



The GEF Small Grants Programme

Community Action, Global Impact

Established in 1992, the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), implemented by UNDP, embodies the very essence of sustainable development by “thinking globally, acting locally”. By providing financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people’s well-being and livelihoods, SGP demonstrates that community action can maintain the fine balance between human needs and environmental imperatives.

KEY FACTS

- Over the past 19 years, the Small Grants Programme has invested \$450million and leveraged similar levels of co-financing for over 13,500 projects by communities in 122 countries.
- The programme provides grants of up to \$50,000 directly to local communities including indigenous peoples, community-based organizations and other non-governmental groups.
- The decentralized structure of SGP encourages maximum country and community-level ownership and initiative.
- The unique SGP National Steering Committees provide for country driven programmes that bring together the civil society, the government and the UNDP Country Offices to work towards community –based environmental efforts by being the key decision making bodies of the SGP country programmes.

FOCAL AREAS

The Small Grants Programme aims to deliver global environmental benefits in the Focal Areas of biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, protection of international waters, prevention of land degradation (primarily desertification and deforestation), and elimination of persistent organic pollutants through community-based approaches.

SGP AND SMALL ISLAND AND DEVELOPING STATES

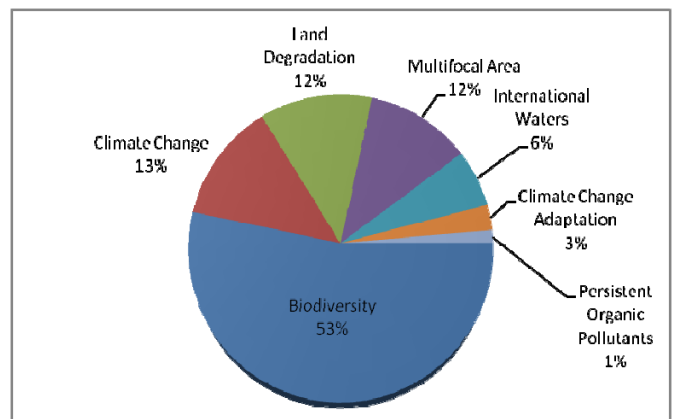
SGP recognizes that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face many barriers to meeting their priority of sustainable economic development while at the same time ensuring environmental conservation. In this context, SGP can play a key role in in developing the capacity of the civil society so that they can manage their resources more effectively and within a sustainable development framework.

For this, reason, in the last few years, SGP has placed special attention to strengthening our presence and portfolio in SIDS.

Currently, SGP has operations in 40 SIDS, has supported 1610 community-based projects in SIDS that accounts for a total grant amount of 37,130,900 dollars. In addition, we have been able to raise US\$ 22,291, in cash co-financing and US\$ 27,576 824 of in kind co-financing.

The most significant contribution by communities and local organizations through the SGP has been in the biodiversity focal area, with 53 percent of the SGP portfolio in SIDS, followed by local initiatives on climate change, with 13 percent, land degradation with 12% , multifocal area with 6%, international waters with 6%, climate change adaptation with 3% and Persistent Organic Pollutants with 1%.

PORTFOLIO DISTRIBUTION BY FOCAL AREA



PORTFOLIO DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTRY

Country	Number of Projects	Grant Amount	Co-financing in Cash	Co-financing in Kind
BAHAMAS	2	60,179 USD	13,660 USD	43 510 USD
BARBADOS SUB-REGION Includes Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and Grenadines	112	2,294,872 USD	1,146,297 USD	1,919,801 USD
BELIZE	185	4,714,528 USD	1,155,532 USD	2,245,778 USD
CAPE VERDE	19	311,175 USD	5,438 USD	137,009 USD
COMOROS	26	757,499 USD	465,135 USD	203,232 USD
CUBA	54	2,007,113 USD	5,551,556 USD	766,461 USD
DOMINICA	61	1,413,867 USD	450,021 USD	497,264 USD
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	329	6,690,783 USD	6,100,516 USD	12,831,245 USD
PASIFIKA SUB-REGION Includes Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu	70	2,430,891 USD	103,279 USD	898,087 USD
HAITI	11	349,010 USD	Processing data	
JAMAICA	75	1,754,998 USD	1 236 966 USD	1,058,456 USD
MALDIVES	8	149,997 USD	Processing data	
MAURITIUS	118	3,376,273 USD	4,092,074 USD	2,948,601 USD
MICRONESIA SUB-REGION Includes Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, and Palau	79	2,264,387 USD	48,210 USD	1,586,882 USD
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	141	1,864,194 USD	81,673 USD	73,050 USD
POLYG4 SUB-REGION Includes Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tokelao	113	1,649,336 USD	495,684 USD	272,355 USD
SEYCHELLES	10	475,062 USD	172,333 USD	105,508 USD
SOLOMON ISLANDS	12	267,329 USD	20,043 USD	123,797 USD
SURINAME	69	1,619,438 USD	389,911 USD	431,303 USD
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	74	1,396,174 USD	697,845 USD	1,260,737 USD
VANUATU	17	449,256 USD	65,022 USD	173,749 USD

SUCCESS STORIES

FROM COMMUNITY DUMP TO COMMUNITY NURSERY, GARDEN AND RECYCLING FACILITY—CUBA

The community of Isleta Sur near Guantanamo City had an open dump site for solid waste. Annually, 160 tons of solid waste were burned without regulation. Toxic smoke, ash and vector diseases affected the local population. Led by Ms. Irania Martinez, the community decided to solve this problem by working together in a project to end the unregulated burning of municipal waste and start the reforestation of the dump site by raising awareness about the issue in the community.

Benefits and impacts

15.74 hectares of the dump site were used for planting fruit trees, creating compost, and establishing a plan nursery and recycling facility for plastic and metal. The transformation of the former dump into a garden earned Ms. Martinez the National Environmental Award 2006, the top annual prize given by the Ministry for the Environment and the 2006 CNN Hero Award. Under the leadership of Ms. Martinez, two new waste processing centres are now working in Guantanamo province, with excellent results.



IMPLEMENTING RENEWABLE ENERGY AND PREVENTING LAND DEGRADATION: A PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERVENTION IN THE NUTMEG INDUSTRY—GRENADA



Given the health issues associated with nutmeg processing, the impact of Hurricane Ivan on nutmeg and other forest trees in Grenada in 2004, and the energy source used for processing, the Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation, worked with the Grenada Cooperative Nutmeg Association and factory workers to design and implement a renewable energy project with a reforestation component. This SGP project is currently under implementation and has already had several positive outputs that will revolutionize the nutmeg industry in Grenada.

Benefits and Impacts

To date, a total of 16.19 hectares of land has been reforested with over 1700 nutmeg trees and 1500 citrus, banana and cinnamon trees which contributed US\$ 6,111 in wages to the community. The project has also successfully tested a fabricated solar dehydrator which is currently being installed at the nutmeg factory in Gouyave, Grenada. To address the health issues, the project has trained 60 workers (45 males and 15 females) in Occupational Health and Safety, 8 students in data collection and management, 2 local nurse practitioners, and 1 local physician in Allergy Skin Prick Test Application. The support network for monitoring health and wellness is now in place. The full impact of the solar dehydrator will be determined by the end of the project.



AWARD WINNING PROJECTS

- 2001 Ford Motor Company National Conservation and Environment Award- Dominican Republic
- 2005 United Nations Volunteers Regional Award- Antigua and Barbuda
- 2006 UNDP Innovation Award- Cuba
- 2006 CNN Hero- Cuba
- 2008 James A. Waight Conservation Award- Belize
- 2008 National Award on New Technologies- Cuba
- 2009 Most Eco-friendly Business Award by the St. Kitts Tourism Authority- St. Kitts & Nevis
- 2010 Equator Initiative Prize- Cape Verde

