



SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME RESULTS REPORT (FY 2017-2023)

COSTA RICA



COUNTRY REPORT CARD

FY 2017-2023

PORTFOLIO PROFILE SINCE INCEPTION			
Country Programme Name	Costa Rica		
Year Started	1993		
	GEF	Non-GEF	Total
Number of projects	687	8	695
Grant amount committed	14,450,648	300,649	14,751,297
Project level co-financing in cash	8,758,117	19,649	8,777,766
Project level co-financing in kind	27,473,526	644,851	28,118,377
Total co-financing *	37,196,792		
* 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 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023
Focal Area Distribution (by completed projects)						
Biodiversity	8	1	7	3	2	21
Climate Change	1	-	2	4	2	9
Land Degradation	1	1	6	4	2	14
Capacity Development	-	2	-	-	-	2
Total Projects Completed	10	4	15	11	6	46

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

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
** Kindly note the total values 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	8	1	7	3	-	-	2	21
Number of Protected Areas (PAs) positively influenced	4	-	29	-	-	-	1	34
Hectares of PAs	328 661	-	11,700	-	-	-	2,415	14,115
Number of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCAs) positively influenced	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hectares of ICCAs	66,419	-	-	-	-	-	-	66,419
Number of biodiversity-based products sustainably produced	3	-	28	28	-	-	5	64
Number of significant species conserved	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Number of target landscapes/seascapes under improved community conservation and sustainable use	15	3	3	3	-	-	5	23
Hectares of target landscapes/seascapes under improved community conservation and sustainable use	53,913	3,501	86,000	86,000	-	-	1,170	141,083
Climate Change								
Number of climate change projects completed	1	-	2	4	-	-	2	9
Did the country programme address community-level barriers to deployment of low-GHG technologies? (yes/no)	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	2
Hectares of forests and non-forest lands with restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks initiated through completed projects	-	-	11,700	-	-	-	104	11,804

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
Number of typologies of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations or scaling up and replication	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	4
Number of households achieving energy access co-benefits (ecosystem effects, income, health and others)	30	-	-	-	-	-	16	46
Breakdown of projects								
Low carbon technology and renewable energy projects	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Energy efficiency solutions projects	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks projects	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Land Degradation								
Number of land degradation projects completed	1	1	6	4	-	-	2	14
Number of community members with improved actions and practices that reduce negative impacts on land uses	650	22	131	136	-	-	2	941
Number of community members demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices	650	22	131	136	-	-	2	941
Hectares of land brought under improved management practices	37,725	22	346	494	-	-	95	38,682
Number of farmer leaders involved in successful demonstrations of agro-ecological practices	34	22	131	136	-	-	48	371
Number of farmer organizations, groups or networks disseminating climate-smart agroecological practices	1	11	6	4	-	-	2	24
Capacity Development								
Number of capacity development projects completed	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2

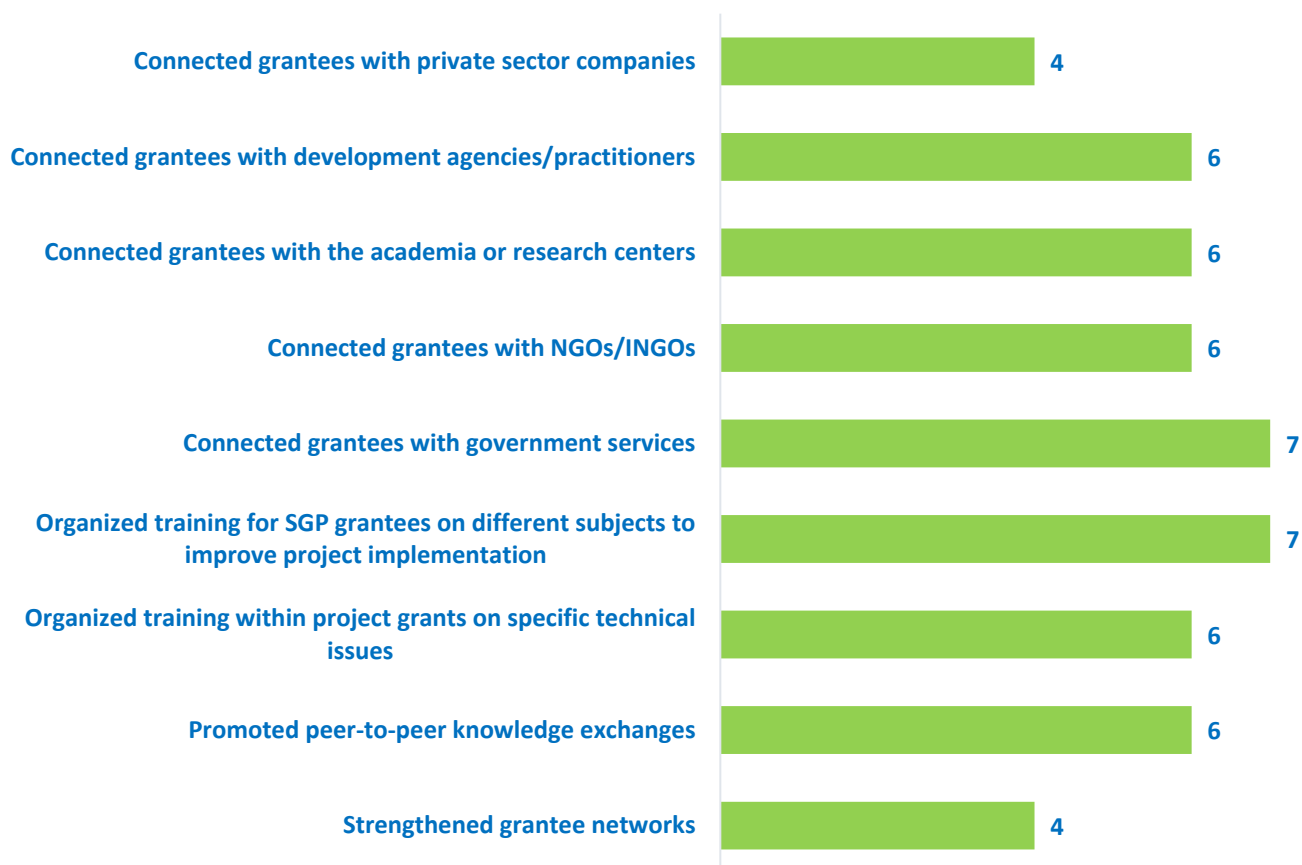
	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
Number of community-based organizations with strengthened capacities	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Number of people with improved capacities to address global environmental issues at the community level	-	98	-	-	-	-	-	98
GRANTMAKER PLUS								
CSO-Government Dialogue								
Number of CSO-government dialogues supported	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Number of CSO/CBO representatives involved in the dialogues	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	18
South-South Exchange								
Number of South-South exchanges supported	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	3
Gender								
Number of gender responsive completed projects	10	4	15	11	-	-	6	46
Number of completed projects led by women	3	-	7	5	-	-	5	20
Programme Management: NSC gender focal point (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	5
Indigenous Peoples								
Number of completed projects that included indigenous peoples	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Number of indigenous leaders with improved capacities	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Ways to encourage IP projects								
Involved indigenous peoples in NSC and/or TAG (yes/no)	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Enhanced outreach and networking with indigenous people's groups (yes/no)	Yes	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	2

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Youth								
Programme Management: NSC youth focal point (yes/no)	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
BROADER ADOPTION (Scaling up, Replication, Policy Influence, Improving Livelihoods)								
Projects with policy influence	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Projects improving livelihoods of communities	-	2	15	8	-	-	5	30
PROGRAMME EFFECTIVENESS								
Peer-to-peer exchanges conducted	4	1	-	-	-	-	8	13
Community-level trainings conducted	35	1	-	-	-	-	116	152
Number of projects monitored through field visits	40	31	29	-	1	30	35	166
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT								
National Steering Committee								
Number of NSC meetings occurred during the reporting period	5	3	2	4	6	5	6	31
Average number of NSC members that participated in each NSC meeting	8	8	6	6	16	15	8	10

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)



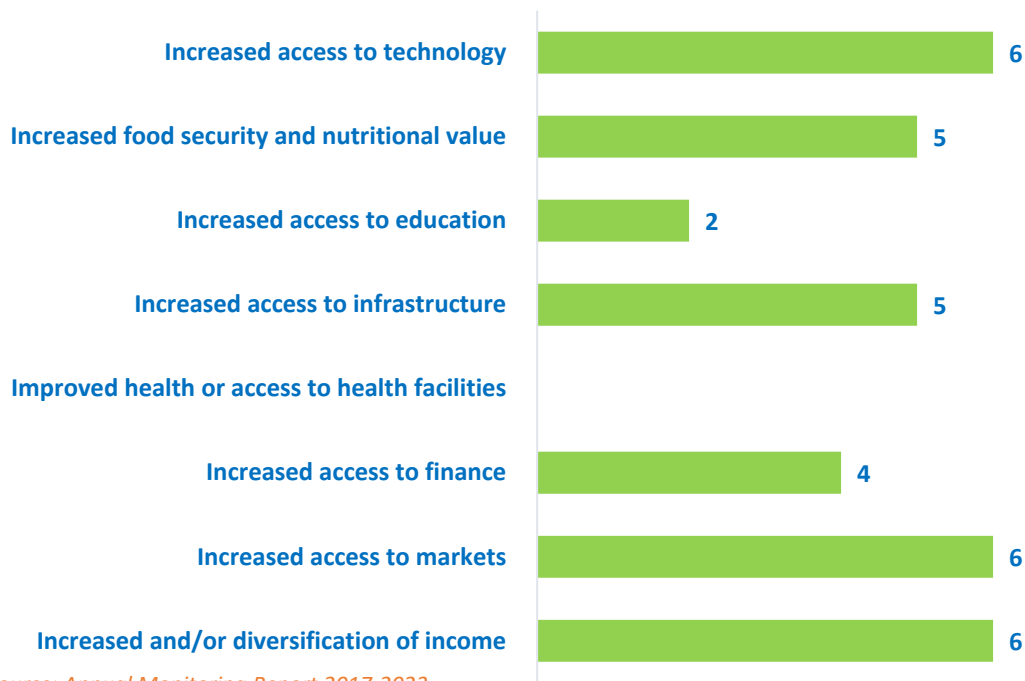
Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

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



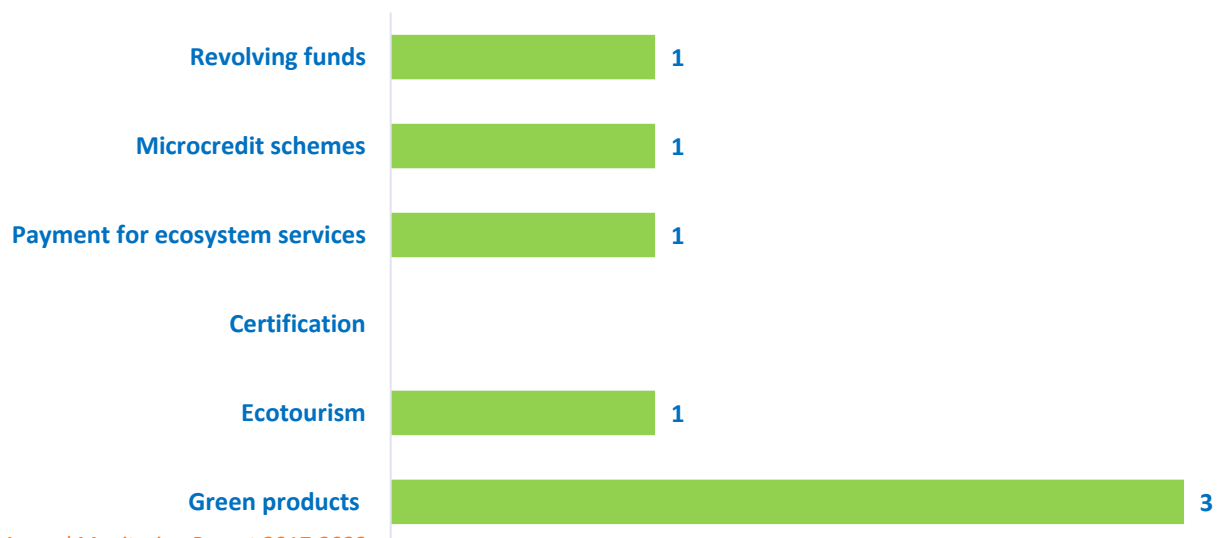
Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

**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)**



EXAMPLES OF PROJECT RESULTS

Biodiversity

In **Costa Rica**, SGP supported grantee *Integrated Rural Development Foundation of the Central Pacific (FIDERPAC)* in a project focused on community credit funds for sustainable production in the Jesus Maria and Barranca River Basin, a diverse landscape comprised of forests, coffee plantations, fruit trees, mangroves, and cash crops. FIDERPAC is a non-governmental organization established in 1993 representing 86 Community Credit Committees operating in the Central Pacific region and providing flexible, timely, and sustainable credit to three thousand families. The project allowed the rural communities to develop productive credit activities, providing opportunities for economic growth and social improvements to enable the population to remain in rural areas. To this end, 22 different communities were targeted, and 10 Community-based Credit Committee (CCC) were established in both the Jesus Maria and Barranca River Basins. A total of 79.8 million Costa Rican colones (about 153,609 US dollars) in funds has been managed by the 20 CCC and FIDERPAC reported that addition 18 million colones (about 34,649 US dollars) have been leveraged through other sources for three CCC to increase capital availability and strengthen credit operations. Furthermore, 112 workshops were also held involving 649 community members, of which 46% were women and 54% were men. These learning opportunities strengthened the knowledge and capacities of the members of the communities and the boards of directors on different topics, positively influencing the development of the communities. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2017-2018)**

Land Degradation

In **Costa Rica**, SGP supported grantee, *Cantonal Agricultural Centre of Orotina (CAC Orotina)*, in a project aimed that the achievement of the neutrality of land degradation in the communities of Llano Brenes and Pata de Gallo in the basin of the Jesus Maria River as well as the promotion of new varieties of coffee and agro-conservationist practices that contribute to the improvement of sustainable livelihoods of the people of these communities. The National Action Programme (NAP) determined that the Jesus Maria River basin is among the nine most degraded areas of the country that need intervention. The small producers who live and have their production systems in these basins face serious problems due to land degradation and reduced yields. They have to develop their crops and livestock farms in inadequate sites without appropriate water and soil conservation techniques. In particular, the coffee plantations present problems of rust, erosion, and deterioration and the producers state that they have observed a drastic reduction in yields in their plots. As key results of this project, 49 coffee farmers benefitted from this project. They were registered and assessed for the development of farm plans to determine the potential and needs of each farm. These diagnostic reported cards showed that the soils were steep, the coffee plantations suffered from rust and other types of diseases, and the average age of the coffee plantations was 23 years. As key results, soil conservation techniques were implemented on each farm and new-disease resistant varieties of coffee were introduced, which will eventually lead to increased yields and soil health and stability. The producers also participated in training courses and exchange of experiences in soil conservation techniques and practices such as guard channels, hillside ditches, and individual terracing. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2019-2020)**

South-South Exchange

In June 2018, the Government of **Costa Rica** hosted a high-level South- South policy exchange visit involving GEF Focal points from 7 African countries, the Gaberone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa, and GEF Climate Change specialist. On this occasion, SGP was chosen by the Minister of Environment to organize a field trip to the Jesus Maria and Barranca river basins, to see first-hand how GEF funding is being applied in this intervention area, and learn from the best practices concerning fire prevention and management, soil conservation practices, landscape restoration, and sustainable production practices. Furthermore, on the 6th February 2019, SGP supported a field trip to the Rio Jesus community of San Ramón to learn about soil conservation practices, landscape restoration, and sustainable production practices with the participation of 20 people from diverse countries. This was done in support of the 2nd Global Conference of the One

Planet (10YFP) Sustainable Food Systems Programme, of UN Environment, FAO and the Costa Rican Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, and hosted by the Costa Rican government. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2018-2019)**

ALIGNMENT OF OP7 COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES

This project is fully consistent with and supportive of the national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions listed below:

National Development Plan 2019-2022 (NDP)

The project is aligned with the National Development Plan of the current national government with respect to policies, strategies and actions directed at the decarbonization of the country through the National Programme for the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG); renewable energies; sustainable cattle production aligned with the NAMA cattle programme and organic production systems. An important and relevant part of the NDP is the National Adaptation Policy, especially with respect to the Strategic Area of Infrastructure, Mobility and Territorial Planning.

National Decarbonization Plan

Costa Rica has set out to lay the foundations of the new Costa Rican economy of the 21st century creating a vision of the future and an economy that responds to changes in the global context, moving towards a green economy, which promotes the use and sustainable use of natural resources. Although the transition to a low-emission economy requires a deep transformation, it is noted that Costa Rica has made significant progress in previous decades, including a power grid in more than 97% free of emissions and very low rates of deforestation with a forest cover that exceeds 52% of the territory. However, the challenges are great and the National Decarbonization Plan sets out an ambitious timetable of end results for the year 2050 based around 10 key axis, of which SGP is closely aligned with and supports the following: Agriculture, Land Use change and Nature-Based Solutions, in particular with reference to promoting sustainable cattle production, low in GHG emissions and the consolidation of a model of rural, urban and coastal territorial management that facilitates the protection of biodiversity, the increase and maintenance of forest cover and ecosystem services, by which means the target is to maintain and increase forest cover to 60% by 2030 and reverse ecosystem degradation and improve connectivity in urban areas and urban-rural areas.

National Policy on Biodiversity – 2015-2030 and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan: NBSAP (2016-2025)

This project is consistent with the National Biodiversity Policy 2015-2030 for Costa Rica, which highlights the need to improve biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity; increasing the benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services for the population; integrating biodiversity in productive seascapes and landscapes. The National Biodiversity Strategy (2016-2025) has prioritized the following themes which directly relate to the proposed project: a) the need to increase biodiversity resilience through connectivity, restoration of riparian forests, and other threatened ecosystems that provide essential services (in strategic production landscapes and seascapes as well as urban development); b) integrate biodiversity in landscapes and seascapes and under priority sectors, including agriculture and water management). Furthermore, the SGP GEF-7 project will contribute to specific national targets set by the NBSAP including increasing forest coverage, natural regeneration and off-setting land degradation (9); improving management indicators in the Jesus Maria, Barranca and Tarcoles watersheds (11); reduction in forest fires (34); increased organic agriculture (58) and reduction in the use of agrochemicals (34)

Furthermore, it is coherent with the **Sixth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity**, particularly in relation to the integration of biodiversity strategies, plans, and sectoral and cross-sectoral programmes, which includes the full scope of environmental issues (environmental pollution management, biodiversity conservation, and water management).

Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Targets: The project will contribute to achieving the Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Targets, specifically Targets 5, 7, 11 and 14, which relate to halving by 2020 the rate of loss of all natural habitats; managing sustainably areas under agriculture; fostering connectivity of protected areas; and the restoration of ecosystems.

National Climate Change Strategy (ENCC) and Action Plan

The project is in line with Costa Rica's National Climate Change Strategy (ENCC) and its Action Plan, which has as its main objective to achieve carbon neutrality by 2021. More specifically, the project is in line with the strategic lines of action of the ENCC regarding the mitigation of GHG, capacity development and technology transfer, and public awareness and the creation of a culture to change consumption habits. To mitigate GHG emissions, the ENCC targets the agricultural sector, which is responsible for 52% of the country's GHG emissions, as well as tourism, transport, energy, water resources and solid waste management as key sectors for intervention. SGP will contribute to the ENCC by working with the agricultural sector and ASADAS to improve degraded landscapes, increase forest coverage and improve connectivity, formation of forest fire brigades and solid waste management.

National Action Plan to Combat Land Degradation (NAP) and National Advisory Commission on Land Degradation (CADETI)

The three watershed target landscapes (Jesus Maria, Barranca and Tarcoles, in that order) have been classified as the most degraded in the country under the NAP. This national plan is implemented on the principle that local communities play participating and implementing roles to combat land degradation and/or mitigate the effects of drought. The plan is to develop real actions at community level throughout the country. Without doubt, SGP with GEF funding has been the single most important instrument towards implementing this NAP. During GEF-5 and GEF-6 actions were directed at the most affected areas, improving soil quality, rehabilitating degraded areas, and managing soil and water resources in a sustainable way. These actions will continue under GEF-7, consolidating areas that were not attended to under the previous phases and scaling up to apply best practices to the upper slopes of the Lower Grande de Tarcoles watershed and the Paso Las Lapas Biological Corridor.

Sustainable Development Goals: The project is part of UNDP's efforts to support Costa Rica's progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Accordingly, the project will contribute towards achievement of the following SDGs: Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; Goal 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all; Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns; Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; and Goal 15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss.

UNDP-implemented Small Grants Programme is delivering integrated results at the country level supporting local level capacities aligned with multiple Multilateral Environmental Conventions. This includes support to work for CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), UNFCCC Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) and National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA), UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP), and localization of Sustainable Development Goals, amongst many others.

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.