

SGP Country Programme Strategy for Utilization of OP5 Grant Funds

# GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME



## BELIZE COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY OP5

AUGUST 2011



# SGP Country Programme Strategy for Utilization of OP5 Grant Funds

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

BEST	Belize Enterprise for Sustainable Technology
BD	Biodiversity
BNE Trust	Belize Natural Energy Trust
CBO	Community Based Organization
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CC	Climate Change
CLME	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem
COMPACT	Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation Programme
CPS	Country Programme Strategy
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DOE	Department of Environment
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
ICCAs	Indigenous and Community Conservation Areas
IPs	Indigenous Peoples
LD	Land Degradation
LIC	Land Information Center
MBRS	Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
NAP	National Action Programmes
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NGO	Non Government Organization
NIP	National Implementation Plan
NSC	National Steering Committee
OP4	Operational Phase Four
OP5	Operational Phase Five
PACT	Protected Areas Conservation Trust
PRA	Performance and Results Assessment
SAPs	Strategic Action Programmes
SC	Stockholm Convention
SGP	Small Grants Programme
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SME	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TORs	Terms of Reference
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
US\$	United States Dollars
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society

# **SGP Country Programme Strategy for Utilization of OP5 Grant Funds**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This Country Programme Strategy (CPS) document guides the implementation of the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) in Belize for GEF Operational Phase 5. The CPS provides the strategic framework for programme delivery and is the primary adaptive management tool for planning, programming, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting.

The CPS is intended to be used by SGP programme staff for programme management, by CBOs and NGOs to assist them in developing projects and accessing grant funding, by the SGP National Steering Committee as a guide to project selection and the achievement of country programme targets, by potential in-country partners for understanding SGP and coordinating joint initiatives, and by the SGP Central Programme Management Team for global programme management and reporting to the GEF Council.

The CPS provides country programme background information and a country situational analysis. The SGP programming ‘niche’, and targeted capacity development, poverty reduction and gender interventions for OP5 are presented. Outcomes, indicators and activities contributing to targeted results are outlined. Plans for M&E, knowledge management and resource mobilization contributing to the GEF SGP goal of “Global environmental benefits secured in the GEF focal areas through community-based initiatives and actions” are also presented.

# SGP Country Programme Strategy for Utilization of OP5 Grant Funds

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**Country:** BELIZE  
**Resources to be invested:** US\$2,400,000<sup>1</sup>

## 1. SGP Country Programme - Summary Background (2 pages max)

1.1 Please describe the length of time the SGP country programme has been active within the global SGP and results achieved (i.e. GEF-5 status as a Category 1, 2a, 2b or 2c country programme).

### Background

Belize joined the GEF SGP and commenced programme operations in 1993 during the Pilot Phase, being hosted and managed at the time by the Belize Enterprise for Sustainable Technology (BEST), a national development NGO. In 1995 the SGP was moved into the newly established UNDP sub-office in Belmopan from where it has since operated. In 2001 Belize was selected as one of the 6 pilot countries for the Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation Programme (COMPACT). COMPACT, an integral part of GEF SGP Belize, is also based within the UNDP sub-office. The GEF SGP/COMPACT team is comprised of 3 staff - National Coordinator, Programme Assistant, and COMPACT Local Coordinator.

In keeping with the programme structure, in-country operations of GEF SGP are guided and overseen by the National Steering Committee (NSC) which is comprised of members representing a cross-section of key stakeholder interests. NSC members include representatives of civil society interests, the GEF Operational Focal Point, representatives of key government agencies and GEF Conventions, and UNDP, providing technical and substantive input for grant approval and develop key decisions by consensus.

Since launching of SGP operations, Belize has funded 177 projects, for a total of over US\$4.3 million. Projects have mainly been funded under the Biodiversity protection Focal Area in response to Belize's opportunities to sustainably manage and use biodiversity resources and to address stakeholder interests. In OP4 additional efforts have been made to diversify the grant portfolio among other Focal Areas and several projects have been funded under the Climate Change, Land Degradation and International Waters Focal Areas.

Over the years many results have been achieved based on the three SGP pillars of environmental protection, sustainable livelihoods, and community empowerment. Notable among these are:

- Contribution to the expansion and consolidation of the national protected areas system network and support for NGOs and CBOs to co-manage terrestrial and marine protected areas.

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<sup>1</sup> The level of SGP OP5 resources is an estimated total of the GEF core grant allocation, anticipated STAR resources, as well as other sources of third party co-financing.

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- Created awareness and provided support for protection of the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System - World Heritage Site.
- Creation of awareness of and support for the protection of endangered species such as the Black Howler Monkey (*Alouatta pigra*), West Indian Manatee (*Trichchechus manatus*), Scarlet Macaw (*Ara macao cyanooptera*), Yellow-headed Parrot (*Amazona oratrix*), Harpy Eagle (*Harpia harpyja*), Central American River Turtle or Hiccatee (*Dermatemys mawii*), Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and Nassau Grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*).
- Involvement of local communities and stakeholders in the management and sustainable use of natural resources and income generation from terrestrial and marine products and services.
- Support for awareness and participation of fisherfolk in sustainable fisheries, and support for revival of the beekeeping industry.
- Empowerment of NGOs, CBOs, Vulnerable Community groups, and Indigenous Peoples organizations through institutional support, training and capacity building.

For GEF-5, Belize as a SIDS is designated a Category I country and receives an Indicative core grant allocation of US\$1,200,000 to be matched on a 1:1 basis by non-GEF co-financing.

1.2 Please update key baseline considerations for the SGP country programme Strategy, major partnerships, and existing sources of co-financing (including from government, bilateral and other sources).

## **Situational Analysis**

### **Economic/Political Situation**

Belize, with a per capita annual income of US\$4,045.00 ranks twenty fourth of thirty two countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region. The economy is primarily based on services including trade, tourism and public administration, however a significant portion of the economy is based on agricultural exports which are susceptible to changes in the global economy. In agriculture, the production of sugar, citrus, bananas, seafood and livestock are the main activities. Major concerns for Belize's economy continue to be the sizable trade deficit and foreign debt. With the recent slowing of government spending, increased taxes, decline of aquaculture and the phase-out of preferential markets for sugar and bananas, the GDP growth rate is slowing.

Belize enjoys a democratic government based on the Westminster model. The country has been a stable democracy since independence from Great Britain in 1981.

### **Environmental Situation**

Belize is located in the northeast of Central America and is bordered by Mexico, Guatemala, and the Caribbean Sea. National territory is approximately 46,620 sq km (18,000 sq miles) with a land area of approximately 22,965 sq km (8,867 sq miles). Thirty watersheds including several large transnational watersheds shared with Mexico and Guatemala, drain the landscape. 22.8% of national territory is under some form of protected area status; 34.9% of terrestrial and coastal habitats is protected and 10.6% of territorial waters is protected, a large portion within the Belize

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Barrier Reef Reserve System - World Heritage Site. The country now has about 64.7% forest or vegetation cover.

The biodiversity of Belize includes 576 species of birds, 163 species of mammals, 122 species of reptiles, 43 species of fresh water fish, 158 mollusks, 42 species of amphibians, 288 species of Lepidoptera, and 176 Odonata. There are 2 amphibians and 1 reptile documented as endemic. Of the estimated 4,000 species of native flowering plants, 2,500 species are dicotyledons and 1,500 are monocotyledons. Six hundred and thirteen species of plants have medicinal value. The country harbors viable populations of a range of species of conservation concern under pressure throughout the rest of Central America. Marine ecosystems include mangroves, sea grass beds and coral reefs. These marine ecosystems are characterized by high biodiversity with 594 genera representing 1,040 species of organisms. 79% of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System (MBRS), the second largest reef system in the world occurs in Belizean waters.

Belize is endowed with unique natural resources and ecosystems that drive the economy: tourism, fishing, agriculture, forestry and hydroelectric power. Belize is highly vulnerable to economic shocks and natural disasters. As pressures on natural resources have intensified with the growing tourism sector, the real estate boom in coastal areas and the recent discovery of oil, effective natural resources management has become indispensable to ensure continued growth and improve living conditions in Belize.

Efficient management of natural resources is important not only to ensure sustainable growth but to protect the livelihoods of the poor. The environmental management system is in urgent need of strengthening in the face of rising pressures from the key sectors of Belize's economy. Due to weak institutional capacities, the implementation and enforcement of environmental and natural resources management actions have been inadequate. The institutions that are directly responsible for the management of Belize's environment and natural resources (Department of Environment, Forest Department, Fisheries Department, and Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute) are underfinanced, understaffed and may lack the capacity to perform their basic functions.

The major environmental threats are vulnerability to climate change, improper solid waste disposal, invasive species, and the failure to fully and effectively manage protected areas, as highlighted in the 4<sup>th</sup> national report to the CBD (2010). Other environmental problems include: deforestation and forest degradation, mangrove cutting, pollution of water bodies, over-fishing and unsustainable extraction of forest products, coral reef degradation, unsustainable coastal development and unsustainable agricultural practices with ensuing loss of soil. These problems are exacerbated by susceptibility to natural hazards such as hurricanes and floods. Belize requires substantial funding to tackle the adverse effects of climate change and to invest in measures to improve the resilience of its economy and natural resources to climate shocks and natural disasters.

### **Institutional and Governance Framework**

The key portfolio for environmental policy and legislation which address sustainable management and protection of natural and environmental resources is vested with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE). However, major environmental responsibilities are also held by the Ministries of Tourism, Health, Agriculture and Fisheries, some statutory authorities (such as the Solid Waste Management Authority, Belize Agricultural Health

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Authority and the Land Utilization Authority), and several non governmental organizations which co-manage protected areas. Through the Department of Environment (DOE), the Environmental Protection Act (1992) is executed. DOE has the specific legislative mandate, and the necessary statutory authority to ensure environmental protection. Its functions include monitoring and enforcing pollution control standards, advising on planning and natural resource management, and reviewing EIAs submitted for development activities.

Belize developed a National Protected Area System Plan and Policy in 2005. The national policy is the key statement on the role and management of protected areas. The aim is to create a National Protected Area System in which all important sites are included in a coherent framework and that meets all obligations under international agreements to which Belize is a signatory.

### **Major Partnerships and Sources of Co-financing**

GEF SGP works closely with several key government agency partners in order to obtain sound technical input and focused support during project preparation, implementation and reporting, and to coordinate programme delivery with on-going national efforts. The main government agency partners are Forest Department, Fisheries Department, Agriculture Department, Cooperatives Department, and Education Department.

In addition, GEF SGP coordinates efforts with a host of other donors which provide parallel funding at the project level. These partners include the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and OAK Foundation among others.

GEF SGP targets a 1:1 ratio between GEF grant funding and non-GEF co-financing leveraged through project level inputs from state and non-state partners. Through direct GEF core financing and leveraged non-GEF co-financing, the total financial investment in OP5 projects is targeted at US\$2,400,000.

## **2. SGP Country Programme Niche (6 pages max)**

2.1 Please list the dates of the country ratification of the relevant Rio Conventions and relevant national planning frameworks:

Table 1. List of relevant conventions and national/regional plans or programmes

<b>Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks</b>	<b>Date of ratification or signing?/ completion</b>
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Signature: 13 June 1992 Ratification: 30 Dec 1993 Effective date: 30 March 1994
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	Belize completed NBSAP in 1998
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Signature: 13 June 1992 Ratification: 31 October 1994 Entry into force: 29 January 1995

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UNFCCC National Communications (1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> )	1 <sup>st</sup> : 16 September 2002
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	NA
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	Accession: 23 Jul 1998 Entry into Force: 21 Oct 1998
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	Draft developed in 2006
Stockholm Convention (SC)	Signature: 14 May 2002 Accession: 25 January 2010
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	Submitted : 03 Feb 2011
World Bank Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	NO
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	Approved
GEF-5 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	On-going
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies	NA*

\* Although Belize has not prepared any SAPs, the country participates in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Project

2.2 Please describe how the SGP country programme will use OP5 resources to support implementation of national priorities in relation to GEF-5 Strategic Priorities. How will civil society and community-based projects be facilitated and coordinated to help the country achieve its priorities and achieve the objectives of the global conventions?

Belize is signatory to the main Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MLEs) including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. At the national level there is an abundance of legislation and several policy documents that address various issues relating to the environment. GEF SGP has identified specific project types, as listed in Table 2, consistent with national priorities and GEF-5 strategic priorities. These project categories will be considered for grant making on a priority basis in OP5. Throughout the project identification and selection process, critical emphasis will be placed on ensuring that all projects address the 3 SGP pillars of environmental protection, sustainable livelihoods and community empowerment. In addition, SGP will continue to consider other ‘strategic’ projects consistent with national priorities which add value to SGP through their positive impact on the environment, contribution to livelihoods improvement, and civil society empowerment.

Environmental protection will focus on improving the management and use of natural resources and the protection of ecosystem integrity, as demonstrated in decreased rates of resource degradation in areas targeted for project interventions. Adoption of sustainable technologies and best practices in resource management will be promoted.

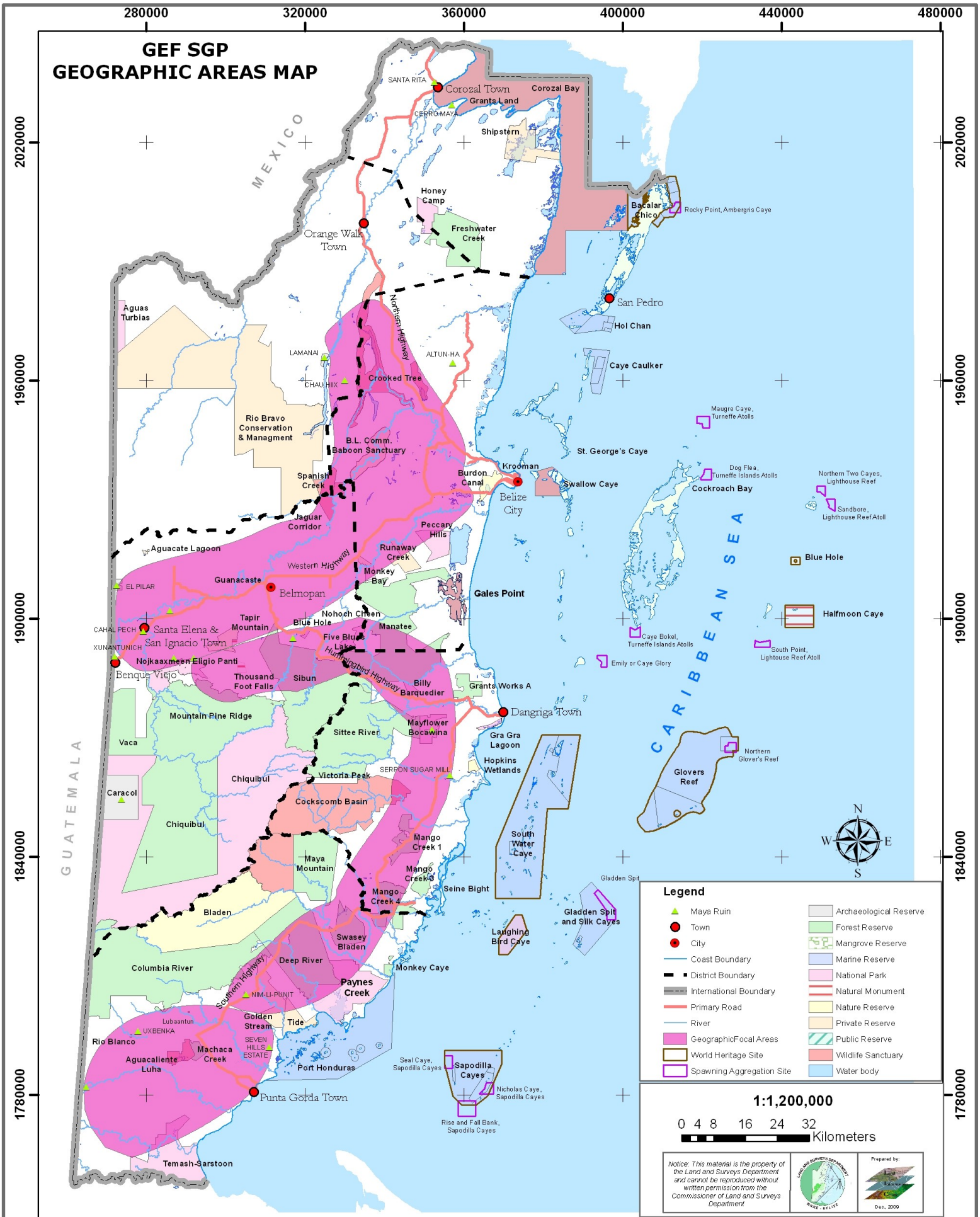
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Sustainable livelihood practices to reduce poverty will be encouraged, particularly among vulnerable populations which rely on the natural resource base. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and income generating initiatives will be supported, particularly those which result in reduced erosion of ecosystem integrity.

Civil society empowerment will be focused on contributing to the objectives of global environmental conventions and the achievement of MDGs. SGP will work with established NGOs to facilitate and support emerging CBOs, vulnerable community groups, and Indigenous Peoples groups in order to establish partnerships, expand stakeholder networks, and build local community capacity. In particular efforts will be directed at strengthening the technical, institutional and functional capacity to manage resources through training and mentoring for direct participation in planning and management processes.

2.3 Please insert or annex a map of the region indicating a geographic focus, if relevant

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## GEF SGP GEOGRAPHIC AREAS MAP

### Legend

- ▲ Maya Ruin
- Town
- City
- Coast Boundary
- District Boundary
- International Boundary
- Primary Road
- River
- Geographic Focal Areas
- World Heritage Site
- Spawning Aggregation Site
- Archaeological Reserve
- Forest Reserve
- Mangrove Reserve
- Marine Reserve
- National Park
- Natural Monument
- Nature Reserve
- Private Reserve
- Public Reserve
- Wildlife Sanctuary
- Water body

1:1,200,000

0 4 8 16 24 32 Kilometers

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Prepared by:  
 Land and Surveys Department  
 Dec. 2009

## **SGP Country Programme Strategy for Utilization of OP5 Grant Funds**

The CPS focuses on the thematic areas of the SGP niche (consistent with national priorities) as outlined in table 2, section 2.4 below. In order to build on the investments made in earlier Operational Phases, SGP will prioritize projects in the following three geographic areas (See Map of Belize):

- the Belize River watershed including both the upper and lower river valley areas, along with the Central Biological Corridor which links the lower Belize River Valley area with the Maya Mountains Massif block of protected areas.
- the buffer areas of the northern and eastern section of the Maya Mountains Massif in the Cayo, Stann Creek and northern Toledo districts; and
- the Moho River, Temash River and Sarstoon River watersheds in southern Toledo district.

These areas have been identified as priority areas applying a landscape management approach in order to rationalize the delivery of SGP for greater impact on the environment, community livelihood, and community empowerment; to broaden and diversify the portfolio of projects; and to enhance the administrative and operational efficiency of programme delivery based on the existing portfolio of projects. These areas include watersheds and protected areas of regional and international importance. Their prioritization enhances synergy with national protected areas system priorities, complements the work of COMPACT in the coastal area of the southern half of the country, and provides direct access to SGP funding for vulnerable communities and Indigenous Peoples.

In addition, SGP will consider projects in other areas of the country where such projects would provide a strategic opportunity to enhance the impact of SGP.

2.4 Please fill in the table below detailing the target OP5 global project objectives described in the GEF CEO endorsement documents. SGP country programmes are invited to establish the SGP niche for grant-making in relation to the national priorities as applicable, outlined above, and the OP5 project objectives for the focal areas, as relevant.

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Table 2. Consistency with National Priorities

OP5 project objectives	National priorities	SGP niche
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1:</u> Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas through community-based actions</p>	<p>Develop sustainable financing mechanisms for Protected Areas</p>	<p>Support community monitoring and management of protected areas and forest resources.</p> <p>Support initiatives which improve income generation for Protected Areas management</p> <p>Support capacity development efforts for greater efficiency of biodiversity management</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2:</u> Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions</p>	<p>Care for the Natural Environment as the source and basis of social progress</p>	<p>Support the participation of NGOs and community groups in planning and applying strategic approaches to natural resource management and use.</p> <p>Development and marketing of community-based products and services in areas buffering protected areas and ecologically sensitive areas for maintenance of ecosystem functionality.</p> <p>Production, marketing, and certification of agricultural, apicultural and marine produce in and adjacent to protected areas and ecologically sensitive areas.</p> <p>Promotion of good best practices in fisheries and fisheries habitat management, including managed access, and good agricultural practices such as using live fences for pastures.</p> <p>Promote community-based tourism, green businesses and micro enterprises.</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3:</u> Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level</p>	<p>Removal of barriers for promotion of low carbon technology among local communities</p>	<p>Promotion of use of renewable energy technologies for rural electrification and to power SME's and for social development needs.</p> <p>Promotion of use of renewable energy technologies for rural electrification, to power SME's and for social development needs.</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 5:</u> Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry</p>	<p>Reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation</p>	<p>Promotion of community forestry initiatives targeting the sustainable management of timber and non-timber forest products.</p> <p>Promotion of good agricultural practices and agroforestry aimed at decreasing the negligent use of fires.</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6:</u> Maintain or improve flow of agro-</p>	<p>Rehabilitation of degraded forests and landscapes</p>	<p>Support community based rehabilitation of degraded land and deforested areas.</p>

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ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities		Promote viable green livelihood options in areas with high potential for land degradation and in areas where ecological functions are easily offset by unsustainable development practices.
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7:</u> Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes)	Support environmentally and socially responsible use of land resources	<p>Promotion of good agricultural practices aimed at reducing land degradation and rehabilitating degraded land.</p> <p>Promoting good agricultural practices, sustainable land management, and the transfer of knowledge and lessons learned to community level stakeholders.</p> <p>Promotion of landscape management approach to community development</p>
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8:</u> Support trans-boundary water body management with community-based initiatives	Sustainable use and protection of trans-boundary water resources	Support initiatives targeting watershed management and the elimination of land based pollution of shared water bodies.
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10:</u> Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations and those of indigenous peoples) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends	<p>Strengthen the capacity of local organizations to facilitate citizens participation in decision-making processes</p> <p>Facilitate and strengthen local governance structures of CSOs</p>	<p>Support initiatives to engage community groups in environmental stewardship through education, awareness, and outreach events.</p> <p>Empower Civil Society Organizations to participate in the resolution of environmental issues</p> <p>Promote community level events to discuss and disseminate lessons learnt and best practices on climate change and climate proofing, sustainable land management and biodiversity management.</p> <p>Support initiatives to create greater awareness and understanding of climate change, land degradation and biodiversity protection issues</p> <p>Support initiatives to engage community groups in developing and demonstrating tools for assessing and monitoring vulnerabilities and risks to climate change events.</p> <p>Train communities in principles and practices of sustainable land management and water resource management</p>
<u>Cross-Cutting Results:</u> Poverty reduction, livelihoods and gender	<p>Expand opportunities for the poor to engage in sustainable livelihoods</p> <p>Increase sustainable livelihoods for both men and women</p>	Support investments in sustainable livelihoods targeting women, marginalized peoples, vulnerable groups and Indigenous Peoples' groups.

## **SGP Country Programme Strategy for Utilization of OP5 Grant Funds**

### **3. Capacity Development, Poverty Reduction and Gender Results for SGP (1 page max)**

Please describe how the SGP country programme in the preparation and review of projects, and later in their implementation, will produce positive results in the development of capacity of civil society organizations (i.e. national NGOs, CBOs, or indigenous peoples organizations); improving livelihoods and local benefits; as well as addressing gender and indigenous peoples' considerations so as to achieve global environmental benefits.<sup>2</sup> Please also provide details how the capacity developed will be retained within different organizations and communities.

Development of human and institutional capacity, improving community livelihoods and benefits, and promoting gender equity are key considerations of SGP. During community level consultations for project planning and throughout project implementation, these issues will be emphasized. They will serve as important criteria for selection and approval of projects by the NSC.

#### **3.1 Capacity Development**

Prior to working with new grantee partners, an organizational assessment will be conducted to determine the capacity of the proponent organization to plan, manage and report on the proposed initiative. This will help to identify the nature and extent of the training and capacity building workshops to be conducted during project preparation and implementation. Topics such as defining roles and responsibilities, team building, conflict resolution, and moral leadership will be emphasized. The mentorship approach providing resource person/s to work with emerging groups will be applied. This approach has been piloted and has proven to be effective in supporting project implementation, monitoring, financial accountability and reporting. The resource persons who serve as mentors should be knowledgeable in GEF SGP priorities, procedures and guidelines and have some experience in managing a GEF SGP project.

#### **3.2 Poverty Reduction**

The organizational assessment will help to identify group resources, needs, interests and opportunities for addressing livelihood concerns. Whenever feasible, income generation activities for community participants will be included in projects. The income generating activities will be discussed and agreed on during the project planning consultations in order to promote community participation, ownership and sustainability. In addition, the organizational assessment will identify threats which could lead to potential conflicts in distributing income and other benefits.

Efforts will be made during the planning and design of projects to link community livelihood improvement to the National Poverty Elimination Action Plan. Livelihood improvement will be included in the criteria for project selection.

#### **3.3 Gender Concerns**

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<sup>2</sup> During OP5, the SGP capacity development outcome is cross-cutting and relates to interventions corresponding with each of the relevant GEF focal areas.

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The organizational assessment will help to identify gender concerns and the opportunities for promoting gender equity. Efforts will be made to mainstream gender issues and concerns into all projects. Whenever possible, the participation of men and women on an equitable basis will be promoted throughout the project cycle. During project planning and design, proponents will be asked to identify the roles and responsibilities of men and women and to describe in the project proposal how men and women will be involved in each project. Gender mainstreaming will be included in the criteria for project selection.

During project implementation efforts will be made to provide equal opportunities for access to resources and benefits for women and men. Equal participation by women and men in decision making, control of resources and access to socio-economic benefits will be promoted. The contributions of women and men to project activities will be documented and participatory project appraisals will incorporate gender-based indicators.

### **3.4 Indigenous Peoples**

In addition to prioritizing Capacity Development, Poverty Reduction and Gender Concerns in project planning and implementation, the concerns of Indigenous Peoples will also be considered within projects which involve IPs. The use of native languages for training activities will be encouraged, in particular, Mopan Maya and Q'eqchi Maya languages will be used within Mayan community settings as these are the traditional languages used for communication in community events. Members of the other indigenous group, the Garinagu, are generally fluent in using English. While the residents of the traditional Creole and Hispanic communities are not classified as Indigenous People, some of these communities are predominantly Creole or Spanish speaking and the residents are more comfortable with communicating in their mother tongue. SGP will be sensitive to the communication needs of these communities.

### **3.5 Retention of Developed Capacity**

Several approaches will be employed to retain capacity within organizations and communities.

Close attention will be given to the development of projects with emerging groups, vulnerable communities and Indigenous Peoples. An assessment of capacities will be carried out at the start of the donor/grantee partnership. The assessment will help to determine the nature, extent and duration of the support to be provided and also to help to guide the design and implementation of an exit strategy.

In addition, follow-up grants will be provided to successful grantee partner organizations to support ongoing initiatives where feasible. GEF SGP funds will be used to leverage additional financial and technical support from other sources for sustaining community level initiatives. The production of goods and services which demonstrate the ability to generate income will be encouraged. In Year 2 and Year 3 of OP5, strategic projects aimed at capacity building and retention, M&E training, and networking and knowledge exchanges among grantee partners will be funded. A pilot project focusing on training community level grantee organizations in using and applying GIS technology will be supported.

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## 4. OP5 Country Outcomes, Indicators and Activities (3 pages max)

Table 3. Results Framework

<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1: Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas (ICCAs) through community-based actions</u>			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
<p>Outcome 1.1: Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts on biodiversity resources in and around protected areas, and indigenous and community conservation areas</p> <p>Outcome 1.2: Benefits generated at the community level from conservation of biodiversity in and around protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas</p>	<p>Number, and Hectares of protected areas positively influenced through SGP support</p> <p>Number of community members with improved livelihoods related to benefits from protected areas</p> <p>Total value of biodiversity products (US dollar equivalent)</p>	<p>Progress Reports, Site Visit Reports, End of Project Internal Evaluation Reports, and SGP database</p>	<p>1-2 projects funded per year</p>
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2: Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions</u>			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
<p>Outcome 2.1: Improved community-level sustainable use of biodiversity in production landscapes / seascapes through community-based initiatives, frameworks and market mechanisms, including recognized environmental standards that</p>	<p>Hectares of production landscapes/seascapes applying sustainable use practices</p> <p>Hectares of land under sustainable agriculture, forest management and water management practices</p>	<p>Progress Reports, Site Visit Reports, End of Project Internal Evaluation Reports, and SGP database</p>	<p>1-2 projects funded per year</p>

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incorporate biodiversity considerations	<p>Number of community members with improved livelihoods related to benefits from sustainable use of biodiversity</p> <p>Total value of biodiversity products (US dollar equivalent)</p>		
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3: Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
Outcome 3.1: Innovative low-GHG technologies deployed and successfully demonstrated at the community level	<p>Number of community members demonstrating or using low-GHG technologies</p> <p>Tonnes of GHG avoided (CO2 equivalent) by implementing low carbon technologies</p>	Progress Reports, Site Visit Reports, End of Project Internal Evaluation Reports, and SGP database	1 project funded per year
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 5: Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
<p>Outcome 5.1: Sustainable land use, land use change, and forestry management and climate proofing practices adopted at the community level for forest and non-forest land-use types</p> <p>Outcome 5.2: Restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks in forests and non-forest lands</p>	<p>Hectares under improved sustainable land management and climate proofing practices</p> <p>Hectares of forests and non-forest lands with restoration and enhancement initiated.</p> <p>Hectares of land under sustainable agriculture, forest</p>	Progress Reports, Site Visit Reports, End of Project Internal Evaluation Reports, and SGP database	1-2 projects funded per year

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	management and water management practices		
	Tonnes of GHG avoided (CO2 equivalent) by implementing low carbon technologies		
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
<p>Outcome 6.1: Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts on agro-, and forest ecosystems and ecosystem services demonstrated to sustain ecosystem functionality</p> <p>SGP LD Outcome 6.2: Community-based models of sustainable forestry management developed, and tested, linked to carbon sequestration for possible up-scaling and replication where appropriate, to reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhance carbon sinks from land use, land use change, and forestry activities</p>	<p>Hectares of land under sustainable agriculture, forest management and water management practices</p> <p>Hectares of degraded land restored and rehabilitated</p> <p>Number of communities demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices</p> <p>Number of community members with improved actions and practices that reduce negative impacts on land uses</p>	<p>Progress Reports, Site Visit Reports, End of Project Internal Evaluation Reports, and SGP database</p>	<p>1-2 projects funded per year</p>
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7: Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes)</u>			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
<p>Outcome 7.1: Improved community-level actions</p>	<p>Hectares of land</p>	<p>Progress Reports, Site Visit Reports, End of</p>	<p>1-2 projects funded per year</p>

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<p>and practices, and reduced negative impacts in land use frontiers of agro-ecosystems and forest ecosystems (rural/urban, agriculture/forest)</p>	<p>under sustainable agriculture, forest management and water management practices</p> <p>Number of communities demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices</p> <p>Number of community members with improved actions and practices that reduce negative impacts on land uses</p>	<p>Project Internal Evaluation Reports, and SGP database</p>	
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8:</u> Support trans-boundary water body management with community-based initiatives</p>			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
<p>Outcome 8.1: Effective community-based actions and practices demonstrated</p>	<p>Hectares of water body basins under sustainable management practices</p>	<p>Progress Reports, Site Visit Reports, End of Project Internal Evaluation Reports, and SGP database</p>	<p>1 project funded per year</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10:</u> Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations and those of indigenous peoples) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends</p>			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
<p>Outcome 10.2: Improved information flows to/from CBOs and CSOs regarding good practices and lessons learned, and application of such practices</p> <p>Outcome 10.3: Increased public awareness and education at the</p>	<p>Quantity and quality of SGP knowledge base , and use of knowledge base</p> <p>Quantity and quality of contributions to knowledge fairs, conferences, publications and research, including lesson learnt for sharing of</p>	<p>Progress Reports, Site Visit Reports, End of Project Internal Evaluation Reports, and SGP database</p>	<p>1 project and one workshop funded per year</p>

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community-level regarding global environmental issues	experiences  Number of CBOs and CSOs demonstrating understanding of the role of evaluation through application of relevant evaluation methodologies and participation in national dialogues		
Outcome 10.4: Capacity of CBOs and CSOs strengthened to support implementation of global conventions			
<u>Cross-Cutting Results: Poverty Reduction, Livelihoods and Gender</u>			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
<p>Improve livelihoods through increasing local benefits generated from environmental resources</p> <p>Mainstream gender considerations in community-based environmental initiatives.</p>	<p>Number of participating community members -gender disaggregated (mandatory for all projects).</p> <p>Number of projects which include gender considerations in their development</p> <p>Number of community members with sustained livelihood improvement resulting from SGP support</p>	<p>Progress Reports, Site Visit Reports, End of Project Internal Evaluation Reports, and SGP database</p>	<p>All projects should contribute to these outcomes</p>

### 5. Monitoring & Evaluation Plan (3 pages max)

5.1 Please describe the Monitoring & Evaluation plan for the portfolio of individual SGP projects working with civil society organizations (i.e. national NGOs, CBOs, or indigenous peoples' organizations). Details on the frequency of monitoring visits and evaluations of projects should be provided.

The approach to be used for monitoring of individual projects is to utilize an M&E plan including technical and financial benchmarks for each project, to use mentors to guide new and emerging groups, and to adapt and apply aspects of Miradi Adaptive Management software to

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digitally record project results. Miradi is an evolving software program being developed by the Conservation Measures partnership, a consortium of leading conservation organizations, and Benetech, a nonprofit technology development organization.

The M&E plan is a basic tool which uses the hierarchy of objectives (log frame matrix) of the project and the project implementation plan to establish the monitoring activities, to identify the responsible party, and specify the frequency of monitoring. An example of such a plan is shown in Table 4. The M&E plan will be used to monitor and assess the degree of accomplishment of the targeted results throughout project implementation. The M&E plan will be developed along with stakeholders during consultations for project preparation. The M&E plan will be readily available to SGP staff and to project participants thereby facilitating adequate preparation for monitoring activities. Monitoring activities will be used as opportunities to share learning experiences and build capacity within grantee organizations. An important milestone in the M&E plan is the end of project internal evaluation with project stakeholders. This activity will identify and determine results achieved by the project.

It should be noted that for new and emerging grantee partners it may be necessary to conduct several monitoring visits in the early phase of project implementation and to provide ongoing guidance and oversight for project implementation. Where necessary, mentors will be used to support grantees with project implementation and to guide and assist grantees with project monitoring and reporting. Mentors are resource persons who are familiar with SGP guidelines and procedures and who will have specific TORs and responsibilities identified in the M&E plan.

Miradi software, utilized to document the open standards project management process, will be adapted and shared with grantee partners on a case by case basis to digitally record project results as relevant.

5.2 Please describe how local stakeholders will participate in setting project objectives and outputs; how they will participate in monitoring with what kind of method and periodicity; and how progress will be documented and reported.

Community level participants and other local stakeholders including government agencies will participate in setting project objectives and outputs through the consultative process in project planning and design. These consultations are an integral part of the SGP project cycle and where deemed necessary, Planning Grants are provided to facilitate community level consultations. During screening and selection of projects by the NSC, letters of support and endorsement of project objectives and outputs are required from the technical agencies of relevant government ministries.

The primary means of stakeholder participation in project monitoring will be through the project steering committee. The project steering committee is responsible for overseeing and guiding project implementation, with day-to-day project management being carried out by the project coordinator. The project steering committee is comprised of key grantee representatives or group leaders, the project manager, representatives of key stakeholder interests, and the project mentor where relevant. The project steering committee meets quarterly to monitor project implementation, provide technical support, and make recommendations to address challenges and concerns. Input from the project steering committee is documented and included in project

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progress reports. The SGP staff provides technical guidance to the project steering committee on matters relating to project implementation.

The progress of project implementation will be documented and reported using standard project progress reports, the end of project internal participatory evaluation report, the final project report and the lessons learned checklist. The standard M&E outlined in Table 4 below will be conducted for each project.

Table 4. M&E Plan at the Project Level

SGP Individual Project Level		
M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
Participatory Project Monitoring	Grantees	Duration of project
Baseline Data Collection <sup>3</sup>	Grantees, NC	At project concept planning and proposal stage
Two or Three Project Progress and Financial Reports ( <i>depending on agreed disbursement schedule</i> )	Grantees, NC, PA	At each disbursement request
Project Workplans	Grantees, NC, PA	Duration of project
NC Project Proposal Site Visit ( <i>as necessary / cost effective</i> <sup>4</sup> )	NC	Before project approval, as appropriate
NC Project Monitoring Site Visit ( <i>as necessary / cost effective</i> )	NC	On average once per year, as appropriate
NC Project Evaluation Site Visit ( <i>as necessary / cost effective</i> )	NC	At end of project, as appropriate
Project Final Report	Grantees	Following completion of project activities
Project Evaluation Report ( <i>as necessary / cost effective</i> )	NC, NSC, External party	Following completion of project activities
Prepare project description to be incorporated into global project database	PA, NC	At start of project, and ongoing as appropriate

5.3 Please describe the strategy for how the results of SGP individual projects will be aggregated at the country programme portfolio level. Please describe the target indicators for focal area and multi-focal area outcomes.

<sup>3</sup> Capacity-development workshops and M&E trainings may be organized in relation to innovative techniques for community monitoring, including new technologies (i.e. GPS-enabled cameras, aerial photos, participatory GIS, etc.); as well as in response to guidelines for “climate proofing” of GEF focal area interventions; REDD+ standards; and/or other specific donor/co-financing requirements.

<sup>4</sup> To ensure cost-effectiveness, project level M&E activities, including project site visits, will be conducted on a discretionary basis, based on internally assessed criteria including (but not limited to) project size and complexity, potential and realized risks, and security parameters.

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Results from individual projects will be drawn from progress reports, site visit reports, and end of project internal evaluation reports based on specific indicators listed in Table 3. These indicators have been selected to measure the contribution of SGP projects to securing global environmental benefits through: community-based initiatives to conserve biodiversity, reducing or avoiding GHG emissions while building climate resilience, reversing and preventing land degradation, and the sustainable management of trans-boundary water body resources. In addition, SGP projects will enhance and strengthen the capacity of communities and civil society to address global environmental challenges, improve local livelihoods through local benefits generated from environmental resources, and mainstream gender considerations in community-based initiatives.

At the programme level, individual project results will be aggregated for the three geographic focal areas outlined in section 2.3 above utilizing Miradi software in order to document SGP contributions to the targeted programme outcomes. In addition, project results from progress reports, site visit reports, and end of project internal evaluation reports will be entered in the SGP data base for further analysis. M&E activities presented in Table 5 will be carried out as required.

Table 5. M&E Plan at the Programme Level

SGP Country Programme Level		
M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
Country Programme Strategy Review	NSC, NC, CPMT	Start of OP5
Strategic Country Portfolio Review	NSC, NC	Once during OP5
NSC Meetings	NSC, NC, UNDP CO	Minimum twice per year
Performance and Results Assessment (PRA) of NC Performance	NC, NSC, UNDP CO, CPMT, UNOPS	Once per year
Country Programme Review resulting in Annual Country Report <sup>5</sup>	NC presenting to NSC and CPMT	Once per year
Financial 4-in-1 Report	NC/PA, UNOPS	Quarterly

## 6 Knowledge Management Plan (1 page max)

6.1. Please describe your plans for capturing, sharing, and disseminating the lessons learned and good practices identified through the country portfolio of SGP projects with civil society, government, and other relevant stakeholders (i.e. process for generating knowledge; type of knowledge products; knowledge fairs; peer to peer exchanges; use of demonstration sites; knowledge centers etc.).

<sup>5</sup> The annual Country Programme Review exercise should be carried out in consultation with the national Rio Convention focal points and the associated reporting requirements.

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Lessons learned and good practices obtained from SGP project interventions will be identified during site visits, from project progress reports, and from end of project participatory evaluations which include an assessment of lessons learned. The key project experiences will be documented and entered in the SGP data base. A digital photo library will help to archive project activities. The annual capacity building and information exchange workshop for grantee partners is an important forum for sharing knowledge among civil society partners. Training modules developed and used by projects will be shared with the Environmental Resource Institute (ERI) of the University of Belize and made available for future use by other interested parties.

SGP staff will participate in UNDP-GEF Knowledge Management training to learn tools and techniques of Knowledge Management in order to generate and disseminate SGP knowledge products.

Photo stories, an electronic newsletter, an SGP website, case studies of project successes, and community exchange visits will be used to disseminate successful project experiences.

6.2 Please describe how the SGP country programme will use this knowledge to inform and influence policy at the local, regional and national levels (i.e. identify key policy processes and relevant networks).

Government technical staff involved in project design, implementation and M&E will provide an excellent two way flow of information and knowledge between communities groups and government agencies. In addition, data and results from projects will be shared with the Lands Information Center (LIC) in the Ministry of Natural Resources to be made available to the public for general use in land related matters. NSC members represent key sectors of national importance. NSC members serve on many important national committees and can use information and knowledge from SGP to influence discussions, deliberations and decisions of relevant national committees.

The digital newsletter and SGP web site will serve as a conduit for informing a global audience of SGP results, lessons learned and good practices.

6.3 Please describe how the SGP country programme will use this knowledge to replicate and up-scale good practices and lessons learned from SGP projects.

SGP will share and promote lessons learned and good practices with other community based stakeholders in order to encourage replication and expansion of successful efforts. Learning opportunities will be facilitated through community level exchange visits and at the annual grantee capacity building and information exchange workshop.

SGP will promote and encourage interested communities to replicate successful lessons and practices as was done through SGP support for the revival of the beekeeping industry and the establishment of community-based local fishermen associations. Opportunities will be sought to identify additional funding for and to encourage the up-scaling of successful projects.

## **7 Resource Mobilization Plan (1 page max)**

7.1. Please describe the resource mobilization plan to enhance the sustainability of the SGP country programme with reference to: (i) the diversification of funding sources to achieve

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greater impact (i.e. non-GEF resources that help address sustainable development concerns); and (ii) the cost recovery policy to co-finance a share of the SGP country programme management costs.

As mentioned earlier, GEF SGP targets a 1:1 ratio between GEF grant funding and non-GEF co-financing at the project level. While such parallel co-financing is valuable for specific project interventions SGP country programme sustainability will depend more on long term co-financing arrangements.

SGP has approached OAK Foundation to manage a small grant fund of US\$500,000.00 over a 3 year timeframe (2012-2014). Preliminary discussions have been held and OAK has agreed to consider 10% of the amount for administrative fees to cover agency and project M&E costs. If successful this arrangement will start in early 2012.

SGP is also in discussions with PACT to support joint activities which will reduce programme administrative expenses. Joint activities will include shared monitoring field trips to project sites and co-financing of stakeholder trainings and capacity building workshops.

SGP will continue to partner with the University of Belize to host interns. This arrangement is mutually beneficial as the interns gain on-the-job experience and SGP receives additional human resources to support programme delivery.

7.2 Please outline possibilities to develop strategic partnerships (identifying their objectives and possible synergies with SGP) with the following potential partners: (i) national government agencies; (ii) multilateral agencies or financial institutions (such as the World Bank, regional development banks, and/or other international organizations); (iii) bilateral agencies; (iv) non-governmental organizations and foundations; and (v) private sector.

SGP will maintain a strong working relationship with government agencies which provide technical support and guidance to community groups. In addition, efforts will be made to seek strategic working relationships with new partner organizations with similar interests through mutual exchanges and efforts.

SGP will approach the National Protected Areas Secretariat to establish communications for sharing of information on national protected areas issues.

SGP aims to explore opportunities to partner more closely with the University of Belize in areas of mutual interest such as field research, project monitoring, and stakeholder training and capacity building.

New targeted partners include Oak Foundation and the Belize Natural Energy (BNE) Trust. SGP has held discussions with Oak Foundation and has submitted a concept note to partner with Oak and manage a US\$500,000 grant in OP5 through COMPACT. SGP will explore partnering with BNE Trust to co-finance community level projects and to leverage co-financing for community needs which are not eligible for GEF funding but which complement SGP interventions.

Other possible strategic partners include the US National Park Service which has expressed interest in the work being done in Belize to control the invasive lionfish, and the US Fish and

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Wildlife Service for co-financing projects aimed at strengthening the management of and reducing threats to the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System - World Heritage Site.