains. The project mobilized over 10,000 people for the production and planting of 25,000 valuable tree seedlings (*Parkia biglobosa*, *Leucaena leucocephala*, *Albizia lebbek*, Western *Anarcadium*, *Khaya senegalensis* and *Moringa oleifera*) to revegetate the mountain slopes and to strengthen the environmental monitoring of the two mountains. In total, 12 hectares of hillsides vulnerable to erosion were reforested, and wildfires, which had been annually ravaging portions of these mountains, were minimized through community mobilization, as well as the through the development of bee-keeping on the sites.²⁸



Panorama of Laozhai village. Credit: SGP Togo.

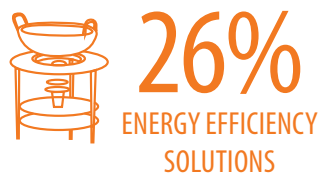
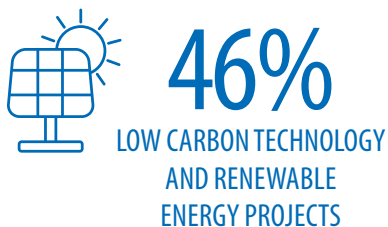
In Mozambique, SGP continued to partner with CEPF, IUCN and BirdLife Int. in the Afromontane biodiversity conservation initiative that involves seven countries (**Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritreia** and **Djibouti**).

²⁷ SUR/SGP/OP5/Y4/CORE/BD/15/48; SUR/SGP/OP5/Y2/CORE/BD/13/20

²⁸ TGO / SGP / OP5 / CORE / BD / 06/11

Climate Change Mitigation

RESULTS



This GEF focal area supports the implementation of targets and priorities to mitigate climate change and to contribute to the overall objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In line with the overall GEF5 strategic priorities, the key focus for SGP during OP5 has been to: (i) promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level; (ii) promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level, and (iii) to support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry.

SGP CPMT provided the NCs with programmatic guidance on appropriate technologies, indicators, and resources, such as reports on renewable energy and energy efficiency and materials published by UNDP GEF technical advisors and other partners. CPMT also worked on implementation of new partnerships such as Community-based REDD+ (CBR+) providing programmatic advice and support; and developed the OP6 strategy that focuses on achieving and capturing socio-economic benefits in addition to global environmental benefits. The strategy also provides links between climate change mitigation, energy access and SDGs; and aligns SGP interventions with larger frameworks and UNFCCC mechanisms, including Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). CPMT presented the guidance and the new concepts to SGP Country Programme staff in a series of regional workshops with examples and details tailored to regional contexts.

PROGRESS TOWARDS THE OBJECTIVES

During the reporting year, SGP country programmes continued to make steady progress towards programme objectives. Project distribution was consistent with historical trends of the portfolio with the majority of the projects (72%) falling under Objective 1 – *promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level* – where they focused on renewables (46%) and energy efficiency solutions (26%), see Figure 1).

Based on stakeholder priorities and aligned with GEF strategic directions, SGP is expanding work on this objective in OP6 with additional emphasis on energy access and social and environmental benefits. As is evident from Table 8 and several examples below, the first objective (listed as SGP Immediate Objective 3) was fully achieved during OP5 and a number of

CHART 6: DISTRIBUTION OF CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTS BY OP5 OBJECTIVES

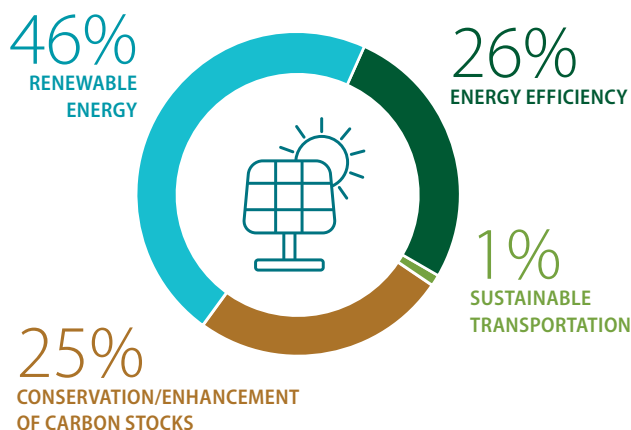


TABLE 8: PROGRESS TOWARDS OBJECTIVES: CLIMATE CHANGE

SGP OP5 OBJECTIVES	SGP OP5 RESULTS INDICATORS	OP5 TARGET	ACHIEVEMENTS WITHIN REPORTING PERIOD (JULY 2015-JUNE 2016)	CUMULATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS OP5 TO DATE
<p>SGP OP5 IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE 3: Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level</p>	<p>Number of countries with demonstrations addressing community-level barriers to deployment of low-GHG technologies</p> <p>Number of national or international partners or agencies are aware of SGP practices and lessons</p>	<p>127 countries with demonstrations addressing community-level barriers to deployment of low-GHG technologies</p> <p>At least 100 national or international partners or agencies are aware of SGP practices and lessons</p>	<p>During the reporting period 51 countries reported on 248 completed projects involving such demonstrations and 21 countries reported on advanced activities</p> <p>In all 72 cases more than one national partner was involved</p>	<p>248 reports on completed projects were received indicating implementation of more than one demonstration per country. Each SGP country had at least one demonstration activity</p> <p>In all reported cases more than one national partner was involved</p>
<p>SGP OP5 IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE 4: Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level</p>	<p>Number of countries where community-level low-GHG transport options have been demonstrated</p> <p>Number of governments having been influenced by SGP demonstration practices</p>	<p>50 countries with community-level low-GHG transportation demonstrations</p> <p>At least 20 governments (local or national) having been influenced in policy development and implementation</p>	<p>2 demonstrations reported</p> <p>Local governments were aware of the demonstration practices</p>	<p>24 countries reported on demonstrations</p> <p>In all 24 cases local governments were aware of the demonstrations and the results were taken to consideration for policy development.</p>
<p>SGP OP5 IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE 5: Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry</p>	<p>Hectares under improved sustainable land management and climate proofing practices</p> <p>Hectares of forests and non-forest lands with restoration and enhancement initiated</p>	<p>100,000 hectares under improved sustainable land management and climate proofing practices</p> <p>Restoration and enhancement of 50,000 hectares of forests and non-forest lands initiated</p>	<p>87 projects reported in 18 countries, with specific information on coverage to be presented in the 2017 annual report</p>	<p>Projects started late in OP5, cumulative data to be available in early 2017</p>

innovative ideas emerged from technology demonstrations. SGP continued to pioneer, test, adapt and disseminate a wide range of technologies for renewable energy and energy efficiency tailored to the needs and resources of different

communities. In some countries the technologies have already been applied at a larger scale as part of integrated solutions, with some initiatives scaled up by partners and integrated in national networks.



The second OP5 objective on sustainable transport (listed as SGP Immediate Objective 4 in Table 8) has been only partially achieved (currently, slightly over 50%), and as sustainable transport projects have historically made up only a small percentage of the portfolio, it is likely that the objective's targets will not be fully achieved for OP5 (see Table 8). Experience in OP5 indicates that sustainable transport initiatives generally require larger investments and stakeholder capacities than NGOs or CBOs are capable of mustering, especially in given the programme focus on poor, off-grid communities.

As in previous years, consistent with the recent global trends of falling costs, solar power applications, such as solar panels or solar powered lighting, driers and water pumps (both for irrigation and potable water supply) continue to prevail across all regions. However, most frequently they are not used alone, rather, a mix of renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions tailored to the regional and country realities is used to achieve greater impact and sustainability.

Some typical interventions, for example, in African countries such as Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Cape Verde, Eritrea, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, and Uganda, provide access to electricity, water and energy for cooking in rural communities using solar energy, biomass and energy efficient stoves in a combination. These interventions often target not only households, but essential community institutions such as clinics and schools benefitting the entire community. In countries, where larger segments of populations have access to electricity, such as Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Georgia, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Morocco, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, community solar applications, often in combination with energy efficient technologies and biomass, are used to provide access to remote and disadvantaged communities, including refugees and indigenous peoples.

In SIDS, uniquely threatened by climate change and facing high energy costs, such as Antigua and Barbuda, Fiji, Jamaica, Maldives, Palau, and Seychelles, SGP is supporting the demonstration activities combined with education and advocacy to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy technologies. In some SIDS civil society with SGP support is moving beyond individual demonstrations and aiming to initiate systemic transition towards a low carbon economy. For example, in Barbados, SGP is supporting the implementation of a project focusing on greening micro, small and medium-sized enterprises facilitating the implementation of low-carbon technologies and behavior changes in business practices to reduce the business' overall carbon footprint. The project, currently under implementation, includes training, a micro-finance component and establishment of a Green Business Committee to exchange experience and further promote positive change.

It's notable that some innovations and scaling up examples were already reported, including new local biogas technology piloted in Jordan and country wide replication of biogas demonstrations piloted with the support of SGP Country Programmes in Cuba and Uzbekistan. New sustainable charcoal production methodology was developed in Saint Lucia with the support of SGP. The community micro hydro approach successfully piloted with SGP support in previous phases continues to be employed to provide energy access and reduce emissions in a number of countries including Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras and Madagascar. In the Dominican Republic the methodology was replicated country-wide and is currently being scaled up through national strategies including NDCs. It was also replicated in Haiti providing an example of cross-border South-South cooperation successfully overcoming challenging cultural and political contexts. Other reported innovations include energy efficient technologies for small industries in India utilizing local materials like rice husk waste with replication supported by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development. At least two promising innovative uses of renewable energy technologies were reported under implementation and include a solar boat designed in Thailand and use of LED lights for fishing vessels in Vietnam.

In each case the technologies are modern but locally appropriate, and sustainability is achieved through

community ownership, training of community members, and metering and payment systems. During the reporting period a number of countries including Egypt, Jordan, Kenya and Yemen piloted various sustainable financial mechanisms such as microcredit and revolving funds. All these examples of innovative technologies and sustainability models supported by SGP will be further studied and highlighted in OP6 in line with the new targets and indicators, but it is nevertheless already evident that some innovative solutions as well as instances of broader adoption have been successfully achieved in the first year of OP6.

Carbon sequestration was a new area for SGP support in OP5, and Country Programmes made good progress with an average of 30% of all CC projects approved corresponding to this objective throughout OP5 (25% during this reporting period). Based on the last three annual reports, it's estimated that the target (100,000 hectares under improved sustainable land management and climate proofing practices, and restoration and enhancement of 50,000 hectares of forests and non-forest lands initiated) will be reached, however, final, more precise figures of coverage achieved will become available only over the coming months. The three last annual reports indicate that the majority of carbon sequestration projects started relatively late in OP5.

A number of innovative initiatives were developed under this objective, including Community-Based REDD+ partnership aiming to empower communities to participate in the REDD+ mechanism. Initial results are encouraging with more detailed information to become available in the 2017 AMR. Some other interesting initiatives were also reported. For example, within the reporting period, SGP in Costa Rica supported development of a country specific methodology estimating GHG emissions reduction achieved in all SGP projects including agroecology, reforestation, land degradation and others, which could provide important inputs for new OP6 initiatives such as climate smart agroecology and demonstrate climate impact of the entire portfolio. In OP6, carbon sequestration will be integrated into landscape conservation and climate-smart agro-ecology initiatives under the landscape approach.

The following illustrative examples highlight typical interventions supported by SGP under each objective.

Armenia

In Armenia, SGP supported an integrated project in the *Stepanavan* community, employing a number of energy technologies including solar thermal systems and energy efficiency measures, such as improved insulation, in buildings in three community kindergartens and a sports school, benefitting around 400 children. As a result, the community was able to save up to US\$5,500 annually by reducing its daily consumption of natural gas by at least 30 m³, resulting in reduction of at least 25 tons of CO₂ emissions annually. Improvements in children's comfort and in the sanitary conditions of the facilities were added benefits. Furthermore, due to the improvement in the efficiency of the gas-heating boiler system, the old gas heaters, which posed a potential risk to children's health through carbon monoxide poisoning, were phased out. The project also conducted training sessions for the staff of the kindergartens and the municipality. The measures implemented with SGP support also became part of the efforts of the community of Stepanavan to incorporate disaster risk reduction and climate change issues into development programmes within the global campaign "Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready". Meanwhile, in Albania²⁹, SGP supported emergency backup electricity through photovoltaic and solar heated sanitary water in 3 health centers in Northern Albania improving the quality of health services for more than 50,000 people served by these centers.



Preschool children enjoy solar heat. Credit: SGP Armenia.

²⁹ CPR/SGP/OP5/Y3/STAR/BD/13/02

China

In China SGP supported the project promoting bicycle traffic in the city of *Guangzhou*, including policy dialogue with recommendations, media campaign and outreach. The project has helped to prevent the demolition of *Xiaozhou* Temporary Bridge, which is the only bicycle path connecting parts of the city. Through social media campaign, action art, application for information disclosure and a petition to the mayor, the project has convinced the local government to reconstruct this bridge, which benefits 676,000 bicycle users per year. The project also facilitated the new design and construction of 3m wide two-way bicycle path on New *Guangzhou* Bridge through advocacy with local legislators and media appeals. Once completed, this bicycle path will benefit over 1 million people per year. The project has submitted recommendations to legislators on improving bicycle facilities at subway stations. It's expected that 30,000 bicycle parking spaces will be built as a result. The project also advocated with the local government to introduce slow-moving traffic and put 30,000 public bicycles in *Guangzhou* city, which could benefit 100,000 people per day. Overall, the project is expected to avoid emissions of 30,190 tons of CO₂ per year.



Credit: SGP China.

Morocco

In the *Rif* region of Morocco, SGP has supported an integrated forest conservation and carbon storage project focusing on three interventions: agroecology, renewable fuelwood energy and efficient stoves. This approach is typical for SGP initiatives on carbon storage, where reforestation is supported by additional measures including energy access (energy forests, improved stoves) and livelihoods interventions (agroforestry). In this case 120 farmers were trained on innovative agroecology techniques to rehabilitate 75 hectares of unproductive land and to optimize the use of water. Another group was trained in tending orchards and the improvement of the energy performance of wood using a dedicated drying platform. The project provided support to women for replacement of traditional ovens with improved energy efficient technology. The measures drastically reduced the amount of wood consumed (from nine to five tons per family per year) and also reduced the wood collection time for women and children. The initiative has benefited nearly 1,500 households (4,500 people) with CO₂ emissions reduction amounting to 90 tons per year.



Credit: SGP Morocco.

²⁹ CPR/SGP/OP5/Y3/STAR/BD/13/02

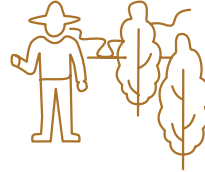
Land Degradation

RESULTS



900,000

HECTARES OF LAND BROUGHT UNDER IMPROVED MANAGEMENT PRACTICES INCLUDING FOREST, AGRICULTURAL LANDS AND WATER COURSES



500,000

COMMUNITY MEMBERS DEMONSTRATING SUSTAINABLE LAND AND FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The focus of the SGP Land Degradation (LD) focal area is on two strategic priorities of the GEF, as stated in the GEF 5 programming directions: i) maintaining or improving the flows of agro-ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities; and ii) reducing pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscapes. In the realization of these objectives, SGP works with community organizations in developing countries to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and its ten-year strategic plan at the local level. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the UNCCD ten-year plan are among the key reference documents that substantiate communities as important actors in the reduction of land degradation and desertification processes.³⁰ SGP activities promote the adoption and application of best practice in adaptive community-based land management leading to global environmental benefits and sustainable development at the local level. The use of indigenous knowledge, lessons from long term experiential learning from neighbouring communities and current best practices advocated by development actors and governments to improve and manage the degradation and destruction of agricultural lands, rangelands, and forest landscapes, are expected to support countries in moving towards land degradation neutrality.

SGP supports community organizations to adopt practices and techniques following the principles and practices of agroecology and climate-smart agriculture, integrated pest

management, governance and sustainable management of forests by communities, and a holistic approach to the management of range resources. Similarly, the use of technology to enhance the efficient use of water, application of farm inputs and the provision of sustainable energy on-farm and at household level is a common approach in the projects implemented during this reporting period. In the initial launch of OP6, up to 30 priority countries have been identified for enhanced support by CPMT to take the lead in climate-smart innovative agroecology, a strategic theme that largely integrates Sustainable Land Management (SLM), agriculture and agro-biodiversity priorities.

CPMT has developed a technical guidance note and a user's manual for the National Coordinators that provides technical and strategic guidance on project formulation and implementation under SLM. In addition to this important tool, CPMT continues to share comparative local level experiences in the context of south-south exchange through collaboration with UNDP's World Indigenous Network (WIN) programme and other partners. Other relevant information and best practice from development partners, NGOs and UN agencies is also being shared to provide diversified approaches and options in the fight against desertification and land degradation. Tables 9A and 9B summarizes the progress of this focal area across countries.

³⁰ www.millenniumassessment.org/documents/document.355.aspx.pdf.1

TABLE 9A: SUMMARY OF PROGRESS UNDER THE LAND DEGRADATION FOCAL AREA, INDICATOR REGULAR SGP PROJECTS

INDICATOR	TARGETS FOR OP5	TOTAL UNITS OP5 YR5	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS OP5
Hectares of land ³¹ under improved management practices including forest, agriculture and water	150,000 hectares under improved agricultural, land and water management practices	143,873 ha	802,133 ³² ha
Number of community members demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices	At least 60,000 community members with improved practices that have reduced pressure on land and forests	148,768	494,891 ³³

TABLE 9B: SUMMARY OF PROGRESS UNDER THE LAND DEGRADATION FOCAL AREA IN THE UPGRADED SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

INDICATOR	TOTAL UNITS OP5 YR5	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS OP5
Hectares of degraded land ³¹ under improved management practices for forest, agriculture and water	46,879 ha	143,873 ³⁴ ha
Number of community members demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices	8,620 people	78,724 ³⁵

The number of projects and the levels of investment in this focal area remain relatively stable. However, the land area covered during the current implementation period is smaller compared to last year, with approximately 90,000 hectares improved. These projects have benefited over 158,000 community members, representing a corresponding decline in number over the previous reporting period. The decline in number of participating communities and area improved is explained by the fact that fewer focal area resources were available to LD during the reporting year. It is also important to note, however, that overall for OP5 programming, the general trend has shown increased resources being allocated to the focal area, a phenomenon tracked in the previous AMR. As illustrated in Tables 9A and 9B, above, the target in hectares for improved practices under the LD portfolio in OP5 has been surpassed significantly (by almost 19 times). This is explained by the fact that there is increased interest by national stakeholders in the issues of land degradation and desertification, especially as they relate to food security within rural communities and the role that sustainable land management plays in enhancing carbon sequestration in forests and agro-ecosystems.

In addition to the above, there has been continual growth in the number of other interested community members who adopt practices and approaches as a result of replication and scaling up within this cross cutting theme, supported as well by increased funding from governments, NGOs and other sources as consequence of increased commitment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. Previous evaluations of the SGP have indicated this trend of increased formulation of projects in this focal area. Therefore, the number of community members adopting improved SLM practices has increased with a corresponding increase in area affected during implementation of OP5. Similar to last year, Africa (122 projects) and Latin America and the Caribbean (60 projects) continue to be the regions with the most land degradation projects under implementation. In Africa, in particular, SGP LD projects, as indicated in the selected examples below, provide useful knowledge and information for policy dialogues and demonstrate what can be achieved at the community level, with potential replication and upscaling at national and regional levels.

³¹ This figure includes the restoration and enhancement of 50,000 hectares of forests and non-forest lands, which is covered by the indicators of the number of hectares of land rehabilitated/restored (under range management, forestry and agriculture).

³² OP5 Y2: 71,606 ha + OP5 Y3: 224,982 ha+ OP5 Y4: 461,672 ha+ OP5 Y5 43,873 ha= 802,133 ha. Note that a great proportion of this figure has been contributed by Argentina with a large land area affected of 283,150 ha.

³³ OP5 Y2: 75,601 people + OP5 Y3: 104,155 people+ OP5 Y4: 166,367 + OP5 Y5 148,768 = 494,891 people

³⁴ OP5 Y2: 4,500 ha + OP5 Y3: 22,863 ha+ OP5 Y4: 110,336 ha + OP5 Y5 46,879 ha = 184,578 ha

³⁵ OP5 Y2: 50,000 people + OP5 Y3: 15,465 people+ OP5 Y4: 4,639 + OP5 Y5 8,620 = 78,724 people

SELECTED COUNTRY-LEVEL EXAMPLES THAT DEMONSTRATE THE PROGRESS TOWARDS OP5 OBJECTIVES UNDER THE LD PORTFOLIO

South Africa

In South Africa, the aim of the project³⁶ was to build the capacities of small-scale farmers to address land degradation and conserve biodiversity in the *Bokkeveld* area in the Northern Cape region. Three contour bunds, totalling 1500m, were constructed on the Dobbelaarskop farm, which had been extensively eroded. Soil and water conservation was undertaken on the Avontuur farm, including the construction of check dams, creation of micro-catchments, and surface remediation through the use of breakers on crusted soils, more direct seeding and the application of geotextiles on crusted soil. Activities also included additional construction of 260 check dams, six gabions and 110 micro-catchments to control erosion. Control measures have resulted in plant re-growth and reduced soil and water runoff. Training workshops were held with farmers, including production of a project video. Technical capacities for land restoration of over 90 farmers were developed, who are now practicing sustainable land management on their farms. Results of the project were published in a poster at the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies global meeting in Pretoria in 2014 and at the UNCCD COP11. The project experience was also described in the book "Living Land", published by the UNCCD.



Armenia

In Armenia, the project³⁷ aimed to prevent heavy metal contamination of soil and food crops – caused by irrigation with river water polluted by the mining industry – through renovation of irrigation canals and introduction of SLM practices in *Achanan* and *Syunik* communities. This initiative also addressed environmental and food safety issues and created sustainable income generation opportunities in a non-mining sector. Farmlands of the affected communities are threatened by use of wastewaters discharged from the *Arstvanik* tailings reservoir, which have high concentrations of heavy metals and other toxic elements. As part of project activities, the existing non-operational four km-long irrigation canal connecting *Norashenik* River to farmlands in two communities was rehabilitated. The reconstruction allowed for the intake of clean irrigation water from the river upstream, cutting out the mining wastewater discharge point. This resulted in avoidance of contamination of 30 hectares of land by mining water and provision of irrigation water for an additional 70 hectares of land, ensuring extra income for about 160 households in both communities. Furthermore, to boost livelihoods in two communities, 30 farmers were trained in sustainable land and water use practices, including crop rotation, as well as a water sharing programme, intensive agriculture, and safe food production.



³⁶ SGP SAF/SGP/OP5/Y1/STAR/LD/12/04

³⁷ ARM/SGP/OP5/Y3/STAR/LD/14/30

Similarly, in **Armenia**, the project, implemented in Angeghakot, Tolors and Salvard communities of Syunik region, aimed to support the livelihoods of the local population engaged in livestock breeding, by way of protecting and restoring degraded mountain rangelands. First, project strategies involved improving access to remote pastures through rehabilitation of 16 km of deteriorating road and construction of four watering points, three rest areas for cattle, and three shelters for shepherds. Introduction of economically feasible and environmentally sustainable range management systems increased the available, usable area of pastureland by over 2,000 hectares (around a 50% increase). This expanded overall fodder production and the reproduction capacity of livestock, reduced pressure on overgrazed degraded areas and enhanced carbon sequestration in grassland systems. Over 500 community members gained knowledge of integrated pasture management and sustainable use practices, which resulted in an increase of the total area of pasture to 6,000 hectares from the initially projected 2,000 hectares.



Morocco

In Morocco, SGP activities in the watershed of Assif Melloul (south-eastern Morocco) helped rehabilitate degraded lands brought about by water erosion from heavy floods affecting the area. The project contributed to rehabilitation of vulnerable ravines in the valley following a mechanical and biological approach. To manage the flow of water and retain soil, 430m³ of gabions and 1,600m³ of dry stone low walls were constructed, with 150 ha ravines re-vegetated with two native species with high soil fixation capacity (wild gooseberry and barberry – 19,850 plants). These activities resulted in avoiding erosion of more than 5,000 tons of soil and reduced agricultural losses by at least 40%. Overall, an area of 723 ha has been protected. Furthermore, the local community, using skills acquired through learning-by-doing during implementation, continues to carry out conservation measures based on the model developed by the project.



Similarly, in **Morocco** the project³⁸ in the High Atlas funded by SGP has contributed to the regeneration of degraded soils through the preservation and the development of walnut orchards. The project has built a community nursery of 520,000 walnut seedlings. Over 200,000 walnut trees were planted in private plots and on communal lands. An enterprise for walnut production has been created where 49 women process six tonnes of nuts and produce up to 900 litres of walnut oil every six months, in accordance with accepted standards for organic based agriculture. The selling price of nuts experienced a net increase of close to 40% of the original price by being marketed as organic. Moreover, 6,500 people, including 1,000 women, have benefited from the impact of the project.



Credit: SGP Morocco.

³⁸ MOR/SGP/OP5/Y2/STAR/LD/13/02

³⁹ LEB/SGP/OP5/Y1/CORE/BD/12/06

Lebanon

In Lebanon³⁹, an SGP project created the first herbal and tree nursery in the Bekaa region that is capable of providing herb and high quality tree seedlings for municipalities, NGOs and farmers of the region for afforestation and establishment of genuine orchards. Currently, more than 200,000 herbal seedlings (zaatar/ thyme, sage, etc.) and more than 20,000 tree seedlings are grown annually in the nursery and given out for plantation and afforestation, including seedlings of 30 types of forest tree species and 25 types of fruit tree seedlings. As part of the project, women are trained in proper processing and packaging of herbs and fruits, enabling them to have additional income and improving their food security and more than 400 students of the three local schools learned how to collect seeds from local trees and plants, and plant these seeds and grow seedlings and care for them.



Credit: SGP Lebanon.

Sustainable Forest Management

RESULTS



The portfolio of projects supporting community-based sustainable forest management aims at building the local level mechanisms for forest management and governance for sustainable use and enhanced production of ecosystem services. The projects often cut across strict focal area boundaries as they promote improved management of biodiversity, enhanced climate change mitigation and increased sustainability of ecosystem services. Projects implemented during this period continue to support the objectives of i) increasing ecological connectivity and improving forest biodiversity values at landscape levels; ii) promoting good management practices in community and small holder forestry and rangelands; as well as the new objective of iii) managing woodlots and protection of communal forest zones for medicinal and educational purposes.

Communities primarily initiate forest projects for effective governance and implementation of participatory management plans to provide themselves with sustained goods and services. Benefit-sharing is a key concern for most communities with communityforest associations working to ensure that there is equity in governance and access to forest products. Lessons from the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) portfolio during the reporting

period continue to show clear preferences of communities for joint management of forests, including access to and rights over communal resources, including forest products.

Table 10 below provides an overview of projects implemented this period and the total area brought under sustainable forest management protocols.

The number of projects (28 projects) under SFM developed in this reporting period remains more or less the same as last year (29 projects). However, the area under restoration with improved management practices through SFM is about half of that of last year. This can be explained, in part, by the fact that estimates of the area under forest cover over time are becoming increasingly precise given repeated assessments. The general trend of project development remains unchanged, with Africa, where community livelihoods are strongly linked to the goods and services generated by forests, hosting most of the projects. The importance of the LD portfolio in Africa and Asia reflects the significance poverty-stricken communities attach to these resources. Rehabilitation of degraded forest lands is an expensive undertaking if the land is already bare, as is the case in the drier areas, making SFM a rather costly project undertaking at the community level.

Forest degradation, as assessed by communities, is not necessarily measured by diminishing forest cover alone but can also be based on manifestations of degradation processes such as loss of important species and habitats, as well as erosion caused by wind and water. Overall, the strategies deployed in many community-managed forests are to institute good governance, putting in place a community driven management and utilization plan with clear direct and indirect benefits shared equitably by all stakeholders while also enhancing the continual provision of ecosystem services for human stakeholders and wildlife.

TABLE 10: NUMBER OF HECTARES RESTORED THROUGH IMPROVED FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

JULY 2015 – JUNE 2016	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	NUMBER OF HECTARES
Total	28	102,131

SELECTED COUNTRY-LEVEL EXAMPLES THAT DEMONSTRATE THE PROGRESS TOWARDS OP5 OBJECTIVES UNDER THE SFM PORTFOLIO

Ghana

In Ghana, the project⁴⁰ assisted the communities in promoting sustainable forest management and sustainable utilization of forest products through the establishment of Community Resource Management Areas (CREMA) in three targeted communities. The project promoted sustainable agro-forestry technologies and on-farm tree establishment that has led to sustainable income-generation. The project supported the adoption of Community Protected Areas (CPAs), including Sacred Groves, and Community Dedicated Forests. The project involved 55 farmers, who placed 120 hectares of forest under sustainable forest management and developed 35 hectares under agro-forestry management and on-farm woodlots. Additionally, the project introduced 35 households to bee-keeping, small ruminant rearing and dry season gardening.



Credit: SGP Ghana.

⁴⁰ GHA/SGP/OP5/Y3/STAR/BD/09/04/031

⁴¹ ZIM/SGP/OP5/Y3/STAR/LD/13/13

Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, *Biohub Trust* projects⁴¹ implementing a pilot project on promoting bamboo as an alternative energy source for household use and tobacco curing, while at the same time promoting sound forest management in Hurungwe District. BIOHUB is protecting 5 species that are under severe threat (*Colophospermum mopane*, *Julbernardia globiflora*, *Acacia nilotica*, *Brachystegia spiciformis* and *Brachystegia boehmii*). The project supported the establishment of 5 assisted natural regeneration (ANR) sites covering 1,907 hectares from which carbon credits trading will be initiated. This will provide additional income to the selected villages that have set aside some of their forests for this initiative.

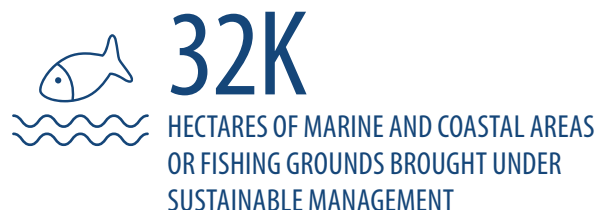
The organization is also working on a UN-REDD project building synergies with this project. With the aim to promote giant bamboo timber which is a good carbon sink, 3,750 bamboo plants were distributed and planted in an area covering 12.3 hectares, benefitting 250 people. To reduce pressures on the forests, the project disseminated 63 fuel saving stoves benefitting 48 females and 15 males, while 245 members benefited from direct stove building training workshops. In terms of livelihood improvement, the project also established fruit trees in 6 locations in the area with about 4,500 seedlings raised in the nurseries. The fruit trees are benefitting 225 beneficiaries each one of whom will receive 20 saplings to plant at household level to improve livelihoods.



Credit: SGP Zimbabwe.

International Waters

RESULTS



The goal of the International Waters (IW) focal area is the promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems and subsequent implementation of the full range of policy, legal and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services.⁴² Specifically, SGP aimed to develop and demonstrate effective and climate resilient community-based actions and practices supporting implementation of the regional GEF financed Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs). SGP's niche in the IW focal area lies in its community-based approach that complements national and regional levels, ensuring the comprehensive coverage of international waters management interventions. During the reporting period, SGP continued to support the implementation of SAPs and aligned its IW portfolio with regional priorities in 15 international waterbodies, including: Ouémé River, Brahmaputra River, Limpopo River, Nile River, South China Sea, Ugam River, Mekong River, Orange-Senqu River, West Indian Ocean, Groot Marico River, Bay of Bengal Large Marine Eco-system, Lake Victoria, Zambezi River, Atlantic Ocean, and Aspara River.

SGP has continued to serve as a delivery mechanism for reaching communities and providing local inputs for regional management processes and frameworks. During the reporting period, 23 international waters projects were completed. Table 11 outlines progress made towards achieving the targets in the international waters portfolio in GEF-5 during the reporting period. The IW portfolio is primarily focused on: i) conservation and rehabilitation of coastal or freshwater ecosystems and habitats, including the removal of invasive species to maintain health of the ecosystems; ii) prevention and reduction of land-based pollution, such as the construction of eco-toilets to reduce waste discharge to transboundary water systems; iii) water resource management including sustainable irrigation, underground water resource management, rain harvesting and water efficiency; and iv) fisheries, land, forest and other natural resource management. Country programmes were further directed to align their international waters activities with regional programmes in ten priority waterbodies, including the Caribbean Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Pacific Islands, Red Sea, South China Sea/East Asian Seas, West Indian Ocean, Mekong River, Nile River, Niger River and Lake Victoria.

TABLE 11: ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROJECTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL WATERS PORTFOLIO (JULY 2015 – JUNE 2016)

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	INDICATOR	TOTAL
Land-based pollution	Solid waste, sewage, waste water, agricultural waste reduced	Tons of waste reduced	40 tons
Marine/coastal areas or fishing grounds	Mangroves replanted, seagrass protected, coral reefs rehabilitated	Hectares of marine/coastal areas or fishing grounds sustainably managed	32,560 ha
River and lake basins	Basins applying sustainable management practices	Hectares of basins converted	42,696 ha

⁴² GEF. 2009. Compilation of the Focal Area Strategies for GEF-5 (www.thegef.org/gef/pubs/GEF-5_FA_Strategies).



Fishermen monitoring biodiversity conservation in a fishing shelter. Credit: SGP Mexico – Citlali Garcia.

At the global level, CPMT led the development of global strategies for the IW focal area in GEF6, and finalized a global technical guidance note that strategically positions SGP as a part of GEF's IW portfolio work. CPMT led the global consultations and advocacy for SGP's particular role in integrated international waters management through its mechanism to engage and involve local communities in supporting the implementation of SAPs. A journal paper entitled "Polycentric coastal and ocean management in the Caribbean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem: harnessing community-based actions to implement regional frameworks" was published in the journal *Environmental Development*. This paper advocates deeper vertical integration of management interventions that strengthens the alignment and linkages between actors and interventions at local, national and regional levels. SGP has successfully launched the implementation of the Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystem Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWEco) partnership programme with UNDP and UNEP in the Caribbean and conducted preparatory work for programming, including mainstreaming IWEco work within SGP's Country Programme Strategies.

SGP participated in the East Asian Seas Congress in Danang, Vietnam, in November 2015 and the eighth GEF International Waters Conference in Sri Lanka in May 2016. SGP was present in various sessions of the two conferences and received positive feedback from Conference participants. During the GEF IW Conference, SGP launched the publication "Scaling up Community Actions for International Waters Management", a portfolio review that highlights how community led actions can develop innovative solutions to international waters challenges and how these pilot and demonstration projects lead to wider adoption, lasting change, and policy impact. The ten cases in the publication demonstrate that small scale actions by communities, coupled with efforts of governments, the private sector, donors and other key stakeholders, can lead to achievement of results at a greater scale beyond the originally targeted communities. The publication was launched with an animated video that reviews the results achieved in international waters in the last five years (2011-2016).

Egypt

In Egypt, building on previous successful SGP projects, SGP supported a project to improve water use efficiency of irrigation in Naqada Village, Qena Governorate, which is located in Upper Egypt and suffers from water scarcity and land degradation due to unsustainable water use practices by farmers. The project has succeeded in developing 17 irrigation canals with a total length of 4,675m, exceeding the target by 675m, and benefitting the livelihoods of 399 farmers. To support local capacity development, five trainings were organized with the participation of farmers and leaders in Qena governorate in the areas of monitoring and reporting; climate change, land degradation and food security and the role of civil society, community participation; networking partnership building; and water pollution and scarcity in the Nile River basin. The project further conducted 20 awareness raising seminars in Qena villages on the direct benefits of lining irrigation canals, focusing on the conservation of irrigation water, energy and the agricultural land that could be re-cultivated as a result. Printed materials were designed and produced to support the awareness raising activities. The grantee partner was able to successfully partner with the Irrigation Department in Naqada, the local government unit in charge of irrigation, water users' associations, farmers, and other NGOs, which had a direct impact on facilitating the implementation of the project and provided the technical follow-up needed.



Credit: SGP Egypt.

Malaysia

In Malaysia, SGP supported a project to map and manage underground water resources on the island of Pulau Mantanani. The main objective of this project was to create awareness to protect the groundwater resource and reduce salinization of aquifers on Pulau Mantanani Island. The project has successfully empowered the local community to take responsibility for monitoring groundwater resources. Eight members of the community were engaged as Community Researchers to collect data. These dedicated researchers collected data each week for 80 weeks, covering 100 wells spread across the island. The data indicated two significant trends worth management considerations: the level of salinity in the ground water is increasing, and the level of water in the wells is falling. The project raised the awareness of roughly 1,000 villagers who share access to the potable water from the wells in the island and succeeded in convincing them to explore the option of rainwater harvesting. In the past, the majority of people in the community resisted using rainwater due to the perception that rainwater is not safe to drink. The project also designed a cost effective and simple rainwater harvesting system that islanders can build for themselves. Adoption of this alternative water source will be beneficial for the villagers in the long term as it will provide an alternative source of water and mitigate drawdown and further salinization of the aquifers. It is now also clear what people have to do to protect the aquifer, and such information has been made available to all of the island community.



Credit: SGP Malaysia.

Micronesia

In Micronesia, a project has been successfully implemented by Tamil Resources Conservation Trust (TRCT) to establish a traditionally declared and community managed Marine Protected Area (MPA) inclusive of a no-take zone, a buffer zone and a traditionally managed utilization zone. Management and use regulations have been developed by the community, and a series of at least 12 community outreach events to raise community awareness were carried out on where to fish and not to fish. TRCT also successfully carried out a socio-economic baseline assessment and is currently working to complete the analysis of its post project results/findings for comparison. In all five villages, Chiefs led the process of informing and involving over 400 villagers in MPA establishment. TRCT also established several sub-committees on community awareness, biophysical coral and fish monitoring, and enforcement who have worked to carry out various specific components of the project. Over 1,600 hectares of community managed reef has been delineated and demarcated showing visibly the boundary of the MPA with 60 installed MPA markers.



Credit: SGP Micronesia – Sean G Kadannged.

Rwanda

In Rwanda, a SGP supported the development of a sustainable model of agriculture in the Ndobogo wetland, Huye District⁴³. The project was implemented by a cooperative of rice farmers in partnership with the University of Rwanda. The model keeps the natural vegetation (fallow) bands and alternates cultivated wetlands (rice) to conserve wetland functions such as cleaning, soil and water retention while promoting the use of organic manure (composting rice residues and the natural vegetation from the wetland). Thirteen students from the university contributed to the research and three did their thesis on the project. As a result, sediment retention in the wetland increased, and down-stream water was less polluted improving the biodiversity in the wetland. In addition, research shows that farmers could increase their rice production by 120%. The model has been integrated in all Districts development plans and this important replication of the project could contribute to reduce the pollution of rivers and lakes associated with cultivated wetlands and hence contribute to the protection of the Lake Victoria and the Nile River ecosystem.

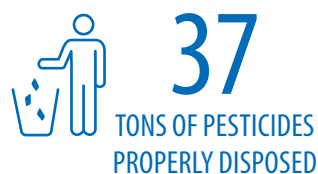


Students from UR collecting data and samples. Credit: SGP Rwanda.

⁴³ RWA/SGP/OP5/Y2/CORE/IW/12/05

Chemicals and Waste

RESULTS



The goal of the chemicals focal area in GEF-5 is to promote the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the global environment.⁴⁴ In GEF5, SGP aimed to support community-level initiatives and actions to prevent, reduce and phase out persistent organic pollutants (POPs) chemicals and manage contaminated sites in an environmentally sound manner and mitigate environmental contamination. SGP's strategy for addressing POPs and other harmful chemicals is two-fold: i) *managing and reducing the use of these substances*; and ii) *addressing the disposal, clean-up and mitigation of environmental contamination*. A core role of SGP is in the demonstration, piloting and testing of community-based models to eliminate POPs and sustainably manage other harmful substances and waste, which can be scaled-up and replicated to catalyze successful large-scale approaches.

During the reporting period, 33 chemicals and waste projects were completed. The portfolio focused its activities on: 1) solid waste management, including avoidance of open burning of solid waste, medical waste management and the collection and disposal of e-waste; 2) organic

farming focusing on the production and use of organic manure and the reduction or prevention of pesticide use in agriculture; 3) PCB management and disposal; and 4) capacity development, awareness raising and knowledge sharing. Throughout the reporting year, the SGP portfolio has generated valuable experiences and lessons learned from piloting and testing innovative approaches to chemicals and waste management at the community level. Table 12 summarizes the portfolio progress and quantitative outputs generated during the reporting period.

At the global level, CPMT led the development of innovative global strategies for chemicals and waste focal area in GEF6, recognizing the importance of some emerging global issues including the newly ratified Minamata Convention. A global technical guidance note was developed to strategically focus SGP's work on specific priority areas in the chemicals and waste focal area. CPMT finalized the updating of a chemicals and waste training module and continued its effort to promote the use of this unique capacity development tool. CPMT has worked with selected country programmes to pilot innovative work in mercury management, especially in the artisanal gold mining sector.

TABLE 12: A SUMMARY OF PROGRESS UNDER THE CHEMICALS FOCAL AREA (JULY 2015 – JUNE 2016)

OP5 INDICATORS	OP5 TARGETS	ACHIEVEMENTS
Tons of solid waste avoided from burning	100 tons of solid waste avoided from burning	3,458 tons of solid waste avoided from burning
Tons of obsolete pesticides disposed of appropriately	30 tons of obsolete pesticides disposed of appropriately	37 tons of pesticides disposed of appropriately
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	15 countries where SGP is contributing to the implementation of national plans and policies

⁴⁴ GEF. 2009. Compilation of the Focal Area Strategies for GEF-5 (https://www.thegef.org/gef/pubs/GEF-5_FA_Strategies).

Antigua and Barbuda

In Antigua and Barbuda, SGP supported an e-waste management initiative, the first of its kind on the islands. Youth were brought together to be trained in computer repair and salvage of workable items to complete a new product to be resold to generate income for youth. The balance of the unusable portions was discarded and put in a collection center set up by the project. The project carried out public education on the issue and disseminated information on the airways and in newspapers. The project developed partnerships and involved expertise from technical persons in and out of government. The processing of the waste was done for the most part manually and was very labor intensive and in some cases, a pressing machine had to be borrowed from the recycling center. The first container load of e-waste was sent to the Caribbean e-waste center in Barbados but many challenges were encountered, so new markets in the USA for the e-waste were found and plans are in motion for a second 40ft container to be sent shortly. Discussions ongoing with Government ministries to provide all e-waste from their ministries to the center and for the acquisition of a large warehouse for future operations and other support. The national Solid Waste Authority has also provided all its e-waste to the project. A regional project funded by the GEF has been approved, and the SGP-supported initiative will be a key local project to be supported. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is assisting in the submission of a proposal to the Japanese Embassy to upscale the project.



Ghana

In Ghana, a project was implemented to build local capacities in community waste management to prevent waste burning and reduce the use of POPs pesticides, focusing on POPs alternatives and organic models to control pests. The overall objective of this project was to demonstrate the viability of composting and sustainable Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) management. Recognizing the inadequate capacity at the community level to address POPs, the project trained 25 community members to segregate wastes and minimize waste by composting and to promote green waste composting and organic farming. In addition to SGP financial support, the project received technical and partial funding assistance from Rayleco Enviro-Engineering Private Limited company from India. A composting facility for processing 20 tons of waste into compost for vegetable production was established and demonstrated at Abrono near Techiman. The facility provided permanent jobs to 12 people and indirect jobs to 35 women in the segregation and sale of recycled materials from mixed MSW, and marketing of bio-fertilizer to farmers.



Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, an e-waste collection network was established within the Colombo South municipal area through the support of a SGP project. The network consisted of 162 small shops and 43 private companies and one NGO. Doorstep e-waste collection was also carried out. An e-waste collection and processing center was established and the license obtained from the government to collect and process e-waste. 4,000kg of e-waste has been collected to date by the center. It is estimated that the collected e-waste contained approximately 46.65kg of heavy metals and hazardous chemicals. Many workshops and training programmes were conducted for school children, private sector companies and government officials. Workshops were conducted for the National Institute of Education to include e-waste management lessons in the school syllabus. Art, poster and video competitions were held to promote the e-waste management concept among school children and the general public. In addition, mass media and social media campaigns were used to promote e-waste management.



Distributed bins and collected e-waste. Credit: SGP Sri Lanka.

Suriname

In Suriname, SGP supported a project that helped raise awareness of mercury contamination and extended support for the government to sign and ratify the Minamata Convention. The key component in this project was a media campaign, through Facebook and the internet, called The No Kwik Movement. This movement now has 31,662 supporters, who support stopping the use of mercury in the small scale mining industry and who support the signing of the Minamata Convention by the Government of Suriname. A major breakthrough in this campaign occurred when the Government of Suriname announced that it would sign and ratify the Minamata Convention this year, which was in part due to the No Kwik Movement. At the time of this report, the government has not signed the Convention.



Credit: SGP Suriname.

Capacity Development

RESULTS



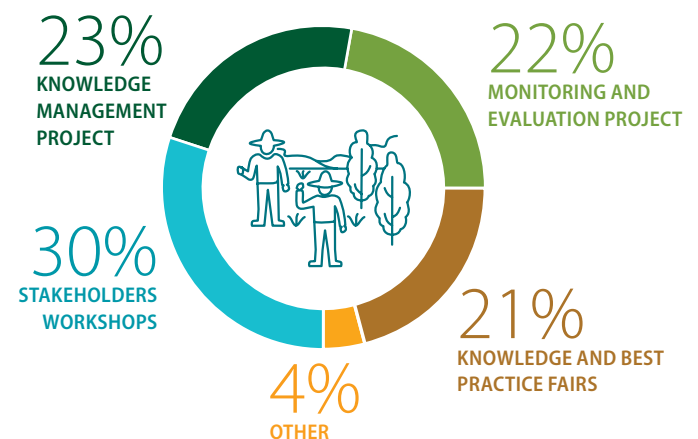
During this reporting year, SGP Country Programmes completed 51 projects dedicated specifically to strengthen the capacities of 1,153 CSOs and 726 CBOs, comprising 9,507 people, to address global environmental issues at the community level. To this end, 30% of the SGP Country Programmes carried out stakeholder workshops, 23% knowledge management projects, 22% M&E projects aimed at strengthening portfolio level monitoring and evaluation tools, and 21% for knowledge and best practice fairs. These capacity development activities go beyond the project to strategically connect the portfolio to larger frameworks and networks with the aim to produce broader adoption.

SGP **Belarus** produced a knowledge management and results report of the past four years of experience of SGP in the country and held a discussion of the results and lessons learned from the SGP projects during a National Conference. SGP **Botswana**⁴⁵ worked with the Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organizations to facilitate two capacity development workshops of three days each with the theme of “empowering civil society organizations in sustainable environmental management”. 136 participants from CSOs around the country benefitted with discussion and training on governance and leadership, interactive proposal development, project management, monitoring and evaluation, budgeting and financial management and resource mobilization. Meanwhile, SGP **Suriname** completed a project⁴⁶ aimed at improving the M&E capacities of current and past grantees and the exchange of lessons learned. In **Dominican Republic** SGP trained more than 940 people on project formulation, ecotourism, agroforestry, organic

production, revolving funds, and renewable energy, and helped to develop ten strategic plans for CBOs and NGOs.

Argentina, Turkey and **Trinidad and Tobago** carried out national Knowledge Fairs during which SGP grantees present the results and lessons learned from their projects, to each other as well as other key stakeholders including the government, UNDP and other development agencies, the media and other NGOs and CSOs in the country. The purpose of these knowledge fairs is to improve understanding of the GEF focal areas and the SGP objectives; present the results of the SGP portfolio; exchange knowledge and lessons learned; strengthen partnerships among all stakeholders; and promote further replication and scaling up of SGP-supported practices. This year, SGP **Turkey** organized a knowledge fair as part of the Green Business Conference in Istanbul to coincide with the Equator Prize Ceremony, reaching a high number of participants who learned more about the results and knowledge generated by the SGP portfolio.

CHART 7: TYPE OF CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



⁴⁵ BOT/SGP/OP5/STAR/CD/15/15

⁴⁶ SUR/SGP/OP5/Y4/CORE/CD/14/42

Sierra Leone

In Sierra Leone, a capacity development project⁴⁷ improved the knowledge of environmental policies in the country by translating the Environmental Protection Act into three local languages – Krio, Temne and Mende – benefitting 6,500 people. In addition, the project helped to create eight School Nature clubs, four Community Conservation Committees and eight Community Savings and Loan Schemes (CSLS). To improve local action, the Act was incorporated into bylaws at the community level, and its key policies were adapted into jingles for massive awareness raising among the youth. The CSLS, consisting of 80 women (ten per group), focused on the cultivation and production of local fruit plants and seedlings and directly benefited 2,000 people, with each member increasing her income by US\$44 after paying back the initial loan.



Credit: SGP Sierra Leone.

Georgia

SGP Georgia⁴⁸ supported environmental NGOs in the buffer zones of Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park in the development of their institutional and organizational capacities to improve natural resource management and biodiversity conservation in the Samtskhe-Javakheti Region. Following a needs assessment, 11 NGOs received training in project management, strategic planning, financing and tax code and media relations. As a result, five of the NGOs received additional grants to protect the buffer zones of the Borjomi Kharagauli National Park.



Credit: SGP Georgia.

⁴⁷ SLE/SGP/OP5/STAR/CD/13/06/017

⁴⁸ GEO/SGP/OP5/Y4/CORE/CD/15/01

Dominica

SGP Dominica implemented a project⁴⁹ with the Layout Improvement Committee targeting local event planners with the aim of significantly reducing their environmental impacts by using waste and recycled materials in their events, for example, promoting the use of biodegradable cups and plates instead of Styrofoam or plastic. The training was hands-on, and participants were able to design and implement a model "green event" to culminate the training.



Planting fruit trees, Massacre Primary School visit. Credit: SGP Dominica.

⁴⁹ DMA/SGP/OP5/Y4/CORE/CD/14/04

⁵⁰ BOL/SGP/OP5/Y2/FSP/13/07

Jordan

In Jordan, SGP improved the capacities of 25 women on sustainable community planning, soap manufacturing from natural extracts, organic farming and gray water management, photography, communications, presentations and proposal writing. As part of the project the women visited environmental conservation projects in Aqaba by the Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan, Aqaba Marine Park and Aqaba Bird Observatory, and another visit to Wadi Rum Protected Area. Currently, five of these women have become professional trainers and they have succeeded in training around 500 community members.



Credit: SGP Jordan.

Bolivia

Using a capacity development grant, SGP Bolivia⁵¹ produced a report on existing property rights in the buffer zones of the Kaa Iya Natural Park and protected area and disseminated it to the Isoceño indigenous peoples in Guarani, Ayoreo and Chiquitano; trained 40 indigenous leaders in land, natural resource and conflict management; developed a proposal for a training programme for indigenous leaders; and established relationships between the staff from the Instituto Nacional de Reforma Agraria, the Assembly members of the Indigenous Self-Government Department of Santa Cruz and councillors of the municipalities of Charagua and San Jose de Chiquitos to improve information flows regarding ownership of the land and ways to improve conflict management.



Credit: SGP Bolivia.

In addition, to helping in the development this year of their OP6 Country Programme Strategies, many SGP Country Programmes used capacity development grants for CPS development, including **Cameroon, Cape Verde, Jamaica, Lesotho, Morocco, Panama, Samoa, Turkey, Uruguay, and Zimbabwe**. The CPS development process varies in each country but usually involves a review of the SGP results of the SGP portfolio to identify key clusters and successful practices; a scoping exercise that looks at national policies and other frameworks that SGP should be in alignment with; baseline assessment of the selected landscape(s); desk review of relevant project documents and consultation workshops with key stakeholders to agree on the landscape(s) and key initiatives each country will focus on during its Sixth Operational Phase.

Capacity development grants were also used to carry out CSO-Government dialogues such as in the case of **Niger** and **Barbados** (please see the section on CSO Government Dialogues below for more information).



Credit: SGP.

⁵¹ BOL/SGP/OP5/Y2/FSP/13/07



IV. Grantmakers +

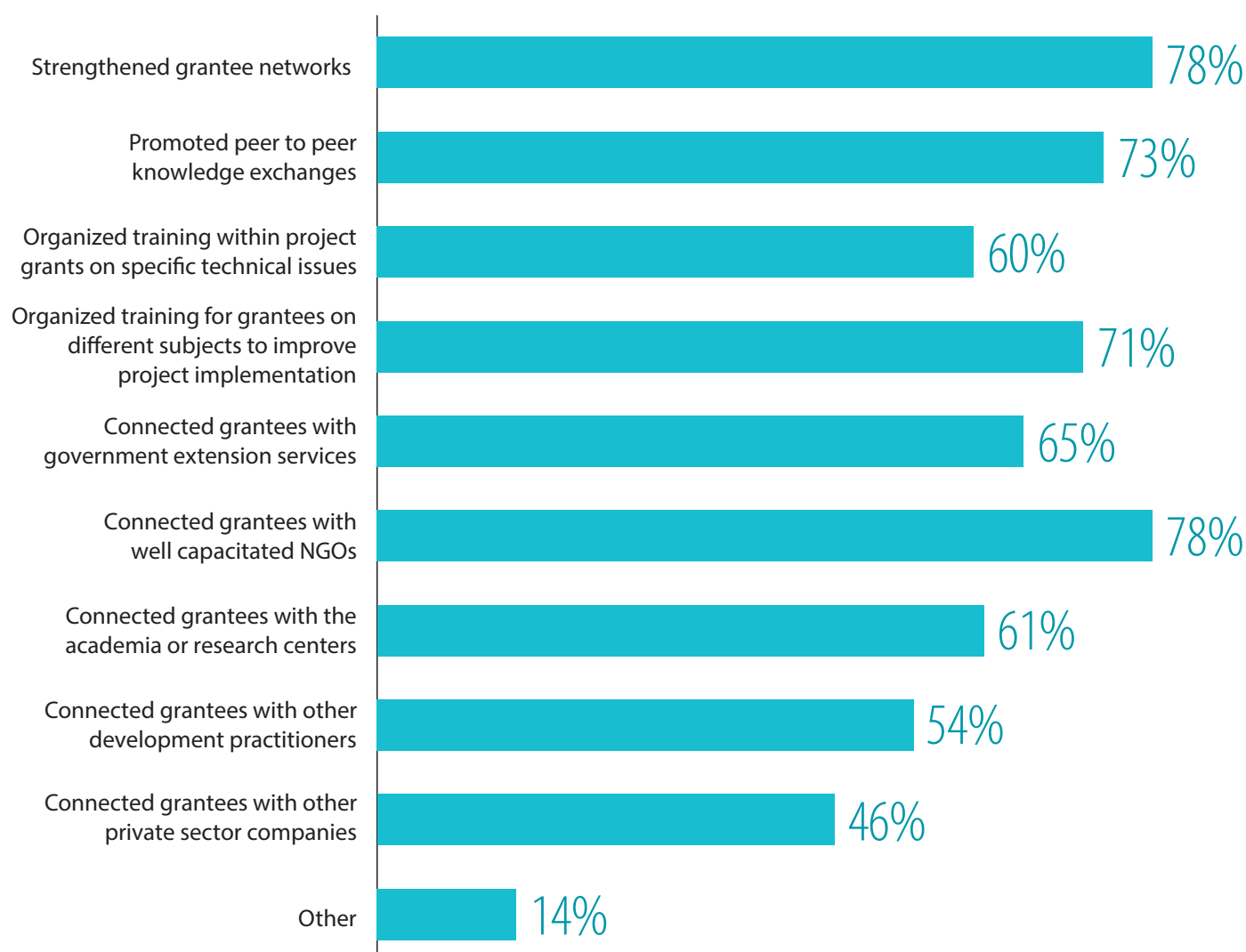
The new “Grantmakers+” role of the SGP for OP6 was initiated at the start of 2015. “Grantmakers+” refers to the additional aspects of SGP work that must be done to maintain the programme’s effectiveness and efficiency despite limited resources. In addition to grant funds, SGP will also offer non-grant services needed by community and CSO stakeholders.

This also refers to other activities using SGP's experienced staff, NSC members, and partners to support building higher level capacities for CSOs, helping them access non-GEF donors, networking of CSOs to build a critical mass of constituencies, organizing south-south knowledge exchanges, facilitating the organization of policy dialogues between CSOs and governments, and designing processes that enhance social inclusion of vulnerable sectors such as that of women, indigenous peoples, youth and persons with disabilities. As such, SGP at the project as well as

country and global programme levels takes a holistic approach to creating broader influence and expanding its coverage beyond the limits defined by GEF funding criteria for community projects. This section of the AMR reflects the initial results of SGP in these new areas of work during the reporting year.

An example of how "Grantmakers+" works is shown by the multiple services provided by SGP Country Programmes to its community and CSO stakeholders (see Chart 8 below):

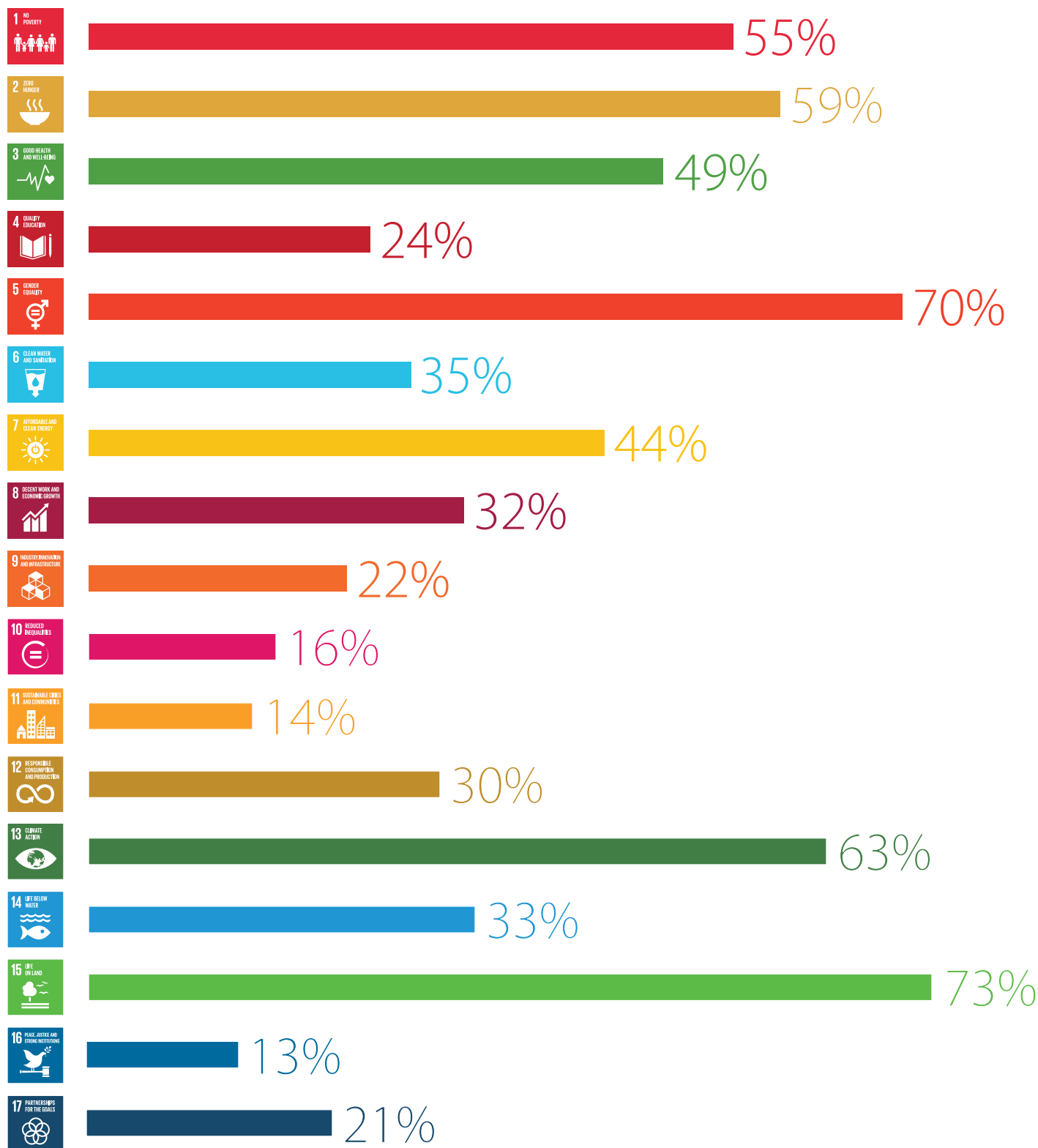
CHART 8: REGULAR CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES USED BY SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES



In addition, with the agreement of the 2030 agenda SGP projects are looking to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the reporting year, the

projects completed by SGP country programmes, contributed to the following SDGs:

CHART 9: ALIGNMENT AND CONTRIBUTION OF SGP RESULTS TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



CSO-Government Dialogues

 **ALMOST 50%**
THE SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES
CONDUCTED CSO-GOVERNMENT
DIALOGUES

One of the key aspects of the SGP OP6 strategy is a clearer focus provided by the programme on support to civil society outside of grants. The implementation of CSO-government dialogues is one of the initiatives under this component. The dialogues are expected to build trust and foster joint working relationships between civil society and government on environment and sustainable development policies, bring local communities and CSOs into national policy development and planning and allow them to provide fresh insights on issues important to them.

The dialogues build on the lessons learned and the trust developed between the NSC members, government, the UN, civil society, GEF and other actors and rely on existing mechanisms of CSO involvement as well as GEF and SGP activities. In the last year of OP5, SGP piloted CSO-Government dialogues in a number of country programmes. During the reporting, half of the SGP Country Programmes conducted CSO-Government Dialogues, creating a number of significant opportunities for SGP to make lasting impacts by bringing community voices to national platforms, legislative discussions and international processes.

Twenty of these dialogues⁵² focused on discussing the impacts of climate change on indigenous communities and how best to promote the meaningful participation of indigenous peoples in climate action, which could then be made part of the positions of country delegations in the UNFCCC COP21 negotiations in Paris. This initiative was done in partnership with UNDP, with support from the Governments of Norway and Germany. The dialogues aimed to raise awareness among government representatives and policy-makers of the climate change impact on indigenous peoples and local communities in their countries, and of the contributions these same communities are making to climate change mitigation and adaptation. In addition, the dialogues fostered trust between the stakeholders and ensured that the priorities and perspectives of indigenous peoples and local communities were reflected in their countries' negotiating

positions at COP 21, including direct participation of the indigenous peoples' and local communities' representatives on the national delegations.

In particular, the dialogues resulted in concrete commitments by government to:

- Initiate direct representation of indigenous peoples and local communities on the National Council on Climate Change (**Guatemala**);
- Invite indigenous peoples and local communities' participation in the development of a National Adaptation Plan (**Thailand**);
- Involve indigenous peoples and local communities in the implementation of activities financed by the Green Climate Fund through the national implementing agency (**Kenya**);
- Integrate the indigenous peoples and local communities' agenda on climate change into national plans addressing natural resource management, forest conservation, agriculture, and energy (**Guyana, Panama, Philippines**);
- Include inputs from indigenous peoples and local communities into the countries' INDCs (**Guyana**) and official negotiating positions for COP 21 (**Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Niger, Tanzania, Vietnam**); and
- Engage in follow up dialogues after COP 21 (**Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Tanzania**)

In many SIDS extensive advocacy and awareness raising efforts took place in preparation for COP21, given their disproportionate vulnerability to climate change. In the run up to COP21, SGP supported a number of national dialogues in the Caribbean that gave the opportunity to civil society to contribute to official negotiating positions on limiting the warming to 1.5 degrees centigrade. In **Haiti**, the dialogues are continuing after COP21 and have resulted in establishment of a civil society dialogue platform on climate change issues. In **Jamaica**, SGP was able to facilitate

⁵² Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guatemala, Guyana, Indonesia, Liberia, Mexico, Niger, Panama, Philippines, Tanzania, Thailand, Vietnam



Dialogue between indigenous peoples organizations and the government in preparation for UNFCCC COP 21 Credit: SGP Panama.

direct participation of CSOs in the COP. Additionally, as a result of the dialogues and SGP connection, a global youth partnership is developing between Pacific and Caribbean SIDS including **Saint Lucia, Samoa, and Marshall Islands**, among others. Additionally, SGP **Mauritius**, with support from the French Government, organized a national dialogue in preparation for COP21 facilitated by NSC members. The recommendations developed at the event were shared with government and national experts for incorporation into the country's negotiating position and NDCs.

The number, range of issues, broad involvement of stakeholders and significant impacts already produced by the dialogues are truly impressive, given the relatively modest support provided by SGP. SGP has the political capital, influence and potential to serve as a trusted facilitator in helping civil society and local communities bring relevant grassroots experience and knowledge to national level.

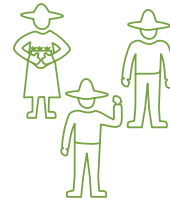
In addition to the dialogues related to the UNFCCC COP in Paris, some countries, including **Belize, Botswana, Burkina Faso, China, Colombia, Lesotho and Morocco** used existing SGP processes⁵³ as initial opportunities for CSO-government dialogues. Some countries including **Papua New Guinea** and **Sierra Leone** built their consultative and advocacy initiatives around Extended Constituency Workshops (ECWs), GEF NGO Network meetings and other GEF platforms, using them as an entry point with the government and facilitating CSO participation. In **Thailand**, SGP facilitated participation of CSOs in the workshop and dialogue organized by UNCCD. Other countries identified specific issues that needed meaningful inputs from CSOs, for example, in **Trinidad and Tobago**, SGP sponsored several dialogues on problems of invasive species.

Many country programmes, including **Honduras, Kyrgyzstan and Sri Lanka**, facilitated participation of CSOs in ongoing national dialogues and legislative processes focusing on a number of issues including organic farming, biosafety, and national sustainable development strategies. For example, SGP **Turkey** supported the CSOs in taking an active role in the dialogue for the preparation of the country's Nature Conservation Law, setting a unique precedent in the country, where CSOs were able to participate in parliamentary meetings. In **El Salvador**, the dialogues focused on critical issue of land ownership. In **Madagascar**, to support community governance and management of natural resources, SGP facilitated the exchange of views between local community networks and the Government and other CSOs leading to development of the corresponding draft law.

In several countries, including **Armenia, Belarus, Benin, Senegal, and Ukraine**, SGP consistently supported sustained national dialogue processes leading to policy impacts and formulation of new policy documents. For example, in **Ukraine**, SGP supported and facilitated national high profile forums on sustainable procurement and waste management, promotion of investment, and innovative sustainable technologies, bringing together a wide range of stakeholders, including the government, private sector and civil society. Similarly, in **Senegal** SGP, with strong support of the NSC members, was one of the organizing partners of a broad national dialogue platform on environmental policy with participation of local communities, civil society, private sector and government.

⁵³ Consultations for development of the Country Programme Strategy, knowledge management and project evaluation workshops, project capacity building activities, Technical Advisory Group meetings, among others.

South-South Exchange



40%
OF COUNTRIES PROGRAMMES
ENGAGED IN SOUTH-SOUTH
EXCHANGES

The South-South Community Innovation Exchange Platform is one of the key initiatives of SGP in its Sixth Operational Phase. Its goal is to promote knowledge exchange between SGP countries, encourage cross country and cross regional replication of good practices and produce high impact and broader adoption of the innovations and practices developed by SGP grantees, as well as other CSOs at all levels.

During this reporting period, 31% of SGP Country Programmes (34 SGP countries) engaged in south-south exchanges. These exchanges increased the capacity and technical knowledge of SGP grantees, improving results in existing projects, up-scaling projects, and leading to the development of new projects.

SGP **Vietnam** grantee partners⁵⁴ shared their experience with partners from Japan and Malaysia of piloting LED lights in fishing instead of using traditional light sources at an international workshop titled “Opportunities and

challenges for the Vietnam lighting industry on the threshold of international integration” held in April 2016. The workshop was an opportunity for managers, producers, designers, scientists and all those interested in lighting to meet, exchange ideas, be exposed to new products, and share lessons learned with a view to improve the domestic lighting industry in the context of tough international competition. SGP Vietnam also shared their experience with member countries from the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia participating in the East Sea Congress in Da Nang, Vietnam in November 2015.

SGP **Dominican Republic** supported the replication of its micro-hydro systems at the community level with SGP Haiti in February 2016, leading to the creation of the first community micro-hydro system to start operation in **Haiti**. Meanwhile, in August 2015, SGP **Tanzania**⁵⁵ supported an exchange with Kenya on low carbon improved cook stoves.



Credit: SGP Dominican Republic.

⁵⁴ VNM/SGP/OP5/Y4/STAR/2014/03

⁵⁵ TAN/SGP/OP5/Y3/STAR/CC/13/08



Organic inspection. Credit: SGP Barbados.

SGP **Nigeria** exchanged their experience about lightweight energy saving stoves with communities in Malawi.

In collaboration with the UNDP CO and the Ministry of Environment, SGP **Costa Rica** supported two south-south exchanges between decision makers and professionals from Madagascar and Morocco and community organizations in **Costa Rica** regarding voluntary forest fire fighting and prevention, Rural Community Tourism entrepreneurship, and the Water and Aqueduct Community Committees. NSC members and the Technical Advisory Committee members of SGP were interviewed and participated in the exchange. In **Barbados**, the Organic Growers and Consumers Association, an SGP grantee, facilitated the participation of Grenadians in their Organic Certification Training Session led by a facilitator from International Organic Inspectors Association. As a result, three Grenadians are now equipped to inspect and certify organic farms in the region.

In preparation for the UNFCCC COP 21, SGP **St. Lucia** supported the creation of the Caribbean Youth Environment Network, a network between youth of the Pacific and the Caribbean. As a result of this network, youth from both oceans signed a South-South Partnership agreement including youth from Grenada, Jamaica, Mauritius, Marshall Islands, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Seychelles, Tokelau, Tonga and Trinidad and Tobago. Through a series of ongoing Skype Conferences, the youth are developing a project and an action plan for collaboration. SGP **Samoa**, participated in the South-South Sub Regional Youth Conference on

Climate Change funded by the AusAid Community Based Adaptation (CBA) programme in which the Youth Climate Action Network was launched. Similarly, in the run up to COP21, SGP **Jamaica** had an exchange with Belize funded by the European Union, which resulted in the participation of three NGOs in the Conference with presentations at the COP21 Caribbean Pavilion.

SGP **Afghanistan** supported two grantee partners to visit India and learn from the best practices in their SGP portfolio, link with experienced CSOs and attend a Sustainable Development Goals conference. In addition, during the CPS development process, an Afghan NGO was linked with NGOs in Nepal and China for knowledge exchange over the strategy work.

SGP **Honduras, Salvador, Uruguay and Venezuela** continued to participate in a number of south-south exchanges led by UNDP Chile and funded by the European Union on practices to prevent and address land degradation. During these exchanges other organizations were able to learn good practices supported by SGP, as well as learn from other organizations. Furthermore, as mentioned in the biodiversity section, several country programmes participated in the Regional Workshops for Knowledge Exchange and Mutual Learning organized by the ICCA Consortium in their respective regions. Meanwhile, SGP **Marshall Islands, Palau and Micronesia** promoted exchanges among CSOs in their countries with projects that had similar concepts.

Social Inclusion of Key Constituencies



81%
OF THE PROJECTS COMPLETED
WERE GENDER RESPONSIVE



69%
SGP PROJECTS INCLUDED
YOUTH PARTICIPATION



29%
COMPLETED PROJECTS
WERE LED BY WOMEN



140
SGP PROJECTS WERE COMPLETED
WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES



10
COUNTRIES REPORTED ACCEPTING
PROPOSALS IN LOCAL AND
INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

A key element of empowering communities to undertake environmental action is ensuring that all members of society exercise their agency to improve their immediate environment, raise awareness among their communities and advocate for better policies and programmes. Therefore, SGP makes an effort to actively involve key constituencies such as women, youth, indigenous peoples and the disabled.

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

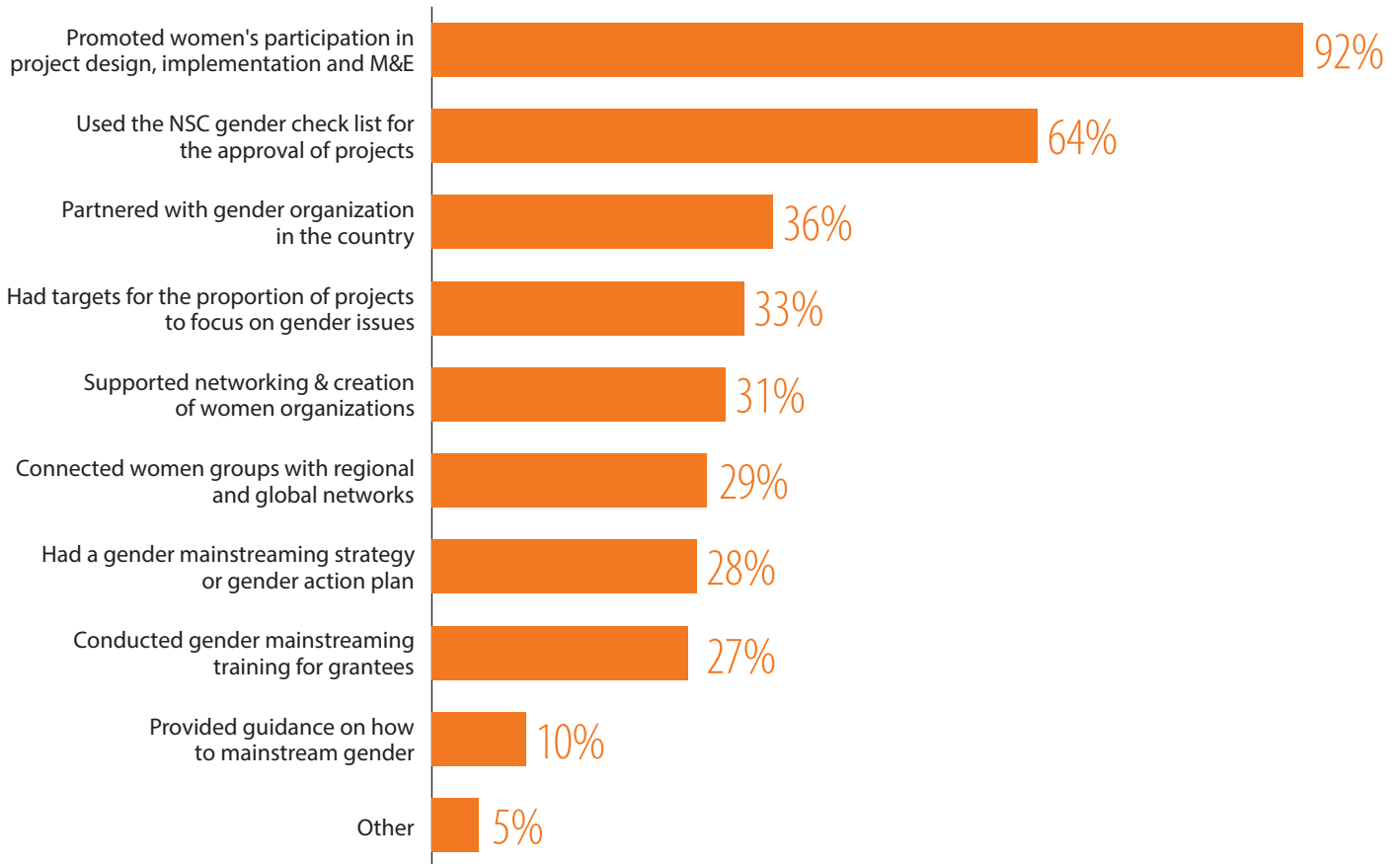
Gender equality and women's empowerment continues to be a fundamental component of the entire portfolio. The chart below illustrates the different mechanisms used by SGP country programmes during the reporting year to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

Global and national strategies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment continued to show promising results. Approximately 920 projects (81%) out of the 1,142 projects completed during the reporting period are gender responsive and carried out a gender analysis prior to the project. 336 projects (29%) were led by women. The gender context among SGP Country Programmes is highly diverse, ranging from contexts in which women are not involved

in public life to those in which women dominate in some realms of society, as well as those in which gender roles are less restrictive to both men and women. Thus, the gender approach of each Country Programme is adapted to the particular circumstances of its communities.

Women's livelihoods can also be effectively improved by reducing the work, expense, and risk from daily household tasks, which disproportionately fall on them. SGP is effectively improving the livelihoods of women, thus increasing their economic stability and position in society, as well as enabling them to contribute to sustainable development in their communities through tree nurseries in **Afghanistan**, waste management in Iran, wetland management in Indonesia, handicrafts in **Argentina, Brazil, Madagascar** and **Maldives**, and agricultural production in **Benin, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Sri Lanka** and **Zimbabwe**. To improve women's access to capital, SGP projects established revolving funds, microcredit or cooperative schemes for women in **Mauritania, Nigeria**, and **Senegal**. In terms of reductions in labor by women due to access to renewable energy sources or energy efficient stoves, SGP supported fuel efficient stoves in **Cote d'Ivoire** and **Lesotho**, solar energy projects in **Kyrgyzstan**, and biogas in **Egypt**.

CHART 10: SGP STRATEGIES USED FOR PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



In **Sierra Leone**, a solar irrigation and lighting project,⁵⁶ implemented by the Rokant Women Development Association, optimized the use of solar pumping technology with small scale irrigation technologies to determine the most cost-effective system for growing market garden crops during the dry season. The solar-powered irrigation system includes a water reservoir and a charging station for mobile phones directly benefiting 2,000 people of Malambay Village in Northern Sierra Leone and providing employment for 89 women. This project increased female-headed household income by 100%. In the **Dominican Republic**, SGP supported the development of a micro hydro project led by women, which has been performing well after project finalization. SGP continued to expand the reach of its Solar Grandmothers programme with the Barefoot College with three new projects completed during the reporting year in **Fiji, Vanuatu,**

Malaysia and **Honduras**, as well as a South-South exchange between **Ghana** and **Burkina Faso** and the creation of a training center in Burkina Faso that would allow training of Solar Grandmothers in Africa.

A project in **Panama**,⁵⁷ managed by an indigenous women's organization, aimed at conserving biodiversity through ecotourism and reforestation while also preserving and maintaining the culture and traditions of the Naso indigenous people. Similarly, in **Iran**,⁵⁸ women's traditional knowledge was fundamental for the revival of the Qashqai tribe's forest habitat. In this project, the Qashqai women used their local knowledge in collecting the necessary seeds and saplings for the restoration project which led to successful reforestation a year later. For the first time a book was published on indigenous motifs reflecting the flora and fauna of Zagros forest. For income generation, tribal

⁵⁶ SLE/SGP/OP5/CORE/BD/13/03/010

⁵⁷ PAN/SGP/OP5/Y3/STAR/BD/14/05

⁵⁸ IRA/SGP/OP5/Y2/STAR/LD/13/10(176)

communities sold seedlings and participated in activities to develop a new line of high quality products, where woven textiles using the motifs featured in the book were utilized in leather bags, wallets and eyeglass cases.

The Bénéwendé women's group in **Burkina Faso**⁵⁹ led a project to address land degradation and poverty in the city of Samba by improving female literacy. The project organized a study trip for 25 women to learn various land management and soil erosion prevention techniques. The project was designed by women for women, with many women as heads of households. The increase in revenues from the project now permit women to pay school fees for their children and contribute to family expenses.

In **Cameroon**, a biodiversity and forest conservation project,⁶⁰ led by a young woman leader, created a Women's Sustainable Development Fund to identify and develop sustainable income generating activities. As a key activity of the project, women received training on managing the revolving fund and formed a legal women's cooperative. Thanks to the income generated, women now pay for their children's school and are able to meet daily expenses of their families. Having access to capital and being part of the cooperative have not only empowered the women but also improved their self-esteem, capacities and autonomy. This project won a prize in 2015 that enabled them to

continue and consolidate project activities through solar electrification of eco-lodges and to support three rural micro-enterprises: a community soap factory, a bakery and a piggery. These actions have strengthened the Women's Sustainable Development Fund and contributed to improve gender relations in the community.

In **Uganda**, SGP supported a project⁶¹ involving 300 women (organized in three groups of 100 each) to improve the processing and marketing of Shea butter products, adding value while preserving these native trees. As a result, the project has successfully conserved the native trees while also diversifying the income of women in the community and promoting the sustainable use of biological resources. In addition, these women's groups received training from the Independent Development Fund, which promotes citizens' rights to safe water and good sanitation in the Katakwi district. Access to water led to indirect savings from the avoided costs of procuring water under the old system, while the time spent by children in school also increased due to reduced morbidity. Women's groups also benefited from dialogue meetings using the Start, Awareness, Support, Action (SASA) approach on addressing Gender Based Violence Supported by Uganda Women's Network. SASA is a ground-breaking, internationally-recognized model of community-mobilization to stop violence against women and the spread of HIV.



Solar grandmothers launch solar electrification project in their village.
Credit: SGP Malaysia.

⁵⁹ BFA / SGP / OP5 / CORE / LD / 12 / 05

⁶⁰ CMR/SGP/OP5/Y3/STAR/BD/13/20

⁶¹ UGA/SGP/OP5/STAR/CC/13/01

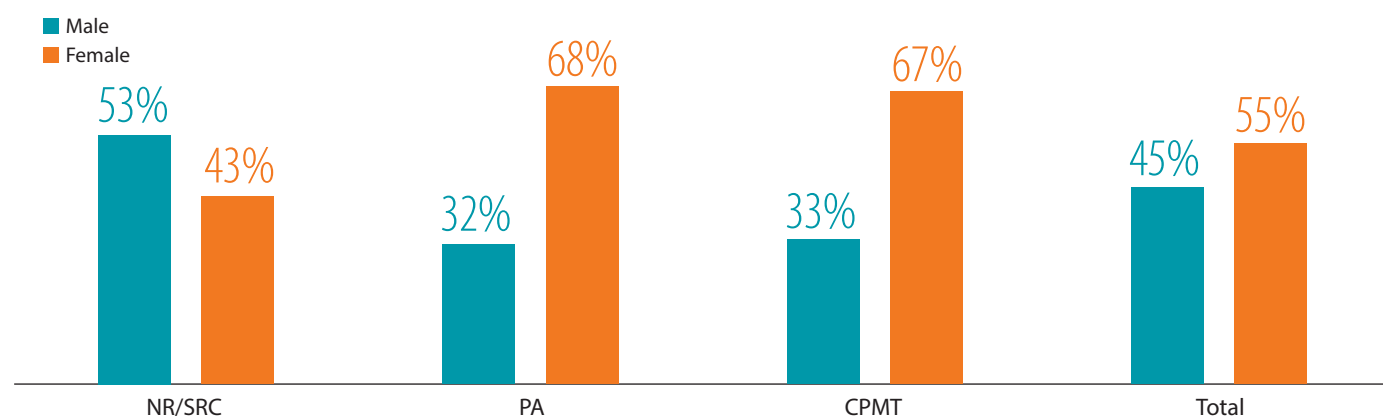
In **Nepal**, SGP supported a project⁶² implemented by the Women’s Development Society, who successfully mobilized 18 community groups to initiate organic farming. Of these, 16 groups have been registered at the District Agriculture Office. To date, the Women’s Development Society has earned US\$15,000 from the sale of vegetables produced from six hectares of land. The project first provided training on organic farming to 241 members (105 women) and on bio-fertilizer production to 84 members (36 women), conducted exposure visits and provided seed support to 504 households. The project also supported a number of small irrigation schemes, one community-based cattle breeding and livestock service center and a forage resource center. To promote gender equity and women’s empowerment, the project also carried out five gender sensitizing workshops for 4,149 members (1,940 – 47% women) and empowered women members by organizing them in groups, providing opportunity for income generation and increasing mobility.

A women-led project⁶³ supported by SGP **Mauritius** aimed at helping poor women from low-income families to overcome financial challenges through the production of herbal teas through a women’s cooperative “Secret Grand-Mère” (Grandma’s Secrets). For this purpose, women were trained in cultivation of medicinal plants in a small nursery that was set up on the roof of the pre-primary school at first, and then relocated to nearby land to allow for setting up of PV panels. As a result of this initiative, the women’s association now produces and sells around 15 herbal teas from medicinal plants and produces their own electricity from renewable sources earning additional income from

sale of surplus electricity to the grid. Of the 14,360 kilowatts hours of electricity per year, 10,000 KW are sold through the Government’s Small Scale Distributed Generation, earning US\$9,200. This represents an estimated 10 tons of CO₂ emissions reduced annually. In June 2015, the project won the Gender and Climate Change award from Gender Link and in December 2015 it won the Small Enterprise Award for 2015 National Inclusive Business Award (NIBA). The women, who had been unemployed and dependent on welfare, have gained self-confidence by being employed in tea cultivation. Now, they are able to contribute to family income, have a greater voice in the community, and speak to local and sometimes international media outlets. This initiative has successfully shared its knowledge with other local community-based groups. A system of “Buy Back Leaves” has been set up since 2011, in which the communities are encouraged to cultivate medicinal plants and afterwards, and APEDED buys the leaves from them, thus contributing to conserving endemic medicinal plants. Over 10,000 families have now a space for medicinal plants in their gardens or terraces, and they understand the importance and values of traditional medicines.

In addition, SGP continues to promote gender parity in its staffing. During the reporting year, 55% of SGP staff were women. While the percentage of men serving as National Coordinators was greater than women, the Programme Assistant positions employed more women than men, as did the positions at CPMT. Chart 11 below provides additional details:

CHART 11: SGP GLOBAL STAFF GENDER BALANCE (%)



⁶² NEP/SGP/OP5/Y3/STAR/LD/14/16
⁶³ MAR/SGP/OP5/Yr2/CORE/CC/12/01

YOUTH

Recognizing youth as the future leaders of environmental protection and sustainable development, SGP has continued to prioritize youth as a specific targeted group. During the reporting period, through the requirement of a dedicated social inclusion section that includes youth as a targeted special group in GEF6, SGP ensured that engaging and empowering youth is clearly stipulated in the Country Programme Strategies for GEF6. SGP actively participated in the youth campaigns at the UNFCCC COP21 in Paris, France. SGP supported the Global Youth Video Competition, an event organized in collaboration with the Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) from the UNFCCC Secretariat and Television for the Environment. At the national level, growing number of Country Programmes have involved youth in project implementation. Sixty-nine Country Programmes reported at least one project involving youth, for a total of 369 projects with youth leadership or participation. Ten country programmes reported funding more than ten youth-involved projects in: **El Salvador** (32), **Sierra Leone** (27), **Ethiopia** (18), **Senegal** (18), **Zimbabwe** (16), **Burkina Faso** (15), **Micronesia** (11), **Indonesia** (11), **China** (11), and the **Dominican Republic** (10). Youth have been involved in all SGP focal area work, mainly related to environmental education and awareness raising, piloting and

testing new technologies, sustainable transport, sustainable livelihoods, reforestation as well as sustainable waste management.

In **Mauritius**, an educational farm is established for street children using sustainable, organic agricultural practices. For the first year of project implementation, 23 street youth were selected who were out of school, unskilled and illiterate, living in conditions of extreme poverty and with high risk sexual behaviour without any supervision or guidance and vulnerable to many social problems. The training is replicated every year with a new batch of 20 to 25 youth. During the timeframe of this SGP project, 55 youths came daily to the farm with an average attendance rate of 85%. As a result, there has been a significant reduction in behavioural problems and no delinquency cases have been registered. This project also targeted girls as they are at risk of becoming prematurely pregnant or victims of abuse. Through the farm project, the implementing NGO, SAFIRE, has been able to empower them by generating awareness of social problems, hence reducing the number of girls under the control or influence of abusers. In addition to working with youth during two years, ten beneficiaries over 55 years old have undertaken jobs in agriculture, as gardeners in hotels, or as landscapers.



Credit: SGP Indonesia.

In **Panama**, a project was managed by an environmental organization formed by young men and women who are members of “Friends of Santa Fe National Park”. Most of the board of directors are young professionals who graduated from college in biology and other sciences and their activities are related to flora and fauna monitoring. This project included two main components: the monitoring of jaguars through important environmental education activities among cattle ranchers who kill them when cattle losses are too high due to jaguar attacks; and the implementation of sustainable tourism in the community with cabins, hiking trails and signage, which allow visitors to understand the conservation efforts in the park. The president of the organization is now the vice mayor of the community and has been working to avoid conflicts regarding land tenure within the park. This organization also works with a local tourism cooperative that is composed of young members who are not as formally educated as the members of “Friends of Santa Fe National Park”. This alliance is helping the cooperative to professionalize its work.



Credit: SGP Panama.

In **Ukraine**, the project “Youth empowerment for wider sustainable development: The future we want!” aimed at increasing environmental education and ecological awareness of climate change issues among schoolchildren and developing a youth ecological network and partnerships among Ukrainian educational institutions. Specific project objectives included a number of demonstration and practical measures to combat climate change at the local level, including energy efficiency and tree planting activities; improvement of environmentally friendly behavior and the promotion of education for sustainable development among children and youth; development of a youth ecological network, expanding partnerships and knowledge sharing among educational institutions. The project organized tree planting activities for schoolchildren and youth in the recreational and park areas of Sarny town, installed energy-efficient equipment in three local schools, developed and disseminated publications on climate change mitigation and the prevention of biodiversity loss, developed and promoted an on-line youth eco-network, and conducted annual children's environmental forums.



Credit: SGP Ukraine.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

During the reporting period, at least 140 SGP projects were completed with indigenous peoples' organizations (IPOs), representing a decrease of around 25% from the previous reporting period. Of these projects with IPOs, ten countries reported accepting proposals in local languages, participatory video and/or alternative formats. The SGP countries with the highest reported number of projects with indigenous peoples included **Bolivia** (22), **Costa Rica** (14), **Nepal** (12), **China** (7), **Guatemala** (7), **Tanzania** (7), **Malaysia** (6), **Palau** (6), **Timor Leste** (5), **Indonesia** (4), **Argentina** (3), **Belize** (3), **Dominica** (3), **Iran** (3), and **Namibia** (3). Other SGP countries with portfolios with at least two projects with indigenous peoples included **Kenya**, **Marshall Islands**, **Panama**, **Papua New Guinea**, and **Sierra Leone**. Some highlights of the portfolio are captured below.

In **Costa Rica**, the SGP supported 'Asobrunca', an indigenous-led organization, to (i) reforest the watershed of the *Boruca* River, and (ii) recover *Boruca* traditional production systems, knowledge, arts and crafts. The *Boruca* live in an area where more than 60% of their former territory is no longer in the hands of indigenous people, limiting their ability to maintain their traditional production systems and affecting their food security and welfare. The *Boruca*

community went from a situation where 90% of its main staple crops were previously produced locally, to that of buying almost everything from the outside, and depending for income mainly on handicrafts and tourism (the *Boruca* are known for their striking, hand-carved masks). Since the elders regret that many useful crop species and seeds are being lost, the SGP project set out to create a native seed bank to ensure food sovereignty through the continued use of the traditional farming system known locally as *chaguities* – plots where a family can produce medicinal plants, dye-producing plants, timber, fruit trees, and tubers. The project also organized peer-to-peer learning with indigenous leaders from the neighbouring Maleku ethnic group. Under the coordination of Asobrunca many of the *chaguities* have now been replanted with traditional food varieties for domestic consumption, and reforestation campaigns have been conducted, with over one million trees planted along the banks of the river. In total, 200 indigenous peoples have benefitted from the project, with more than 1,500 hectares of land under sustainable management and improved conservation practices.⁶⁴

In **Indonesia**, the weaving traditions of West Timor consist of hand-made cloth, woven on back-strap looms by village women, often still using hand spun thread and natural plant dyes. The traditional textiles are used as garments by many West Timorese for ceremonial occasions, including



Credit: SGP.

⁶⁴ COS/SGP/FSP/OP5/Y2/BD/12/53

funerals, bride-wealth exchange, and other *adat* (traditional customary law) rituals. Despite this, weaving traditions are vulnerable as younger generations leave the villages or become less interested in the time-consuming techniques. In this context, SGP Indonesia supported the 'Tafean Pah Foundation' to preserve the ancestral knowledge of the *ikat* (tie-dye) weaving tradition, including the sustainable utilization of plants used in the production process. The project demarcated target dryland areas to propagate the natural coloring plants including: (i) indigo (*Marsdenia tinctoria*), known locally as 'tarum'; (ii) noni (*Morinda citrifolia*); (iii) the Margined Narrow-Leaf Pleomele (*Dracaena angustifolia*), native to Southeast Asia; (iv) various cactus species; as well as (v) wild forest nuts and turmeric. In the village of Luniup, one hectare of land was set aside as a demonstration garden for the production of tannins from the 'dedap' tree, sandalwood, nutmeg, jackfruit, and other species. The project worked with 300 women with high artistic skills in weaving related to traditional cultural expressions; ritual meanings in the culture of yarn spinning and weaving; as well as in understanding the traditional *Biboki* cloth's motifs according to social status. Five indigenous self-help groups were also established within a system of community savings and loans.⁶⁵



Credit: SGP.

In **South Africa**, a SGP project worked with the *Namas* indigenous peoples of the *Wupperthal* and *Nieuwoudtville* areas in the Northern Cape region. The project supported the conservation of natural and cultural resources along the 'Rooibos Heritage Route' (RHR) found within the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor – a tourism circuit as yet poorly known in the region. The project partnered with seven small business enterprises in setting up eco-infrastructure including signage, local biodiversity information, a website, and a podcast to showcase the indigenous heritage of the area. Marketing information captured the attractions along the RHR, including accommodations and dining; the natural environment; as well as local conservation initiatives pertaining to Rooibos (*Aspalatusli-nearis*), known locally as red bush. Training workshops, field research and meetings were also held to enhance nature and culture-based tourism in the area. As a result of the project, tourism agencies have agreed to support the ongoing marketing of the RHR, which is expected to increase the total number of tourist visitors in the target landscape. The Heiveld Cooperative, currently made up of 58 men and women members from the local community, is dedicated to "establishing long-term trading relationships with fair trading organizations and promoting sustainable production and harvesting of organic and wild rooibos tea", and has been one of the small businesses marketed along the route. The organization previously received funding from the SGP, as well as an award from the UNDP Equator initiative in 2014.⁶⁶



Credit: SGP Rwanda.

⁶⁵ INS/SGP/OP5/Y2/STAR/BD/13/058

⁶⁶ SAF/SGP/OP5/Y2/STAR/BD/12/14



Survey and marking of Traditional custody land. Credit: SGP Malaysia.

In **Malaysia**, a SGP project worked with partners (Natural Justice, Global Diversity Foundation) to support a local community bio-cultural conservation initiative in *Bundu Tuhan*, an indigenous Dusun community in the state of Sabah. Activities under the project included: (i) a 'bio-cultural resources monitoring programme' to track the long-term diversity of critical wild and semi-domesticated species; (ii) a 'cultural heritage and sacred forest documentation' initiative to strengthen community knowledge about the cultural values of the *Winokok* forest landscape, and associated historical sites; as well as (iii) a bio-cultural tourism development programme. Three publications about the *Bundu Tuhan* customs of the Dusun indigenous people (i.e. community protocol; ecotourism plan; and children's story book) will be used as a reference and for ongoing outreach with other indigenous Dusun communities across the state of Sabah, and further afield. A total of 1,263 hectares of ICCAs were supported, with 842 hectares now officially gazetted as a native reserve.⁶⁷

In **Venezuela**, a SGP project entitled 'Audiovisual and bibliographical documentation of experiences of the organic cocoa producers' network of the *Caura* River,

Bolivar state' supported the *Ye'kuana* peoples in organic shade-grown cocoa farming through agro-forestry systems. The *Ye'kuana*, (translated as "canoe people", or "people of the canoes") are a tropical rainforest tribe living near the *Caura* River, a tributary of the Orinoco, who live in circular communal houses called *atta* deep inside the rainforest. In Venezuela, approximately 6,250 *Ye'kuana* live alongside their former enemies, the *Sanumá* (Yanomami sub-group); whilst in Brazil, 430 *Ye'kuana* inhabit the northeast state of Roraima. The SGP project in Venezuela worked with the tribe to ensure that the high quality cocoa beans from the *Theobroma cacao* tree (native to the tropical regions of Central and South America), used to make cocoa mass, cocoa powder, and chocolate, as well as other non-timber forest products (NTFPs), could access both local and international markets. The audio-visual material obtained included oral testimonies and interviews of the indigenous production methods, as well as records of their traditional ecological knowledge. The information collected was used to make a short film and bibliographical material to help promote environmentally-friendly cocoa, other organic NTFPs, and a traditional knowledge archive of the *Ye'kuana*.⁶⁸

⁶⁷ MAL/SGP/OP5/YF2/STAR/BD/12/13

⁶⁸ VEN/SGP/OP5/Y3/STAR/BD/13/25

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Like other vulnerable groups in the society, persons with disabilities⁶⁹ are considered the highly vulnerable to a number of development threats such as natural disasters and climate change impacts and are often ignored in development planning and strategy formulation processes in developing countries. Moreover, many of the developing countries have not put in place policies that are conducive to enabling people with disabilities. SGP continues through the CBA programme, to work closely with the Disability Rights Forum (DRF) and disability person's organizations (DPO). In the reporting year, a number of projects have also been implemented with funding coming from the SGP regular core funding, an indication that the pilot that was initiated under the CBA programme is influencing the communities to start recognizing this group as an important stakeholder whose interests and opinions should be addressed. Furthermore, especially in the Pacific and some African countries, the DRF continue to provide technical support and links the programme to interested partners and those working with disability person's organizations (DPO) in other areas of development. The work of enhancing the participation of disabled persons in the climate change agenda is slow but steady with more DPOs qualifying as grantees in the SIDS programme countries. Given SGP's mandate within UNDP to be a leader in the social inclusion aspects of sustainable development, the programme has continued to support projects by and for people with disabilities. In the reporting period, SGP programme countries report that up to 18 projects were formulated that enabled this social group to meet the primary objectives of securing global environmental benefits.

Typical projects supported by SGP are illustrated by examples from Barbados and Venezuela, described below.

In **Barbados**, the River of Life Organic Farm project⁷⁰ sought to establish a community-based service that could potentially improve the quality of life of persons with mental and physical disabilities and those who have been socially excluded, while providing an opportunity for sustainable economic activity through the production of organic produce. Approximately 0.4 hectares of land was put under sustainable land management utilizing agro-ecological integrated pest management practices. The farm employed organic farming techniques, successfully generating a revenue of US\$2,000 from the sale of organic produce. Ten persons (seven men and three women) were trained under a ten-week organic farming programme, which has empowered them to engage more directly in their current environments. One person has graduated from the assisted living programme and two persons, after being discharged from the Psychiatric Hospital, are now utilizing their organic farming skills to contribute to their households.

In **Venezuela**, a project on "Environmental Education without barriers"⁷¹ focused on including communities of blind and visually impaired. Materials and teaching tools based on the Braille system were developed at the Botanical Garden of Mérida State to promote environmental education without barriers. A special signal system was installed in Braille with information on the area's biodiversity under the supervision of experts in education and biodiversity, thus achieving greater integration of groups with disabilities in environmental education and the replication of this practice in other areas.



⁶⁹ "The term persons with disabilities is used to apply to all persons with disabilities including those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various attitudinal and environmental barriers, hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others." – UNDESA Enable FAQ – www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/faqs.htm

⁷⁰ BAR/SGP/OP5/YEAR3/STAR/LD/13/03

⁷¹ VEN/SGP/OP5/Y3/STAR/BD/13/20

LIVELIHOODS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Improving livelihoods through grant activities remains a core objective of SGP, as the sustainable management of land, biodiversity and other ecosystem resources for income and/or subsistence directly affects the generation of global environmental benefits. SGP is strongly aligned with the 2030 Agenda and poverty reduction goals, so potential grantees are actively encouraged to design projects that maximize positive synergies between livelihood outcomes and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, sustainable land management, mitigation of climate change and other global environmental benefits.

During the reporting period SGP Country Programmes reported that close to 900 projects contributed to improvement in the livelihoods of communities using a range of livelihood strategies. The majority of countries have supported livelihood interventions that boost food security and/or access to technology for communities.

In **Cambodia**, projects supporting communities to improve the management of agriculture, fisheries, water resources and coastal zones saw over 16% of community members receive an income increase of 38%. Approximately 90% of children in these project areas are now going to school as a result of better livelihoods of their families and the free boat transportation to/from school provided by the projects, compared to baseline levels of 60% of children attending school. The Sustainable Land Management project in **Kenya** supported communities to earn incomes through a mix of measures including beekeeping, the provision of livestock for breed improvement and improving access to and the sustainable management of pastoral lands.

Strategies that improved access to improved health, infrastructure and education were also supported in over a third of all programme countries. Other livelihood strategies included a mix of innovative approaches to tackle environmental issues and generate employment. A community recycling programme for the collection and recycling of glass, cardboard, wood and plastic waste in the **Bahamas** improved the livelihoods of communities by creating new employment opportunities. In **Benin** livelihood strategies included activities to increase the bargaining power of marginalized groups. Projects in **Brazil** are working to improve traditional communities' and small farmers' land rights and overcome barriers to marketing of biodiversity products.

The vast majority of countries – 88% of all country programmes – supported projects that employed market-based mechanisms to achieve environment and livelihoods objectives. The most commonly used approach was the development of biodiversity and green products, but ecotourism and revolving funds were also relatively common with approximately a third of all countries using these approaches (see Chart 12). Income generation from green products was seen in **Afghanistan**, where women's groups were formed and trained in making briquettes for fuel as an alternative energy source in Nangarhar Province, contributing to the livelihoods of 120 women. The Chitora Wetlands project in **Zimbabwe** supported livelihoods through a combination of different strategies, including assisting communities to make and sell biodiversity-based products and supporting payment for ecosystem services.

COUNTRY PROGRAMMES EMPLOYING STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS AND QUALITY OF LIFE



61%
OF COUNTRIES
INCREASED ACCESS
TO FOOD SECURITY AND
NUTRITIONAL VALUE



61%
OF COUNTRIES
INCREASED
ACCESS TO
TECHNOLOGY



40%
OF COUNTRIES
INCREASED
ACCESS TO
EDUCATION



38%
OF COUNTRIES
ACCESS TO
IMPROVED
HEALTH

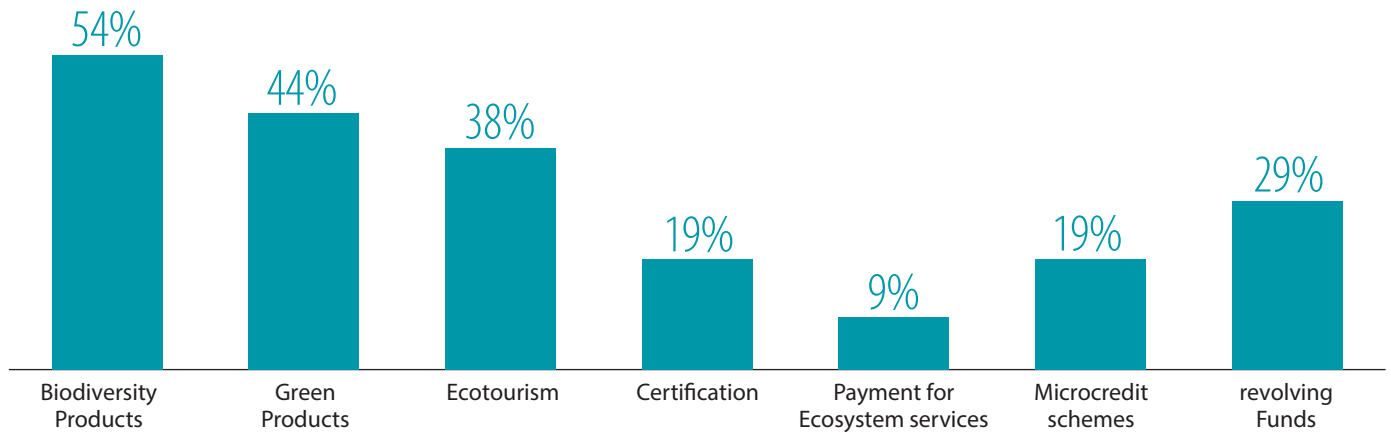


37%
OF COUNTRIES
INCREASED
ACCESS TO
INFRASTRUCTURE



9%
OF COUNTRIES
INCREASED
OTHER ACCESS

CHART 12: PERCENTAGE OF COUNTRY PROGRAMMES USING MARKET-BASED MECHANISMS



SGP places great emphasis on ensuring the sustainability of activities and results beyond the project cycle, with the wider goal of encouraging transformational changes in communities and institutions that incorporate positive impacts and learning from projects. Measures of project success therefore include the level of integration of sustainability measures in the project design. These can vary according to country and local context but examples of approaches to maximizing sustainability in the current reporting cycle include: building community ownership of project approaches and outcomes; linking Country Programme Strategies and projects directly to key national processes (e.g., official development plans, national climate adaptation and mitigation plans, environment plans such as NBSAPs etc.); building sustainable institutions into the project activity (e.g., worker cooperatives, lending groups, etc.); linking proactively to further sources of financing; and developing strong partnerships and collaborations with key institutions, authorities and broader networks and processes that can provide ongoing technical and political support.

For instance, in **Jamaica** strong partnerships with government services were found to be a major factor in the success and sustainability of a project to assist communities impacted by unpredictable rainfall to increase their access to clean water. In **Mauritius**, the strong involvement of communities in projects from

the very beginning in identifying the issues to be addressed and proposing solutions that they will implement themselves helped to build ownership of project approaches.

In **Cape Verde**, projects have informed a range of national plans and initiatives including the National Programme for Adaptation to Climate Change; National Action Plan for Integrated Water Resources; National Action Programme to Combat Desertification; and National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy. In **Seychelles**, projects are informing two national entities: Seychelles Agricultural Agency (SAA) and the Seychelles National Parks Authority (SNPA). The SAA has replicated best practices of project farmers, including adopting natural methods and materials such as gypsum or charcoal to manage soil salinity levels, as well as promoting organic production of crops.

An ongoing small-hydropower project in **Tajikistan** embedded its results strategically through the development of knowledge products. The project contributed to the development of a guidebook for private and public investors interested in the construction of small-hydropower plants, as well as education modules for students of technical universities and short term vocational training. The guidebook and modules have been included in the education curricula of the Tajik Technical University and the Kurgantube Energy Institute, the primary institutions training hydropower engineers in Tajikistan.

Knowledge Management

 **1,200**
FACT SHEETS, CASE STUDIES,
PUBLICATIONS, VIDEOS AND
HOW-TO TOOLKITS DEVELOPED

 **677**
TRAINING SESSIONS

 **273**
PEER-TO-PEER
EXCHANGES

At the global level, CPMT continued to work in sharing the knowledge generated by CSOs and communities with key audiences and other communities at global forums and events, as well as through other media. A key part of this effort is the documentation and dissemination of the practices and lessons learned emerging from the implementation of sustainable development projects, at the local and national level.

In the last year, SGP Country Programmes produced over 1,200 project fact sheets, case studies, publications, and videos and over 60 how-to toolkits on innovative technologies. In addition, several global initiatives were also undertaken by the SGP team to document, codify and exchange lessons. For example, the chemicals and waste training module has been drastically revised and finalized: www.dev.sgp-pops.org/. A pilot study on the co-benefits of SGP-supported energy projects was also carried out during the year. On the occasion of the UNFCCC COP in Paris, SGP contributed to the UNDP and Climate Change Infographic Report. SGP continued to prepare case studies capturing community-based practices across all focal areas and disseminated widely at the UNFCCC COP21, CBA10, GEF ECWs, among others, as well as on the SGP global website.

The collaboration with Yale University's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies on a Capstone Course called *Scaling Up Community Initiatives: Understanding the Dimensions of Scalable Successes* allowed SGP to research, document and analyze SGP supported experiences in promoting the replication, scaling up, and mainstreaming of project results to achieve greater impact or "broader adoption." Case studies of projects in **Cuba, Ghana, Peru, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania** were developed as products of this partnership.

At the country level, to promote knowledge exchange, technology transfer and learning between communities and CSOs, SGP Country Programmes carried out 273 peer-to-peer exchanges and 677 training sessions during the reporting year. A key part of this effort was the documentation and dissemination of the practices and lessons learned emerging from the implementation of sustainable development projects at the local and national level.

Table 13 provides a summary of the knowledge management (KM) and communication products produced by SGP Country Programmes and grantee partners during the reporting period. Annex 6 provides a selective list of knowledge product examples produced by country programmes.

TABLE 13: NUMBER OF KM AND COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS PRODUCED BY SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND GRANTEES

FACT SHEETS OR CASE STUDIES	BROCHURES	PUBLICATIONS OR REPORTS	VIDEOS OR PHOTOSTORIES	HOW-TO TOOL-KITS OR GUIDELINES
270	281	247	264	69



Naoko Ishii, GEF CEO, at the Equator Prize ceremony during the UNFCCC COP 21. Credit: SGP, Ana Maria Correa.

There were a number of examples of KM activities at the country level. For example, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the SGP in Macedonia, the country programme developed a short video (“10 years of SGP Macedonia – A decade of actions and results”) and a publication (“10 years of SGP **Macedonia** – Moving the environment forward in the Republic of Macedonia”). SGP in **Brazil** developed a number of knowledge products on the sustainable management of native species from the Cerrado including Buriti, Jatoba, and Licuri among others. **Uzbekistan** launched “Land, Energy and Biodiversity: Elementary technologies, big benefits” and **Uruguay** developed toolkits on rain water harvesting and wetland management. In **Ecuador**, SGP launched the first crowd sourcing platform in the country (<https://greencrowds.org/>) aimed at supporting innovative products developed by communities supported by SGP. SGP Iran produced a series of case studies and videos, as well as a review of the results of OP5.

In addition, SGP projects have been visited on the Knowledge Days of GEF Extended Constituency Workshops (ECWs) in **Botswana, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Sierra Leone** and **Trinidad and Tobago**, providing an excellent opportunity to share the results of the projects with key stakeholders at the regional level. As well, SGP projects were visited in the context of the Eighth GEF International Waters Conference in Sri Lanka and the Seventh Minamata Convention on Mercury/INC7 in Jordan.

PARTICIPATION AT KEY EVENTS AND GLOBAL FORUMS

During the reporting period SGP with its CSO, government and donor partners, and with the aim of promoting broader adoption of best practices identified by its community and CSO stakeholders, was active in several global forums and events.

CPMT, in partnership and in coordination with the GEF, UNFCCC, UNDP and other partners, successfully represented SGP at the UNFCCC COP21 in Paris, organizing and participating in high profile joint side events and contributing significantly to communication efforts, including authoring blogs, promotion in social media, videos, pictures and publications. In particular, SGP organized the award ceremony of the Global Youth Video Competition, an event organized in ACE from the UNFCCC Secretariat, and Television for the Environment (tve). The winners, Saraswati Upadhaya from Nepal and Charles Batte from Uganda, were selected from among 130 entries of youth between the ages of 18 and 30 coming from 60 countries - the competition’s You Tube channel attracted over 100,000 views of the films. In addition, five SGP grantees were recognized and received awards at the Equator Prize award ceremony held at the Mogador Theater and attended by more than 1,000 people. The winners



were selected from 1,461 nominations in 126 countries by a Technical Committee comprised of international experts through a rigorous peer review process.

SGP participated in the 10th International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change (CBA10) held in Dhaka, Bangladesh during In April 21-28, where SGP's Programme Advisor on Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) and Land Degradation, Mr. Charles Nyandiga, joined the panel on Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and Resilience – a plenary session that was moderated by Janice Ian Manlutac, the Regional Change Lead - Building Resilience of Oxfam GB Asia, who focused on the importance of building a robust private sector as a means to develop resilient communities, given that the majority of the population in developing countries relies on micro enterprises for its livelihood.

The SGP also participated in the GEF Biennial International Waters Conference (IWC-8) that took place from 9-13 May 2016 in Negombo, Sri Lanka, which was attended by over 300 participants. During the conference, Tehmina Akhtar, SGP's Deputy Global Manager, and Sulan Chen, SGP's International Waters Advisor, launched the publication "Scaling up Community Actions for International Waters Management", a portfolio review that highlights how community led actions can develop innovative solutions to international waters challenges and how these pilot and demonstration projects lead

to wider adoption, lasting change, and policy impact.

The ten cases in the publication demonstrate that small scale actions by communities, coupled with efforts by governments, the private sector, donors and other key stakeholders, can lead to achievement of results at a greater scale beyond the originally targeted communities. The publication was launched with an animated video that reviewed the results achieved by the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) in international waters over the last five years (2011-2016).

During the 15th session of the UN's Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in May 2016, SGP organized a side event to launch a Global Indigenous Fellowship Initiative. For the occasion, Ms. Yoko Watanabe, the IP Focal Point for the Global Environment Facility (GEF), opened the session with an overview of the support by GEF to indigenous peoples. She was followed by Mr. Delfin Ganapin, SGP Global Manager, who presented the Fellowship Initiative and explained that it resulted from discussions with the GEF Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group (IPAG) on ways of increasing indigenous peoples' access to GEF financing. Mr. Ganapin explained that the Fellowship Initiative is a response to needs expressed by indigenous stakeholders for capacity building and leadership skills to enable them to effectively represent themselves in policy settings and development planning processes.

Communications



1,300 MENTIONS IN PRINT,
AND DIGITAL MEDIA

During the reporting period, SGP continued to regularly update its global website www.sgp.undp.org. During the reporting period the website had 327,558 page views, 19,177 visitors, and 7,350 unique visitors. This year, CPMT improved the security features of the website and updated the content management system with the latest versions of the different modules.

Currently, the website has almost 750 resources in its online library including over 450 global and local publications and more than 300 videos. In addition, SGP has continued to expand its social media presence and has over 4,300 followers on Facebook. CPMT members have also been using Twitter and expanding the reach of the programme through this media. In addition, SGP also continued to write stories about the results of its portfolio for the GEF, UNDP and SGP websites.



55 AWARD – WINNING PROJECTS

The results of GEF support to poor and vulnerable communities and local CSOs through SGP were mentioned in local media around the world (TV, radio, print, digital and social media) over 1,300 times in the reporting period. Furthermore, SGP community-driven projects were recognized nationally and internationally, winning 55 national and international awards over the last year.

In addition, a journal paper entitled “Polycentric coastal and ocean management in the Caribbean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem: harnessing community-based actions to implement regional frameworks” was published in the journal *Environmental Development*.



Credit: SGP Turkey.

Replication, Up-Scaling, and Policy Influence

One of the stated goals of SGP's approach is to magnify results and benefits beyond the outcomes of single projects. This is achieved through embedding objectives for replication, scaling up or influencing policy at the local, national or even regional levels. SGP Country Programs have supported grantee partners to engage with government, donors, and the private sector among others to facilitate broader adoption of innovative technologies, practices or systems.

SGP country programmes reported that 146 projects completed during the reporting year were replicated or scaled up. Among these, twelve Country Programmes supported the replication or scaling up of four or more of their projects, including **Bolivia, China, Congo, Dominican Republic, Egypt, India, Jamaica, Kirgizstan, Madagascar, Tanzania, Uzbekistan** and **Zimbabwe**.

In **Georgia**, the Zugdidi Botanical Garden rehabilitation project was scaled up with investment of more than US\$ 1.2 from the government of Georgia for further infrastructure rehabilitation. The initial use of biodiversity monitoring drones in Borjomi Kharagauli National Park has been successfully replicated in the Lagodekhi Protected Area, where park administrators are now using these drones to identify and monitor fires and other natural disasters. Further testing of the drones for pasture monitoring is also planned.

In **Zimbabwe**, the NGO Practical Action launched a project with SGP support to promote climate smart technology, while fostering local entrepreneurship and development. By establishing an off-grid renewable energy model, inefficient diesel engines were made obsolete, and stable access to energy was secured for the community. By providing reliable energy, the community has better access to health care due to improved lighting at night, as well as better access to reliable irrigation. This project has been scaled up with a US\$1,245,161 grant from the European Union. With these funds, the previous 4.2Kw solar power station has been upgraded to a 99Kw power station, leading to expansion of operations with four irrigation pumps, electrification of

Mashaba Primary School, energy for Mashaba health clinic, and establishment of five small entrepreneur-managed energy kiosks, benefitting a total of 5,399 people.

In **Lesotho**, to address land degradation in Setleketseng, a project was launched to improve land management practices and foster sustainable livelihoods for 209 households. The project successfully demonstrated wetland restoration through rehabilitation of two wetlands covering an area of 3.5 hectares. This project has been replicated and scaled up by the Ministry of Forestry and Land Reclamation with the rehabilitation and sustainable management of an additional eight wetlands.

In **Nepal**, the project "Enhancement of Climate Resilience Community by Reducing Land Degradation for Sustainable Livelihoods" focused on organic farming intended to limit land degradation and reduce vulnerability to flooding. This project has been replicated by eight more village development committees with support from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OECD) Fund for International Development (OFID). As a result, more farms were brought under organic farming and agro-ecological management, benefiting 599 farmers. The District Development Committee in Sindhuli further contributed US\$30,000 to secure the banks of the Kamala River, employing both bamboo baskets and gabion wire boxes to construct a long embankment, which saved more than 2,000 hectares of land from erosion. In **Mongolia**, organic worm fertilizer production is being replicated by many individual groups and small holder farmers.

In terms of policy influence, 80 projects completed during the reporting period reported influencing policy through project activities and by liaising with local authorities and other government institutions. Ten country programmes that stood out for their efforts in influencing policy report that three or more projects have positively influenced local policies; these include **China, Dominican Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Seychelles** and **Sri Lanka**.



Weighing of octopus. Credit: SGP Mauritius.

In **Mauritius**, following the successful implementation of the SGP project “Alternative Livelihoods and Support for Sustainable Marine Resource Management in Rodrigues”, Rodrigues Island closed all octopus fisheries. Currently, the Ministry of Fisheries in collaboration with the Mauritius Marine Conservation Society, with funding and technical support from FAO Smartfish, and the Indian Ocean Commission, has replicated the experience from Rodrigues Island on mainland Mauritius. As a result of the knowledge and lessons learned, seven villages in the south-eastern region of Mauritius have committed, on a voluntary basis, to implement closure of their octopus fisheries over an area of 2,600 hectares for two months each year. As a result of the closures, octopus catch size has increased from 75g to 1.4kg in recent years. Furthermore, the success of the project has led to a policy decision from the Government of Mauritius to carry out the seasonal closure of the octopus fisheries across the entire Republic of Mauritius as of August 2016 for two months each year.

In **Suriname**, a grant to the “No Kwik” Movement was instrumental in encouraging the Government of Suriname to sign and ratify the Minamata Convention, a major milestone in Suriname’s legislative stance on mercury.

In **Benin**, with the support of SGP, Synergie Paysanne and the Pro-Environment Platform were instrumental in strengthening the environmental protection aspects of a national law that ensures better regulation of access to land by citizens through requiring prior confirmation of land rights before any transaction and placing limits on the acquisition of unexploited land by affluent people.

In **Seychelles**, the results of a shark education project have influenced the revision and renewal of the National Plan of Action for shark conservation for the next four years. Meanwhile, in **Kyrgyzstan**⁷², a SGP supported project has promoted the conservation of the Snow Leopard by helping establish, with UNDP and other partners, the first Global Snow Leopard secretariat.

SGP **Uzbekistan** influenced state and nation-wide policies promoting the use of laser leveling and biogas technologies. Laser leveling has become a state-promoted land management practice to avoid erosion and the Government have now set a goal to increase the area treated using this technology from 25,500 hectares in 2015 to 238,500 hectares by 2019. With regard to biogas, government decrees were issued supporting the development of this technology and linking it to a World Bank project to provide grants and discounted loans to those who want to build a biogas plant.

⁷² KYR/SGP/OP5/Y5/STAR/BD/15/04



V. Programme Management

The year under review was significant for a number of preparatory activities undertaken to initiate full-fledged implementation of SGP's 6th Operational Phase (OP6) even as grant projects committed with funding from OP5 continued to be monitored and supervised. The total number of grant projects active in the reporting year was 3,142. While this number was less than the previous years, a greater emphasis was placed on planning and preparations for OP6 both at the global level as well as in the country programmes.

At the global level the CEO Endorsement for the first Tranche of SGP Core Funds in OP6 was received and the UNDP project document for the operational phase was developed consulted on and appraised. The final document was signed by UNDP and UNOPS for implementation to commence. During the same period the PIF for the second Tranche of Core Funds was also submitted and technically cleared by GEF Secretariat. At the global level the SGP Steering Committee convened three times during the reporting period to provide strategic guidance to the programme. SGP also participated actively in several global meetings, conferences and events at the global, regional and national level, as described in the section on knowledge management and communications.

A key activity in all country programmes was the elaboration of the Country Programme Strategies (CPS) following an intensive process of consultations carried out in the country with a wide array of stakeholders, including CSOs, NSC members, government, UNDP and other donors and partners. The CPS templates were revised and guidance was updated by CPMT. A series of global teleconferences were held with all countries to explain, discuss and exchange views on the landscape/seascape conservation focus of SGP OP6 and what this would mean for the CPS elaboration and prioritization process. A key aspect of the CPS preparation process included an initial consultation process with a wide array of stakeholders to set priorities for which strategic outcomes would be of greatest importance for the country and the selection of priority landscapes/ or seascapes where at least 70 percent of programming would be focused. The initial consultations were followed in most countries (with exception of SIDS and other smaller countries) with a baseline assessment of the selected landscapes/seascapes. The final step in the process was the elaboration of the final CPS strategy, informed by the baseline assessment, and its endorsement by the SGP NSC at country level and approval by CPMT. All approved and final CPS documents are available on SGP's website to guide programming in OP6. Currently over two thirds of countries have completed the CPS, while the remainder are on their way to achieve this. The CPS format overall included a specific focus on the SGP OP6 Strategic outcomes, with expanded sections on alignment with UNDP and



CBO network discusses their aspiration, successes & challenges. Credit: SGP.

GEF programming, a greater focus on social inclusion and involvement of women, youth, IPs, and persons with disabilities. UNDP's Social and Environmental Safeguards were also included as an element in the CPS for countries to ensure that safeguard policies were fully taken into account in the strategy development process.

Another key strategic outcome of SGP in OP6, is its focus on CSO-government dialogue platforms with the objective to involve and establish strong CSO involvement in national negotiations for the global conventions, as well as to promote the localization of SDGs, particularly their emphasis on "leave no one behind". As already mentioned in section xxx SGP jointly with support from the government of Norway and through the BMUB funded ICCA Global Support Initiative implemented 20 national level IP-government dialogues in the run up to the Paris conference of parties of the UNFCCC. In many countries this was the first occasion on which IPs were involved in contributing to their governments preparations and negotiating positions. In most countries these dialogues were also an important step in sensitizing and making governments aware of the impact and risks of climate change for indigenous peoples and local communities.



Meeting of cooperative women. Credit: SGP.

The reporting period was also a year of transition for the 15 SGP Upgraded country programmes. Upgraded country programme staff liaised with a range of national stakeholders, including CSOs, government and UNDP country offices, and worked to develop proposals for GEF6. Most countries were successful in obtaining endorsements for STAR funding for the continuation of SGP in OP6 in their respective countries. However, in some cases, due to stronger competition, allocations were reduced, which necessitated a heightened strategic focus in GEF6 on a reduced number of landscapes and communities. Two countries, Philippines and Brazil, due to a late start to implementation of OP5 continued to utilize the funding allocated in GEF5. In the course of the year, several countries sought approval of PIFs and implemented Project Preparation Grants leading to development of project documents and GEF CEO Endorsement requests. A Mid-Term Review of SGP Brazil and Terminal Evaluations of SGP Kenya and SGP Pakistan were conducted during the reporting year. Building on the experience of UNDP's COMDEKS community-based landscape planning approach implemented through the SGP in 20 pilot countries, the SGP Upgraded country programmes will be adopting similar community-based landscape approaches as their core programming framework, building the capacities of community organizations to take collective action for adaptive landscape management for social and ecological resilience. Brazil conducted the MTR in September 2015, Kenya completed the TE in August 2015 and Pakistan completed its TE in October 2015.

PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

SGP continues to pursue strategic collaborations and co-financing arrangements with a range of different partners, allowing the SGP to influence and support emerging areas of work, such as REDD+ and climate adaptation as well as contribute to critical thematic issues such as improved environmental governance and community management of local territories (see Annex 7 for detailed information on all the partnerships summarized below).

The **Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) Programme** is active in 39 SIDS and Mekong and Asia Pacific countries and focuses specifically on improving the adaptive capabilities of communities to adverse climate change risks. Overall, 28 full-size SIDS CBA projects and six SIDS CBA planning grants were approved in 2015 for a total of US\$1.2m. Other highlights for this reporting period include continued collaboration with new and existing partners and strengthening its global outreach efforts by providing evidence-based practices and policy lessons in the international fora. SGP and the International Institute of Environment and Development partnered on a study initiative on "How much adaptation funds reach the local level" and shared the results in side events at UNFCCC COP21 and the 9th International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation, as well as in various

knowledge platforms such as Climate-L, weADAPT and the Global Initiative on Community-Based Adaptation sites and newsletters.

The **Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS)**

project is being implemented in a wide variety of landscapes in 20 countries, including 16 countries within the Global SGP Programme and four SGP Upgraded Country Programmes. The project is designed to support innovations identified by communities for biodiversity conservation, promotion of ecosystem services, agro-ecosystem management, development of alternative livelihoods, and strengthening of governance systems at the landscape level. During the reporting period, COMDEKS activities covered 19 out of its 20 partner countries. Most Country Programmes have successfully concluded their projects as well as conducted their Ex-post Baseline Assessments to evaluate achievements at the landscape level through the use of the indicators for resilience in socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes, and develop recommendations for the future. A global publication covering lessons learned during Phase 2 COMDEKS was produced and a short brochure on Indicators of Resilience was published in October 2015. To allow sufficient time to facilitate further exchange of COMDEKS experiences and lessons learned, the COMDEKS programme was recently extended until December 2017.

The **Community-based REDD+ (CBR+)**, a partnership established between SGP and the UN-REDD Programme in early 2014, aims to catalyze REDD+ readiness from the ground up, bringing resources and capacity to communities, empowering them to engage in national REDD+ activities and pilot important REDD+ methodologies and approaches. CBR+ is currently fully operational in all six pilot countries (Cambodia, DR Congo, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay and Sri Lanka) and as of mid-2016, 78 CBR+ grants have been disbursed to communities, representing a financial commitment of US\$2.6 million, and with additional grants on track to be disbursed during 2016. In addition to direct grants to communities, organizational capacities and technical understanding have been raised for community

stakeholders on the technicalities of REDD+ and how to engage in REDD+ processes. As of mid-2016 over 400 local NGOs and community-based organizations have received training in project design and management, proposal writing, and administration of funds, as well as on REDD+ themes.

SGP also serves as the delivery mechanism for the **EU-NGO Building Capacities of NGOs for Environmental Governance Project**, which supports environmental governance through the strengthening and capacity development of NGOs in 13 countries. Considerable progress has been made in terms of programme implementation, with 36 individual projects funded by European Union (EU) resources currently under execution and 29 projects successfully completed. An EU-NGO Regional Exchange Meeting took place in Jordan in May 2015, in coordination with an SGP funded Regional Workshop for the Europe and Arab States countries. This meeting provided an important opportunity to promote collaboration among participating countries to share experiences, best practice and lessons, and to encourage coherence across global project objectives. As the EU-NGOs programme is closing in December 2016, the projects under execution are nearing completion (with 98% of target grants committed) and the Terminal Programme Evaluation is currently underway.

The **Indigenous and Community Conserved Territories and Areas: Global Support Initiative (ICCA GSI)** was designed to further scale up SGP's work on ICCAs in 26 countries and to promote increased advocacy, legal and policy reforms and exchange of knowledge. As one of SGP's most recently initiated partnerships, work towards the ICCA GSI in the current reporting period focused on building capacity for implementation and sharing learning. Five regional workshops were held to build capacity of SGP National Coordinators in the target countries on the objectives and modalities of the ICCA GSI partnership over 2015. Smaller sub-regional ICCA learning events were organized with the ICCA Consortium for the regions of: South America, South-East Asia, and Southern and Eastern Africa.

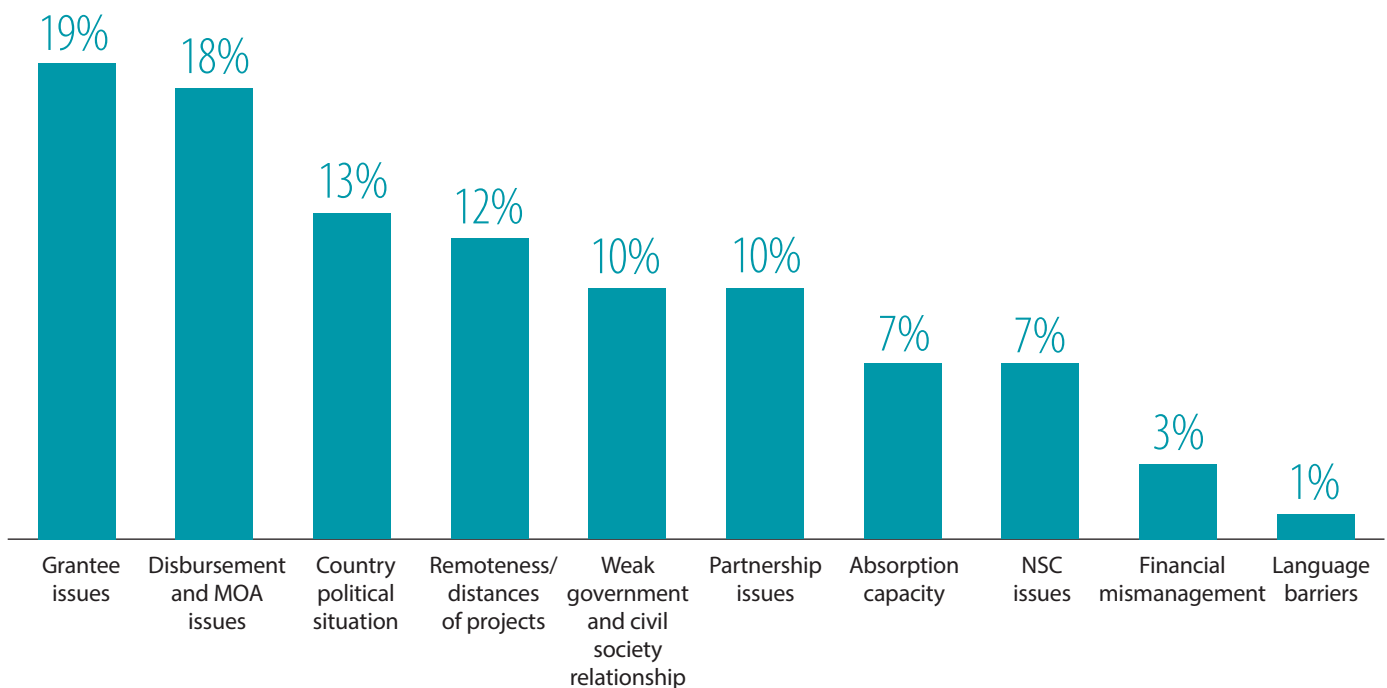
PROGRAMMATIC CHALLENGES AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL

SGP country programmes identified a number of programmatic country challenges on the global survey conducted for the preparation of this report. Over 110 countries responded, including those within the Global SGP as well as Upgraded country programmes. The top two challenges encountered by SGP country programmes are grantee issues (19%), and disbursement and Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) issues (18%). SGP adheres to the principle that communities are the ones that will ultimately protect the environment and provide to sustainable development, therefore the majority of SGP grantees are grass root NGOs and CBOs that may not necessary possess all the capacities needed throughout a project cycle. Among SGP countries that have stressed grantee issues are Bhutan, Cambodia, Congo DR, Egypt, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Rwanda, Seychelles, Timor Leste. Grantee issues described were generally related to disbursement delays due to grantees' needs for ongoing training on financial and narrative reporting, even though SGP reporting forms are kept simple and in the local language. In addition

disbursement issues are reported to be slightly impacted by the introduction of oneUNOPS⁷³ administrative system in the beginning of 2016.

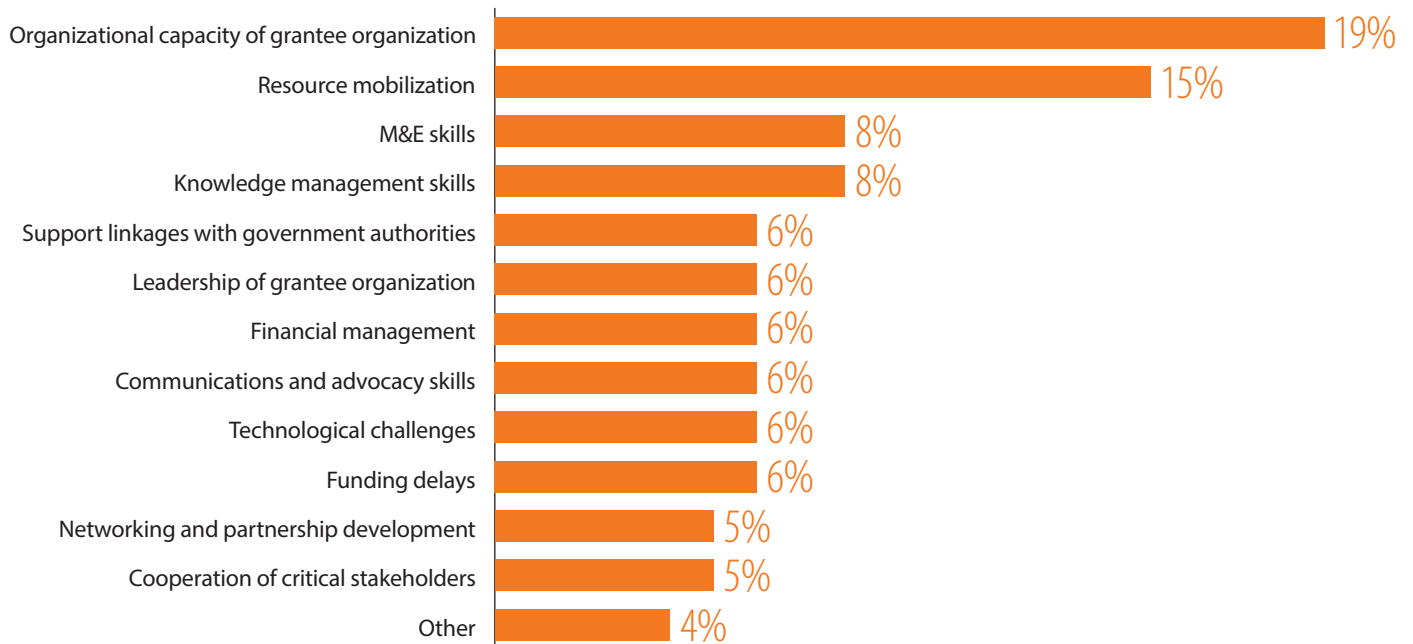
Country political situations (13%) and remoteness and distance of the projects (12%) are also reported to influence the effective implementation of SGP programmes. Security, unrest in the country, refugee crises, or conflict zone issues have been reported to challenge the implementation of SGP activities in countries such as Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Honduras, Lebanon, Niger, and Yemen. Other cited problems include: election related violence, such as in Philippines, and Suriname, and inflation and local currency changes, such as in Eritrea, and Venezuela. In some SGP countries such as Argentina, Belize, Botswana, China, Cape Verde, Colombia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Micronesia, Sri Lanka, Suriname, and Tanzania, remoteness and difficulty in accessing projects located in distant areas posed a challenged to successful country portfolio implementation. Other country level challenges as reported by SGP country programmes are identified in Chart 13.

CHART 13: RANKING OF PROGRAMMATIC CHALLENGES FACED BY COUNTRY PROGRAMMES



⁷³ oneUNOPS is UNOPS new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)

CHART 14: RANKING OF CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED AT THE PROJECT LEVEL (REPORTED BY NCS)



In addition to challenges at the country programme level, SGP country programmes have identified challenges encountered at project level. Chart 14 provides a ranking of these challenges, as reported by NCs through the global survey. Organizational capacities of grantee organization (19%) and resource mobilization (15%) are reported as the top two challenges encountered at the project level. Other reported challenges include grantees' capacities in M&E skills (8%), knowledge management (8%), and leadership of grantee organization (6%).

During the reporting period 49 project in 19 SGP countries were terminated before completion. Reasons for early terminations are reported to be mainly linked with grantee capacities and human resources such as lack of managerial capacities or grantee management turnover, incapability to implement project activities or to produce required reports, as well as lack of cooperation among interested stakeholders. In addition, SGP Venezuela represents a special case with the NSC deciding to terminate 21 projects despite their satisfactory status due to high inflation rates. The NSC in Venezuela offered respective grantees the option to receive remaining funds under new MoAs with better exchange rates, thus enabling them to achieve even more from what was initially laid out.

SOLUTIONS AND OTHER MITIGATING ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

SGP OP6, through reflecting on challenges encountered in years, has been designed and is being implemented to proactively meet the SGP's main challenges. Specifically, the introduction of landscape/seascape approaches to enhance SGP's impact by clustering projects, building stronger linkages among them, strengthening communities' capacities, fostering partnerships and networking, and enhancing ownership, knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation. The process of developing OP6 CPSs, that comprised broad consultations with civil society, local and central government, and other stakeholders, provided a platform in itself for communities involvement and development.

In addition, the OP6 Grantmaker+ initiative positions SGP as a strong partner to communities in providing for their sustainable capacities. By investing in the capacities of NCs, Programme Assistants and NSCs through technical guidance, online trainings and certifications, regional workshops, and other methodologies, SGP is creating the foundation for support to local grantee partners. Another



Credit: SGP Brazil.

OP6 initiative, CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms, addresses weak government and civil society relationship, while at the same time contributing towards civil society capacities, access to information and governmental institutions. A further OP6 initiative, South-South Community Innovation Exchange Platform contributes to mitigate some challenges by promoting information exchange, and networking. These OP6 initiatives, in addition to gender mainstreaming, and involvement of indigenous peoples, youth and disabled groups, are mechanisms to empower communities and alleviate challenges. Further information on OP6 initiatives can be found under respective sections of this AMR.

Alongside global initiatives, SGP country programmes have provided creative strategies and solutions at the country level. To **address grantee's lack of technical knowledge**, countries like **Botswana** and **Egypt** reported that technical advisory committee, or technical assistance has been provided. To overcome **absorption capacity, managerial and organizational capacity a number of countries have organized trainings and workshops**. For example, the **Seychelles** have organized workshops not only at the initial phase of projects, but during the implementation phase as well. **Saint Lucia** indicate cooperation with research institutions was pursued in order to create

capacity development programmes while **Uganda** utilized cooperation with national institutions to provide business entrepreneurship and management skills.

Fostering grantee partners planning, monitoring and evaluating, reporting and financial management capacities is essential in successful implementation of the project. For that reason, country programmes have employed various methods such as planning grants and support from governmental structure as reported for example by **Micronesia**. In SGP **Morocco** external support is provided to conduct participatory evaluations. SGP **Guinea** has organized workshops in collaboration with UNDP CO.

Marketing capacities and knowledge are vital for the successfully introduction of local products in to the market. In this regards, SGP **India** reports expert training on product certification and e-marketing. To address a number of other challenges like **project remoteness, and partnership developments** SGP countries utilized several strategies such as project wrap up meetings that bring together NGOs and government as reported by SGP **China**. Partnerships with local institutions, NSC members volunteering in project monitoring, or the utilization of local or UNDP experts are reported by **Jamaica, Kazakhstan, and Madagascar**. It should be emphasized that all solutions at country level are developed in addition to continual technical, administrative, financial, managerial day-to-day training and support provided by NCs and PAs. Moreover, NSCs provide active programme guidance and valuable expertise in overcoming challenges as well as guiding project development and implementation throughout the project cycle.

CPMT continued to provide global guidance and support, and if required, had intervened to provide solutions for challenges at the country level. CPMT and UNOPS Regional Focal Points are in continuous contact with NCs and Programme Assistants, and, whenever necessary, CPMT has conducted monitoring and troubleshooting missions and helped clarify situations and circumstances. In situations beyond SGP control, such as country level political, economic or social problems or natural disasters, CPMT maintains close contact with the SGP country team and UNDP CO to mitigate risks.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

During the reporting year, 1,950 projects, representing 56% of the active portfolio, received monitoring visits. The majority (54%) of SGP Country Programmes reported that 80-100% of projects visited were progressing satisfactorily. A further 37% of Country Programmes reported that 60-80% of projects visited were found to be progressing satisfactorily. Less than 9% of SGP Country Programmes reported that 40% or less of projects visited were seen to be achieving satisfactory progress. In addition 18 SGP country programmes were evaluated during the reporting period by independent and third party evaluators. The findings of these evaluations have contributed to the elaboration of several country programme strategies and in the case of the Upgraded countries to the design of project documents in GEF6.

A number of country-level evaluations and reviews carried out during the reporting period provide a more nuanced picture of progress and room for improvement. The Country Portfolio Evaluation in **Afghanistan** found encouraging results of projects that were effective and had good potential for replication, while also recommending more emphasis on assessment, including pre-assessments and site visits to potential projects to ascertain feasibility before grant-making. **Brazil** had a mid-term review of its Country Programme in August 2015 that found highly satisfactory progress noting highly visible positive impacts of projects on the ground, good collaboration with other co-financing mechanisms (e.g., COMDEKS, Amazonia Fund),

and an effective project M&E system. **Kenya's** terminal evaluation of OP5 highlighted that supported projects were strategically designed and implemented and very responsive to local needs and government priorities, but noted that improvements could be made to project monitoring systems. An evaluation of SGP in **Niger** found strong ownership of project activities by beneficiary communities as well as the good capacity of CBOs involved in implementation, however the report also suggested that the frequency of monitoring missions should increase to a quarterly basis. A terminal evaluation carried out for OP5 in **Pakistan** concluded that "SGP continues to retain its niche as one of the few very programmes that combines local community-level benefits with global environmental concerns and remains an important programme that can be replicated. Small funding amounts have led to strong demonstration effects." **Tajikistan's** Country Portfolio Evaluation noted that M&E ratings in past projects had been unsatisfactory but improvements had been made (note: 80-100% of projects were rated as satisfactory for this reporting period) and found that M&E learning had contributed positively to adaptive management.

A number of countries reported challenges, both in terms of project implementation and challenges to effective monitoring. These included: weather issues that impacted outcomes (e.g., drought impacted agricultural and water-related activities supported in St. Kitts and Nevis); capacity issues in the communities and organizations implementing the grants (e.g., Afghanistan, Paraguay);



Farmers exchange visits. Credit: SGP Seychelles.



issues with intermediaries such as international organizations and governmental authorities who were unable to provide the timely support needed to projects leading to delays (e.g., Uzbekistan); logistical difficulties of carrying out monitoring regularly in countries such as the Maldives where project sites were remotely located and internal travel costs are prohibitive; the security situation hampering implementation and preventing monitoring of certain sites (e.g., Afghanistan) and staff turnover in certain country programmes that saw a change in NCs (e.g., Maldives) led to some delays in project approval and renewal processes.

Some of these issues, such as extreme weather events and issues with intermediary organizations, are difficult to mitigate through an organizational response. One of the most important needs is to continue to support grantee organizations both through strengthening their capacities as well as to adapt and respond to such challenges. Therefore, SGP will use the learning from these cases to further strengthen its capacity and outreach to communities and grantees. Challenges from issues such as staff turnover and transitioning between OP5 to OP6 are being reviewed and solutions for strengthening internal SGP processes in affected countries will be developed.

One major, independent multi-country evaluation conducted during the reporting period was carried out by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and

Trade (DFAT) to assess SGP's collaboration with DFAT to support Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) projects. This report concluded that "UNDP have provided excellent management and oversight for the SIDS CBA programme. Under the SIDS CBA investment the UNDP has maintained a focus on results based programming. CBA innovations have been demonstrated to influence mainstreaming and replication at the national and global levels. DFAT is particularly pleased with UNDP's gender mainstreaming efforts, in 2015 all of the on-going and completed projects included gender mainstreaming activities. Further, pleased to see 72% of the CBA projects in the Pacific and Caribbean regions are specifically targeted to indigenous communities". The report also highlighted the robust monitoring and community support systems used by the initiative, including pre-assessment site visits and regular communications with grantees to problem solve and provide assistance throughout the project cycle.

M&E results from these multiple sources indicate that, as would be expected by an initiative that focuses on some of the most challenged, low-capacity communities to tackle complex environment and development problems in constantly changing environmental, social and political contexts, there will always be room to learn, adapt and improve SGP's support in countries. The SGP continues to show a high level of performance overall and will integrate learning from country- and programme-level evaluations to improve performance and delivery of results.

GRANT APPROVAL PROCESS

In the reporting period SGP continued to be attentive to ensuring fast access to GEF funding by CSO grantees. The time-frame from the approval of a grant project proposal by the SGP National Steering Committee till the signature of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the grantee partner and the UNDP (on behalf of UNOPS) took 3 weeks or less in the majority of SGP countries (53%). In a third of countries (33%) this process took between 3-6 weeks, while 14% of countries reported that this took more than 6 weeks.



For countries reporting a period of more than 6 weeks for the MOA signature, the reasons for the longer time-frame varied. Some mentioned the practice of “provisional approval” by their NSCs (Malaysia, Nigeria and Papua New Guinea), which may approve a project with conditions and their comments are later incorporated by the CSO partner prior to preparation and signature of the MOA. In many of these cases the grantee may lack capacity and need significant support from the NC, especially in cases where it is the first time for a CSO or CBO to access donor assistance. Several countries (Colombia, Cote d’Ivoire, Mozambique, Paraguay, Timor Leste, Venezuela) mentioned grantee capacity challenges in preparing MOAs, including legal documents, establishing bank accounts, and other banking challenges encountered. Others mentioned delays in communication and obtaining signatures of relevant parties, often grantees and sometimes UNDP Country Offices (Albania, Burundi, Cote d’Ivoire, Palau, Vanuatu). The need to secure and confirm co-financing prior to MOA signature was also a reason additional time required till MOA signature (Paraguay, Seychelles). These challenges are consistent with those reported in the past and SGP will continue to work at the level of each country to reduce delays as well as to accurately anticipate and communicate expected timeframes in order to meet expectations of grantees.

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

SGP’s project document for the 6th Operational phase includes a section on risks foreseen by the programme for the coming four year period. In view of the experience of the programme operating for more than 20 years, few new risks are anticipated as SGP has been constantly learning and adapting during this time. Potential risks are known, and through past experience risk mitigation measures are in place for those that have been identified in previous phases. Table 16 provides a list of potential risks identified in the project document and their mitigation measures.

In 2015 SGP applied the UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedures (SESP) in the design of its OP6 Project Document. The overall impact and probability of social and environmental risks are considered to be very low, since SGP is designed to enable communities and CSOs to directly implement priority projects designed to benefit the environment and local sustainable development. SGP has updated its template for preparation of Country Programme Strategies in the current phase, in order to include a review and discussion of possible social and environmental risks in line with the SES and identification of mitigation measures if necessary. For ad-hoc issues that may arise in the process of grantmaking, the National Steering Committees are tasked to manage the appropriate conflict resolution measures.



TABLE 16: APROGRAMMATIC RISKS AND MITIGATION MEASURES IN OP6

RISK	LEVEL OF RISK	MITIGATION MEASURES/UPDATES
<p>The challenges of working directly with community-based and non-governmental organizations that have a low level of technical and management capacity is a continuing risk, although past performance of the SGP portfolio has shown that 90% of SGP grants achieve outcomes in the satisfactory range.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>To mitigate risks, SGP will continue to focus on capacity development of all grantees by identifying appropriate rates of disbursement, linking grantee partners to learn from each other, and working in a flexible manner that responds to the strengths and comparable advantages of grantees. Risks of underperformance due to capacity limitations will also be mitigated by consistent and comprehensive oversight and monitoring of the SGP portfolio in each country by CPMT and the UNDP CO. On the financial and admin side, UNOPS as implementing partner will provide a risk advisory and management system in line with UNOPS Financial Regulations and Rules.</p>
<p>The gradually changing geographic presence of SGP may lead to risks, where in each operational phase the most mature countries meeting the criteria for upgrading are upgraded as FSPs, while in the past two operational phases a significant number of LDCs and SIDs, as well as countries in post conflict situations, have been added.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>The potential risks of working in newer countries, countries with post conflict situations, capacity challenges, etc. will be mitigated in OP6 through the greater flexibility in SGP playing Grantmaker+ roles to complement and ensure the success of grant projects. By actively promoting CSO-government dialogue platforms, providing dedicated support, as well as by developing and utilizing effective global knowledge exchange platforms, SGP will be better able to build the capacity of CSOs and promote community action in many of the newer countries that have joined SGP.</p> <p>SGP will continue to promote knowledge exchange with upgraded countries in order to contribute to the SGP global network and to promote mentoring and capacity development through knowledge exchange among all countries.</p> <p>SGP will keep tracking potential risk scenarios in countries that are affected by security or other political and economic challenges. Trouble shooting missions will be undertaken as needed by CPMT and UNOPS.</p>
<p>The shift, for most SGP country programmes, to implementation of a community landscape/seascape conservation approach with a clustering of projects with 70% of grant funds going towards specific landscape conservation objectives identified in consultation with communities through a participatory baseline assessment process. The risk in some countries is ensuring the transparency and criteria of selection of such landscape/seascape areas of focus.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>CPMT has provided significant guidance, templates and has facilitated discussions to guide country programmes on key steps and lessons. The experience of COMPACT, COMDEKS, and the CBR+ projects that are already clustering grants within specific landscapes or seascapes to achieve wider objectives is being captured and shared</p>

RISK	LEVEL OF RISK	MITIGATION MEASURES/UPDATES
<p>A reduced level of funding for grant making may reduce the impact and effectiveness of SGP country programmes. While SGP Core resources are expected to be at the level of OP5, in OP6 SGP countries will have lowered ceilings for access to STAR funds.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>To keep SGP programmes running at optimal levels, several key measures are planned: (a) flexible allocation of grant funding, (b) clustering and focusing of grant portfolios within landscape and seascape focus areas to increase impact and reduce cost of M&E; (c) enhance SGP’s role as a Grantmaker+ to capitalize on and achieve value from the important non-grant services provided by SGP staff, NSCs, and other networks to build and sustain capacity; and (d) increase resource mobilization and partnerships, including the use of SGP as a delivery mechanism for other donor funded projects that can tap its existing network and structure while providing greater resources for programming both grants as well as non-grant activities for the benefit of CSOs.</p>
<p>Climate related risks and extreme weather events may pose challenges to SGP’s work in countries.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>SGP is not alone among development and environment projects having to factor in climate risks. SGP will draw upon and build on expsting knowledge in this area to mitigate risks, including reliance on its existing experience in supporting community projects affected by climate change and extreme weather events to implement adaptive measures and undertake rehabilitative actions if needed. SGP will draw on lessons and tools developed through its Community-Based Adaptation projects to integrate climate change adaptation measures. The design of projects will include vulnerability assessments and the inclusion of effective measures generated by communities in similar situations.</p>
<p>Additionally, there is a risk of not mobilizing adequate additional resources, including to allow scaling up and greater impact.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>This risk is mitigated by the fact that SGP has a track record of raising similar levels of project level in-kind and in-cash co-financing, that add up to a 1:1 level matching the GEF funding. In prior phases SGP has always met or exceeded the 1:1 target. SGP will work with country staff and UNDP offices to identify any areas where co-financing levels are low and identify other possibilities. At the programmatic level, SGP will work to deliver current co-financing partnership programmes and in doing so identify opportunities for seeking and leveraging additional bilateral and multilateral funding through targeted programmes. All resource mobilization efforts will be carried out in close coordination with UNDP.</p>

RISK	LEVEL OF RISK	MITIGATION MEASURES/UPDATES
<p>As a grantmaking programme, SGP has to be prepared to confront potential risks of misuse or misappropriation of funds, especially where there is low administrative/financial management capacity or corruption.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>SGP addresses this risk in a variety of ways. First at the programming level, SGP's project proposal template, grant review and screening procedures are designed to ensure that CSOs or CBOs proposing grants have relevant experience, strong backing from communities who will be involved, and a good track record.</p> <p>SGP ensures oversight by its country level staff and active involvement of NSC members which provide strong support and a due diligence mechanism. The size of the average SGP grant is also small, at approximately \$25,000. Site visits to projects are encouraged and funding is provided in tranches to mitigate risks of funding misuse, Grantees are required to submit progress reports and financial reports in order for subsequent tranches of funding to be released. Any concerns regarding use of funds may result in early termination of a grant project. UNOPS as the Implementing Partner oversees the operational risks, and has a risk mitigation framework for SGP that entails a spectrum of control layers at different transactional levels. Risk based audits are regularly conducted in SGP country programmes on an annual basis by an internationally known audit firm.</p>

The above identified potential risks in OP6 will be closely monitored as OP6 gets fully underway and a more detailed analysis will be conducted in the next AMR period. The SGP Steering Committee at the global level will continue to convene twice annually and will provide strategic guidance and oversight and will be kept updated on any emerging or unforeseen risks.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

During year 2015, UNOPS together with CPMT collated management responses to the audited 10 SGP country programmes, which are being implemented by the country programmes. In order to manage the operational risks efficiently in OP6, the SGP roles and accountabilities matrices preempted the potential risks and laid out mitigation strategies, which are complemented by two sets of terms of reference: (1) general audit of the SGP country programmes which is to seek audit opinion on the overall operations and financial management of resources, and (2)

forensic audit of country programmes which are more prone to high risk in terms of topical challenges and other operational impediments which hinder the programme operations.

Traditionally, it is SGP's prerogative to include best practices and lessons learned from the audit exercises into SGP guidance materials and build a body of knowledge to strengthen the overall operations of the SGP country programme across the board.

The SGP risk management strategy is a living document and it is kept abreast of evolving challenges and realities in the SGP country programmes.

Model farmers is transplant seedling
as adative mesure techniques.
Credit: SGP Cambodia.

VI. Financial Delivery

The total expenditure over the reporting yer (1 July 2015 till 30 June 2016) of GEF SGP, including the started Operational Sixth Phase as well as some ongoing commitments of prior operational phases is USD 35 m. Of this, the majority of the funding (USD 32 m) was drawn from the OP5 phase funding.

GEF SGP DELIVERY (1 JULY 2015 – 30 JUNE 2016) IN USD

Operational Phase	Expenditure
OP3	1,740,721
OP4	204,491
OP5	32,686,045
OP6	396,450
Grand Total	35,027,707



A photograph of two beekeepers wearing protective suits and hats, examining a honeycomb frame. The beekeeper on the left is wearing a blue jacket and a green and white patterned hat. The beekeeper on the right is wearing a white shirt and a black vest, also with a green and white patterned hat. They are both looking intently at a rectangular wooden frame containing a honeycomb. The background shows a stone wall and a large white container.

VII. Annexes: Key Partnership Programmes of SGP

PARTNERSHIP

BMUB Global ICCA Support Initiative (ICCA GSI)

GOAL

Support to indigenous peoples' and community conserved areas and territories (ICCAs) through the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) as a contribution to the achievement of Targets 11, 14 and 18 of the CBD Aichi 2020 framework

FUNDING AMOUNT/DURATION

US\$16.3m

FOCAL AREA

Biodiversity

COUNTRIES COVERED

20 SGP countries for WP1 (small grants): Argentina, Belize, Benin, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Paraguay, Peru, Senegal, Suriname, Tanzania, Vietnam, Zambia

6 SGP countries for WP2 (Legal and Policy) and WP3 (Networking and Knowledge) including Upgrading country programmes: Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Georgia, Kenya, Philippines

PARTNER/DONOR

Funded by the German Federal Ministry of the Environment (BMUB)

KEY ACTIVITIES

Five regional workshops were held to build capacity of SGP National Coordinators in the target countries on the objectives and modalities of the ICCA GSI partnership:

- Asia-Pacific in Feb 2015;
- Latin America & Caribbean in March 2015;
- Anglophone Africa in April 2015;
- Arab States, Europe and CIS in May 2015;
- Francophone Africa in June 2015.



A number of other events were held between UNDP-GEF SGP and 3 'core' global GSI partners (IUCN GPAP, UNEP WCMC, and the Global ICCA Consortium):

- Steering Committee (SC) meeting for the ICCA Registry held back-to-back with the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) in March 2015;
- GSI Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting was held at IUCN HQ in Gland, Switzerland in Nov 2015;

Associated IUCN Task Force meeting on OECMs was conducted (Jan 2016) as well as an SC meeting for the IUCN World Commission on Protected Area (WCPA) in May 2016.

- Smaller sub-regional ICCA learning events were organized with the ICCA Consortium:
 - South American region (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru) held in Cayembé, Ecuador in April 2015;
 - South-East Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam) in August 2015;
 - Southern and Eastern Africa (Kenya, Namibia, Tanzania, and Zambia) in February 2016.

PARTNERSHIP

Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS)

GOAL

Develop sound biodiversity management and sustainable livelihood activities with local communities to maintain, rebuild and revitalize socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes

FUNDING AMOUNT/DURATION

US\$10m (2011-2016)

FOCAL AREA

- Biodiversity Conservation
- Multi-focal area

COUNTRIES COVERED

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

PARTNER/DONOR

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).

KEY ACTIVITIES

- The COMDEKS Programme is currently implemented in a wide variety of landscapes around the world, supporting innovations identified by the communities for biodiversity conservation, promotion of ecosystem services, agro-ecosystem management and strengthening of governance systems at the landscape level. During the reporting period, COMDEKS activities covered 19 out of its 20 partner countries, as COMDEKS activities in Slovakia were already completed by June 2014. Throughout the past year, most COMDEKS Country Programmes

have successfully concluded their projects as well as conducted their Ex-post Baseline Assessments to evaluate achievements at the landscape level through the use of the indicators for resilience in socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes, and develop recommendations for the future.

- By this past May, COMDEKS had committed 98% (US\$6.39 million) of the target grants commitment of USD 6.54 million, with overall 215 projects approved across its 20 partner countries. What remains to be committed are funds that are targeted for conducting the ex-post baseline assessment in some of the target landscapes.
- As in the previous reporting period, the COMDEKS Programme has continued to place a large emphasis on knowledge management activities. This past year was very important in terms of collection of the lessons learned at the global and local levels. In particular, the Indicators of Resilience in SEPLS were published in October 2015 in their updated form in a shorter brochure. A global COMDEKS phase 2 publication, containing case studies of the ten phase 2 partner countries, was recently produced and will be launched shortly. Additionally, a number of global publications are currently under development and will be launched in the coming months, including guidance documents to support the implementation of the Landscape Governance and the Agroecosystem outcomes of the COMDEKS landscape approach. These products also aim to serve as training materials for the SGP Upgrading Country Programmes and the SGP Global Programme to further embrace and mainstream the landscape approach.
- To allow sufficient time to facilitate further exchange of COMDEKS experiences and lessons learned, the COMDEKS programme was recently extended until December 2017. As the 15 SGP Upgrading Country Programmes will replicate experiences from the COMDEKS approach during OP6, extending the project through 2017 allows COMDEKS experiences and knowledge to be fully absorbed and adopted by the Upgrading SGP Country Programs and the SGP Global Programme as they adapt their programs to embrace a landscape approach, thus ensuring replication of COMDEKS to a large number of other countries through SGP.

PARTNERSHIP

EU-NGO Strengthening Governance Project

GOAL

Promote sustainable development and improved environmental management in target countries from two neighboring regions of the European Region through more effective civil society participation in environmental governance

FUNDING AMOUNT/DURATION

EUR 3.5m

FOCAL AREA

Capacity Development

COUNTRIES COVERED

Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Ukraine, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Lebanon, Moldova, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia;

PARTNER/DONOR

Funded by the European Commission

KEY ACTIVITIES

- The first phase, considered a pilot phase, focused on eight countries: Armenia, Belarus, and Ukraine in the Eastern region; and Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, the occupied Palestinian territory, and Tunisia in the Southern region. A second phase of the project has been launched in 2014

in five additional countries, three in the Eastern region – Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova – and two countries in the Southern region – Algeria and Morocco.

- During this reporting period the EU-NGOs Project has focused its activities on consolidating the project in the first phase countries, as well as launching the second phase of the project in the second phase countries.
- Project activities during the reporting period were concentrated on grant-making and associated capacity building, training and exchanges in the selected countries. Additionally, an EU-NGO Regional Exchange Meeting took place in Jordan in May 2015, organized in coordination with an SGP funded Regional Workshop for the Europe and Arab States countries. This meeting provided an important opportunity to promote collaboration among participating countries from the two regions to share experiences, best practice and lessons, and to encourage coherence across global project objectives.
- Considerable progress has been made in terms of programme implementation, with 36 individual projects funded by EU resources currently under execution and 29 projects successfully completed. As the EU-NGOs programme is closing in December 2016, the projects under execution are nearing completion (with 98% of target grants committed) and the Terminal Programme Evaluation is currently underway.



Data collection in Beit Fajjar and Ash Shuyukh, ARIJ, EU-NGOs. Credit: SGP Palestine.

PARTNERSHIP

Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) Programme

GOAL

The goals of the programme which is active in the SIDS and Mekong and Asia Pacific countries are:

- i) To improve the adaptive capacity of communities, thereby to reduce vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change risks,
- ii) To provide countries with concrete ground-level experience with local climate change adaptation, and
- iii) To provide clear policy lessons and mainstream with national processes and upscale practices across scale.

FUNDING AMOUNT/DURATION

Total funding: US\$11.8m (for MAP countries: US\$5.5m and for SIDS countries: US\$6.3m)

FOCAL AREA

Climate Change- Adaptation

COUNTRIES COVERED

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

SIDS Countries: Cape Verde, Comoros, Mauritius, 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.



Credit: SGP Cuba.

PARTNER/DONOR

Funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of the Government of Australia

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Overall, 28 full-size SIDS CBA projects and 6 SIDS CBA planning grants were approved in 2015 for a total of \$1.2m. First time programmers include Guinea Bissau, Antigua & Barbuda, Guyana, Haiti, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent & Grenadines and Tokelau. The top-up allocations to over-performing countries, namely Jamaica and Mauritius, were also committed. All the projects under the Asia component of MAP CBA have been satisfactorily completed as of the end of 2015. The total funding committed in projects across both projects (SIDS and MAP) is US\$5.3m in OP5 with 134 full-size projects that are ongoing or completed.
- The new SIDS and MAP projects addressed a range of thematic areas with agriculture and food security (31%), land degradation (29%), integrated coastal zone management (15%) and water resource management (25%). Reporting on cross-cutting themes such as gender (100% of projects addressed gender issues, with 47% led by women), children and youth (67% engagement) and indigenous peoples (only 11 of the participating SIDS CBA countries have indigenous communities and 72% of these projects are specifically targeted to indigenous peoples) also increased.
- Highlights of the year included SGP's continued collaboration with new and existing partners and strengthening its global outreach efforts by providing evidence-based practices and policy lessons in the international fora. SGP and the International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED) partnered on a study initiative on "How much adaptation funds reach the local level" and shared the results in side events at COP21 and the 9th International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation (CBA9), as well as in various knowledge platforms such as Climate-L, weADAPT and the Global Initiative on Community-Based Adaptation (GICBA) sites and newsletters. Social media outreach was done through Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Google+.

PARTNERSHIP

Community-based REDD+ (CBR+)

GOAL

CBR+ aims to catalyze REDD+ readiness from the ground up, bringing resources and capacity to communities, empowering them to engage in national REDD+ activities and pilot important REDD+ methodologies and approaches. Specifically, CBR+ will:

- Activate community-based action and build capacities to improve equitability and effectiveness in the implementation of REDD+ readiness;
- Support countries in implementing the Cancun safeguards and UN-REDD Guidelines and ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, civil society and marginalized groups such as women and the poor in REDD+;
- Ensure critical links and improved coordination between community grants within the biodiversity, climate change and land degradation focal areas of the SGP and national REDD+ activities under the UN-REDD Programme, thereby multiplying potential impacts and results;
- Support learning and sharing of lessons drawn from community-based experiences in support of REDD+.

FUNDING AMOUNT/DURATION

- US\$4m (UN-REDD)
- US\$3.9m (SGP Co-financing)

FOCAL AREA

Climate Change and Sustainable Forest Management

COUNTRIES COVERED

Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Nigeria, DRC, Paraguay and Panama

PARTNER/DONOR

UN-REDD

KEY ACTIVITIES

- CBR+ grants are being disbursed in 6 pilot countries (Cambodia, DR Congo, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay and Sri Lanka). As of mid-2016, 78 CBR+ grants have been disbursed to communities, representing a financial



Credit: SGP Panama.

commitment of US\$2.6 million, and with additional grants on track to be disbursed during 2016 in each of the pilot countries.

- CBR+ projects are contributing to the advancement of REDD+ by improving communities' organizational capacity and information to engage in REDD+; facilitating dialogues and exchanges of experience between governments and local stakeholders; providing communities with access to legal or technical advice to better protect their forests; supporting improved land-use management and alternative livelihoods to reduce drivers of deforestation; facilitating community participation in forest monitoring; and helping forest communities deploy traditional knowledge and practices to forest management.
- In addition to direct grants to communities, CBR+ is also generating benefits in terms of raising the organizational capacities and technical understanding of community stakeholders on what REDD+ entails and how to engage in it. As of mid-2016, through the CBR+ initiative, over 400 local NGOs and community-based organizations have received training in project design and management, proposal writing, and administration of funds, as well as on REDD+ themes.



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