

## Increasing the capacities of communities to adapt to climate change

Communities are at the forefront of unprecedented climate change impacts but are often the least able to cope with them. With presence in 120 countries and 20 years of experience in supporting community-based projects, the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) implemented by UNDP, is an effective mechanism for delivering community-based adaptation (CBA) projects.

The methodologies and strategies supported technically and financially by SGP, enable communities to adapt to the potential impacts of climate change. In particular, SGP projects provide tools and methodologies to help communities assess their vulnerability, mitigate the risks by developing their own solutions, and use adaptation measures to reduce the impacts of climate change on the ecosystems they depend on.

As a response to the critical need to support community-based climate change risk management, the SGP initially started working on climate change adaptation in 2008, with US\$ 5 million in seed funding from the GEF Strategic Priority on Adaptation.

In 2009, SGP and the Australian Government Overseas Aid Program (AusAid) started the Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) programme with US\$ 12.4 million in funding from AusAid aimed at improving the resilience of communities in 42 countries, many of them small island developing states (SIDS).

Small island developing states are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts due to their small land area, susceptibility to natural disasters, geographical isolation, limited natural resources and sensitive ecosystems. The programme focuses on piloting and testing of CBA approaches on the ground, while also promoting the horizontal replication of successful community practices and the integration of the lessons into national and sub-national policies.

The goals of the SGP AusAid CBA projects are three-fold:

- To reduce the vulnerability and improve the adaptive capacity of local communities to the adverse effects of climate change.
- To provide countries with sustainable and concrete ground-level experience in climate change adaptation at the local level
- To provide clear policy lessons and mainstream the experience and innovations generated by communities into national processes on climate change adaptation.



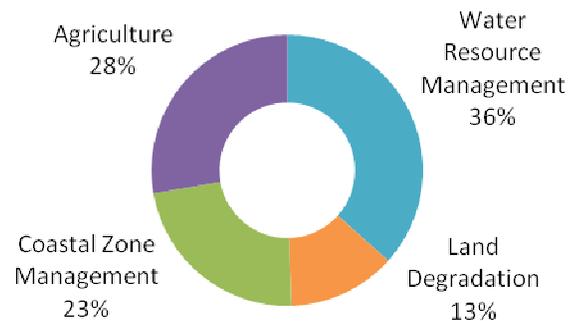
## Coverage

The SGP and AusAid Community-Based Adaptation programme provides support to 42 countries in 4 regions: the Atlantic/Indian Ocean, the Caribbean, the Pacific and the Mekong/Asia region. Thirty eight (38) of these countries are small island developing states (SIDS) that face unique challenges due to the potential impacts of climate change.

## Thematic focus

The distribution of the portfolio under each thematic area is as follows: Agriculture (28%), Coastal Zone Management (23%), Land Degradation (13%) and Water Resource Management. (36%).

Overall, most projects focus on water resource management, however, because CBA projects address short- and long-term climate change impacts in a holistic manner whilst addressing site-specific issues, most individual projects cover more than one thematic area. Depending on their geographic location, the needs of the communities with regards to climate change and its variability, and the national development and climate change strategies, each project selects the approach that best suits their particular situation.



## Results



To date, the SGP AusAid CBA programme has provided technical and financial support to 65 community-based projects, 20 of which have been completed.

As a result, SGP's pioneering work in CBA is already being scaled up and is influencing policy. In Jamaica the CBA programme is being recognized as good practice to be included in the national Climate Change policy, while in Cambodia, SIDA has provided an additional US\$1 million to continue to fund CBA activities at the national level through the SGP from 2012-2014.

Similarly, lessons from Sri Lanka's CBA projects are now being mainstreamed into larger adaptation projects and the Adaptation Fund has recently approved a US\$ 7.9 million project that incorporates several lessons from SGP CBA projects. Moreover, the GEF's Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) will also finance Sri Lanka's Ministry of Economic Development to integrate environmental best practices, including some of the lessons from SGP AusAid CBA projects, within key rural development programmes having a major impact on national policy.



# Community Action Global Impact

The GEF Small Grants Programme  
340 E 45nd Street, 15th Floor. New York, NY 10017  
Phone: +1 (646) 781-4353 | Fax: +1 (212) 906-6568  
Email: [sgp.info@undp.org](mailto:sgp.info@undp.org) | Website: <http://sgp.undp.org/>