



GEF SGP 7th Operational Phase – Core (Part 2)

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10414

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

☐ CBIT

☐ NGI

Project Title

GEF SGP 7th Operational Phase – Core (Part 2)

Countries

Global

Agency(ies)

UNDP

Other Executing Partner(s)

United Nations Office for Projects and Services

Executing Partner Type

Others

GEF Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Taxonomy

International Waters, Focal Areas, Fisheries, Pollution, Plastics, SIDS : Small Island Dev States, Learning, Freshwater, River Basin, Coastal, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Influencing models, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Indigenous Peoples, Stakeholders, Non-Governmental Organization, Civil Society, Academia, Community Based Organization, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, SMEs, Capital providers, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, Local Communities, Beneficiaries, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Consultation, Participation, Information Dissemination, Climate Change, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Climate Change Mitigation, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Urban Systems and Transport, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Nationally Determined Contribution, Climate Change Adaptation, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Climate resilience, Forest, Drylands, Biodiversity, Mainstreaming, Tourism, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Productive Landscapes, Productive Seascapes, Biomes, Lakes, Tropical Dry Forests, Desert, Sea Grasses, Rivers, Mangroves, Temperate Forests, Grasslands, Tropical Rain Forests, Wetlands, Coral Reefs, Species, Animal Genetic Resources, Plant Genetic Resources, Threatened Species, Crop Wild Relatives, Wildlife for Sustainable Development, Chemicals and Waste, Sound Management of chemicals and waste, Waste Management, Hazardous Waste Management, Industrial Waste, eWaste, Ozone, Persistent Organic Pollutants, Pesticides, Best Available Technology / Best Environmental Practices, Mercury, Artisanal and Scale Gold Mining, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Forest, Sustainable Pasture Management, Sustainable Livelihoods, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security, Mangrove, Seagrasses, Communications, Awareness Raising, Behavior change, Public Campaigns, Education, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Gender results areas, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Participation and leadership, Access and control over natural resources, Access to benefits and services, Capacity Development, Integrated Programs, Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa, Smallholder Farming, Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration, Commodity Supply Chains, Smallholder Farmers, Sustainable Cities, Urban Biodiversity, Energy efficiency, Green space, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, Adaptive management, Indicators to measure change, Innovation, Targeted Research, Marine Protected Area, Strategic Action Plan Implementation, Aquaculture, Invasive Alien Species, Supplementary Protocol to the CBD, Access to Genetic Resources Benefit Sharing, Financial and Accounting, Payment for Ecosystem Services, Food Value Chains, Integrated Landscapes, Knowledge Generation

Rio Markers**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 1

Duration

5/5/2020

WbgGefportal

48 In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

2,461,538

Submission Date

4/17/2020

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
SGP	GET	61,538,462	64,000,000
Total Project Cost (\$)		61,538,462	64,000,000

B. Indicative Project description summary

Project Objective

To promote and support innovative and scalable initiatives, and foster multi stakeholder partnerships at the local level to tackle global environmental issues in priority landscapes and seascapes

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species	Technical Assistance	Community-based models and approaches promoted for conservation and sustainable use of threatened ecosystems and species in priority landscapes and seascapes.	<p>Community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, including improved management measures and strengthened governance of Indigenous Community-conserved areas (ICCAs) promoted covering at least 1.2 million ha of landscapes/seascapes</p> <p>At least two community-based protected area/conserved area designations and/or networks strengthened in each country</p> <p>Community-led actions to enhance protection of threatened species including enhancing transboundary conservation</p>	GET	20,957,041	21,880,000

Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security	Technical Assistance	Community-based climate resilient agriculture, sustainable land management, fisheries and food practices in production landscapes and seascapes that improve productivity and improve supply chain tested and scaled up	<p>At least 240,000 ha of production landscapes and seascapes management, including restored degraded areas, applying climate-smart agriculture, sustainable land management, fisheries and food practices for improved productivity, food security, and livelihoods of smallholder farmers and supports achievement of national LDN targets.</p> <p>A suite of integrated management practices, including community innovation and traditional knowledge related to natural resource management, are promoted in agriculture, rangeland, and fisheries and improves food security.</p> <p>Viable linkages and partnerships between communities and private sector (esp. SMEs) established in at least 25 countries for sustainable and improved food production practices (such as diversification and sustainable intensification) and supply chain management</p>	GET	10,234,834	10,685,000
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Low-carbon energy access co-benefits	Technical Assistance	Low carbon, viable and appropriate technologies and approaches demonstrated and scaled up in partnership with private sector and government that improves community energy access, in line with larger frameworks such as SDGs and NDCs	<p>Increased total installed renewable energy capacity (at least 150 KW) from innovative and appropriate technologies</p> <p>At least 25 bottom-up, low-cost appropriate innovative low carbon energy solutions demonstrated and deployed leading to multiple benefits including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - at least 7,500 ha of forest and non-forest lands restored and enhanced carbon stocks - at least 7,500 households achieving energy access 	GET	10,234,834	10,685,000
Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management	Technical Assistance	Innovative community-based tools and approaches demonstrated, deployed and transferred, with support from sound chemicals and waste management platforms.	<p>At least 150 tons of POP and mercury contained materials and products removed/disposed in an environmentally friendly way</p> <p>At least 2 local to global coalitions and networks strengthened</p> <p>Awareness and outreach strategy for sound chemicals, waste management and mercury implemented in at least 25 SGP countries.</p>	GET	5,848,477	6,106,000

Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions	Technical Assistance	Appropriate integrated community-oriented sustainable urban solutions promoted in partnership with private sector and government	<p>Improved capacities to promote community-driven, socially inclusive and integrated solutions to address low-emission and resilient urban development in at least 10 countries</p> <p>At least 10 innovative socially-inclusive urban solutions/ approaches (including waste and chemical management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity) demonstrated</p> <p>Viable public-private partnership approach for low carbon energy access for marginalized urban communities is implemented (no of countries to be determined)</p>	GET	1,462,119	1,526,000
CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms	Technical Assistance	Community voices and participation are promoted and enhanced in global and national policy, strategy development related to global environment and sustainable development issues		GET	1,457,551	1,522,000

At least 25 national level targeted CSO-government-private sector dialogues convened to support and bring community voices into policy, strategy, and planning development in relation to key multilateral environmental agreements and sustainable development goals.

At least 4 global level CSO-government-private sector and other stakeholder dialogue facilitated informing global policy discourse on key global environment issues

At least 10 CSO-government private sector/business forum facilitated in SGP countries to mobilize and promote public-private partnership on key global environmental issues

Promoting social inclusion	Technical Assistance	Social inclusion, particularly empowerment of women, indigenous peoples, youth and people with disabilities, is mainstreamed and enhanced in SGP initiatives on environment and livelihood improvement	GET	2,274,641	2,375,000
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At least 30% of SGP projects are led by women and/or institute concrete mechanisms for increased participation of women in decision-making

Women and girls constitute more than 50% of beneficiaries of all SGP projects

At least 20% of relevant SGP country programs globally include targeted support for Indigenous Peoples.

At least 35% of SGP country programs demonstrate appropriate models of engaging youth and persons with disabilities.

Guidelines and best practices generated from SGP projects on engagement with women, indigenous peoples, youth and persons with disabilities are widely shared

Monitoring & evaluation and Knowledge management	Technical Assistance	<p>A common, robust M&E strategy is developed and implemented in all countries at all levels (project, country and global)</p> <p>Networking and knowledge sharing leverage local actions for global change to safeguard global environment</p>	<p>Project implementation is monitored, issues and challenges identified and documented, and lessons learnt shared widely and systematically integrated into design of new projects with active participation of CSOs and local communities.</p> <p>Updated SGP database developed and maintained for effective collection, archive and management of M&E data and information/knowledge sharing.</p> <p>Citizen-based knowledge platform (digital library of community innovations) maintained and actively utilized by SGP stakeholders</p> <p>Global and regional knowledge transfer and replication of appropriate technology, tool, and approach on global environmental issues through at least 15 South-South community innovation exchanges.</p>	GET	3,474,559	3,627,000
Sub Total (\$)					55,944,056	58,406,000
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
					GET	5,594,406
						5,594,000

	Sub Total(\$)	5,594,406	5,594,000
	Total Project Cost(\$)	61,538,462	64,000,000

Please provide justification
PMC is agreed at 10% for SGP

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(\$)
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	1,000,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	Investment mobilized	3,000,000
Donor Agency	Australia, Germany, Norway	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	3,000,000
Donor Agency	Australia, Germany, Norway	Grant	Investment mobilized	3,000,000
Government	Various	Grant	Investment mobilized	8,000,000
CSO	TBD	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	20,000,000
Private Sector	e.g. Microsoft	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,000,000
Beneficiaries	Grantees and beneficiaries	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	23,000,000
Total Project Cost(\$)				64,000,000

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

As indicated above, these include bilateral donors such as Australia, Germany and Norway, foundations such as the MAVA foundation and others like Satoyama Initiative and Lions Share Fund. In addition, initial exploratory discussions are already on-going with Microsoft for possible partnership. Details of all co-financing including investment mobilized will be provided at the time of the CEO endorsement.

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	Global	Multi Focal Area	Small Grant Program	61,538,462	2,461,538	64,000,000
Total GEF Resources(\$)					61,538,462	2,461,538	64,000,000

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)
PPG Required



PPG Amount (\$)				PPG Agency Fee (\$)			
Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
Total Project Costs(\$)					0	0	0


Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

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

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

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

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0						

Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

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

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
7500.00	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)
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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)
7,500.00			

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)
1240000.00	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)
1,100,000.00			

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)
140,000.00			

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 5 Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
50,000.00			

Indicator 5.1 Number of fisheries that meet national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations

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

Type/name of the third-party certification

Indicator 5.2 Number of Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) with reduced pollutions and hypoxia

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (achieved at MTR)	Number (achieved at TE)

0	0	0	0
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LME at PIF

LME at CEO Endorsement

LME at MTR

LME at TE

Indicator 5.3 Amount of Marine Litter Avoided

Metric Tons (expected at
PIF)

Metric Tons (expected at CEO Endorsement)

Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)

Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

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Indicator 9 Reduction, disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination and avoidance of chemicals of global concern and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products (metric tons of toxic chemicals reduced)

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)

Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)

Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)

Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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Indicator 9.1 Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) removed or disposed (POPs type)

POPs type	Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 9.2 Quantity of mercury reduced (metric tons)

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)

Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)

Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)

Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

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Indicator 9.3 Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) Reduced/Phased out (metric tons)

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)

Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)

Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)

Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

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Indicator 9.4 Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control chemicals and waste (Use this sub-indicator in addition to one of the sub-indicators 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 if applicable)

Number (Expected at PIF)

Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)

Number (Achieved at MTR)

Number (Achieved at TE)

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Indicator 9.5 Number of low-chemical/non-chemical systems implemented, particularly in food production, manufacturing and cities (Use this sub-indicator in addition to one of the sub-indicators 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 if applicable)

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 9.6 Quantity of POPs/Mercury containing materials and products directly avoided

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
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150.00

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	100,000			
Male	100,000			
Total	200000	0	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

Indicator 4-Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)-This includes the following: (i) community-based biodiversity friendly practices and improved governance of ICCAs (1,100,000) conservation; area under improved SLM (140,000 ha). Indicator 6 - Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO₂e) -SGP portfolio will apply low carbon technologies to around 7500 households and increase installed total renewable energy (RE) capacity of 300 KW from around 25 technologies that will be demonstrated. SGP will demonstrate around 25 innovative integrated urban energy solutions. GHG benefits will be estimated and reported during annual reporting. The SGP will apply its current methodology in tracking results under this target. However, during GEF-7, a pilot exercise will be carried out to estimate GHG emission mitigated from the SGP interventions will be estimated using a methodology developed by an expert and jointly with the GEF. Indicator 9 -Reduction, disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination and avoidance of chemicals of global concern and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products (metric tons of toxic chemicals reduced)-a total of 150 tons of POP containing products/materials will be removed or disposed. Actual reduction in specific chemicals will be estimated during annual reporting. The SGP is unable to apply methodology to report on individual POPs. Estimate is POPs constrained waste materials.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1.1 *Global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be address*

Global environmental problems and root causes: The most serious environmental problems of the twenty-first century have the potential to alter the course of life on this planet. Global warming, biodiversity decline, depletion of natural resources, problems with toxic waste, water and air pollution, acid rain, and shrinking energy supplies are serious challenges that may threaten our future if we do not face up to them. Take for example biodiversity decline. Biodiversity has continued to decline globally. The global rate of species extinction is escalating and is now estimated to be up to 1000 times the natural rate. Evidence is growing that critical ecosystem services are under great pressure globally. According to one estimate, approximately one quarter of the potential net primary production has been converted by humans, either through direct cropping, land-use-induced productivity changes, or human-induced fires. Such is the indication of the substantial impact of humans on natural ecosystems. National and international attention has focused on the political imperative to convert international target into hard economic decisions, concerted implementation, and concrete national actions, and despite some encouraging achievements these came up short of halting the biodiversity decline. This is partly because where conservation targets have been established, lack of appreciation of the effective contribution of customary sustainable management of natural resources have often-times resulted in top-down approaches that often exclude local actors. In many countries, policies and programmes still do not adequately support or promote indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) traditional knowledge on natural resource management and the conservation of biodiversity. In the worst cases, conservation effort may even negatively affect IPLCs through exclusionary approaches, leading to human rights violations, with detrimental results to biodiversity and the long-term viability and health of ecosystems.

Moreover, new evidence provided in a recent report^[1] from the Rights and Resources Initiative, Woods Hole Research Center, World Resources Institute (WRI) and Environmental Defense Fund shows that Indigenous Peoples and local communities worldwide manage massive amounts of carbon in the trees and soil of their forests—at least 293,061 million metric tons. That's 17 percent of the total carbon stored in the world's forestlands, which if released at once, would equal 33 times the total global energy emissions of 2017. Increased policy action such as the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Targets mean a stronger recognition of the role of IPLCs in voluntarily conserving biodiversity. CBD Aichi Target 11 now includes a reference to “other effective area-based conservation measures” (OECMs) including Indigenous Community Conservation Areas (ICCAs) and private protected areas, as central to expanding the global coverage of protected areas (PAs) from 12% to 17%. Scientific consensus is also emerging that government-managed protected areas will not avert the biodiversity crisis.

The situation is similar with regards to food production and land degradation. While there may be sufficient potential for food production in the world, there will still be problems of food security at the household or national level. In urban areas, food insecurity usually reflects low incomes, but in poor rural areas it is often inseparable from problems affecting food production. The focus of sustainable land and forest management focal areas should be geared towards

enhancing climate smart innovative agroecology practices and up holding agroecology principles. These principles will be realized through appropriate climate-sensitive agriculture and improved agroecosystem service provision to achieve short-and-long-term agricultural development priorities at local level. These approaches will help to enhance community and ecosystem resilience and to integrate other land-based development priorities in the production landscapes.

Similarly, increased risks of exposure to toxic and hazardous chemicals and wastes predominantly affect the poor, who routinely face such risks because of their occupation, poor living standards and lack of knowledge about the detrimental impacts of exposure to these chemicals and wastes. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), acute pesticide poisoning affects three million people and account for 20,000 unintentional deaths each year. In many communities and nations, those living in poverty, women and children continue to be disproportionately exposed to pesticides, making this an issue of fairness and environmental justice. Between 2005 and 2020, the accumulated cost of illness and injury linked to pesticides in small scale farming in sub-Saharan Africa alone could reach USD \$90 billion. According to some assessments[2], the total anthropogenic emissions of mercury to the atmosphere in 2010 are estimated at 1960 tonnes. Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) and coal burning are the largest sources of anthropogenic mercury emissions to air, followed by the production of ferrous and non-ferrous metals, and cement production. Annual emissions from ASGM are estimated at 727 tonnes, making this the largest sector accounting for more than 35% of total anthropogenic emissions. E-waste is the fastest growing waste stream. In the United States, an estimated 70% of heavy metals in landfills come from discarded electronics. This negative trend is spreading to the rest of the world, including developing countries. Another study by UNEP, "Recycling - from E-Waste to Resources," estimated that the amount of e-waste being produced - including mobile phones and computers - could rise by as much as 500 percent over the next decade in some countries, such as India.

Climate change remains a defining issue of our time, despite recent significant progress in development of new low carbon technology and growing momentum for climate action. The concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere continues to rise and the impacts are increasingly felt around the globe with climate-related disasters responsible for thousands of deaths and \$320 billion dollars in losses during the last year[3]. The poor and vulnerable populations are disproportionally affected with economic and security risks amplifying and runaway change beyond the adaptive ability of human societies and natural ecosystems is a real possibility. The historic Paris Agreement has put in place a framework defining countries' climate action for the next few decades, setting up a mechanism for countries to put forward and implement Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) outlining their commitments. The next 2-3 years are crucial for successful implementation of the agreement, as the NDCs are required to be updated every 5 years and the challenge now is to raise the ambition and accelerate the transition to low -carbon resilient economy. The time to stop catastrophic climate change is running out and many investment decisions taken today will shape the future for decades.

In this regard, the energy sector, producing two thirds of global emissions, presents a large scope for cost effective emissions reductions. Besides, energy access is a crucial area for investment, as expanded access to electricity and clean cooking improves productivity, reduces poverty and improves health with the largest benefits for women. According to the New Climate Economy report from the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate[4], 1 billion people do not have access to electricity, and over 2.9 billion people do not have access to clean cooking. By 2030, planned policies are expected to deliver clean energy to millions, but population growth is expected to outpace progress, leaving 674 million people lacking electricity access and more than 2 billion people

without clean cooking. The report calls for increased government support for and investment in decentralized electricity and clean cooking as a crucial step to accelerate climate action and transition to new low-carbon economy. Investing in local solutions and mobilization of civil society is also key for raising the ambition of NDCs, galvanizing support and ensuring their implementation.

Global environmental problems are inter-connected and require an integrated approach: It is now increasingly recognized that a powerful and complex web of interactions is contributing to unprecedented global trends in environmental degradation. These forces include rapid globalization and urbanization, pervasive poverty, unsustainable consumption patterns and population growth. Often serving to compound the effects and intensity of the environmental problems, global environmental challenges require concerted responses on the part of the international community. In an influential paper[5], Nakicenovic, N et. al., (2016) discuss how “in a globalized world, effects of individual actions and decisions are leading to emergent behavior at the Earth system scale, the “Anthropocene Effect[6]” behavior that cannot be predicted from analysis of individual parts”. Given the scale of industrial impacts, the authors suggest that if previously effective common resource management approaches and regimes could be re-applied to govern and steward the “global commons”, significant benefits and advances could be felt. Due to the unprecedented impacts we are having on our planet’s life support system, they note that human beings must be part of the solution arguing “that humanity must be the steward of the planet’s natural resources – the ecosystems, biomes and processes that regulate the stability and resilience of the Earth system, or what is termed as the global commons”.

Moreover, it is becoming increasingly evident that the major environmental problems – biodiversity, land degradation, climate change, energy, issues with food security – cannot be understood or addressed in isolation. They are systemic problems, which means that they are all interconnected and interdependent. Many environmental thinkers describe this interconnected and interdependent nature of the global environmental challenges. For instance, Lester Brown[7], of the World Policy Institute, posits that the vicious circle of demographic pressure and poverty leads to the depletion of resources – falling water tables, shrinking forests, collapsing fisheries, eroding soils, and so on – and how this resource depletion, exacerbated by climate change, produces failing states whose governments can no longer provide security for their citizens, some of whom may even turn to terrorism in sheer desperation. Brown notes that to address global environmental challenges, requires “a radical shift in our perceptions, our thinking, our values” – to one that considers a systemic, interconnected, and integrated approach. Moreover, within a globalized world, such an interconnected and interdependent approach is also critical from a policy perspective. Well-written policies made in one country cannot achieve success in combating threats to the global commons without concerted actions in tandem with other governments, civil society actors and the private sector.

Further, as described in a recent guidance document[8] issued by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of the GEF, “a lack of integration is a major detriment to achieving sustainability. For example, a review of progress in achieving global environmental goals, including those Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) supported by the GEF, underscored fragmentation as a major cause of slow progress. The review emphasized the need for integration between (i) types of problems and identified solutions; (ii) the responsibilities and resources available to implementing institutions; and (iii) in governance structures. Among others, the STAP document recommended that the GEF project design process “engage stakeholders, including local communities, civil society networks, industry associations or other key private sector actors as appropriate (not just government officials) from project inception and from design through completion”. This is where the SGP can play an important role by piloting such integrative approaches including building on its decades of experience in participatory design and implementation and lesson-sharing.

This need for an integrated and inclusive approach is also reflected in the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs that were unanimously adopted in September 2015 marked a turning point in the target-setting of the United Nations for human development. The 17 SDGs provide a time-bound and comprehensive narrative for achieving the desired future and normative human development goals – a world free from hunger, injustice and absolute poverty, a world with universal education, health and employment with inclusive economic growth, based on transparency, dignity and equity, including an explicit call for the protection of the Earth system. The SDGs acknowledge that the challenges faced across the 17 goals are interrelated and interconnected and should be achieved in such a way as to maximize synergies and minimize tradeoffs. Achieving one SDG will very often contribute to achieving others. For example, achieving SDG 7, the energy goal, can support goals related to water, health and climate. Moreover, the SDGs call for inclusive development, including vulnerable and marginalized communities such as women, indigenous peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities, under the approach on “leaving no one behind.”

GEF 7 strategy provides for this integrated approach: As described, it is increasingly recognized that “safeguarding the health of the global environment requires both responding to pressures and an expanding focus on addressing the drivers of environmental degradation”[9]. This approach calls for greater integration across sectors and promotion of transformational change in key economic systems that continue to erode the health of the global environment. Accordingly, to safeguard the health of the global commons, the GEF has adopted a strategy to shift the focus of its operations to tackling the drivers of environmental degradation, rather than just its effects, to causes rather than consequences. This recognizes that: (a) environmental drivers must be tackled in a more integrated and multi-sectoral manner, (b) GEF investments be made coherent with sustainable development objectives, and (c) that the GEF should continue to be catalytic and innovative while actively seeking to effect permanent and transformational change.

The GEF-7 Programming directions are thus seeking for maximum impact across its focal areas through integrated programming under a multi-sectoral approach, including government, private sector, and civil society organization. The GEF2020 strategy argues that achieving the objectives of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) requires the GEF to support country priorities that are ultimately aimed at tackling the drivers of environmental degradation in an integrated fashion. For this reason, the focal areas, which remain the central organizing feature in the GEF-7 Programming Directions Paper, provide countries with the opportunity to participate in selected “Impact Programs” focusing on (i) Food systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR); (ii) Sustainable Cities; and (iii) Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). The Impact Programs are designed to help countries pursue holistic and integrated approaches for transformational change in these key systems in line with countries’ national development priorities. The Impact Programs hold the potential to enhance synergies and integration across GEF focal areas, as illustrated in table 1 below. Impact programs will also allow the GEF to better crowd-in other stakeholders, including the private sector, enhance knowledge sharing and learning, and ensure a more effective use of GEF resources. They will help ensure that each of the GEF’s focal areas provides maximum contribution to the goals of their respective conventions as described in the GEF focal areas.

The Community-led solutions – role of SGP to address global environmental issues: The SGP is a proven GEF programme that was set up to support community-based initiatives led by the civil society organizations and local initiatives dealing with the environment and development issues of global relevance. Many evaluations of the programme including the 2015 Joint Evaluation conducted by the UNDP and GEF Independent Evaluation Offices (IEO) indicates that the “SGP grants continue to support projects that have high levels of success in securing global environmental benefits in both mature and newer program countries”. Thus, the SGP is successfully achieving its aim as described in the GEF-7 Programming Directions to enable “communities as solution providers and key partners to address the drivers of global environmental degradation and engine for systemic change”. Based on the IEO Evaluation,

lesson learned and inputs from stakeholder consultations, including with government, Convention focal points, and the private sector, under GEF-7 the SGP will place greater focus on promoting strategic and results-based investments at the local level in alignment with the GEF's proposed focal area investments and Impact Programs. SGP financed projects will have greater focus in promoting and supporting innovative and strategic initiatives at the local level to address global environment issues in priority landscapes and seascapes. It will also support projects that would serve as "incubators" of innovation, with the potential for broader replication of successful approaches through larger projects supported by the GEF and/or other partners. SGP grantees and partners will also act as an effective and important social constituency to mobilize bottom up, civil society movements for systemic change, and in promoting environmentally sound sustainable development at the national, regional, and global levels. Several barriers however impede the above long-term solution proposed for the SGP.

Barrier 1: *Limited diffusion of effective models related to scalable community-based management and governance for the conservation of biodiversity* constrain the realization of the full potential of the role of local communities including indigenous peoples in the conservation and sustainable use of threatened ecosystems and species. In many rural areas of the world, local communities possess vast knowledge of the local species and ecosystems and have been effective conservation stewards of biodiversity. However, their role has been often undermined in national policies and actions related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Lack of knowledge and incentive at the community level on "biodiversity friendly" methods of production in agriculture, forestry and fisheries is another important barrier. This is often exacerbated by the limited experience that government agencies and related stakeholders (often also local communities) have in incorporating biodiversity conservation and sustainable use objectives into land and resource use practices. Moreover, local level strategies for community based natural resource management often stop at measures that promote participation in specific activities such as providing labour for agriculture and plantations, and do not meaningfully involve communities as partners in the effective governance of ecosystems and species with clarified roles and responsibilities. There is a need to recognize that many communities and indigenous peoples as solution providers that have been managing and conservation key biodiversity areas.

Barrier 2: *Community level capacities for adopting sustainable agriculture, fisheries and food security strategies and practices are limited.* While the focus on land degradation focal area is geared towards enhancing climate smart innovative agroecology practices and up holding agroecology principles as well as adopting sustainable land management practices, at the local level, this is often constrained by limited capacities and incentives to adopt them. Local communities lack exposure to appropriate sustainable land management (SLM) technologies and have limited knowledge and access to climate smart innovative agriculture practices. In order that strategies and approaches will ensure enhancement of community and ecosystem resilience, design and implementation of climate smart agriculture, fisheries and food strategies should be accompanied by appropriate capacity building measures including farmer training, extension messaging (i.e. through master farmers for horizontal knowledge exchange) and targeted support to farmers to adopt practices which green the production and supply chains of key local commodities. In many part of the world, small-scale artisanal farmers, pastoralists and fisher-folk continue to lack adequate market knowledge and have limited exposure to key marketing strategies such as certification, and ecolabeling.

Barrier 3: *Community-level limitations restrict adoption of low carbon technologies and improved land-use and forestry practices that reduce GHG emissions.* Significant emissions savings from adoption of low carbon technologies at the community level are currently not implemented due to several community level constraints. First, many communities are not aware of low carbon technologies and land-use practices and associated health, economic, nutritional and environmental co-benefits. Second, even when the technologies are available at the market, specific solutions for use in local contexts are not yet available.

As these technologies are new, innovative adaptations are needed to tailor them to productive needs even in advanced countries, much more so in developing countries. Another important barrier is severely limited know-how of various low carbon technology options and even when such technologies are distributed, their use is limited as communities lack the knowledge and ability to operate and maintain them. Local stakeholders generally are also not able to afford the upfront costs related to purchase of even low-cost technologies particularly due to lack of public-private partnership model that could facilitate and overcome such issues. Also adopting climate friendly land use and forestry practices requires learning and initial investment of time and resources. Further investment is needed in developing local expertise as well as in supporting entrepreneurs involved in the energy service business to ensure affordability and sustainability.

Barrier 4: *Inadequate experience with dealing with sound management of chemicals and waste:* Many communities are at the forefront of threats related to chemicals and waste as users of consumers. However, they lack the necessary knowledge of the harmful effects of such chemicals and, even when aware, using or consuming such harmful chemicals remains their only option either due to availability and cost, or because their livelihoods depend on such industries. Further, many countries, particularly SIDS and LDCs still lack necessary legislation and management system to reduce and control the use of harmful chemicals and wastes. There is a need to provide target support at the community level for safe disposal of chemicals and waste including those of global concern including mercury and plastic wastes. There is also a need to engage with local academic institutions and other relevant actors to develop and promote practical, viable and acceptable waste and chemicals management strategies, while awareness raising on harmful chemicals and waste should be implemented in tandem. Targeted support for specific chemicals and sectors such as artisanal and small-scale gold mining to reduce the use of mercury is necessary.

Barrier 5: *Limited or absence of inclusive community-oriented urban solutions:* Urbanization is a defining trend all over the world and especially in developing regions of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Some estimates point that by 2030, over sixty percent of the global population will be urban residents. It is widely accepted that cities can be hotspots of extreme deprivation and environmental degradation especially where the bulk of poor will be located with potentially serious impacts from environmental hazards. This calls for innovative partnerships for sustainable urban solutions such as provision of affordable renewable energy, water supply and waste management services that will benefit the urban poor while delivering on the global environmental outcomes. However urban poor and vulnerable communities currently do not have the capacities themselves to adopt such solutions while municipalities and city governments may not be in the position to fully integrate different needs of the population particularly women and girls, youth and persons with disability in their plans due to financial and other constraints. There is a need for public-private partnership promoted by civil society and local communities to provide an integrated package of sustainable urban solutions for energy, waste management and other environmental services. Support is also needed to open space for CSOs for engagement and participation in local decision-making and inform better urban governance and accountability related to urban environmental issues.

Barrier 6: *There is limited availability of community-oriented tools, mechanisms and platforms that are inclusive and facilitate local communities to meaningfully participate and provide inputs to national / global environmental and development policy making.* While the capacity of CSOs and local communities on policy advocacy has improved over the years,, there is still a great need to demonstrate inclusive community-oriented networking and support systems, that can not only connect community groups with each other but can also link up communities with the government and private sector for policy and programme dialogues related to environment and sustainable development both at the national and global levels. Barriers remains particularly for vulnerable population, including women and girls, indigenous peoples, youth and persons with disabilities to effectively participate, voice their concerns, and influence

policy decisions that affect their lives. development. Enabling environment needs to be created to expand community-based action at scale through positive national policy dialogue and development planning that brings in the different needs, knowledge, and opportunity of community and CSO stakeholders at large.

1.1 *The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects,*

Civil society organizations and local communities continue to play an under-utilized and under-valued role in addressing global environmental and sustainable development issues in most parts of the world. CSOs and CBOs can play a variety of critical roles and can be extremely effective agents for the necessary transformative change in society and flip the current trajectory on global environmental crisis by: (i) catalyzing innovation, testing new approaches, and responding to emerging challenges and opportunities bringing global experience and good practice to local contexts; (ii) transferring innovative and traditional knowledge and skills and knowledge to government agencies and the private sector, leading to better policy and business practices; (iii) catalyzing innovation, testing new approaches and responding to emerging challenges and opportunities; (iv) brokering partnerships among traditional and non-traditional actors; and (iv) ensuring that projects and programs are beneficial to local people, such as by protecting vital ecosystem services and providing sustainable livelihood options.

The SGP, as a GEF corporate program is the primary mechanism through which the GEF supports community level environmental actions through CBOs and CSOs. It remains one of the GEF's most successful flagship initiatives and enjoys strong and broad support from its stakeholders. The SGP, though a decentralized national level delivery mechanism has implemented more than 22,000 projects in 125 countries, with a total grant size of over \$600 million. During the past 25 years, participating countries to the SGP has steadily increased from the initial 35 countries to the current 125 countries. Most of the countries that SGP serves (77 in total), are Least Developing Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Development States (SIDS), including several which are in post-conflict or crisis situations. The SGP funds small grants up to maximum of \$50,000, with an average grant amount of approximately \$25,000. A strategic project window has also been added for grantmaking up to a maximum of \$150,000 to allow for scaling up and to support initiatives that cover many communities, either within in a critical landscape or seascape, or towards a thematic priority. Small grants are targeted primarily towards local communities and civil society organizations, the poor and vulnerable, to access appropriate level of funding as they develop their capacity, take measured risks in testing new methods and technologies, and to innovate at the local level. Each SGP country programme has a multi-sectoral National Steering Committee (NSC) which assures a country-driven approach to SGP implementation and allows civil society leadership and capacity development in the management of a country programme.

The [2015 Joint Evaluation by the GEF and UNDP's IEOs](#) concluded that the SGP continues to play a key role in promoting the GEF's objectives. It specifically noted that SGP continues to support projects that are relevant, effective and efficient in achieving global environmental benefits, while addressing issues of livelihoods, poverty, gender equality and women's empowerment. The evaluation also reported evidence of strong replication, scaling-up, sustainability, and mainstreaming of the Programme activities. The [Sixth Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF](#) (OPS6) noted long-term support through SGP has enabled small-scale interventions to be broadly adopted. It recognizes SGP's role in providing GEF presence and visibility at the community level, and further concludes that SGP delivers grants that address local environmental concerns of global relevance at the national or subnational level, and links communities to long-term

environmental management through income-generating activities. The evaluation mentions that one of the main characteristics differentiating the SGP from other GEF programs is its ability to function as a demand-based type of community support, thereby engendering community/country ownership. The SGP has also been cited as an effective channel to share information and raising awareness among stakeholders at the local level in several countries. The Evaluation of GEF Engagement with Indigenous Peoples (IPs) 2017, further specifies SGP's value addition on social inclusion, noting that the SGP is the primary modality for the GEF's engagement with indigenous peoples within the GEF partnership.

The SGP plays an important role in meeting the objectives of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), for which the GEF serves as financial mechanism. For example, the MEAs emphasize the need for social inclusion and broader participation, including involvement of civil society organization, indigenous peoples, and local communities. The SGP has been effectively implementing socially inclusive, integrated approaches that promote multi-sectoral solutions to environmental challenges across the MEAs. The Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has provided specific guidance to the SGP to further strengthen and expand its support to local communities in the developing countries, including Least Developing Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Development States (SIDS). In each participating country, the SGP is facilitating close linkages and synergies with MEA related policies and strategies such as National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), National Action Plan (NAP), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), and others, all of which emphasize the importance of engaging wider stakeholders, including CSOs, IPs, and gender, to achieve the objectives. Finally, it may be noted that the GEF 7 period coincides with the key phase in implementing the Paris Agreement that requires multi-stakeholder efforts, including civil society and communities, in meeting its goal. On the chemicals and wastes, the Stockholm and the Minamata Conventions are also increasingly recognizing the role of civil society in addressing their challenges and have been closely working with the SGP to reach out to the local and community level. The Programme's strategic importance and relevance is further recognized, particularly with the adaption of the Sustainable Development Goals and recognition for a socially inclusive sustainable development.

Despite efforts made by other related initiatives, local CSO and community involvement in global environment and sustainable development actions could continue to be limited and slow in engagement without the facilitative role of GEF SGP. Given the accelerating global environmental threats, inclusive environmental governance at all level is crucial. Good environmental governance considers the role of all sectors and actors including that of the local CSOs and communities, so that effective cooperation is achieved towards a sustainable future. As recommended by the STAP guidance on integration (2018), for integrated projects to be successful, all sectors and actors including local communities, civil society networks, industry associations or other key private sector actors as appropriate should be engaged. SGP's role to enhance the capacity of local CSOs and communities to engage in such process and influence the design of interventions to address global environmental challenges gains prominence. However, without such support, contributions from the CSOs and CBOs, particularly by vulnerable and marginalized communities will remain limited. Furthermore, there is also needing to consolidate assets of projects that supported such local CSO and communities' capacity building for scaling up, mainstreaming and replication. The many community-based and CSO-led projects that SGP has supported, as well as its development as a funding modality that are highly regarded by both CSOs and government in participating countries, can be considered as built-up assets that can serve as effective foundation for expanded work in GEF-7.

Portfolio overview: Since its inception in 1992, the SGP has implemented over 22,000 projects in total 133 countries (some SGP country programme have closed as they graduated from being an eligible country of the GEF), providing grants totaling USD 611.6 million in global and upgraded country programmes. During GEF-6, total of 3435 new projects were approved and 4,187 projects have been completed. With regards to focal area distribution during GEF-6,

biodiversity focal area remained as the largest portfolio (39%), followed by climate change mitigation (23%), land degradation (21%), capacity development (6%), chemicals and wastes (3%), international waters (3%), and climate change adaptation (4% - funded by non-GEF resource). Below illustrates some of the key aggregated results and achievements through the SGP projects that were completed during the GEF-6 period (July 2014-June 2018):

- Biodiversity: Positively influenced management of 1,782 protected areas, including Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs), covering approximately 33 million hectares.
- Climate Change Mitigation: Application of low-carbon technologies, with 41 percent of the portfolio concentrated on renewable energy, 28 percent on energy efficiency solutions, and 26 percent on conservation and the enhancement of carbon stocks. Projects have supported 54,636 households in their efforts to achieve energy access co-benefits, including increased income, health benefits and improved environmental services.
- Land Degradation: 1.6 million hectares of land were brought under improved management practices, including forests, agricultural land, and water courses. 992,370 community members were able to improve agricultural land and forest management practices; and 2,008 farmer organizations and networks disseminated enhanced climate smart agro-ecological practices.
- International Waters: 103,186 hectares of marine and coastal areas and fishing grounds brought under sustainable management.
- Chemicals and Waste Management: 159 tons of pesticides appropriately disposed of, and 55,098 tons of solid waste avoided from open burning.
- Capacity Development: The SGP has strengthened the capacities of 3,490 CSOs and 2,793 CBOs, comprising over 95,174 people, to address multiple challenges across all the relevant MEAs.

Grantmaker Plus: Results

Under GEF-6, the SGP employed a strategy to expand its role beyond that of grantmaking. Grantmaker Plus enhances the overall effectiveness of the GEF-6 portfolio by engaging in knowledge platforms, policy dialogues, and social inclusion. During the GEF-6 period, the introduction of the Grantmaker Plus initiative has yielded the following key results:

- Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Development: SGP supported 2,547 peer-to-peer exchanges; 3,754 training sessions on varied themes relating to global environment and project management. During this period, as an annual average -78% of SGP country programmes worked on strengthening grantee networks; 74% of SGP country programmes connected grantees with enabling NGOs; and 72% of SGP country programmes connected grantees with government extension services. In addition, SGP supported the knowledge flow and technology transfer among countries and regions by facilitating South-South exchanges.
- CSO-Government Dialogue: SGP policy dialogue platforms have leveraged existing and potential partnerships, as well as built trust and fostered joint networking relationships between civil society and government partners on national policies, strategies, and development plans. During GEF-6 period, 298 such dialogue platforms were initiated, involving 9,699 CSO/CBO-represented dialogues relating to policy and development planning. For example, SGP has facilitated CSO-Government Dialogues in 26 countries to bring local voices to their INDC development, as a critical process leading to the Paris Agreement.
- Social Inclusion: The SGP continues to head the way and increase integration of marginalized groups in environment and development initiatives, including women, indigenous peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities. The improvement of livelihoods remains a key strategy of the SGP, since the sustainable management of land, biodiversity, and other ecosystem resources directly affects the generation of global environmental benefits that contribute

to the wellbeing of local communities. On average, during GEF-6 period, 30% of completed projects were led by women, 16% addressed and engaged issues.

Broader Adoption: Scale Up and Replication

Broader adoption of SGP project results and approaches, including their scale up, replication, and mainstreaming continued to be a core objective of GEF-6 SGP programming. Under GEF-6, at least 626 completed projects were reported to have been replicated or scaled up through CSOs/CBOs and governments, and 377 projects had influenced policy, representing an average of 15 percent and 9 percent, respectively, of closed projects each year. In addition, investments and assets also resulted from SGP's work with GEF Full-Sized Projects (FSPs), in synergy as well as in a supportive role, in implementing community components of these projects. Globally, several UNDP and donor co-financed programmes have also been implemented by the SGP, including inter alia: (i) Community-Based Adaptation programme funded by AusAid; (ii) Community-Based REDD+ programme in partnership with UNREDD and with financing from Norway; (iii) Community Development and Knowledge Management in the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS) funded by the Japan Biodiversity Fund in collaboration with UNEP and UNU; the (iv) EU funded Environmental Governance and NGO Strengthening project.

All these foundational assets and existing investments from government, bilaterals, donor agencies and international NGOs will be treated as “baseline” from which SGP Country Programme Strategies will develop its priorities and approaches which then feed into supporting the development (i.e. partnership and co-financing components) and selection of individual small grants projects to ensure the strategic and catalytic nature of SGP grantmaking in the GEF 7 period.

1.2 *The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project*

Reiterating the challenges recognized through the GEF 2020 Strategy, the GEF-7 Programming Directions Paper points that the global environment—the ecosystems, biomes and processes that regulate the stability and resilience of the Earth system—are being stretched to a breaking point.^[10] Radical transformation of human activities are required to reverse such degradation trends. The GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), implemented by United Nations Development Programme on behalf of the GEF Partnership, is a key mechanism of the GEF that contributes to such transformational change by mobilizing and empowering civil society and local communities from the bottom up.

The SGP is a GEF Corporate Program that finances community-led initiatives to address global environmental and sustainable development issues. It is specifically designed to mobilize bottom up actions by empowering local civil society organizations, and poor and vulnerable communities, including indigenous peoples and women. Local communities have a profound understanding and knowledge of their environment and community needs and play a key role as stewards of the local and global commons. The program works to empower them to find innovative solutions in addressing global environmental challenges. The active participation of local communities in developing, testing and applying innovative solutions can play a key catalytic role for transformational change across a range of socio-economic settings, ranging from LDCs, SIDS, as well as middle and upper-middle income countries.

In line with the approved GEF Council paper on *GEF Small Grants Programme: Implementation Arrangements for GEF-7*^[11], SGP financed projects will have greater focus in promoting and supporting innovative and scalable initiatives at the local level to address global environment issues in priority landscapes and seascapes. SGP will also support projects that would serve as “incubators” of innovation, with the potential for broader replication of successful approaches through larger projects supported by the GEF and/or other partners. In this context, the SGP will strengthen its partnership approach as a CSO-led multi-stakeholder platform, by working closely particularly with private sector and government. The SGP grantees and partners will act as effective and important force to mobilize bottom up, civil society movements for systemic change in promoting environmentally sound sustainable development at the national, regional, and global levels.

GEF-7 SGP Key Approaches: The SGP will adopt and strengthen the following approaches to increase the effectiveness of program implementation under GEF-7:

(a) Empowering local communities

As a unique global mechanism and platform which aims to empower local communities, particularly vulnerable peoples, to address global environmental challenges, during GEF 7 the SGP will increasingly strengthen social inclusion by effectively reaching out to local communities with a focus on women, indigenous peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities. Most of the grants will be provided directly to the beneficiaries while, at the same time, supporting those CSOs that act as facilitators and intermediaries. Communities targeted by SGP are often the poorest and most vulnerable; they typically have low levels of personal and institutional capacity to adequately address global environmental problems. Building on the evidence base of the 2015 IEO and other evaluations, the SGP has inter alia been recognized as the prime modality for GEF engagement with indigenous peoples (GEF, 2017c), and plays a leading role on gender equality and the empowerment of women (GEF, 2017a).

(b) Targeting support to LDCs and SIDS

Under GEF-7, the SGP will further strengthen its support to LDCs and SIDS by providing (i) priority access to funding and support; (ii) capacity development and training; and (iii) learning, sharing, and networking. Approaches and tools promoted through SGP projects are considered particularly relevant to LDCs and SIDS, where the capacity of CSOs and local communities remains limited. Furthermore, the relatively smaller scale of interventions through SGP projects can ensure significant and lasting impact in many of the smaller countries. The SGP is currently operational in 69 LDCs and SIDS that are eligible for GEF funding. As opportunities arise, the SGP aims to include a few additional LDCs and SIDS that have requested SGP participation. Notwithstanding the above, the SGP continues to contribute to a vital unmet need in many middle and upper-middle income countries, consolidating lessons learned and results through the UCPs and other mature SGP country programmes for dissemination at the global level through the global South-South knowledge transfer platform.

(c) Supporting community innovation on emerging issues

Innovation often arises when there is freedom to experiment and take calculated risks, and local conditions and situations are respected during project development and implementation. The SGP seeks to maximize local knowledge and capacity by providing greater flexibility and enhancing project adaptability. Communities are thus empowered to seek solutions and make decisions through SGP project support. Such a demand-driven approach, combined with flexibility, accessibility, and risk taking constitute the SGP as an incubator and accelerator of innovation. The 2015 Joint IEO Evaluation noted that the “SGP pilots, innovates, and contributes to knowledge about what works and what does not in different contexts. Seeking to measure only ‘results’ overlooks this and could even discourage innovations and risk-taking” (GEF and UNDP, 2015: page 44). To encourage SGP Country Programmes and communities to adopt innovative solutions, the SGP proposes to launch several programs under GEF-7 to identify and support emerging new themes under its strategic initiatives. The SGP will combine its country-driven approach in terms of project identification and selection, with greater global strategic guidance, capacity development, and knowledge sharing on emerging issues. It also intends to scale up and mainstream successful practices on a global scale by leveraging partners that include philanthropic foundations, the private sector, and other donors. By coordinating with other GEF-7 Impact programs and multi-agency initiatives, the SGP plans to support various emerging issues, including inter alia: (i) community-based, artisanal, small-scale gold mining and mercury management; (ii) sustainable dryland management in the Sahel and other arid regions; (iii) community-based conservation of threatened landscapes and seascapes, including recognition of new governance types of conserved areas, and conservation of the habitat of iconic species; (iv) inclusive conservation approach partnering with indigenous peoples in the Congo Basin, Amazon and other globally important forests; and (v) women and eco-entrepreneurship to crowd in partnerships in support of sustainable value chains.

(d) Promoting partnerships and broader adoption: scaling up and replication results

Building on its mission, *Local Actions, Global Impact*, the SGP provides a network of local ideas and approaches that contribute to and influence policies and strategies at all levels. The Sixth Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF (OPS6) highlights the success of broader adoption (e.g., scaling up, replication, and mainstreaming), demonstrated by SGP projects. Adoption of successful initiatives will continue to increase through the SGP’s CSO-Government-Private Sector Dialogue Platform and its Global Knowledge Platform (e.g., South-South cooperation, digital library, knowledge fairs), as well as by the creation of spaces for CSOs/CBOs to engage in policy and program development at the national and subnational levels. The SGP also will seek active partnership with relevant institutions to leverage resources and scale up its initiatives for more wide-reaching results and impacts.

(e) Serving as a dependable global community-based grant mechanism and platform for the environment

Building on its 25 years of experience, the SGP is well positioned to act as a dependable community-based and grant mechanism and platform to address global environmental issues in many developing countries. The SGP aims to strengthen its partnership and synergies with organizations and initiatives to effectively benefit CSOs and local communities at the global, regional, and local levels. The SGP also will liaise closely with the GEF Secretariat and GEF agencies on relevant programs and projects, including its Impact Programs and Programmatic Approaches, as well as Full-sized and Medium-sized projects, particularly in relation to community issues. The SGP has already played a key role as a community-based grant mechanism under several FSPs, such as the “child” projects under GEF Programmatic Approaches on Wildlife Management and International Waters and the Integrated Approach Pilot on Food Security. This collaboration between different modalities of GEF funding available to countries has created strategic linkages between SGP and other GEF projects at the country level. It is also intended to ensure that innovative local actions, supported by the SGP, will be scaled up at the national and subnational levels within the parameters of GEF FSPs.

Objective and Strategic Initiatives:

The objective of the project is “to promote and support innovative and scalable initiatives, and foster multistakeholder partnerships at the local level to tackle global environmental issues in priority landscapes and seascapes”.

This objective will be achieved through several strategic initiatives as described below. In alignment with the overall GEF-7 programming, the SGP will focus its efforts on targeted strategic initiatives that promote integrated approaches in addressing key global environmental issues. As an overarching strategy, the SGP will adopt and strengthen its landscape and seascape approach to focus and concentrate its programming on globally recognized important ecosystems (including Key Biodiversity Areas). It will seek synergies, implement multi-sectoral approaches by involving communities at the landscape/seascape levels, and facilitate community actions to effectively manage the complex mosaic land/seascapes. The SGP will seek participation in further conceptualizing Impact Programs and relevant focal area programs

and projects, at the same time welcoming local community perspectives.

Depending on country and stakeholder priorities under the updated SGP Country Programme Strategy, each SGP Country Programmes may elect to focus on only a few of the strategic initiatives to further sharpen the scope of SGP grantmaking and achieve greater strategic impacts.

Strategic Initiative 1 – Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species:

Under this Strategic Initiative, the SGP will demonstrate for conservation and sustainable use of threatened ecosystems and species in priority landscapes and seascapes through an integrated approach in alignment with GEF-7 biodiversity, land degradation, and international waters focal area strategies and the Impact Program on Sustainable Forest Management. The SGP grants under this strategic initiative will focus on both conservation and sustainable use: including management and governance of protected areas and corridors, integrated river-basins, and large marine ecosystems with active involvement of communities (e.g. Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs) and private protected areas) as well as mainstreaming biodiversity in key production sectors (e.g. agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and infrastructure). Specifically, the SGP will support appropriate community-based measures that conserve biodiversity and support implementation of protected area/landscape governance in priority landscapes or seascapes bringing under improved management at least 1.2 million ha of terrestrial PAs and MPAs.

With the active involvement of civil society organizations (CSOs) and IPLCs, the project, under threatened ecosystems and species strategic initiative will focus on inter alia:

- Improved governance and management effectiveness of terrestrial and marine protected areas and corridors; including Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs), private protected areas, KBAs and other effective conservation measures (OECMs);

- Improved community-led biodiversity-friendly natural resource use practices and approaches, including agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, and infrastructure;
- Freshwater and integrated river-basin governance and management, especially prevention, reduction and management of land-based pollution that flows into rivers and other freshwater systems;
- Community solutions in blue economy, including promotion of sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, eco-tourism and conservation and management of coastal habitats for sustainable community livelihoods;
- Enhanced community-led actions for threatened species conservation, including addressing human-wildlife conflicts;
- Access and benefit sharing of genetic resources, particularly in support of indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge and customary rights.

During the project period, SGP will also support better expression of the value of projects for ecosystem services and ecosystem-based adaptation. The SGP will promote a 'polycentric governance' approach, involving coordinated actions and interventions from different actors, including the government, communities, and the private sector. Priority land/seascape areas will be identified taking into consideration partnerships with relevant GEF FSPs, as well as other projects and partners, to enhance local capacity to form regional networks of communities to deepen cooperation among stakeholders. Under this strategic initiative, the SGP will also be addressing cross cutting issues such as: (i) improving knowledge and information collection and management systems to enhance awareness about best practices on conservation of land and seascapes and their associated biodiversity and ecosystems through communication, documentation and dissemination; (ii) support community-based efforts to improve policies that support conservation and sustainable use; (iii) and ensuring gender considerations mainstreamed into natural resources management. The strategic initiative will implement recommended actions under the SGP gender mainstreaming strategy including, but not limited to, making sure that gender and socially inclusive perspective is applied to all SGP grant making procedures and activities while also making sure that at the national and project level information is collected and shared across gender and social divides.

Strategic Initiative 2 – Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security.

This strategic initiative will aim to test and promote community-based climate resilient agriculture, fisheries and food practices that improve productivity and increase ecological connectivity and deliver other benefits. The SGP will also promote community-based biodiversity friendly practices and approaches (agriculture, forestry, fisheries and infrastructure) through focusing the grant-making strategy to provide consolidated support to target sectors in previous SGP operational cycles. During the project period, four specific areas of work will be supported including:

- Increased efficiency and effectiveness of overall environmentally sound food production and value chains, including certification schemes of organic agriculture, fair trade, and others;
- Agrobiodiversity conservation, including extending support to producer networks, movements and value chains among small-holder farmers;
- Promotion of agroecological production methods, including diversification and improved livelihoods;
- Community-based sustainable fisheries, including promotion of traditional fisheries practices and knowledge; and

- Implement community-based actions to remove deforestation from supply chain and expand restoration of degraded lands.

Special attention will be given to agriculture in fragile ecosystems, including mountain communities to improve the livelihoods of mountain peoples. The SGP will work with local farmers and fishers to promote and shift to sustainable agricultural production, support transformation of consumer level production systems and re-focus attention to increasing efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain addition processes both on-farm and off farm. In addition, support will be provided for integrated projects that aim at restoring ecosystem services or reducing the negative environmental trends such as land degradation and deforestation, biodiversity loss and climate change emissions induced by anthropogenic activities. This strategic initiative will also aim at promoting diversification and improved livelihoods, such as through water harvesting, post-harvest management, business skills development to empower communities to better manage their natural resources and lead to global environment benefits.

This outcome will develop and implement several community-based sustainable land management actions that integrate climate resilient sustainable practices and other standards (e.g. land tenure, community participation). Where land degradation remains a visible problem and livelihoods continue to be jeopardized, SGP will support national efforts to address the challenge by supporting work towards Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), applying the UNCCD LDN framework as appropriate. In this regard, the SGP will coordinate efforts to ensure that SGP programming considers national efforts such as LDN hotspots assessment, target setting Reflecting the overall LDN framework, the SGP will employ measures to 'avoid', 'reduce' and 'reverse' land degradation in its grant making activities. Such measures will be identified as part of SGP countries' Country Programme Strategy (CPS) formulation process including where relevant incorporating LDN criteria during the selection of landscape/seascape for SGP intervention. According to the report 'Land Degradation Neutrality for Biodiversity Conservation: How healthy land safeguards nature' launched in March 2020, LDN and the CBD's 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity have multiple mutual objectives aimed at promoting the sustainable use of natural resources, ecosystems and biodiversity and can therefore strongly reinforce each other. Since both the UNCCD and CBD frameworks include a commitment to socio-economic goals, including contributing to health, livelihoods and well-being and ensuring that the benefits from the sustainable use of land and biodiversity accrue to all, especially women, indigenous communities and the poor and vulnerable, SGP will contribute to co-benefits between the two Rio Conventions.

These will be complemented by at least 2 CBOs/farmer leaders who adopt and demonstrate improved climate resilient sustainable land management (SLM) practices per landscape. In this way, more than 1 million ha of landscapes and over 50,000 ha of marine habitats will be brought under improved management and/or restored for multiple benefits while appropriate and improved SLM technologies will be applied to at least 140,000 ha. Beyond that the SGP will support community level measures that promote sustainable fisheries including appropriate efforts to promote a ridge-to-reef approach by linking coastal zone management and land use activities in up lands with marine habitat use and management. Under this strategic initiative, the SGP will work with women entrepreneurs and women led organizations as well as farmers, focusing on agricultural production through improved yields, value addition processes and helping farmers (men/women) to better market their farm products at the right time and with proper prices. Gender roles will be identified and integrated into training and other SGP interventions (e.g. on post-harvest technology to reduce losses in agriculture production).

Strategic Initiative 3 – Low-carbon energy access co-benefits:

Under this initiative, the SGP will demonstrate and scale up low carbon, viable and appropriate technologies and approaches in partnership with the private sector and government to improve community energy access, in line with larger frameworks such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The focus will be on providing low-cost bottom-up energy solutions with high potential for carbon emissions reductions using integrated approaches going beyond the energy sector aiming at increasing climate resilience, reducing poverty, enhancing gender equality and achieving the SDGs. Such solutions will continue to form a crucial part of the “decarbonization” and transition to a low carbon economy, while laying the groundwork for new infrastructure at the community level, addressing the energy service needs of rural, urban and remote communities and entrepreneurs, who cannot be served by the central grid in case of electricity or centralized distribution systems for cooking and heating. SGP will continue to document community innovations, tracking typologies of new community technologies, particularly those emerging from South-South exchanges.

In supporting community-level actions for the implementation of the Paris Agreement with an increased focus on the NDCs, SGP will focus on the following:

- Promotion of renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods, including innovative and catalytic financing.
- Support off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas.

SGP will utilize its proven mechanisms such as the CSO-Government-Private Sector dialogues to galvanize a ‘whole of society’ effort to raise the ambition for climate action, hold local and national governments accountable to the NDC climate measures and ensure inclusion of community voices and priorities in any national and/or local efforts to implement the NDCs. To ensure this complementation, all SGP country programmes will be required to hold consultations to assess the status of NDCs development and implementation in a respective country and conduct at least one CSO-government-private sector dialogue focusing on NDCs during the project period. In countries where NDCs implementation is at the initial stages and/or facing challenges, the dialogue may serve, at a minimum, to familiarize stakeholders with the key aspects of climate policies and create awareness.

Moreover, the focus on low-cost bottom up energy solutions will ensure that significant co-benefits are generated from supporting energy access that contribute towards the achievement of the SDGs. In continuation of efforts of the SGP to identify, describe, measure, and quantify the co-benefits of the decarbonization interventions, during the project period, the SGP will build on this knowledge and broaden its focus to document the links between the 2015 Paris Agreement and the 2030 SDG Agenda at the local level. Several recent studies have demonstrated that climate actions highlighted in the NDCs also have the potential to generate mutual benefits across the 17 SDGs. In this vein, SGP will conduct pilot studies in select countries using new tools and approaches developed by UNDP and partners to demonstrate these links at the local level.

SGP will support innovative technologies and approaches with initial catalytic financing and then encourage wider deployment and scaling up. The absence of effective local applications, tailored to the country and community context, often constitutes a barrier for adoption of low carbon technologies, even in developed countries, despite the availability of certain technologies at the global level. SGP will focus on capacity building, knowledge management and

systematization, putting in place enabling frameworks and mechanisms at the community level and will partner with national and global initiatives to ensure that innovations are implemented based on a programmatic approach creating larger impacts. Continuing the efforts started previously, the SGP will focus on building partnerships with larger initiatives in order to scale up successful innovations to the national and global levels.

Strategic Initiative 4 – Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management:

The SGP will aim to demonstrate, deploy and transfer innovative community-based tools and approaches to sound chemicals and waste management, with support from national and international partners, networks and platforms. Under this initiative, the SGP will focus its support towards communities at the forefront of threats related to chemicals and waste, either as users or consumers. Activities will include support for innovative, affordable and practical solutions to chemicals and waste management in joint efforts with partners including with government agencies, research institutions, the private sector and international agencies. The SGP will seek to establish systems of local certification of producers and/or their products, which could then expand to the national level through producer-consumer agreements scaled up to national policies.

The SGP will consolidate its work particularly on pesticide management, waste management, and mercury, and work with partners to promote local to global coalitions and networks that could effectively bring local knowledge and experiences to policy dialogues and vice versa. SGP will also build on its successful previous projects on community-level artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) in reducing/eliminating use of mercury, and coordinate with the related GEF programs for further replication and scaling up. During the project period, the SGP will develop a viable portfolio on community-based circular economy and plastics management and continue to engage with at least two local-to-global coalitions and networks, including Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention Secretariat, governments, the private sector, and local to global NGOs. Other chemicals of global concern (e.g. mercury) and their waste will also be reduced, disposed, eliminated and avoided through targeted initiatives, while a comprehensive awareness and outreach strategy for sound chemicals and waste management will be implemented all SGP countries.

During the project period, among others, SGP will focus on the following four areas of support to:

- Prevent or reduce mercury use, and promote alternatives to mercury–implemented mainly through a global innovation program on ASGM and mercury management;
- Reduce plastics, and promote solid waste management and circular economy;
- Reduce/remove chemicals in sustainable agriculture;
- Enhance local to global coalitions on chemicals, waste and mercury management

Under the chemicals and waste management portfolio, many projects have been led by women (these cases were well documented in the SGP publications: “Community-based Chemicals and Waste Management” and the publication “Plastics and Circular Economy: Community Solutions”). While we recognize the importance to engage most vulnerable and marginalized groups in the projects, it is also concerning to point out that waste management, especially informal waste picking and sorting, is often undertaken by women, youth and disabled people who cannot find more profitable, cleaner and respectable jobs, and could

also reinforce negative social norms and roles. In GEF-7, SGP under this strategic initiative will focus on organizing and formalizing the waste management sectors informally managed by poor women and help them to develop income-generating activities models such as organic farming, recycling, waste to resource production, and alternative livelihoods, such that SGP interventions support gender transformations rather than entrenching established gender roles. Furthermore, SGP will continue promoting awareness raising, capacity development and networking among women for sound chemicals and waste management.

Strategic Initiative 5 – Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions:

This strategic initiative will support the promotion of appropriate integrated community-oriented sustainable urban solutions in partnership with the private sector and government. In doing so, the SGP activities will align with and contribute to the GEF Sustainable Cities Impact Program. The SGP will pilot activities to target vulnerable people and communities in urban contexts. During the rapid urbanization process, traditional connections, linkages and networks among local communities can be disrupted and lost, making urban environmental governance more challenging. The SGP will promote an integrated management approach to address urbanization challenges from the point of origin (i.e. in rural areas and migration corridors) to the destinations of people's movement during this urbanization transition.

Under this strategic initiative, during the project period, SGP will focus on:

- Improved capacities to promote community-driven, socially inclusive and integrated solutions to address low-emission and resilient urban development by strengthening capacities of key service providers at the local municipality level to promote community-driven and integrated solutions to address low-emission and resilient urban development.
- Demonstrate innovative socially-inclusive urban solutions/ approaches (including waste and chemical management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity).
- Promote public-private partnership approach to sustainable urban solutions for marginalized urban communities.

Under catalyzing sustainable urban solutions, women as a subsection of the population, particularly with the current migration trends from rural/peri-urban areas to urban areas, are most vulnerable to access to basic services and negative effects of environmental, social and economic impacts. SGP will place an emphasis on building capacities as well as a gender equity-based access herein. This will include support to entrepreneurship, in green jobs, development of new partnerships of private sector- communities and government to support engendered access to green microfinance, skills development and using community evidence to support policy level changes and scaling up of initiatives.

Strategic Initiative 6 – CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms:

The aim of this is to ensure that community voices and participation are promoted and enhanced in the global and national strategy development related to global environment and sustainable development issues. The SGP will expand its innovative CSO-Government Dialogue Platforms towards a greater engagement of private sector to leverage its potential to invest and support sustainability at the local level. These platforms will also provide opportunities to discuss possible shifts in relevant policies and practices to promote sustainability. In total around 35 national-level targeted CSO-Government dialogues will be convened to support policy and planning development of the government and key stakeholders. At the international level, around 5 global CSO-government and other stakeholder dialogue on the global environment will be organized while to expand the dialogue platform for greater engagement of private sector. At the national level, around 20 CSO-government private sector/business forum will be facilitated to foster CSO-Govt-private sector dialogue on environment.

Strategic Initiative 7 – Enhancing social inclusion:

The SGP is well recognized for its inclusive approach that promotes social inclusion and equity by working and engaging with women, youth, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities. It will continue to champion and advocate for the involvement and active participation of vulnerable groups as key stakeholders for environmental action and advocacy. This strategic initiative aims to ensure that social inclusion, particularly empowerment of women, indigenous peoples, youth and persons with disabilities, is further mainstreamed and enhanced in SGP initiatives on environment and livelihood improvement.

The SGP Country Programmes will actively support actions to promote women's role in implementation of projects and promote gender equality and women's empowerment relevant to the local context. To this end, all SGP country programmes will ensure that gender mainstreaming considerations are applied consistently. SGP will contribute to the GEF gender strategy by the following: concrete contributions will be made to close gender gaps in access to and control over resources in at least 40% of SGP portfolio; at least 40% of SGP projects are led by women or institute mechanisms for increased participation and decision-making by women; women and girls constitute at least 50% of beneficiaries of all SGP projects.

On Indigenous Peoples, the SGP will expand the Indigenous Peoples' Fellowship Program, and further build capacity of IPs through targeted support for IPs to have an increased role in the decision-making in relevant countries. Further, in alignment with the GEF 7 biodiversity focal area on inclusive conservation (i.e. role of ICCAs to the CBD Aichi and post-2020 Targets), and in complementarity with efforts to increase IPs engagement with climate mitigations efforts (i.e. CBR+ and other REDD+ standards), the SGP IP Fellowship program will be expanded to include IPs across a range of SGP national-level activities including inter alia: (i) governance and membership of National Steering Committees (NSCs); (ii) SGP country programme strategy (CPS) development, including a dedicated funding window and/or call for proposals from IP organizations as relevant; and (iii) monitoring and evaluation of SGP project outputs and outcomes, including culturally-appropriate formats and methodologies.

Finally, the SGP will continue to demonstrate the involvement of youth and persons with disabilities in SGP projects in at least 30 to 35 percent of its projects. Guidelines and best practices on engaging youth and persons with disabilities will be developed and widely shared with countries.

Strategic Initiative 8 – Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management:

This strategic initiative aims to ensure that a common, robust M&E and knowledge management strategy is implemented in all countries. Building on the recommendations of the 2015 Joint GEF-UNDP Evaluation, efforts will be made to improve existing M&E, design more streamlined and useful tools and activities that balance the need to measure and capacity of local CSOs and communities. SGP will revamp its Results Based Management Strategy, capturing key objectives, processes and responsibilities. An online database to support generation of both quantitative and qualitative analytics will be undertaken. The SGP will also monitor, measure and report its contribution in alignment with 7 of the 11 most relevant GEF-7 results framework and indicators. SGP priorities are aligned to that of the GEF-7 Programming Directions Paper and its outcomes to meet the GEF-7 targets. During GEF-7, the SGP will align its results framework with that of the GEF and specifically to report achievements against GEF core indicators. Specifically, SGP results are aligned to 6 of the 11 GEF-7 core indicators. Guided by [Updated Results Architecture for GEF-7, 2018](#), only direct outputs and outcomes will be captured through the above indicators, i.e. only results that are attributed due to SGP's interventions.

With regards to knowledge management, specific knowledge management grants will be envisioned to strengthen project and country level activities. At the global level, knowledge exchanges and innovation will be promoted through SGP's revamped knowledge platforms: The Digital Library of Community Innovations and the South-South Exchange Initiative. The digital library is an effort to document and curate the innovative solutions developed by indigenous peoples and local communities to environment and sustainable development challenges. The SGP will partner with relevant organizations to expand the reach and use of these practices. The South-South Exchange initiative will continue to support knowledge transfer and exchange across countries and regions encouraging replication of good practices supported by the portfolio. These initiatives produce high impact and scaling up of the innovations and practices developed by SGP grantees, as well as other CSOs at the regional level. Another is Communities Connect^[12], a collaborative platform started in partnership with the GEF CSO Network, to promote the solutions created by communities and civil society organization to sustainable development issues which will be revamped and strengthened.

1.3 Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies

As a GEF corporate programme, SGP has always aligned its strategies to that of the GEF with the expectation that its role is to translate such strategies to community and local CSO actions and provide a testing and evidence base for further scaling up. SGP contributes to achieving GEF's strategy outcomes by supporting innovative initiatives at the level of communities. The results framework for the GEF-7 SGP and associated targets for global environmental benefits will also align with the overall GEF-7 results architecture.

Action at the local level by civil society, indigenous and local communities is therefore deemed vital through its convening role of multi-stakeholder alliances, as well as for broader participation in strengthening capacity and decision-making processes. Whilst individual SGP projects are small, their aggregated impacts over time in around 125 countries, particularly as SGP now focuses its grant-making to target landscape/seascape management, will contribute significantly to global environmental benefits. As outlined in the GEF-7 SGP Implementation Arrangement paper, the SGP will seek participation in further conceptualizing Impact Programs and relevant focal area programs and projects, at the same time as welcoming local community perspectives. Further details on the alignment and involvement with the relevant Impact Programs will be clarified as appropriate.

During GEF-7, a key vehicle for the GEF to help countries pursue holistic and integrated approaches for greater transformational change in key economic systems, and in line with their national development priorities are the Impact Programs. These collectively address major drivers of environmental degradation and/or deliver multiple benefits across the many thematic dimensions the GEF is mandated to deliver. The Impact Programs also contribute in significant ways to each of the Focal Area Strategies while at the same time delivering multiple benefits across several MEAs. As noted under the GEF Small Grants Programme: Implementation Arrangements for GEF-7, SGP will seek to coordinate and provide community-level inputs to the Food, Land Use, and Restoration Impact Program through its activities under the Strategic Initiative on Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries, while the approaches under the Strategic Initiative on Catalyzing Sustainable Urban Solutions will be implemented and closely aligned with GEF-7 Impact Program on Sustainable Cities. Modality for coordination will be further explored as the Impact Programs are being designed.

SGP grantmaking at the country level will be implemented based on the Country Programme Strategy (CPS) for GEF-7. The CPS will enable country-driven and integrated investments at the country and landscape/seascape levels. In all countries, the CPS development process shall be undertaken in a consultative manner to identify SGP's value added within the priority global environmental issues in line with the concerned MEAs and national policies and plans to guide SGP grantmaking and ensure its complementarity with other donor and country supported initiatives. These CPS will ensure that the SGP grant-making strategy is consistent with the GEF-7 Programming Direction and specific focal area strategies. For example, in Biodiversity, the project will support the CBD's Aichi targets, those related to protected areas (11), ecosystem services (14) and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices (18), and contribute to the negotiations and development of the post-2020 targets to be agreed upon at CBD COP15 in China in 2020. During project period the SGP will contribute directly to the relevant GEF core indicators such as the area of terrestrial and marine PAs under improved management and governance effectiveness, area of landscapes/seascapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity and ecosystems. Similarly, for Land Degradation, SGP initiatives will promote sustainable agriculture, fisheries and food systems at the community level through improving productivity, livelihoods diversification and improvement and promotion of technologies such as sustainable land management, harvesting, post-harvest management, business skills development to empower communities to better manage their natural resources. It will contribute directly to GEF-7 core indicators such as the area under SLM.

Strengthening results management, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will be a key priority for the Small Grants Programme during the GEF 7 period. Building on the recommendations of the [Joint GEF-UNDP Evaluation, 2015](#), a systematic approach will be rolled out to improve existing M&E, including the design of streamlined tools and activities that balance the need to measure with the need to provide support to local communities in tackling environmental issues.

With a focus on utilizing both monitoring and evaluation modalities, SGP's revamped M&E system is envisioned to (i) track progress and assess change; (ii) inform strategies across technical and Grant-Maker plus pillars, and (ii.) contribute with thought leadership by providing insights on 'what' works and 'why' in the communities served by the programme, generating evidential bases for innovations, scaling up, replication and policy influence of SGP interventions.

Building on a solid foundation from previous Operational Phases, the development of a multi-year SGP Results Based Management (RBM) Strategy, capturing key objectives, processes and responsibilities, is an immediate step going forward. An agile RBM system integrated across project, country and global levels, will address needs for accountability, adaptive management with informed decisions and actions, and learning from both success and failure. Principally, across the three levels (i) there will be a focus on developing normative frameworks; (ii) development of an enhanced online database as a mechanism to

manage and report on the varied needs of grantees, country programmes and global portfolio; (iii) build robust capacities of people, processes, and systems- and institutionalize a programme-wide RBM culture; (iv) enhance data quality and assurance mechanisms; and (v.) introduce M&E innovations to capture non-linear and long term developmental change and impact.

1.4 *Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline and co-financing*

The SGP provides support to communities and CSOs in their work to contribute to both local^[13] and global environmental benefits. A defining characteristic that differentiates the SGP from other GEF programs is its ability to function as a demand-based type of support modality, thereby engendering strong community/country ownership. This is evidenced by the strong global environmental benefits (as described under the results section above) that are derived from the SGP operations at the local and national scales.

Furthermore, the SGP is an excellent facilitator of replication of innovations supported by the GEF. The GEF IEO 2015 evaluation report demonstrated broader replication in GEF by describing how replication of SGP innovations occurs at different scales – from local to national, to global levels. Replication of innovation is often identified at the local level from neighbor to neighbor, ultimately being mainstreamed at the local scale, wherein local governments integrate SGP interventions into their plans and strategies. The same IEO report cites an example of how SGP grantees in Uganda worked with the local governments to introduce and implement waste management programs – the results of which directly helped attract additional investment, including from the World Bank. Similarly, broader adoption at the national level is facilitated by the SGP through influencing national government policies and frameworks. For example, SGP support to community-based PA management in Jordan resulted in wider changes in the protected area laws in the country. In some cases, promising innovations of the SGP are picked up by multi-lateral development banks (MDBs) for large scale replication – a case in point being the scale up of an SGP grantee project on sustainable extraction of oil from coconuts by the Inter-American Development Bank in Panama.

Without the GEF support through SGP grant-making, building on the strong results on environmental protection, rehabilitation and overall sustainable development delivered so far, replication and scaling of innovations that have been nurtured by the SGP will not be taken to the next level. The baseline scenario described shows that much more needs to be done as increasing populations of poor and vulnerable communities try to increase their agricultural productivity, access energy, and use fisheries, often-times through unsustainable means, further jeopardizing their livelihoods and the ecosystems these depend on. While many developing country governments have started to put more resources to local development and to CSOs as partners, the demand for socio-economic development coupled with the lack of awareness, as well as mechanisms to integrate this demand to similarly compelling environmental concerns, have led to an imbalance in the allocation that is inimical to environmental needs. Moreover, for many disadvantaged groups including Indigenous Peoples, the SGP remains one of the only sources of concrete support. This is true even in the case of the GEF, as supported by a dedicated GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) brief^[14] that assessed the engagement of the GEF with Indigenous peoples.

In addition, the SGP has formed robust and mutually beneficial long-standing partnership with a broad range of international, national and community-level initiatives and partners. During GEF-7, the SGP will strengthen these partnership models, including with a possibility to strengthen donor platform coupled with a proven decentralized delivery mechanism. The program will actively seek closer coordination and synergy with relevant partners, including foundations and the private sector. This is a win-win for all parties as the tried-and-tested mechanism can effectively and efficiently support delivery of community-level interventions for GEF FSPs and other large-scale initiatives. This is fully supported by the findings of the GEF IEO 2015 evaluation report which underscores that “good integration of well-established SGP national programs with the respective overall GEF country portfolio—possibly through a formal mandate to deliver the community-level components of GEF projects with the active participation of local communities—can increase the likelihood of sustainability and generate cost savings to the GEF as a whole”.

Beyond that, the SGP will mobilize partnership for complementary activities that support further scaling up of community-based initiatives building on the strong collaboration established with the governments of Australia, Germany, Japan and Norway among others. Further, the SGP will work with the private sector to upscale pilot innovations to the mainstream as discussed above. The SGP will act as an incubator helping to connect successful and promising initiatives with other channels for continued support while advocating for enabling environment and supportive policies. Finally, the SGP will actively promote linkages with relevant GEF-7 Impact Programs and Focal Area programs for cooperation and complementarity. The SGP will seek to develop coordination mechanism with the relevant programs at the global and country levels and continue to identify opportunities to share successful methodologies and approaches and to support implementation of community components of GEF Full-sized and Medium-sized Projects. Evaluative evidence gathered from many countries and stakeholders supports such a role for the SGP. According to IEO 2015 report the SGP “has been cited as an effective channel to share information and raise awareness among stakeholders at the local level in a number of countries”

1.5 *Global environmental benefits*

The GEF SGP provides support to achieve global environmental benefits at the community level. The SGP strengthens the capacity of communities and civil society organizations, increases their knowledge and awareness about environmental threats, and provides them financial support to overcome short-term decision-making that negatively affects environmental resources. Many SGP projects have direct links to achievement of global environmental benefits thematically when these projects focus on globally important and critical endangered species and geographically when these projects are in critically important landscapes and seascapes. Successful innovative projects of high relevance oftentimes neglect inclusion of vulnerable population, such as indigenous peoples, women, youth, and persons with disabilities. SGP provide models or examples for designing larger national efforts as well as filling in important national policy gaps.

Within the GEF, UNDP, and other agencies, tested SGP approaches, lessons learned, country staff, and stakeholder networks have become resources in the design and/or implementation of larger projects. The SGP’s overall objective is to secure GEBs through community-based initiatives and actions. The IEO 2015 Joint Evaluation of the SGP confirms that past SGP programs “objectives and targets for achieving global environmental benefits ... conform to the overall GEF strategic priorities for each GEF focal area”. The report further notes that “evidence collected in the countries visited by the evaluation team indicates that SGP grants continue to support projects that have high levels of success in securing global environmental benefits in both mature and newer program countries”.

In summary, under this project, SGP plans to deliver the following global environmental benefits:

- On biodiversity, the grant-making approach will target to improve management and governance effectiveness of 1.1 million hectares of protected areas and indigenous peoples' and community conserved territories and areas (ICCAs). Community level biodiversity compatible practices will also be promoted in around 50,000 hectares of marine habitats and MPAs.
- On climate change mitigation, SGP portfolio will apply low carbon technologies that will target around 7,500 households and increase installed total renewable energy (RE) capacity of 300 KW from around 25 technologies that will be demonstrated. SGP interventions will also support 7,500 hectares of forest restoration/avoided deforestation. Likewise, for sustainable urban solutions, SGP will identify, test and demonstrate around 25 innovative integrated urban energy solutions.
- On land degradation, around 140,000 hectares of land (forest, agricultural and other production sector lands) will be brought under improved management practices, including through the application of improved SLM technologies at the farm level while several CBO/farmer leaders will be established to promote and demonstrate climate resilient SLM approach.
- For international waters, efforts will be implemented to curb land-based pollution, including solid waste, sewerage, waste water, and agricultural waste from entering the waterbodies, and open burning avoided, will be continued (target to be assigned). This will benefit around 50,000 ha of marine habitats.
- On chemicals and waste management, a total of 150 tons of POPs containing products/materials will be removed or disposed while a comprehensive strategy to deal with all chemicals of global concern will be implemented together with an awareness and outreach strategy on sound chemicals management in all countries.
- For towns and cities, SGP will implement sustainable urban solutions related activities in at least 10 countries piloting at least 10 different urban solutions to address significant urban environmental issues from the community end.

The SGP priorities are aligned to that of the GEF-7 Programming Directions Paper and its outcomes to meet the GEF-7 targets. To capture global environmental benefits, in GEF-7 SGP is aligned with 6 of the 11 GEF-7 core indicators. Guided by [Updated Results Architecture for GEF-7, 2018](#), only direct outputs and outcomes will be captured through the above indicators, i.e. only results that are attributed due to SGP's interventions.

The discussion in earlier sections on SGP strategic approaches and initiatives describe an enhanced set of strategies to ensure that SGP contributes to GEBs at multiple levels, starting from the global level, prioritized at the national level through the CPS, and translated into small grant actions in the field. Firstly, SGP priorities will be fully aligned to that of the GEF-7 Programming Directions Paper and its outcomes to meet the GEF-7 targets. Secondly, greater attention will be focused to creating synergy among individual projects using landscape or seascape approaches, as well as taking all opportunities for complementation with larger projects of the GEF and other donor agencies. Thirdly, SGP local initiatives will link to global initiatives such as SE4ALL as well as fostering joint efforts with global networks such as the GEF NGO Network and IPEN. Finally, the implementation of "Grantmaker+" set of roles has been designed to support

scaling up, mainstreaming and replication that will provide higher level capacity development (i.e. IP Fellowships), networking and institutional support, knowledge sharing (i.e. South-South Technology Exchange Platform), and advocacy mechanisms at national levels (i.e. CSO-Government-Private Sector Dialogue Platforms), and where relevant, all of these to extend to regional and global levels.

1.6 Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up

SGP supports communities in developing innovations that customize local solutions to global environmental challenges. The SGP approach encourages local innovation and creativity through its bottom-up and participatory practice in the design of projects, in the recognition of the relevance and value of local or traditional knowledge, and in allowing greater flexibility and adaptive management of projects. The wide diversity of countries, local situations, and stakeholders the SGP works with creates a situation which requires an openness to many new creative project concepts which if approved lead to field testing, incubation and capacity development, and relatively 'rapid iterations' of learning-by-doing ready to be reinvested in future SGP grant-making cycles and partnership development.

Community innovations in SGP are manifested in the testing and ground-truthing of low-cost technologies and sustainable production methods, in new methodologies for the involvement of stakeholders, and in integrating traditional decision-making processes within the wider frameworks and actions relevant to meeting country commitments to international environmental agreements. Since SGP funding is modest and its interventions are designed to be initially small scale, the programme can readily support community-based experimentation. Once a novel idea has been tested on the ground and proven to be effective in meeting community needs, it can often take off more widely through grantee networks as well as networking with other CSOs, further resulting in more innovations and eventually attracting additional donor and or government support for wider application. This innovation process is supported through digital library of community innovations, building on the tens of thousands of SGP-supported projects, as well as a South-South Community Innovation Exchange Platform to share these innovations across countries.

To encourage innovation within the portfolio, and to fully explore the potential of the SGP to be an incubator to test and refine technologies and approaches prior to seeking greater investment both from GEF FSPs and other financing sources, SGP will further test and implement Innovation Programs with interested and relevant SGP Country Programmes with the objectives to: 1) enable targeted investment on emerging environmental issues that could be potentially scaled up, replicated and mainstreamed in SGP and other programs; 2) pilot innovative approaches and tools on specific thematic issue among a group of participating countries; 3) promote knowledge and experience sharing among participating countries on specific thematic issues; and 4) promote partnership and leverage resources with other interested organizations.

Following the regular SGP's decentralized project management system and within the SGP core fund allocation to the country, the aim of the Innovation Programmes will be to have a group of SGP Country Programmes to work together on a relevant emerging theme and implement projects and other initiatives at the country level as well as participate in capacity development and knowledge sharing activities at the global/regional level. For example, Innovation Programme on Artisanal Small-Scale Gold Mining, which is an emerging issue under the Chemical and Waste Management, is being tested among 10

interested SGP Country Programmes that are most relevant, and in line with the OP6 SGP Global and Country Programme Strategies. Each participating country will implement a set of country level community-led grants and have targeted opportunity to share lessons at the regional and global levels with the participating countries to foster innovation and best practices on the theme. The program is also closely aligned with the GEF GOLD program and bring community innovation and participation to the initiative. A few relevant thematic issues will be selected and tested with a view to further the innovation, capacity building, and knowledge sharing on emerging issues by possibly partnering and leveraging resources with interested organizations.

Achieving sustainability of project outcomes is central to SGP. According to IEO Joint Evaluation in 2015, the SGP has secured a high success rate in sustaining project results. Project proponents are required to build measures into their project design that increase the likelihood of outcome sustainability, including through the development of an appropriate exit strategy. The screening of project proposals by the National Steering Committee (NSC) includes a systematic assessment of whether such measures are sound and based on realistic assumptions. Project logical frameworks include outcome indicators that are monitored periodically. Project monitoring activities are designed to verify that initial assumptions hold, and that the required elements for outcome sustainability are in place. Most grants include a capacity development component and a sustainable livelihoods component to ensure that achievements will be sustained at the smallholder and resource-user level. Proactive adaptive management is applied throughout the life of the projects by the National Coordinator (NC) who works with SGP grantees to take corrective action whenever there are indications that project outcomes may be compromised or may not be sustained after the project ends. SGP does not generally support the creation of new organizations, but rather strengthens existing CBOs and NGOs.

Although most communities continue applying acquired skills in their day-to-day work, SGP ensures retention of new skills through various means: (i) inviting leaders or members of former grantee organizations to new training; (ii) using former SGP grantees as trainers for other communities and projects; (iii) continuing monitoring former grantees and trouble-shooting as much as possible; and (iv) establishing mentoring and peer-to-peer support among communities. Ultimately, the sustainability of SGP projects results from the strong ownership of the community or CSO grantee-partners to the actions taken and resulting outcomes, the empowerment built in the process of implementation, and the fact that these projects are meeting their most important needs particularly for sustainable livelihoods. The GEF-7 Strategic Initiative "Beyond grantmaking: Grantmakers Plus Initiatives" is specifically geared towards sustainability and will promote an enabling environment to scale up the impacts of SGP Strategic Initiatives, nationally and globally, through networking and knowledge exchange.

With regards scaling up, the majority of SGP innovations have scaling up potential. This is because successful SGP projects are solutions that are relevant to a thousand-fold more communities under similar situations within the country of implementation, and across other countries. Community-based approaches are inherently more cost-effective in their utilization of existing resources and hitherto untapped resources thereby providing a good model for larger projects concerned with efficiency and sustainability. The highly consultative and participatory processes, including the direct access to funds, practiced in SGP projects, can provide valuable lessons for larger government and donor programs. Notable too is the global reach of SGP – 125 participating countries – which combined with good sharing systems, can scale up, mainstream, and replicate successful community projects.

Scaling up, as well as mainstreaming and replication, however, are processes that require a proactive approach and additional resources especially for communities and CSOs that have only recently completed their first projects. SGP's main role in the scaling up process is to demonstrate or showcase the successful innovation to a wider set of stakeholders, as well as to establish networks/linkages for pooling of effort and resources by various actors. At the portfolio level, SGP has utilized its NSCs, grantee-partner networks and allied CSO networks to have community innovations and successes recognized and adopted at the national level by policy-makers. SGP will implement measures to increase the potential for scaling up through strengthened partnerships at national and global levels. Further, to facilitate upscaling in GEF-7, SGP will also partner with national and global initiatives as the "Sustainable Energy for All" and related processes such as the development of NAMAs and NDCs. These larger initiatives will provide a platform for scaling up SGP work as well as possible co-financing and joint efforts in national and global planning and policy advocacy. SGP will also encourage strong partnerships with the private sector to commercialize successful projects with the aim to shift renewable energy projects from pilot innovations to the mainstream. This will be achieved through, but not limited to, the CSO-Government-Private Sector dialogue platforms.

[1] <https://www.wri.org/blog/2018/09/safeguarding-carbon-stored-indigenous-and-community-lands-essential-meeting-climate>

[2] For example, UNEP's Global Mercury Assessment 2013

[3] Source: Secretary-General remarks at launch of New Climate Economy Report

[4] <https://newclimateeconomy.report/2018/>

[5] Nakicenovic, N et. al., (2016). Global Commons in the Anthropocene: World Development on a Stable and Resilient Planet. Stockholm Resilience Centre, Working Paper No WP-16-019

[6] The Anthropocene Effect describes the interaction between the global human population and our planet changes the Earth's life support system. This "highlights the problems of scaling from local and regional environmental consequences to planetary, where impacts operate on different scales, often both in terms of time and space. For example, the adverse health impacts of indoor air pollution are immediate and local, and the benefits of elimination are immediate too. In contrast, climate change is a global and cumulative problem and mitigation, or a lack thereof cast a long shadow into the future."

[7] Lester Brown (2009), Plan B. Mobilizing to save civilization

[8] Bierbaum, R. et al. 2018. Integration: to solve complex environmental problems. Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel to the Global Environment Facility. Washington, DC.

[9] GEF 7 Programming Directions

[10] GEF. 2017. *GEF-7 Replenishment Programming Directions*. GEF/R.7/15.

[11] GEF/C.54/05/Rev.01 - June 26, 2018

[12] <http://data.communitiesconnect.net/>

[13] The important role of local impact to progress towards larger system impact is highlighted in the OPS5 Report (see Figure 7.2).

[14] <http://www.gefio.org/sites/default/files/ieo/signposts/files/indigenous-peoples-2017-brief.pdf>

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



Annex A provides a global overview of the SGP operations in 110 countries. Specific landscape and seascape as well as individual project coordinates will be provided once the country program strategies are developed and during project implementation.

2. Stakeholders

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

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why: No

SGP operates through a multi-stakeholder approach engaging a range of stakeholders including NGOs, CBOs, indigenous peoples, the private sector, government, academia, and donor partners.

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.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) will be both beneficiaries and direct participants in SGP through their inclusion in NSCs, where non-governmental members must be in the majority, as well as by taking on the role as National Host Institutions (NHIs) and other key roles related to knowledge sharing and policy advocacy. Although grants are targeted towards CSOs particularly community-based and non-governmental organizations, a broad range of stakeholders are engaged as active partners in program management and during grant implementation, including inter alia research institutes, local and municipal governments, international NGOs, as well as national and international volunteers.

Regarding indigenous peoples and marginalized populations, SGP follows a set of principles that advocate for a flexible, time sensitive, and simple project cycle to allow these groups to access SGP support. The programme has pioneered numerous user-friendly modalities to work with poor and marginalized groups including alternative proposal formats such as participatory video (PV), Almanario, photo stories, and community theatre, and allowances are made for concept and project submission in local and vernacular languages so long as these concepts and proposals adhere to the basic project elements. SGP also allows for flexible disbursement terms to cope with indigenous peoples' culture, customs and seasonal movements. SGP makes extra efforts to reach out people and groups that are often marginalized or disadvantaged. Empowering women and engaging youth are two important initiatives of SGP. SGP NSC at the country program level designated focal points for gender and youth to ensure their voices are heard. Additionally, through stakeholder workshops, communication through mass media and targeted outreach by the NC in respective countries, CSOs can learn of SGP projects and activities and provide inputs on how to improve on them.

As for the private sector, SGP will include mechanisms for engaging with private sector through both targeted platforms such as the CSO-Government-Private sector dialogues and through regular grant projects by fostering enhanced involvement of private sector through public-private partnership and other means. In line with the GEF 7 Programming Directions emphasis on engagement with the private sector, the SGP will enhance its engagement with private sector through a number of ways: by developing a private sector strategy by reviewing past and existing portfolio and analyze potential ways to enhance engagement

with private sectors: including engagement at the local/national level to influence businesses toward sustainable practices and options that generate multiple environmental benefits, and explore potential opportunities for finance and technical support that can help scale up SGP innovations. Please see section 4 below for a detailed consideration of how SGP will engage with the private sector.

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).

An internal review carried out as part of the AMR reporting to assess gender equality and women's empowerment in its portfolio during the GEF-6 period which showed that 82% of total SGP projects completed were reported to be gender responsive, while at least 30% of completed projects were led by women. These efforts have been recognized. For instance the UNDP publication "Evaluation of UNDP's Contribution to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, 2015[1] report that (i) the majority of the CPSs mention practical steps to promote gender in SGP projects; (ii) the majority of stakeholders of SGP at the national level (60%) find that the SGP grant selection process includes consideration of gender equality to a great extent and 47% find that grants have effectively contributed to gender equality and women's empowerment; (iii) NCs and NSCs are perceived to have some level of gender expertise; and (iv) actual results on the ground are evident and half of the projects were found to have benefitted women and men equally, or to have disproportionately benefitted women. Many other projects benefitted women, although not to the same extent as men.

In project period, the SGP will build on these strong results to deliver concrete gender outcomes by reviewing and enhancing its gender strategy and guideline for program and project operation. This could include reviewing strategy to enhance gender equality in SGP governance (e.g. National Steering Committee and Country Program team composition), and grant selection and management. The SGP will also fully roll out the GEF Gender Implementation Strategy in the grant-making process, the four action areas. At the portfolio level, the SGP will measure and report on the GEF gender tags such as: (a) contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources; (b) improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance; and (c) targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women. The current project has established targets for these gender tags (please see table B).

Furthermore, the SGP has been an active member of the GEF Gender Partnership, contributing to the review of gender indicators and the gender policy. The GEF Gender Partnership launched the first online course on gender and environment during the 5th GEF assembly in June 2018. In GEF 7, the SGP will expand the online course to offer modules in French and Spanish. The SGP will also pilot a focused innovation programme on women entrepreneurship[2] with the objective to upgrade and expand existing green women-led enterprises for wider replication and scale up. This programme will provide women-led enterprises with business management training, technical training, product development and design, business counselling, marketing assistance, finance facilitation and business networking and business linkages.

[1] <https://erc.undp.org/evaluation/evaluations/detail/7076>

[2] According to the ILO (2009), enterprise development can make a significant contribution to women's empowerment and gender equality and has a key role in gender strategies.

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.

In line with the GEF 7 Programming Directions emphasis on engagement with the private sector, the SGP will enhance its engagement explore opportunities to engage with private sector through a number of ways: by developing a private sector strategy by reviewing past and existing portfolio and analyze potential ways to enhance engagement with private sectors: including engagement at the local/national level to influence businesses toward sustainable practices and options that generate multiple environmental benefits; and explore potential opportunities for finance and technical support that can help scale up SGP innovations. The SGP projects at the local and national levels are designed to provide community-based solutions to complex environmental problems. Given the inter-related and integrated nature of such environmental problems, engagement with and partnership with a wide variety of stakeholders and actors including the private sector will be important if the programme is to effect meaningful and transformative change – be this through transforming policies and regulatory frameworks or through building capacities at the community level. SGP will include mechanisms for engaging with private sector through both targeted platforms such as the CSO-Government-Private sector dialogues and through regular grant projects by fostering enhanced involvement of private sector through public-private partnership and other means. unstructured means such as by sharing information on SGP operations widely and facilitating private sector-grantee linkages.

In GEF 7, SGP financed projects will give more attention to the promotion and support of innovative and scalable initiatives at the local level to address global environment issues in priority landscapes and seascapes. It also will support those projects that could serve as incubators of innovation, with the potential for broader replication of successful approaches through larger projects supported by the GEF and/or other partners. In this context, the SGP will strengthen its partnership approach as a CSO-led multi-stakeholder platform by working closely with the private sector and with governments. With this aim, in GEF 7, the SGP will expand its innovative CSO-Government Dialogue Platform toward greater engagement of the private sector to leverage its potential to invest and support sustainability at the local level, including businesses relating to tourism, agriculture, forest and other relevant sectors. These platforms will provide opportunities to discuss possible shifts in relevant policies and practices to promote sustainability.

Engagement with the private sector will be explored across all the thematic areas. For instance, in the agriculture and food, the SGP will foster partnerships with the private sector and other stakeholders to explore innovative, affordable, and practical solutions to chemicals and waste management while also seeking to establish systems of local producer and/or product certification as an initial step toward expanding to producer-consumer agreements – a process in which the private sector should be fully engaged with. Likewise, in the climate change thematic area, the role of the private sector is critical in ensuring the sustainability and affordability of low carbon technologies promoted at the community-level and similarly private sector partnership and support will be crucial for delivering the GEF 7 Strategic Initiative on catalyzing sustainable urban solutions. In biodiversity, SGP projects will explore opportunities to engage with private sector in supporting community-based eco-tourism activities to generate incentives to local communities for managing / conserving biodiversity. Private sector involvement is also important under the sustainable agriculture, fisheries and food security Strategic Initiative. SGP country programs will explore opportunities to link smallholder producers and pastoralists to markets and technologies. Finally, under the chemicals thematic area, SGP country

programs will work with other national and local stakeholders to identify and support exploration of incentives for private sector involvement to sustainably eliminate chemicals. To this end, the SGP will strive to share information on its operations in respective countries widely with the private sector and explore opportunities for cooperation.

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)

SGP has had wide experience of community projects affected by and adapting to weather extremes. In fact, many projects which were designed to develop tools and measures to adapt to these extremes as surrogate to what could be increased impacts of climate change have gone beyond the pilot and into the scaling up and replication stage. As such, SGP community projects will draw on lessons and tools developed through its Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) projects to integrate climate change adaptation measures. The design of projects will include vulnerability assessments and the inclusion of effective measures generated by communities in similar situations. As far as social risks are concerned, it should be noted that SGP grant-making is demand-driven and community-based. As such, each project, by community design and commitment, is developed not only to meet environmental objectives but also the social, cultural and economic needs of its members, a form of prior informed consent, not only for indigenous people communities but for other local communities as well. SGP NSCs that review project proposals include focal points for gender and women empowerment, for youth, and where relevant for IPs, to ensure that key concerns and needs of these sectors are fully considered.

UNDP has also developed its Social and Environmental Standards (SES) and accompanying Social and Environmental Screening Procedures (SESP). SGP will apply the UNDP's SESP to the design of the Project Document and in the review for approval of SGP Country Programme Strategies. Related compliance mechanism and accountability frameworks will also be referred to. Per UNDP's policy and in conformity with the GEF Policy on SES, the current PIF has been pre-screened by applying the UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP). The result of this pre-SESP indicate the following:

- The overall preliminary risk rating for the project is "moderate"
- In terms of specific risks, at least three were identified as risks at the global level, while other risks will depend on the nature and type of interventions that each of the SGP country programmes will decide to focus on. These risks are as presented below.

Risk 1: Project may potentially reproduce discriminations against women based on gender	The project will prioritize work with women's groups, particularly poorer and more vulnerable women, as well as girls' groups; team will formulate strategy to engage women/girls' groups as primary actors in landscape and resource management and micro and small enterprise development. All GEF SGP proposals are reviewed and approved by a National Steering Committee comprised of experts in different fields, including a gender focal point.
Risk 2: A progressively drier and warmer climate may enhance the possibility of catastrophic weather events in part due to potentially increased frequency and intensity of rainfall in mountain ecosystems.	The risk of climate change is one of several reasons that the project has chosen to emphasize landscape-level management and coordination in productive landscapes. The project will promote a variety of adaptive biodiversity and land resource planning and management actions in forests, pastures and other agro ecosystems. The project will build on SGP's experience with the Community Based Adaptation (CBA) project which has piloted and tested approaches to enable communities to adapt to climate impacts and to build resilience and enhance food security. These lessons will be assessed and more broadly adopted within SGP programming in OP6.
Risk 3: IPs may not be sufficiently consulted on or involved in activities that impact their lands, territories and/or culture	In-depth consultations with IPs will be carried out as they develop their proposals and prepare their projects. All project concepts and proposals are subject to review and approval by the National Steering Committee (NSC), including the NSC IPs focal point, and experts members of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), where relevant. Potential social 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. A comprehensive guidance note for SGP Country Programmes will be prepared on how to apply the SESP at the country level during the Country Programme Strategy (CPS) implementation, small grant project design and formulation, and community level monitoring during implementation.

Based on the full application of the UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards and the comprehensive application of the SESP at the time of the CEO Endorsement, if indicated, a detailed risk mitigation / management plan including strategies on engagement and information sharing to key stakeholders will be developed and shared.

For ad-hoc issues that may arise in the process of grantmaking, the NSCs are tasked to manage the appropriate conflict resolution measures. The use of the landscape and seascape approach allows more frequent visits to clustered projects and risks can be more regularly monitored and mitigated. The SGP also plans to strengthen its Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) to include those experts that can advise on risk assessments and management at both project

design and implementation stages. The system of grant-making will also provide for capable assisting NGOs to support first-time community and CBO implementers. Given all the above checks and balances in place, the potential risk of any negative social and environment impact of SGP projects is expected to be negligible.

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.

As a GEF Corporate Program, the SGP is guided by a Steering Committee. The Steering Committee was established in 2006 to provide overall strategic guidance to the SGP and improve engagement across GEF Agencies. Given broad country presence, UNDP will continue to implement the SGP while the executing agency will continue to be UNOPS. As UNDP Country Offices will play a key role in providing the necessary support at the country level, coordination with other related GEF-financed UNDP projects will also be facilitated. At all levels – local, national and global – the SGP will ensure that other GEF Agencies, particularly international NGOs, including Conservation International (CI), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and World Wildlife Fund (WWF), are closely involved with SGP operations. Among others, this will be made possible by the fact that representatives of international NGO country offices are frequently involved as NSC members. SGP NCs are also regularly invited to be part of the international NGO due diligence process, such as by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), managed by Conservation International. Local CSO partners of these GEF Agencies have also been mobilized to apply for and access SGP grants. Moreover, these GEF Agencies are often engaged in co-financing SGP projects, knowledge sharing, and collaboration on related events and workshops at the country level.

Under GEF-7, the SGP will continue to proactively pursue collaboration with other GEF Agencies for relevant activities and events to enable mutual learning and knowledge exchange, as well as to explore strategic partnerships at the global and country levels. There is also potential of a SGP Country Programme to act as a community-based granting mechanism for GEF and non-GEF funded projects of GEF Agencies. The SGP Central Programme Management Team (CPMT) at UNDP has overall responsibility for monitoring and supervising country programme performance, and for the technical and substantive quality of SGP country portfolios. CPMT will ensure that global guidelines and standards in the development of SGP projects are developed with a view to integrate lessons from GEF FSPs and other related initiatives.

Finally, the SGP NSC in each country is composed of government representatives and a majority of non-governmental membership to reflect the programme's mandate for CSO capacity building. Given that the NSC will provide overall country guidance and provide direct linkages to national policy-making, development planning, knowledge dissemination, and leveraging of SGP's catalytic role, the diverse representation on the NSC will ensure that country level SGP programmes are fully coordinated with other related initiatives, including exploring potential for the SGP to act as incubators of ideas and approaches that can be scaled up with larger sources of finance. The SGP Country Programme Strategy, which guides the operations of the SGP in the country, is usually developed in a participatory manner to include views and concerns of all actors including articulating how the SGP supports national and GEF strategic priorities.

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 project is consistent with NAPA, NAP, ASGM NAP, MIA, NBSAP, NC, TNA, NCSA, NIP, PRSP, NPFE and BUR. The SGP is a country-driven programme and operates in countries where specific requests to initiate the programme have been received from the appropriate national authorities, represented by the GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP). By first requesting and subsequently supporting implementation of the SGP, a country demonstrates that the SGP will be a country-driven and owned initiative, supporting community-level and civil society environmental projects.

As mentioned above, SGP grant-making is based on a Country Programme Strategy (CPS) developed by each SGP country. While the GEF Council-approved PIF and the CEO Endorsement Document provide the global strategic framework, the CPS lays down country priorities and directions of community and civil society action to be supported with grants. The CPS will identify the landscape/seascape the country programme will focus on for greater impact and complementation with other national efforts the process requires a review of national strategies and action plans, such as NBSAPs, NAPs, NIPs, TNAs, PRSPs, NPFE, etc. to also include those related to sustainable development objectives and goals. To ensure consistency with such national strategies and plans, the CPS template includes a specific section in which a table details the SGP country programme's alignment with such strategies and plans. The CPS development is facilitated by the SGP country team and involves iterative consultations with key national stakeholders from government, civil society, academia, and other sectors.

SGP country-drivenness and alignment to key national strategies and plans is continually reinforced both by the National Steering Committee (NSC) and/or the National Focal Group (NFG) for countries under an SGP Sub-regional Programme modality. The NSC is composed of key government officials and leading representatives of the non-governmental community. The GEF OFP is a core member of this NSC. The NSC conducts the review and endorsement of the SGP CPS as well as the review and approval of grant projects. NSC members also provide support in resource mobilization and in linking programme successes and lessons learned to national planning and policy-making, thus necessitating their taking on the task of strategically positioning the country programme and its projects to complement with other related national efforts. As mentioned above, SGP has also established TAGs to broaden the pool of experts in support of the proper design or review of submitted grant proposals. To further assure that SGP projects will fully support Convention-related priority action in the country, experts from the country's Convention focal point agencies are invited to be members of the TAG. UNDP, as the implementing agency, also contributes to ensuring SGP's consistency with national priorities especially along sustainable development objectives shared with the UNDP GEF as a core member of the SGP NSC. As such, critical information from national assessments and programming that the UNDP Country Office (UNDP CO) is often asked to facilitate flows to inform the SGP country programme through NSC meetings, or also directly when the SGP Team participates in UNDP CO strategy workshops and related meetings. In certain cases, the SGP serves as a delivery mechanism to UNDP CO programs and projects linked to the implementation of national strategies and plans that require the meaningful participation of communities and civil society.

Finally, the SGP Country Teams are increasingly asked to actively participate in GEF country programming by presenting the accomplishment and progress of its past operational phase and the strategic direction and plans for an upcoming phase. Whenever invited, the SGP also makes the same presentations during GEF's Extended Constituency Workshops (ECWs). In both cases, SGP acquires valuable information and feedback to ensure higher level alignment while it plans very local community level grantmaking.

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.

Knowledge Management is crucial to SGP as it supports wider adoption of the innovative solutions in its portfolio at national and global levels. All SGP projects incorporate training and capacity building components that help improve the capacities and skills of the CSOs and communities. All SGP CPS documents integrate knowledge management as an important component. At the portfolio level, SGP provides support through strategic training on key areas for the successful implementation such as through stakeholder workshops and knowledge dissemination means (such as knowledge fairs and network aggregation of grantee networks). In OP6, SGP supported 214 projects that strengthened the capacities of 3,490 organizations and 2,793 community-based organizations, improving the capacities of 95,174 people to address global environmental issues at the community level. The SGP also supported 2,547 peer-to-peer exchanges and 3,754 training sessions and produced 4,270 project fact sheets, case studies, brochures, publications, videos and how-to toolkits to capture good practices.

In addition to these, SGP uses several strategies to support knowledge exchange and networking of its grantees and partners. During OP6, around 78% SGP country programmes strengthened grantee networks, 74% connected grantees with capacitated NGOs, 80% promoted peer to peer exchanges, 72% organized training on different subjects, 72% connected grantees with government extension services. These will be strengthened through three inter-related initiatives namely the “Digital Library of Community Innovations for the Global Environment” as an expanding section of the SGP website that curates tested methods and technologies, many of them original innovations, developed by SGP and its partner CSOs. It is a key component of SGP’s knowledge management strategy. This is a library of case studies, fact sheets, in-depth reports, evaluation, how-to-tool-kits and other publications that captures and distills useful solution to environmental and sustainable development programs in an easy to find and filter manner. The objective is to facilitate knowledge transfer and technology from a community in one country to other communities, CSOs, policymakers and development practitioners; (b) Communities Connect^[1] is a collaborative platform started in partnership with the GEF CSO Network, to promote the solutions created by communities and civil society organization to sustainable development issues will be revamped; (c) the “South-South Community Innovation Exchange Platform” that promotes knowledge exchange between SGP countries to encourage cross country/region replication of good practices.

Beyond this, SGP is also contributing to UNDP’s work in South-South cooperation and has collaborated with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. A total of 4 case studies were contributed to the second volume of the “Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development”, a publication that features more than 100 notable solutions at the national, sub regional, regional and global levels to crucial challenges faced by developing countries ranging from efforts to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality, support climate change action and create peaceful and cohesive societies.

[1] <http://data.communitiesconnect.net/>

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).

Name**Position****Ministry****Date**

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

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



