



SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme



SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME RESULTS REPORT (FY 2017-2023)

COOK ISLANDS



COUNTRY REPORT CARD

FY 2017-2023

PORTFOLIO PROFILE SINCE INCEPTION			
Country Programme Name	Cook Islands		
Year Started	2016		
	GEF	Non-GEF	Total
Number of projects	41	-	41
Grant amount committed	1,513,015	-	1,513,015
Project level co-financing in cash	334,526	-	334,526
Project level co-financing in kind	496,499	-	496,499
Total co-financing *	831,025		
Source: SGP database as of 2023			
* Total co-financing = Total project level co-financing (in cash and in kind) + non-GEF grant amount committed			

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023
Focal Area Distribution (by completed projects)						
Biodiversity	-	-	2	-	1	3
Land Degradation	-	-	-	2	1	3
Capacity Development	-	1	1	-	-	2
International Waters	2	1	-	-	-	3
Chemicals and Waste	-	-	-	-	2	2
Total Projects Completed	2	2	3	2	4	13

Source: Reporting by Country Programme as part of Annual Monitoring Process (2016-2023)

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
** Kindly note figures in column "Total Value 2016-2023" have undergone comprehensive quality assurance that supports aggregation of results over time. This includes removal of duplicative data over time and/or inclusion of more results based on verification by SGP country teams.							
PROGRESS TOWARDS FOCAL AREA OBJECTIVES							
Biodiversity							
Number of biodiversity projects completed	-	-	2	-	-	1	3
Number of Protected Areas (PAs) positively influenced	-	-	3	-	-	1	4
Hectares of PAs	-	-	-	-	-	138	138
Number of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCAs) positively influenced	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Hectares of ICCAs	-	-	-	-	-	138	138
Number of significant species conserved	-	-	29	-	-	-	29
Number of target landscapes/seascapes under improved community conservation and sustainable use	-	-	2	-	-	1	3
Hectares of target landscapes/seascapes under improved community conservation and sustainable use	-	-	400,000	-	-	138	400,138
Land Degradation							
Number of land degradation projects completed	-	-	-	-	2	1	3
Number of community members with improved actions and practices that reduce negative impacts on land uses	-	-	-	-	200	88	288
Number of community members demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices	-	-	-	-	200	88	288

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
Hectares of land brought under improved management practices	-	-	-	-	18	4	22
Number of farmer leaders involved in successful demonstrations of agro-ecological practices	-	-	-	-	50	-	50
Number of farmer organizations, groups or networks disseminating climate-smart agroecological practices	-	-	-	-	20	1	21
International Waters							
Number of international waters projects completed	2	1	-	-	-	-	3
Number of seascapes/inland freshwater landscapes	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Land based pollution reduced (tons)	20	-	-	-	-	-	20
Hectares of marine/coastal areas of fishing grounds brought under sustainable management	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Hectares of river and lake basins converted	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Chemicals and Waste							
Number of chemicals and waste projects completed	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Solid Waste avoided from open burning (kg)	-	-	-	-	-	1,050	1,050
Number of national coalitions and networks on chemicals and waste management established or strengthened	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
Community-Based Tools/Approaches Deployed as Part of the Portfolio							
Solid waste management (reduce, reuse, and recycle)	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	1
Awareness raising and capacity development	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	1

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
Capacity Development							
Number of capacity development projects completed	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Number of civil society organizations with strengthened capacities	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Number of community-based organizations with strengthened capacities	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Number of people with improved capacities to address global environmental issues at the community level	-	26	327	-	-	-	353
GRANTMAKER PLUS							
CSO-Government Dialogue							
Number of CSO-government dialogues supported	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Number of CSO/CBO representatives involved in the dialogues	60	-	-	-	-	-	60
Gender							
Number of gender responsive completed projects	2	2	2	-	2	3	11
Number of completed projects led by women	1	2	2	-	-	3	8
Programme Management: NSC gender focal point (yes/no)	-	Yes	Yes	-	-	Yes	3
Indigenous Peoples							
Number of completed projects that included indigenous peoples	3	2	1	-	-	4	10
Number of indigenous leaders with improved capacities	5	-	-	-	-	2	7
Programme Management: NSC IP focal point (yes/no)	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	5

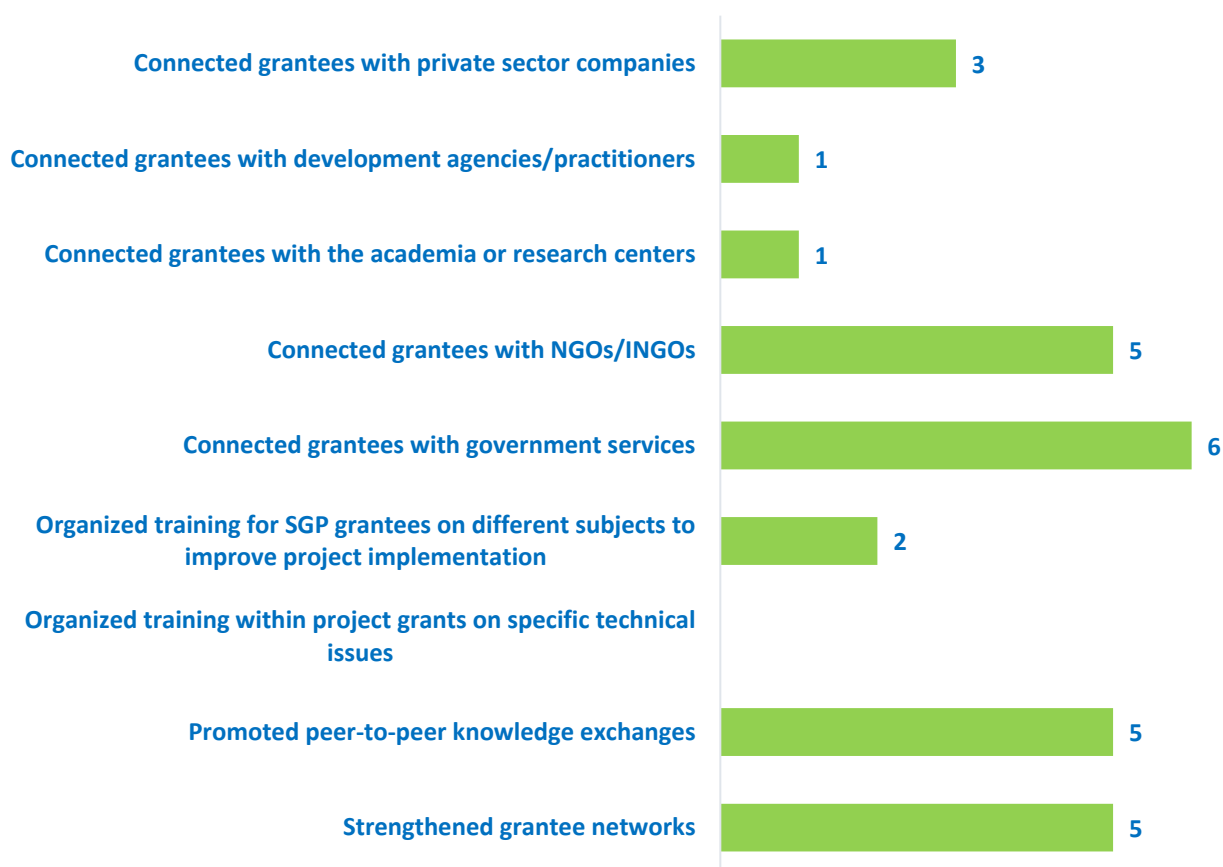
	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
Ways to encourage IP projects							
Proposals accepted in local languages (yes/no)	Yes	-	-	-	-	Yes	2
Proposals accepted using participatory video (yes/no)	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	1
Involved indigenous peoples in NSC and/or TAG (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	Yes	3
Enhanced outreach and networking with indigenous people's groups (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	Yes	4
Youth							
Number of completed projects that included youth	1	2	3	-	2	3	11
Number of youth organizations	2	1	-	-	-	-	3
Programme Management: NSC youth focal point (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-	2
Persons with Disability							
Number of disabled persons organizations	2	1	-	-	-	-	3
BROADER ADOPTION (Scaling up, Replication, Policy Influence, Improving Livelihoods)							
Projects replicated or scaled up	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Projects with policy influence	1	-	-	-	-	2	3
Projects improving livelihoods of communities	1	2	-	-	2	2	7
PROGRAMME EFFECTIVENESS							
Peer-to-peer exchanges conducted	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Community-level trainings conducted	3	5	-	-	-	-	8
Number of projects monitored through field visits	5	4	3	4	9	15	40

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT							
National Steering Committee							
Number of NSC meetings occurred during the reporting period	8	7	6	4	6	4	35
Average number of NSC members that participated in each NSC meeting	7	7	8	6	8	8	7

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF KEY RESULTS

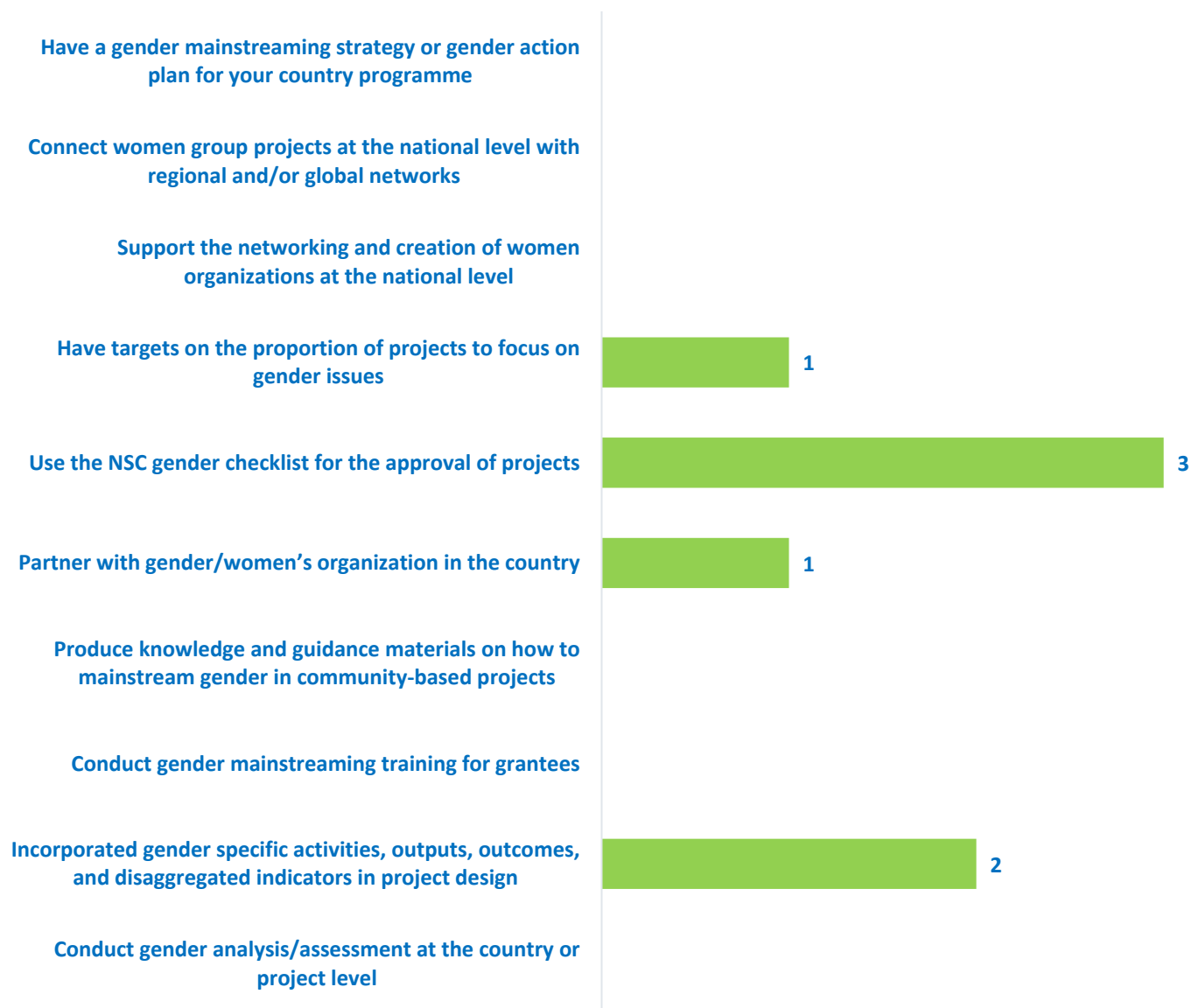
Interpreting the Green Bars in Graphs: The presence of green bars indicates the number of years that the country programme has achieved specific results. If a green bar is absent, it signifies that while the associated result is not observed in the country programme, it is still evident in the overall aggregated SGP portfolio.

Number of Years Country Programme Deployed Capacity Development Strategies (Over 7-year reporting period from 2017-2023)



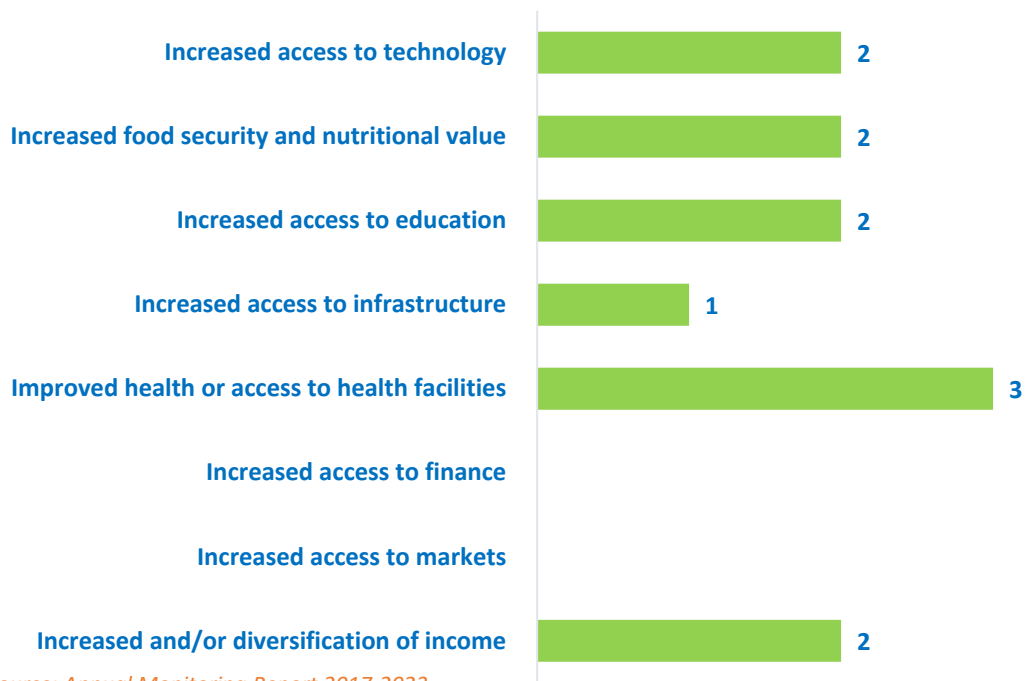
Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

**Number of Years Country Programme Deployed Gender Mainsreaming Strategies
(Over 7-year reporting period from 2017-2023)**



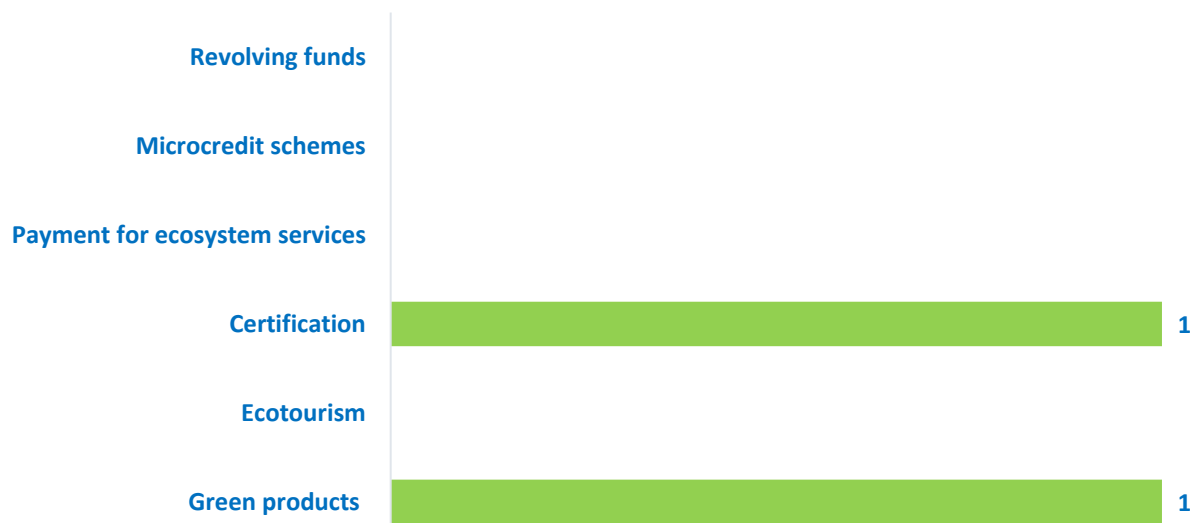
Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

**Number of Years Country Programme Deployed Strategies to Improve Community Livelihoods and Quality of Life
(Over 7-year reporting period from 2017-2023)**



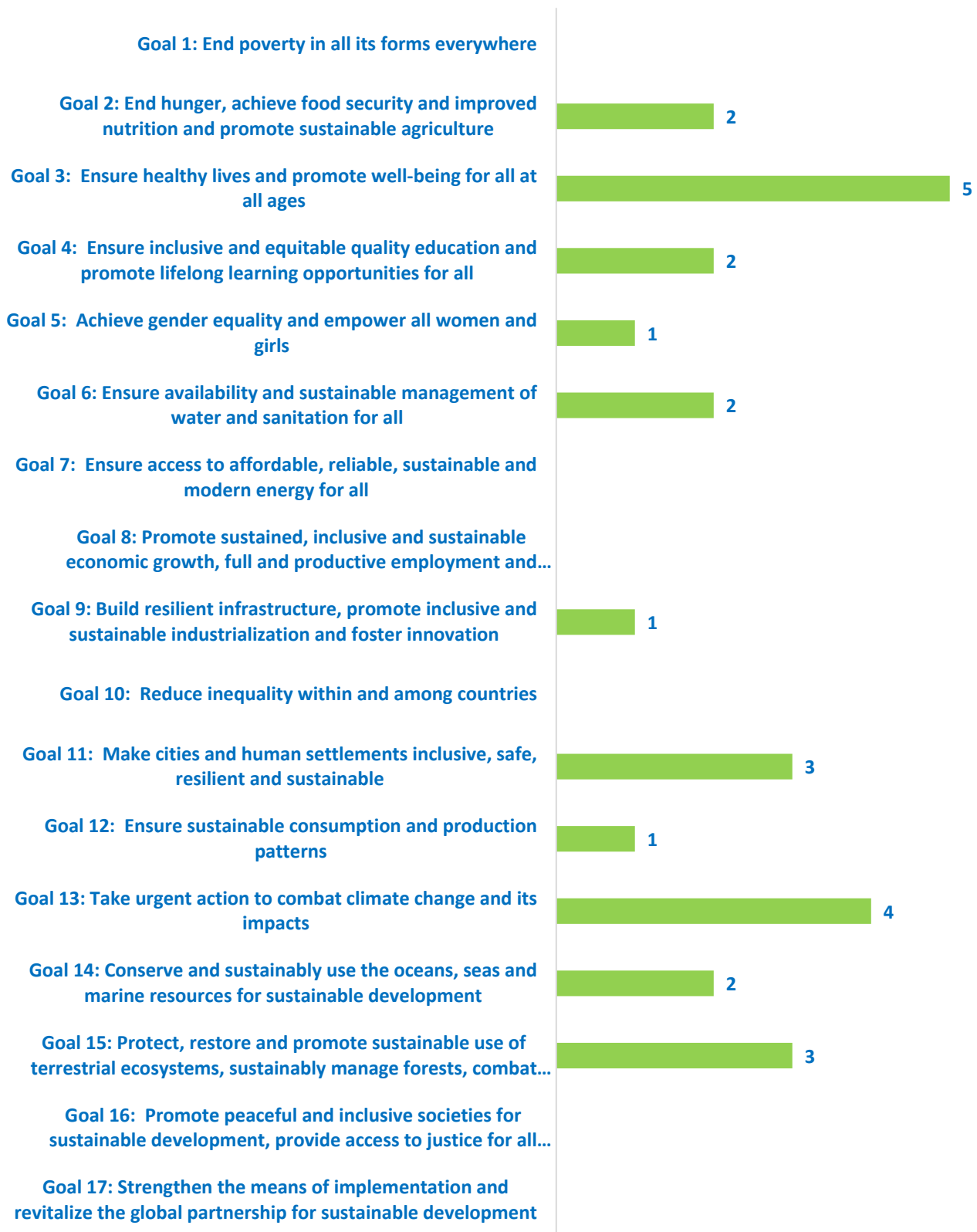
Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

**Number of Years Country Programme Deployed Market-based and Financial Mechanisms to Improve Community Livelihoods
(Over 7-year reporting period from 2017-2023)**



Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

**Number of Years Country Programme Addressed Sustainable Development Goals
(Over 7-year reporting period from 2017-2023)**



Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

EXAMPLES OF PROJECT RESULTS

Land Degradation

In the **Cook Islands**, the Story of the Century Incorporated (Korero O te Orau Incorporated) completed a project fighting against the land degradation in Takuvaine Valley, Rarotonga, where invading species severely harmed the native flora by suffocating 'ūtū (king banana) trees and other species. In line with the GEF Ridge to Reef programme, the KO school holiday programme ('Atui'anga kite Tango), the Ministry of Agriculture's invasive species programme, and the Cook Islands National Environment Service's biodiversity programme, the project organized educational workshops for young people on a variety of topics and activities including the benefits of reforesting the valley, the threats imposed by invasive species on native plants, and the ecosystem of the valley. Students had the chance to put what they had learned about the project into practice by observing and participating in the work in the valley. They were engaged to remove the invasive species from the valley and reforest the area with 'ūtū trees for food security purposes. As a result, 100 'ūtū trees were planted on approximately 1,800 m² of sloped land from 2021 to 2022. To be prepared in case of an emergency in the remote area where the project was located, the young people also participated in basic safety training on the clearing equipment used in this project as well as First Aid training with the Cook Islands Red Cross. The youths also helped the grantee promote the project to other youth groups. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2021-2022)**

International Waters

In **Cook Islands**, SGP supported a project to establish a clean drinking water station in one of the local villages. In some villages on the island of Rarotonga, in the Cook Islands, people do not have ready access to clean potable water. The water that is supplied through the aging water reticulation system is not filtered. Many local people's homes have faulty connections into the water system, and they cannot afford the spouting required to collect rainwater from roofs. Therefore, many either boil tap water, purchase water in single-use plastic bottles, or risk water borne infections, especially during droughts and floods. With SGP's assistance, the community provided labor, as well as spouting for rainwater harvesting. The facility was built on land which was gifted by the indigenous traditional leader of the district. It's 6,000-liter tank, pump, wheelchair ramp, and UV filter make it the highest quality drinking water publicly available on the island. The project has contributed to reductions in costs of water consumption, as well as its procurement, and entry into the ocean of single-use plastics. It is also fitted with a meter, which has helped users monitor their water usage. Additionally, the drinking water station serves as a community social gathering place housing a childcare center with plans for expansion. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2016-2017)**

Chemicals and Waste

In the **Cook Islands**, the *Punanga Nui* Market faced a significant waste management challenge due to the extensive use of single-use containers for takeaway food, leading to excessive waste production and environmental pollution. To address this issue, the *Cook Islands Solid Waste Management Committee* implemented a project to reduce solid waste generation and litter by introducing a reusable plate scheme. A hygienic dishwashing facility was set up in close proximity to the food vendor area, allowing customers to easily return and wash their reusable plates after consuming their meals. Environmentally safe detergents were used, and wastewater from the facility was reticulated through riparian vegetation planted along the stream bank to prevent pollution of nearby waterways. In addition, communities were encouraged to use the mobile dishwashing facility to lessen the amount of waste entering our land fill or being burned.

As a result, the project successfully transitioned vendors from using non-biodegradable containers to biodegradable plates and cutlery. This shift in behavior significantly reduced the amount of waste generated by the market. Through collaboration between market management, vendors, and the local community, the project prevented approximately one ton of waste from entering landfills, promoting sustainable and responsible consumption as well as contributing to cleaner waterways and oceans. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2022-2023)**

Capacity Development

SGP supported a project in **Cook Islands** to increase public awareness of negative impacts of the modern lifestyle on environmental and public health, and concurrently increase their awareness of some specific local solutions that may mitigate such impacts. This was achieved by releasing a magazine named Lokal, with articles written by Cook Islanders after research and photos taken by Cook Islands photographers. All magazines are made from recycled paper. The magazine was given out for free at a large launch event promoting a local sustainable lifestyle to reduce the negative impacts on the environment. People were asked to complete a survey before getting a free copy, which evaluated their knowledge of climate change and other environmental issues. After reading the magazine, readers took another online survey to determine how much they had learned by reading the magazine. The result of the surveys showed that public awareness and knowledge in all areas had been highly improved. Magazines were distributed in Rarotonga first and then on the outer island of Aitutaki due to the success of this project. *(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2017-2018)*

Social Inclusion – Youth

In the **Cook Islands**, SGP supported the Hakono Hararanga project called Conserving Biodiversity of Tongareva through training, revegetation, and waste management. Youth groups formed the target group under the project. They were involved in the beach clean ups to collect and remove waste from the beach as well as the lagoon. Most of the waste collected from the beach was plastics and synthetic items, which aid in transporting alien invasive species into the waters of the Islands, affecting the subsistence of food supply. All fossil fuels on the Islands are imported from either Auckland or Honolulu, creating a massive carbon footprint. The youth trained in calculating carbon emissions from fossil fuels and ways to cut back individual carbon footprint, who were then subsequently involved in educating the public about carbon emissions from the use of fossil fuels. They used simple emissions factors like one liter of diesel produces 2.8 kgs of carbon dioxide CO₂, to urge villagers to calculate their own fuel use, to reduce impact on the environment. *(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2019-2020)*

METHODOLOGICAL BASIS OF COUNTRY REPORT

- Results aggregations over time are only for completed projects.
- With SGP's rolling modality, results reflect all ongoing operational phases during the indicated period. Please refer to the total projects completed on the first page for information in this regard.
- The source of reported results is the annual monitoring process, which is part of the annual monitoring requirements for each country programme. Additionally, evaluative evidence sources have also been leveraged, if available for the country programme.
- This results report benefits from extensive quality assurance. All information across all countries in the portfolio is harmonized, verified, and evidenced before being reported. Several layers of this quality assurance have been implemented in the generation of this report and there are no result duplications across years. This point is important not only for a specific unit of measurement (i.e., indicator selected) but also for results aggregation across years in a given operational phase. Reported results include both direct and indirect global-environmental and socio-economic benefits. This is due to SGP's work in two key areas:
 - SGP works towards behavioural change at individual, organizational, and community levels. Social determinants that shape human interaction with the environment play an important role, especially at the community level, as sustainability and the continuation of environmental gains often depend on them. These factors include positive shifts in knowledge, attitudes, practices, social and cultural norms, and conventions. Such interventions shape not only demand but also communication between community leaders and other influencers in promoting the adoption of environmentally friendly behaviours and practices. Often, SGP projects have ripple effects that go well beyond the direct scope of the project, emphasizing the importance of measuring indirect impact.
 - Encouraging Community Action for Environmental Change. For many years, SGP has focused on promoting and supporting local community groups to bring about broader and sustainable environmental change. This approach is a key aspect of SGP's work and recognizes the power of motivated community groups to create significant impact and drive positive transformation. Community group action refers to informal gatherings of individuals and organizations in the community who share a common belief and purpose. It involves taking practical steps over time to address environmental and socioeconomic challenges and creating positive change. This grassroots-level approach relies on the active involvement and empowerment of the community, with the initial efforts acting as a catalyst for further mobilization. By encouraging self-governance and involving those most affected by the issues, community action can extend its influence to more people in the community, underscoring the importance of measuring indirect impact.