



Project Identification Form (PIF) entry – Full Sized Project – GEF - 7

## Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Egypt

### Part I: Project Information

**GEF ID**

10360

**Project Type**

FSP

**Type of Trust Fund**

GET

**CBIT/NGI**☐ CBIT☐ NGI**Project Title**

Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Egypt

**Countries**

Egypt

**Agency(ies)**

UNDP

**Other Executing Partner(s)**

UNOPS

**Executing Partner Type**

Others

**GEF Focal Area**

Multi Focal Area

**Taxonomy**

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Species, Threatened Species, Wildlife for Sustainable Development, Mainstreaming, Tourism, Biomes, Wetlands, Desert, Mangroves, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Livelihoods, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Climate Change, Climate Change Mitigation, Renewable Energy, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Sustainable Urban Systems and Transport, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate resilience, Community-based adaptation, Livelihoods, Sustainable Development Goals, Influencing models, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Academia, Non-Governmental Organization, Local Communities, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Participation, Partnership, Communications, Public Campaigns, Behavior change, Education, Awareness Raising, Private Sector, SMEs, Large corporations, Beneficiaries, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Access to benefits and services, Access and control over natural resources, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Capacity Development, Integrated Programs, Sustainable Cities, Municipal waste management, Urban Resilience, Urban Biodiversity, Transport and Mobility, Green space, Urban sustainability framework, Integrated urban planning, Energy efficiency, Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration, Smallholder Farming, Integrated Landscapes, Comprehensive Land Use Planning, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Learning, Adaptive management, Indicators to measure change, Innovation, Enabling Activities, Knowledge Exchange

**Rio Markers****Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 1

**Climate Change Adaptation**

Climate Change Adaptation 1

**Duration**

48 In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

199,131

**Submission Date**

10/11/2019

## A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
BD-1-1	GET	673,974	2,154,050
CCM-1-1	GET	905,844	2,895,740
LD-1-4	GET	516,301	1,650,210
Total Project Cost (\$)		2,096,119	6,700,000

**B. Indicative Project description summary****Project Objective**

To build social, economic, and socio-ecological resilience in Greater Cairo, Fayoum, Delta, and Upper Egypt landscapes in Egypt through community-based activities for global environmental benefits and sustainable development.

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
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Resilient landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection	Technical Assistance	<p>1.1 Ecosystem services within targeted landscapes are enhanced through multi-functional land-use systems.</p> <p>1.2 The sustainability of production systems in the target landscapes is strengthened through integrated agro-ecological practices.</p> <p>1.3 Livelihoods of communities in the target landscapes are made more resilient by developing eco-friendly small-scale community enterprises and improving market access.</p> <p>1.4 Increased adoption through development, demonstration and financing of renewable and energy efficient technologies and mitigation options at community level.</p>	<p>1.1.1 Community level small grant projects in the selected landscapes that conserve biodiversity and enhance ecosystem services</p> <p>1.2.1. Targeted community projects enhancing the sustainability and resilience of production systems, including soil and water conservation practices, and agro-ecological practices and cropping systems.</p> <p>1.3.1. Targeted community projects promoting sustainable livelihoods, green businesses and market access, including ecotourism; solid waste management and conversion; green value-added agro-businesses.</p> <p>1.4.1. Community projects implementing renewable and energy efficient technologies, including solar energy applications, biodigestors, PVs, etc.</p> <p>1.4.2. Partnerships and business models established and demonstrating renewable energy and clean energy applications.</p>	GET	1,785,827	5,708,400
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2. Capacity Building, Knowledge Management for Upscaling and Replication	Technical Assistance	2.1 Multistakeholder governance platforms strengthened for improved governance of selected landscapes through effective participatory decision making to achieve landscape resilience	2.1.1 Multistakeholder governance platforms in the target landscapes develop and execute multistakeholder landscape agreements and policies	GET	210,477	672,552
			2.1.2 Landscape strategies updated by multistakeholder groups			
			2. 1. 3 Typology of community level projects developed and agreed by multistakeholder groups together with eligibility criteria			
			2.1.4 Knowledge from innovative project experience is shared for replication and upscaling across the landscapes, across the country, and to the global SGP network			
			Sub Total (\$)			
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
				GET	99,815	319,048
Sub Total(\$)					99,815	319,048
Total Project Cost(\$)					2,096,119	6,700,000

## C. Indicative sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
CSO	Grant Community Organization	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,000,000
CSO	Grant Community Organization	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,400,000
CSO	Bioenergy Foundation / The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency (MSMEDA) Partnership	Grant	Investment mobilized	400,000
GEF Agency	UNDP/The Egyptian Italian Environment Cooperation Programme III	Grant	Investment mobilized	3,900,000
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>				<b>6,700,000</b>

**Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified**

Cofinancing sources have been preliminarily identified based on GEF-6 implementation results and partnerships, as well as cofinancing projected for the GEF-7 project and leveraged through discussions with project partners. As per standard SGP practice, community organizations will provide cash and in-kind co-financing according to project objectives, financial capacities and calculation of in-kind sources (labor hours and rates and institutional support). SGP global policy requests grant recipient CSOs to contribute to their projects in cash to the best of their abilities. The National Steering Committee will foster compliance with this policy as appropriate. These contributions will only be confirmed during project implementation as grant projects are approved. The SGP National Coordinators have been instructed to differentiate cofinancing commitments between those corresponding to recurrent costs e.g. salaries of NGO or government staff, costs of premises, etc., and Investment Mobilized, corresponding to new and additional funding either directly contributed to SGP to apply to project grants, as grantee contributions in kind and in cash, or mobilized to support project objectives but not managed by SGP. Investment Mobilized figures are based on discussions with government authorities and their history of co-financing SGP projects in previous GEF Operational Phases. These figures will be formally confirmed through co-financing letters identifying amounts and kinds of contributions.

**D. Indicative Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds**

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Egypt	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	673,974	64,027	738,001
UNDP	GET	Egypt	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	905,844	86,055	991,899
UNDP	GET	Egypt	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	516,301	49,049	565,350
<b>Total GEF Resources(\$)</b>					<b>2,096,119</b>	<b>199,131</b>	<b>2,295,250</b>

**E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**

PPG Amount (\$)

50,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

4,750

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Egypt	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	16,076	1,527	<b>17,603</b>
UNDP	GET	Egypt	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	21,608	2,053	<b>23,661</b>
UNDP	GET	Egypt	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	12,316	1,170	<b>13,486</b>
<b>Total Project Costs(\$)</b>					<b>50,000</b>	<b>4,750</b>	<b>54,750</b>

## Core Indicators

### Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
11000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

### Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
11,000.00			

### Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

**Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

**Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (incl. estuaries, mangroves) restored**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

**Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
20000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
20,000.00			



## Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

## Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted
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## Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)	0	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)	6000	0	0	0

## Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)				

Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)	3,000
Anticipated start year of accounting	
Duration of accounting	

## Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)	3,000			
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

## Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	5,000			
Male	5,000			
Total	10000	0	0	0

## Part II. Project Justification

### 1a. Project Description

#### 1a. *Project Description.*

The Seventh Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in Egypt to be financed through this project, aims at continuing to enable communities and organizations in Greater Cairo, Fayoum, Delta and Upper Egypt landscapes of Egypt, to build on lessons learned not only from previous phases but from OP6 specifically, to take collective action through a participatory landscape planning and management approach which was followed in OP6 aiming at enhancing socio-ecological resilience that produces local and global environmental benefits.

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#### 1) *Global Environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed;*

##### **Greater Cairo Landscape (Cairo and Giza):**

Despite efforts and measures undertaken by different stakeholders - especially government and NGOs - to reduce pollution, Cairo still suffers from severe environmental problems that are thematically linked to issues in the other landscapes. Urban air pollution is exacerbated by the agricultural sector and rural residents who reside in Cairo's surrounding areas, where rice straw is burned after the annual harvest to clear the fields, releasing large amounts of soot and carbon dioxide. Burning of garbage and the transport sector, which is still considered a major emitter of pollution, also contribute to this ongoing problem. E-waste is also a growing problem, which the SGP began to address in OP6, in coordination with the GEF FSP on Medical and E-Waste Project and the Waste Management Regulatory Authority (Ministry of Environment). Inhabitants increasingly demand a decrease in the economic burden of high electricity bills whose growth is a result of the government plan since 2015 to phase out energy subsidies over a five-year period; this was later extended to 2021-22 to ease the pressure on consumers.

Additionally, Cairo includes two of the significant protected areas; Wadi Degla and Petrified Forest. Although, SGP has started targeting both PAs through community-based initiatives in full cooperation with the Nature Conservation Sector, Ministry of Environment, there is still much that needs to be done to achieve sustainable management of these PAs, develop their facilities, and raise the awareness of inhabitants, especially university and school students on biodiversity in these areas.

The total area is 17,342 km<sup>2</sup>, equivalent to about 1.71% of the total area of the Republic. The population density ranges from 0.43 to 4.52 thousand inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>. The population of Cairo and Giza is mostly urban. The majority of the population of Greater Cairo works in the service and industry sector.

### **Fayoum Landscape:**

The Fayoum area is a natural depression located about 100 kilometres Southwest of Cairo. The governorates for landscape management within this region include Qaroun, Wadi-El-Rayan and Fayoum city. Fayoum is separated from the Nile by a 25 km desert strip. It houses Lake Qaroun, the third largest lake in Egypt, which occupies the lowest point of the depression. Lake Qaroun is 45 metres below sea-level and has a surface of 214 square km. It is a salty body of water unfit for drinking. The southern and eastern shores of the Lake are populated as freshwater is brought in through irrigation canals. The northern-most shore is composed of uninhabited desert. The northern shore of Lake Qaroun in the Fayoum Depression is an archaeologically sensitive area containing pristine fossils of extinct animals and a petrified forest. It also contains the most complete fossil records of terrestrial primates and marshlands and is of great interest to climatologists. The area is of interest to tourists and researchers, which also imperils its sustainability, due to visitor traffic, pollution, solid waste, and the presence of off-track vehicles.

The Wadi El-Rayan protected area is a site rich with white gazelles, sand and fennec foxes and rare species of resident and migratory birds as well as eagles and falcons. It is as an area where migratory birds rest and attracts flamingos, grey herons, spoonbills and duck species. In addition to its biodiversity, the area is a protected site as it contains rare fossils of whales, sharks and petrified mangroves.

Given the scientific, cultural and environmental heritage of the area, it is under constant threat from visitors, development of tourist infrastructure, and ongoing pollution. Despite this being a protected area, numerous villages located around the periphery of the protected areas allow unapproved intrusions such as cattle grazing, dumping and even small-scale construction.

77% percent of the population resides in rural areas, and 23% live in urban areas. The majority of the population works in agriculture and fishing, the service sector, and construction. Although the biggest percentage of population is living in rural areas, Fayoum is suffering from huge problems related to transportation. Inhabitants are in need for sustainable, safe and cost-effective means of transportation. Additionally, there is a lack of solid waste management, starting with collection, transport, recycling, and disposal. Waste is disposed of on the sides of streets and on the banks of canals causing air, soil and water pollution with detrimental impacts on public health. There are isolated efforts at promoting segregation at source, collection and transport of waste by some organizations, but these efforts are not sustainable for technical and financial capacity reasons.

Furthermore, there are still needs and community demands for expanding energy efficiency and renewable energies through community based initiatives.

### **West Delta Landcsape (Alexandria and Beheira Governorates):**

The project will be implemented in Alexandria and Beheira Governorates, which make up the Delta landscape. This region houses one of the largest deltas in the world. It includes the Mediterranean coastline, which due to climate-induced sea-level rise (SLR), faces increased salinity, negative impacts on agriculture and erosion of coastal lagoons. The Delta is subject to severe land degradation, whose human causes include over-irrigation, human intervention in natural drainage, improper use of heavy machinery and the absence of conservation methods.

Water pollution and salinity also further limit the availability of safe water supply, which is already in decline. Poor infrastructure in the Delta often results in sewage seepage into household water, and a lack of water resources in general is exacerbated by salinity.

The landscape also suffers from significant air pollution, which results from burning of agricultural waste, and the transportation sector. There is also a severe solid waste management problem. The lack of collection, transport and disposal sites mean that waste is often disposed of on the sides of the streets and the banks of canals causing air, soil and water pollution with detrimental impacts on public health.

#### **Upper Egypt Landscape (Qena and Luxor Governorates):**

The Upper Egypt region consists of the Nile River valley South of the Delta, from Cairo to Lake Nasser. The project will focus on Qena and Luxor governorates. This landscape comprises the hyper-arid desert of Upper Egypt, where annual rainfall is typically negligible, and irrigation from the Nile River is generally the only water source to sustain permanent agriculture and other forms of primary production. However, over the past years, the Egyptian government has implemented various large-scale water management and diversion schemes to stabilise water delivery for irrigation.

Egypt is highly limited in terms of its water resources in general, and the UN has predicted that the country will be water-scarce by 2025 . Climate change projections indicate that negative impacts on water supply will be significant. Any decrease in the total supply of water, coupled with the expected increase in consumption due to high population growth rates will have drastic impacts. Thus, sustainable water management was a major priority for SGP in GEF6, and initiatives were supported to improve the irrigation system, improve water transport and rationalize its use, and decrease pollutants.

The primary agricultural activities in the selected governorates Luxor and Qena involve sugar cultivation. Agricultural burning is a major problem in these parts as well, leading to decreases in soil organic matter and to release of carbon emissions and smoke that pollutes the air locally and is a hazard to people's health. This is very much a traditional practice and requires a significant change in farmers' behavior. Landscape level action is needed to target air quality degradation and carbon emissions as a result of burning of agricultural waste; pollution resulting from ill-management of wastewater and solid waste; identification of alternative energy sources and promotion and widespread adoption of renewable energy applications.

#### **The problem to be addressed**

Collective action by civil society is required to achieve and maintain resilience of socio-ecological systems in both rural and urban areas. This resilience is built primarily on climate change mitigation and adaptation and optimization of ecosystem services through biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management, including agro-ecosystem management and integrated water resources management, among other things, all of which are pursued in the context of local sustainable development. Community organizations need to act in synergy to achieve impacts at the scale of rural or urban landscapes, progressively acquiring critical mass to reach a tipping point of adoption by rural and urban constituencies of adaptive practice and innovation. To act effectively, community organizations need the motivation, capacities, knowledge, financing and enabling factors and opportunities to work individually and collectively. Using SGP funding, community organizations and NGOs build their capacities through learning by doing i.e. through analysis of their priorities and problems; identification of potential innovations to address them; and project design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of results and performance. Community level organizations in Egypt often lack essential adaptive management capabilities such as the technical know-how, the planning skills, the innovation and experimentation capacities and the organizational abilities to become effective agents for the coordinated, long term development or maintenance of landscape resilience. Community organizations are empowered by exercising agency in determining priorities and measures for action, developing strategies and plans, carrying them out, reflecting on impacts and knowledge gained, and planning and preparing next steps.

The essential problem to be addressed by this project is that the necessary collective action in Egypt for adaptive management of resources and ecosystem processes for sustainable development and global environmental benefits is hindered by the organizational weaknesses (technical, financial, analytical, etc.) of the communities living and working in affected urban and rural landscapes to act strategically and collectively in building social and ecological resilience.

#### **The preferred solution is:**

The preferred solution centers on the empowerment of community organizations to update and continue the implementation of landscape strategies formulated in OP6 to build socio-ecological resilience. These strategies, prepared through a multi-stakeholder approach, build resilience and sustainability through the generation of global environmental and sustainable development benefits. Community organizations build their capacities by implementing and coordinating concrete projects aimed at achieving and maintaining landscape level outcomes affecting biodiversity and ecosystem services, agroecosystems and sustainable livelihoods, and climate change mitigation. These capacities include technical, planning, experimentation and organizational capacities of community organizations through learning-by-doing (projects) framed within a landscape level strategy and plan. Community organizations implement projects and evaluate them, then revise them based on knowledge generated from reflection on implementation in a continuous process of adaptive management. Community organizations will continue to design projects in the pursuit of landscape level outcomes identified by them and other stakeholders in a participatory planning and strategy development process. This process also yields a typology of potentially eligible projects in each landscape corresponding to the landscape outcomes, and community organizations identify and develop SGP proposals for funding as part of this process.

The solution to the problem is for community organizations in rural and urban landscapes of key areas of Egypt (Upper Egypt, West Delta, Greater Cairo, and the Fayoum depression) to develop and implement adaptive landscape management strategies that build social, economic and ecological resilience based on the production of global environmental and local sustainable development benefits. To pursue achievement of the outcomes of these adaptive landscape

management strategies, community organizations will implement grant projects reviewed and approved by the SGP National Steering Committee, supported by multi-stakeholder agreements involving local government, the private sector, NGOs and other partners, and evaluated as part of the broader collective process of adjusting management strategies to new information, knowledge, capacities and conditions.

**Barriers to achieving the solution include:**

1. Community organizations in Greater Cairo, Upper Egypt, West Delta and Fayoum landscapes suffer from weak organizational capacities to efficiently and effectively plan, manage and implement initiatives and actions of their own design in favor of landscape resilience objectives in urban and rural areas;
2. Community organizations in rural landscapes, as well as community organizations in urban areas, lack a larger, more long-term vision and strategy for ecosystem and resource management and suffer from weak adaptive management capacities i.e. to innovate, test alternatives, monitor and evaluate results, and adjust practices and techniques to meet challenges and lessons learned;
3. Community organizations rarely coordinate with other community organizations to pursue collective action for global environmental and landscape management outcomes at scale;
4. Knowledge from project experience with innovation/experimentation is not systematically recorded, analyzed or disseminated to policy makers or other communities, organizations and programmes;
5. Evidence-based policies are absent that enable community organizations to manage their landscapes adaptively;
6. Community organizations lack sufficient financial resources to lower the risks associated with innovating land and resource management practices; and sustaining or scaling up successful experiences.
7. Conventional relationships and interactions between communities and government and non-governmental organizations often impede the full exercise of community agency in planning and decision making, thereby reducing ownership, commitment and pro-active efforts.

**2) Baseline Scenario**

*The GEF SGP Country Programme*

The GEF Small Grants Program has been a fundamental part of the GEF's support to the production of global environmental benefits and the implementation of the UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNCCD and other multilateral environmental agreements in Egypt since 1992 when the Egypt SGP Country Program was first established. By supporting community level initiatives in the focal areas of the GEF, the Country Program has assisted Egyptian civil society over the years to become more aware of how global environmental problems are manifested locally, how these affect them concretely and what can be done to address them through local sustainable development actions that produce global environmental benefits.



Since 1992, the Egypt SGP Country Programme has supported more than 270 NGOs and CBOs with over USD 9 million in grants for more than 350 distinct initiatives. Over the past two decades, the SGP Egypt Country Program has followed a trajectory of greater and greater strategic focus both geographically and thematically, as articulated in successive Country Program Strategies, guided, reviewed and approved by the National Steering Committee. In the early stages of Country Program implementation, grants were provided for a wide variety of community and NGO projects. As experience was gained and knowledge acquired regarding efficiency and effectiveness of project interventions and NGO and community capacities, the Country Program Strategy became more focused on specific areas of action, aligning NGO/community capabilities and sustainable development objectives with national priorities, global environmental commitments and emerging institutional capacities. Using the knowledge and experience gained from global and national landscape level initiatives delivered by SGP Country Programs worldwide – through COMPACT and COMDEKS initiatives and individual SGP Country Programme approaches - SGP Egypt in OP6 followed a landscape approach focusing on four landscapes: Greater Cairo, Fayoum, Upper Egypt and West Delta. By adopting the landscape approach, the SGP enables local actors to better understand the complex relationship they have with a given environment and how best to effect sustainable impacts on the landscape through their individual and combined efforts.

Several key lines of work that have been developed successfully over the years of Country Program implementation, and which have continued in OP6, include expanding the use of renewable energy applications such as biogas digestors for GHG emissions reductions and the production of high quality organic fertilizers, and solar energy for heating water, solar panels on homes and public buildings for lighting, and solar energy for irrigation pumps as a pioneer initiative in Egypt. In addition to efficient lighting using LED bulbs, SGP Egypt has also supported sustainable transport, protected area co-management, and raising public awareness of biodiversity in local communities with youth and children, developing traditional handicrafts that empower women, and water resource management for more efficient irrigation.

In support of this iterative process towards ever greater knowledge and impact, the Egypt Country Program's National Steering Committee has promoted collaborative arrangements with NGOs and government programs and institutions to enhance effectiveness of community-based components in specific initiatives. The SGP Egypt Country Program has collaborated with government institutions implementing GEF-financed Full-sized Projects to provide grants to community organizations for projects aligned with FSP goals. FSPs include Egypt Sustainable Transport, Strengthening protected area financing and management systems, Medical and E-waste Management Project, Enhancing Climate Change Adaptation on the North Coast of Egypt Project and Grid Connected Small Scale PV Systems (Egypt PV). "GEF SGP has built capacities of environmental NGOs and offered them a great opportunity to expand their activities in global environmental issues and seriously contribute to national environmental initiatives. Meanwhile, after the significant contribution of SGP-funded NGOs to achieving GEF Full Size Projects outputs and outcomes - in particular in the areas of energy efficiency and protected area management, - the role of SGP became an integral part in the design of any new UNDP- GEF project in Egypt.<sup>[1]</sup>"

At the same time, the SGP Country Programme has partnered with key NGOs to ensure that community organizations are supported effectively throughout the grant project cycle. Initially, the National Coordinator (NC) of the Country Programme discusses and analyzes key program directions based on lessons learned from implementing the Landscape Strategy for Building Social, Economic, and Ecological Resilience, with National Steering Committee members, the majority of whom are from civil society organizations and independent experts in different thematic areas. After potential thematic and geographic areas of action are initially confirmed, consultations with different stakeholders to update the landscape strategies take place.

As implementation finalizes, community based projects are evaluated and modifications made to the design and implementation of the next generation of projects. This adaptive management approach has produced periodic modifications in OP6 to the Landscape Strategy for Building Social, Economic, and Ecological Resilience in keeping with emerging opportunities, new knowledge, greater capacities, and changing environment and development priorities. Building on experiences gained, the need to continue the Country Program focus geographically and thematically has been emphasized to maximize efficiency and effectiveness in strengthening CSO capacities to produce global environmental benefits, as well as knowledge for adaptive management and policy dialogue.

Lessons learned from each project and the cumulative knowledge from different lines of work are disseminated through the SGP Country Program's network of grantees, through the supporting NGOs and their networks and to government programs and institutions. This web of collaborative relationships helps to promote best practice and provides the material and credibility for policy discussions and development. These relationships have led to the development of multistakeholder partnerships in specific geographic areas in support of longer term, multi-project efforts.

In OP6, SGP succeeded in establishing more partnerships with relevant local authorities, governorates, international agencies such as UN Habitat, UN Women, International Labor Organization (ILO), and FAO, in addition to partnering with GEF FSPs, either those that are on-going or just starting. These partners have expressed interest in partnering with SGP and continuing to support the program by providing potential grantees with assistance needed, either technical or financial, when possible. Further discussions are taking place to discuss co-financing of community-based initiatives through activities implemented by these organizations in targeted landscapes. Based on the success of OP5 and the response of a large network of NGOs (185 NGOs in the first round only) and relevant stakeholders to the Call for Proposals, SGP has received a huge number of eligible project proposals. Nevertheless, due to limited funding, the NSC was able to select only 20-25% of them for approval. Thus, SGP is able to only meet a portion of the demand for funding by local communities in those landscapes.

Nevertheless, for example, under the land degradation focal area in OP6, projects were planned to support the promotion of use of efficient biogas to reduce pressures on exploitation of trees and shrub lands for fuel wood, as well as sustainable use practices in semi-arid areas particularly in PAs. Initiatives were planned to focus on projects that establish community wastewater treatment units and invest in initiatives that improve the efficiency of irrigation to conserve land, water and energy. Selected projects were also envisaged to seek to raise the awareness of and use by farmers of organic fertilizers instead of chemical fertilizers. Capacity building initiatives were planned to reduce negative agriculture practices such as field flooding or over-irrigation.

The main baseline investments and activities in Egypt relevant to this GEF7 phase, as in previous SGP programming, are those linked with implementation of the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) and National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (NAP), as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Egypt's National Strategy for Sustainable Development: 2030 Vision.

SGP will continue to build on ongoing collaboration with the Egyptian Solid Waste Management Agency (ESWA), Ministry of Environment, which offered new waste management services, including policy and strategy development and implementation, support to and supervision of the governorates, and development and implementation of sustainable financing models.

The SGP Country Programme in OP7 will also continue to collaborate with the Biogas Foundation. UNDP-GEF Biogas project was converted into a Foundation that is overseen by the Ministry of Environment. The Association has an ambitious target to promote biogas technology in all rural areas. In OP6, several training sessions were organized between interested NGOs and the Foundation Team not only to present the technology, but to explain the new available funding mechanism through soft loans, to complement the SGP funding, provided by the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency (MSMEDA) to increase the number of beneficiaries and ensure sustainability of activities. A number of projects are implemented using this model, which needs to be replicated in several rural landscapes.

The UNDP-GEF Project: Grid Connected Small Scale PV Systems (Egypt PV) that is implemented with the Industrial Modernization Center (IMC). The project is promoting different applications for electricity generation from small scale photovoltaic systems. Building on the cooperation with the project in OP6 and providing necessary technical assistance to NGOs to promote rooftop solar panels on households and public building, in addition to using solar pumping in a pioneer project in Egypt, there is still an essential need to upscale and replicate such projects in OP7.

The GCF-UNDP funded project: Enhancing Climate Change Adaptation in North Coast of Egypt Project (ECCADP), implemented by the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, aims to develop an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Plan for the North Coast of Egypt. The project will fund construction of a soft dike system to protect low lying lands along the Nile Delta coast from sea surges during extreme weather events associated with climate change and sea level rise. The soft dike system will be constructed in five coastal governorates of Behira, Kafr El-Sheikh, Dakhalia, Dammeitta and Port Said. The construction work is associated with community development activities including small scale income generation and job creation initiatives for local fishermen and farmers communities.

Medical and E-waste Management Project: the Government of Egypt, represented by the Ministry of Environment in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the technical support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), has succeeded in obtaining a grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to implement a five-year project to "Protect human health and the environment from unintentional releases of POPs originating from incineration and open burning of health care- and E-waste". The project will address national priorities related to dioxins and furans, which have been included in Egypt's 2005 National Implementation Plan (NIP) for fulfilling its commitments to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). This project is implemented by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT). Cooperation has started with the project in OP6, workshops have been organized for interested NGOs to submit projects to be implemented in full coordination with the E-waste Management projects. However, more projects in Greater Cairo and Alexandria are needed to face this growing environmental problem.

More broadly, Egypt has shown a strong commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In March 2015, Egypt launched its strategy for sustainable development “Egypt Vision 2030”, spanning the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and outlining the broader principles that will guide Egypt in pursuing its developmental goals. In early 2018, Egypt decided to revisit its Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS). This decision was driven mainly by two factors. First is to better align the SDS with the (SDGs) and their indicators. Second is to take into consideration the Egyptian economy and its structure with the implementation of the reform stabilization program.

In response to the call of the 2030 Agenda for an integrated approach and country demands for coherent and effective UN support, the UN Development Group (UNDG) adopted ‘MAPS (mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support)’ – a joint approach to support the implementation and mainstreaming of the SDGs in national plans, policies, strategies and budgets with the aim to accelerate critical SDG achievement, drawing on skills and expertise held in the UN development system in addressing new and emerging items on the national development agenda. The MAPS engagement process in Egypt during 2018 worked on providing the Government with integrated support on policy making, implementation and capacity building for SDG implementation. SGP in OP7 will build on the outcomes of the MAPs project in identifying capacity building needs, increase the engagement of NGOs in the implementation of SDS through community based initiatives linked to updated and localized governmental plans, etc.

#### **Component 1: *Resilient landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection***

Beside the SGP, there are no other small grants programmes in Egypt aimed at building the capacities of rural and urban communities to plan and manage their landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental benefits. SGP, over the past two decades, and specifically during OP6, has developed strong multistakeholder partnerships with local governments, national agencies and Ministries, NGOs, international agencies, the private sector and others in the targeted landscapes. These partnerships have allowed these entities to facilitate support to community organizations implementing projects, while at the same time, SGP has been able to match community initiatives with government priorities and programmes where community participation is a priority of communities and government agencies. These partnerships and long-standing collaborative arrangements around sectoral initiatives in the rural and urban landscapes constitute a dynamic baseline of programmes and relationships on which further GEF investment will be built.

The Government of Egypt implements a number of sectoral initiatives that pursue specific objectives in regard to rural energy, irrigation and water management, protected area management, agricultural production and other priorities, however, those initiatives still lack the integrated approach focused geographically that brings those initiatives together to produce synergistic benefits aimed at enhancing resilience based on global environmental benefits and sustainable development. The focus of government initiatives is on individual smallholders so there are no initiatives to empower community organizations, individually or collectively, to take a lead role as decision making agents in determining strategic landscape management priorities, which technologies or practices to adopt, how production systems should be designed, how they should be adapted to prevailing community conditions, etc.

#### **Component 2: *Capacity Building, Knowledge Management for Upscaling and Replication***

Trainings and capacity building workshops were implemented to build capacities of NGOs / CBOs, relevant stakeholders and communities in the areas of sustainable agriculture, value addition, market linkages, energy efficient technologies, renewable energy solutions, waste management practices, integrated water management, etc. Additionally, capacities of NGOs / CBOs were developed institutionally and financially to enable them to effectively implement SGP projects. The revolving funds mechanism has proven to be a success throughout SGP previous phases and specifically in OP6 for most of the implemented projects, which increased the number of beneficiaries and also sustained activities. The mechanism is designed and implemented as part of each project. It means the grantee implements this mechanism to increase the number of beneficiaries by using the contributions paid on installments by the benefitted families / direct beneficiaries in order to provide more families with support. Examples include the provision of solar water heaters, CFL or LED projects or bicycles for beneficiaries through soft monthly installments, which allow the NGO to buy more Solar Water Heaters, for example, to serve more beneficiaries. This mechanism is welcomed by NGOs because it helps them to sustain the activities after the project is officially completed. Great efforts have been made to involve private sector partners, through the promotion of LED bulbs, solar water heaters, and installation of biogas units, among other examples.

A Multistakeholder Platform was formed in OP6 in each landscape, which included representatives from NGOs/CBOs, local government, national agencies and Ministries, the private sector and other relevant actors. This was unique as this set a model of good governance at the local level. The Platforms supported replication and upscaling of projects as they were channels for exchange of knowledge and experiences to transfer success stories and practices among landscapes. These include replicating projects targeting the installation of biogas units, lining of irrigation canals and promoting LED energy efficient bulbs. Those platforms also played a role in monitoring and follow up, analysis of lessons learned and discussing alternative solutions to the obstacles faced during implementation of projects.

### ***3) the proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project,***

GEF funding and cofinancing will be applied to overcome the barriers mentioned above and to add value, where appropriate and possible, to existing government sectoral initiatives in selected landscapes of rural and urban Egypt. It will contribute to the long-term solution of adaptive management of four important landscapes in Egypt for social, economic and ecological resilience. GEF funding will provide small grants to NGOs and community organizations to develop/update landscape management strategies and implement community projects in pursuit of strategic landscape level outcomes related to biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, climate change mitigation and adaptation and integrated water resources management. Funding will also be available for initiatives to build the organizational capacities of specific community groups as well as landscape level organizations to plan and manage complex initiatives and test, evaluate and disseminate community level innovations. Resources will also be made available through the SGP strategic grant modality to upscale proven technologies, systems or practices based on knowledge gained from analysis of community innovations from experience of previous phases of the SGP Egypt Country Programme. Identification of specific potential upscaling initiatives will take place during project preparation, but preliminary possibilities include expansion of programs for biogas units for energy and soil conditioning; water resource management; sustainable use of biodiversity, and renewable energy.

A focused approach will be executed within four specific landscapes; Greater Cairo (Cairo and Giza governorates only, excluding Qalioubya Governorate, which was in OP6), Fayoum, Upper Egypt (Qena and Luxor only, excluding Minia) and West Delta (Alexandria and Beheira Governorates instead of Dakahlia, Sharqia and Kafr ElSheikh in east Delta). SGP in Egypt will continue to follow an integrated landscape management approach to enhance social and ecological resilience by providing technical and financial support to community initiatives that enhance sustainability and productivity of agroecosystems, through innovation of practices that improve adaptive capacities, land use planning, value addition of products, development of market linkages and access to markets, e-marketing and branding, etc. The project takes this landscape approach as a comprehensive integrated development approach coherent with government programs and ensure operational efficiencies. Although SGP has previously supported initiatives in these landscapes and gained valuable experience, and based on lessons learned in OP6, GEF-7 will witness more focused efforts in those landscapes to address challenges and opportunities discovered in OP6.

More precise definition or adjustment of landscape boundaries – their geographic boundaries, potential community organizations, make-up of multistakeholder partnerships, etc. - will take place during project preparation. Elements to be analyzed and confirmed include biodiversity value, land use trends and patterns, opportunities for application of renewable energy technologies, previous SGP supported initiatives, poverty and inequality levels, disposition of communities and local authorities, potential partnerships with NGOs, the private sector and others, and other factors.

In each of the four selected landscapes, the SGP UCP will support the development (in new landscapes) or refinement (in landscapes initiated in OP6) of landscape management strategies. Each landscape strategy will include outcomes relevant to global environmental values and socio-ecological resilience of the landscape, and the corresponding community level initiatives will be identified for further development and implementation in pursuit of these outcomes. Multistakeholder landscape working groups will, as part of landscape strategy development, elaborate a typology of potential eligible initiatives in each landscape, which will provide a programming framework for SGP community level initiatives. As landscape communities are represented on the multi-stakeholder groups, they will be instrumental in devising their respective typologies. Given SGP Country Program experience in the landscapes selected for OP7, the following approaches for each one are discussed below.

The project proposed here is based on SGP GEF6 programming, which provides the foundation for the GEF7 Country Programme. Successful interventions from the previous phase, which contributed to landscape resilience such as sustainable transport projects (bike share) that provide sustainable and low-cost transportation that eases users' economic burdens; energy efficiency projects, which provided LED energy-saving bulbs to poor families using the revolving funds mechanism; renewable energy applications (solar water heaters, rooftop solar panels, biogas, solar pumping); lining of irrigation canals to conserve irrigation water, save energy and prevent land from degradation; agroecological practices; e-marketing of eco-friendly products; ecotourism activities, etc. These projects will be replicated and/or scaled up in the GEF-supported alternative scenario. In particular, technologies and innovative practices that were identified under GEF6 and are suitable to the new landscapes proposed under GEF7, will be piloted, applied and disseminated by local organizations.

In the **Greater Cairo landscape**, under the climate change focal area, projects will be linked to the Climate Change Strategy for Giza Governorate and focus on: energy efficiency (e.g. expanding application of LED), renewable energies (e.g. solar energy and PV applications for street lighting), sustainable transport and awareness-raising of local communities (primarily the relationship between energy, economics, and climate change). Under the biodiversity focal area,

projects will contribute to the sustainable management of protected areas, and continue to assist in raising awareness and capacities to contribute to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, especially in regard to natural protectorates (Wadi Degla and Petrified Forest).

In **Fayoum Landscape**, SGP-financed interventions will seek to address global environmental issues under multiple focal areas. Under the climate change focal area, SGP-supported projects will promote sustainable transport (bicycle transport), installation of biogas units to produce sustainable energy and compost, and expansion of renewable energy applications e.g. installation of solar water heaters, etc. Under the biodiversity focal area, in full coordination with ongoing GEF FSP and UNDP projects, SGP projects are expected to continue to contribute to the following: strategic management plans to de-pollute Lake Qaroun, ecotourism improvement of the waterfall area in Wadi El Rayan PA, development of traditional handicrafts and assistance in marketing to create sustainable jobs, especially for women, and awareness raising of tourists and local communities of biodiversity and the importance of protected areas. Under the land degradation focal area, projects will target growing desertification through promotion of the use of efficient biogas to reduce pressures on trees and shrub lands, and sustainable agricultural practices.

In the **West Delta Landscape**, projects proposed here will take a multifocal area approach – addressing climate change and land degradation - to maintain environmental quality and local health and promote sustainable socioeconomic activities. The SGP will carry out activities in the focal areas with an inclusive, and innovative approach that aims to impact, over the medium and long term, the well-being of the communities and the ecosystem in which they live. Within the climate change focal area, SGP in GEF7 will seek to support projects in the Delta region that promote sustainable transport, installation of biogas units to produce sustainable energy and compost, and promote renewable energy and energy efficiency aimed at strengthening the resilience of local communities to increasing climate change impacts.

In the **Upper Egypt Landscape**, selected projects will fall under the climate change and land degradation focal areas. Under the climate change focal area projects will target sustainable energy and compost preparation and use, use of solar energy in irrigation, installation of solar water heaters, and promotion of sustainable transport. Projects will also be supported that seek to deter pollution of canals, mitigate existing pollution, and conserve water, energy and land resources. Sustainable water management was a major priority for SGP in GEF6, and initiatives were supported to improve irrigation systems, improve water transport and rationalize its use, and decrease pollution.

In OP7, more efforts will be done to focus on increased access to other available grants offered by cooperatives, banks and donors, and will support the operationalization of revolving funds to support replication, upscaling and sustainability of CSO activities. The revolving funds mechanism has proven to be a success throughout the previous SGP phases. Efficient communication systems will be established to enable communities to learn and share experiences and good practices on business models and technology adoption. Trainings and capacity building workshops will be designed and developed to build capacities of NGOs / CBOs, relevant stakeholders and communities in the areas of sustainable agriculture, value addition, market linkages, energy efficient technologies, renewable energy solutions, waste management practices, integrated water management, etc.

Workshops will be organized at landscape level to scale up/replicate activities by matchmaking and building synergies with relevant government plans, programs and strategies. A similar approach will be explored to involve private sector partners. Thus, financial sustainability of community organizations will be promoted through establishment of linkages with ongoing schemes, programmes and projects of the Government, bilateral/multilateral agencies, financial institutions etc.

Multistakeholder Platforms formed in OP6, which included representatives from NGOs/CBOs, local government, national agencies and Ministries, the private sector and other relevant actors in each selected landscape, will be strengthened. These partnerships are intended to continue providing technical assistance, strategic guidance and financial support, where possible, to community organizations for individual community initiatives, as well as landscape level projects and strategic upscaling projects. Formal partnership agreements will be agreed and signed with communities as projects are identified and aligned with landscape level targeted outcomes.

## **Component 1 – Resilient landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection**

The selected landscapes produce a variety of goods and services, making them multi-functional in scope. Socio-ecological resilience of these landscapes depends on ecosystem function and how landscape inhabitants make choices that either enhance or diminish socio-ecological resilience. Through grants extended by SGP, farmers and other local stakeholders have the means to lower the risk of attempting or practice an innovation, and SGP Country Programme team guidance and support during the process of design and implementation lowers the risk to them of failure of the innovation. Landscape strategies provide a programming framework for community organizations that assists them in identifying community-based initiatives in agreement with their needs and aspirations for sustainable development. The Country Programme team helps build the capacities of community organizations to manage and administer their projects.

### **Outcome 1.1 Ecosystem services within targeted landscapes are enhanced through multi-functional land-use systems**

In agreement with the corresponding landscape strategy, community organizations will choose to design and implement community projects that conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services. Activities may include restoration of habitat (e.g. wetland restoration, farmer-managed natural regeneration, spring protection, etc.), soil and water conservation, co-management of protected areas, sustainable production of medicinal plants, handicrafts, etc. Community initiatives may also aim at reducing pressures on tree/shrub lands from cattle-grazing in protected areas.

Output 1.1.1 Community level small grant projects in the selected landscapes that conserve biodiversity and enhance ecosystem services

- Activity 1: With community organizations, and congruent with landscape strategies, identify technologies /strategies/systems that can be piloted by community-based organizations to preserve biodiversity and enhance ecosystem services



- Activity 2: Assist CBOs to formulate and present proposals for NSC approval.
- Activity 3: Train CBOs in project management and administration
- Activity 3: Assist CBOs to implement and monitor projects effectively.

**Outcome 1.2 The sustainability of production systems in the target landscapes is strengthened through integrated agro-ecological practices.**

The selected landscapes are mosaics of land uses, including especially agriculture. To enhance the resilience of agriculture in these landscapes will include support to farmers' initiatives to increase the productivity and sustainability of their agro-ecosystems through agro-ecological practices, including soil and water conservation, water use efficiency applications, recycling of agricultural wastes (instead of burning) and producing organic wastes to fertilize more agricultural lands, including nutrient-rich slurry from biogas production.

Output 1.2.1. Targeted community projects enhancing the sustainability and resilience of production systems, including soil and water conservation practices, agro-ecological practices and cropping systems.

- Activity 1: With farmers' organizations, and congruent with landscape strategies, identify agroecosystem vulnerabilities and potential resilience-enhancing practices and systems
- Activity 2: With farmers' organizations, identify technologies and strategies that can be piloted by CBOs to enhance productivity and sustainability of agro-ecosystems
- Activity 3: Assist farmers' organizations to design and carry out sustainable agro-ecological practices to reduce and eliminate land degradation pressures
- Activity 4: Assist CBOs to formulate and present proposals for NSC approval
- Activity 5: Train CBOs in project management and administration
- Activity 6: Assist CBOs to implement and monitor projects effectively.

**Outcome 1.3 Livelihoods of communities in the target landscapes are made more resilient by developing eco-friendly small-scale community enterprises and improving market access.**

In agreement with landscape strategy objectives, community organizations will be supported to add value to products generated by resilience-enhancing practices and activities. These may include ecotourism; processing, packaging and marketing of medicinal plants and under-utilized crops; and others. A key support provided by the Country Programme team will be assistance in identifying potential partners and supporters for these initiatives, as well as linking these activities with academic institutions for support to ensure both economic and ecological sustainability.

Output 1.3.1. Targeted community projects promoting sustainable livelihoods, green businesses and market access, including ecotourism; solid waste management and conversion; green value-added agro-businesses.

- Activity 1: With community organizations, and congruent with landscape strategies, identify technologies /strategies/systems that can be piloted by community-based organizations to promote sustainable and more resilient livelihoods
- Activity 2: Assist community organizations to identify/establish potential partnerships with financial partners such as the private sector, NGOs, research institutions, etc.
- Activity 3: Assist CBOs to formulate and present proposals for NSC approval
- Activity 4: Train CBOs in project management and administration
- Activity 5: Assist CBOs to implement and monitor projects effectively

**Outcome 1.4 Increased adoption through development, demonstration and financing of renewable and energy efficient technologies and mitigation options at community level.**

Energy use in the selected landscapes is often inefficient or dependent on scarce or relatively expensive sources. This outcome will target community projects that demonstrate and/or disseminate renewable energy or energy efficiency applications that have been solidly tested during previous phases of the SGP in Egypt (e.g. efficient lighting, bicycle transport systems, biogas) or which may benefit from demonstrations to enhance awareness or generate evidence for application. The Country Program team will assist community organizations to identify potential financial partners as well as academic or technical support.

Output 1.4.1. Community projects implementing renewable and energy efficient technologies, including solar energy applications, biodigestors, PVs, etc.

- Activity 1: With community organizations, and congruent with landscape strategies, identify technologies and strategies that can be piloted by CBOs to increase adoption of renewable and energy efficient systems and mitigation options.
- Activity 2: Assist community organizations to identify/establish potential partnerships with financial partners such as the private sector, NGOs, research institutions, etc.
- Activity 3: Assist CBOs to formulate and present proposals for NSC approval
- Activity 4: Train CBOs in project management and administration
- Activity 5: Assist CBOs to implement and monitor projects effectively

#### Output 1.4.2. Partnerships and business models established and demonstrating renewable energy and clean energy applications

- Activity 1: Assist community organizations to identify/establish potential partnerships with financial partners such as the private sector, NGOs, research institutions, etc.
- Activity 2: Establish partnerships with stakeholders to demonstrate benefits of adopted technologies and strategies.
- Activity 2: Leverage funding for support to urban landscape strategies

### Component 2 – Capacity Building, Knowledge Management for Upscaling and Replication

#### **Outcome 2.1 Multistakeholder governance platforms strengthened for improved governance of selected landscapes through effective participatory decision making to achieve landscape resilience**

Formal multistakeholder groups will be consolidated in each landscape that will incorporate local government, local community organizations, national agencies and Ministries, NGOs, the private sector and other relevant actors. Those partnerships will provide technical assistance, strategic guidance and financial support, where possible, to community organizations for individual community initiatives, as well as landscape level projects and strategic upgrading projects. Formal partnership agreements will be agreed and signed with communities as projects are identified and aligned with landscape level outcomes. Stakeholder engagement will be the core of each SGP funded project.

Project experiences will be systematized and knowledge generated for discussion and dissemination to local policy makers and national/subnational advisors, as well as landscape level organizations, NGOs and other networks.

#### Output 2.1.1 Multistakeholder governance platforms in the target landscapes/seascapes develop and execute multistakeholder landscape agreements and policies

- Activity 1. For each landscape, confirm continuing interest and participation of stakeholder groups active on multistakeholder governance platforms and/or identify new ones for involvement;
- Activity 2. Review by governance platforms of current landscape agreements, adaptive management plans and policies
- Activity 3. Identify gaps, needs and opportunities for revision of current agreements, etc., analyze potential amendments and revise, as needed

#### Output 2.1.2 Comprehensive socio-ecological baseline assessment conducted through participatory research and planning

- Activity 1. Identify lead NGO or community organisation to conduct participatory baseline assessment for each landscape;

- Activity 2. Identify and adapt resilience indicators and assessment tools in agreement with stakeholders;
- Activity 3. Community participation in the baseline assessment for better understanding of the landscape conditions, how these conditions affect livelihoods and influence local social and economic trends; community participation will be ensured through the representation of relevant stakeholders in consultation/baseline assessment workshops. Stakeholders include government officials, NGOs, local media, academia, community leaders, farmers, women and youth.
- Activity 4. Conduct workshops with NGOs and community organizations to identify threats and challenges derived from the baseline assessment and possible solutions to achieve landscape resilience and possible projects.

#### Output 2.1.3 Landscape strategies updated by multistakeholder groups

For Delta landscape [new in OP7]:

- Activity 1. Conduct situation analysis from the data collected from the baseline assessment.
- Activity 2. Develop adaptive landscape management strategies in agreement with all stakeholders.
- Activity 3. Based on the developed landscape strategies, develop expected results frameworks for each landscape strategy, confirming or refining initial indicator and targets, funding allocations and potential numbers of projects for each landscape, including strategic projects.

For Greater Cairo, Upper Egypt and Fayoum landscapes [continuing from OP6]:

- Activity 1. With each multistakeholder group, analyze and assess achievements and challenges in landscape strategy implementation
- Activity 2. Based on analysis, refine adaptive landscape management strategies in agreement with all stakeholders.
- Activity 3. Based on the refined landscape strategies, develop expected results frameworks for each landscape strategy for OP7, confirming or refining initial indicator and targets, funding allocations and potential numbers of projects for each landscape, including strategic projects.

#### Output 2.1.4 Typology of community level projects developed and agreed by multistakeholder groups together with eligibility criteria

- Activity 1. Develop criteria in agreement with landscape stakeholders for selection of projects for funding in each landscape;
- Activity 2. Conduct workshops with communities to identify projects for collective action aimed at contributing to or achieving landscape level outcomes through grant projects ;
- Activity 3. Identify the capacity level of each landscape community and plan for capacity development, where needed;

Output 2.1.5 Knowledge from innovative project experience is shared for replication and upscaling across the landscapes, across the country, and to the global SGP network

- Activity 1. Detailed analysis of successful grant project portfolios in each landscape, lessons learned/best practices and market opportunities documented to provide policy inputs at regional and national level;
- Activity 2. Production of knowledge products:
  - ü Case studies of grant projects – as part of community reflections on project planning and implementation
  - ü Case studies of landscape planning/management – analysis of strategy implementation and portfolio of grant projects (impacts, knowledge, capacities)
  - ü Case studies of specific successful lines of work (for potential upscaling, policy dialogue, etc.)
  - ü Series of publications to synthesize the above and disseminate to multiple audiences
  - ü Short videos through community filmmaking for further dissemination.
- Activity 3. Production of policy briefs based on portfolio analyses of resilience-enhancing initiatives in biodiversity conservation, agroecology, renewable energy, climate change, livelihood improvement;
- Activity 4. Presentation and discussion of lessons to policy makers, government agencies, prospective financial and private sector partners;
- Activity 5. Dissemination of knowledge products to NGO networks, community organizations, local government authorities and others.

#### **4) *Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies;***

The SGP Egypt Upgrading Country Programme (UCP) will focus in GEF-7 on support to community-driven planning and management of selected landscapes aimed at achieving global environmental and local sustainable development benefits for socio-ecological resilience. Community organizations will work toward enhanced resilience by strengthening their capacities for innovation across the landscape. The SGP UCP will support community organizations in the most vulnerable and least developed areas of each landscape to take collective action through a participatory landscape planning and management approach. The SGP aims to address challenges to biodiversity loss, land degradation and climate change through strengthened community organizations and institutions leading to more effective landscape governance. The programme focuses on food and livelihood security of local communities by promoting agro-ecological practices and cropping systems, participatory land use planning and conservation-based livelihoods. It will also promote innovative technologies and processes to reduce GHG emissions by promoting low cost energy efficient and renewable energy technologies.

The Egypt SGP UCP in GEF-7 is aligned with GEF-7 Programming Directions and strategic priorities. In the Land Degradation Focal Area, the project will promote good landscape governance, especially in view of Egypt's commitments to Land Degradation Neutrality and efforts in securing livelihoods of smallholders; build capacity at local and landscape levels to restore and maintain functional landscapes; and promote lessons learning and knowledge exchange and south-south cooperation within the global SGP portfolio of UCPs.

In the Climate Change Focal Area, the project will pilot “emerging innovative solutions, including technologies, management practices, supportive policies and strategies, and financial tools which foster private sector engagement for technology and innovation.” The SGP Country Programme will provide policy makers with on-the-ground evidence from renewable energy and energy efficiency applications that can be used to “promote innovation and technology transfer for sustainable energy breakthroughs” Lessons from experience with renewable energy and energy efficiency applications will be disseminated to private sector companies as well with the aim of establishing partnerships and promoting business development. The project is also aligned with the Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy as it engages communities in landscape strategies that “mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes” and also addresses the “direct drivers to protect habitats and species”.

The strategy for the Egypt SGP UCP in GEF-7 is fully aligned with the strategy and spirit of the GEF Impact Programme on Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration in that its core approach promotes “a sustainably integrated landscape that simultaneously meets a full range of local needs, including water availability, nutritious and profitable crops for families and local markets, and enhanced human health;” while also contributing to national economic development and policy commitments (e.g. NDCs, LDN, Aichi targets for biodiversity conservation, Bonn Challenge); and delivering globally to the maintenance of biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation.

During project preparation, SGP will liaise closely with the GEF Secretariat and GEF agencies on alignment with relevant programs and projects, including its Impact Programmes and Programmatic Approaches, as well as Full-Sized Projects, particularly in relation to renewable energy and energy efficiency applications and dissemination and local community-driven land and resource management.

#### 5) **Incremental/additional cost reasoning** and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF and **co-financing**;

Although government agencies and institutions can be seen to be taking concrete steps to tackle environmental problems by setting plans and strategies and implementing activities on the ground, these are often piecemeal and rarely comprise an integrated approach to enhancing socio-ecological resilience of rural and urban landscapes. Sectoral approaches are often top-down, which results in lack of local ownership since stakeholder agency is diminished, goals do not arise from stakeholder dialogues and felt needs, and local capacities are left unstrengthened. In the absence of GEF funding, local civil society organizations will not be able to overcome the barriers that block the design and implementation of community-driven resilience-enhancing activities. Local civil society will continue to be frustrated in addressing sustainable development problems affecting their communities, landscapes and the global environment. These organizations will not build their capacities through learning-by-doing and will be unable to play a vital role in changing people’s behavior to favor sustainability and global environmental values. Government funding will continue to be spent ineffectively without tackling the landscape trends and patterns determining socio-ecological resilience. Government resources are rarely directed towards community engagement with global environmental protection. Without GEF resources, land degradation and biodiversity loss will continue given the tendencies to involve communities only peripherally in addressing these problems.

Women and youth will be also affected by the absence of GEF funding since one of the main targets of SGP initiatives is their empowerment, in particular by assisting them to launch small-scale businesses. The SGP has been successful in introducing new technologies and systems e.g. biogas generation. Without GEF funding, demonstration and application of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies is unlikely to occur at scale or as dynamically as occurs through the SGP networks of community organizations.

GEF incremental funding and cofinancing will be applied to overcome the barriers mentioned in this PIF and to add value, where appropriate and possible, to existing initiatives by the government, the private sector or CSOs for rural and urban communities in the four targeted landscapes; Greater Cairo (Cairo and Giza Governorates), Fayoum, Upper Egypt (Qena and Luxors Governorates) and West Delta (Alexandria and Beheira Governorates).

It will contribute to the long-term solution of adaptive management of four important landscapes in Egypt for social, economic and ecological resilience and human well-being. GEF funding will provide small grants to NGOs and Community-based Organizations to develop/update the National Landscape Management Strategy and implement community projects in pursuit of strategic landscape level outcomes related to biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable land management, and integrated water resources management. Funding will also be available for initiatives that build the organizational capacities of specific community groups as well as landscape level organizations to plan and manage complex initiatives and test, evaluate and disseminate community level innovations. Resources will also be made available through the SGP strategic grant modality to upscale proven technologies, systems or practices based on knowledge from analysis of community innovations from past experience gained during previous phases of the SGP Egypt Country Programme. Identification of specific potential upscaling initiatives will take place during project preparation, but preliminary possibilities include expansion of programs for co-management of protected areas, agro-ecosystem management for increased landscape productivity and sustainability, promotion of energy efficiency/renewable energy (biomass, biogas, solar energy, micro-hydro,etc.), and integrated water resources management.

The Country Program has selected an initial focus area in each landscape based on the consolidation of community experiences and lessons learned from the on-going and previously supported projects in GEF 5 and 6 for forthcoming replication, upscaling and mainstreaming. Project experiences and best practices will be systematized and knowledge generated for discussion and dissemination to local policy makers and national/subnational advisors, as well as landscape level organizations, NGOs and other networks.

During the **project preparation period**, site inventory and analysis of ecosystems, water resources, land use, local livelihoods, climate conditions, health impacts from climate change, local organizations, and needs of selected communities will be conducted in the four landscapes to identify/confirm sites and strategies for socio-ecological production landscapes. After the identification of project sites, functional plans and diagrams with full participation of community stakeholders will then be created so that local stakeholders and planners will have the entire picture of communities and their needs and links between communities.

## 5) Global Environmental Benefits

The global environmental benefits generated by the SGP Egypt Upgraded Country Programme through community-based landscape management initiatives and actions in selected priority sites in Egypt can be estimated simplistically over the short term as a result of potential aggregated impacts from hypothetical future individual grant projects. However, overall benefits over the longer term will be a function of the synergies created between projects through programmatic approaches, such as the landscape management approach proposed here.

Under this approach, community groups, local authorities, indigenous peoples, and NGOs form multistakeholder partnerships and develop and implement landscape and neighborhood resilience strategies based on outcomes linked to biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services, sustainable land management, and climate change mitigation, all of which are shaped and defined by their relation to local priorities for food security, income generation and the development of social capital for the global environment and socio-ecological resilience. These strategies will define the types and numbers of community projects required to meet the selected outcomes; at that point, once the strategies have been developed by the communities in each landscape, a more credible, detailed accounting of potential global environmental benefits will be potentially possible. At the same time, the project's multistakeholder partnerships will explicitly develop strategic projects (defined by SGP as up to USD 150,000) to upscale successful SGP-supported technologies, practices or systems identified from previous phases of the SGP Egypt Country Programme. Prospective Global Environment Benefits from these initiatives will be more precisely defined during project preparation and implementation.

The Egypt Upgraded Country Programme will generate the expected outcomes through two main strategic components. The project is designed to deliver multiple environmental benefits through its interventions, as follows:

On climate change, the project will seek to contribute to the sustainable mitigation of the concentration of anthropogenic greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere. Project interventions will promote:

- Mitigation of GHG emissions through energy efficient technologies introduced, adapted, piloted and disseminated;
- Increased use of renewable energy as alternatives to currently used fuelwood, waste, coal;
- Improved energy efficiency (lighting, other applications);
- Increased adoption of innovative technologies and management practices for GHG emissions reductions and carbon sequestration.

On land degradation, the project will address erosion, desertification and deforestation through:

- reforestation, dissemination of knowledge on improved grazing/livestock maintenance, planting of mangroves, indigenous resilient trees and nurseries;
- increased carbon sequestration in production landscapes through reforestation, increasing plant coverage;
- conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in production landscapes to protect endangered flora and fauna species.



On biodiversity, the project will seek to promote the conservation of globally significant biodiversity and the sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity.

On International Waters, the project will address the following:

- Wastewater redirection to productive uses; cultivating non edible plants, etc...
- Improving sanitation services
- Developing irrigation systems and techniques
- Preventing pollution on water canals

The project will contribute to the following Aichi targets:

- Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
- Target 7: By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
- Target 14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services are restored and safeguarded.
- Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems.
- Target 18: By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities and their customary use, are respected.

The project will also contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

- SDG 1 by developing strategies to eradicate poverty,
- SDG 2 protecting seeds and seed banks, endemic species and enhancing food security,
- SDG 4 improving access to education and involving education centers in environmental awareness efforts,
- SDG 5 taking the necessary measures to ensure women's empowerment and participation in all development efforts,
- SDG 6 improving access to water and sanitation,

- SDG 7 facilitating access to energy services and renewable energy technologies,
- SDG 9 facilitating access to credit and helping small scale producers to add value to commodities,
- SDG 10 promoting social inclusion and income generating activities,
- SDG 12 promoting waste management,
- SDG 13 strengthen community resilience and improve awareness raising on climate change issues,
- SDG 14 designing and implementing conservation measures on coastal zones, and
- SDG 15 restoring ecosystems, reforestation, combating desertification and biodiversity loss.

#### **6) *Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.***

*Innovativeness* – The SGP Egypt Country Programme in OP7 proposes to deepen participatory, multistakeholder, landscape planning and management in rural and urban areas with the aim of enhancing social and ecological resilience through community-based, community-driven projects to conserve biodiversity, optimize ecosystem services, manage land – particularly agro-ecosystems – and water sustainably, and mitigate climate change. This adaptive landscape planning and management process continues to be innovative in the context of the three rural landscapes as well as the urban landscape given that the participants become more and more familiar with global environmental issues, landscape management and socio-ecological resilience. This process is adaptive in that it incorporates new information, experience and lessons but also evolves together with the organizational capacities of communities in the landscapes. Given the systemic complexity of the socio-ecological environment in these four landscapes, stakeholders continue to strengthen their abilities to analyze trends in land and resource use as well as their consequences, to plan strategically at landscape level but also at community level and to adapt through learning-by-doing to new circumstances, information and resources. This project will particularly continue to support innovation in developing and applying practical solutions to issues of gender equality in terms of access to resources and project benefits.

Using the knowledge and experience gained from SGP experience at global and national landscape levels, this project will continue working in the four landscapes identified in OP6, but with a more concentrated focus. SGP activities will build on experience and lessons learned from previous SGP operational phases in Egypt, specifically in OP6, and will continue to assist community organizations to carry out and coordinate projects in pursuit of outcomes they have identified in landscape plans and strategies. This will build community ownership of individual initiatives as well as landscape management overall. Coordinated community projects in the landscape will generate ecological, economic and social synergies that will produce greater and potentially longer-lasting global environmental benefits, as well as increased social capital and local sustainable development benefits. The capacities of community organizations will be strengthened through a learning-by-doing approach in which the project itself is a vehicle for acquiring practical knowledge and organizational skills in a longer term adaptive management process. The project will also take OP6 experience into full consideration, and identify / implement a number of potential upscaling opportunities during this project's lifetime.

**Sustainability** - To ensure sustainability of community-based landscape management initiatives, the SGP Egypt Country Program will actively develop and maintain broad-based relationships and partnerships that promote collaboration. The sustainability of landscape management processes and community initiatives is predicated on the principle – based on SGP experience - that global environmental benefits can be produced and maintained through community-based sustainable development projects. Previous phases of the SGP Egypt Country Programme have identified and promoted clear win-win opportunities with community initiatives and clusters of initiatives in areas such as rural energy (biodigestors, solar energy), sustainable transport, energy efficiency, sustainable use of biodiversity (medicinal plants, ecotourism) and water resource management (efficient irrigation). Sustainability of landscape planning and management processes will be enhanced through the formation of multistakeholder partnerships, involving local government, national agencies and institutions, NGOs, the private sector and others at the landscape level and the adoption of multistakeholder partnership agreements to pursue specific landscape level outcomes. NGO networks will be called upon for their support to community projects and landscape planning processes, and technical assistance will be engaged through government, NGOs, universities, academic institutes and other institutions. Community ownership is a critical factor contributing to the sustainability of project benefits. SGP Egypt will involve all community members (men, women, youth and elders) in all stages of the grant project cycle: design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

GEF SGP Egypt has been working extensively for more than two decades in providing technical support and facilitating funding for communities for the sustainable use of resources, biodiversity conservation and mitigation of climate change. The growing network of voluntary support, as a result of cooperation with more than 280 NGOs and CBOs, has made it possible for SGP Egypt to reach out to more vulnerable groups efficiently, particularly addressing gender concerns. Sustainability will be maintained further by aligning the program with government policies, building the capacities of community, and engaging the private sector, universities, and research institutes in providing services ( including financial services, if available).

Sustainability of landscape planning and management processes will be enhanced through the formation of multistakeholder partnerships, involving local government, national agencies and institutions, NGOs, the private sector, universities, research institutions and others at the landscape level and the adoption of multistakeholder partnership agreements to pursue specific landscape level outcomes. NGO networks will be called upon for their support to community projects and landscape planning processes.

***Upscaling potential*** - An essential output of this project is the upscaling of successful initiatives that have been piloted successfully during previous phases of the SGP Egypt Country Programme. The premise of upscaling in this context is that community adopters of successful SGP-supported technologies, practices and systems from previous SGP phases have been slowly acquiring critical mass to reach a tipping point of adoption by rural and urban constituencies of adaptive practice and innovation. The principle of scaling up is that the communities adopt or replicate lessons learned from successful experiences in their own initiatives.

SGP Egypt will work closely with its partners to ensure that promising innovations, successful pilots, and best practices are replicated and scaled up through joint or coordinated planning, financing, and implementation. A multistakeholder partnership strategy will be developed to meet these principles.

SGP Egypt will build on the multistakeholder partnerships established during OP6 in the selected rural and urban landscapes and will analyze the prospective critical mass of community adopters required to reach the tipping points in each of the landscapes for specific technologies, practices or systems and design and implement a program of action to reach it. Resources will be made available through the SGP strategic grant modality to finance key elements of the upscaling initiative to reduce the risk to other donors and investors. The multistakeholder partnerships will keep identifying potential upscaling opportunities, analyze and plan upscaling processes, engage revolving fund mechanisms to finance upscaling components, design and implement the upscaling programme, and evaluate its performance and impacts for lessons learned for adaptive management, policy discussion and potential extension of the model to other areas of the country.

Multistakeholder partnership mechanisms for this project will take into account the following elements: (1) understanding the potential core values of each actor and their resources, such as specific technologies, practices or systems; (2) identifying potential scaling up opportunities, analyzing and planning the scaling up process; and (3) implementing the scaling up program and evaluating its performance and impacts as a lesson learned or case study for adaptive management, policy discussion and potential replication of the model in other areas of the country. The scaling-up and replication strategy will be conducted by SGP Egypt through advocacy and publication of best practices targeted to relevant stakeholders.

More detailed analysis of potential scaling up will take place during the project preparation phase, leading to the development of a strategy for the use of SGP strategic project financing. Resources will be made available through the SGP strategic grant modality (grants up to USD 150,000) to finance key elements of the upscaling initiative to reduce the risk to other donors and investors.

1b. *Project Map and Coordinates.* See map attached to this document in Annex A, as well as textual coordinates, below.

*1- Greater Cairo Landscape:*

Cairo Governorate: 29.9538° N, 31.5370° E

Giza Governorate: 28.7666° N, 29.2321° E

*2- Fayoum Landscape: 29.308374°N, 30.844105°E*

*3- Delta Landscape:*

Alexandria Governorate: 30.8761° N, 29.7426° E

Beheira Governorate: 30.8481° N, 30.3436° E

*4- Upper Egypt Landscape:*

Qena Governorate: 26.2346° N, 32.9888° E

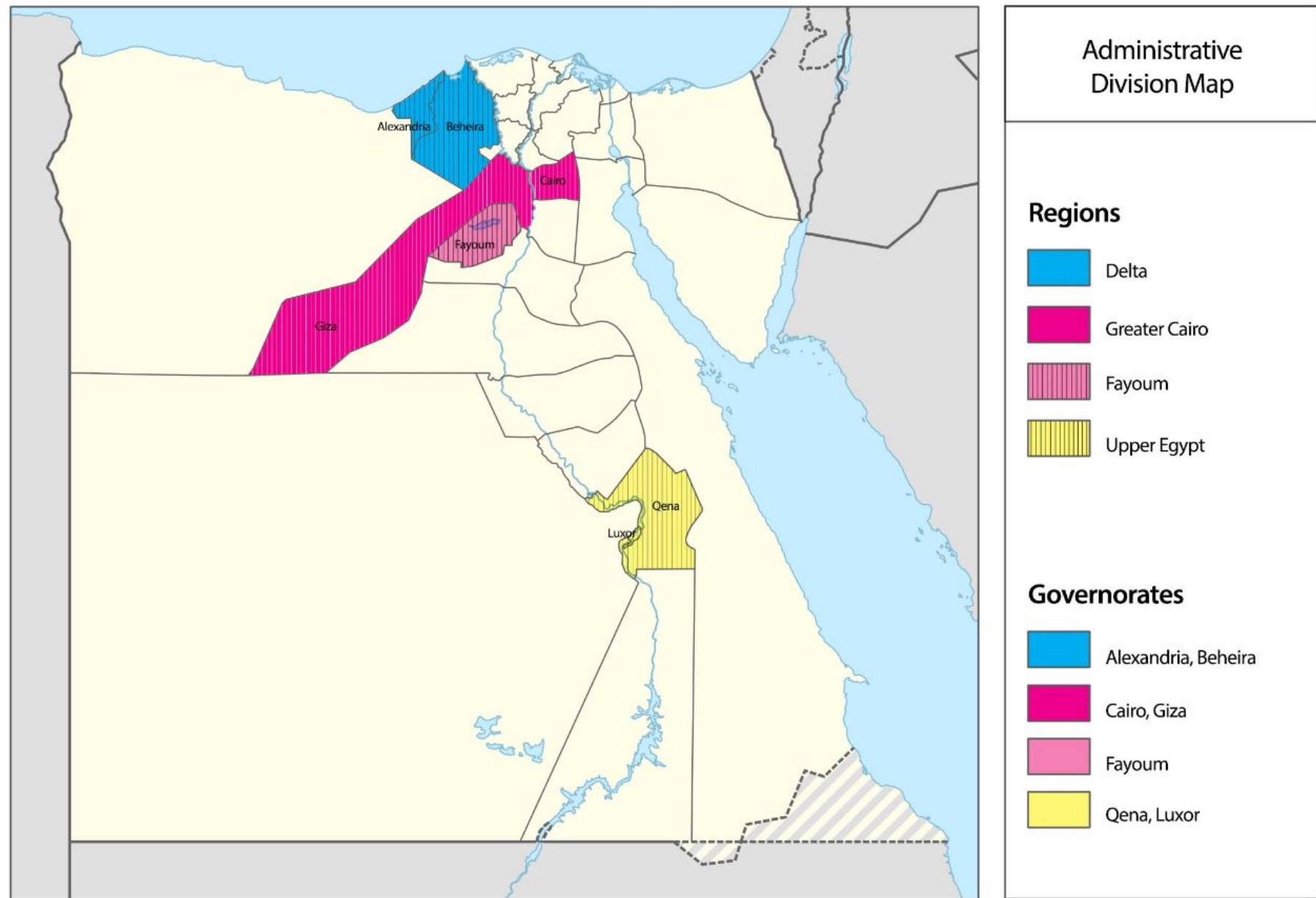
Luxor Governorate: 25.3944° N, 32.4920° E

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[1] *Joint Evaluation of the GEF Small Grants Programme, Country Program Case Study: Egypt.* GEF Evaluation Office and UNDP Evaluation Office. 2007

### 1b. Project Map and Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.



## 2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.

The primary stakeholders of the Egypt GEF-SGP Upgraded Country Programme are the community-based organizations and local communities themselves who will receive grants to produce benefits to local sustainable development and the global environment. Women, ethnic minorities and youth will be especially invited to participate in the landscape planning and management processes as well as to submit project proposals for specific initiatives. Primary stakeholders are located in the rural and town/village areas of the Greater Cairo, Upper Egypt, West Delta and Fayoum landscapes. Stakeholder organizations will be identified first based on the experience of SGP of nearly 25 years, and with more precision through a participatory process of planning and consultation to take place during the process of project formulation – financed with a Project Preparation Grant - and during implementation of the project itself.

CSO/NGOs, whose work has been to support CBOs and communities in pursuing local sustainable development in the landscapes, are also important stakeholders. These will include those NGOs who have the interest and capacities to provide key support services to community-based projects, including technical assistance and capacity development. These NGOs will be identified during the process of project formulation and implementation to initiate with approval of this proposal.

Key supporting actors in this SGP Upgrading Country Programme project will include the Ministry of Environment, the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) / Nature Conservation Sector, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy and NREA - National Renewable Energy Authority; and the National Council for Women (NCW). UNDP, as Implementing Agency for the GEF Small Grants Programme, will provide support to the Upgrading Country Programme as part of the National Steering Committee, together with the Ministry of Environment.

Key stakeholders and their indicative responsibilities for the implementation of the proposed project are outlined in Table 1 below, and will be confirmed during project preparation:

**Table 1. Relevant partners and stakeholders identified for engagement by project outcome/output.**

Outcome	Output	Oversight Responsibility	Key Partners	Targeted organizations and institutions	Key Responsibilities
<b>Component 1: Resilient landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection</b>					



<p><b>Outcome 1.1:</b> Ecosystem services within targeted landscapes are enhanced through multi-functional land-use systems.</p>	<p><b>Output 1.1.1</b> Community level small grant projects in the selected landscapes that conserve biodiversity and enhance ecosystem services</p>	<p><b>NC, NSC; UNDP CO</b></p>	<p>NGOs &amp; CBOs, local government, GEF Full Size Projects, academic institutions</p>	<p>NGOs &amp; CBOs, local communities, local government</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· NGOs lead and facilitate participatory baseline assessments and landscape planning processes; &amp; implement SGP initiatives.</li> <li>· CBOs: participate in landscape planning &amp; signatories to community level partnership agreements &amp; implement SGP initiatives.</li> <li>· Local government: Participate in baseline assessments and landscape planning processes; partners in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape; signatories to community level partnership agreements.</li> <li>· The GEF FSPs provide technical support and coordinate activities with NGOs and CBOs targeting local communities</li> <li>· Academic institutions partner in the multistakeholder platforms in each landscape and provide technical assistance</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome 1.2</b></p> <p>The sustainability of production systems in the target landscapes is strengthened through integrated agro-ecological practices.</p>	<p><b>Output 1.2.1.</b> Targeted community projects enhancing the sustainability and resilience of production systems, including soil and water conservation practices, agro-ecological practices and cropping systems.</p>	<p>NC, NSC; UNDP CO</p>	<p>NGOs &amp; CBOs, local government, academic institutions</p>	<p>NGOs &amp; CBOs, local communities, local government</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· NGOs lead and facilitate participatory baseline assessments and landscape planning processes;</li> <li>· CBOs: participate in landscape planning &amp; signatories to community level partnership agreements</li> <li>· Local government: Participate in baseline assessments and landscape planning processes; partners in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape; signatories to community level partnership agreements.</li> <li>· Academic institutions partner in the multistakeholder platforms in each landscape and provide technical assistance</li> </ul>

					ne multistakeholder platforms in each landscape and provide technical assistance
<b>Outcome 1.3</b> Livelihoods of communities in the target landscapes are made more resilient by developing eco-friendly small-scale community enterprises and improving market access.	<b>Output 1.3.1.</b> Targeted community projects promoting sustainable livelihoods, green businesses and market access, including ecotourism; solid waste management and conversion; green value-added agro-businesses.	<b>NC, NSC; UNDP CO</b>	NGOs & CBOs, local government, private sector	NGOs & CBOs, local communities, local government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· NGOs lead and facilitate participatory baseline assessments and landscape planning processes;</li> <li>· CBOs: participate in landscape planning &amp; signatories to community level partnership agreements</li> <li>· Local government: Participate in baseline assessments and landscape planning processes; partners in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape; signatories to community level partnership agreements.</li> <li>· Private sector: partners in the multistakeholder, signatories to community level partnership agreements.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome 1.4</b>  Increased adoption through development, demonstration and financing of renewable and energy efficient technologies and mitigation options at community level.	<b>Output 1.4.1.</b> Community projects implementing renewable and energy efficient technologies, including solar energy applications, biodigestors, PVs, etc.	<b>NC, NSC; UNDP CO</b>	NGOs & CBOs, local government GEF Full Size Projects, academic institutions, private sector	NGOs & CBOs, local communities, local government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· NGOs lead and facilitate participatory baseline assessments and landscape planning processes;</li> <li>· CBOs: participate in landscape planning &amp; signatories to community level partnership agreements</li> <li>· Local government: Participate in baseline assessments and landscape planning processes; partners in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape; signatories to community level partnership agreements.</li> <li>· The GEF FSPs provide technical support and coordinate activities with NGOs and CBOs targeting local communities</li> </ul>

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Academic institutions partner in the multi-stakeholder platforms in each landscape and provide technical assistance</li> <li>· Private sector: partners in the multi-stakeholder, signatories to community level partnership agreements.</li> </ul>
	<b>Output 1.4.2.</b> Partnerships and business models established and demonstrated for renewable energy and clean energy applications.		NGOs & CBOs, local government, private sector		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· NGOs lead and facilitate participatory baseline assessments and landscape planning processes;</li> <li>· CBOs: participate in landscape planning &amp; signatories to community level partnership agreements</li> <li>· Private sector: partners in the multi-stakeholder, signatories to community level partnership agreements</li> </ul>
<b>Component 2: Capacity Building, Knowledge Management for Upscaling and Replication</b>					
<b>Outcome 2.1</b> Multi-stakeholder governance platforms strengthened for improved governance of selected landscapes through effective participatory decision making to achieve landscape resilience	<b>Output 2.1.1</b> Multi-stakeholder governance platforms in the target landscapes/seascapes develop and execute multi-stakeholder landscape agreements and policies	<b>NC, NSC; UNDP CO;</b>	NGOs & CBOs, local government, academic institutions, private sector, SGP partners	NGOs & CBOs, local communities, local government, SGP stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· NGOs: Provide technical assistance to community organisations for implementation of projects</li> <li>· CBOs: Responsibilities in effective implementation of SGP projects, capacity building,</li> <li>· Academic institutions partner in the multi-stakeholder platforms in each landscape</li> <li>· Private sector: partners in the multi-stakeholder,</li> </ul>
	<b>Output 2.1.2</b> Comprehensive socio-ecological ba	<b>NC, NSC; UNDP CO;</b>	NGOs & CBOs, multi-stakehold	NGOs & CBOs, local communities, local govern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· NGOs: Provide assistance to community organisations to participate in</li> </ul>

	baseline assessment conducted through participatory research and planning.		ers platform in each landscape (local government, academic institutions, private sector, National Council for Women)	ment, SGP stakeholders	baseline assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· CBOs: Participatory research on socio-ecological baseline</li> <li>· Academic institutions: assist and guide baseline assessments</li> <li>· Private sector: assist and guide baseline assessments</li> </ul>
	<b>Output 2.1.3</b> Landscape strategies updated by multi-stakeholder groups	<b>NC, NSC; UNDP CO;</b>	NGOs & CBOs, multi-stakeholders platform in each landscape (local government, academic institutions, private sector, National Council for Women)	NGOs & CBOs, local communities, local government, SGP stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· NGOs and CBOs provide knowledge and experiences on needs and demands of their local communities.</li> <li>· Multi-stakeholders platforms: share knowledge and experience, and provide assistance to update strategies based on national and local plans</li> </ul>
	<b>Output 2.1.4</b> Typology of community level projects developed and agreed by multi-stakeholder groups together with eligibility criteria	<b>NC, NSC; UNDP CO;</b>	NGOs & CBOs, multi-stakeholders platform in each landscape (local government, academic institutions, private sector, National Council for Women)	NGOs & CBOs, local communities, local government, SGP stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· NGOs and CBOs provide knowledge and experiences on needs and demands of their local communities.</li> <li>· Multi-stakeholders platforms: share knowledge and experience, and provide assistance to update strategies based on national and local plans</li> </ul>
	<b>Output 2.1.5</b> Knowledge from innovative project experience is shared for replication and upscaling across the landscapes, across the country, and to the global SGP network	<b>NC, NSC; UNDP CO;</b>	NGOs & CBOs, multi-stakeholders platform in each landscape (local government, academic institutions, private sector, National Council for Women)	NGOs & CBOs, local communities, local government, SGP stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· NGOs and CBOs share knowledge and experiences from previous projects</li> <li>· Multi-stakeholders platforms: share knowledge and experience, assist in upscaling and replicating best SGP practices.</li> </ul>

			onal Council for Women)		
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### 3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

**Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).**

Women in the targeted landscapes are key players in managing basic household resources, as care takers, as well as participants in income generating activities. Expansion beyond these roles is marked by cultural, physical, information and capacity barriers. Women are inhibited from being actively engaged in landscape management in decision making roles in particular, by community norms and standards that strongly limit women's leadership of mixed groups and activities and inhibit their more active participation in mixed groups. Women's control of income-generating assets like land is also weak, and decisions regarding family-related expenditures and other financial matters are rarely under their sole control.

The gender responsiveness of the SGP is ensured through mainstreaming and equity measures. The potential benefits to and impacts upon women are considered throughout the process of grant project design and implementation, and their roles within implemented community-based initiatives is monitored. The SGP will continue to ensure the equitable participation of women and other vulnerable groups in all landscape management discussions and activities by ensuring that their voices can be heard, where relevant in separate groups from men. Specific project ideas will be actively identified with women's groups that will respond to women's expressed needs in regard to landscape or resource management.

During implementation, qualitative assessments will be conducted on the gender-specific benefits that can be directly associated to each grant project. These assessments will be incorporated in periodic M&E progress reports as well as in Mid-Term Reviews and in the Terminal Evaluation. Indicators to quantify the achievement of project objectives in relation to gender equality will include sex-disaggregated data for men and women involved in landscape management activities, including women and men benefitting from capacity development from learning-by-doing through grant projects. The gender responsiveness of knowledge products generated through SGP initiatives will also be a key criteria in their design and development, and dissemination strategies will be adopted that ensure that project information reaches as many women as possible.

The project will develop a Gender Action Plan aimed at advancing gender equality, which will be monitored and evaluated through SGP M&E reports, as well as grantees' reports; these will include sex-disaggregated data that highlight quantitative and qualitative outcomes.

SGP Egypt has been a highly recognized pioneer in mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment in every step of its program cycle. The project will prioritize work with women's groups, particularly livelihood groups. The Country Programme team, as part of project preparation, will undertake a gender analysis and gender action plan, and formulate a specific strategy to engage women/girls groups as primary actors in landscape management.

The project in OP7 will build on the OP6 Gender Assessment and Action Plan, which was prepared based on an active consultation process in targeted landscapes during OP6 project preparation. Consultations were held with community groups, women's groups, NGOs, the National Council for Women (NCW) and others during the landscape strategy formulation in ways that ensured women's comfortable participation.

A gender focal point is designated within each SGP National Steering Committee to ensure review of gender considerations in project selection, and the Country Programme team will work with the gender focal point to identify potential project ideas for initial discussions with women's and girls' groups. CSOs that have relevant experience will continue to be engaged to support women's/girls' groups in defining grant project objectives and designing grant project activities. Women's/girls' groups will evaluate their projects' performance to identify lessons and knowledge for adaptive management as well as gender specific policy recommendations.

**Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment? Yes**

**closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;** Yes

**improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or** Yes

**generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.** Yes

**Will the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?**

Yes

#### 4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

**Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.**

Private sector entities and actors will continue to be considered as potential partners in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape and will these partnerships will be actively pursued and strengthened. Private sector partners will become signatories to community level partnership agreements, as appropriate, and potential participants on policy platforms. Building on the successful model of partnership enhanced in OP6 projects, SGP will continue to collaborate with companies working on biogas unit installation in rural landscapes, LED lighting, and PV promotion and passive solar energy applications (solar pumping and solar water heating respectively).



## 5. Risks

Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the Project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the Project design (table format acceptable)

**Table 2. Risks, rating and proposed mitigation measures.**

<i>Risk Description</i>	<i>Impact and Probability (1-5)</i>	<i>Significance (Low, Moderate, High)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design.</i>
Risk 1: Project activities are proposed within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park)	I = 1 P = 5	Low	Some of the project interventions will purposefully be carried out to strengthen the buffer zones of PAs.	The project purposefully targets vulnerable areas and threats around PAs in order to ensure improved resilience. The measures to avoid this becoming a risk is that specific ecosystem challenges have been identified and will be targeted by SGP projects. Resilience indicators are incorporated in the results framework to ensure that SGP projects build resilience in implementation sites
Risk 2: Project activities are proposed adjacent to sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, values	I = 1 P = 5	Low	Some SGP interventions will be carried out in Fayoum adjacent to paleontologically, relevant historical sites	SGP interventions will respect historical sites and the interventions will focus on reducing pollution, improving waste management, and limiting off-track tourism, which currently threaten and endanger historical zones.  An initial assessment will be undertaken during the PPG phase, and an expert consultant will support with the development of a Chance Find Plan to guide grantees in the design of project activities.
Risk 3: Installation and use of renewable energy technologies may pose potential harm to environment or habitat	I = 3 P = 2	Moderate	Unsafe disposal of batteries from solar systems may release harmful pollutants into environment; micro-hydro systems should not be located in critical habitats	All project proposals are subject to review and approval by the National Steering Committee and technical experts, as needed. Potential environmental impacts of projects are assessed by the National Coordinator and the NSC as part of proposal development, and actions to mitigate risk are incorporated into each proposal prior to approval. Project proponents are trained in all aspects of RE technology operations and maintenance, including disposal or recycling of used technology elements.
Risk 4: The project will include afforestation, reforestation	I = 1 P = 5	Low	Some project initiatives include planting of agro-forestry, fruit trees alongside irrigation canals.	The proposed afforestation is relatively small and is designed to increase food security, build resilience, and potentially support alternative uses for wastewater. Trainings will be provided by and to local community groups for sustainable management.
Risk 5: Women's groups/leaders may raise gender equality	I = 3 P = 1	Low	No proposals are accepted or approved without thorough review by the NC and NSC of the quality of	

concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process			and focus on the quality of consultations and participation of proponent organizations and communities.	
Risk 6: Elements of project could potentially provide safety risks to local communities	I = 1 P = 1	<b>Low</b>	Project interventions include waste management, including establishing medical waste incinerators and providing associated training	To tackle mismanagement of potentially hazardous waste and medical waste, the project proposes to catalyze establishment of at least two medical waste incinerators. While handling medical waste can pose a threat in and of itself, this will be mitigated by providing adequate training, equipment and support for the purposes of decreasing current levels of risk, harm and environmental degradation.

## 6. Coordination

**Outline the institutional structure of the project including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the project level. Describe possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.**

### *Management, monitoring and evaluation*

The National Steering Committee (NSC), comprised of government and non-government organizations with a non-government majority, a UNDP representative, and individuals with expertise in the GEF Focal Areas, is responsible for determining the overall strategy of the SGP in the country as well as for grant evaluation, selection and approval. The NSC also contributes to bridging community-level experiences with national policy-making. The SGP Operational Guidelines guide overall project implementation in Egypt consistent with past best practice. The UNDP Resident Representative appoints the National Steering Committee (NSC) members.

The SGP Country Program team, comprised of a Country Program Manager (National Coordinator) and a Program Assistant, is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the program, supported by support staff of the National Host Institution (NHI). UNDP will provide overall program oversight and take responsibility for standard GEF project cycle management services beyond assistance and oversight of project design and negotiation, including project monitoring, periodic evaluations, troubleshooting, and reporting to the GEF.

The SGP Upgraded Country Programme portfolio is managed by a UNDP-GEF Global Coordinator, who provides oversight by supporting and monitoring implementation and promoting the sharing of lessons learned and best practice among UCPs and between UCPs and the Global Programme. SGP's Central Program Management Team (CPMT) will monitor this Country Program project for its compliance with core policies and procedures of the SGP as a GEF Corporate Program.

The UNDP Country Office is responsible for ensuring that the project meets its objective and delivers on its targets. The Resident Representative signs the grant agreements with beneficiary organizations on behalf of UNOPS. It also provides other types of support at the local level, as required. UNDP is represented on the NSC, and actively participates in grant monitoring activities. CBOs and NGOs will submit proposals in response to calls for proposals by the NSC, which will consider and approve the grants in specific thematic and geographic areas relevant to the SGP Egypt strategy. Individual grantee projects are monitored and evaluated through monthly, interim and final reports, in addition to frequent field visits conducted by NSC members, UNDP CO team in addition to the Country Program team.

Project results will be monitored annually and evaluated periodically during project implementation to ensure the project effectively achieves these results. Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP and UNDP Evaluation Policy. The UNDP Country Office will ensure UNDP M&E requirements are met in a timely fashion and to high quality standards. Additional mandatory GEF-specific

M&E requirements (as outlined below) will be undertaken in accordance with the GEF M&E policy and other relevant GEF policies.<sup>[1]</sup>

In addition to these mandatory UNDP and GEF M&E requirements, other M&E activities deemed necessary to support project-level adaptive management will be agreed during the Project Inception Workshop and will be detailed in the Inception Report. This will include the exact role of project target groups and other stakeholders in project M&E activities, including the GEF Operational Focal Point and others assigned to undertake project monitoring.

***SGP Country Programme Manager:*** The Country Programme Manager (CPM) is responsible for day-to-day project management and regular monitoring of project results and risks, including social and environmental risks. The Country Programme Manager will ensure that all project staff maintain a high level of transparency, responsibility and accountability in M&E and reporting of project results. The CPM will inform the National Steering Committee, the UNDP Country Office and the UNDP-GEF Global Coordinator of any delays or difficulties as they arise during implementation so that appropriate support and corrective measures can be adopted.

The CPM will develop annual work plans based on a multi-year work plan, including annual output targets to support the efficient implementation of the project. The CPM will ensure that the standard UNDP/GEF and GEF M&E requirements are fulfilled to the highest quality. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring the results framework indicators are monitored annually in time for evidence-based reporting in the GEF PIR, and that the monitoring of risks and the various plans/strategies developed to support project implementation (e.g. ESMP, gender action plan, stakeholder engagement plan etc.) occur on a regular basis.

***National Steering Committee:*** The National Steering Committee (NSC) will take corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results. The NSC will hold project reviews to assess the performance of the project and appraise the Annual Work Plan for the following year. In the project's final year, the NSC will hold an end-of-project review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to highlight project results and lessons learned with relevant audiences. This final review meeting will also discuss the findings outlined in the project terminal evaluation report and the management response.

***UNOPS, as Project Implementing Partner,*** will provide country programme implementation services, including human resources management, budgeting, accounting, grant disbursement, auditing, and procurement. UNOPS is responsible for SGP's financial management and provides periodic financial reports to UNDP.

***UNDP Country Office:*** The UNDP Country Office will support the Country Programme Manager as needed, including through annual supervision missions. The annual supervision missions will take place according to the schedule outlined in the annual work plan. Supervision mission reports will be circulated to the project team and National Steering Committee within one month of the mission. The UNDP Country Office will initiate and organize key GEF M&E activities

including the annual GEF PIR, the independent mid-term review and the independent terminal evaluation. The UNDP Country Office will also ensure that the standard UNDP and GEF M&E requirements are fulfilled to the highest quality.

### *Collaboration with other initiatives*

In OP7, SGP will collaborate with and build on the lessons of a range of related initiatives. The National Steering Committee of the Egypt SGP Country Programme has consistently promoted the collaboration of the Country Programme with GEF- and government-financed projects and programmes for many years. SGP Egypt has provided technical assistance to community components of selected GEF FSPs to increase the efficiency of uptake by community stakeholders of project-promoted technologies and practices. Members of the National Steering Committee endorse collaborative arrangements and partnerships to maximize the efficiency of the GEF SGP investment, as well, with SGP-sponsored technologies, experience and lessons learned disseminated and absorbed by government programmes and institutions. As part of project preparation, SGP Egypt will analyze and confirm potential and/or continued cooperation with the following initiatives, programmes or institutions:

*The UNDP-GEF Project: Grid Connected Small Scale PV Systems (Egypt PV)* that is implemented with the Industrial Modernization Center (IMC). The project is promoting different applications from small scale photovoltaic systems. It can support development of a business model for farmers and Water Users Associations to expand the application of PV water pumping in rural Egypt.

*The GCF-UNDP funded project: Enhancing Climate Change Adaptation in North Coast of Egypt Project (ECCADP)* that is implemented by the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation aiming to develop an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Plan for the North Coast of Egypt. The construction work is associated with community development activities including small scale income generation and job creation initiatives for local fishermen and farmers communities.

*UNDP GEF Medical and E-waste Management Project:* aims to “Protect human health and the environment from unintentional releases of POPs originating from incineration and open burning of health care- and E-waste”. The project is to address the priorities related to dioxins and furans, which have been included in Egypt’s 2005 National Implementation Plan (NIP) for fulfilling the requirements of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). This project is implemented by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT).

*UNDP GEF Project: Mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into the tourism development and operations in threatened ecosystems in Egypt.* This project is designed to mainstream biodiversity into the Egyptian tourism sector. It comes at a critical time in Egypt’s recent history with the political changes that are currently underway to make government institutions more accountable and to develop the economy, both of which are resulting in considerable changes in the way that both tourism and biodiversity resources may be managed in the future. Therefore, the project will work on

two levels. The first level will engage directly with the industry and government to fill gaps in the existing planning and regulatory framework; this will be done through a Strategic Environmental Assessment to identify key areas, habitats and ecological processes and assess their vulnerability and guidelines for the existing EIA regulations specific to biodiversity and linked to an offsetting mechanism and developing a monitoring programme to track the impacts of tourism on biodiversity for conservation management purposes. It will also engage the tourism industry by developing Responsible Tourism Grading and promoting Egypt as a global destination for ecotourism and developing community-based systems to allow those closest to the resources to benefit and manage them sustainably. The project will also create one new protected area and increase the size of two more while building management capacity and developing these and four more protected areas for sustainable tourism. All of these areas are currently under threat from tourism development. Because of the uncertainty and dynamic nature of the challenge and because the tourism industry faces an adaptive challenge and to a lesser extent a technical challenge, the project will be guided by a scenario planning exercise as a means to bring about the necessary individual and institutional behavioural changes and to ensure that the project is highly adaptive.

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[1] See [https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies\\_guidelines](https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies_guidelines)

## 7. Consistency with National Priorities

### Is the Project consistent with the National Strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions

Yes

**If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc**

The Egypt SGP Country Programme will continue to support national priorities and work in full partnership with all relevant programmes. The SGP in Egypt will focus on renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable transport, supporting communities in protected areas and mainstreaming biodiversity in different sectors, improved productivity and sustainability of agro-ecosystems, and bioenergy in Egypt. The SGP will support small-scale demonstration and pilot projects for impact and learning, advocacy and policy mainstreaming. This practical on-the-ground approach will lead to capacity development of the grantees and other relevant stakeholders.

### **National Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS): Egypt Vision 2030**

SDS has followed the sustainable development principle as a general framework for improving the quality of lives and welfare, taking into consideration the rights of new generations to a prosperous life; thus, dealing with three main dimensions: economic, social, and environmental. In addition, SDS is based upon the principles of “inclusive sustainable development” and “balanced regional development”, emphasizing the full participation in development, and ensuring its yields to all parties. The strategy, as well, considers equal opportunities for all, closing development gaps, and efficient use of resources to ensure the rights of future generations.

It also represents an embodiment of the new constitution’s spirit, setting welfare and prosperity as the main economic objectives, to be achieved via sustainable development, social justice and a balanced, geographical and sectoral growth. Therefore, SDS has been developed according to a participatory strategic planning approach; various civil society representatives, national and international development partners and government agencies have collaborated to set comprehensive objectives for all pillars and sectors of the country.

### **National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, December (2011)**

The objective of the strategy is “to increase the flexibility of the Egyptian community when dealing with the risks and disasters that might be caused by climate change and its impact on different sectors and activities. It also aims at strengthening the capacity to absorb and reduce the risks and disasters to be caused by such changes.” This project is directly aligned with this strategy in the agricultural sector in that the recommended measures build landscape resilience through “the conservation of biodiversity, the sound management of soil, arable land, water resources, crop irrigation, the promotion of livestock and fish resources, the adjustment and improvement of economic and agricultural systems and the improvement of the rural community’s conditions.”

The strategy also examines the role of civil society organizations and community participation with the aim of encouraging “effective cooperation among the state agencies, private sector, and members of non-governmental organizations, professional associations, trade and agricultural unions, research centers, media associations, local and popular committees, sporting clubs, and cultural forums.” Chapter VII stresses the importance of civil society and community participation in climate change risk reduction and mitigation. “In terms of adaptation to climate change, the state cannot certainly assume this role on its own without the full support of these groups.”

### **Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Ministry of Water Resources & Irrigation (2013)**

The SGP Country Programme in GEF6 has been strongly supportive of this sectoral climate change adaptation strategy. The Strategy advocates “strengthening NGOs and civil society organizations concerned with Integrated Water Resources Management as “crucial stakeholders.” Civil society organizations are expected to “play a vital role in strengthening public awareness on the need for adaptation and in bridging gaps between scientific research and policy making.” The Strategy states “participation by different stakeholders and civil society allows vulnerable groups that might be affected by climate change to help steer the process towards more equitable outcomes. Another important aspect of good governance is the effective decentralization of water resource management that has the potential to tap into successful community-based experiences in dealing with climate variability, and hence positively support no-regrets adaptation.”

### **National Environmental, Economic, and Development Study (NEEDS) for Climate Change (2010)**

This project is congruent with the NEEDS report, which is a study of the national environmental, economic and development aspects of climate change, primarily based on the outputs of the Second National Communication and related background papers. The paper underscores the importance of community participation in the development of socio-ecological resilience and in designing strategies for the coastal zones and the agriculture sector which focus on simple and low cost measures, based on traditional knowledge, that meet local conditions and are compatible with sustainable development requirements. To enhance the planning of these strategies, the paper maintains “it is important to improve the scientific capacity, use a bottom-up approach, develop community-based measures by stakeholders' involvement in adaptation planning, as well as increasing public awareness and the adaptive capacity of the community.”

### **Energy Policy**

The Government's energy strategy considers the energy and power sectors as an engine of growth, and as such high priority has been given to the development of these sectors. The goal is to secure sufficient and affordable energy supplies to meet the requirements of all segments of the economy, improve sector efficiency and to optimize both domestic utilization of the country's energy resources and energy exports. Because of abundant gas reserves, the objective is also to develop the utilization of gas to reduce oil consumption and become self-sufficient in oil supply.

The energy sector however lacks large capital investments required to secure adequate and reliable supply of energy to meet the demand that continues to increase in line with economic growth and the expanding population. Secondly, prices of liquid petroleum fuels, natural gas and electricity have been kept stagnant over a long period, despite increases in production costs. The result has been low cost recovery and deteriorating financial performance of the entities responsible for energy production and distribution. Furthermore, subsidized energy prices are not incentivizing efficient energy use and also distort prices in the manufacturing sector.

The Government of Egypt is also pursuing a strategy to diversify its energy matrix through the development of new and renewable energy resources, such as solar and wind, with contributions of renewable energy applications such as solar water heating in both domestic and industrial sectors, water pumping and desalination by wind, photovoltaic rural electrification in remote areas, and biomass applications.

### **Waste Policy**

The legal and institutional framework of Solid Waste Management (SWM) in Egypt is very weak. In September 2013, a decision was made to establish a new Integrated Solid Waste Management Sector (ISWMS), under the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs (MSEA). The new national authority is intended to take charge of the solid waste sector in Egypt and to implement the National Solid Waste Management Program (NSWMP). The purpose of the NSWMP is to support the establishment of new and effective policies, legislation and institutional arrangements for waste management at the National and Governorate



level in Egypt, coupled with enhanced professional capacity, and an investment pipeline for implementation of sectoral projects at the regional and local level. This new body was heavily supported by the BMZ baseline project. The Egypt SGP Country Programme has liaised with different members of the ISWMS in GEF6 to ensure coherence with national policy and undertakings and will continue to do so in GEF7.

### **Egypt Third National Communication (SNC) to the UNFCCC (2016)**

This report is an update on the second national communication (SNC) of Egypt issued in 2010 for which the cutoff date was 2007. During this period Egypt has passed through historic revolutions, which reflect a tremendously significant change in Egypt's national circumstances relevant to the climate change and the classification of Egypt as a developing country in the UNFCCC.

A number of efforts have been undertaken by the Government of Egypt to achieve the objectives of the convention. They included Technology Cooperation Agreement Pilot Project (TCAPP), promotion of wind energy for electricity generation, fuel cell bus demonstration project, hybrid-electric bus technology, natural gas motorcycles, methane recovery from landfills, integrated solar thermal/natural gas power plant at Kuraymat, energy efficiency improvement and emissions reduction project as well as fuel switching. Other measures taken by Egypt included observations, networking, research and technology development, education, training and raising of public awareness.

### **Egyptian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) (2015-2030)**

In 2014, Egypt, as a Party to the CBD, has revised its NBSAP in line with the new CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, through another wide participatory process. After initial stocktaking and appraisal of the current status of national biodiversity and the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, six strategic goals were identified to address the decline in biodiversity and achievement of the Aichi Targets. In the light of Egypt's commitment to achieve the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, several national committees were established (sustainable development, integrated management of coastal zones, climate change, wetlands and conservation of biodiversity) to achieve harmonization between policies, strategies and national action plans of development, by executing specific indicators to determine implementation efficiency in different fields, such as environmental sustainability, reduction of poverty pressures, enabling women, improving the quality of health and education. NBSAP Vision is "By 2030 biodiversity in Egypt is valued, mainstreamed, maintained for good livelihoods and conserved for the sustainable use of future generations".

The NBSAP Mission is "Egypt takes effective and innovative actions to reduce the loss of biodiversity to ensure that by 2030 ecosystems continue to provide their services to all Egyptian and also ensure pressures on biodiversity are reduced; biological resources are sustainably used and benefits arising out of utilization of genetic resources are shared in a fair and equitable manner; biodiversity issues and values mainstreamed and appropriate policies are effectively implemented in a participatory approach." This vision and mission leads to formulate the Strategic Goals and Targets of NBSAP 2030.

### **Egyptian National Action Plan (NAP) to Combat Desertification (2005)**

This project is fully aligned with the proposed Intervention Programmes of the National Action Plan. The Plan indicates that "special efforts will be devoted to set-up a mechanism to ensure active coordination, among all bodies concerned with combating desertification." Additional legislation and regulations at the national, governorate and local levels will be needed, along with "the adoption of innovative technologies for halting desertification processes, utilization of incentives whenever possible and bringing about their prevention and abatement" together with "participation of local communities, targeted groups, stakeholders, and NGO's in planning, implementation, evaluation and monitoring."

### **Country Report of the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme (2018)**

The Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme (LDN TSP) provided a significant opportunity to create a leverage plan for all stakeholders in Egypt. LDN target setting is a country-led process, led by the government, and spearheaded by the UNCCD National Focal Point, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation. The process is supported by the LDN Target Setting Programme team from the Global Mechanism and the UNCCD secretariat.

To develop a national LDN leverage plan, it is essential to assess the LDN TS leverage opportunities, considering the most crucial priorities that are related to improving the productivity of around 3 million feddan affected by soil salinity and alkalinity as a top priority, followed by enhancing soil fertility and mitigating the effects of soil erosion by wind and sedimentation of desert sands on the fringes of the Nile valley and delta.

Promoting the sustainable use of land resources requires the active involvement of various sectors and stakeholders in the LDN TSP leverage plan: direct stakeholders such as land users, private service providers, and governmental agencies at national and sub-national level, national and international research institutes, civil society organizations (CSOs), and development partners to provide financial and technical support to stakeholders.

## 8. Knowledge Management

**Outline the Knowledge management approach for the Project, including, if any, plans for the Project to learn from other relevant Projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.**

As in previous phases, each SGP grant project is designed to produce three things: global environmental and local sustainable development benefits (impacts); organizational capacities (technical, analytical, etc.) from learning by doing; and knowledge from evaluation of the innovation experience.

At the broader landscape level, the SGP Egypt Country Programme is producing case studies of the landscape planning and management experience. These case studies highlight the processes of stakeholder participation, as well as the progress toward the targets selected during landscape planning. The results of these studies will be published and disseminated throughout landscapes through print and digital media and SGP's institutional partners, NGOs, SGP-supported CSO networks, universities and others.

As in previous phases, potential "strategic projects", in line with SGP's global guidelines are being developed. In OP6, a strategic project was funded to mainstream biodiversity on the national level and support civil society engagement in CBD COP14 and afterwards. This strategic project has produced a case study which highlighted the participatory approach, as well as successful implementation towards achieving national targets. Strategic projects will continue bringing broader adoption of specific successful SGP-supported technologies, practices or systems to a tipping point in each landscape through engagement of potential financial partners, policy makers and their national/subnational advisors and institutions, as well as the private sector.

In the case of knowledge, each grant project has as a primary product a case study, and each grant a summary of lessons learned based on evaluation of implementation results and their contributions to GEB, local development objectives and landscape level outcomes, including the development of social capital. This knowledge is being systematized and codified for dissemination at the landscape level through policy dialogue platforms, community landscape management networks and multi-stakeholder partnerships, and knowledge fairs and other exchanges. The individual grant project case studies are anticipated at project design and based on a participatory methodology, so that the production of the case studies strengthens the community organization's capacities for reflection and action through learning-by-doing.

In OP6, a stand-alone Capacity Development project supported the production of case studies and disseminated them at national and local levels through different knowledge channels. It produced factsheets, newsletters, knowledge management and audio-visual materials.

Thus, SGP is building a knowledge management platform to facilitate links among communities, promote information sharing, and provide access to knowledge resources that are relevant to their individual projects. The knowledge obtained from project experiences and lessons learned will be socialized through SGP's well-established national network of stakeholders and SGP's global platform, and it will be used in upscaling successful initiatives. The increased capacity of community-level stakeholders to generate, access and use information and knowledge is expected to increase the sustainability of project activities beyond the life of the grant funding. Knowledge sharing and replication will help ensure that the impacts of the project are sustained and expanded, generating additional environmental benefits over the longer-term.

At the global level, the SGP innovation library will continue to be updated with knowledge products from the experience of the SGP Upgrading Country Program.

**Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And Gef Agency(ies)**

**A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Date</b>
Dr. Mohamed Salah	CEO, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT	3/1/2019

**ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates**

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place

