



# GEF SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME RESULTS REPORT 2020-2021

## INTRODUCTION

Launched in 1992, the SGP is a GEF corporate programme implemented by the UNDP and executed by the UNOPS. Since the last reporting period, the SGP has expanded operations to 128 countries in support of bottom-up actions for global environmental issues by empowering local civil society and community-based organizations (CSOs and CBOs). SGP is implemented through a decentralized governance and delivery mechanism at the country level with dedicated GEF resources, along with co-finance from communities, governments, and other donors. In partnership with governments, private sector and other stakeholders, SGP facilitates upscaling and replication of successful initiatives and serves as a catalyst for civil society voice and participation in national and global policy dialogues and decision making on environmental and sustainable development issues.

With close to 30 years of experience, the SGP plays a unique role in meeting the objectives of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and contributing to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In particular, the SGP has been effectively implementing innovative and local approaches that promote multi-sectoral solutions to environmental challenges across the MEAs. In each participating country, 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 Indigenous Peoples and marginalized populations, and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, to achieve the objectives. SGP specifically contributes to SDGs on climate action, life below water, and life on land. It also contributes to the achievement of other goals, such as no poverty, no hunger, access to energy, and sustainable production and consumption.

During the reporting period, the [Third Joint GEF-UNDP Evaluation of the Small Grants Programme \(SGP\)](#) was conducted and reported evidence of SGP's strong impact and value add. The Third Joint Evaluation acknowledged that "the SGP has been consistent in its delivery of environmental results at local, national, and global levels and in generating economic and social benefits". It reported that "the SGP shows high levels of coherence with the GEF's programmatic framework and UNDP's mandate and demonstrates that it is possible to maintain internal programmatic coherence across 126 countries" (more details in Annex IV). The [Evaluation of UNDP Support to Climate Change Adaptation](#) highlighted that the SGP has "demonstrated the effectiveness and value for money of relatively small-scale interventions, and there are many cases where small pilots have generated large impacts". The evaluations also found significant evidence of SGP's contributions on social inclusions while addressing key environmental priorities.

Other IEO evaluation reports, including the [Strategic Country Cluster Evaluation \(SCCE\): Sahel and Sudan-Guinea Savanna Biomes](#) concluded that "the SGP has always given significant attention to community level benefits and livelihoods. This attention has yielded positive results. In addition, SGP results on the ground in terms of promoting gender equality and contributing to gender empowerment are evident." The [Evaluation of Institutional Policies and Engagement of the GEF](#) reported that the SGP "is the primary modality for the GEF's engagement with Indigenous Peoples". According to the [Independent Country](#)

[Programme Review: Belize](#) by the GEF-IEO, the SGP “supports community-level initiatives and integration of traditional knowledge, and together with other environment portfolio projects engage indigenous peoples, small farmers and fishers”. Importance of innovation as a cross-cutting thread in SGP interventions has also been well noted by the evaluations. The [GEF Support to Innovation: Findings and Lessons](#) indicated that “innovation is a fundamental factor of success in the SGP”, and as noted by the [Third Joint Evaluation](#), “innovativeness of the SGP lies in the way it works with local partners, more than in the technologies or approaches it promotes”.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Operational Phase of the SGP (OP7, 2020-2014) has commenced in July 2020 with the approval of GEF-7 finance. With a focus on innovation, inclusion, and impact – “the 3Is”, under OP7, the SGP places greater focus on promoting strategic and results-based investments as a multi-stakeholder partnership platform at the local level in alignment with the GEF’s focal area investments and Impact Programs. With an emphasis on landscapes and seascapes approach, SGP will also continue to 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. Finally, SGP will further sharpen its approaches and tools to enhance social inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups, including Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, and persons with disabilities.

**Methodology of this report:** This report covers the reporting period from July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021, in alignment with GEF reporting year. The results presented in this report are based on reporting by 115 SGP country programmes. Not all countries have reported as some countries are still in inception programmatic stage with country programme strategy formulation, had staff attrition, or undergoing the GEF funding cycle (as in the case of several Upgraded Country Programmes). A conservative methodological approach is used for results calculations with an emphasis on 930 projects that were completed during the reporting period. This approach is consistent with SGP results generation in the past years. Any ongoing progress from projects under implementation is not included unless explicitly stated.

## Annual Portfolio Overview

During the reporting year, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 – June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (FY21), a total of 1,260 new projects were approved for grant funding representing a total amount of USD 39.39 million in both GEF and non-GEF funding. Of these, 1,001 new projects with a total amount of USD 31.75 million were supported by GEF funding. The **total number of grant projects** under implementation during FY21 is 2,547 projects, with a total grant value of USD 87.12 million and total co-financing value of USD 81.03 million. Of these, active portfolio funded by GEF finance is 2,152 projects with a value of USD 75.57 million, leveraging USD 72.46 million in co-finance. The remaining projects are supported by other funding sources including from Governments of Germany, Japan and others. During the reporting year, 930 GEF funded projects were completed. Kindly note this is in addition to projects under implementation during the reporting period, as noted in paras below.

Since inception, the cumulative total of SGP supported projects reached a total of 26,429 projects during the reporting year with total GEF and other donor funds of \$724.91 million. In addition, over \$876.94 million have been mobilized to co-finance these community based SGP projects at the country level. Of these, cash co-financing constituted a total of \$392.52 million and was mobilized from multilateral and bilateral donors, foundations, NGOs, and other partners at the country level (refer to Annex II).

In terms of **country coverage**, SGP was operational in 128 countries during the reporting year, with 113 countries supported by the SGP Global Programme and 15 supported under the SGP upgraded country programmes (UCP). Under OP7, Malaysia is in the process of transitioning to UCP status, while Bangladesh and Gabon have joined as new country programmes under the SGP Global Programme during this reporting year, in addition to Eswatini that has joined last year. During this reporting period, the UCPs in Brazil, India, and Philippines were working on the development of their new phase, and Pakistan has closed its operation in March 2020. Least developed countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) currently account for 62% of SGP Global country programme, with support provided to CSOs in 40 LDCs and 37 SIDS.

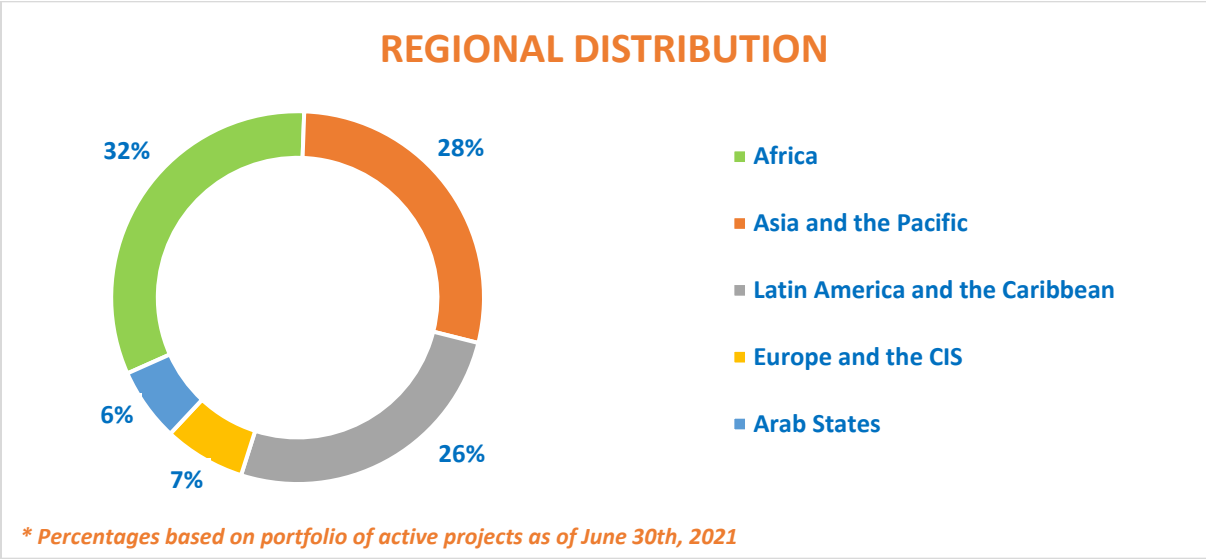
### SGP Country Coverage, 1992 - 2021

Categories of SGP countries	Names	Number
<b>Active* Global Country Programmes</b>	<i>Included in Annex II</i>	<b>111</b>
<b>Countries Upgraded in OP5 and funded through separate FSPs</b>	<i>Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, India, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines</i>	<b>9</b>
<b>Countries Upgraded in OP6 and funded through separate FSPs</b>	<i>Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Peru, Sri Lanka, Thailand</i>	<b>6</b>
<b>Country programmes closed</b>	<i>Poland, Lithuania, Chile, Bulgaria, Romania, Syria, Slovakia, Nicaragua</i>	<b>8</b>
<b>Country programmes started**</b>	<i>Bangladesh, Gabon</i>	<b>2</b>
<b>Operational as of June 30, 2020</b>	<b><i>(Excluding Country Programmes closed)</i></b>	<b>128</b>

\* Active is defined in line with GEF IEO definition that 'grant making has started in a given SGP country'.

\*\* Started is defined as recruitment of the National Coordinator, setting up Country Programme Office, establishment of National Steering Committee, and inception stage information sharing and capacity development activities with country stakeholders

With regards to **regional distribution** of the SGP's portfolio of active projects over the reporting period, Africa had the largest share of grant funds at 32%, followed by Asia/Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean at 28% and 26% respectively. Europe and the CIS and the Arab States, accounted for 7% and 6% respectively of active projects portfolio. The different distribution by region is largely due to the number of countries within a given region (i.e., Africa region has the largest number of countries) and the STAR allocation by countries. Please refer to tables in Annex III for more details on the regional and country distribution.



In line with GEF council document on SGP Implementation Arrangement and associated information paper (GEF/C.55/Inf.05) during GEF-7, SGP aims to expand its country coverage to include remaining GEF eligible countries that are interested in participating in the program and commit to the SGP approach and programming directions. While a phased approach process is being taken, priority will be accorded to LDCs and SIDS as well as countries that expressed interest a long time ago. Considerable progress has been made with 11 countries that provided official letter of interest to join the SGP, and new start up activities including appraisal missions have been completed in at least 4 countries (Eswatini, Bangladesh, Gabon, and Angola). Notably, two new country programmes (i.e., Eswatini and Bangladesh) are fully operational while staff recruitment is currently ongoing in Gabon. Additional appraisal activities planned for FY20 were delayed due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on travel and other country conditions, as well as the delays in approval of GEF-7 funds for the SGP (GEF-7 funds became available only in July 2020). Startup costs as well as grantmaking for new countries could not be supported as the GEF-6 budget for SGP did not have a provision to support new SGP country programmes. Table below provides further details.

**Status on Eligible Country under GEF-7**

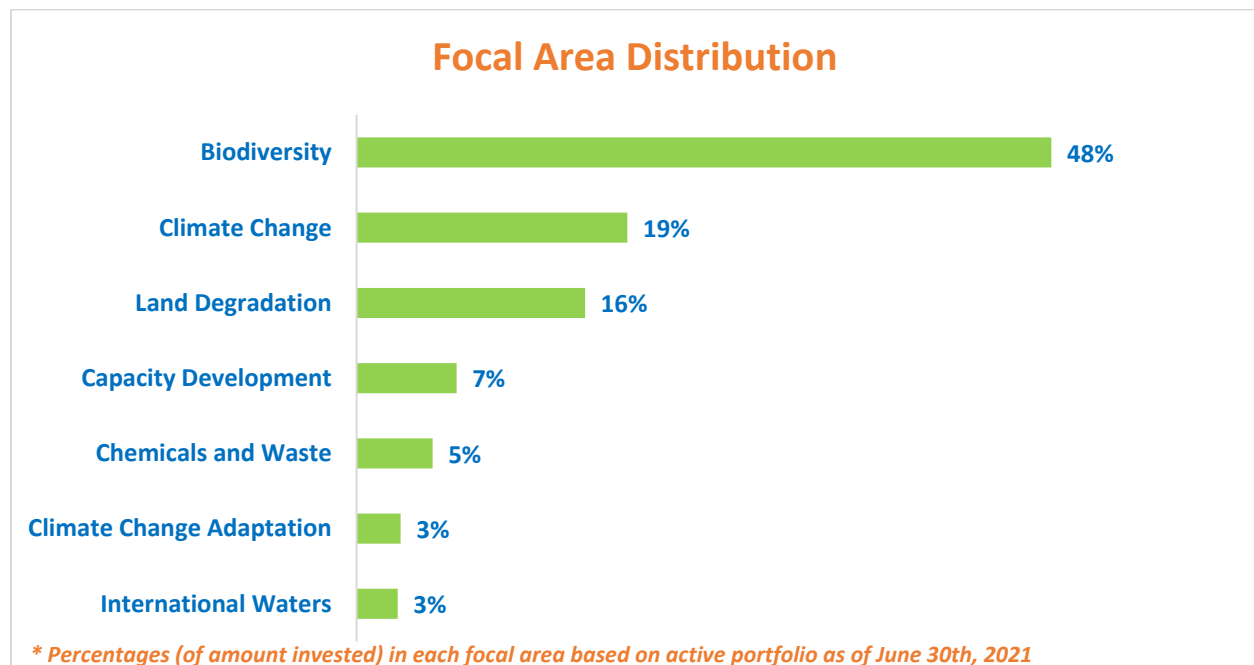
	Names of new eligible countries	Letter of interest received (yes/no)	Status update
1	Angola	Yes	Appraisal mission was completed in November 2019. Additional start-up activities are ongoing.
2	Azerbaijan	Yes	Appraisal mission was planned first quarter 2020 but was delayed due to the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic.
3	Bangladesh	Yes	National Coordinator recruited and country program officially launched in June 2021; Country Programme Strategy (CPS) is under preparation.

4	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Yes	Letter of interest has been received and CPMT is following up with UNDP Country Office and GEF OFP.
5	Equatorial Guinea	Yes	Appraisal mission planned deferred due to current travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
6	Eswatini	Yes	Fully functional SGP country programme under OP7; CPS under preparation.
7	Gabon	Yes	Appraisal mission completed in August 2019. Recruitment of SGP National Coordinator and start up underway.
8	Iraq	No	Information being shared.
9	Korea DPR	No	Information being shared.
10	Kosovo	No	Information being shared.
11	Libya	No	Information shared during the GEF ECW in 2019.
12	Montenegro	No	Information shared during the GEF ECW in 2019.
13	Myanmar	Yes	Virtual stakeholders planning meeting was held in August 2020. Appraisal mission planned however deferred due to COVID-19 pandemic and country condition.
14	Nicaragua	No	Information being shared.
15	Russia	No	Information being shared.
16	Sao Tome and Principe	Yes	Appraisal mission planned in 2021, however deferred due to COVID-19.
17	Serbia	No	Government expressed strong interest and UNDP Country Office is following up on Letter of Interest.
18	Somalia	Yes	Appraisal mission possibly in 2021 or later, subject to travel restrictions.
19	South Sudan	No	Information being shared .
20	Sudan	Yes	Appraisal mission planned subject to security issues and travel restrictions.
21	Syria	No	Information being shared.
22	Turkmenistan	No	Information being shared.

## PROGRESS TOWARDS FOCAL AREA OBJECTIVES

During the reporting period, in alignment with the GEF focal area directions, the SGP focuses its efforts on targeted strategic initiatives that promote “innovative, inclusive and impactful” approaches to address global environmental issues through local action. Most SGP projects continue to have multiple benefits with relevance to more than one focal area. For better tracking of portfolio data, however, projects were categorized under one focal area identified as the primary focus.

With regards to **focal area distribution** of all SGP grant projects under implementation, while Biodiversity continues to have the largest share of the portfolio (48%) as primary focal area, however, almost all such projects contribute to multi-focal area benefits, including in climate change and land degradation. This is followed by Climate Change Mitigation (19%) and Land Degradation (16%). International Waters accounted for 3%, Chemicals and Waste accounted for 5% (reflecting an increased focus on waste management and plastics issues during the reporting year), and projects with primary focus on Capacity Development accounted for 7% of SGP’s portfolio. Climate Change Adaptation activities which is co-financed by the Government of Australia, accounted for 3% of all ongoing projects. It is important to note the Community-Based Adaptation program with support from the Australian Government (DFAT) closed during the reporting year after a decade long partnership.



## Biodiversity Results

SGP’s biodiversity focal area portfolio supported improvements in management effectiveness of protected areas and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes/seascapes and sectors.

**Performance Results:** With 385 biodiversity projects completed during the reporting year, SGP has helped to maintain or improve conservation status of at least 770 species, and positively influenced, both directly and indirectly, 194 protected areas and 87 Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs), covering a total of 27.6 million hectares. Total of 173 target landscapes/seascapes were under improved community-based conservation and sustainable use. With regards to the sustainable use of biodiversity, a total of 512 biodiversity-based products, with positive impact to sustainable use of biodiversity, have been supported by SGP projects.

## BIODIVERSITY RESULTS - KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Total number of projects completed	385
Number of Protected Areas (PAs)	194
Hectares of PAs influenced	25,309,207
Number of ICCAs	87
Hectares of ICCAs influenced	2,339,857
Number of sustainably produced biodiversity and agrobiodiversity products	512
Number of significant species with maintained or improved conservation status	770
Number of target landscapes/seascapes under improved community conservation and sustainable use	173

In **Central African Republic**, SGP supported *Association Femme Enfant Vert* to conserve the biodiversity in the *Dzanga-Sangha Dense Forest Special Reserve in close vicinity of the Dzanga-Ndoki National Park*. *Women from Bayanga*, originally a Sangha-Sangha fishing village in the middle of the tropical rainforest populated by hunter-gatherers, specifically benefitted from this project. More than 6 hectares of land was restored through plantations of moringa, fruit trees such as papaya and citrus, and woody trees which hosted protein-rich edible caterpillars. Besides enriching the biodiversity of the special reserve, a number of sustainably produced agro-biodiversity products that supported communities' well-being and income-generation were key results. Specifically, from *Moringa*, its oil was extracted and used in soaps, and its leaves with known health benefits were processed for further sales; from *Papaya*, its seeds were used as insect repellants by local households and the fruit itself was used to produce vitamin-rich jam; having edible caterpillars closer to the village reduced need for long-distance travel during caterpillar collection season. These income-generating activities also had a visible impact on reducing exploitation of natural resources by local community members.

## Climate Change Results

The climate change mitigation focal area portfolio supported low-carbon energy transformation at the community level through introduction of low-GHG technologies with proven environmental and economic co-benefits contributing to multiple SDGs and improved livelihoods.

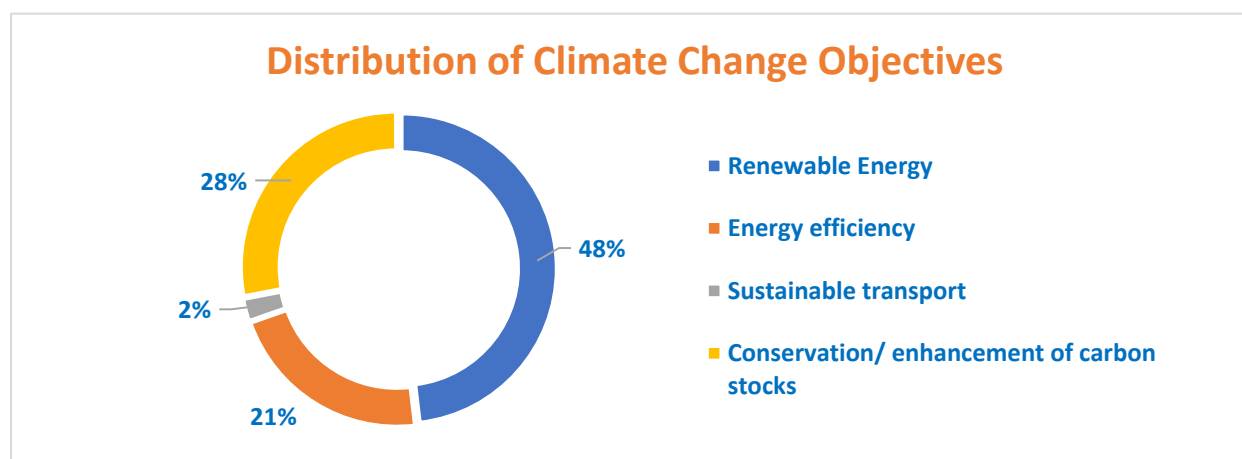
**Performance Results:** With 234 climate change projects completed during the reporting year, most projects were focused on deploying low carbon technologies for energy access for local communities. Renewable energy projects comprised 48%, while projects focusing on energy efficiency solutions made up 21%; and projects on the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks (e.g., forest management) accounted for 28%. Thirty-four percent of reporting SGP country programmes addressed community-level



barriers to deploy low-GHG technologies. Eighty-Two typologies of community-oriented and locally adapted energy access solutions were successfully demonstrated, scaled up and replicated; and 25,627 households have benefited from energy access with associated benefits including increased income, health benefits and improved services.

### CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION RESULTS - KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Total number of projects completed	234
Number of Country Programmes that addressed community-level barriers to deployment of low-GHG technologies	39
Number of typologies of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations or scaling up and replication	82
Number of households supported with energy access co-benefits (ecosystem effects, income, health and others)	25,627



In **Morocco**, SGP supported *Association Initiatives Climat* to innovate and propagate low carbon solutions to address energy access issues impacting local communities. “Green charcoal” also referred to as “organic coal” or “vegetal coal” can partly solve this problem. Made with plant waste or agricultural residues, it serves an alternative to charcoal which requires large quantities of wood to produce. Multiple benefits have been noted with its use. Social benefits with reduction in women’s unpaid care work due to fuelwood collection and time available for other productive uses; health benefits with exposure to reduced pollution from green charcoal; economic benefits as it is cheaper than charcoal; and environmental benefits with reduced greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, its highly decentralized production provided income-generating activities for grassroots community organizations and young green entrepreneurs. The association has also initiated a South-South cooperation programme “Climate Initiatives Francophone Africa / ICAF” across 15 countries with the aim of identifying and replicating transferable solutions, that can contribute to the realization of respective nationally determined contributions. To advance related technical knowledge and entrepreneurship, the project supported the

establishment of an African green charcoal cluster which brought together experienced charcoal producers who provided tailored advice to community stakeholders to produce green charcoal. Two new technologies were also developed to produce green charcoal: a prototype of an improved furnace for ecological and secure carbonization of the raw material, and a prototype of a press for the compaction and production of green charcoal. A technical manual and an e-training module on green charcoal has also been developed supporting 60 African producers to embark on the sustainable production of green charcoal.

In Kaplelwo Community in **Kenya**, two community boreholes were the main source of water serving households in a radius of about ten kilometers. On average, the diesel-powered water pumping generator emitted 3.4 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. Moreover, according to the community records, the frequent breakdowns of the generator resulted in high cost of maintenance. It required several skilled men to start it. In their absence, the community could not access water. These challenges often resulted in acute shortage of water. The community members, especially women and children, had to travel up to 10 km in search of water. Men had to drive their livestock to Molo River which is 10 km away for watering. The situation was especially worsened by the increasing incidences of drought in the area. With the support of the SGP, the *Farming Systems Kenya* improved the community boreholes by replacing the diesel-powered water pumping system with a solar powered one, installed a prepaid meter system at the water kiosk, and trained two water management committees. As a result, 8.8 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> have been eliminated. The prepaid water meter ensures every single community member with a prepaid card can collect water any time of the day. The chip of the meter has recorded an increase in revenue collection by 95%. 878 households have reliable supply of water now.

## Sustainable Land Management Results

The land degradation focal area portfolio supported restoration and prevention of land degradation and promoted sustainable land and forest management. Activities supported mainly targeted rural communities, which are highly dependent on agro-ecosystems and forest ecosystems for their livelihoods.

**Performance Results:** With 164 sustainable land management projects completed this year, SGP positively influenced 40,052 community members with improved agricultural, land and water management practices; 86,515 hectares of land has been supported with improved management practices including forest, agricultural lands and water courses; 5,042 farmer leaders are involved in successful demonstrations of agro-ecological practices, such as incorporating measures to reduce farm based emissions and enhance resilience to climate change; and 563 farmer organizations and networks are disseminating improved climate smart agro-ecological practices.

### SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT RESULTS - KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Total number of projects completed	164
Number of community members demonstrating improved agricultural, land and water management practices	40,052

Hectares brought under improved agricultural, land and water management practices	86,515
Number of farmer leaders involved in successful demonstrations of agro-ecological practices (i.e., incorporating measures to reduce farm-based emissions and enhance resilience to climate change)	5,042
Number of farmer organizations, groups or networks disseminating improved climate smart agro-ecological practices	563

In **Maldives**, the SGP supported the *FAAM Foundation* to promote alternative farming methods to commercial and fertilizer driven farming practices. The island of Kihadhoo is one of the most agriculturally productive islands in Baa Atoll. However, like elsewhere in the Maldives, farmers are heavily reliant on chemical inputs which has led to a number of issues including the contamination of the freshwater lens, soil degradation etc. FAAM Foundation worked to minimize the use of harmful chemical fertilizers in agriculture through the introduction of alternative farming methods such as hydroponics and the application of organic input. This was primarily done through training and demonstration activities including training and exposure visits for awareness raising and capacity building; establishment of model farms using hydroponics and organic inputs as well as experimenting with the use of kitchen waste to make compost. Specifically, 15 hydroponic systems were designed, developed, and installed; beneficiaries completed a 7-day hydroponic training workshop; compost barrels were placed in the waste management center to reduce the amount of food waste its conversion to fertilizer for farmer needs, and agricultural inputs such as seeds were provided to 30 farmers on the island. While the project targeted the entire population of Kihadhoo, a special priority was given to female farmers as a way of recognizing and overcoming some of the challenges that limit women from growing their subsistence agricultural activities into commercial farming.

On sustainable forest management, during the reporting year, SGP projects were focused on sustainable land use, land-use change, and forestry management to ensure connectivity between ecosystems and restorative activities. The projects have also supported activities to decrease pressure on forest resources.

**Performance Results:** With 18 sustainable forest management projects that were completed in the reporting year, 78,668 hectares of forest and non-forest lands have been restored through improved forest management practices.

## SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT RESULTS - KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Total number of projects completed	18
Hectares of forest and non-forest lands with restoration and enhancement initiated	78,668

In **Gambia**, with SGP support, the *Jurunku Village Development Committee (VDC)* implemented a project whose goal was to manage the community forest reserve of the village, which was the largest community forest reserve of the entire district, in order to improve and sustain the provision of ecosystem goods and service for sustainable livelihood enhancement and biodiversity conservation. VDC was established many

years ago to spearhead the developments of the village but had been rather inactive. A training programme was conducted to revitalize the organization, making it more efficient and functional; a tree nursery and facilities for forest regeneration and stocking were planned; an area within the community forest was identified and cleared for the nursery; and a borehole was drilled connected to two water tanks (capacity of 2,000 litres each) and powered by solar panels; tools such as rakes, wheelbarrows, spades, polythene bags, machetes etc. were procured; nursery attendant was hired and trained. As results, a total of 552.3 hectares of community forest was brought under improved management, which addressed various threats including logging, wildlife, illegal hunting for wild animals and honey, land clearing for farmlands, etc.

## International Water Results

During the reporting year, the international waters focal area supported sustainable management of transboundary waterbodies through community-based activities. SGP continued to develop and demonstrate effective community-based actions and practices in support of the Strategic Action Plans (SAPs) that were developed among countries sharing the transboundary waterbodies, including river basin, large marine ecosystems, and others. It is important to note that many of the marine, coastal, and freshwater management projects supported by the SGP are often categorized under the biodiversity focal area as primary focal area with strong benefits towards transboundary waterbodies.

**Performance Results:** With 26 international waters projects completed in the reporting year, SGP continued to support the implementation of SAPs for the transboundary waterbodies. Projects completed involved 21 seascapes and freshwater landscapes, including marine protected areas, marine sanctuaries, gulfs, bays, lakes, rivers, and underground waters. Through the project activities, total of 491 tons of land-based pollution, such as solid waste, sewage, waste water, and agricultural waste have been prevented from entering the waterbodies; 370,211 hectares of marine/coastal areas or fishing grounds have been brought under sustainable management through interventions such as mangroves replantation, seagrass protection, coral reefs rehabilitation etc.; and 89,595 hectares of seascapes influenced with improved community conservation and sustainable use management systems.

### INTERNATIONAL WATERS RESULTS - KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Total number of projects completed	26
Number of Seascapes/inland freshwater Landscapes	21
Tons of land-based pollution (such as solid waste, sewage, waste water, and agricultural waste etc.) avoided, reduced or prevented from entering waterbodies	491
Hectares of marine/coastal areas or fishing grounds sustainably managed (such as hectares of mangroves replanted, seagrass protected, coral reefs rehabilitated etc.)	370,211
Hectares of seascapes influenced with improved community conservation and sustainable use management systems	89,595

In **Honduras**, SGP supported *MI ESPERANZA NO. 2* on the project “Network of women involved in the collection and management of solid waste for the protection of coastal marine resources”. The project developed three specific components: The first, organizational strengthening raised awareness of the population of Balfate about the importance of proper management of solid waste. The members of Mi Esperanza No. 2 undertook trainings in administrative matters, organizational strengthening, use and maintenance of equipment, and solid waste. These trainings also left installed capacities that allowed members of Mi Esperanza No. 2 to be a self-sustaining organization and manager of their own resources. In the second component generation of employment, the association generated income through the collection of solid waste in the entire community of Río Estaban and other communities such as Bambu, La Colonia and Lucinda. Jobs were also created in garbage collection. In the third component of environmental protection, it improved environmental conditions in the municipality of Balfate, through mangrove restoration work, accompanied by a series of talks in educational centers. Specifically, more than 200 families used cleaning train service provided by the project to carry out proper waste management, which in turn supported restoration of the local red mangroves. As key results, the project prevented at least 288,000 kg of solid waste from entering the sea; four communities were encouraged to reduce waste, resulting in avoiding the contamination of coastal marine resources of the Municipality of *Balfate*, especially the Cayos Cochinos Natural Monument.

As part of COVID adaptation efforts, due to isolation and social distancing restrictions, the community was gravely affected by food shortage. The grantee redirected part of project resources to the establishment of 30 family gardens- which partially solved the immediate food crisis of 30 households, yielded at least 60 quintals of BOCASHI; and 120 liters of fertilizers and 2 types of liquid Biofertilizers could be processed providing additional and alternate sources of income during the pandemic.

## Chemicals and Waste Management Results

The chemicals and waste management focal area portfolio supports control and reduction of the use of harmful chemicals. SGP’s efforts focused on the sound management of chemicals and waste, including POPs and mercury, to minimize adverse effects on human health and the global environment. There is a growing need among local communities to address issues related to waste management initiatives, including on plastics and e-waste.

**Performance Results:** With 38 chemicals and waste management projects, that were completed during the reporting period: the use of 27,340 kilograms of pesticides has been avoided; and the release or utilization of 26,376 kilograms of harmful chemicals has been avoided; and 29 national coalitions and networks on chemicals and waste management have also been strengthened.

### CHEMICALS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT RESULTS - KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Total number of projects completed (including Mercury)	38
Total number of mercury management projects completed	8
Kg of pesticides avoided, reduced or prevented by SGP chemicals projects	27,340

Kg of harmful chemicals avoided from utilization or release	26,376
Number of national coalitions and networks on chemicals and waste management established or strengthened	29

In **Samoa**, SGP supported the *Savai'i Samoa Tourism Association (SSTA)* to improve waste management of local communities. In some rural communities, people discarded rubbish in the forests and in key landscapes such as the *Salelologa* district where the endangered national bird of Samoa, *Manumea*, was last seen. It has posed an increasing threat to the local environment, particularly the water system, as well as the health of community members. The local tourism was also being impacted due to the waste pollution. SSTA worked with at least 5 districts on the Savai'i Islands, the biggest island of Samoa and raised a national campaign. 250 waste stands were installed for household waste collection. Residents separated "light" waste from "heavy" one. Organic waste was also separated and used for feeding animals. As most houses were located close to the shoreline, increased awareness and improve waste collection infrastructure has resulted in significant reduction of waste entering the marine environment. In addition, the waste management at local hospitals and local schools was supported by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Natural Resources. The by-laws of the village were amended and subsequently endorsed to properly manage waste throughout the sub-villages of *Satupaitea*. Near 2,000 people benefitted from the project, including 900 children. As a result, the waste management of the areas has improved drastically with close to zero waste being dumped in the environment, eliminating open burning of solid waste emitting POPs.

## PROGRESS ON GRANTMAKER PLUS & CROSSING CUTTING INITIATIVES

SGP deploys the following cross-cutting initiatives as Grantmakers Plus and social inclusion activities to further enhance innovation and inclusion, and capacitate towards long-term impact. They assist in enhancing the overall effectiveness of its entire portfolio by expanding the role and value of SGP beyond individual grant-making.

With respect to the grant maker plus initiatives, while programming directions and procedures are defined at the global level, the actual activities are identified, planned and implemented at the country level applying the same process as all SGP grants. During the reporting period, this was done through two categories of initiatives. First category of initiatives was related to promoting interventions that create an enabling environment and build systemic capacity for civil society and community action to address global environmental challenges. Such activities span a range of efforts, from establishing and strengthening CSO networks, promoting CSO-government policy and planning dialogues, knowledge sharing, mobilization of resources and partnerships, and ensuring social inclusion of vulnerable groups. In continuation with last year, the second category of initiatives included implementation of *Innovation Programmes* as dedicated support to address emerging issues related to the SGP's Strategic Initiatives in a portfolio of selected countries. These approaches build on SGP's inherent characteristic as a broker and facilitator of local

action, with a focus on innovation, inclusive and impact/sustainable results that are positioned to yield long-term impact.

The activities associated with the Grantmaker Plus are supported through regular SGP grant modality towards the CSOs/CBOs and/or technical assistance by the SGP Country Programme staff on the ground.

## Capacity Development

SGP provides support to enhance and strengthen the capacity of communities and civil society organizations to address global environmental challenges. Capacity development was introduced and supported under OP5, OP6 and OP7, in alignment with the GEF focal area strategies, with a limit on funding of up to 10% of total grant funding for a given country programme.

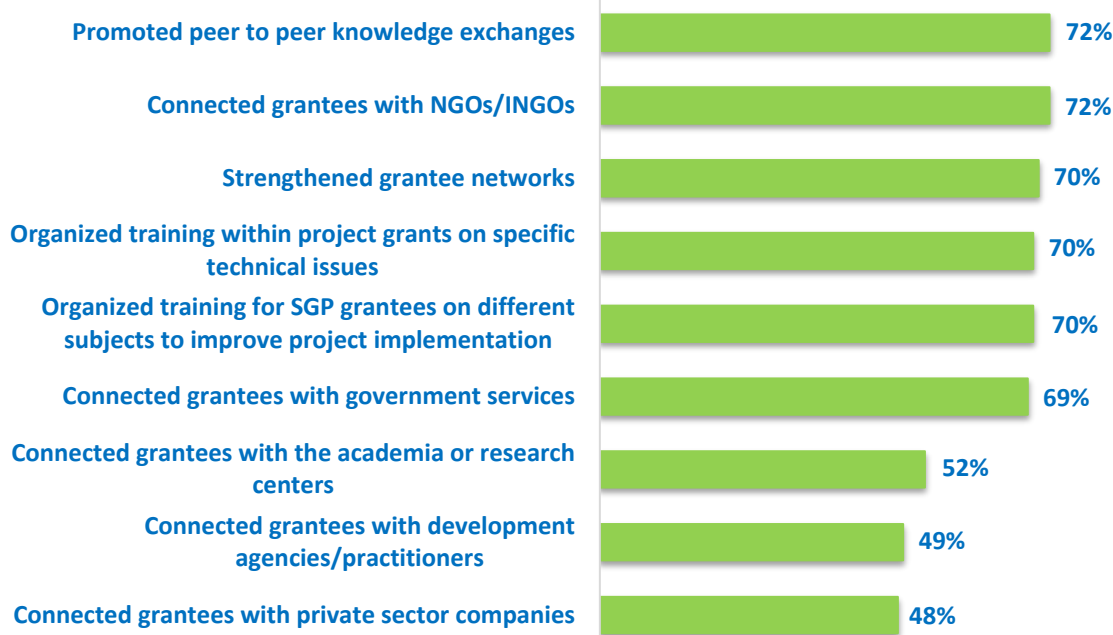
**Performance Results:** With 65 capacity development projects completed during the reporting period, capacities of 529 CSOs and 870 CBOs were strengthened, comprising 10,967 people, to address global environmental issues at the community level.

### CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT RESULTS - KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Total number of projects completed	65
Number of CSOs whose capacities were developed or improved	529
Number of CBOs whose capacities were developed or improved	870

As key results reported across SGP portfolio, 81 SGP Country Programmes reported having strengthened grantee networks; 83 promoted peer-to-peer knowledge exchanges; 81 organized training within project grants on specific technical issues; 80 organized training for SGP grantees on different subjects to improve project implementation; 79 connected grantees with government services; 83 connected grantees with NGOs/INGOs; 60 connected grantees with the academia or research centers; 56 connected grantees with development agencies/practitioners; and 55 CPs connected grantees with private sector companies.

## Capacity Development Strategies Deployed by SGP Country Programmes



\* Percentages based on reporting by 115 SGP country programmes

In **Kazakhstan**, SGP supported the *Zubr Social Corporate Foundation* to build capacities of SGP grantees addressing learning from earlier operational phases to improve synergies and lessons-learning amongst its cohort of grantees. The capacity building project conducted workshops, trainings, and exchange visits, using the methods of participatory analysis, reflection, and application – and had an emphasis on project management, communication with stakeholders, project risk management, and financial management. Seven exchange visits were organized amongst grantees, which promoted wider dissemination of successful project results and supported their potential replication beyond initial landscape. Online course on project development was also developed and can now be used by potential grantees for developing good quality project proposals. As results, the project has benefitted 45 organizations and 433 people (including 285 women), and strengthened grantee project management capacities addressing gender issues, community involvement in the decision-making processes and overall cooperation with local authorities.

### Knowledge Management

SGP continued to support wider adoption of lessons and best practices generated by its portfolio of projects through knowledge management efforts at national and global levels. During the reporting year, at the country level to promote technology transfer and learning between communities and CSOs, SGP country programs carried out 1,255 training sessions. Country programs produced 4,980 project case



studies, brochures, publications, and videos as well as 251 how-to toolkits or guidelines that describe specific practices. The results of GEF support to poor and vulnerable communities and local CSOs through the SGP were mentioned in the local media (TV, radio, print, digital, and social media) over 2,365 times in the reporting period. Furthermore, SGP community-driven projects were recognized nationally and internationally, winning 39 national and international awards.

South-South Cooperation is another key initiative to improve knowledge exchange and technology transfer among countries and regions in the south. During this reporting period, 33 SGP country programmes (29% of reporting programmes) facilitated 57 South-South exchanges that supported transfer of knowledge on new innovations between communities, CSOs and other partners across countries.

## CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms

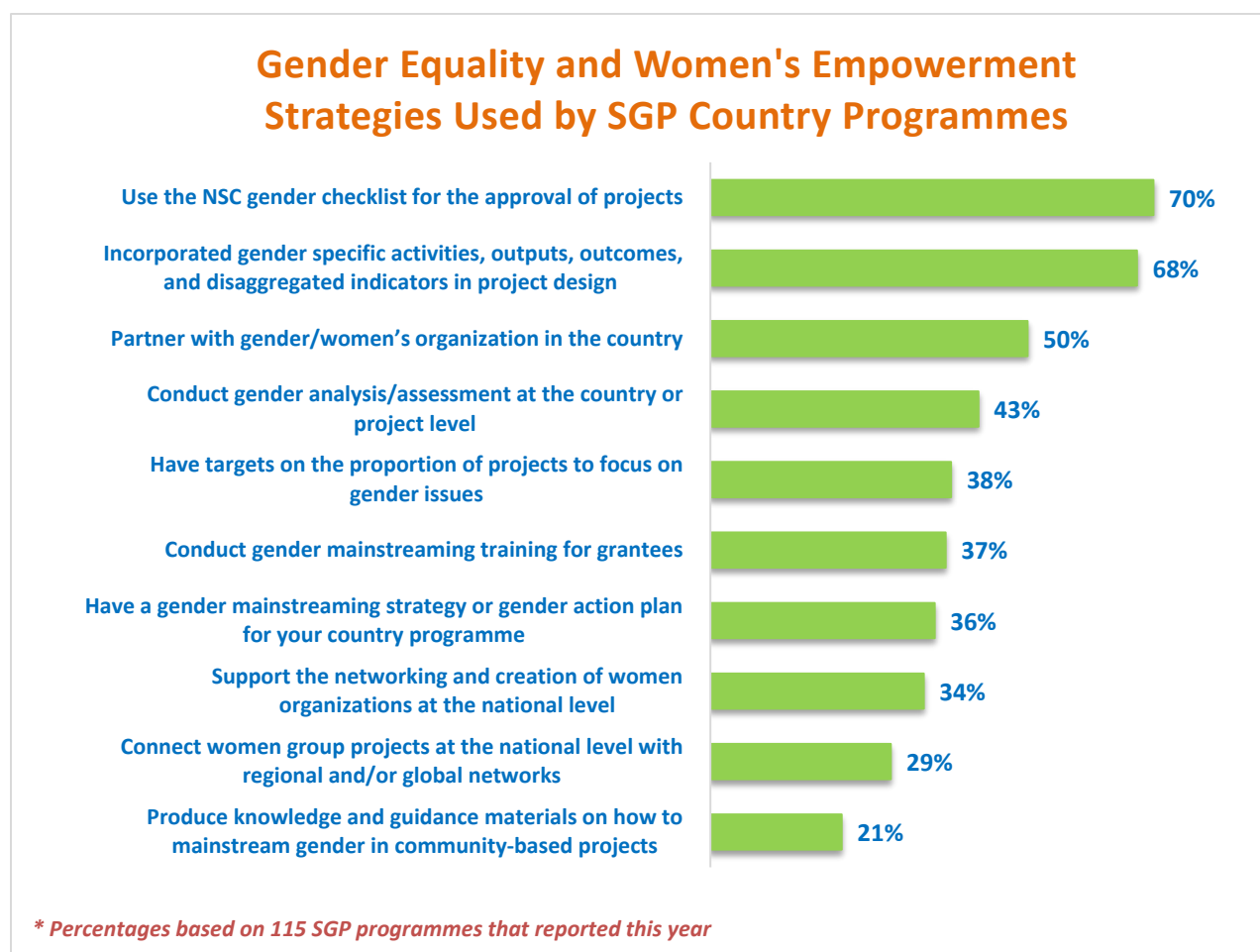
CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue is a key Grantmaker plus strategy, that works to ensure community voices and participation are promoted and enhanced in the global and national policy processes related to global environment and sustainable development issues. SGP has strengthened its role as a CSO-led multi-stakeholder platform by working closely with governments and different civil society actors. These platforms also provide opportunities to discuss possible shifts in relevant policies and practices as well as encourage strong partnerships with different stakeholders to scale up and commercialize successful community projects. During the reporting period, 44 SGP country programs (38% of reporting country programmes) conducted CSO-Government Dialogues. A total of 175 dialogue platforms were organized representing involvement of 4,126 CSO/CBO representatives.

## Social Inclusion

During the reporting period, SGP continued to undertake targeted efforts to support greater social inclusion of marginalized groups, including women, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities. Specific information is presented below:

**Gender equality and women's empowerment** is a critical element of SGP efforts in empowering the vulnerable as well as supporting them as key solution providers. There has been a focus on efforts that yield equitability of gains from projects for both men and women, but also a focus on developing gender responsive projects with women as agents of change. Among the completed projects during this period, 34% of the projects were led by women, i.e., had a female project coordinator/manager or led by a woman cooperative or women group. Further, 730 of the projects completed during the reporting period, which is 78% of total projects completed, were reported to be gender responsive. Key strategies used by SGP country programmes (CPs) to promote gender equality and women's empowerment included use of gender checklist by the National Steering Committee for appraising projects (81 CPs); incorporation of gender specific activities, outputs, outcomes, and disaggregated indicators in project design (78 CPs); partnership with gender/women's organization in the country (58 CPs) and gender analysis/assessment

at the country or project level (49 CPs). Of the reporting countries, 99 CPs (86%) had gender focal point in their SGP NSC.



**Indigenous Peoples** are important partner and target group for SGP. SGP has aligned efforts that respect customary law and practice and supported specific measures, such as efforts to securing rights to land and resources as well as participation of indigenous groups in local and national environmental governance. During the reporting period, 206 projects, which is 22% of total completed projects involved Indigenous Peoples. 889 indigenous leaders participated in various activities supported by the SGP which led to improved capacities of IP groups and organizations for organizing projects that provide for concrete action to meet their needs as well as for strong representation in policy advocacy. Efforts aimed at fostering agility and improving access in SGP grant making/ management were continued, with 18 CPs accepting proposals in local languages; 14 CPs accepted proposals using participatory video; 28 CPs involved Indigenous Peoples in respective NSCs and/or TAGs; and 38 CPs enhanced outreach and networking with Indigenous Peoples groups. Of the reporting countries, 45 (39%) of them reported having an Indigenous Peoples focal point in their SGP NSC. At the global level, SGP conducted a review of its [25 years of engagement with Indigenous Peoples](#), which culminated in a publication that was shared widely including through the GEF Council, December 2020.

**Youth** is increasingly becoming an important target group of SGP as they are key stakeholders for current and future environment and sustainable development. Environment and sustainable development require an intergenerational effort that equally benefits from the expertise of the elders, as well as the force of the youth as both future leaders and importantly changing their behaviors and attitudes. During the reporting period, 350 projects were completed with youth participation or leadership, which is 38% of total completed during the period. 209 youth organizations participated in SGP projects and in relevant national environment and sustainable development strategy development. During the reporting period, SGP also successfully convened a Youth Climate Action Video Competition in partnership with UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD and launched the winners at their Conferences of the Parties to further promote youth engagement in the cause. Of the reporting countries, 84 (73%) operated with a Youth focal point in their SGP NSC.

**Persons with disabilities (PwD)** are also a key target group for SGP support. SGP's inherent flexibility to test innovation has supported efforts to mainstream and engage PwD groups enabling them to actively participate in global environmental and livelihood efforts. During the reporting period, 392 disabled persons organizations participated in SGP projects and in relevant national environment and sustainable development strategy development. An ongoing innovation programme with a focus on PwD engagement in global environmental solutions is currently under implementation in 8 of the SGP countries with results available by next cycle.

## Innovation Programmes

Introduced in OP6, the Innovation Programme aims to enable targeted investment on emerging environmental issues that could be potentially scaled up, replicated and mainstreamed in SGP and other programmes. It also helps achieve targeted results related to the SGP's Strategic Initiatives; promote knowledge and experience sharing among participating countries on specific thematic issues; and promote partnership and leverage resources on mutually interested Strategic Initiative at the global and regional levels.

During the reporting period, the Innovation Programme continued to grow through pilots in a cluster of countries. In close relation to relevant GEF and other partner programmes and projects, SGP innovation programmes were noted to be implemented in a total of 52 countries (45% of reporting countries), including Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (7 countries), Big Cats Conservation (8 countries), Women-led enterprise (20 countries), Persons with Disabilities and Responsive Development (8 countries), Indigenous Peoples and Energy Access (9 countries), Youth and Climate Change (21 countries), and Sustainable Land Management in the Sahel Region (6 countries). The projects are currently under implementation in alignment with overall country programme priorities for OP7.

As a new initiative, in alignment and in close coordination with the wider UNDP's Plastic Offer, SGP launched a new global innovation programme to reduce plastic use and waste, boosting innovation for sustainable product design and ecological alternatives, support circular solutions, and improve waste

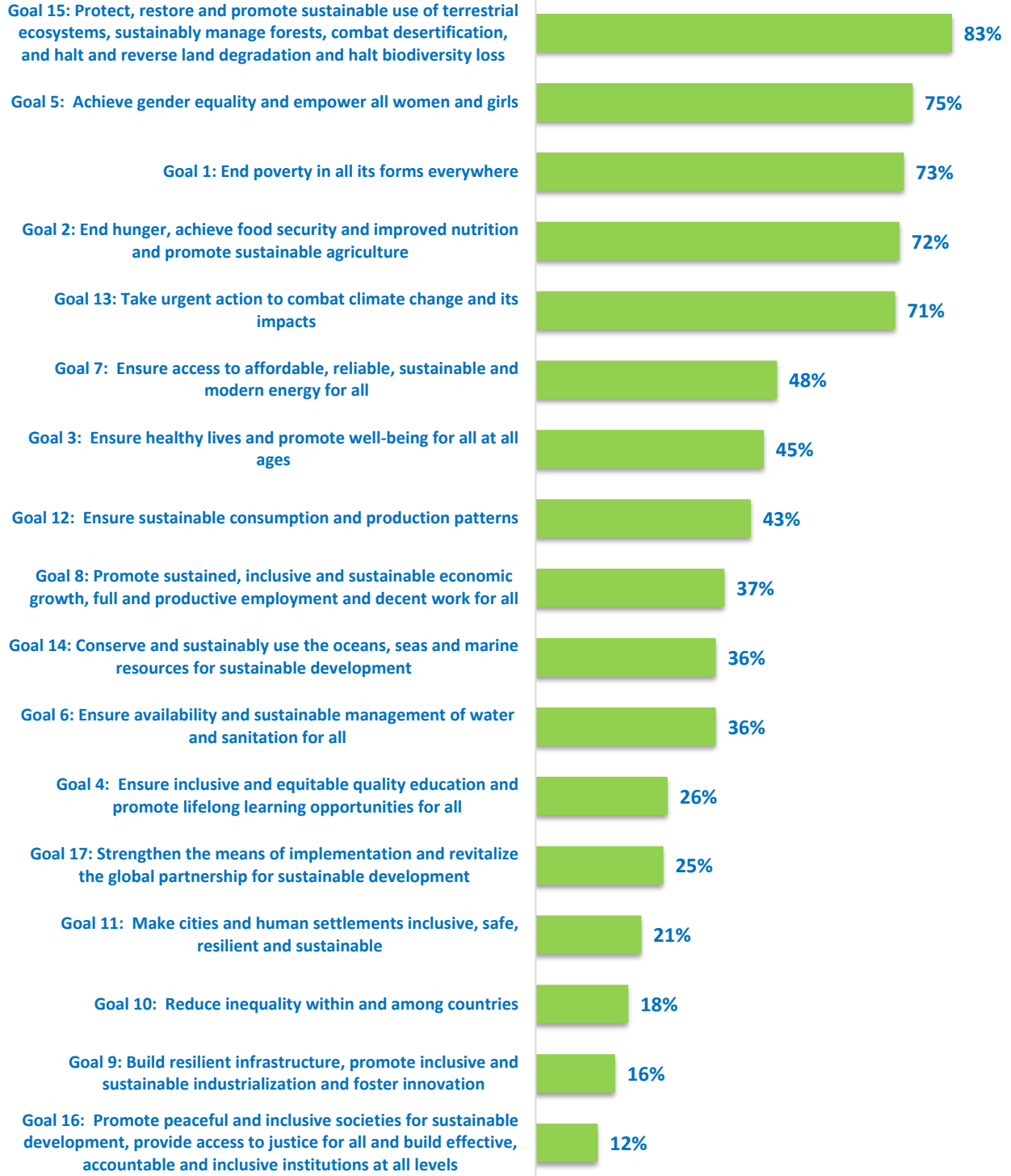
management. To jump-start the programme, 68 country initiatives are set to invest a total of USD 3.2 million from their core funding to support innovation in plastic management. An additional USD 2 million from global funding will be allocated to 10 country programmes for the scaling up of innovative solutions.

Results are already in place. As an example, in **Vietnam**, SGP supported the *Farmers' Association of Quang Ninh province* to mobilize coastal communities around Ha Long Bay to increase the rate of solid waste collection and treatment, while reducing the amount of plastic waste generated by local households. The project developed various effective models for waste separation at the source in households, fishing boats, and tourist boats, as well as models for waste pickers' groups, composting, and recycling. Through the project, 1,000 tonnes of plastic waste have been properly separated, and 150 tonnes of plastic have been collected via freelance waste workers, both in their individual households and by fishing boats and tourist boats. The work in Ha Long Bay is part of a broader initiative that is replicating and scaling up the successful model in five other cities. It is boosting waste segregation, collection, recycling, and composting, and by collaborating with businesses to introduce the circular economy approach and foster investments for green technologies. UNDP has also been working closely with local authorities to formulate and implement waste regulations, specifically by introducing the circular economy approach into legislation that will implement Viet Nam's new Law on Environmental Protection. Vietnam continues to expand and scale up the successful waste management model started in Danang in other areas of the country by mobilizing additional resources other than those of the GEF.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO AGENDA 2030 AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SGP is closely aligned with and contributes actively to the achievement of the Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During the reporting period, grantees were encouraged to design projects that maximized positive synergies between conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, sustainable land management, mitigation of climate change and other global environmental benefits, as well as contribute to improved livelihood outcomes and other social development targets. As a result, SGP projects contributed to meeting several SDGs. Noteworthy mentions are -- Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (95 CPs); Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (86 CPs); Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere (84 CPs); Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture (83 CPs); Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (82 CPs). Percentage based breakdown is presented in the graph below.

## SGP Contributions to Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals

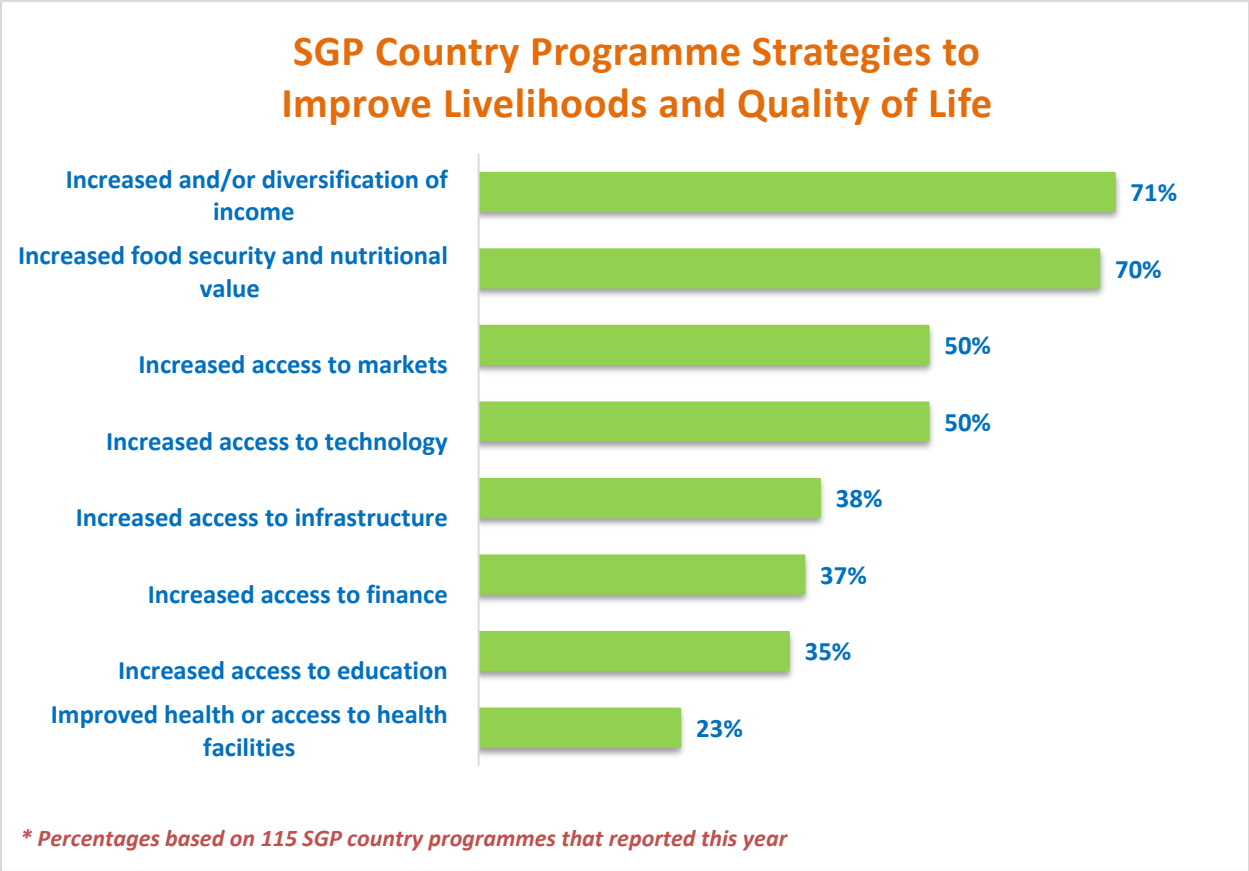


*\* Percentages based on 115 SGP country programmes that reported this year*

# LIVELIHOODS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Improving livelihoods is a core strategy of SGP, as the sustainable management of land, biodiversity, and other ecosystem resources for income and/or subsistence directly affects the generation of global environmental benefits while also contributing to the wellbeing of local communities.

As results, 694 projects (75% of completed) reported concrete results in improvement of livelihoods of the communities. Specifically, efforts were noted across SGP’s portfolio with respect to increasing and diversification of income (82 CPs); increased food security and nutritional value (80 CPs); increased access to markets (58 CPs); increased access to technology (58 CPs), and increased access to infrastructure (44 CPs). Percentage based breakdown is presented below.



# SCALING UP, REPLICATION AND POLICY INFLUENCE

During the reporting year, 147 projects (i.e., 16% of total completed projects) were replicated or scaled up. In terms of policy influence, 154 projects (i.e., 17% of total completed) reported influencing policy through project activities by liaising with local authorities and other government institutions. It is important to note that since these results have long term horizons, often much after the intervention is completed, there is considerable under reporting of results in this area. The Third Joint GEF-UNDP

Evaluation of the SGP reported an increasing trend toward broader adoption of SGP results. It summarized three pathways that SGP is currently pursuing to achieve broader adoption:

- 1) By the global programme through SGP's Policy Dialogue initiative. This requires long-term engagement on the part of CSOs and the NSC.
- 2) Through the mobilization of follow-up grant co-financing, either through UNDP's general programming, continued GEF programming, or through other donors.
- 3) Through social economy model to promote inclusion and technical and institutional innovation while creating financially sustainable microenterprises.

The evaluation also discussed the factors contributing to and hindering broader adoption. The main contributing factors are the efforts of the national coordinator, the quality of the design of the SGP country programme strategy or full-/medium-size project, and the efforts of the National Steering Committee. On the other hand, the main factors hindering broader adoption are the capacity and experience of the grantees, the level of government support and ownership of the GEF (or at least of SGP), and the coordination with other existing initiatives.

The following examples illustrate the great potential of the SGP in contributing as an incubator of innovations and a platform for broader adoption from completed projects for this reporting period.

## EXAMPLES

In **Armenia**, the *Association for Sustainable Human Development* successfully replicated and upscaled the experience of another completed SGP project on expanding access to affordable and clean energy through introducing innovative low-carbon energy solutions in *Mrgashen* community, aiming to utilize the high potential of solar energy in the region and create enabling conditions for generalization and commercialization of low-carbon technology in the community. The energy efficiency of the apartment building which housed beneficiaries was achieved through the insulation of the entrance and the roof and the replacement of windows and doors. As a result, PV systems were installed with an overall capacity of 25 kW, as well as two solar heating systems with 300 L capacity each. 250 streetlights were also replaced with LED lamps. These low-carbon energy solutions were estimated to result in an annual saving around USD 10,000, reducing 14 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions each year.

In **Malaysia**, the *Malaysian Agroecology Society for Sustainable Resource Intensification (SRI-Mas)* completed a project aiming to conserve and promote agrobiodiversity through an ecosystem-based approach of System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in rice cultivation. Agrobiodiversity-based SRI production system adopts an agroecological approach that supports ecosystem services, soil and plant health. SRI is not rice varietal dependent and uses less water, chemicals and seeds. Based on the successful experience of the project, *SRI-Mas* made strategic recommendations on the National Agrofood Policy (NAP) 2.0 which were taken up for consideration by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries. With regards to issues and challenges related to adoption of modern technologies' *SRI-Mas* proposed agroecology-based solutions to be integrated to ensure sustainability and ethical food production, and agroecology has now

been recommended under policy to advance towards sustainable agricultural practices and food systems. A representative from *SRI-Mas*, Dr. Rospidah Ghazali was appointed as a member of the National Food Security Committee. Agroecology has been integrated in the National Food Security Policy of Malaysia as a supporting strategy to achieve national targets under SDG 2.0. It is also being considered under further research and development as a new approach for enhancing food security in the country.

In **Zimbabwe**, a project completed by *SCOPE Zimbabwe* continued to grow as the project concept introduced in schools was being replicated both within and outside the country to regenerate the schoolyards into various food production zones through the Integrated Land Use Design (ILUD) approach. *SCOPE* is a vibrant and practical environmental education programme, assisting schools to redesign and rationalize land use for sustainable resource use. ILUD is a whole landscape design knitting together different agro-systems, demonstrating ecological good practices that include crop diversification, organic soil fertility management, and reclaiming of the degraded landscapes. The establishment of nurseries at the schools and the livestock integration generated income for the schools. The school gardens provided fresh vegetables and fruits, saving significant money on food for school-based feeding programmes. The improved access to clean water from boreholes coupled with rainwater harvesting contributed to replenishing clean water supplies. The free-range chicken rearing as part of the agroecology project design generated income and provided manure for the garden and field production, hence increasing productivity. Within Zimbabwe, the *SCOPE* approach was replicated in over 200 schools and attracted the attention of the government through the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) and the Ministry of Education. *SCOPE Zimbabwe* has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with EMA and the Ministry of Education. At the international level, countries have adopted this approach through other *SCOPE* country chapters include *SCOPE Malawi*, *SCOPE Kenya*, *SCOPE Uganda* and *SCOPE Zambia*. The work was also shared through the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) in which *SCOPE Zimbabwe* is an active member.

In **Yemen**, two projects respectively operated by the *Al-Husaniah Canal Water Users Society* and the *Ra's Eirh Community Group* were replicated from previous projects in other areas, assisting local communities to acquire solar systems for home electrification. The replication was achieved via information dissemination from one community to another. The projects reduced the CO<sub>2</sub> emission and raised the local awareness of environmental sustainability and climate change mitigation. The project completed by the *Al-Husaniah Canal Water Users Society* enabled 137 household to access solar energy for lighting. The other project by the *Ra's Eirh Community Group* provided electricity to 72 households with solar energy and raised local awareness through two workshops. Both projects were able to benefit 70 additional beneficiaries due to the savings in local community financial resources that had been used to purchase conventional fuel. To ensure the sustainability of the projects, revolving fund mechanisms were established through a monthly subscription.

In **Kazakhstan**, with SGP support the *Origins of Good Public Association* completed a project introducing a system of separate collection of household waste for eight apartment buildings, with the subsequent sale of the recycled solid waste as secondary raw materials for processing. Containers for separate waste collection were installed at four demo sites. The transfer of solid waste into secondary raw materials has prevented 26,280 kg of solid waste from entering dumps and 26 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. An Energy Saving



Fund scheme was developed for using the income received from the sale of secondary raw materials to renovate the apartment buildings, including measures to reduce energy consumption and improve energy efficiency. 123 households received energy-efficient equipment (LED lights and cables) bought via the fund. Incandescent and mercury-containing lightings at the building entrances were replaced with modern LED ones with motion sensors to reduce energy consumption. 1,453 people (including 600 women and 350 children) directly benefited from the project. Information about the project activities has been widely disseminated in social and mass media. The project approach is in the process of replication in Uralsk, Kazakhstan and Shardar, Tajikistan. Also, the project contractor is developing a site for primary plastic pressing and planning to promote further collection and transportation of the collected plastic to the processing company.

## COVID-19 RESPONSIVENESS THROUGH SUPPORTING GREEN AND BLUE RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES

It has been a critical year to reset relationship with nature with turmoil wreaked by COVID-19, with millions pushed into poverty, growing inequalities among people and countries, and a triple environmental emergency of climate disruption, biodiversity decline and a pollution epidemic. Ongoing development efforts are taking place against a background of a world economy recovering from a global pandemic, declining environmental trends, and continue to pressure on people and the environment. Further, financing still falls far short of the estimated requirements for mitigation, adaptation and environmental priorities such as biodiversity. With emphasis on “green recovery and build forward better”, i.e., economic recovery by integrating environmental consideration or generating benefits to environment, the SGP has an important role to play in reducing and preventing environmental stresses while creating jobs and supporting community level wellbeing.

SGP continued to align efforts with the UNDP and GEF strategies to address the ill-effects of the pandemic and served as their de-facto local community action window. In addition to supporting UNDP, other UN agencies, and governments at country or regional level responses to COVID-19, the SGP country teams supported grantees and local communities to act immediately to prepare, respond, and recover by fully utilizing its existing network. Country programmes provided COVID-related support to grantees and communities, such as awareness raising, distributing PPEs, etc. In project implementation, country teams provided operational guidelines and support to grantees and communities, collaborating with government agencies on local COVID response, facilitating new partnerships for grantees etc. As a result, SGP operations and projects have adapted to COVID-19 pandemic to respond to its impact and to prepare for better building back of the economy with the involvement of the local communities (more details are available in annex I).

Adaptation in how SGP worked during this time was also a noteworthy result. The adjustment of project activities includes innovative implementation, recovery/mitigation measures and in some occasions reallocation of funds. 49.6% of the country programmes indicated that they shifted to telecommuting and conducted virtual monitoring sessions, trainings and consultations with grantees. 34.8% of the country

programmes reported that they amended project plans, extended MoAs, reallocated budgets, or adjusted project activities to respond to the pandemic. Among the negative impact of the pandemic, 38% of the country programmes reported a total of 387 projects could not be completed on time as planned due to COVID-19. Travel restrictions is the primary reason of such delays which led to the suspension of onsite training sessions, workshops, M&E visits, etc. Another main reason for delay/ suspension was that grantees had to focus on addressing the pandemic or other imminent needs, hence was not able to continue with the projects.

## EXAMPLES

In **Turkey**, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic SGP supported *BisiKoop*, a cyclists' cooperative in Izmir, to expand and reorganize their *CitiesOnBike-Izmir* project to deliver food to the marginalized and elderly in co-ordination with the Izmir Metropolitan and Karşıyaka Municipalities. BisiKoop is the only cyclist's cooperative organization in Turkey with a mission of reducing carbon emissions as part of efforts to mitigate climate change and promote sustainable cities. Under the new *BisiDestek (bike support)* initiative, they mobilized cyclist volunteers; gave prompt trainings to them; and made an action plan for transportation of daily shopping needs, medicines and monitoring of elderly over 65 years, disabled individuals and disadvantaged groups impacted by limited movement at national scale. In addition, collaborative activities of education and awareness were developed with BUGEPE, the largest civil platform of all cycling communities in Izmir. Official permissions and geographical planning were organized with local authorities to implement cycling transportation plan with the trained volunteers while sticking to the rules and routes that were safe and in alignment with local coronavirus precautions. This covid response local action also created an opportunity to highlight the importance of bicycle use for cities, as well as assisted authorities to foresee aspects of transportation planning from a risk management lens.

In **Uganda**, SGP in partnership with The Lion's Share Fund, supported *Enjojo Wildlife Foundation* to support communities dependent on wildlife-based tourism – an industry that generated significant local employment, but has been devastated by COVID-19 travel restrictions impacting not just economic lifelines of local communities but also conservation activities. The grant was directed to carry out beekeeping projects in local communities around the Queen Elizabeth National Park. As a biodiversity hotspot, Queen Elizabeth National Park is famous for its elephants, chimpanzees, and tree climbing lions and following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a sharp increase in poaching and unsustainable natural resources use. The project supported much-needed employment with installation of over 100 beehives, procurement of equipment (bee-protection gear and harvesting tools), and training on beekeeping as an alternative income source. It also provided an entry way to raise awareness and train community members on the importance of conservation and sustainable natural capital. This approach has increased community resilience by improving livelihood at the challenging time, while at the same time incentivized local communities to protect wildlife and their habitats and continue to serve as guardians of nature at the frontlines of conservation.

In **China**, SGP supported *Nyanpo Yuzee Environmental Protection Association* to adapt activities of a planned eco-tourism project which became infeasible due to the travel restrictions in the country. With

roots of Tibetan medicine stemming from project's location in Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, the grantee adjusted project activities by working with the *Tibetan Medicine Association* that leveraged the enormous biodiversity of the region to support scientific expeditions on Tibetan medicine to prevent COVID-19 and other zoonotic diseases. The project entailed organization of workshops with attendance from 120 Tibetan medicine doctors; field trip that facilitated learning about identification of Tibetan herb medicine, its sustainable harvest and conservation; and demonstrations on techniques that explored its multiple uses. Besides furthering scientific research in application of traditional Tibetan medicines and knowledge for the ongoing epidemic, the project generated alternative employment generation activities with USD 11,000 earned by local communities through support to visiting doctors' delegation.

In **Jamaica**, lack of access to piped water for local communities gravely impacted marginalized populations such as the elderly and the disabled who relied on rainfall or water-pipes miles away to meet basic sanitation needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. With SGP support, *Sawyers Local Forest Management Committee Benevolent Society* reoriented some of its activities to address these needs through installation of a water tank in community center that supported frequent hand washing and ensured compliance with health and sanitation protocols established by the Government. Very importantly, it provided access to piped-water for at least 50 community members who were without access. There are plans to upscale this intervention and the generated good-will from this COVID-19 intervention further supports the projects' traditional objectives to build income-generating skills while building community capacities and commitment for becoming stewards of the environment.

In **Morocco**, SGP supported *Groupe SOS Maroc* to reorient its activities to support women-led businesses with high environmental impacts addressing challenges brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic. Building on its traditional activities of providing technical and financial support, the project responded with support to restore the businesses' socio-economic conditions. In particular, 29 women-led companies benefited from personalized incubation and acceleration program that supported better access to legal advice and financing during COVID-19 times. In addition, 15 workshops that were customized for Covid-19 context were conducted on entrepreneurship with social and environmental impacts. The project also supported these businesses to reorient their own activities towards digitalization to stimulate sales. Key results include sustenance and improved resilience of these women-led businesses, as well as strengthening of a "green" entrepreneurship mindset amongst the business community.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

During the reporting year, despite challenging time with travel restriction associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, 1,439 projects, representing 56% of the active portfolio, received in person monitoring visits from SGP Country Programme staff and NSC members. The SGP continued to deepen and rollout its results managed approach. In addition, use of digital monitoring was ramped up during this period (as elaborated in COVID response section). Besides support to the Third Joint Evaluation by the GEF and UNDP IEOs, results management capacities were strengthened across the project, country and global levels. In particular, progress has been made to place greater emphasis on promoting strategic and results-based

investments at the local level, in alignment with GEF-7 Focal Area Strategies and Impact Programs. In this context, the SGP has worked to build the foundation of capacitating country teams to report on the SGP results framework which is now aligned with the GEF-7 results framework; formulating results-based country programme strategies with robust measurement frameworks that reflect country level priorities and can also be linked to global results and aggregated as such; and concretely linked SGP country programme strategies to UNDP country programme documents in each of the operating countries providing an enabling framework for broader adoption, knowledge sharing and lessons learning.

## FINANCIAL DELIVERY

During the reporting year, as noted in the table below, USD 41,009,932 was delivered by the SGP global programme. In terms of the breakdown in delivery, direct grantmaking to CSOs/CBOs accounted for 64%, programme costs and services (including capacity development activities to CSOs/CBOs, knowledge sharing and communication, and monitoring and evaluation) was 22%, programme management cost was 10%, and GEF Agency fee was 4%. The fees and costs for UNDP as implementing agency and UNOPS' execution services are also included as per the guidance of GEF Secretariat.

### GEF SGP Delivery for Global Programme, July 2020– June 2021, USD

Source: UNOPS and UNDP

<i>Operational Phase</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	
OP4		8,784
OP5		1,622,819
OP6		18,055,109
OP7		19,745,915
GEF Agency Fee (4%)		1,577,305
<b>Total Expenditure (including UNDP and UNOPS Fees)</b>		<b>41,009,932</b>
<i>Expenditure as Grant and Other Costs during reporting period (2019-2020)</i>		
	<i>Ratio</i>	
Grantmaking to CSOs and CBOs		26,424,772 64%
<b>Programme Costs/Services</b>		8,906,862 22%
PMC		4,100,993 10%
<b>GEF Agency Fee (4%)</b>		1,577,305 4%
<b>Total</b>		<b>41,009,932</b>

## PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM

The SGP fosters partnerships across a wide spectrum of stakeholders to broaden the scope of the programme and to scale up and replicate successful SGP initiatives. The synergies created by the

collaborations are critical to the wider impact of grant activities. During the reporting period, a number of new partnerships have been established and matured with significant additional resources for which the SGP serves as the delivery platform.

The Global Support Initiative for Indigenous Peoples and Community-Conserved Territories and Areas (**ICCA-GSI**) **Phase 2** supported by the Government of Germany was launched in October 2020 and expanded to 45 countries. Aligned to the ICCA-GSI Phase 1 objectives of increasing recognition and support to ICCAs and contributing to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, ICCA-GSI Phase 2 aims to support Indigenous Peoples and local communities to cope with and recover from the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The partnership with the **MAVA Foundation** expanded with additional \$1 million this reporting year (total \$2.5 million) with its implementation to more countries. Discussions continued on planning a series of dialogues and consultations with national and regional partners and CSO networks. With the MAVA Foundation, the SGP work in partnership in the Mediterranean and West Africa regions to build the capacities of local communities and civil society and community-based organizations, with the aim of enhancing natural resource management and governance, including marine and species conservation.

SGP is expanding its joint initiative with **Microsoft's Project 15**, an effort that includes an open-source software platform designed to accelerate conservation and ecosystem sustainability projects with the latest Internet of Things (IoT) technologies and bringing in cutting edge digital solutions that enable effective scaling up of initiatives. Initially started with 3 pilot projects globally with a focus on species conservation, sustainable and agriculture and fisheries initiatives, the second phase of the collaboration with Microsoft will expand to several countries across the world, with extended partners such as Intel and universities. The goal is to reduce costs and complexity and rapidly decrease time to deployment for organizations and scientific teams working on solutions to protect and preserve our natural world.

The Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (**COMDEKS**) **Phase 3** funded by the Japan Biodiversity Fund of the Convention on Biological Diversity came into place, following the successful implementation of Phase 1 and 2 that has been initiated since 2010. In addition to the CBD, the programme is built on the partnership among the Government of Japan, UNU-IAS, and few others. The primary focus of the third phase of COMDEKS is on promoting institutional and financial sustainability and upscaling of socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS) conservation approach.

The partnership with **SOS SAHEL** continued to progress in a form of parallel co-financing by mobilizing and leveraging resources for larger collective impact and upscaling. The objectives of SOS SAHEL are to harness, promote and scale up community-based solutions for sustainable and resilient agriculture and the management of natural resources, and to enhance people's well-being and livelihoods while increasing climate resilience on agriculture and natural resource management in the drylands through agro-ecological approaches.

In March 2021, with additional funding from Government of Italy, SGP entered into partnership with **GLISPA and the Micronesia Conservation Trust** on a project entitled 'Building on Islands Leadership in Achieving Biodiversity-related SDGs: Local to global coalitions through Identification of replicable good practices using the islands bright spots as a reference point of knowledge.' Using a strong global island network, the aim of this initiative is to recognize, scale up, and replicate good practices among local communities in the SIDS. This work will focus on island bright spots and connecting them to global policy processes so that they can best illustrate island needs, solutions and opportunities.

During the reporting year, SGP also initiated a joint initiative with the **Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF)** to maximize support to Caribbean partners/grantees in meeting their international targets, based on national conservation plans through synergetic interventions and organizational collaboration, and scale up projects/grants for biodiversity conservation and management, including marine conservation in Caribbean countries between SGP country programmes and CBF Partnership.

The SGP also continued to serve as a delivery platform for **IWEco**, a multi-focal area, regional project that aims to contribute to the removal of barriers that hinder the implementation of sustainable solutions to address the interrelated problems of land degradation and loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services and strengthen resilience of socio-ecological systems to climate change in Caribbean SIDS. The Mekong Asia Pacific and the Small Island Developing States Community-Based Adaptation programme (MAP and SIDS CBA) supported by the Australian Government (DFAT) operationally closed as of 30 June 2020.

## EXAMPLES

In **Ecuador**, in partnership with the SGP and ICCA-GSI, the *Latin American Association for Alternative Development* strengthened the capacities of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in Sarayaku and six other ICCAs by supporting the creation of a national ICCA network. The members of the network received training on strategic communications and digital technologies, which facilitates the sharing of information to two global databases ([Global ICCA Registry](#) and [World Database for Protected Areas](#)) administered by [UNEP-WCMC](#), a key partner in the ICCA-GSI. The network also received guidance on how Indigenous Peoples and local communities can reflect on their needs against internal and external threats and develop proposals to request external support for priority actions. This organizational system has helped the *Kichwa people of Sarayaku* cope with the recent disasters caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and floods. In response to the floods, half of the population effectively isolated themselves in provisional housing used for hunting or fishing, and community leaders distributed food and other essential items. To tackle the pandemic, the SGP-supported project also provided the communities with personal protective equipment and hygiene products. In addition, it helped the establishment of security protocols to control movement in the territory and translation of information about COVID-19 to local languages. Building on this successful work, SGP has been supporting a new project since April 2021 through the ICCA-GSI to revitalize ancestral knowledge for the use and management of traditional medicine in agro-ecosystems to help the *Kichwa people in Sarayaku* respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and other health emergencies.

In **Tanzania**, with support from SGP and ICCA-GSI, the local organization *KINNAPA* promoted the sustainable management of natural resources, advanced cultural heritage conservation and empowered women to improve gender equality in the historically patriarchal Maasai communities of OLENGAPA. Nine legal land tenure documents were issued after the demarcation of indigenous community-conserved areas, which led to solidified efforts in safeguarding ecosystems in the ICCAs based on cultural tradition and protection from encroachment and land-grabbing. This also gave the Maasai women easy access to dry firewood, medicinal plants, food and milk throughout the year. The project established nurseries for a grass species (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) that improves pastures with its high biomass and seed production. Livestock can now graze there for most of the year and, therefore, men and youth do not have to leave their families behind to search for water and pastures in other areas. This also means they have more time to engage in other work, such as sustainable farming. Moreover, KINNAPA trained women and youth in alternative income-generating activities, such as beekeeping and managing non-timber forest products. Another notable result was the creation of a local women association in OLENGAPA as women came together after receiving training about the effects of gender-based violence.

In **Kiribati**, the village councils from five Kiribati communities implemented CBA projects to rehabilitate their community rainwater catchment and sanitation systems. Toilet blocks were built in all the communities, each comprising of four toilets and two showers, which improved the cleanliness and sanitation of the villages and beaches. Overhead water supply tanks of 3,000 litres were installed. Four 5,000-litre tanks were linked to rainwater-catchment roofs of the five community centers, or Maneaba halls. The halls were also installed with 1.5-kiloWatt solar electricity systems to support community night-time activities, and each now acts as a homework center, which enabled children to spend longer hours reading and studying. The project encouraged the active participation of community members in the construction of the water and sanitation systems and provided basic training on their maintenance. Community members also participated in education and awareness sessions focused on water conservation, good sanitation and hygiene and climate change. In total, 28,900 community members including 5,779 children benefited from the projects.

In **Sri Lanka**, the *Ekabadda Praja Sanwardana Kantha Maha Sangamaya group* completed a CBA project in Serupitiya village to address land degradation and erosive cultivation practices. The project provided funds for each household to implement these measures. As a result, a total of 177 hectares of land were rehabilitated. Home gardening was introduced to 200 households. A post-project survey found that composting increased from 14% of households before the project to 80% after it. Today, 58 families are benefitting from the sale of home garden produce and perennial crops, such as cashew and coconut. All home gardens have more than five perennial crop types, ensuring domestic food security and income during periods of climatic uncertainty. The project helped the community organize a local group for milk farming and provided free cross-bred cows to some community members. 14 families are now earning between US\$60 - 90 per month through milk sales. A milk chilling center was established with government co-finance to support the Milk Farming Society. The project also enabled the villagers to organize a local women's organization, established by the local NGO, to promote financial security for rural women via .

The group also delivers additional programmes on health, sanitation, kitchen gardens and efficient water use to village women and community members. In addition, a US\$7.5 million climate adaptation initiative is scaling up this CBA project's proven approach for soil and land conservation in rain-fed farmlands in the entire *Walapane* Division.

Several projects with the MAVA foundation were still under implementation during the reporting period. In **Cape Verde**, a project is working to create synergies between Government and CSOs to positively influence the development of integrated strategies for marine and coastal conservation and management, with the aim of improved governance of marine and coastal resources at the national level. A project in **Guinea-Bissau** aims to strengthen the technical capacities of artisanal fishermen for sustainable fishing through the construction of an ice production center to improve fish storage, creating a viable economic alternative for women. Another project in Guinea-Bissau seeks to reduce anthropogenic pressures to the seabird breeding colony of Bantambur, by engaging local communities in monitoring and management of the breeding sites.



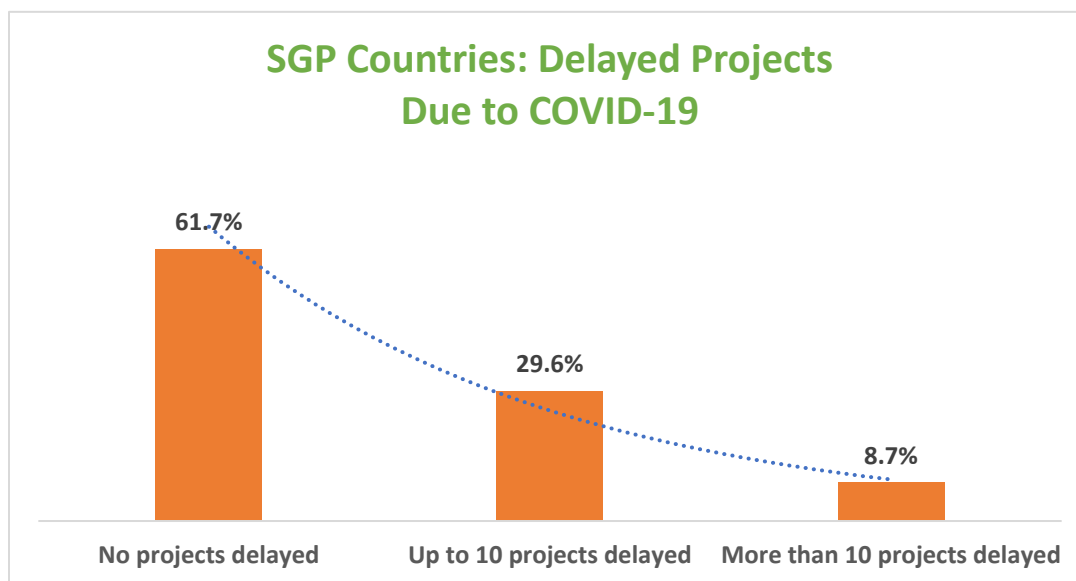
## ANNEX I: SGP Response to COVID-19

### KEY FINDINGS

- 1. Projects continue to be suspended or delayed in some countries. The distribution of the responses is:**
  - No projects delayed (61.7%)
  - Up to 10 projects delayed (29.6%)
  - More than 10 projects delayed (8.7%)
  
- 2. Reasons of project suspension or delay:**
  - Travel restrictions in place (71.3%)
  - Grantee reoriented towards imminent needs (60.0%)
  - Progress reports could not be procured (37.4%)
  
- 3. SGP country teams conducted multiple measures to address the pandemic, including:**
  - Telecommunicated or conducted online activities such as monitoring sessions, consultations, trainings (49.6%)
  - Modified project activities, plans, or budgets (34.8%)
  - Provided COVID related guidance or supplies to grantees or communities (18.3%)
  - Provide financial, technical, or operational support/guidance to grantees or communities (15.7%)
  
- 4. Countries are conducting or plan to conduct projects to assist COVID efforts in the following:**
  - Hygiene (safe water, vaccination, sanitation products or PPEs produced/distributed) (16.5%)
  - Social inclusion (15.7%)
  - Food security (14.8%)
  - Awareness raising of COVID-19 (12.2%)

## SPECIFIC FINDINGS

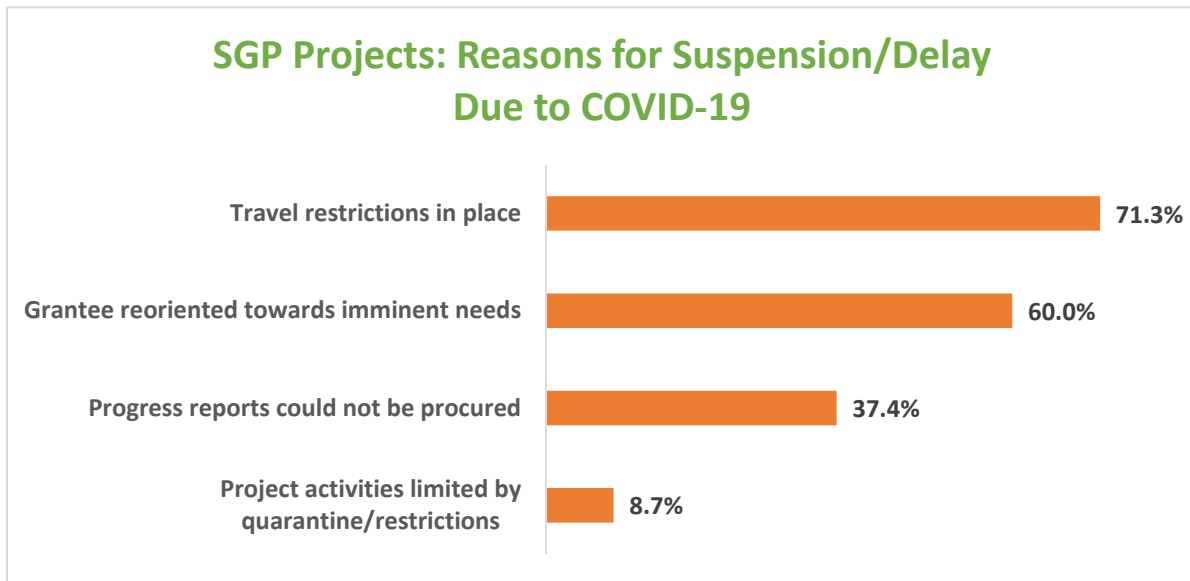
### 1. Number of projects that could not be completed due to COVID-19 (indicating only those projects that were scheduled for completion during the reporting year).



#### OTHER COMMENTS OF INTEREST:

- 44 respondents (38% of the country programmes) reported a total of 387 projects could not be completed on time as planned due to COVID-19.
- 10 countries reported more than 10 projects delayed due to COVID-19. These are: Armenia, China, Cuba, Iran, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Panama, Uzbekistan.

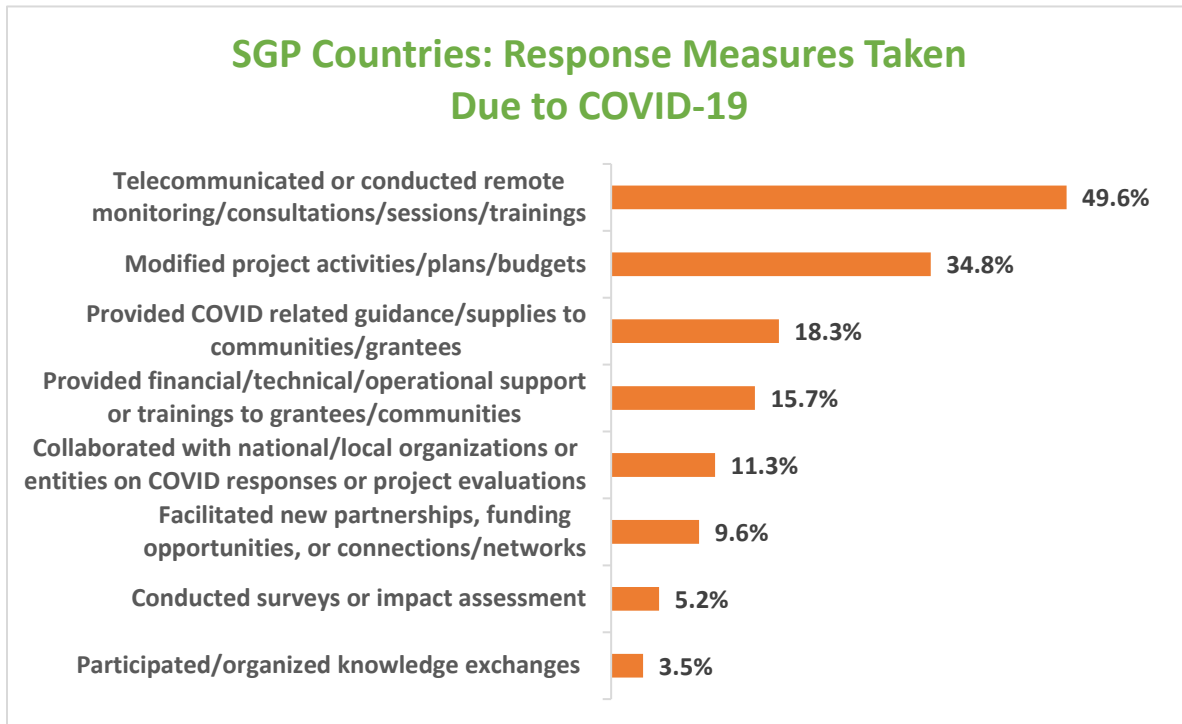
**2. Reasons that projects on hold or delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**



**OTHER COMMENTS OF INTEREST:**

- The travel restrictions is the primary reason of projects being suspended or delayed
- As a result, onsite activities (training sessions, workshops, M&E visits, etc.) had to be suspended or canceled
- Another main reason of project suspension/delay is that grantees had to focus on addressing the pandemic or other imminent needs

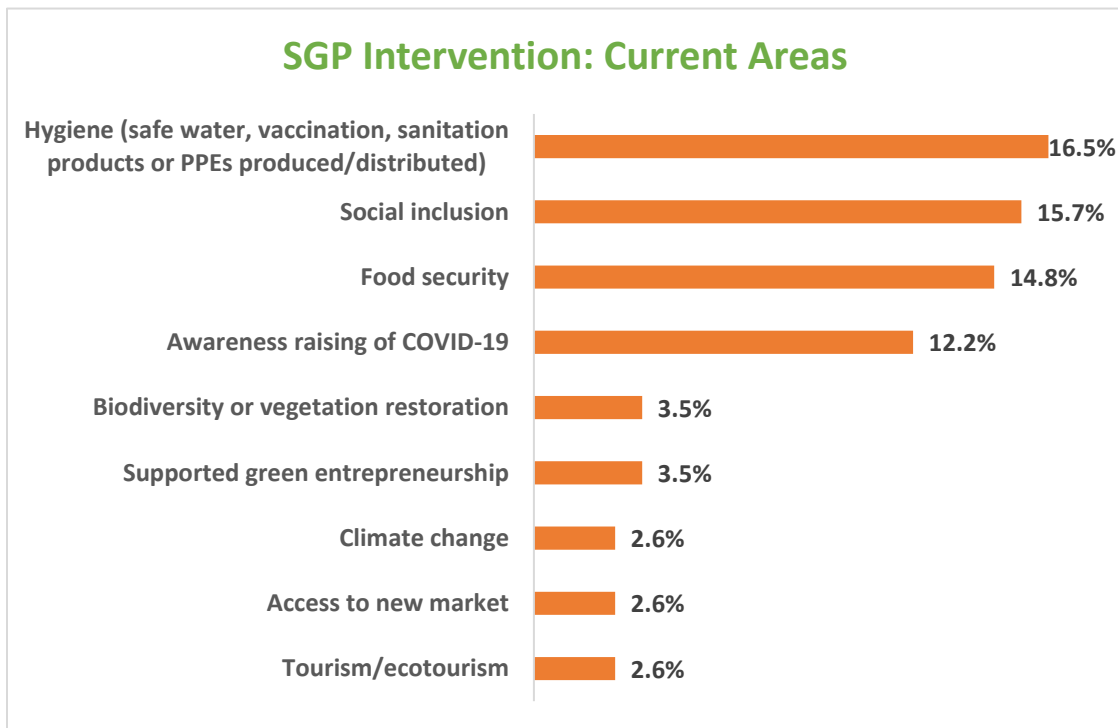
**3. Measures the country team has taken to support projects, grantees, overall country response, and recovery from COVID.**



**OTHER COMMENTS OF INTEREST:**

- In addition to supporting UNDP, other UN agencies, and governments at country or regional level responses to COVID-19, the SGP country teams supported grantees and local communities to act immediately to prepare, respond, and recover.
- The measure taken by most country programmes was shifting to telecommuting and conducting monitoring sessions, trainings, consultations, etc. remotely.
- Country programmes made adaptations in response to COVID, including amended project plans, extended MoAs, reallocated budgets, or adjusted project activities to respond to the pandemic. The adjustment of project activities includes innovative implementation, recovery/mitigation measures, reallocation of funds, etc.
- Country programmes also provided COVID-related support to grantees and communities, such as awareness raising, distributing PPEs, etc.
- In project implementation, country teams provided operational guidelines and support to grantees and communities, collaborating with other agencies on COVID responses or project evaluation, facilitating new partnerships or connections for grantees, etc.

#### 4. Project areas that assisted with COVID efforts and broader green recovery efforts.



#### OTHER COMMENTS OF INTEREST:

- The SGP projects supported local communities to respond to the effects of the pandemic in resilient and innovative ways while targeting marginalized groups including women, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities.
- The efforts were focused mostly on hygiene, including encouraging production of biodiversity friendly and nature-based products such as artisanal soaps, masks, sanitizers and other hygiene supplies, assuring clean and reliable water access, distributing PPEs, etc.
- Other well-noted topics are improving food security and awareness raising of COVID-19.
- Other efforts include conservation and restoration of ecosystems, generating green jobs, supporting food supply chain, etc.

## Annex II: Country Level Cumulative Grants and Co-Financing (As of 30 June 2021)

Country	Year started (*)	GEF SGP Funding		Co-financing (**)			
		Number of Projects	GEF Grant Amount Committed (USD)	Project level Co-financing in Cash (USD)	Project level Co-financing in Kind (USD)	Program level Co-financing/ Non-GEF Grant Amount Committed (USD)	Total Co-financing (USD)
AFGHANISTAN	2013	110	4,506,625	1,694,251	4,132,522	250,000	6,076,773
ALBANIA	1999	278	4,240,587	1,343,212	766,884	-	2,110,096
ALGERIA	2012	35	1,291,733	660,993	114,347	120,843	896,183
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	2013	49	1,949,998	588,433	1,906,190	255,000	2,749,623
ARGENTINA	2006	257	7,340,385	2,423,125	7,916,839	899,058	11,239,021
ARMENIA	2009	95	4,004,000	4,028,396	1,601,779	400,000	6,030,176
BAHAMAS	2011	62	1,805,613	1,362,827	985,280	-	2,348,107
BARBADOS (Sub-region) (until 2012)	1994	112	2,294,468	1,060,902	1,973,001	-	3,033,903
BARBADOS	2012	90	2,816,081	1,070,501	5,913,426	138,463	7,122,389
BELARUS, REPUBLIC OF	2006	164	6,546,439	7,358,800	1,448,709	196,686	9,004,195
BELIZE	1993	246	6,837,094	3,686,960	6,038,819	1,300,474	11,026,253
BENIN	2007	92	3,039,872	2,793,867	1,017,041	660,000	4,470,907
BHUTAN	1999	183	5,198,390	1,439,180	2,884,738	380,000	4,703,918
BOLIVIA (upgraded in 2011)	1997	431	12,164,520	3,704,937	8,649,256	213,387	12,567,580
BOTSWANA	1993	200	5,982,686	8,835,972	3,370,632	-	12,206,605
BRAZIL (upgraded in 2011)	1995	421	11,347,493	7,558,989	7,657,617	280,000	15,496,606
BULGARIA (until 2013)	2006	121	3,949,348	3,965,018	1,541,422	-	5,506,440
BURKINA FASO	1994	259	8,561,969	1,881,615	3,464,122	290,196	5,635,933
BURUNDI	2010	74	3,129,010	761,881	2,524,554	-	3,286,436
CAMBODIA	2005	115	4,139,309	2,679,398	4,816,067	4,756,702	12,252,167
CAMEROON, REPUBLIC OF	2007	138	4,062,806	1,459,717	3,137,300	720,000	5,317,017
CAPE VERDE	2010	129	3,497,075	1,859,273	2,198,668	427,050	4,484,991
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	2010	75	2,214,244	270,380	1,069,277	149,500	1,489,157

Country	Year started (*)	GEF SGP Funding		Co-financing (**)			
		Number of Projects	GEF Grant Amount Committed (USD)	Project level Co-financing in Cash (USD)	Project level Co-financing in Kind (USD)	Program level Co-financing/ Non-GEF Grant Amount Committed (USD)	Total Co-financing (USD)
CHAD	2007	50	1,245,251	973,437	251,540	150,000	1,374,978
CHILE (until 2012)	1994	257	7,024,145	472,138	5,312,939	52,904	5,837,981
Colombia	2015	198	4,839,225	154,950	2,586,507	699,092	3,440,549
COMOROS	2007	83	2,810,877	1,093,475	1,230,632	120,000	2,444,107
CONGO BRAZZAVILLE	2017	30	1,400,000	-	818,723	-	818,723
COOK ISLANDS	2016	10	431,800	7,495	112,197	-	119,692
COSTA RICA (upgraded in 2011)	1993	673	14,162,160	8,777,766	17,461,588	300,649	26,540,003
COTE d'IVOIRE	1993	325	5,860,516	3,207,098	2,933,360	-	6,140,458
CUBA	2005	150	6,428,294	11,359,824	1,529,851	287,500	13,177,175
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	2010	237	6,350,799	1,030,756	5,869,423	627,760	7,527,939
DJIBOUTI	2014	50	1,510,133	1,052,427	1,897,867	-	2,950,294
DOMINICA	1995	93	2,655,625	1,415,736	2,297,077	832,258	4,545,072
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1994	485	11,582,153	17,833,523	18,440,301	257,500	36,531,324
ECUADOR (upgraded in 2011)	1993	361	11,646,299	7,861,172	8,522,253	942,537	17,325,962
EGYPT (upgraded in 2016)	1994	355	8,785,398	5,268,869	2,460,673	200,000	7,929,542
EL SALVADOR	2003	202	5,146,361	4,729,500	2,978,942	313,000	8,021,441
ERITREA	2009	56	2,588,000	443,883	4,355,590	-	4,799,474
ESWATINI	2021	1	25,000	-	-	-	-
ETHIOPIA	2006	212	5,829,111	1,374,263	4,350,000	726,250	6,450,513
Federated States of MICRONESIA	2013	52	1,834,085	456,260	1,042,946	550,208	2,049,414
FIJI sub-region (Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu) until 2016	2005	169	6,393,148	801,567	4,351,111	1,156,336	6,309,014
FIJI	2016	28	765,141	171,339	413,089	266,600	851,028
GAMBIA	2009	140	3,775,160	1,390,834	1,693,460	-	3,084,294

Country	Year started (*)	GEF SGP Funding		Co-financing (**)			
		Number of Projects	GEF Grant Amount Committed (USD)	Project level Co-financing in Cash (USD)	Project level Co-financing in Kind (USD)	Program level Co-financing/ Non-GEF Grant Amount Committed (USD)	Total Co-financing (USD)
GEORGIA, REPUBLIC OF	2013	78	1,865,055	1,335,873	1,282,280	215,363	2,833,516
GHANA	1993	264	6,401,717	5,059,863	5,535,655	677,785	11,273,303
GRENADA	2013	44	1,979,021	449,812	704,237	140,989	1,295,038
GUATEMALA	1997	370	5,055,625	2,610,558	5,386,185	1,051,581	9,048,324
GUINEA	2010	151	4,055,587	884,314	1,659,141	300,000	2,843,455
GUINEA-BISSAU	2011	70	2,184,122	642,030	886,635	155,000	1,683,665
GUYANA	2013	22	856,400	215,236	592,105	115,982	923,322
HAITI	2008	64	2,378,518	238,059	740,510	443,899	1,422,469
HONDURAS	2002	206	6,548,379	1,075,118	8,125,796	877,989	10,078,903
INDIA (upgraded in 2011)	1996	382	10,502,204	13,543,287	8,449,420	1,477,398	23,470,105
INDONESIA (upgraded in 2016)	1993	548	10,985,336	2,516,534	12,703,403	1,696,000	16,915,938
IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)	2001	270	5,959,525	5,077,173	23,226,721	796,000	29,099,894
JAMAICA	2005	104	4,615,678	2,466,631	5,655,025	972,096	9,093,752
JORDAN	1993	235	7,223,200	4,984,362	8,566,810	465,000	14,016,171
KAZAKHSTAN (upgraded in 2016)	1997	353	7,654,772	5,116,161	4,698,943	522,890	10,337,994
KENYA (upgraded in 2011)	1993	380	12,874,132	5,382,798	5,136,678	922,833	11,442,309
KIRIBATI	2016	16	599,931	-	715,178	-	715,178
KYRGYZSTAN	2002	283	4,321,049	2,565,476	2,841,442	879,289	6,286,207
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	2009	157	5,498,661	823,681	978,532	241,824	2,044,037
LEBANON	2006	90	3,370,671	2,012,932	954,888	200,000	3,167,820
LESOTHO	2008	99	2,922,408	700,644	3,300,441	-	4,001,085
LIBERIA	2009	116	3,550,000	159,000	1,173,160	15,000	1,347,160
LITHUANIA, REPUBLIC OF (until 2009)	2001	104	2,611,280	6,108,566	3,884,123	-	9,992,689
MADAGASCAR	2008	324	6,998,448	2,492,247	3,358,558	649,670	6,500,475



Country	Year started (*)	GEF SGP Funding		Co-financing (**)			
		Number of Projects	GEF Grant Amount Committed (USD)	Project level Co-financing in Cash (USD)	Project level Co-financing in Kind (USD)	Program level Co-financing/ Non-GEF Grant Amount Committed (USD)	Total Co-financing (USD)
MALAWI	2009	79	2,300,000	1,355,243	1,141,212	280,000	2,776,456
MALAYSIA	2001	224	8,251,054	12,280,248	6,146,520	465,000	18,891,768
MALDIVES	2010	85	2,378,144	643,093	752,965	530,816	1,926,873
MALI	1994	412	11,090,796	8,972,999	6,748,146	468,111	16,189,256
MARSHALL ISLANDS	2014	50	2,012,290	831,187	921,000	147,057	1,899,244
MAURITANIA	2002	196	5,227,403	2,454,825	2,846,962	2,121,666	7,423,453
MAURITIUS	1996	178	6,204,971	7,769,453	5,860,286	170,000	13,799,739
MEXICO (upgraded in 2011)	1994	669	16,892,142	10,275,620	11,259,539	534,698	22,069,857
MICRONESIA Sub-region (until 2011)	2005	46	1,164,675	125,269	1,795,672	118,500	2,039,441
MOLDOVA, REPUBLIC OF	2013	66	2,334,945	2,624,518	1,053,340	195,417	3,873,275
MONGOLIA	2003	453	4,131,694	1,543,131	3,333,224	643,874	5,520,230
MOROCCO	2000	183	5,738,611	7,049,120	6,000,424	1,265,953	14,315,497
MOZAMBIQUE	2005	273	5,408,792	1,932,640	1,898,342	-	3,830,982
NAMIBIA	2003	146	3,463,943	5,029,853	2,470,755	2,357,378	9,857,986
NAURU	2016	1	119,812	-	-	-	-
NEPAL	1998	244	8,393,788	6,799,216	3,077,763	254,482	10,131,460
NICARAGUA	2004	196	4,039,495	1,271,873	2,328,024	-	3,599,896
NIGER	2004	164	5,181,387	2,659,657	3,461,936	1,461,614	7,583,207
NIGERIA	2009	166	6,094,997	69,500	5,271,299	466,250	5,807,049
NIUE	2016	15	375,000	7,027	254,666	-	261,693
NORTH MACEDONIA	2006	146	2,730,534	2,006,417	1,100,088	-	3,106,504
PAKISTAN (upgraded in 2011)	1994	302	9,373,503	9,194,163	4,790,708	2,052,547	16,037,418
PALAU	2014	54	2,293,588	294,270	3,175,954	120,000	3,590,224
PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY	1999	148	4,937,365	1,308,152	1,817,401	402,846	3,528,399
PANAMA	2007	237	5,222,054	1,535,910	5,384,103	690,000	7,610,013

Country	Year started (*)	GEF SGP Funding		Co-financing (**)			
		Number of Projects	GEF Grant Amount Committed (USD)	Project level Co-financing in Cash (USD)	Project level Co-financing in Kind (USD)	Program level Co-financing/ Non-GEF Grant Amount Committed (USD)	Total Co-financing (USD)
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	1994	281	4,885,288	1,172,793	117,743	228,405	1,518,942
PARAGUAY	2011	81	2,422,520	1,059,740	2,957,730	797,990	4,815,460
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA	2010	128	5,999,133	3,148,982	4,394,167	350,000	7,893,149
PERU (upgraded in 2016)	1999	337	11,476,689	2,233,005	6,849,482	535,226	9,617,714
PHILIPPINES (upgraded in 2011)	1992	316	11,265,116	4,240,726	2,436,046	193,752	6,870,524
POLAND (until 2009)	1994	383	6,753,858	19,931,470	4,518,701	13,423	24,463,593
ROMANIA (until 2013)	2005	95	3,145,566	1,963,567	1,335,397	-	3,298,963
RWANDA	2006	85	3,344,251	579,757	2,587,770	49,876	3,217,404
SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	2014	56	1,856,243	574,342	2,033,901	217,500	2,825,743
SAINT LUCIA	2012	100	2,949,096	2,368,702	2,638,288	323,749	5,330,738
SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	2014	37	2,085,013	784,027	1,497,893	135,244	2,417,164
SAMOA sub-region (Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau) until 2016	2005	208	3,992,311	1,127,529	3,229,815	1,124,562	5,481,906
SAMOA	2016	41	828,717	449,186	958,440	180,000	1,587,626
SENEGAL	1994	281	9,517,579	2,828,031	4,685,179	849,855	8,363,065
SEYCHELLES	2010	60	2,487,872	1,029,422	1,562,444	120,000	2,711,866
SIERRA LEONE	2013	134	3,193,593	483,377	1,722,087	-	2,205,464
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	2010	67	1,693,002	2,113,123	552,783	279,998	2,945,905
SOLOMON ISLANDS	2009	117	2,386,507	292,627	768,878	14,000	1,075,505
SOUTH AFRICA	2003	123	5,227,022	7,280,674	2,166,306	50,000	9,496,980
SRI LANKA (upgraded in 2016)	1994	422	9,873,674	2,614,702	3,495,594	1,175,932	7,286,228
SURINAME	1997	144	4,011,586	2,624,824	2,090,847	320,904	5,036,574
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	2005	45	1,712,288	578,916	982,536	-	1,561,452
TAJKISTAN	2010	106	2,111,994	1,297,823	1,743,160	384,231	3,425,214

Country	Year started (*)	GEF SGP Funding		Co-financing (**)			
		Number of Projects	GEF Grant Amount Committed (USD)	Project level Co-financing in Cash (USD)	Project level Co-financing in Kind (USD)	Program level Co-financing/ Non-GEF Grant Amount Committed (USD)	Total Co-financing (USD)
THAILAND (upgraded in 2016)	1994	488	8,285,622	2,574,772	8,556,606	107,615	11,238,994
TIMOR-LESTE	2013	88	1,827,730	110,526	1,228,955	149,000	1,488,481
TOGO	2010	112	3,037,767	406,673	1,453,036	-	1,859,709
TOKELAU	2016	0	-	-	-	-	-
TONGA	2016	22	645,803	2,000	188,359	-	190,359
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	1995	128	3,833,998	1,357,113	3,565,123	276,990	5,199,226
TUNISIA	1993	172	5,372,274	7,771,689	3,064,913	616,250	11,452,852
TURKEY	1993	322	6,623,001	6,177,474	4,937,068	513,000	11,627,542
TUVALU	2016	14	261,492	-	124,625	-	124,625
UGANDA	1998	235	7,530,177	2,549,970	4,083,136	459,444	7,092,550
UKRAINE	2010	175	8,125,733	4,491,613	3,971,644	1,286,383	9,749,639
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA	1997	321	9,951,575	3,570,534	2,464,371	2,024,877	8,059,781
URUGUAY	2006	145	3,141,287	145,288	4,119,324	63,270	4,327,882
UZBEKISTAN	2008	105	3,127,019	3,901,639	1,860,506	-	5,762,144
VANUATU	2008	81	2,891,743	1,122,728	1,895,997	299,799	3,318,524
VENEZUELA	2010	218	5,782,813	1,510,634	6,495,591	-	8,006,225
VIET NAM	1999	225	6,248,638	2,633,198	4,937,439	1,660,945	9,231,583
YEMEN	2006	104	3,336,793	2,843,929	2,735,816	-	5,579,745
ZAMBIA	2008	67	2,312,750	935,544	453,309	566,600	1,955,452
ZIMBABWE	1994	193	7,120,796	2,777,002	13,479,367	-	16,256,369
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>24,278</b>	<b>663,057,054</b>	<b>392,518,353</b>	<b>484,425,122</b>	<b>61,851,569</b>	<b>938,795,043</b>

SOURCE: SGP Database, 2021

(\*) The criteria for the start year of the country (i.e. grant making started) is the same as applied by the GEF Evaluation Team

(\*\*) A GEF Strategic Priority for Adaptation - CBA project which was implemented in 10 countries through SGP as delivery mechanism is not included in the GEF grant funds (as this was a separate FSP), the grants funded under this project are however captured in non-GEF grant amount column and the total amount is \$2,884,660

## Annex III: Portfolio Overview

**Table 1: Active SGP Projects as of June 30, 2021**

Including Global and Upgraded Countries, in millions USD

Funding Sources	Number of Projects	Grant Amount	Co-financing (in Cash)	Co-financing (in Kind)	Co-financing Total
<b>GEF Funds</b>	<b>2,152</b>	<b>75.57</b>	<b>28.13</b>	<b>44.33</b>	<b>72.46</b>
<i>GEF Core Funds</i>	1,310	46.81	17.75	28.88	46.63
<i>GEF STAR Funds</i>	842	28.76	10.38	15.45	25.83
<b>Non GEF Funds</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>11.55</b>	<b>3.12</b>	<b>5.45</b>	<b>8.57</b>
<i>ICCA-GSI</i>	359	9.99	2.29	5.04	7.33
<i>COMDEKS</i>	8	0.25	0.02	0.08	0.1
<i>IWECO Funding</i>	5	0.23	0.19	0.04	0.23
<i>MAVA Foundation</i>	5	0.18	0.05	0.00	0.05
<i>Lion's Share Partnership</i>	4	0.20	0.05	0.05	0.1
<i>Other</i>	14	0.71	0.52	0.23	0.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,547</b>	<b>87.12</b>	<b>31.25</b>	<b>49.78</b>	<b>81.03</b>

**Table 2: Focal Area Distribution, By Active Projects, Amount, Value and Co-Financing of Active Projects**

For both GEF Funds and Non GEF funds, including Global and Upgraded countries, in millions USD

Focal Area	Number of Projects	Grant Amount	Co-financing in Cash	Co-financing in Kind	Co-financing Total
<i>Biodiversity</i>	1,216	38.55	12.55	21.37	33.92
<i>Capacity Development</i>	175	7.22	1.85	3.77	5.62
<i>Chemicals and Waste</i>	133	4.85	2.11	2.19	4.3
<i>Climate Change Adaptation</i>	77	2.70	0.68	1.09	1.77
<i>Climate Change Mitigation</i>	474	18.29	9.44	11.86	21.3
<i>International Waters</i>	72	2.51	0.88	1.47	2.35
<i>Land Degradation</i>	400	12.99	3.75	8.03	11.78
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,547</b>	<b>87.12</b>	<b>31.25</b>	<b>49.78</b>	<b>81.03</b>

**Table 3: Regional Distribution of Active SGP Projects**

For both GEF Funds and Non GEF funds, including Global and Upgraded countries, in millions USD

Regions	Number of Project	Grant Amount	Co-financing in Cash	Co-financing in Kind	Co-financing Total
<i>Arab States</i>	162	6.02	2.95	1.66	4.61
<i>Europe and the CIS</i>	180	5.97	4.02	3.16	7.18
<i>Latin America and the Caribbean</i>	662	24.40	13.19	14.87	28.06
<i>Asia and the Pacific</i>	722	23.74	5.61	12.40	18.01
<i>Africa</i>	821	26.99	5.47	17.69	23.16
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,547</b>	<b>87.12</b>	<b>31.25</b>	<b>49.78</b>	<b>81.03</b>

**Table 4: Cumulative SGP Projects by Operational Phase (both Global and UCPs)**

Including Global and Upgraded countries (funded by GEF and other funds), in millions USD

Operational Phase	Number of Projects	Grant Amount	Co-financing in Cash	Co-financing in Kind	Co-financing Total
<i>Pilot Phase</i>	602	10.63	5.16	6.66	11.82
<i>OP1</i>	876	15.19	10.66	7.99	18.65
<i>OP2</i>	4,489	96.10	69.62	83.77	153.39
<i>OP3</i>	3,205	78.18	62.25	54.58	116.83
<i>OP4</i>	4,627	129.26	79.77	76.65	156.42
<i>OP5</i>	7,229	231.21	103.91	154.86	258.77
<i>OP6</i>	4,436	136.29	51.35	83.74	135.10
<i>OP7</i>	965	28.05	9.81	16.17	25.98
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,429</b>	<b>724.91</b>	<b>392.52</b>	<b>484.43</b>	<b>876.94</b>

**Table 5: Cumulative SGP Global Countries Projects by Operational Phase (Global only)**

For both GEF Funds and Non GEF funds, Global Countries only, in millions USD

Operational Phase	Number of Projects	Grant Amount	Co-financing in Cash	Co-financing in Kind	Co-financing Total
<i>Pilot Phase</i>	602	10.63	5.16	6.66	11.82
<i>OP1</i>	876	15.19	10.66	7.99	18.65
<i>OP2</i>	4,489	96.10	69.62	83.77	153.39
<i>OP3</i>	3,205	78.18	62.25	54.58	116.83
<i>OP4</i>	4,627	129.26	79.77	76.65	156.42
<i>OP5</i>	6,469	202.94	90.27	133.73	224.00
<i>OP6</i>	3,735	113.65	42.60	68.94	111.54
<i>OP7</i>	868	25.32	9.14	14.92	24.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,871</b>	<b>671.27</b>	<b>369.46</b>	<b>447.24</b>	<b>816.70</b>

**Table 6: New SGP Projects Approved, July 2020 to June 2021**

For both GEF Funds &amp; Non GEF funds, including Global and Upgraded Countries, in millions USD

Funding Sources	Number of Projects	Grant Amount	Co-financing in Cash	Co-financing in Kind	Co-financing Total
<i>GEF Core Funds</i>	783	25.10	9.13	15.82	24.95
<i>GEF STAR Funds</i>	218	6.65	0.76	3.04	3.80
<b>Total (GEF Funds)</b>	<b>1,001</b>	<b>31.75</b>	<b>9.89</b>	<b>18.86</b>	<b>28.76</b>
<b>Total (Non GEF funds)</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>7.64</b>	<b>1.69</b>	<b>3.96</b>	<b>5.66</b>
<b>Total (All Funds)</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>39.39</b>	<b>11.59</b>	<b>22.83</b>	<b>34.41</b>

**Table 7: SGP Funding Status to date, Global Programme (OP5, OP6 and OP7)**

**7a. GEF Funding for SGP in OP7, Global Country Programmes**

Project	Date of Approval		Amount (USD) (excluding Agency Fees)
Global Core (Part I)	PIF Approval by Council	18-Dec-18	
	CEO Endorsement	20-May-20	61,538,462
Global Core (Part II)	PIF Approval by Council	2-Jun-20	61,538,462
	CEO Endorsement		
STAR (Part III)	PIF Approval by Council	11-Dec-20	43,235,008
	CEO Endorsement		
<b>Total Amount</b>			<b>166,311,932</b>

**7b. GEF Funding for SGP in OP6, Global Country Programmes**

Project	Date of Approval		Amount (USD) (excluding Agency Fees)
Global Core (Part I)	PIF Approval by Council	30-Oct-14	
	CEO Endorsement	09-Jul-15	67,307,692
Global Core (Part II)	PIF Approval by Council	27-Oct-16	
	CEO Endorsement	05-Sep-17	67,307,692
STAR (Part III)	PIF Approval by Council	25-May-17	
	CEO Endorsement	12-Dec-17	17,337,500
STAR (Part IV)	PIF Approval by Council	30-Nov-17	
	CEO Endorsement	24-Apr-18	19,167,177
<b>Total Amount</b>			<b>171,120,061</b>

## 7c. GEF Funding for SGP in OP5, Global Country Programmes

Project	Date of Approval		Amount (USD) (excluding Agency Fees)
	PIF Approval by Council	CEO Endorsement	
Global Core	PIF Approval by Council	18-Nov-10	
	CEO Endorsement	25-Apr-11	134,615,385
STAR I	PIF Approval by Council	9-Nov-11	
	CEO Endorsement	20-Apr-12	40,828,365
STAR II	PIF Approval by Council	12-Apr-13	
	CEO Endorsement	19-Sep-13	72,851,267
STAR III	PIF Approval by Council	01-May-14	
	CEO Endorsement	20-Nov-14	6,965,151
<b>Total Amount</b>			<b>255,260,168</b>

**Table 8: SGP Funding Status to date, Upgraded Country Programmes**

### 8a. GEF Funding for SGP Upgraded Country Programmes in OP7

Upgraded Country Programmes	CEO Endorsement/Approval	PIF Approval	Project Budget (USD) Exclusive of Agency Fees
Bolivia	22-Jul-2021	2-Jun-2021	1,959,132
Brazil	26-Apr-2021	11- Jun-2019	4,566,210
Costa Rica	6- May-2020	11- Jun-2019	2,147,945
Ecuador	18- May-2019	12-Jul-2019	1,826,484
Egypt		19-Dec-2019	2,146,119
India	28-May-2021	11- Jun-2019	4,566,210
Indonesia		3-June-2020	3,652,968
Kenya		19-Dec-2019	2,739,726
Malaysia		19-Dec-2019	2,600,000
Mexico		3-June-2020	4,566,210
Peru	30-Apr-2021	18-June- 2020	2,009,132
Philippines	7-Jun-2021	14-May-2019	4,566,210
Sri Lanka		28- Aug-2020	1,872,176
<b>Total amount</b>			<b>39,218,492</b>



## 8b. GEF Funding for SGP Upgraded Country Programmes in OP6

Upgraded Country Programmes	CEO Endorsement/Approval	PIF Approval	Project Budget (USD) Exclusive of Agency Fees
Bolivia	31-Jan-17	11-Mar-16	3,634,703
Costa Rica	14-Mar-16	28-Apr-15	2,323,125
Ecuador	14-Jun-16	MSP	1,826,484
Egypt	12-Dec-16	28-Apr-15	2,843,241
Indonesia	25-Jan-17	28-Apr-15	3,561,644
Kazakhstan	2-Jun-17	4-May-16	2,649,726
Kenya	19 Jul-17	4-May-16	3,561,644
Mexico	6 Nov 17	11-Mar-16	4,429,223
Pakistan	14-Feb-17	11-Mar-16	2,656,726
Peru	29-Nov-16	28-Apr-15	3,196,672
Sri Lanka	18- Nov-16	28-Apr-15	2,497,078
Thailand	3-Apr-19	30-Oct-17	2,381,620
<b>Total Amount</b>			<b>35,561,886</b>

## 8c. GEF Funding for SGP Upgraded Country Programmes in OP5

Upgraded Country Programmes	CEO Endorsement/Approval	Project Budget (USD) Exclusive of Agency Fees
Bolivia	10-Jul-12	4,166,667
Brazil	5-Dec-12	5,000,000
Costa Rica	24-Nov-11	4,398,148
Ecuador	24-Nov-11	4,398,145
India	27-Jan-12	5,000,000
Kenya	28-Dec-11	5,000,000
Mexico	2-Feb-12	4,662,755
Pakistan	30-Nov-11	2,777,778
Philippines	11-Dec-12	4,583,333
<b>Total Amount</b>		<b>39,986,826</b>

## Annex IV: Overview of the Third Joint GEF-UNDP Evaluation of the SGP

The Small Grants Programme was jointly evaluated by the Independent Evaluation Offices (IEO) of the GEF and UNDP. The joint GEF-UNDP SGP evaluation covered the period from July 2014 to December 2019 with a focus on i) effectiveness, ii) innovation, upscaling and sustainability and iii) operational and governance issues, including the upgrading process of the SGP.

The overall purpose of the joint evaluation was to provide the UNDP Executive Board and the GEF Council with evaluative evidence of the SGP's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability, while examining if any changes were required to improve effectiveness of the Programme. This is third in the series of SGP joint evaluations, and builds on the findings of, and evaluates progress made, since the last joint evaluation in 2015. The evaluation further assessed SGP progress on objectives set out in its strategic and operational directions under GEF-6 (2014-2018) and GEF-7 (2018-2020), and its relevance and strategic positioning within the GEF partnership.

UNDP welcomes the evaluation's findings and recommendations and the lessons from the evaluation will inform development of UNDP's consolidated offer on community-based local action and solutions under its Nature, Climate and Energy (NCE) pillar.

### KEY EVALUATION FINDINGS

- The SGP continues to be highly relevant to the evolving environmental priorities at all levels.
- The SGP shows high levels of coherence with the GEF's programmatic framework and UNDP's mandate, and demonstrates that it is possible to maintain internal programmatic coherence across 126 countries.
- Different stakeholders hold diverging and sometimes competing visions of the SGP, which has an impact on its overall governance, policies, and future directions.
- The disadvantages and risks of the upgrading process outweigh its short-term financial advantages.
- The SGP has been consistent in its delivery of environmental results at local, national, and global levels and in generating economic and social benefits.
- The pace at which the SGP repackages its programming framework in response to changing programming trends is not effective, because it adds complexity, and the impact of new programmatic frameworks is not always felt at the local level.
- As a unique mechanism that channels funds to CSOs, many of which are new to development work, the SGP promotes new ways of working that are flexible enough to adapt to local circumstances.
- The governance structure of the SGP is complex, and the upgrading process has complicated the lines of accountabilities even further.
- The improvements in efficiency at the global programme level have been weakened by challenges in upgrading countries.

- The improvements made to the overall monitoring and evaluation framework of the SGP have been significant, and more could be done to leverage the benefits of monitoring and evaluation in the future.
- The measurement of sustainability in the SGP is not sufficiently nuanced to capture the nature of the work.
- The nature of interventions supported by the SGP entails that the pathways to sustainability of results of individual grants require additional investment.
- The innovativeness of the SGP lies in the way it works with local partners, more than in the technologies or approaches it promotes.

SGP also welcomes findings in areas that require further improvement. To note, out of the nine recommendations made by the evaluation, four are addressed jointly to the GEF and UNDP, three addressed specifically to UNDP and the remaining two solely to the GEF.

Going forward, SGP is well positioned to scale up its support to local communities by leveraging past gains through the SGP and other related programmes towards growth and increased responsiveness. Specifically, the programme's potential can be harnessed to support a green and resilient recovery across the global UNDP presence.

The full report, along with the management response by the GEF and UNDP to the Third Joint GEF-UNDP Evaluation of the SGP can be viewed [here](#).