

...Small Grants Big Impact

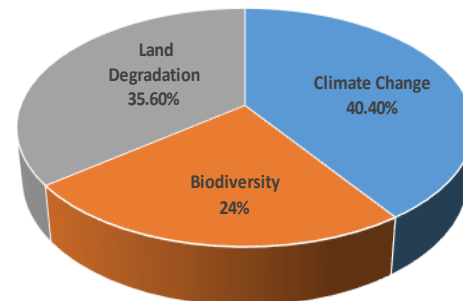
EDITOR'S NOTE

It's a new year and we are really looking forward to an eventful 2014. However, a lot happened close to the end of last year and we are excited to share our success stories again. Towards the end of last year the National Steering Committee approved a total of 25 projects, the highest number to be approved at one sitting in the five year history of SGP Nigeria. Many of our on-going projects continue to record success despite some setbacks. Our partners continue to break new grounds with innovation and creativity. Through one of our outstanding projects, we share how GEF-SGP has again empowered over 300 people through skills acquisition; helped to achieve 70% reduction in firewood consumption and to establish over one hectare of orchard in Kaduna State. As usual we appreciate your feedback and look forward to receiving them again to help us get better.

Major Highlights in this issue:

- NSC approves 25 New Projects
- SGP Exhibition Stand @ The Federal Ministry of Environment
- GEF-SGP Nigeria Grantees Network
- Equator Award: Call for nomination!
- GEF-SGP and CBR+
- Outstanding Project
- Upcoming Events
- TIPS for GEF-SGP Grantees

Distribution of 59 OP5 Projects by Focal Areas



NIGERIA SUPPORTS 25 NEW PROJECTS

The National Steering Committee of GEF-SGP has approved additional 25 community projects during the third year of Operational Phase 5 (OP5) of the GEF. This brings the total number of projects approved during the current OP5 to 60 projects to be implemented in 20 states in 5 geopolitical zones. Some of the projects are pilot in nature, some are replicated based on success stories of previous projects, while others are geared towards aggressive tree planting of over 20,000 economic trees for protection and restoration of degraded forests. About 32% of the projects are agricultural related to address farmland and soil degradation to help farmers mitigate and/or adapt to climate change and to boost productivity. Some of the projects will also facilitate capacity building for and provision of renewable energy and energy efficiency equipment and tools to beneficiaries. All the project are community driven to encourage ownership, ensure commitment and sustainability. The goal of GEF-SGP remains to transform the environment and enhance the livelihood of poor and marginalised communities through innovative and participatory approach to environmental management. The pie chart above shows the breakdown of the projects by focal areas.

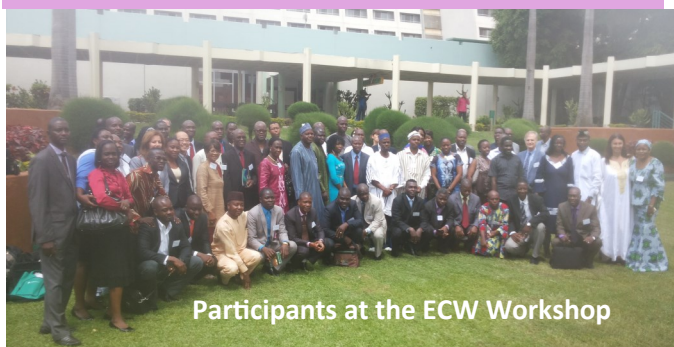
GEF-SGP Exhibition Stand @ the Federal Ministry of Environment (BROWN BUILDING)

The GEF-SGP has established a permanent exhibition stand at the Brown Building



Exhibition Materials @ the Fed. Min. of Env.

of the Federal Ministry of Environment. This is to promote knowledge management and visibility. Visitors to the Ministry will henceforth have the opportunity to see some of SGP success stories to promote innovations, replication and scaling up of communities initiatives to address environmental ills while improving their livelihood. Items on display include energy saving stoves, waste saw dust converted to briquettes, crafts from sustainable forest exploitation and other products from alternative skill acquisition training to reduce pressure on the environment. GEF-SGP is grateful to the Federal Ministry of Environment for the space to showcase this beautiful initiative.



Participants at the ECW Workshop

Nigeria Hosted GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop

Nigeria hosted the Expanded West Africa Coastal Constituency Workshop (ECW) of the Global Environment Facility from 1st to 3rd October 2013. The workshop which Nigeria hosted for the first time has over 80 participants from 9 countries and 5 development agencies to discuss issues of GEF operations in line with its Operational Phase 5 strategies and beyond. GEF-SGP Nigeria had a good outing with exhibition of her projects and products during the three day meeting. All participants including the GEF secretariat staff and the Evaluation Office commended SGP performance and the exhibition at the meeting.

GEF-Small Grants Programme partners REDD+

The UN-REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) Programme and GEF-SGP have come together to launch a new initiative called '**Support to Community-Based REDD+**' (CBR+). CBR+ will build on the UN-REDD National Programmes, technical expertise and partnerships with national REDD+ actors, and the SGP's community experience and effective delivery mechanism, to deliver small grants to communities for activities related to REDD+ at the local level. Nigeria is expected to participate as one of the first CBR+ pilots.

It is widely recognized that REDD+ cannot succeed without indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities' engagement and participation, not least because much of the world's remaining forest lies within their ancestral and customary lands.

The UN-REDD Policy Board is to allocate funds to this new initiative, which would provide grants directly to communities, as well as funds for support activities, to empower them to engage in REDD+ consultations and readiness activities, and pilot methodologies and approaches. GEF SGP likewise has committed to match 1:1 in cash and in-kind to complement the work in a co-financing modality.

CBR+ will be piloted initially in two countries per region and Nigeria has emerged as a high priority pilot country, **given the strong SGP team in the country** and opportunities to find synergies with the country's UN-REDD National Programme.

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES & SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

GEF-SGP seeks and welcomes opportunities to partner with interested organisations. Current GEF-SGP partners include bilateral donors, foundations, international NGOs, government agencies, environment funds/trusts, national poverty alleviation programmes, service organizations, academic institutions, the private sector, and GEF Full and Medium size and UNDP core programmes. Acting as "**Grantmaker+, Barefoot Consultant and a catalyst for innovative environmental finance**", partnership synergies are found at all stages of GEF-SGP operations, including programme management; capacity development; grant implementation and monitoring; resource mobilization and co-financing; advocacy and communications. GEF-SGP's unique delivery mechanism makes it a viable channel to achieve environmental benefits and livelihood enhancement of target beneficiaries. Partnership strategy of GEF-SGP ensures all stakeholders benefit from collaborations thereby achieving partners' goals. ***Please call the National Coordinator's number +234 805 988 6269 for further discussions.***

GEF Strengthens Support to Stop Illegal Wildlife Trade

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) recently participated in an international conference aimed at addressing the devastating impact of poaching and the illegal trafficking of wildlife products. The illegal trafficking of wildlife products such as elephant tusks and rhino horns is a devastating ecological and economic crime, ranking behind only the drug, weapons, and human trafficking trades among international criminal activities. It is a crime that threatens to eradicate iconic animal species, devastate the ecosystems in which they live, and inflict economic damage on countries that rely on ecotourism.

In addition to the environmental damage stemming from the illegal wildlife trade, this is also a financial crime, generating about \$9 billion per year in illicit profit and, money that finds its way into the hands of criminal gangs and violent insurgent groups. *“As a direct response to this calamity, the GEF has redesigned its funding strategy for the next four years to step up its support to stamp out illegal wildlife trafficking. We will make significant funds available to support strengthening national and site-level monitoring and enforcement capacity. More importantly, we will also work on reducing consumer demand for illegally traded wildlife,”* said Dr. Naoko Ishii, GEF CEO and Chairperson.



Endangered Sclater Monkey

OUTSTANDING PROJECT

Over 300 widows, youth and other vulnerable people have been empowered in not less than 25 communities in 7 Local Government Areas of Kaduna State through the **“Sustainable Land Management and Alternative Livelihood”** project being implemented by



Trained Shoemakers at the Skill Acquisition Centre

Kafanchan Zumi Womani Credit and Marketing Cooperative Society, a faith based organisation which seeks to help widows/victims of communal conflict in Southern Kaduna. The beneficiaries have been trained in livelihood skills such as sewing, knitting, catering and shoe making. An initial skill acquisition centre was enhanced through SGP support while a new one was established in Kamurum community to reach more of beneficiaries. Each of the trainees has in turn trained at least two other people having been enjoined to train others as a responsibility of being the first beneficiaries. One of the communities donated over a hectare of land and 97 economic trees have so far been planted while many will be planted during the next raining season. Over 200 energy saving stoves, lanterns and water filters have been given



Women using the Knitting Machines

out under different arrangements and this has saved at least 70% of firewood consumption, reduce exposure to smoke and cooking time and increased the aesthetics of cooking environment according to the head of widows (Mrs. Hanatu Zacharia) who spoke to the M&E team of SGP that visited the project. In addition 8 youths were trained to produce improved compressed bricks which have been used to build two structures within the project communities. The environment friendly bricks made from special clay is available abundantly in Kaduna State, is less expensive, heat resistant, bullet proof, durable and consume less water and cement to produce than conventional brick. This is also reducing dependence on trees for building.

UPCOMING EVENTS :

GEF Operational Phase Six: GEF-SGP Nigeria is getting ready for Operational Phase Six (OP6) and will be preparing her 3rd Country Programme Strategy for the OP6. We invite submissions that can enhance the quality of the CPS. Please forward documents, comments and relevant information to us at sgpnigeria@gmail.com. We also invite volunteers to help review documents and do follow up to ensure quality output for the CPS. We surely will acknowledge support and submissions.

World Environment Day 2014: This year's WED will as usual be celebrated on the 5h June 2014. SGP Nigeria is planning to host a few days' programme during this period and invites supports from volunteers and sponsors for the events. Please contact SGP office on 0708 264 8989 for detail.

Following are some International Environmental Days:

◇ **Earth Day, 22 Apr;** ◇ **International Migratory Bird Day, 3 May;** ◇ **World Biodiversity Day, 22 May;** ◇ **World Environment Day, 5 June;** ◇ **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, 17 June;** ◇ **Zero Emissions Day, 21 Sept;** ◇ **World Environmental Health Day, 26 Sept;** ◇ **World Rivers Day, Last Sun, Sept;** ◇ **World Habitat Day, 1st Mon, Oct;** ◇ **International Day of Climate Action, 24 Oct;**

GEF-SGP Nigeria Grantees Network Inaugurated

It was a concerted effort by GEF-SGP grantees to engage in sharing of lessons and experiences, to enhance their impacts through advocacy and contribution to development issues and to mentor other CSOs which intend to partner with GEF-SGP. The GEF-SGP Grantees Network was thus inaugurated after a three day retreat in Abuja which had been preceded by regional capacity building workshops. The Network is determined to support GEF-SGP and her global environmental goals in order to ensure inclusive development with full participation of all stakeholders. GEF-SGP Nigeria Office is glad to see this come to light bearing in mind that the NGOs have been given an official national recognition during the last National Council on Environment (NCE) in Benue State. Please contact the GEF-SGP Office for more information.

This Newsletter is published by the GEF-SGP Nigeria. Please send feedback to: The Editor, Ibironke Olubamise: Office Tel: +234 708 264 8989, Mobile: +234 805 988 6269; E-mail: sgpnigeria@gmail.com; Website: <http://sgp.undp.org>, <http://www.ng.undp.org/gefsgp>; www.sgpigeria.org

UNDP Equator Award 2014:

It is time again to reward grassroot environmental innovations that can change the world as the 2014 Equator Initiative rolls out its plan to shine a spotlight on outstanding local and indigenous efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The partnership has officially opened its Call for Nominations to organizations from 145 countries. In past cycles of the Equator Prize – which is awarded every two years– SGP has been one of the most trusted and relied upon mechanisms for the announcement through country networks and for nominating exceptional community-based initiatives. GEF-SGP Nigeria hopes that this year's Equator Prize will be even better and favourable to Nigeria as we encourage you to make this a priority to ***nominate communities*** and/or ***circulate this announcement***. **Remember, self-nominations are accepted.** Nigeria has won the prize twice before and hopes to receive awards again this time. GEF-SGP Nigeria and the Equator Initiative teams are ready to answer any questions you might have and to equip you with whatever material would be most useful in your respective outreach efforts.

FACTS & FIGURES

- SGP has supported 113 projects in 25 states.
- Allocation from GEF for grant since 2009 is **\$3,630,000**
- SGP Nigeria has raised **\$2,910,376** total co-financing.
- GEF-SGP has supported over **100 NGOs** in Nigeria to carry out community environmental initiatives.
- Over **10** SGP projects have been replicated or up-scaled
- SGP projects have won **3** international and **1** national awards.

TIPS FOR GEF-SGP GRANTEES

- Women, youth and vulnerable groups are as important to development as any other group. Ensuring their active participation helps them and also provides visibility for your effort which could get rewarded on a big scale.
- Remember, SGP projects are not ethnically, religiously or politically inspired/inclined. It is meant for every eligible group including the physically challenged.
- GEF-SGP is committed to building capacity and ensuring community ownership through their effective participation and building lasting environmental goals. Many communities are yet to benefit from GEF-SGP. So the opportunity must be held precious and acknowledged as such.
- Collect testimonies from beneficiaries. Share your success stories through word, pictures, videos and articles.
- Mentoring others is a proof of your success and passion for development.

GEF-SGP is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme on behalf of the GEF partnership, and executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services.