

...Small Grants, Big Impact

From UNDP Country Director

GEF-SGP has for years continued to contribute to alleviating poverty while promoting sustainable utilization of environmental resources. Through projects owned and implemented by locally established NGOs and CBOs, SGP has facilitated community and grassroot participation in safeguarding the environment while assisting individuals and communities derive benefits from them. During (period covered under the Newsletter), GEF-SGP Nigeria has demonstrated how much community-driven initiatives can contribute to national and global goals. The grants may be small, but through commitment and dedication of the grantees to environmental preservation, the initiatives undertaken by recipients of these grants continue to fulfil the Think Global, Act Local.

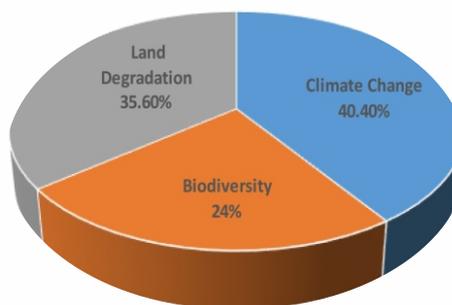
Through capacity building initiatives, stakeholder dialogues and participation in different forums, GEF-SGP Nigeria has contributed to improving the living standards of beneficiaries including the poor and marginalized and inspired other community groupings into participating in different kinds of poverty and environment related initiatives.

The uniqueness of GEF-Small Grants in reaching and ensuring participation of the poor and marginalized communities has continued to be responsible for the great feats it has accomplished. As shared in this newsletter, we hope you enjoy yet another edition where samples of our success stories are brought to you again.

EDITOR'S NOTE

As 2014 comes to an end, SGP Nigeria, as in other countries keeps gaining more grounds as we keep enhancing livelihood of our beneficiaries and transforming our environment. Aside community beneficiaries, SGP's grants has significantly built capacity of all her over 100 NGOs, many of whom are now soaring high making national and global impact. We say a big congratulations to Ms. Priscilla Achakpa of Women Environmental Programme and Mr. Kelechi Okezie of Neighbourhood Environment Watch, who recently bagged the award of Fellowship from Ashoka Foundation. Congratulations also to Mr. Okpara Prince Ezechimere, a Youth Corp member who also bagged Cross River State Government award for excellent performance on the GEF-SGP supported project in Cross River. In the words of Ms. Ruby Sandhu-Rojon, RBA Deputy Regional Director when she visited Tanzania, "Once again thanks to the CO for arranging this very good trip to a very impressive project. *It's incredible how in many of our country offices it's the small grants projects that actually address the target population.*" As we enter the Operational Phase 6 (Op6) we are committed to empowering more individuals, Civil Society Organisations and communities and we look forward to reaching more beneficiaries to ensure the attainment of our global environmental goals. We again invite you to enjoy the few success stories that this edition could take, and as usual please don't hesitate to send us your feedback.

FACTS & FIGURES



Distribution of OP5 Projects by Focal Areas

- **SGP has supported 113 projects in 25 states in 5 years**
- **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**

Major Highlights:

- **Programme Update:**
- **Success Stories:**
- **Awards and Recognition**
- **GEF-SGP in pictures**
- **International Environmental Days**
- **Tips for GEF-SGP grantees**

Programme Update:

a. Capacity Building for New SGP Grantees



Participants at Capacity Building workshop held for new Grantees (2 – 3 October, 2014).



Participants at Capacity Building workshop held for new Grantees (2 – 3 October, 2014)

In partnership with the Federal Ministry of Environment and with the support of United Nations Development Programme, GEF-SGP Nigeria organized a 2-day workshop for 37 new grantees of the 5th Operational Phase (OP5) on 2nd and 3rd October, 2014. The objectives of the workshop were to promote understanding of GEF-SGP in Nigeria; GEF-SGP project implementation cycle and expectations of all stakeholders according to the signed MOA and to enhance cordial relationship between grantees and GEF-SGP, promote knowledge sharing and build partnerships to achieve global environmental benefits.

b. Project Upscaling

Following the successful execution of a climate change project in Ibeju-Lekki, Epe and Ifako-Ijaiye Local Governments of Lagos State which led to *Better appreciation of the impact of human activities and interaction with the environment and the trend of current climate change; the benefit of sustainable agricultural practices e.g. poultry wastes management; the importance of community empowerment and their contribution to society through advocacy and engagement with policy makers; and climate information dissemination and its importance to sustainable agriculture;* SGP Nigeria grantee implementer, Human and Environmental Development Agenda (HEDA), has received further grant from the Japanese Embassy through its Grassroots Human Security Projects (GCP). The upscaling grant will help to build a semi-automated feed mill for farmers in Epe. The project is mainly a technological support system that promote sustainable farming, through boosting feed production in the community and generating sustainable income for farmers.

c. Update On Community Based REDD+ Project

Following series of strategic meetings of UN REDD+ national and state teams and the GEF-Small Grants Programme, GEF-SGP organized an inception workshop in partnership with (Cross Rivers State REDD+ Programme) between 13th and 15th October in Calabar for all stakeholders of the Community Based REDD+ (CBR+) especially environmentally based NGOs/CBOs interested in active participation in the CBR+ process. During the workshop, participants extensively discussed the CBR+ grant process, stakeholders' expectations, resource mobilization, community engagement and report writing. Thereafter, a formal call for project concepts was made and all interested NGOs/CBOs were encouraged to submit Project Concepts for consideration in line with the target communities and project sites for REDD+ process. Being a restricted programme only for Cross River States, all relevant NGOs and communities in Cross River were invited to the workshop. The CBR+ Country Plan was also discussed and with further consultations, a final document will be produced which will guide the national operations of the CBR+ process in Nigeria.

CBR+ is a global initiative co-financed by the UN-REDD Programme and the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), and



to be delivered through the mechanisms of SGP. Various strategic meetings have been held to facilitate the successful take off of CBR+ aiming to catalyze REDD+ readiness through community

participation, bringing resources and capacity to indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities.

The partnership will enable indigenous peoples and local communities to effectively participate in the design, implementation and assessment of REDD+ projects and programmes and will support grants up to US\$50,000 for community-level projects that complement larger-scale REDD+ readiness activities and investments. The next steps in this process is the review and approval of proposals.

Success Stories

a. Outstanding Project

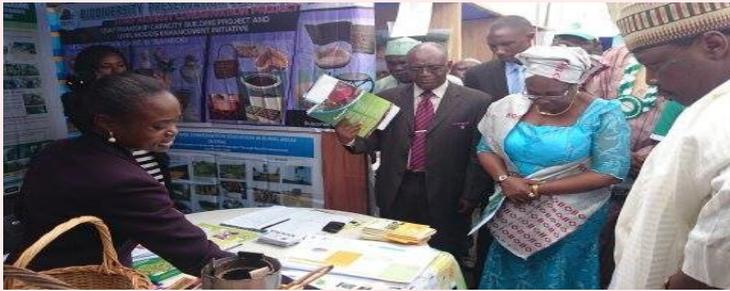
A grantee of SGP, RISE-UP in its project supported by GEF-SGP/UNDP on "Sustainable use of soil and water resources through improved Vegetable Technologies, Obudu, Cross River State has trained more than 100 participants (women and men) on organic vegetable production, established and maintained a Participatory Demonstration Farm with Irrigation System, Obtained and disseminated AVRDC improved vegetable seeds to farmers, establish Farmer-to-farmer training extension services and installed a German – made solar tunnel dryer. These have led to improve farm produce, increase harvest, improve vegetable quality, reduce losses during post-harvest season and alleviating poverty in the state.



Rise-up representative Niyi Adegun (in yellow) with HRM, Uti J. D. Agbo showcasing their improved preserved product.

b. SGP Nigeria Exhibition Stand at the 2014 Ecological Fund Summit.

1. SGP National Coordinator giving a talk on SGP projects and products while the Minister of Environment, Mrs. Laurentia Mallam and the Deputy Governor of Kogi State, Mr. Yomi Awoniyi admired the products at SGP exhibition stand 2&3. Riveted visitors at SGP exhibition stand listening to explanations and examining some of the products.



The Ecological Fund Office (EFO) held its 3rd Zonal Stakeholders Forum/Eco-fair in Lokoja, the Kogi State capital, with the theme "Effective Partnership toward Sustainable Ecological Projects Management". The summit attracted the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Senate and Committee Chairmen on Environment and Ecology as well as state Commissioners of Environment and Permanent Secretaries from the three geopolitical zones in the north among others. SGP exhibition stood out as visitors trooped in their numbers to catch a glimpse of SGP projects' success stories on display. Among our visitors are; His Excellency, the Deputy Governor of Kogi State, Mr. Yomi Awoniyi and the Honorable Minister of Environment, Mrs. Laurentia Laraba Mallam; Director General of Ecological Funds Office, and other dignitaries.



Awards and Recognition

a. Ashoka Fellows

Two GEF-SGP grantees are among the recently inducted new members of the prestigious international Ashoka Anglophone West Africa fellows. The two fellows, Ms. Priscilla Achakpa founder, Women Environmental Programme and Mr. Kelechi Okezie, Executive Director of Neighborhood Environment Watch attested to the fact that their work with GEF-SGP and the results of the GEF-SGP supported projects, implemented in Benue and Ebonyi respectively, greatly contributed to their emergence as Ashoka Fellows. Ashoka fellows are globally recognized social entrepreneurs who are making changes through their unique ideas to solving societal problems. In a statement sent to SGP office, Mr. Kelechi remarked that "I was elected in recognition of my works on environmental conservation through the reforestation projects that GEF-SGP supported my organisation to implement in Ebonyi State. ...GEF-SGP gave me the platform for this unique recognition and I remain eternally grateful." GEF-SGP Nigeria congratulates our two Fellows and wishes them many more honours of achievement in development work.



Priscilla Achakpa, WEP NGO on the left



Mr. Kelechi Okezie, NEW NGO (Middle)

b. NSC Member becomes a Board member of LEAD

SGP Nigeria National Steering Committee member, Dr. Adeolu Odusote has been appointed to the International Board of the Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD International). Lead is the world's largest non-profit organization dedicated to building leadership capacity for sustainable development. LEAD has over 20 years contributed to building capacity of more than 2500 environmental leaders drawn from 90 countries globally, including Nigeria's National Coordinator of GEF-SGP. GEF-SGP Nigeria congratulates Dr. Odusote and wishes him a successful tenor.

c. Equator Award



One of SGP Nigeria grantees, Biodiversity Development for Conservation Programme (BDCP) was nominated among the finalists for the 2014 Equator prize after an extensive process of evaluation. The initiative's

Technical Advisory Committee selected only 25 finalists, from a total pool of 310 nominations from 70 nations. GEF-SGP congratulates BDCP and wishes all her grantees more successful applications for awards in the future.

d. Youth Corper Honoured by State Government.

GEF-SGP/UNDP also wishes to congratulate Mr. Okpara Prince Ezechimere, a youth corp member, who carried out his primary assignment with RISE-UP, An NGO supported by GEF-SGP/UNDP, over the Merit Award he was honoured with by the Cross River State government on Community Development Project Initiative.



GEF-Small Grant Programmes in pictures

a. World Environment DAY June 5th 2014

The World Environment Day (WED) is celebrated every year on June 5 to raise global awareness on various environmental management related issues and to encourage positive environmental actions aimed at protecting nature and sustainable utilization of the planet's resources. In 2014, this day was celebrated with the theme "Raise Your Voice Not the Sea Level". Here we share pictorially some of the WED activities by SGP Grantees.



c. SGP stand at The 5th Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (5th AfRRP)



b. Photographs from Field Visits



Rocky, Rough and Rugged terrain, Bumaji, Cross River State



Accident scene; Challenges of Monitoring & Evaluation



Products from Solar Tunnel Dryer, Godilogo, Cross River State



Akapbuyo and Nsan Communities, Cross River State

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL DAYS

The following are some of the International Environmental Days: (GEF-SGP enjoins grantees to take opportunity of any of these days to organize campaigns, advocacy, exhibition etc. to showcase their initiatives)

- ▶ Earth Day – 22 April
- ▶ International Migratory Day – 3 May
- ▶ World Biodiversity Day – 22 May
- ▶ World Environmental Day – 5 June
- ▶ World Day to Combat Desertification & Drought – 17 June
- ▶ Zero Emission Day – 21 September
- ▶ World Environmental Health Day – 26 September
- ▶ World Rivers Day, Last Sunday – September
- ▶ World Habitat Day – 1st Monday in Oct.
- ▶ International Day of Climate Action – 24 October

TIPS FOR GEF-SGP GRANTEES

- Women, youth and vulnerable groups are as important to the development as any other group. Ensuring their active participation helps them and also provides visibility for your effort which could get rewarded on the big scale.
- Remember, SGP projects are not ethically, religiously or politically inspired/ inclined. Every eligible group including the physically challenged can benefit from them.
- 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 by all beneficiary communities and CSOs.
- Collect testimonies from beneficiaries. Share your success stories through word, pictures, videos and articles with GEF-SGP National Office.
- Monitoring others is a proof of your success and passion for development.

Appreciation:

To the Team Leaders, Sustainable Development and Communications Units of UNDP Country Office

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.

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