



RESULTS FROM
THE GEF SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

2015

The Small Grants Programme (SGP)

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT FY 2015

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.

The results presented in this info-graphic brochure correspond to the cumulative results of the 1,142 projects completed between July 1st 2015 and June 30, 2016.



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

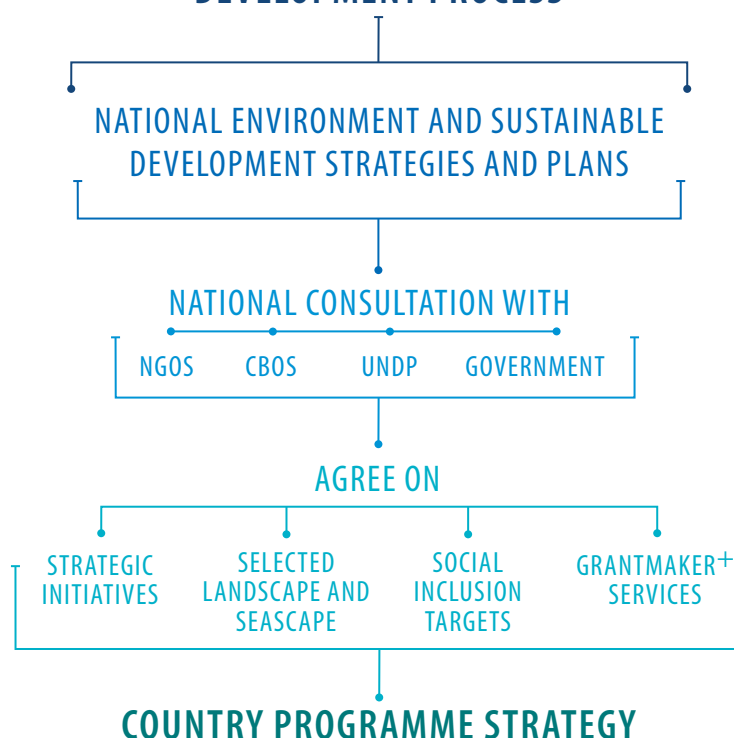
\$111

USD MILLIONS
PROJECTS FOR A VALUE

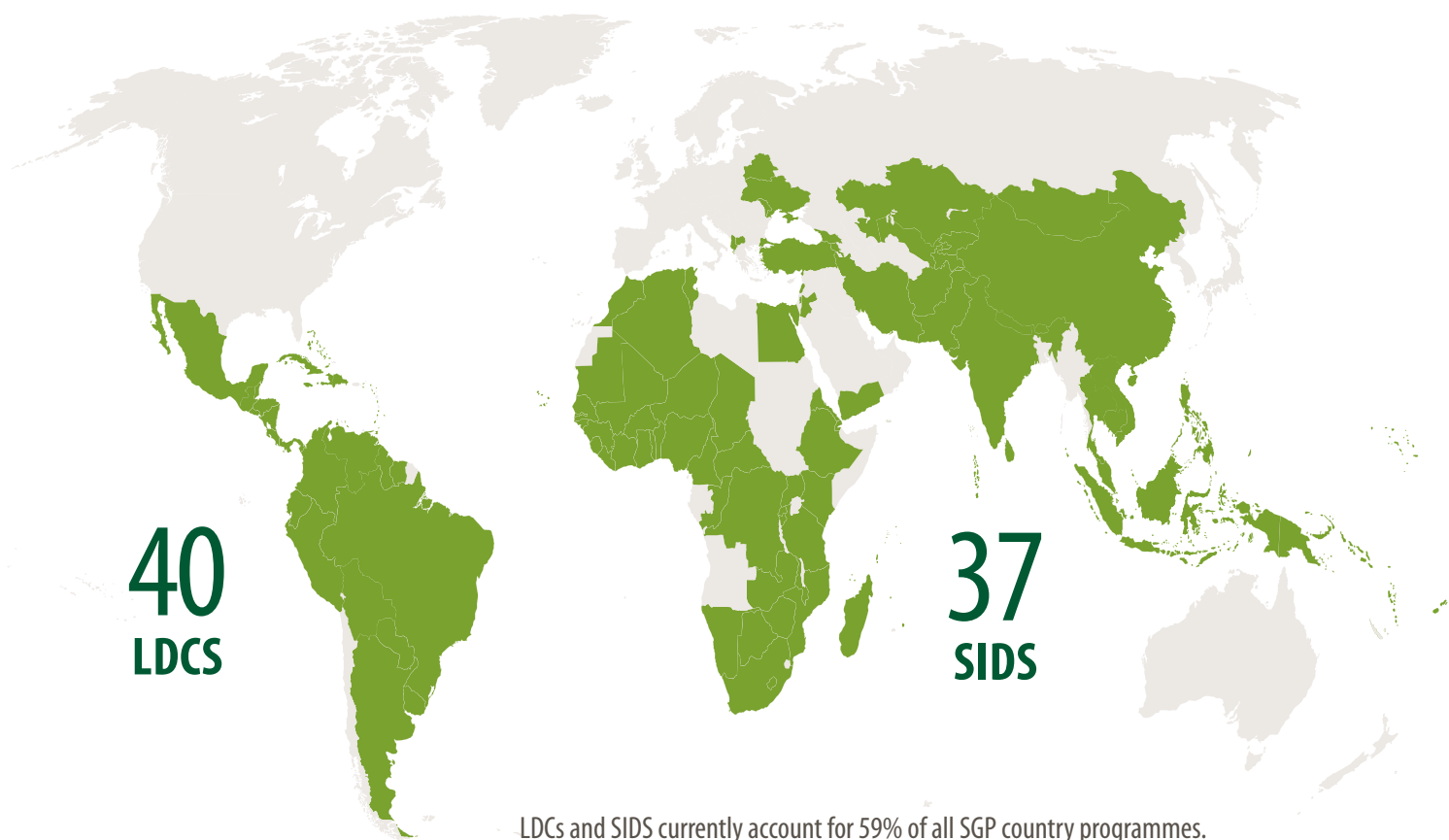
\$112.5

USD MILLIONS CO-FINANCING
LEVERAGED

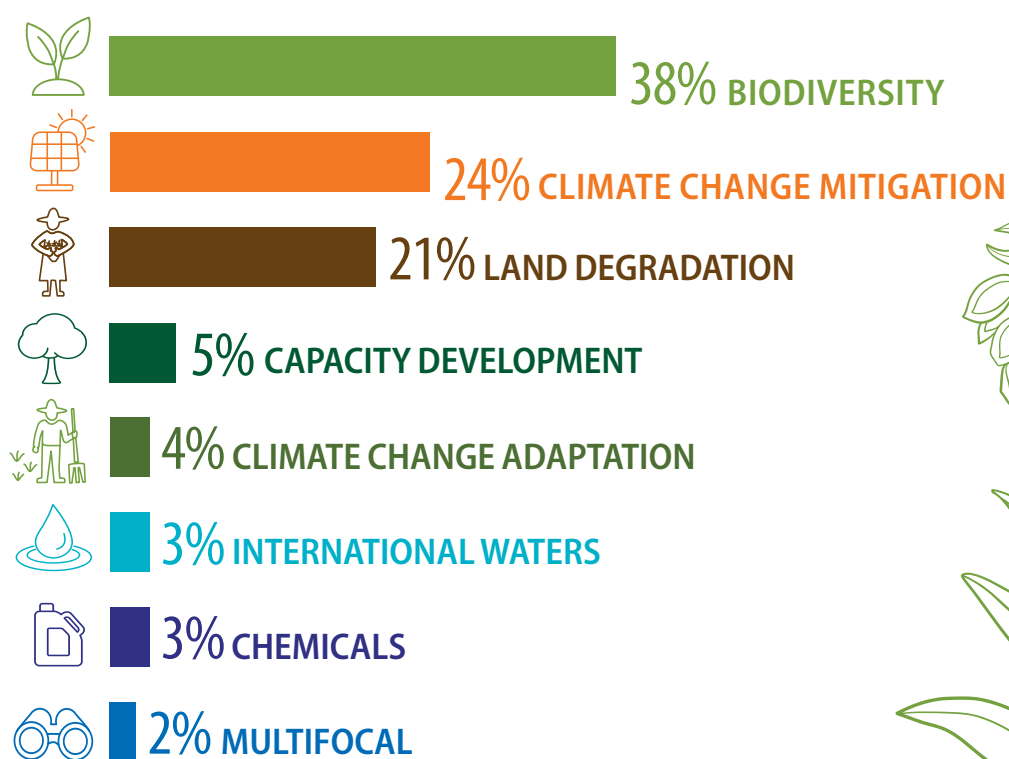
COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



COVERAGE **125** ACTIVE COUNTRIES **110** COUNTRIES IN THE SGP GLOBAL PROGRAMME **15** UPGRADED COUNTRIES



FOCAL AREA DISTRIBUTION



Progress Towards Focal Area Objectives

BIODIVERSITY

SGP's biodiversity portfolio continued to support the sustainable use of biodiversity in production landscapes and seascapes, in and around protected areas (PAs) and 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.

RESULTS



433

BIODIVERSITY
PROJECTS COMPLETED
THIS YEAR



1,803

SIGNIFICANT SPECIES
CONSERVED



645

PROTECTED AREAS AND INDIGENOUS AND
COMMUNITY CONSERVED AREAS AND TERRITORIES
POSITIVELY INFLUENCED



653

BIODIVERSITY-BASED
PRODUCTS SUSTAINABLY PRODUCED



8.41

MILLION HECTARES
OF PAs



1.84

MILLION HECTARES
OF ICCAs



Multipurpose nursery preparation by the local community, SGP Nepal.

SPOTLIGHT ON China

In China, SGP supported a project focused on the 'Sustainable development of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) in two priority ecosystems for biodiversity conservation identified in the NBSAP. This project resulted in improved conservation management of 22,000 hectares of grassland in **Cuochi** (located in the region of Sanjiangyuan); and 400 hectares of forest in **Laozhai** (located in Southern Guizhou karst area).

In the village of **Cuochi** located in the hinterland of Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau, which is the source of the Yangtze, Yellow and Lancang rivers, widely known as "the water tower of Asia", the SGP project enabled the local community of 850 people to demarcate their sacred mountains and lakes as ICCAs, conduct biodiversity baseline surveys; and develop sustainable management plans for the ICCAs.

In the village of **Laozhai**, with support from SGP the local community revived their local customary laws on conservation. They planted 2,000 seedlings of Chinese yew (*Taxus chinensis*); and mobilized the local government to provide 80 induction cookers to all households in order to reduce demand for firewood. The project also delivered trainings on sustainable resource management and tree planting to 100 people.

As a result of the project, the **Laozhai** community registered their ICCA with the Global ICCA Registry hosted by UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre. In recognition of their conservation efforts, the **Laozhai** community was awarded the 'SEE Ecology Award' by Society, Entrepreneurs and Ecology Foundation in June 2015.



Panorama of Laozhai village, SGP China.

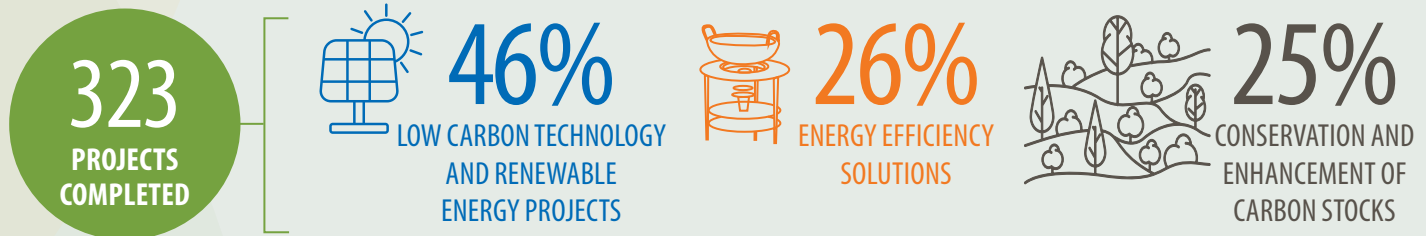


Women participate in discussion of ICCA rules, SGP China.

CLIMATE CHANGE

In this period SGP continued to promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level; promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level; and support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry.

RESULTS



SPOTLIGHT ON Armenia

In Armenia, SGP supported the **Stepanavan** community to pilot a number of energy technologies including solar thermal systems and energy efficiency measures 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 USD 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 sanitary conditions of the facilities was an added benefit.

Furthermore, due to the improvement of efficiency of the gas heating water boiler system, the old gas heaters, which posed a potential risk for children's health through carbon monoxide poisoning, were phased out. The project also conducted trainings for the staff of the kindergartens and the municipality. The measures implemented with SGP support also became part of the efforts of Stepanavan community to incorporate disaster risk reduction and climate change issues into development programs within the global campaign "Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready".

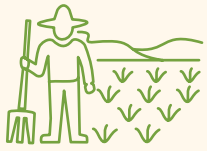


Preschool children enjoy solar heat, SGP Armenia.

LAND DEGRADATION

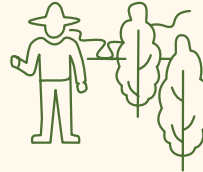
SGP continued to maintain or improve the flows of agro-ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities; and reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscapes.

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

SPOTLIGHT ON

South Africa

In South Africa, SGP supported a project to develop the capacities of small-scale farmers to address land degradation and conserve biodiversity in the **Bokkeveld** area in the Northern Cape region. As a result, three demonstration contour banks covering 1,500m were constructed in the Dobbelaarskop farm which was extensively eroded. Soil and water conservation demonstration activities and erosion control were undertaken on the Avontuur farm including the construction of check dams & micro-catchments and surface remediation by means of geotextile and spreading of seeds and breakers on crusted soil. The activities also included construction of 260 check dams, 6 gabions and 110 micro-catchments to control erosion. The control measures have resulted in plant re-growth and reduced soil and water runoff. Training workshops were held with farmers including production of a video. As a result of the project capacities of over 90 farmers were developed who are now practicing sustainable land management on their farms. The 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, and included in the book "Living Land" published by the UNCCD.



SGP South Africa.

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Projects implemented during this period continued to increase ecological connectivity and improve forest biodiversity values at landscape levels; promoted good management practices in community and small holder forests and rangelands; and improved the management of woodlots and the protection of communal forest zones for medicinal and educational purposes.

RESULTS

28
PROJECTS
COMPLETED



100,000

HECTARES HAVE BEEN RESTORED THROUGH IMPROVED
FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



SPOTLIGHT ON Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, **Biohub Trust** project is 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.

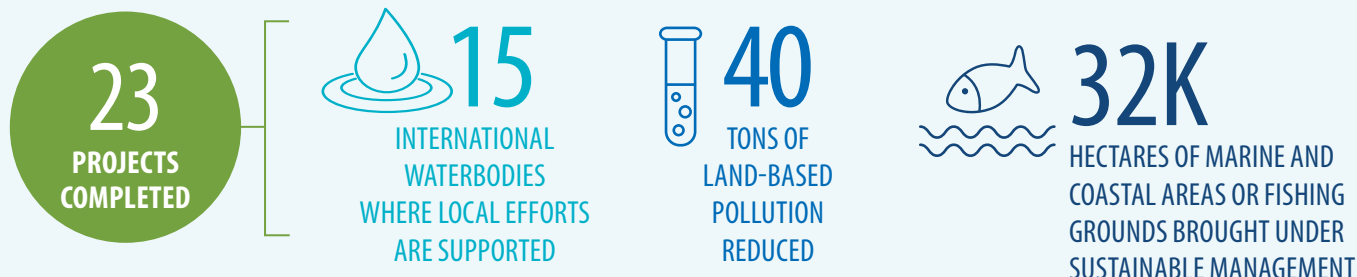


The organization is also working on a UN-REDD project building synergies with this project. With the aim to promote giant bamboo timber which is a good carbon sink, 3,750 bamboo plants were distributed and planted in an area covering 12.3 hectares, benefitting 250 people. To reduce pressures on the forests, 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.

INTERNATIONAL WATERS

SGP continued to develop and demonstrate effective and climate resilient community-based actions and practices supporting implementation of the regional GEF financed Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs).

RESULTS



SPOTLIGHT ON Egypt

In Egypt, SGP supported a project to improve water use efficiency of irrigation in the **Naqada** Village in Qena Governorate, which is located in Upper Egypt. The area 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 4,675 meters, benefitting the livelihoods of 399 farmers. Lining the irrigation canals has conserved 8,000 m² of degraded agricultural land which has been re-cultivated. To support local capacity development, five trainings were organized with the participation of farmers, local leaders and executives in Qena governorate in the areas of follow-up and reporting, understanding of environmental issues and the role of civil society, community participation, tools and methods, and the challenges in the Nile River basin. The project further conducted 20 awareness raising seminars in villages in Qena 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. Printed materials were designed and produced to support the awareness raising activities. The grantee partner has succeeded to partner with the Irrigation Department in Naqada, the local government units in charge of irrigation water, water



SGP Egypt.

users associations, farmers, and other NGOs, which has facilitated the implementation of the project and provided the technical follow-up needed. This project now provides a demonstration site to show improved water use efficiency in irrigation agriculture, which is a key regional environmental priority in Nile River Basin.

CHEMICALS AND WASTE

SGP continued to address POPs and other harmful chemicals by managing and reducing the use of these substances; and addressing the disposal, clean-up and mitigation of environmental contamination.

RESULTS

33

PROJECTS
COMPLETED



15

SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES
CONTRIBUTING TO NATIONAL
PLANS AND POLICIES



37

TONS OF PESTICIDES
PROPERLY DISPOSED



3,458

TONS OF SOLID WASTE
AVOIDED FROM OPEN
BURNING



SPOTLIGHT ON Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, an SGP project supported the establishment of an e-waste collection network within the **Colombo South** municipality area. The network consists of 162 small shops and 43 private companies and 1 NGO. An e-waste collection and processing center was established and the license was obtained from government to collect and processes e-waste.

Doorstep e-waste collection was also carried out. To date, 4,000 kg of e-waste were collected and 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. The project collaborated with 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. Moreover mass media and social media campaigns were used to promote e-waste management.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

SGP continued to build the capacities of NGOs and CBOs in environmental management across all GEF focal areas, using specific capacity development grants for stakeholder workshops, knowledge fairs, knowledge management, and improvement of monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

RESULTS



SPOTLIGHT ON Bolivia

Using a capacity development grant, SGP Bolivia produced a report about property rights in the buffer zones of the **Kaa Iya natural park** and protected area and disseminated it among the Isoceño indigenous peoples in **Guarani, Ayoreo** and **Chiquitano**. The project trained 40 indigenous leaders in land management, natural resource management and conflict resolution, and developed a proposal for a training programme for indigenous leaders.

Relationships between the local community and staff from the Instituto Nacional de Reforma Agraria, Assembly members of the Indigenous Self-Government Department of Santa Cruz, and counsellors of the municipalities of Charagua and San Jose de Chiquitos were established to improve information flow regarding ownership of land and ways to address conflict resolution.



SGP Bolivia.

Grantmaker+

SGP continued to work as a Grantmaker+ to facilitate networking and capacity development of CSOs and communities.

KEY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES INCLUDED:

STRENGTHENED
GRANTEE NETWORKS

78%

CONNECTED GRANTEEES
WITH CAPACITATED NGOS

78%

PROMOTED PEER
TO PEER EXCHANGES

73%

ORGANIZED TRAINING ON
DIFFERENT SUBJECTS

73%

CONNECTED GRANTEEES WITH
GOVERNMENT EXTENSION SERVICES

65%

SGP **environmental** projects also contributed to the achievement of several of the Sustainable Development Goals.



61%

SGP COUNTRIES INCREASED
ACCESS TO FOOD SECURITY
AND NUTRITIONAL VALUE



40%

SGP COUNTRIES INCREASED
ACCESS TO EDUCATION



38%

SGP COUNTRIES INCREASED
ACCESS TO IMPROVED HEALTH



37%

OF COUNTRIES
INCREASED ACCESS
TO INFRASTRUCTURE



40%

OF COUNTRIES PROGRAMMES
ENGAGED IN SOUTH-SOUTH
EXCHANGES



50%

ALMOST
THE SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES
CONDUCTED CSO-GOVERNMENT
DIALOGUES



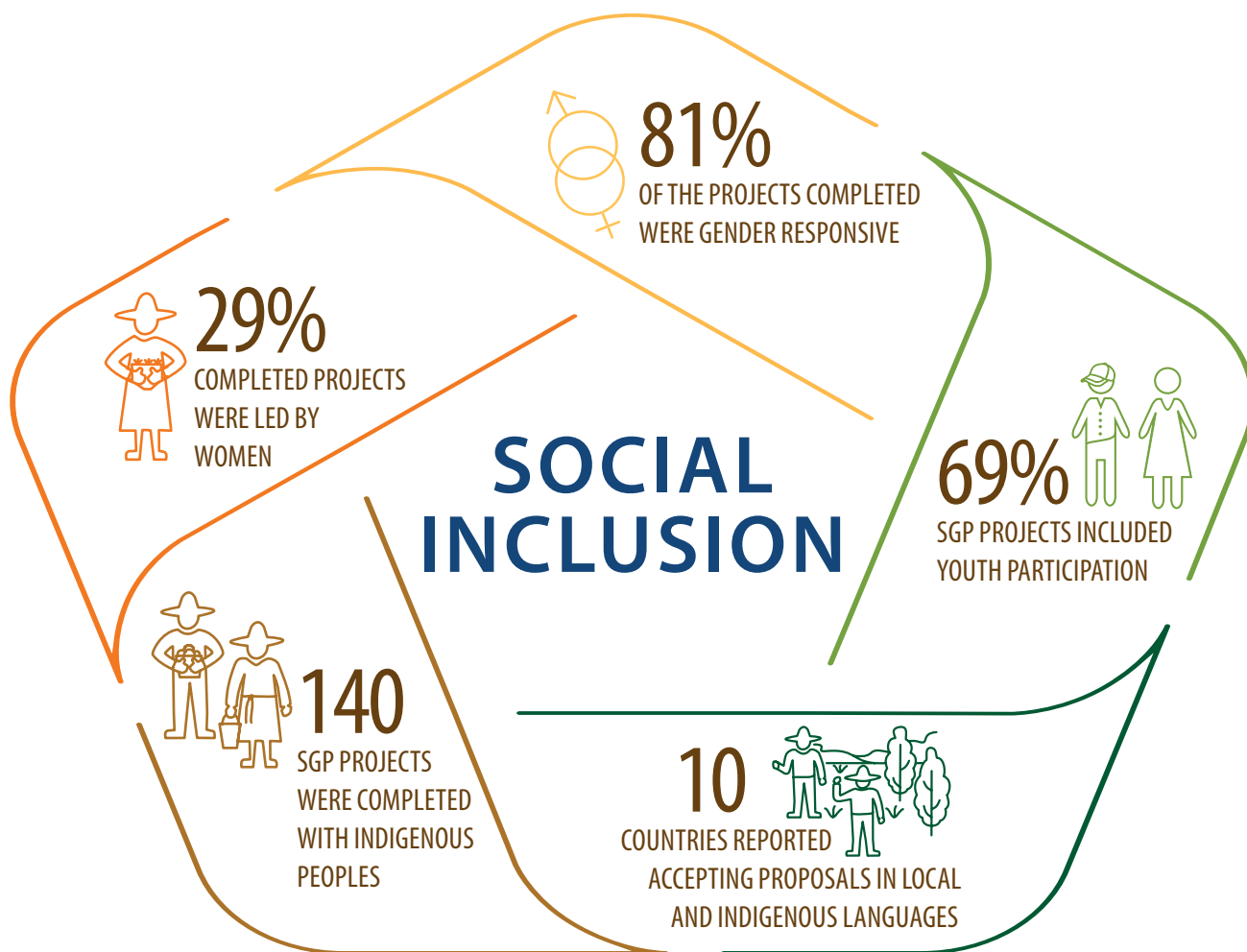
SGP Georgia.



SGP Ukraine.



SGP Turkey.



SCALING UP AND POLICY INFLUENCE

SGP country programmes reported that 146 completed projects during the reporting year were already replicated or had been scaled up. 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. Below are some examples of scaling up or policy influence achieved by SGP projects completed in the past year.

1.2 
MILLION USD
FOR FURTHER
INFRASTRUCTURE
REHABILITATION

GEORGIA

The **Zugdidi Botanical Garden rehabilitation project** was scaled up with the government of Georgia investing 1.2 Million USD for further infrastructure rehabilitation. The use of biodiversity monitoring drones initially in Borjomi Kharagauli National Park has been successfully replicated in the Lagodekhi Protected Area, where park administrators are now using these drones to search for fires and monitor for other natural disasters. Further testing of the drones in pasture monitoring is also planned.



SGP Georgia.

146
PROJECTS WERE
REPLICATED, SCALED UP
OR INFLUENCED POLICY




2,600
 HECTARES
 COMMITTED ON A
 VOLUNTARY BASIS
 TO IMPLEMENT
 CLOSURE OF
 THE OCTOPUS
 FISHERIES

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 to mainland Mauritius. As a result of the knowledge and lessons gathered, seven villages in the south eastern region of Mauritius have committed on a voluntary basis to implement closure of the octopus fisheries over an area of 2,600 hectares for 2 months each year. As a result of the closures, octopus catch size has increased from 75g to 1,4kg in recent years. The success of the project 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 2 months each year.




8
 OTHER
 WETLANDS
 REPLICATED
 THIS PROJECT

LESOTHO

To address land degradation in **Setleketseng**, a project was launched to improve land resource 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 8 wetlands.




8 VILLAGES
 REPLICATED
 THIS PROJECT

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 8 more village development committees with the support from the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID). As a result, more farms were brought under organic farming and ecological agriculture management benefiting 599 farmers. The District Development Committee, Sindhuli further contributed USD 30,000 to secure banks of the Kamala River, employing both bamboo baskets and gabion wire boxes to construct a long embankment which saved more than 2000 ha of land from erosion.



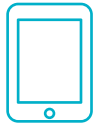

**MINAMATA
 CONVENTION
 RATIFIED**

SURINAME

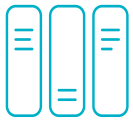
A grant to the “No Kwik” Movement was instrumental in launching a national public campaign which contributed to the decision by the Government of Suriname to sign and ratify the Minamata Convention, a major milestone in Suriname’s legislative stance on mercury.

CREDIT IMAGE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: SGP Lesotho, SGP Nepal, SGP Mauritius, SGP Suriname.

KNOWLEDGE AND COMMUNICATIONS



1,300 MENTIONS IN PRINT, AND DIGITAL MEDIA



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



677 TRAINING SESSIONS



273 PEER-TO-PEER EXCHANGES



55 AWARD – WINNING PROJECTS

PARTNERSHIPS

DURING FY 2015 SGP CONTINUED TO IMPLEMENT STRATEGIC PROGRAMMES WITH THE SUPPORT OF VARIOUS PARTNERS AND DONORS INCLUDING:

Australian Aid



Supported by:



Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the German Bundestag



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT



SATOYAMA INITIATIVE



MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1,950 PROJECTS WERE VISITED TO TRACK PROGRESS

90% SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES REPORTED PROJECTS WERE PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY

18 SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES WERE EVALUATED BY THIRD PARTY EVALUATORS



SGP Cameroon.



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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.



304 E 45th Street
UNDP, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10017
USA

Email: sgp.info@undp.org
Website: www.sgp.undp.org

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Design by Camilo J. Salomón @ www.cjsalomon.com