

SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY FOR OP6

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SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY FOR OP6

Country: STATE OF PALESTINE
OP6 resources (estimated): SGP Core 400KUS\$; expected in-kind 180K US\$.

1. Background

As a GEF corporate programme, SGP aligns its operational phase strategies to that of the GEF, and provides a series of demonstration projects for further scaling up, replication and mainstreaming. Action at the local level by civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities is deemed a vital component of the GEF 20/20 Strategy (i.e. convening multi-stakeholder alliances to deliver global environmental benefits and contribute to UNDP's Strategic Plan and focus on sustainable development).¹ At the global level, the SGP OP6 programme goal is to “effectively support the creation of global environmental benefits and the safeguarding of the global environment through community and local solutions that complement and add value to national and global level action.”

In August 1998, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) / Programme of assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP) formally launched the Small Grants Programme (SGP) in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with the support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)². In practice, the launching coincided with the Second Operational Phase of the global GEF/SGP. Prior to its launch in October 1996, a GEF identification mission to the Palestinian Territories (PT) was conducted. Its purpose was to brief the UNDP and the Palestinian partners on GEF, its modality and eligibility criteria in addition to identify possibilities for future programming options. The UNDP/PAPP has partnered with GEF/SGP since 1996 and supported local communities in the State of Palestine in addressing the linked challenges of environment and development and increasing resilience in these areas through its small grant mechanism.

To facilitate the process of initiating the GEF/SGP in the State of Palestine, another start up mission was conducted in 1998 in partnership with the Environment Quality Authority (EQA). EQA is GEF/SGP official counterpart in the State of Palestine. The mission aimed at seeking possible options of Programme structuring and identifying potential areas for GFF/SGP support to the Palestinian NGOs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The programme supports the activities of non-governmental and community based organizations towards climate change abatement, conservation of biodiversity,

¹ The initial SGP OP6 concept was incorporated into the strategic directions for the overall GEF-6 replenishment, and subsequently approved by the GEF Council paper “GEF Small Grants Programme: Implementation Arrangements for GEF-6” (GEF/C.46/13) in May 2014.

² The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a multilateral financial mechanism created in 1992 to provide grant and concessional funds to recipient countries for projects and programs that address biodiversity loss, climate change, the protection of international waters, the degradation of land and international waters, ozone depletion, and persistent organic pollutants. GEF is a designated financial mechanism for international environmental conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and Minamata Convention on Mercury.

protection of international waters, reduction of the impact of persistent organic pollutants and prevention of land degradation whilst generating sustainable livelihoods. The GEF/SGP is rooted in the belief that global environmental problems can only be adequately addressed through grassroots involvement, and the small amounts of funding can make significant difference (think globally and act locally). GEF/SGP programme has implemented its operation phase 4 (OP4) and OP5 and now is setting its country strategy to implement its OP6.

Currently, GEF/SGP is managed by the National Coordinator Officer-in-Charge and directly supported by the Head of the UNDP/ PAPP Natural Unit focal point in the UNDP Jerusalem main office. There is one National Focal Group (NFG) in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, The National Focal Group voluntarily provides technical and advisory support for the Programme as well as decision body for projects' selection. Also, NFG influences the direction of the Programme in determining its eligibility criteria and national priorities. The NFG is composed of eight members, 2 of whom are women, of diverse professional calibers and with particular speciality in most of the GEF/SGP focus.

2. SGP country programme summary background

The fifth Operational Program (OP5) of the GEF small grant programme (SGP) was approved by the GEF Council in November 2010. The development goal of GEF SGP was to secure global environmental benefits in the areas of biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, protection of international waters, prevention of land degradation, and phasing out of persistent organic pollutants through community-based initiatives and actions.

During OP5, GEF/SGP the State of Palestine relied on a core grant allocation of almost 600,000 USD\$ from the SGP Core budget, in addition to a co-fund from the European Union (EU)/NGOs Programme for an amount of 200,000 USD\$ and a Belgium Aid co-fund for an amount of 300,000 USD\$. The EU fund focused on supporting projects that tackle the issue of Environmental Governance and Institutions Capacity Building while the Belgium fund focused on supporting projects targeting issues of climate change mitigation and/or adaptation (Annex 1).

During OP5, 28 projects were funded by GEF/SGP programme and implemented by Palestinian NGOs and CBOs; where 16 projects were funded from the GEF/SGP- Core budget, 6 projects were funded from the Belgium Aid and another 6 projects were funded by the EU/NGO programme fund. The projects were classified to respond to four GEF focal areas, where "Climate Change Mitigation" had the highest number of projects reaching up to 10 projects; forming 45% of total number of projects implemented during OP5. While the conservation of Biodiversity had the highest number of projects granted during OP1-OP4 (Annex 2).

Most of the projects funded by GEF- SGP during the OP5 worked out specific interventions that focused on *Climate Change Mitigation* through the installation of solar units, or biogas units, or adopting upgraded charcoal technology. These projects have succeeded in providing vulnerable communities with: (1) sources of alternative energy mainly solar and biogas; (2) efficient water harvesting techniques which increased the area cultivated and crop yields.

Another area that GEF/SGP has targeted well during OP5 is the *Institutional Capacity Building* and *Environmental Governance* which was co-funded by EU/NGO programme. These projects have succeeded in educating local communities on environmental leadership, building pressure groups and participating in training sessions on best environmental practices. This has improved the role of GEF /SGP in improving cooperative and small to medium CBOs sector performance and relevance of interventions to the local needs which greatly helped the organization to push its theory of change at national level.

Although GEF contribute small grants but it has been able to contribute to partners' performance, especially in terms of enhancing their general knowledge of and skills in applying alternative energy techniques, nature conservation measures and fostering an organizational culture of self-assessments and learning within Partner organizations. But it still needs to better develop its country programme evaluation processes and the production of evaluation reports. In addition, there is need to focus more on having higher impact through either focusing more on specific interventions identified as high

priority under the GEF-SGP focal areas and/or through focusing on certain defined geographical area within the landscape/seascape approach set lately for GEF-SGP OP6. There are further needs for up-scaling and replicating best practices through co-finance and forging partnership with other donors or by the oPt programme participating in other national and regional GEF Programmes.

3. SGP country programme niche

3.1. Alignment with national priorities

In alignment with national priorities, the State of Palestine agreed on ratifying 16 multilateral environmental conventions (Annex 3) upon which the State of Palestine has signed three conventions and one protocol; (i) Basel Convention on the Control of Trans boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, (ii) Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention of Biological Diversity, and (iii) UN framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (Table 1). In addition, several national strategies and action plans were set in relevance to GEF- SGP strategies and focal areas including National Development Plan 2014-2016, Environment Sector Strategy 2014-2016, Water Sector Reform Plan 2014-16, Water Strategy 2016-2018, Palestinian Water Authority Strategic Plan 2016-2018, Agriculture Sector Strategy 2011-2013, Energy Sector Strategy 2011-2013, National Strategy for Solid Waste Management in the State of Palestine 2010-2014, and the National Policy and Legislation for Promoting the Conservation of Agro-biodiversity in the Palestinian Authority 2005. Some of the strategies needs updating such as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the State of Palestine (NBSAPP). Another relevant strategy is the EQA Strategic Action Plan that will be done in March 2016.

The EQA is working to develop the bylaws needed to for the alignment with the conventions they ratified. The PA is also in process of preparing the requested documents for the remaining selected conventions. Of the main challenges that face the PA in joining the international conventions as noted by EQA in the consultative meetings, is first having the final government decision on the specific convention to join, second is the acceptance and facilitation of the conventions' secretariat in processing the papers.. The funding and available allocated budgets for the State of Palestine are still not channeled to the Palestinian Authority and in most cases Palestine gets funding only on a small scale projects as the case with GEF SGP. The State of Palestine, however, should become eligible for large and medium GEF project budgets especially given that it has signed the CBD and the UNFCCC.

Both the ‘Basel Convention on the Control of Trans boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal’ and the ‘Convention of Biological Diversity’ were entered into force on the 2nd of April 2014. The UNFCCC, on the other hand, entered into force for the State of Palestine on 17th of March 2016. EQA staff have already started communicating with partners to prepare for this full membership, mainly by reviewing laws and bylaws to make sure they are in alignment with the convention. For this purpose, the EQA decided to reactivate the National Committee for Climate Change and the National Committee for Biodiversity, however, the National Committee for Biodiversity has not being reactivated as of the date of writing this report. The EQA is putting effort into reviewing the technical and legal status of the environment in the State of Palestine in order to have a clearer vision on how to move forward. The EQA has also begun preparations for the multilateral environmental conventions and drafting of the first National Communication Report on Climate Change (NCRCC), which will be published by mid-2016. The NCRCC report is a way to mainstream the environment and climate change issues in national policies and strategies.

Of the current preparations for the UNFCCC conventions, the EQA is working on: (i) Start communication with UNFCCC Secretariat and Green Climate Fund Secretariat regarding readiness activities and eligibility; (ii) Start communication with the Adaptation Fund; (iii) Prepare for launch of the first phase of the National Capacity Development Programme with UNDP; (iv) Begin work on legal and regulatory amendments for the implementation of the UNFCCC actions; (v) Reactivate the national

Committee for Climate Change; (vi) Study the options and prepare for gaining potential climate finance.

Another significant success is the change in the status of the environment strategy, from a sectoral strategy to a cross-sectoral strategy, which implies mainstreaming the environment across all sectors in the new planning process in The State of Palestine for the planning cycle 2017-2022. Hence the EQA is preparing the EQA Strategy Action plan (SAP) for 2016-2020. The SAP has four main objectives, each of which has many interventions and activities. These four objectives, developed in accordance with the EQA mandate including: (1) to develop, lead and coordinate environmental planning; (2) to promote and enhance the inspection and monitoring role of the EQA; (3) to develop the legal and institutional framework that regulates the environment sector; (4) to enhance and promote environment-friendly behaviour and practices. The final draft of the SAP will be ready by February 2016. SAP will take into consideration: the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), the sectoral and cross-sectoral planning process in The State of Palestine that will take place in 2016, and the National Policy Agenda (NPA) that will also be produced in 2016.

In terms of biodiversity, the EQA is in the final stages of producing the 5th national Report on Biodiversity, which will be available soon. The EQA, in joint efforts with its partners, has updated the distribution of the protected areas, which have been reflected in the National Spatial Plan. In addition, the EQA and its partners are conducting a study to identify the rich biodiversity areas in the West Bank region.

EQA has decided to produce an environmental policy paper to be ready by April 2016. Aiming at giving directions to other sectors on how to protect the environment and integrate environmental and climate change issues in their policies and strategies. It will include the main priorities that the EQA will urge all sectors to take into consideration and include in their sector strategies to help in three ways: (i) it will form the basis for the EQA contribution to the NPA; (ii) it will form the basis for the coming environment cross-sectoral strategy; (iii) by sharing with other leading public sector agencies before producing the coming sector strategies, it will help to mainstream the environment in other sectors. This environmental policy paper will be developed before starting the planning process in order to guide other sectors on environmental priorities.

Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Ratified on the 2 nd April 2014
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	Completed in 1999
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention of Biological Diversity	Ratified on the 2 nd April 2014
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	----
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Signed on 1 st December 2015
UNFCCC National Communications (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd)	1 st National Communications Report – will be submitted on mid- 2016
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	Under process
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	Under process
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	National Strategy for Combating Desertification (2010-2020)
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	-----
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	-----
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	-----
Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	National Development Plan 2014 National Food Security Strategy 2005 The National Strategy to Achieve the MDG by 2015
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	-----
GEF-6 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	-----
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies ³	-----
Minamata Convention on Mercury	-----
Others (list) as relevant	
Basel convention on the Control of Trans boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal	Ratified on 2 nd April 2014

Table 1. List of relevant conventions and national/regional plans or programmes

3.2. SGP support of national priorities and coordination with civil society and community-based projects to achieve country priorities and the objectives of the global conventions

Based on literature review of national sector strategies⁴ and action plans and on consultations with multiple stakeholders⁵, the project team found strong linkages between the OP6 strategic

³ Please identify existing IW regional projects and the regional SAPs adopted by countries sharing international waterbodies so as to align SGP local interventions. Please check this website to find some of the SAPs: <http://iwlearn.net/publications/SAP> <http://iwlearn.net/publications/SAP>

⁴ The reviewed national sector strategies and actions plans were: National Development Plan 2014-2016, Environment Sectoral Strategy 2014-2016, Water Sector Reform Plan 2014-16, Water Strategy 2016-2018, Palestinian Water Authority Strategic Plan 2016-2018, Agriculture Sector Strategy 2011-2013, Energy Sector Strategy 2011-2013, National Strategy for Solid Waste Management in the Palestinian Territory 2010-2014, and the National Policy and Legislation for Promoting the Conservation of Agro-biodiversity in the Palestinian Authority 2005.

⁵ The interviewed stakeholders were members of the GEF National Focus Group, Palestinian UNFCCC focal point, Palestinian IUCN/Natural Heritage Focal point, Palestinian CBD Focal Point, Palestinian grassroots⁷

initiatives and national priorities in the environmental, agricultural, water and sanitation, and energy sectors.

In order to facilitate and coordinate civil society and community-based projects to achieve country priorities and the objectives of the GEF-6, Biodiversity Strategy, Aichi targets, and the 3 global conventions ratified by the State of Palestine, this SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY FOR OP6 was based on national multi-stakeholder consultations and a scoping exercise.

First, the meetings with EQA⁶ helped define: (1) the dates of country ratification of the relevant Rio conventions; (2) the willingness and readiness of the State of Palestine to ratify the UNCCD, Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), and the national UNFCCC reports such as National Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) and National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA); (3) the relevance of the national sectoral strategies to GEF- SGP and ratified conventions; (4) the status of development of bylaws required to align the environmental law with the ratified Rio Conventions; and (5) the role SGP can play to ensure a participatory approach in the preparation of the ratification documents, the UNFCCC national reports, the national environmental bylaws, and the national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAPP). The opinions of the EQA meeting participants, however, were that the GEF SGP OP6 is better positioned to support sustainable and scalable integrated development actions and environmental conservation measures that respond to the needs of the local populations in the selected landscapes/seascapes in lieu with the national sector strategies and action plans. Accordingly, the preliminary list of selected landscapes/seascapes was reviewed with the EQA, the GEF National Focal Group (NFG), and UNDP. In this review process, the locations and boundaries of the selected landscapes were iteratively modified to target landscapes/seascapes that:

- a) contain nationally and globally significant protected areas within the national system;
- b) are habitats for landraces and wild crop relatives of species of economic importance;
- c) contain forest corridors in danger of fragmentation and farmlands often remote and unaddressed by other traditional donors;
- d) are areas that, in addition to their conservation values, have the potential for multiple uses (e.g. cultural and natural heritage sites);
- e) are inhabited with resource-poor populations that depend on the unsustainable use of natural resources for subsistence and income generation (e.g. illegal and excessive hunting and collection of wild/endangered species);
- f) are productive agricultural landscapes in danger of excessive pollution and land degradation from unsustainable agricultural practices;
- g) are polluted or are at high risk of pollution from inappropriate disposal of wastewater, hazardous waste streams, and the illegal handling of e-waste;
- h) areas with active grassroots organizations especially women led organizations.

Two multi-stakeholder meetings were further held bringing participants together from the Palestinian Ministries, Palestinian Authorities, civil society organizations (CSOs), environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), funding agencies, and representatives from the private sector (agricultural and services cooperatives). The objectives of the multi-stakeholder meetings were: (1) introduce the participants to the objectives and strategic initiatives of the GEF SGP OP6; (2) introduce the initial selection of the landscapes/seascapes and the criteria upon which these were selected; (3) stress the importance of stakeholder participation in defining the landscapes/seascapes and the project typologies inside and outside of the selected seascapes/landscapes; (4) stress the importance of social

organizations inside and outside the selected landscapes and seascapes, and Palestinian NGOs (See appendix XXX) for a full list of consultations held.

⁶ Meeting participants included Issa Albardeiya (PhD), Director General of Environmental Resources Directorate at the Environment Quality Authority, and Mohammed Mahasneh, CBD national Focal Point, Director of Biodiversity & Protected Areas.

inclusion and women participation in developing the projects, project implementation and envisioning the desired social, economic, and environmental outcomes of joint conservation and development actions; and (5) change, if necessary, the locations and boundaries of the landscapes/seascapes and prioritize the project typologies within each landscape/seascape that correspond to societal needs and the capacities of the institutions within the landscapes/seascapes.

The selected landscapes/seascapes, their boundaries, land use and land cover information as well as the relevant baseline environmental and socio-economic surveys and priority project typologies for each landscape/seascape are in Annex 4. In summary, the participatory process resulted in set of recommendations that enables the SGP country programme to support the implementation of national priorities and simultaneously respond to societal needs. These are:

- a) In the environmental sector by: (1) promoting public participation in the development of management plans for protected areas, and the rehabilitation, management and sustainable use of natural resources in protected areas; (2) promoting public participation in identifying and realizing revenue streams linked to conservation efforts (e.g. eco-tourism; agro-ecology); (3) monitoring land degradation/desertification, identifying areas at risk of land degradation due to the coupled effects of changes in climate and land use pressures (e.g. overgrazing, unsustainable agriculture); (4) integrating (mainstreaming) climate change adaptation policies and actions into relevant sectors' strategies; (5) developing a database systems for monitoring hazardous wastes and chemicals; (6) developing tools to facilitate monitoring and compliance of agricultural and industrial facilities with environmental regulations and standards.
- b) In the agricultural sector by: (1) supporting actions that optimize quality of farm-gate produce, increase farmers income, and sustaining environmental services rather than maximizing production of crops and yields; (2) supporting small-scale farmers, vulnerable groups and women in rural areas through: diversifying sources of farm gate income; promoting women's role in the agriculture sector; and increasing profitability of agricultural production; (3) respond to farmers' training needs in agro-ecological concepts, compliance with standards and marketing requirements; (4) promoting stakeholder participation in the planning and management of rangelands and their sustainable uses; and (5) in-situ conservation of agricultural biodiversity (Crop Wild Relatives) in agricultural production landscapes.
- c) In the water/wastewater sector by: (1) developing scalable household level wastewater treatment systems especially in rural areas not connected to sewerage networks; (2) developing and promoting the use of alternative water sources (harvested surface water, treated wastewater); (3) increasing water use efficiency and water productivity through climate smart agricultural practices; (4) researching the water budget of the selected landscapes including the potential of water harvesting, crop-water requirements, and irrigation scheduling; and (5) improving water springs and the optimal use of their waters.
- d) The SGP country programme will support the implementation of national priorities in the solid waste/hazardous waste management by: (1) supporting the creation of an appropriate inventory and tracking systems for solid waste and hazardous waste; (2) supporting actions including awareness campaigns that promote the reduction of solid waste quantities reaching the landfill through recycling and composting programs; and (3) Promote awareness-raising, knowledge and technical capacity for e-waste/hazardous waste management⁷ and promote alternatives to income from handling hazardous waste and heavy metals.
- e) The SGP country program will also support the transition to low carbon economy; reducing emissions, and increasing Carbon (C) sequestration in protected areas and agricultural production landscapes by: (1) promoting projects that diversify energy sources especially renewable energy; (2) promoting competent use and rationalized consumption of energy; and

⁷ E.g. Safe practices in handling e-waste and hazardous waste through piloting/testing interventions at the community level

- (3) through linkages with agro-ecological practices that increase C sequestration in production landscapes.
- f) The SGP country program should promote the active participation of women in the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of the projects and their outcomes. Gender mainstreaming is a cross cutting issue with a recommended focus on conservation, and agro-ecological applications.

To further support country and local communities' ownership in the SGP OP6 program and to promote complementarity and high impacts of the projects within a landscape/seascape, it is recommended that:

1. GEF/SGP in The State of Palestine strengthen networking and partnership between NGOs and CSOs within the landscape, between the NGOs/CSOs in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, particularly those sharing similar developmental and environmental concerns, and between NGOs/CSOs and the donor community. This can be accomplished by: (1) GEF/SGP The State of Palestine to launch an introductory workshop about GEF/SGP focal areas and strategic objectives for the OP6 for both potential donors and potential grantees from civil society organizations. This step should be accomplished before opening the GEF/SGP call for proposals for OP6. GEF/SGP should consider expanding its grantees base so as to enjoy a diverse and more related typologies of projects.
2. The GEF/SGP should build strategic partnerships with national government agencies especially those that were not explored before such as the partnership with Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, and others. The synergies between SGP programme and national priorities of these agencies were mentioned before under Table 2. The private sector concerned with environmental protection and sustainability should also be targeted for strategic partnership.

3.3. Potential for complementary and synergy with Government funded projects and programmes

There are several governmental funded projects that the SGP OP6 program can complement and benefit from their results. These are:

- a. Inventory and Mapping of industrial pollution Sources in the West Bank: The project developed a database system with data records on 600 industrial facilities including data on types of generated pollutants and estimates of the effluent volume and pollutant concentration. This database can be enriched with data on industrial and agricultural pollutants in the selected landscapes. This is synergistic with the recommended OP6 project typologies (developing a database systems for monitoring hazardous wastes and chemicals; and developing tools to facilitate monitoring and compliance of agricultural and industrial facilities with environmental regulations and standards).
- b. Assessment and Evaluation study of the Rich Biodiversity Areas of the national spatial plan of the west Bank of Palestine: The project will map biodiversity rich areas in the State of Palestine which enables the implementation of projects under the community landscape/seascape conservation strategic initiative especially projects that aim at expanding globally important protected areas in lieu with Aichi Targets 10 and 11.
- c. Sustainable Consumption and Production project: the goal of the project is to promote the transformation in the Mediterranean to sustainable patterns of production and consumption. The expected outputs of the projects are: evaluation of the sustainable production and consumption in the State of Palestine, Action plan for the sustainable production and consumption strategy, training for the related organization and institutions, and organization of workshops to promote the concept of sustainable production and consumption.

- d. The Environmental Auditing project is being implemented by the Palestinian Hydrology Group for the development of water resources and the environment, in partnership with the Palestinian Environmental NGOs Network- Friend of the Earth Palestine, PENGON-FoE Palestine. The overall objective of the project is to improve the mechanics of the Environmental Audit and development, in order to contribute to the protection of the Palestinian environment and reduce the risk of potential harm to the health.
- e. Clima-South: Support for Climate Change Mitigation and adaptation in the EU southern Neighboring countries: the project aims to support the transition of ENP South countries towards low carbon development and climate resilience, in a context of sustainable and democratic development, by enhancing regional cooperation, information sharing and capacity development on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

3.4 UNDP CO/UN System strategies

1. Achieving triple wins (economic, social and environmental) from the conservation of natural resources and biodiversity while simultaneously creating job and income opportunities for the resource-poor populations through inclusive management and rehabilitation of ecosystem services in protected areas in lieu with the UNDP strategic Plan 2014-2017 Area of Work 1 "Sustainable development pathways that can eradicate extreme poverty and reduce social and economic inequality and exclusion".
2. The UNDP strategic plan calls for "*...sustainable land management, and testing and scaling-up of public-private initiatives that can increase livelihoods opportunities from productive capacities based on technologies that are sustainable and markets that are inclusive*". This is in synergy with SGP OP6 strategy of Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology that aims at utilizing indigenous knowledge and innovative agro-ecological methods to sustainably increase productivity, product quality, safeguard the environment, and increase farm-gate income from quality agricultural yields and multiple farm uses (e.g. agro-tourism).
3. The UNDP strategic plan for *sustainable energy access and improved energy efficiency* calls for "*the establishment of policy and regulatory frameworks and institutional capacities to boost energy efficiency and grow low-carbon and renewable energy services at the national level*". The SGP OP6 will contribute to the UNDP strategic plan by broadening and deepening markets, and strengthening private and public sector capacities to expand investment to create better conditions to find and scale-up inclusive market-based solutions to achieving universal modern energy access (table 2 for recommended SGP niche).
4. The UNDP strategy of *inclusive and effective democratic governance systems that can deliver sustainable solutions to poverty, inequality and exclusion* is related to SGP OP6 strategic initiatives of "*social inclusion*" and "*CSO-Government dialogue platforms*". Both strategies promote participatory processes of *marginalized social groups and women* in decision-making to foster more accountable and open governance in state institutions and in society.

3.5 Synergies with other donor agency strategies and programs

The GEF SGP OP6 program share similar objective and strategies with several bilateral donors' strategies. Therefore, there is a great potential for complementarity and synergy with:

1. **EU Single Support Framework Palestine which supports** "*the improvement of the socio-economic situation of the vulnerable population in Palestine – with a particular focus on Area C – while bridging emergency to environmental sustainable development; improving the competitiveness of Palestinian products and services in an environmentally sustainable way,*

including in terms of climate change impacts; enhance the access to and the sustainable utilization of land and water resources (including the treatment of wastewater and the re-use of the treated wastewater; and the development of water re-use scheme and rainfall water harvesting techniques are enhanced" This is synergistic with GEF SGP OP6 Focal Areas 1 "Community Landscape Seascape conservation" and Focal Area 2 "Innovative climate –smart agro-ecology."

2. **Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conserved Areas and Territories’ (ICCAs) which supports** *"the conservation of critical ecosystems and threatened species, to maintain essential ecosystem functions (e.g., water security), and to provide corridors and linkages for animal and gene movement, including between two or more officially protected areas."* This is synergistic with GEF SGP OP6 Focal Area 1 "Community Landscape Seascape conservation".
3. **Cross Border Cooperation within the European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI)/Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme (2014 - 2020) which supports** *"Environmental protection, climate change adaptation and mitigation."* This is synergistic with GEF SGP Focal Area 2 "Innovative climate –smart agro-ecology; sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)"
4. **Kingdom of the Netherlands - Multi-Annual Strategic Plan: Palestinian Territories- 2014 – 2017 which supports** *"Sustainable increase in food production to the benefit of the Palestinian people through improved access to and use of land and water for food production, and improved agricultural productivity of existing Palestinian farmlands; and Improved access to markets for Palestinian farmers through increased competitiveness of agricultural products."* This is synergistic with GEF SGP Focal Area 2 "Innovative climate –smart agro-ecology."
5. **We Effect Regional Office for Europe and Asia- Country office of Palestine: Programme Document 2014-2016 which** *"supports agricultural cooperatives and other farmer CBOs to apply sustainable production techniques, using eco-friendly farming practices; promotes small-scale farmers’ participation in markets at all levels; through strengthening cooperation among cooperators and cooperative organizations, improving quality of the agricultural produce of targeted farmers and installing of new value added initiatives; contributes for maintaining people’s right to a safe and healthy environment in ecological balance now and for future generations; calls for eco-friendly agricultural practices to be introduced and applied by the targeted Palestinian farmers and their organizations; and provides technical support on applying good farming practices to increase efficiency of utilizing natural resources."* This is synergistic with several SGP OP6 focal areas but especially with GEF SGP Focal Area 2 "Innovative climate –smart agro-ecology", and SGP OP6 cross cutting issues "CSO-government dialogue policy and planning dialogue platforms" and "Promoting social inclusion"
6. **Australian Government: Aid Investment Plan -Palestinian Territories (2015-2019) which supports** *"Improved public financial management and a more competitive agricultural economy in the PTs"*. This is synergistic with GEF SGP Focal Area 2 "Innovative climate –smart agro-ecology."
7. **Swiss Cooperation Strategy for the Occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) /2015–2018 which** *"Focuses on improving small-scale agribusiness holders’ performance and resilience and contribute to a more conducive economic environment."* This is synergistic with GEF SGP Focal Area 2 "Innovative climate –smart agro-ecology."
8. **Sweden’s international development cooperation with Palestine 2015–2019 and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) support actions** relevant to GEF Focal Area 2 "Innovative climate –smart agro-ecology."
9. **Norwegian Church Aid act alliance- country plan – occupied Palestinian Territory (2011-2015) EU Single Support Framework (Erasmus+ and Creative Europe) support actions** relevant to GEF SGP Focal Area 3: "Energy access co-benefits; support trans boundary shifts towards a low emission and resilient development path."

10. GIZ programme in Palestine supports actions in Water, sanitation and solid waste management and Environment and climate change which are relevant to SGP focal Area: 1:community landscape seascape conservation; 2:climate smart agro-ecology; and 4: Local to global chemical coalitions

A more comprehensive list of Synergies with other donor agency strategies and programs can be found in Annex 5.

SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	Briefly describe the CPS niche relevant to national priorities/other agencies	Briefly describe the CPS contribution to UNDP strategic programming
Community landscape/seascape conservation	<i>Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society</i>	<p><u>IMPROVE SUSTAINABILITY OF PROTECTED AREA SYSTEMS</u> by: (a) Capacity building of local communities, especially women, in the design, implementation, and management of protected area projects; (b) promote protected area co-management; (C) Identify tools and revenue mechanism from environmental services in protected areas and encourage private sector participation in realizing such revenues; (d) using IUCN guidelines to expand globally important protected areas⁸ in lieu with Aichi Targets 10 and 11.</p> <p><u>REDUCE THREATS TO GLOBALLY SIGNIFICANT BIODIVERSITY</u> by: (a) Monitor land degradation and its causes and promote alternatives to practices that increase the risk of land degradation; (b) Identify and map threatened species and stop hunting threatened species through awareness and substitution of subsistence hunting and gathering with other sustainable revenue streams for the local communities.</p>	Area of Work 1: Sustainable development pathways that can eradicate extreme poverty and reduce social and economic inequality and exclusion through social inclusion in the sustainable management of natural resources in and around protected areas and promoting public-private partnerships to realize triple social, economic and environmental wins of local communities through increasing job opportunities and income generation of local cooperatives.
Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology; Community landscape/seascape conservation	<i>Sustainable land management in production systems</i>	SECURING AGRICULTURAL FUTURE by: (1) empower agro-ecological principles and practices ⁹ through utilizing traditional and conventional agricultural knowledge; (2) encourage farms which are multifunctional	Area of Work 1: Sustainable development pathways that can eradicate extreme poverty and reduce social and economic inequality and

⁸ The EQA have mapped high biodiversity areas. This information can be used to identify national gaps in the coverage of terrestrial ecosystems and threatened species using IUCN guidelines which is in lieu with NBSAPP recommended actions of Identifying and legally establishing a representative system of protected areas/nature reserves (including wetland protected areas).

⁹ Projects that deliver alternatives to practices that drive excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides, pollution of aquifers and waterways, declining levels of groundwater, and mismanagement of soils.

	<i>(agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)</i>	(providing integrated ecosystem, social, cultural and economic services) ¹⁰ ; (3) empower practices that increase C storage in soils; (4) support protection of Crop Wild Relatives (CWR) through In-situ conservation in production landscapes; and (5) respond to farmers' training needs in agro-ecological concepts, compliance with standards and marketing requirements.	exclusion through scaling-up of public-private initiatives that can increase livelihoods opportunities from productive capacities based on technologies that are sustainable and markets that are inclusive"
Community landscape/seascape conservation	<i>Promotion of collective management of trans-boundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services</i>	Biodiversity mainstreaming and embed biodiversity conservation and sustainability objectives in the management of wider production landscapes and seascapes through¹¹: (1) supporting to an array of policies, strategies, and practices that engage key public and private sector actors in order to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity; (2) Operationalizing innovative finance mechanisms such as payments for ecosystem services, habitat banking, aggregate offsets, and tradable development rights and quotas; (3) piloting national level interventions that link biodiversity valuation and economic analysis with development policy and finance planning; and (4) catalyzing private sector investment in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.	NOT Applicable
Energy access co-benefits	<i>Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path</i>	(1) Innovative technological projects such as (i) biogas; (ii) biofuel; and (iii) solar energy; (2) energy efficient appliances and build energy efficient housing; (3) Integrative approaches with inclusive sustainable development efforts through coordination of clean energy policies with relevant policies in other areas, such as agriculture, rural development, health, poverty eradication, gender equality and women's empowerment, and energy security. (4) Researching co-benefits, which could potentially guide and inform scaling up and policy development (e.g. reduced deforestation, improved carbon sequestration and climate resilience; reducing poverty, improving livelihoods, and stimulating economic development); (5) building critical mass and awareness of low carbon solutions (i.e. projects facilitating exchange of knowledge between users and potential future users); and (6)	Sustainable energy access and improved energy efficiency through: Policy and regulatory frameworks and institutional capacities to boost energy efficiency and grow low-carbon and renewable energy services at the national level. The synergies are: (1) lowering investment risks; (2) broadening and deepening markets; and (3) strengthening private and public sector capacities to expand investment. This could create better conditions to find and scale-up inclusive market-based solutions to achieving universal modern energy access.

¹⁰ Women participation is critical in actions that optimize quality of farm-gate produce, increase farmers income, and sustaining environmental services rather than maximizing production of crops and yields. Actions that integrate the concepts of agro-tourism are especially recommended.

¹¹ For it to achieve measurable impacts, biodiversity mainstreaming actions require efforts and hence funds larger than the SGP sized funds. In order for biodiversity mainstreaming to achieve impacts at the scale necessary to advance the related GEF and Aichi Targets, a series of larger investments by GEF and other donors within a larger-scale planning and management context are required.

		advocacy projects to influence national energy sector strategies.	
Local to global chemicals coalitions	<i>Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern</i>	Prevent the exposure of humans and the environment to harmful chemicals and waste by: (1) Improving knowledge and awareness of the impacts of chemicals and heavy metals on human and ecosystem health; (2) Advocate for policies and strategies to manage hazardous waste and hazardous chemicals; (3) Promote alternatives to income from handling hazardous waste and heavy metals; (4) pesticide management in agriculture (e.g. packing, storage and environmental disposal of obsolete pesticides and promoting alternatives to pesticides); (5) promote community based waste sorting, recycling or disposal; and (7) Promote awareness-raising, knowledge and technical capacity for e-waste/hazardous waste management.	NOT Applicable
CSO-Government dialogue platforms	<i>Enhance capacity of civil society to contribute to implementation of MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and national and sub-national policy, planning and legal frameworks</i>	Connect stakeholders and layered institutions (social enterprises, CSOs, and state based local and national authorities) via inclusive dialogue to envision and plan for the desired environmental, agricultural, and economic development outcomes. More specifically, promote stakeholders participation in developing the following: (1) contextualized local/regional energy policies and agricultural development plans; (2) Protected areas management plans; (3) domestic solid-waste management bylaws; (4) advocacy projects to influence adaptation of standards (PSI standards) and certification in green/organic agriculture, treated wastewater quality standards especially intended for reuse in agriculture;	The UNDP strategy of inclusive and effective democratic governance systems that can deliver sustainable solutions to poverty, inequality and exclusion is related to SGP OP6 strategic initiatives of "social inclusion" and "CSO-Government dialogue platforms". Both strategies promote participatory processes of marginalized social groups and women in decision-making to foster more accountable and open governance in state institutions and in society.
Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)	<i>GEF Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Gender Equality Action Plan and GEF Principles for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples</i>	To achieve gender mainstreaming; GEF SGP should promote projects that: (1) support active involvement of women in decision-making and research; (2) support continuous, coordinated and effective input from women to decision-making ; (3) build partnerships and establish networks to promote the mainstreaming of gender; (4) recognize the traditional and indigenous knowledge of women; (5) include gender sensitive analysis of project impacts; (6) conduct gender mainstreaming training for potential grantees; and (7) support the networking and creation of women organizations.	The UNDP strategy of inclusive and effective democratic governance systems that can deliver sustainable solutions to poverty, inequality and exclusion is related to SGP OP6 strategic initiatives of "social inclusion" and "CSO-Government dialogue platforms". Both strategies promote participatory processes of marginalized social groups and women in decision-making to foster more accountable and open governance in state institutions and in society.

Contribution to global knowledge management platforms	<i>Contribute to GEF KM efforts</i>	Improve GEF-SGP project monitoring and evaluation especially the impacts of granted projects using social, economic, and environmental indicators. The GEF SGP program can use the collected data to: (1) analyze good practices and lessons learned from SGP projects; (2) identify projects that are scalable and replicable; (3) facilitate the exchange of experiences between countries especially South-South cooperation; and (4) coordinate to increase the efficiency of UN interventions by avoiding duplication and increasing complementarity between activities.	NOT Applicable
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Table 2. SGP contribution to national priorities / GEF-6 corporate results

4. OP6 strategies

4.1 Cross-cutting OP6 grant-making strategies

Based on the scoping exercise, projects outside the landscape/seascape(s) will focus on: (a) gender mainstreaming; (b) capacity development of Palestinian CSOs especially in the fields of gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation of impacts of development actions; and (c) developing CSO-government dialogue platforms to promote public participation in developing bylaws, strategies and action plans especially in the fields of hazardous waste management and to reach consensus on certification standards for organic agricultural practices and wastewater reuse in agriculture. Actions will cover the following areas of intervention:

(a) Gender mainstreaming through: (1) supporting the establishment of a gender mainstreaming working group that has the mission of liaison with the Palestinian Ministry of Women Affairs to fully integrate gender considerations into national sector strategies and to update the cross-sectoral national gender strategy and promote gender equality and equity especially increasing access to education, and vocational training.

(b) Developing CSO-government dialogue platforms such as sectoral working groups that should connect stakeholders and layered institutions (social enterprises, CSOs, and state based local and national authorities) via inclusive dialogue to promote public participation in future national by-laws, policies and strategies especially in sectors where there are pressing gaps such as hazardous waste management by-laws, policies and strategies, energy policies and strategies; domestic solid-waste management bylaws, and development and adaptation of standards and certification in green/organic agriculture and treated wastewater quality reuse standards.

(c) Capacity development: training of private sector actors, CSOs, and NGOs on inclusive economy, social-responsive business (gender, disabled, etc.), corporate social responsibility, decent work, and gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation of project impacts.

4.2 Landscape/seascape-based OP6 grant-making strategies

4.2.1 Overview of methodological framework

The initial selection of landscapes/seascapes was based on a data collected during the baseline survey (Annex 4) which was used to evaluate and rank the landscapes according to the selection criteria listed in section 2.2. The selected landscapes (maps 1 and 2) offer the potential for the SGP program to bring about greater strategic impact through clustering of projects to achieve triple wins (social, economic, and environmental objectives). The initial list included: (1) Jalbun catchment Area; (2) Wadi El Zarqa El Elwi Cluster; (3) West Rural Bethlehem; and two areas in the Gaza Strip; the biodiversity rich area of Wadi Gaza (4); and the agricultural productive landscape of Northern Gaza (5). Based on the recommendations from meetings with the EQA and the GEF NFG; the number of landscapes/seascapes was expanded in the West bank of Palestine to also include Umm ar Rihan; Wadi al Badhan; Wadi El-Quff Area; and Wadi Saiir (map 1). Below is a short summary of the landscapes' major characteristics, environmental problems, and societal/environmental needs:

1. Umm ar Rihan Area: Mostly Forested and Horticultural landscape. Nature reserve has a very high Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) value. Poverty rate is however high compared to other landscapes. Significant areas are cultivated with fruit trees. There is no wastewater network and only $\frac{3}{4}$ of households are connected to the fresh water network. The forest is at risk of degradation due to fragmentation by the Israeli segregation wall. For the same reason, the local community can only access their agricultural lands during short periods of the growing season and are suffering from a multitude of impediments imposed by the Israelis that prevent the population from accessing job markets, exporting their agricultural produce to national markets, and from managing their natural resources.
2. Wadi al Badhan: Mostly agricultural Landscape but with great potential for eco-tourism and recreational tourism due to the abundance of water springs in the area. Recreational tourism most serves local tourists and is seasonal. Other forms of tourism including eco-tourism and agro-tourism can be significantly enhanced when the wastewater flowing from East Nablus is treated. The treated wastewater should be reused in agriculture. The area has a relatively high poverty rate and the population is dependent in terms of employment on agriculture. Vegetables are the most common form of agriculture.
3. Jalbun catchment area: Mostly agricultural landscape; one of the most fertile lands in the West Bank. Production is limited by insufficient water sources. Agriculture depends on lots of inputs of chemical insecticides and fertilizers. There are several forest but mostly small and fragmented. There is one nature reserve with relatively high KBA value. Socio-economic indicators are generally good when compared to other areas. Water Network and wastewater network coverage are generally poor.
4. Rural Bethlehem Area: Water is scarce and therefore agriculture relies almost entirely on rainfed agriculture. This resulted in relatively high food insecurity ratios. Poverty rate is also high due to restrictions on work in Israel and unemployment rate is the second highest amongst



Map 1. Boundaries (red lines) of the selected landscapes in the West Bank. These are from North to South (1) Jalbun catchment Area; (2) Umm ar Rihan; (3) Wadi al Badhan; (4) Wadi El Zarqa El Elwi Cluster; (5) West Rural Bethlehem; (6) Wadi Saiir; and (7) Wadi El-Quff.

all selected landscapes. Its location in proximity to Bethlehem and Jerusalem and the natural and cultural heritage of the area provide an opportunity for triple wins from tourism/green (organic) agriculture/and simple food processing and marketing. Unfortunately, the agricultural landscapes of the area even these of the village Battir (a UNESCO world heritage site) are largely abandoned. Water scarcity is one the reasons behind abandonment of agricultural lands. There is a great potential and need for the reengagement of youth and women in agriculture, agro-tourism, and developing innovative methods of non-traditional water sources.

5. Wadi Saiir has the highest unemployment rate, one of the highest food insecurities, one of the lowest per capita cultivated lands and one of the lowest per capita number of herd animals. The rangelands are thought to be degraded. The area has lots of stone quarries and stone cutting factories with very little environmental regulation on their operations. There was a concerted effort by the PA and other institutions to restore the rangelands. Other project has produced policy documents and strategies to regulate wastes and environmental impacts of stone quarries and factories. There is a project for the treatment of wastewater from Al-Arroub refugee camp. Reuse of the treated wastewater offers the potential for irrigated agriculture.
6. Wadi El-Zarqa -Elelwi cluster: The area has several forested landscapes and protected areas, some of which have high KBA values. The protected areas' resources are currently over-exploited threatening land degradation, erosion of genetic diversity and extinction of threatened endemic species. There are no action plans to manage the reserves. Area is a prime location for integrated projects and achieving triple wins perhaps through the development of a biosphere reserve. GEF will lay the foundation for the development of a biosphere reserve.
7. Wadi Al-Quff: The area receives large volumes of e-waste. Illegal import of e-waste is forbidden by law and carries a punishment of life imprisonment. However, e-waste recycling, though using unsafe methods, is a major source of income in some localities within the landscape. Institutionalizing e-waste imports and proper management of e-waste recycling is essential. Finding alternatives to income from handling, burning, and recycling e-waste are also essential. Triple wins from management of Wadi Al-Quff nature reserve is a possible source of alternative income. A management plan for Wadi Al-Quff was developed by EQA using a participatory approach. This offers a unique opportunity to start implementing through GEF some elements of the management plan.

Based on societal needs and environmental risks within each landscape/seascape, an initial list of priority GEF OP6 focal areas for each landscape was produced in consultation with GEF NFG. The agreed upon priorities were then used by the consultant team to develop a list of project typologies with each area. All the preceding information (i.e. landscapes/seascapes baseline surveys, priority GEF OPS focal areas per landscape/seascape, and the list of project typologies) were used in 2 multi-stakeholder meetings. The first was with participants in the Gaza Strip and the second with participant in the West Bank. The objectives of the meetings were to reach a consensus on: (1) the selection of the landscapes; (2) prioritizing which landscapes GEF OP6 should focus on; (3) defining priority GEF OP6 focal areas for each landscape; and (4) defining priority project typologies for each landscape/seascape.

4.2.2 Results of the Gaza Strip Multi-stakeholder meeting and grant making strategies in the Gaza Strip:

- The participants recommended the *Gaza Strip to be taken as a single landscape/seascape due to its small geographical extent and the instability of the geopolitical situation.*

- Participants agreed that Wadi Gaza was indeed the most important biodiversity rich area in the Gaza Strip. However, the Wadi is facing grave environmental problems related to disposal of war rubble, pollution of the Wadi with untreated/partially treated wastewater, expansion of agricultural areas alongside the Wadi bed, and loss of biodiversity and tree cover due to excessive hunting, pollution and encroachment of built-up area and agricultural land into protected areas. Accordingly, GEF OP6 actions in Wadi Gaza should focus on: (1) an assessment of the environmental conditions and status of biological diversity in Wadi Gaza such as biodiversity survey studies, volume and quality of water in the Wadi Bed, a study of war rubble hazardous chemicals and heavy metals contents/concentrations, and a study of the volume and management strategies to solve the problems from improper disposal of the war rubble; (2) raising awareness of national authorities, local government and local communities about the conservation and ecological importance of conserving and rehabilitating Wadi Gaza; (3) Advocate good environmental governance principle especially in relation to the management of hazardous wastes; and (4) connect stakeholders and layered institutions (social enterprises, CSOs, and state based local and national authorities) via inclusive dialogue to develop localized policies and management plans for the resolution of the environmental problems in Wadi Gaza.
- Participants stressed the importance of preserving the lands of Khan Younis and Eastern Rahaf areas as the bread basket of the Gaza Strip. Environmental problems include: (1) excessive inputs of chemical fertilizers and pesticides; (2) insufficient quality of treated wastewater for reuse with the existing crop types; and (3) risk of agricultural land degradation. Accordingly, GEF OP6 actions in Khan Younis and Eastern Rahaf should focus on: (1) promoting the principles of climate smart agro-ecology¹²; (2) manipulation of vegetation structures, plant associations, and irrigation methods to improve resistance to brackish water and low quality treated wastewater; (3) promote proper pesticide management practices in agriculture (e.g. packing, storage and environmental disposal of obsolete pesticides and promoting alternatives to pesticides).
- Participants proposed that GEF actions should also target the biodiversity rich area of al Mawasi (Bedouin community on the southern coast) and other similar areas such as Mafarqa and the Al-Mahalieh. The biodiversity in these areas however have not been surveyed and there is no management plan to conserve the ecological integrity and the biological diversity in al Mawasi. Actions of the GEF in al Mawasi, Mafarqa and the Al-Mahalieh might include: (1) a survey of the biological diversity in al Mawasi; and (2) inclusive development of management plans and regulatory frameworks that provide incentives for biodiversity-friendly land and resource use.
- The coastal areas of the Gaza strip are heavily polluted with industrial waste, poorly treated and untreated wastewater, and agricultural runoff. However, little data exists on the amount and concentration of POPs, ODS, and other heavy metals generated in the different waste streams. The GEF should therefore support: (1) the development of a database system on waste generation including data on types of generated pollutants and estimates of the effluent volume and pollutant concentrations; (2) raise awareness of the authorities and local communities on the polluting industries and agricultural practices, the impacts of these pollutants on human health, coastal biodiversity; and the quality of the fisheries in the Gaza Strip.

¹² strengthen production systems including agriculture practices based on local and traditional knowledge, that allow continued evolution and adaptation (adequate population sizes, seed systems, movement of useful materials, and access to ex-situ materials). Actions might include selection of appropriate crops for irrigation with brackish water and treated wastewater, conservation tillage, manipulation of vegetation structures and plant associations to improve efficiency of water use and increase biodiversity, replace expensive and harmful inputs such as pesticides and chemical fertilizers with composted manure, compost, and organic materials to manage pest populations.

4.2.3 Results of the West Bank multi-stakeholder meeting and grant making strategies in the West Bank

After presenting the environmental problems and reviewing the socio-economic, institutional, biodiversity, and environmental indicators for each landscape/seascape, the participants were asked to rank where GEF SGP OP6 should focus its actions to achieve the objectives of the SGP OP6 programme. The results of the opinions of the participants are in table 3. Eleven out of 23 participating institution in the multi-stakeholder meeting thought that GEF SGP actions should target Umm ar Rihan. Wadi al Badhan ranked second and the agricultural landscapes of Jalbun ranked third. Tied for fourth were Rural Bethlehem area and Wadi Saiir. Surprisingly, Wadi El-Zarqa-Ellewi cluster ranked sixth out of seven despite its importance as a key biodiversity area and its great potential to achieve triple (social, economic, and environmental) wins. This surprising result is perhaps due to the relatively better social and economic conditions of the local population in Wadi El-Zarqa-Ellewi compared to the other landscapes in the West Bank.

To address the pressing environmental and socio-economic concerns and to promote local inclusion and ownership, the multi-stakeholder meeting participants identified the priority GEF focal areas (table 4) for each landscape. For instance, the adaptation of climate smart agro-ecological principles was selected as the highest priority GEF focal area in the Jalbun landscape, followed by the management of hazardous chemicals (local to global chemical coalitions GEF focal area), and by Energy access co-benefits.

Name of area	Rank
Umm ar Rihan Area	1
Wadi al Badhan	2
Jalbun catchment area	3
Rural Bethlehem area	4
Wadi Sa'ir	
Wadi El-Zarqa -Ellewi cluster	6
Wadi El-Quff Area	7

Table 3. Multi-stakeholder participant ranking of GEF OP6 priority intervention landscapes.

In designing the project typologies for each watershed, the participants were specifically asked to identify project types that: (1) respond to societal needs and priorities; (2) derive from the country's own priorities and programs; (3) promote gender participation and mainstreaming; promote CSO-Government dialogue; (4) integrate GEF focal areas; (5) link biodiversity conservation with sustainable development and social concerns; (6) has the potential to achieve triple (social, economic, and environmental) wins; and (7) are scalable and replicable inside and outside of the selected landscapes. The selected project typologies are the following:

1. **Jalbun catchment area:** Proposers are encouraged to develop projects that promote active participation of women and youth and integrate actions from the climate-smart agro-ecology, energy access co-benefits, and local to global chemical coalition's focal areas.
 - (a) **Climate-smart agro-ecology focal area:** The objective is to Support income-generating opportunities and employment, especially for the least economically empowered groups in the areas of environmentally responsible green agriculture and agricultural food processing. Actions might cover the following areas of intervention:
 - i. Promote agro ecological principles and practices through utilizing traditional and conventional agricultural knowledge and endemic crop varieties.
 - ii. Support and improve capacities of agricultural production and marketing cooperatives to adopt local/international quality standards, improve products' competitiveness through improved quality and efficiency, and green branding of Palestinian made products.
 - iii. Promote through advocacy, campaigning, and/or demonstration activities of surface water harvesting, wastewater reuse in agriculture and household level wastewater treatment and reuse.

- iv. Support and guide farmers to identify multiple revenue streams and develop multifunctional farms that provide ecosystem, social, cultural and economic services.

(b) Management of hazardous chemicals: The objectives are to promote proper management of waste streams especially hazardous waste and hazardous chemicals. Actions might cover the following areas of intervention:

- i. Researching and demonstrating alternatives to the uses of input chemical pesticides and chemical fertilizers.
- ii. Awareness campaigns on the impacts of agricultural pesticides and fertilizers on human health, water use efficiency, soil degradation, and water resources.
- iii. Promoting proper management (packing, storage) and disposal of obsolete pesticides.
- iv. Reduce the use of internationally banned pesticides through advocacy and awareness campaigns, and partnership with EQA and MoA to produce policy guidance documents.

(c) Energy Access co-benefits: The objectives are to support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path. Actions will cover the following areas of intervention:

- i. increasing C sequestration in agricultural production landscapes
- ii. Study, demonstrate, and disseminate the financial and economic benefits of utilizing renewable energy sources (e.g. solar, biogas) in operating farm equipment.
- iii. Environmentally friendly biogas generation from agricultural organic waste.

2. Um Al-Rihan landscape: Proposers are encouraged to develop projects that simultaneously improve the sustainability of the protected area, reduce threats to biodiversity, and generate revenue streams for the local communities from the sustainable utilization of environmental services. Proposers are especially encouraged to develop project proposals that integrate actions from the two GEF focal areas: (a) community landscape conservation; and (b) Energy access co-benefits.

(a) Community landscape/seascape conservation: The objective is to improve the livelihood of local communities by promoting local communities participation in the sustainable management of the nature reserve and promote income generation through reinforcing environmental service provision through actions looking at areas such as market access, corporate social responsibility, integration of informal economy. Actions might cover the following areas of intervention:

- i. Socially Inclusive development of management and development plans in Um-Rihan nature reserve.
- ii. Inventory of natural resources especially biological diversity in Um-Rihan natural reserve
- iii. Identify tools and revenue mechanism from multiple uses of Um-Rihan.
- iv. Engage key public and private sector actors in order to realize both revenue streams and conservation objectives.

(b) Energy access co-benefits: The objective is to reduce dependence on fuel wood and/or reduce environmental impacts of fuel production. Actions might cover the following areas of intervention:

- i. Promote through awareness campaigns and demonstration actions innovative, alternative and sustainable energy production technologies such as biogas, biofuel, and solar energy.
- ii. Reduce local population dependence on forest wood to meet their energy needs.
- iii. Environmentally sound production of coal
- iv. Researching co-benefits of alternative energy sources, which could potentially guide and inform scaling up and policy development (e.g. reduced deforestation, improved carbon sequestration and climate resilience; reducing poverty, improving livelihoods, and stimulating economic development)

3. Wadi El-Zarqa -Ellewi cluster: The program will encourage the development of projects that simultaneously improve the sustainability of the protected area, reduce threats to biodiversity, and

generate revenue streams for the local communities from the sustainable utilization of environmental services. Proposers are especially encouraged to develop project proposals that integrate actions from the two GEF focal areas: (a) community landscape conservation; and (b) climate-smart-agro-ecology.

(a) Community landscape/seascape conservation: The main objective is to improve the livelihoods of resource-poor households within the vicinity of Wadi Zarqa Al-Elwi protected area cluster through sustainable development in the agricultural, industrial, and tourism sectors using an adaptive governance approach. Actions might cover the following areas of intervention:

- i. Capacity building of local communities, especially women, in the design, implementation, and management of protected area projects (e.g. training of eco-tourism guides)
- ii. Develop inclusive management and operational plans responding to societal needs and development opportunities within Wadi Zarqa Al-Elwi protected areas cluster;
- iii. Create income-generating opportunities and employment in the sectors of cultural and ecological tourism, agro-businesses, and local industries; and
- iv. Coordinate and support the activities of the enterprises working in the protected areas.

(b) Climate smart agro-ecology: The objective is to support the local enterprises to optimize production of environmentally responsible green agriculture, support agricultural food processing and marketing. Actions might cover the following areas of intervention:

- i. introduce organic farming practices;
- ii. Support and improve capacities of agricultural production and marketing cooperatives to adopt local/international quality standards, improve products' competitiveness through improved quality and efficiency, and green branding of Palestinian made products
- iii. establish the "Al Azraq local Market" Initiative where cooperative products are regularly marketed; and
- iv. manage the sustainable collection and responsible use of plant resources mainly; medicinal plants

4. Wadi Al-Badhan: develop projects that link conservation actions and sustainable agriculture with income generation for local communities especially from eco-tourism and recreational tourism. Actions will cover the following areas of intervention:

- i. Promote linkages between eco-tourism, recreational tourism, agro-tourism, and marketing of locally produced quality items (food, handicrafts, etc).
- ii. Develop more sustainable agriculture practices, and improving ecosystem function and the provision of ecosystem services in production landscapes.
- iii. Optimize quality of farm-gate produce, increase farmers income, and sustaining environmental services rather than maximizing production of crops and yields;
- iv. Technical guidance to smallholder organizations to encourage green agricultural practices (e.g. no-till AG, composting);
- v. Support and improve capacities of agricultural production and marketing cooperatives to adopt local/international quality standards, improve products' competitiveness through improved quality and efficiency, and green branding of Palestinian made products
- vi. Supports teaching, promoting, advocacy, awareness and capacity building for climate smart agricultural principles and practices within the realms of agroecology
- vii. Promote treated Wastewater reuse in AG including institutional capacity building, awareness campaigns, training on reuse including technologies, safe practices, etc.

5. West Rural Bethlehem: develop projects that can improve and sustain the functions of the village of Battir and Suleiman pools as cultural and natural heritage sites. Actions will cover the following areas of intervention:

- i. Strengthen the managerial and operational aspects of the local enterprises for the development of the protected areas (e.g. by Creating a *local* conservation society that coordinates with the existing enterprises the operational and management aspects of the cultural/natural heritage sites, and promote future sustainable development activities through the development of an inclusive management plan).
- ii. Promote public participation/awareness towards protecting cultural and natural heritage.
- iii. Support agricultural cooperatives, especially women cooperatives, to reclaim land for agriculture, adopt agro-ecological principles in agriculture, fresh agricultural product branding and marketing.
- iv. Market the cultural heritage sites to local and inbound tourists.

6. Wadi Sa'ir: develop projects that can tackle the issue of land degradation resulting from overgrazing, unsustainable agricultural practices, and equally importantly from the stone quarry and stone cutting industries. Actions will cover the following areas of intervention:

- i. Advocate for and inclusive participation in drafting certification standards for licensing quarries and stone cutting factories and social participation in environmental monitoring and compliance policing.
- ii. Promote CSO-government-private sector dialogue to devise corrective measures for unlicensed quarries and stone cutting factories.
- iii. Public awareness campaigns regarding the impacts of pollution from stone quarries and stone cutting factories on human health and the environment.
- iv. Training in public involvement in environmental inspection and policing.
- v. Promote social acceptability to consume agricultural produce irrigated with treated wastewater and promote farmers willingness to invest in appropriate treated wastewater irrigation technologies.
- vi. Job creation in the agricultural sector
- vii. Selection of fodder crops suitable for irrigation with treated wastewater
- viii. Monitor land degradation/desertification; identify areas at risk of land degradation due to changes in climate/land use pressures;
- ix. develop using a participatory approach a management plan for the sustainable management of rehabilitated rangelands.

7. Wadi El-Quf Area: proposers are encouraged to develop projects that can either: (1) address the health and environmental issues of illegal e-waste recycling, or (2) implement actions outlined in the management plan of Wadi Al-Quf nature reserve which was developed by the EQA in participation with relevant stakeholders. Actions might cover the following areas of intervention:

- i. Inclusive Implementation of management programs and plans in Wadi Quf Natural reserve.
- ii. Identify tools and revenue mechanism (from multiple uses) of Wadi Quf natural reserve.
- iii. Improve knowledge and awareness of the impacts of chemicals and heavy metals on human and ecosystem health;
- iv. Advocate for policies and strategies to manage hazardous waste and hazardous chemicals;
- v. Promote alternatives to income from handling hazardous waste and heavy metals;
- vi. Promote enforcement of regulations on the import of e-waste through public participation.
- vii. Promote community based waste sorting, recycling or disposal
- viii. Monitoring and compliance of industrial facilities with environmental regulations and standards;
- ix. Develop a monitoring and database systems for hazardous wastes and chemicals.

Landscape / Seascape	Priority GEF Focal Areas (High to Low)
Jalbun Catchment area	1. Climate smart Agro-ecology 2. Management of hazardous chemicals (esp. AG Wastes) 3. Energy Access co-benefits 4. Community Landscape Conservation
Um Al-Rihan	1. Community Landscape Conservation 2. Energy access co- benefits 3. Climate smart Agro-ecology
Wadi Al-Badhan	1. Community Landscape Conservation 2. Climate smart Agro-ecology 3. Management of wastes (esp. AG Wastes and wastewater) 4. Energy Access co-benefits
Wadi El Zarqa El Elwi Cluster	1. Integrated projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Landscape Conservation ○ Climate smart Agro-ecology ○ Energy Access co-benefits
West Rural Bethlehem	1. Climate smart Agro-ecology 2. Community Landscape Conservation 3. Energy Access co-benefits
Wadi El-Quff Area	1. Management of Hazardous Chemicals 2. Community Landscape Conservation 3. Energy Access co-benefits 4. Climate smart agro-ecology
Wadi Saiir	1. Climate smart agro-ecology 2. Management of wastes 3. Rangeland development and protection from overgrazing/land degradation

Table 4. Priority GEF focal areas for each of the selected landscapes ranked according to priority for intervention to address societal needs, environmental risks and to pave the pathway for "a more sustainable than today" development.

4.2.3.1 Prioritizing GEF-SGP actions in the selected landscapes/seascapes

Due to the limited SGP budget, and to achieve greater impacts and more elaborate integration of projects, it is recommended here that GEF-SGP action to focus on 4 landscapes/seascapes. These are: (1) the Gaza Strip landscape/seascape; (2) the Jalbun Catchment Area; (3) Wadi El Zarqa El Elwi Cluster; and (4) Wadi El-Quff Area. Successful project typology with significant positive impacts on the environment and livelihoods of the local communities could be scaled-up and replicated in the other selected landscapes/seascapes from the other potential funding agencies identified in sections 3.3.3 and 4.2.4.

4.2.4 Synergies of SGP with other donor strategies; opportunities for co-financing

The GEF/SGP in the State of Palestine will continue to rely on GEF global fund for projects that can provide global environmental benefits that targets the GEF focal areas. Of the plans shall be considered during OP to enhance grantees/community or non-GEF resources co-financing as listed below (for details see section Resource mobilization Plan):

- Seeking cost sharing and/or funding opportunity from non-GEF resources
- Encourage Partnerships and Linkages
- Empowering NGO/CBO to strengthening their ability to seek fund
- Maximize community contribution

For the non-GEF resources, the grantees are encouraged to seek co-finance from other donors sharing with GEF/SGP similar development and environment concerns at the National and community levels which are diverse. For example, EU and Spain aid are targeting agriculture sector, FAO is targeting food security sector, UNICEF is targeting water and children sectors, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is targeting water treatment, USAID and World Bank are targeting water and wastewater treatment. Austria, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Netherlands aids are targeting water and sanitation, Spain, and the Netherlands are targeting Land and water development, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Italy, Sweden, United Kingdom, France are targeting projects in Area C. The potential strategic synergies between related donors and GEF/SGP –OP6 is detailed in Annex 5. The programme will help communities develop fundable proposals to these bilateral development partners in the State of Palestine.

Grantees will also be helped to look for funding through the “*effective area-based conservation measures*” and *international initiatives*; which are announced as part of the international conventions or congresses such as the ‘International Climate Initiative’ (ICI), ‘Support to Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conserved Areas and Territories’ (ICCAs)¹³, and others. The global ICCA Support Initiative is one of the most important, which was recognized by both the UNDP 2012-2020 Strategic Framework on Biodiversity and Ecosystems, as well as the GEF 6 strategic framework. The ICCAs through the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) is financed as a contribution to the achievement of Targets 11, 14 and 18 of the CBD Aichi 2020 framework, and will work in at least 26 countries at the global level. The contribution for this initiative is 12m Euros (\$16.3M) provided by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB). Jordan is among the 26 countries included in the Global ICCA Support Initiative, thus the State of Palestine can channel funding through Jordan under the cooperation of the transboundary and an inclusive regional agenda to be captured in both Jordan and the State of Palestine CPS’s. The Consortium announces its special attention to the 26 such countries, but by no means will neglect others as noted in the “ICCA Consortium Association-Summary Work Plan and Budget 2015”¹⁴.

The ICCAs is considered a solution to the internationally recognized targets on the good governance of protected areas, protection of traditional knowledge, and support towards sustainable development. This initiative is useful for scaling up and replicating successful GEF/SGP projects under biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation thematic areas and good governance projects implemented in a Protected/Conserved areas.

GEF/SGP shall give priority to those submitted project that consider implementing activities that cover both activities at landscape/seascape level under the GEF thematic areas and activities that respond to the cross cutting OP6 strategies including CSO- government dialogue platform, policy influence, promoting social inclusion, and communications. These activities may either be outside of the selected landscape/seascapes, or promote partnership building, networking and policy development with targeted areas. GEF/SGP will also consider encouraging the in-kind and cash contributions from the grantees themselves.

¹³ http://www.iccaconsortium.org/?page_id=2069 http://www.iccaconsortium.org/?page_id=2069

¹⁴ <http://www.iccaconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/2015-Consortium-Work-Plan-Budget-15-feb.pdf>
<http://www.iccaconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/2015-Consortium-Work-Plan-Budget-15-feb.pdf>

4.3 Grant-maker+ strategies

4.3.1. CSO-government Dialogue Platform

Although the road towards sustainable development in the State of Palestine is paved with challenges and obstacles, there is an opportunity for civil society to promote environmental issues and sustainable development in the territory. The advantages are that the political and institutional environment of the State of Palestine facilitates the work of civil society organizations (CSOs) who fund and implement environmental initiatives along with promoting environmental advocacy and awareness. The State of Palestine enjoys the presence of vibrant civil society that has been working long before the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority. These organizations work closely with the people they aim to help and deliver vital services especially to vulnerable communities who are often neglected. The unique role of civil society in Palestine and its established network is a clear advantage for the involvement of other organizations in the environmental sector. Despite the level of active promotion and advocacy of environmental and development issues in the State of Palestine, there are significant data and information gaps. This mainly refers to the lack of cooperation between stakeholders. However, the PNA is divided into various sector working groups such as Health, water environment, etc. Working groups are the main coordination forum among the PNA, international donors, and other stakeholders. The Environment Sector Working Group (EnSWG) fulfils several functions and tasks: 1) Supports the preparation of PNA future strategies, plans and programmes in the environmental sector and 2) Supports and reviews the implementation process of the PA national plans and its programmes at the national and sectoral level (www.ldf.ps/article.aspx?id=47). The implementing agency and the beneficiary would benefit from a more coordinated network and knowledge exchange such as the Palestinian Environmental NGOs Network- Friends of Earth Palestine (PENGON-FoE Palestine). PENGON-FoE Palestine is a coordinating body among different Palestinian NGOs working in the field of environment. It aims to serve Palestinian environmental issues by coordinating endeavours between the member organizations, strengthening and building the efficiency within each organization, and enhancing relations within the Network as well as with other organizations domestically and abroad, such as local government agencies and international environmental organizations and advocacy groups (<http://www.pengon.org/>).

Environmental issues in the State of Palestine are not prioritized and remain a low-level concern at both levels; the national and local. In order to raise awareness on the importance of environmental planning and to promote effective engagement of civil society and CSO-government, dialogue platforms should be established at the local, national and regional level. The platform such as workshops at national, local and regional levels, as well as media, and networking; amongst others should aim at:

- Increase the exchange of data and information at national, regional and international such as Seeds of Knowledge Booklet;
- Promote technical and scientific co-operation, transfer of knowledge of research and management facilities;
- Exchange consultation of personnel, and information sharing within regional neighbouring countries among Palestinian institutions especially South-South exchanges of experiences;

4.3.2 Policy influence

Through the engagement and participation in dialogue consultation process with policy makers, GEF and the existing Palestinian networks, this will bring their experiences and lessons learned from the programme, to influence the formulation of national and regional policies.

In addition, the stakeholders¹⁵ jointly with GEF will develop position papers and policy guidance documents, as well as assessing the status and setting the needs, to feed into the national and regional level consultation and the formulation of bylaws, policies and strategies.

4.3.3 Promoting social inclusion

Promote women's empowerment and gender equality:

Women empowerment and gender equality were included in the grant making strategies inside and outside the landscapes/seascapes (see grant making strategies subsection of the document). We reiterate herein the following principles that should be considered in grant making:

1. Include gender criteria in all projects and enhance gender mainstreaming among SGP Grantees.
2. Promote equal participation of women and men in capacity building and technology transfer
3. Support project(s) that conduct gender mainstreaming training for potential grantees.
4. Support the networking and creation of women organizations
5. GEF funded projects should conduct gender sensitive analysis of project impacts.
6. Support action through grant-making that help with ways to engage citizens, especially women and youth, on sustainability issues, develop and/or harmonize regulations and laws on environmental management, work on balanced development and management of natural resources and environmental services, and grow markets for sustainable products and services benefiting women.

Empower indigenous people:

In the project making strategy, most areas of intervention were designed to:

1. Promote local stakeholders participation in developing actions that correspond to their expressed needs that were identified in the scoping exercise (see section 4.2);
2. Promote job creation and income generation for the local community while sustaining the resource base that these communities traditionally relied upon;
3. Ensure local community participation in envisioning development outcomes, designing actions for the different interventions, utilizing traditional and conventional knowledge especially in the climate-smart agro-ecology area, project implementation, and monitoring of project outcome;
4. Supports teaching, promoting, advocacy, awareness and capacity building for climate smart agricultural principles and practices within the realms of agroecology; and
5. Networking of community CSOs and cooperatives with socially responsible enterprises to contribute to the improvement of the business environment and the integration of the often inform agro-sector and conservation sector economies.

¹⁵ The major stakeholders are the Palestinian Networks (e.g. PENGON, PENGO, EWASH), sector Working Groups (e.g. Agricultural Sector Group, Environment Sector Group, etc), and National Committees (e.g. National Committee on Desertification, Biodiversity, etc)

4.3.4 Knowledge management plan

The GEF/SGP programme will capture the lessons learnt, innovative ideas and good practices generated from its grant projects through the Annual Country Report (ARC) that the NC supposed to prepared with support of the NFG based on the generated projects' final reports; in particular the sections describe the success story and lessons learnt behind each accomplishment. The type of knowledge that will be gathered will vary according to the outcomes of the projects implemented during the operation period, but it will mainly focus on the following:

1. Status and need of local communities and its neighboring environment at landscape/seascape level within GEF/SGP thematic areas.
2. Lessons Learnt at landscape/seascape level.
3. Innovative ideas and technologies and their operation mechanisms
4. Replicable and scalable project ideas.
5. Impact of the project results on the GEF/SGP thematic areas including biodiversity conservation, and sustainable utilization, agro-ecology and climate innovative interventions, low emission and carbon fixation/sequestration, agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes management, social inclusion and gender empowerment, hazardous chemicals, Indigenous Peoples fellowships and others

The knowledge generated/gathered will be shared and disseminated with civil society, government agencies, and other related stakeholders through final workshops conducted upon completion of each project (by the grantee partners) and at the end of the operational year of a number of projects (by SGP-NC). This can also be disseminated through media (Radio and TV), social media, advocacy campaigns, newspapers, posters, info graphs and others. GEF/SGP will encourage grantee partners to use the describe dissemination activities as part of their project activities. Knowledge fairs, face-to-face events, field visit, demonstration sites, and mentoring schemes and learning projects can all be used to encourage the exchange of knowledge among the grantee partners. This can be done after the submission of the semi-annual progress reports and after the completion of the projects.

Each grantee partner will be requested to contribute to the global reach for citizen practice based knowledge programme; mainly the digital library of community innovations, and the south-south community innovation exchange.

4.3.5 Communications Strategy

A communications strategy should be at the heart of GEF/SGP program in the State of Palestine. Therefore, an effective communication strategy should be implemented through appropriate action plan and means of communication that aim to increase effectiveness of GEF efforts, better able to leverage its funding, and to promote participation, build relationships and foster partnerships; as well as to articulate the contribution of the SGP to the national priorities, GEF programming, and UNDP strategies. The strategy will focus on establishing permanent and sustainable mechanisms of dialogue, and ensuring participation of all of the relevant stakeholders in the Palestinian society. To establish a systematic approach to ensure consistent and an effective communication action plan throughout the entire partnership structure, GEF should focus on the following activates/actions:

1. Inform all of the related stakeholders about OP6 through workshop, meetings, briefing session's seminars, and national and local dialogue initiative.
2. Create and implement a media strategy including media audit, journalist education, promotion of success stories, media training, and social media
3. Engage with new stakeholders such as the private sector, policy makers, and NGOs through targeted programs to facilitate partnerships, raise awareness, and increase support
4. Enhance the capacities of the stakeholders through Training sessions on proposal development/project idea development, integration to achieve multiple impacts from the same project in different thematic areas.
5. Enhance the capacities of the stakeholders through Training sessions on M&E

6. Networking with other donors and key partners for complementary funds
7. Identify and build alliances with relevant groups in other sector which have strategic gain for GEF.
8. Develop a communications plan in every GEF project, since the impact of GEF funding and support takes place on the local level

5. Expected results framework

Twenty two projects in total are targeted within OP6. This is about \$1.1 million USD at the maximum of \$50K USD per project. SGP Palestine will get \$400k from SGP CORE funding. The expected grantee in kind and cash contribution are \$180K USD. It is important therefore that SGP Palestine should raise \$520K USD from other sources. The SGP resource mobilization plan within the 4 years of SGP 6 is outlined in section 7. Opportunities for co-financing through synergies with other donor agency strategies and programs are outlined in sections 3.5 and 4.2.4 and further details were also provided in Annex 5. Co-finance with CPMT and UNDP Country office also offers the potential to bridge the funding GAP. Overall, we believe that there is a good potential for the program to raise \$1.1 million USD within the 4 years of SGP 6 implementation.

OP6 project components	CPS targets	Activities	Indicators	Means of verification
<p>SGP OP6 Component 1: <i>Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation:</i></p> <p>1.1 SGP country programmes improve conservation and sustainable use, and management of important terrestrial and coastal/marine ecosystems through implementation of community based landscape/seascape approaches in approximately 50 countries</p>	<p>Three mainly forested landscapes in the West Bank (Wadi El-Zarqa - Elelwi cluster; Wadi El-Qoff Area) recognized as key biodiversity areas.</p> <p>Two key Biodiversity areas in the Gaza Strip (Wadi Gaza and al Mawasi)</p> <p>Simultaneously improve the sustainability of the protected area, reduce threats to biodiversity, and generate revenue streams for the local communities from the sustainable utilization of environmental services.</p>	<p>4-6 projects.</p>	<p>See Annex 4 and 5</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p>
<p>SGP OP6 Component 2: <i>Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology:</i></p> <p>2.1 Agro-ecology practices incorporating measures to reduce CO2 emissions and enhancing</p>	<p>Jalun catchment area; Wadi El-Zarqa -Elelwi cluster; Khan Younis and Eastern Rahaf.</p> <p>Promote active participation of women and youth and integrate actions from the climate-smart agro-</p>	<p>6-8 projects</p>	<p>Target # of hectares</p> <p>Landscape/seascape baseline assessment indicators (TBD)</p> <p>See Annex 4 and 5</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes</p>

resilience to climate change tried and tested in protected area buffer zones and forest corridors and disseminated widely in at least 30 priority countries	ecology, energy access co-benefits, and local to global chemical coalition's focal areas to conserve AG landscapes, and to support income-generating opportunities and employment, especially for the least economically empowered groups in the areas of environmentally responsible green agriculture and agricultural food processing.			(SEPLs) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 3:</u> <i>Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits:</i></p> <p>3.1 Low carbon community energy access solutions successfully deployed in 50 countries with alignment and integration of these approaches within larger frameworks such as SE4ALL initiated in at least 12 countries</p>	<p>Jalburn catchment area; <u>Um Al-Rihan landscape</u>. Innovative on-farm demonstration activities of renewable energy technologies. C sequestration in dryland soils</p> <p>Research Co-benefits such as resilience, ecosystem effects, income, health and others rigorously estimated.</p> <p>local population dependence on forest wood to meet their energy needs is reduced.</p>	3 projects	3 typologies of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations for scaling up and replication 15resource-poor farmer households achieving energy access with locally adapted community solutions, with co-benefits estimated and valued ¹⁶	AMR, country reports AMR, global database, country reports Special country studies ¹⁷ Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 4:</u> <i>Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions:</i></p> <p>4.1 Innovative community-based tools and approaches demonstrated,</p>	Gaza Strip; Jalburn catchment area; and Wadi El-Qoff Area pesticide management solid waste management (plastics, e-waste, medical waste and so on), heavy metals management, and wastewater management	5 projects	Target # beneficiaries (gender, youth, indigenous peoples) See Annex 4	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)

¹⁶ Only applies to lead countries in this strategic initiative

¹⁷ Only applies to lead countries in this strategic initiative

<p>deployed and transferred, with support from newly organized or existing coalitions in at least 20 countries for managing harmful chemicals and waste in a sound manner</p>				Country Programme Strategy Review
<p>SGP OP6 Component 5: <i>CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms (Grant-makers+):</i></p> <p>5.1 SGP supports establishment of “CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms”, leveraging existing and potential partnerships, in at least 50 countries</p>	<p>Gaza Strip; Wadi El-Qoff Area; projects outside landscape/seascape</p> <p>Support and develop CSO-government dialogue platforms such as sectoral working groups in sectors where there are pressing gaps such as hazardous waste management by-laws, policies and strategies, energy policies and strategies; domestic solid-waste management bylaws, and development and adaptation of standards and certification in green/organic agriculture and treated wastewater quality reuse standards</p>	<p><i>Global level OP6 priority</i></p> <p><i>Cross-cutting priority for the CPS at the national level</i></p>	<p>Target 5“CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms* initiated</p> <p>* especially needed in the Gaza Strip</p> <p>PENGON, PENGO, EWASH, Environmental Sector Working Group, Energy Sector Working Group</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>
<p>SGP OP6 Component 7: 7.2 South-South Community Innovation Exchange Platform promotes south-south exchanges on global environmental issues in at least 20 countries</p>	<p>(examples of tested wastewater technologies, renewable energy, and processes of social inclusion/adaptive management in protected landscapes)</p>			<p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>

Table 5. Consistency with SGP OP6 global programme components



6. Monitoring & Evaluation plan

The M&E plan is required at the project level as an integral part of the project cycle in GEF/SGP implementation in the State of Palestine. The goal of participatory project M&E is to assess progress in project implementation and achievement of results, helps to ensure project success and sustainability, and at the same time promote community ownership of GEF/SGP projects. Hence, the M&E activities of any given project should be well planned, with guidance and capacity development provided to grantees where needed to support participatory M&E and adaptive management.

All GEF/SGP projects must incorporate participatory M&E into their design and implementation. Each approved GEF/SGP project must include an M&E plan with appropriate indicators which are the basic tools used to measure and/or assess the progress and results of a project. The project shall be monitored and evaluated as per the identified specific indicators of performance for each output in the logical framework. The set of indicators built for each project should be in line with the 'Country Strategy' targets and indicators set in Table 6 (Consistency with SGP OP6 global programme components) within selected landscapes/seascape as well as aim to contribute to the global indicators sets discussed and provided in the OP6 global PIF and PRODIC.

The information collected and analyzed in the course of participatory M&E is organized and presented in quarterly progress reports, semi-annual and eventually in the final evaluation of the project. Submission of project progress and final reports to SGP National Coordinator (NC) is part of the GEF/SGP grantees' responsibilities under the grant agreement, and is also required for grant disbursements. The information collected and analyzed in the course of participatory M&E in The State of Palestine should be organized and presented in semi-annual progress reports and Annual Country Report (ACR) by the NC after the revision of the National Focal Group (NFG) and the UNDP Country Office (CO) and then submitted to the CPMT (Central Programme Management Team) as an AMR (Annual Monitoring Report) by the GEF/SGP -NC. These reports will form the basis of the annual global reporting to be carried out by the CPMT for GEF. The NFG shall meet minimum twice per year; one meeting is dedicated to M&E and adaptive management at end of grant year to come out with a Strategic Country Portfolio Review.

While planning the M&E indicators the grantee partners should build their concrete and fully budgeted M&E plan to include smart, specific, achievable and attributable, relevant and realistic, time-bound and tractable indicators.

While the project proposal is being developed, care shall be taken to ensure that measurable outputs and outcomes are detailed therein. All reporting will be done against these.

- It will be ensured that each approved GEF/SGP project should include an M&E plan with appropriate indicators. The NGOs will be guided to include M&E costs in their project budgets to ensure that the grantees are able to carry out their M&E plans.
- The reporting formats will have sections for feedback from various stakeholders involved.
- The reporting formats will encourage introspection and reflections on learning by the implementing NGOs.

While implementing the project, grantee partners will submit quarterly reports, giving details of activities and progress, measured against targets, as also statement of income and expenditure.

- The NC will analyze these reports and keep track of the projects and give feedback to the grantee organization to make online corrections where necessary. The NC shall also inform the NFG about the progress of the projects, problems faced, etc.
- Each project will be visited preferably once in three months, or definitely before the release of the second and third installments. Where possible, the visit will be undertaken by a team of two persons, one is the NC and the other from the NFG (preferable with relevant expertise in the

project field). The visiting team will interact extensively with the implementing organization and stakeholders, and will also see the physical progress. A report, in a pre-decided format, shall be made of the visit. Feedback, comments and suggestions will be given in writing to the organization.

- The release of the second and third installments shall be dependent on satisfactory reports from the organization and the visiting team.

In the final evaluation of the project, the grantee organization shall prepare a final report on completion of the project, where the project will be evaluated in terms of impact and will also reflect on issues like reliability, scaling up; sustainability, etc. The stakeholders will be given the opportunity to reflect on and evaluate the project, its outcomes and learning in a workshop mode.

SGP project evaluations in the state of Palestine will include a participatory component. Participatory monitoring and assessment involves early consultation with the community members and stakeholders about project design, the problems to be addressed, potential courses of action community resources which can be brought to bear and the role of external support, participatory research to complete baseline information, participatory definition and agreement on project concept, consensus about the project objectives and activities.

Both Monitoring and Evaluation require information about the current state of relevant features of the community or locality usually focusing on the environmental problem in the GEF focal areas and corresponding operational programme before the project activity begins.. This information is normally used to identify and construct the indicators of the project progress and accomplishments can then be compared to the baseline and hence evaluated.

While a monitoring and evaluation framework should be systematic, it should also allow for unexpected occurrences and results, which is especially true in the State of Palestine due to political instability.

M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible parties	Budget source	Timing
Country Programme Strategy elaboration	Framework for identification of community projects	NC, NFG, country stakeholders, grantee	Covered under preparatory grant	At start of operational phase
Annual Country Programme Strategy Review	Learning; adaptive management	NC, NFG, CPMT	Covered under country programme operating costs	Reviews will be conducted on annual basis to ensure CPS is on track in achieving its outcomes and targets, and to take decisions on any revisions or adaptive management needs
NFG Meetings for ongoing review of project results and analysis	Assess effectiveness of projects, portfolios, approaches; learning; adaptive management	NC, NFG, UNDP	Covered under country programme operating costs	Minimum twice per year, one dedicated to M&E and adaptive management at end of grant year
Annual Country Report (ACR)	Enable efficient reporting to NFG	NC presenting to NFG	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per year in (depends on completion of granted projects)
Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) Survey	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT	NC submission to CPMT	Covered under country programme	Once per year(depends on completion of granted

(based on ACR)	and GEF; presentation of results to donor		operating costs	projects) after revision of the ACR
Strategic Country Portfolio Review	Learning; adaptive management for strategic development of Country Programme	NFG	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per operational phase

Table 6. M&E Plan at the Country Programme Level

7. Resource mobilisation plan

The GEF/SGP in the State of Palestine will continue to rely on GEF global fund for projects that can provide global environmental benefits related to GEF focal areas. Meanwhile, the programme shall mobilize any other potential resources available. The GEF/SGP in the State of Palestine shall seek to implement the following plans to increase the number, size and impacts of its projects while continuing to pursue GEF objectives in increasing cost sharing to reach SGP co-finance target.

7.1 Seeking cost sharing and/or funding opportunity from non-GEF resources

From the GEF/SGP previous experience during OP5, the funds that were secured and channeled to SGP mechanism from other donors namely the EU/NGOs programme and Belgium Government aid formed almost 55.6% of the total budget allocated for GEF/SGP OP5. It is important to note that the strategic objectives of those donors were in line with the thematic area targeted by GEF/SGP during OP5 and thus found a niche for funding under the GEF /SGP mechanism. Hence, GEF in the State of Palestine will keep tracking other donors that have common interest with GEF Palestine, in order to attract funding both projects under landscape/seascape approach or those outside the landscape/seascape (up to 30%).

Of the most important parties is the UNDP/PAPP which has strong commitment in cost sharing for GEF/SGP projects. PAPP is a special programme of UNDP operating to improve the social and economic conditions of the Palestinian people by identifying their social and economic needs and by establishing concrete projects to that end. For the last 30 years, PAPP has been working towards achieving these objectives in its wide-ranging and extensive infrastructure, poverty reduction and governance portfolios and associated projects. PAPP has recently streamlined its development interventions towards specific outcomes that best represent and express PAPP's comparative advantage and corresponding national priorities and MDGs and SDGs. There are several areas where GEF/SGP can work in line with UNDP strategic frameworks as set earlier (Annex 5).

It is important to note that UNDP developed a report in November 2013 that covered the issue of access and readiness for climate change finance. The report identifies the potential to access Climate Change funds to reach around 50 to 100 million per year including loans from Investment Banks. The report also identifies the major climate change funds that are available and could be of great potential for The State of Palestine, international funds such as Green Climate Fund (GCF), the climate adaptation Funds, the Clean Development Mechanisms Fund and the GEF funds. The report also



identifies current bilateral funds, such as International Climate Initiative (Germany), International Climate Fund (UK), Islamic development Banks.

UNDP and SGP will continue to work with EQA and other PA institutions to support their capacity building for Climate change including readiness for Climate Finance, in addition to the development of the first National Communication Report (will be published by mid-2016), which will be a major outcome to mainstream the environment and climate change issues in national policies and strategies. These reports should be revised by GEF/SGP to find opportunities to SGP to serve as a delivery mechanism from any of the mentioned initiatives especially under its focal area 2: Innovative climate –smart agro-ecology ; sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes) and focal area 3: Energy access co-benefits; support trans boundary shifts towards a low emission.

Other non-GEF resources of potential to support GEF/SGP are diverse including UN- agencies, EU and EU countries aid programmes, relevant international conventions such as Rio-conventions, international initiatives such as ICCAs and ICI and others. The potential strategic synergies between related multi-and bilateral donors and GEF/SGP –OP6 is detailed in Annex 5.

7.2 Encourage Partnerships and Linkages

GEF/SGP in Palestine shall work to strengthen partnership and linkages with different potential partners in Gaza Strip and West Bank, particularly those sharing similar development and environment concerns at the National and community levels. In this regards, GEF/SGP Palestine will launch an introductory workshop about GEF/SGP focal areas and strategic objectives for the OP6 for both potential donors and potential grantees from civil society organizations. This step shall be accomplished before opening the GEF/SGP call for the OP6. GEF/SGP will expand its grantees base so as to enjoy a diverse set of projects.

The GEF/SGP shall build strategic partnerships with national government agencies with those that were not explored before such as the partnership with Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, and others. The synergies between SGP and national priorities of these agencies were mentioned before under Table 2. The private sector mainly those concerned with environmental protection and sustainability will be targeted for strategic partnership.

7.3 Empowering NGO/CBO to strengthen their ability to seek fund

GEF/SGP programme will encourage the NGO/CBOs to find co-financing for the project ideas submitted to GEF/SGP- OP6 by giving this as a priority while ranking the projects to be funded. Both cash and in-kind co-funding will be considered priority. GEF/SGP in the State of Palestine will highlight the relevant bilateral donors to the grantees in its introductory workshop (noted earlier) and how to access them. During this workshop a special session will be dedicated for increasing awareness of the GEF/SGP grantees in filling GEF applications.

7.4 Maximize community contribution

To reinforce community ownership to the GEF/SGP project intervention and sustainability, GEF/SGP Palestine also needs to maximize partnership and ownership which was requested by its grantees to contribute to the projects budget by not less than 10% in the form of providing in-kind contribution; e.g. technical support, venue, project supervision personnel and etc. Few others, however, may offer cash contributions out of their core operational budget GEF/SGP will ensure to mobilize the

community resources, mainly through involvement of governorates, municipalities and village councils where in-kind contributions could be in the form of venues for training, technical expertise, land, service equipment, etc.

8. Risk Management Plan

Describe identified risk	Degree of risk (low, medium, high)	Probability of risk (low, medium, high)	Risk mitigation measure foreseen	Risk Tracking indicators
Wastewater reuse in Agriculture	low	low		
Reduced ground water recharge from surface water harvesting	low	low		
Conflict over Changing land use patterns in protected areas and in rangelands	Medium	Medium	Reduce probability through inclusive development, adaptive governance, and providing benefits to all stakeholders in the local surrounding communities.	Level of social inclusion and participation in the development of management plans.
Inadequate levels of Environmental inspection and policing	Medium	Medium	Avoid social conflict through awareness/training	Conflict between polluting industries and adjacent populations
Health risk associated with Human consumption of agricultural produce especially raw vegetables	Medium	Medium	Use subsurface drip irrigation techniques; use medium-high quality treated wastewater	Changes in Degree of incidents of waterborne diseases especially children diarrhea

Table 7. Description of risks identified in OP6

Risks will be tracked during the implementation of the OP6 CPS and reviewed during the CPS Annual review. At that time the degree of risk, or probability of risk may be adjusted. Identified risks may also be removed and new risks added if necessary with appropriate mitigation measures identified.



NSC members involved in OP6 CPS development, review and endorsement	Signatures

Annex 1
GEF/SGP Granted Projects in Relation to OP5 Country Strategy Outcomes

Outcomes (OP5 country strategy)	Projects implemented in response	Source & amount of Budget (USDS)	Name of grantee	Project site	Main accomplishments	Sust.	Rep./s cal.
Outcome 1: Community practices in Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity/ agro-biodiversity promoted and up-scaled in the mountain and coastal ecosystems	Palestinian Forests Sustainability and Rehabilitation: Al Qarin Protected Area in the Southern West Bank and Umm at Tut Protected Area in the Northern West Bank within the Mediterranean Eco-system (PFSR)	GEF-Core Fund. 40,000\$	The Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem (ARIJ)	West Bank Hebron and Jenin Governorates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Identify the biotic and a biotic components and their interrelations within the targeted Pas. -Assess the status of natural forest resources conservation and management programs. -Analyze the landscape and land use/land cover of targets areas using GIS &RS techniques and subsequently interrelate findings with degradation and causes behind degradation. -Analyze the vegetation cover changes that have taken place since 1984 using NDVI and analysis of satellite images. -Economic feasibility study for both areas (Ecosystem Services) -Increase awareness of local communities on the value of forest resources sustainable practices and methods of utilization. -Create a draft management plan for the targeted Pas based on information derived from the above activities. 		
	Conservation and sustainable use of plant diversity, and wild resources of Palestinian indigenous crops.	GEF-Core Fund. 35,000\$	Biodiversity &Environment Research Center	West Bank Nablus Governorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Conserve local and global environment through conserve threatened 60 plant species and protect biodiversity through increasing the green area. -Conduct theoretical and practical training on Plant Extraction procedures, Anthocyanin Test, Antibacterial screen, Protease and protease inhibitor screens, Antifungal screen-yeast Inhabitation screen, Roundworm lethality Assay 		
	Emergency action to save the date palmplantations from infestation by the red palm Weevil " <i>Rhynchophorun ferrugineus</i> "	GEF-Core Fund. 37,500\$	A-Ahlya association for Development of Palms and Dates	Gaza Strip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -training in identifying the red palm weevil and its effect on palm sector for 150 male and female farmers, 90technical workers and 15 agriculture engineers. -Field survey of 4000m² of cultivated land for data collection. - Treating the infected trees -Raise awareness through radio and TV interviews -Distribute 170 pheromone traps to monitor the behavior of the pest. 		

Outcomes (OP5 country strategy)	Projects implemented in response	Source & amount of Budget (USDS)	Name of grantee	Project site	Main accomplishments	Sust .	Rep./s cal.
Outcome 2: Local community best practices in utilizing renewable energy forms; and adopting of less polluting transport modalities upgraded and replicated	Capacity Development for the community on the importance of biogas and its contribution to climate change	GEF-Core Fund 27,000\$	Palestinian Wildlife Society	West Bank Bethlehem governorate	-Construct 20 biogas units “based on Thomas Calhane design” -Distribute 15 biogas units for farmers and five biogas units for schools in Jericho and Tubas Governorates.		
	Using solar energy for operating electrical chairs for persons with disabilities	GEF- Core Fund 28,000\$	Peace Club for persons with disabilities	Gaza Strip	-21 functioning wheel chairs’ batteries; can be charged via the common electricity grid. Each functioning motorized wheel chair produce 0.5 kilogram per day, and 183 kgmco2 per year		
	Climate Change Mitigation Initiative in OPT; towards a Sustainable Charcoal Production in Jenin Governorate.	GEF- Core Fund 40,000\$ Co-finance – cash 100,000\$ -in kind 10,000\$	World Vision - JWG	West Bank Jerusalem governroate	Local producers in 11 area villages will be trained in using the technology and a manual published describing its use. the project could ultimately reduce greenhouse gas emissions by hundreds of tons annually and create a cleaner, healthier way of life for charcoal producers and their families		
	Utilizing solar energy in lightening two schools in Jinsafut	GEF- Core Fund 44,200\$	Jinsafut charitable Society	West Bank Qalqiliya governorate	-Conduct 3 educational training workshops on climate change and renewable energy, community focus groups to solicit the community, and teachers’ opinion on the use of renewable energy. -Carry out cost benefit analysis for the use of solar energy in lightening the project targeted areas -Install 94 solar panels with capacity “22KWp” for two schools		
Utilizing Solar Energy to empower vulnerable households in marginalized areas and improving their living conditions in Rawaeen community in Bethlehem Governorate and Um Zaytoon in	Belgium co-fund 34,830\$	Renewable Energy Unit (REU)-Hebron University (HU)	West Bank Area C	- The solar systems have been installed and served the last 6 families in Rawaeen community south east Bethlehem and the only 3 families that live in Um Zayton community to the east of Hebron governorate, both in area C. -Professional training was conducted to the selected people from each community to maintain the project sustainability; -Four main workshops had been conducted for the community people to raise their awareness regarding the new installed solar energy systems, and how to keep the system working through enhancing the			

Outcomes (OP5 country strategy)	Projects implemented in response	Source & amount of Budget (USDS)	Name of grantee	Project site	Main accomplishments	Sust.	Rep./s cal.
	Hebron Governorate.				knowledge regarding the energy conservation; -The project helps the community people to improve their living conditions and helps them to improve their health education and increase the production by using milk shakers.		
	Contribute to solve the climate Change problem in the area of Al-Masafer/Baninaim/Hebron East through creating environmental and integrated ecosystem that depend on using solar energy, water harvesting and increasing the green area.	Belgium co-fund 35,000\$	Baninaim Charitable Society	West Bank Hebron Governorate	Install 4solar units Construction of a cistern with capacity of about 4800 cup of water, and area of about 380 m2 in AL- Masafer Constructing greenhouses for farmers of area about 5000 m2, and planting not less than 5000 trees. Conducting environmental awareness program for people of local community, to raise their awareness about usage of alternative energy and water harvesting		
	Contribute to promote environmental awareness of rural women in the Deir Al-Balah Governorate and enable them to invest in production of alternative sources of energy from agricultural waste for the purpose of domestic use and promote income	Belgium co-fund 34,000\$	Palestinian Association for Development and Reconstruction (PADR)	Gaza Strip	103 women received 16 theoretical training hours on the environment and biomass production in three locations as follows: 40 women (two groups) at Al Sawarha area in the western part of Deir El Balah at Women Rural Society. 38 women (two groups) at Al Bureij Camp in the middle area at Union of Agriculture Work Committees. 25 women (one group) at Deir Al Balah Refugee Camp at Union of Palestinian Women Works Committees. 103 women received a practical training in the three mentioned localities on biomass production. The Brochure is prepared as a draft. The equipment and tools for producing biomass distributed for 40 women from Sawarha area to start the production process of Biomass		

Outcomes (OP5 country strategy)	Projects implemented in response	Source & amount of Budget (USDS)	Name of grantee	Project site	Main accomplishments	Sust.	Rep./s cal.
	Lighting Nuseirat Popular Market Using Alternative Energy “Solar Cells” for a Safe Environment	Belgium co-fund 50,000\$	Karmel Cultural and Social Development Association	Gaza Strip	An introduction meeting was held with the local committees, Nusirat Municipality and the NGOs.		
	Lighting El-Ashreen street by using solar Energy in Al Nuseirat	Belgium co-fund 50,000\$	Al-Mustaqbal Association for Development and Environment	Gaza Strip	A workshop was organized to introduce the project to the local community, municipality and NGOs.		
	Towards a Sustainable and Environment Friendly Charcoal Production in Yabad Cluster	Belgium Co-fund 80,000\$	World Vision-JWG	West Bank	a local committee of charcoal producers was formulated and a committee coordinator was selected. In addition, a meeting took place with the Governor to update him about the project and this phase and get the required support. Moreover, two meetings were conducted with Yabad municipality to agree on the scope of work and some details and learn from previous lessons.		
Outcome 3: Local community capacity to implement sustainable land and watershed management developed for minimizing land degradation impacts	Preservation and treatment of soil degradation in Al Dhriyya through implementation of soil preservation techniques and water harvesting	GEF- Core Fund 40,000\$	Land Research Center (LRC)	West Bank Hebron governorate	- Rehabilitate rangeland (of 100 dunum) near the watershed, plain fields on the lower side of the watershed (70 meters of gully). Plant 50 dunum with field crops by using 750 kg of seeds. Plant trees on 10 dunum out of 200 seedlings. -Plant 40 dunum with pastoral plants by using 1000 seedlings. -Construct retaining wall near the watersheds of 800 m ² . -Place 150 m ² of rock blocks in the plains adjacent to the watersheds. -Rehabilitate 70 m ² of water tracks.		
	Rehabilitation of the stone cutting area through the increase of the vegetation cover and planting of medicinal and indigenous plants.	GEF- Core Fund 32,000\$	Bani Naim Charitable Society	West Bank Hebron governorate	xxxx		
Outcome4: Local community	Weqaya project, which aims to raise the quality of the olive oil	GEF-Core Fund	Juhoud for community and Rural	West Bank Ramallah governorate	-Conduct a study about the farming practices and habits in Palestinian community and its effect on olive oil production, farmers practices to develop their olive oil production		

Outcomes (OP5 country strategy)	Projects implemented in response	Source & amount of Budget (USDS)	Name of grantee	Project site	Main accomplishments	Sust.	Rep./s cal.
capacity for environmentally sound management of POPs developed	production for export purposes	48,000\$ Co-finance – cash 10,000\$ -in kind 2,000\$	Development		-Conduct awareness program based on a study about the effects of pesticide use on human health and environment and farmer's ability to market their produce cost-effectively (20 farmers/10 training hours). This advocate by radio and TV advertising in the local media -Distribute harvesting tools needed for harvest and storage such as ladders, boxes, combs, stanless steel containers, etc.		
Multi focal projects	Raise environmental awareness among school students in Gaza Strip through the adaption of the green school model	GEF-Core Fund 25,000\$	Palestinian farmers association	Gaza Strip	-Enhance the capacity of students and teachers on Environmental leadership and awareness. -Establish 2 Eco gardens, 1 Eco-Exhibitions at targeted school, -Found Eco clubs and 2 group of environmental leaders from students and teachers.		
	Raise environmental awareness among school students in Palestine through the adaption of the green school model	GEF-Core Fund 47,800\$	Association for Integrated Rural Development (AIRD)	West Bank Ramallah governorate	-Enhance the capacity of students and teachers on Environmental leadership and awareness. -Establish 3 Eco gardens, 3 eco-libraries, 2Eco-Exhibitions at targeted school, -Found Eco clubs and 3 group of environmental leaders from students and teachers.		
	Demonstration of a training farm for sustainable environmental practices	GEF-Core Fund 40,000\$	Ma'an Development Centre	West Bank Ramallah governorate	-Conduct 12 training workshops for 240 – 300 farmers /6 community Outreach meetings for community members, especially farmers, women and students.		
	Towards Environmental Governance Supported by Media Coverage in Gaza Strip.	GEF-Core Fund 35,000\$	The Palestinian Centre for Training and Development	West Bank Hebron governorate	- 3 Training courses and 10 workshops in topics related to environmental governance, traditional media and new social media. - 12 Field visits to the environmental association and other related sectors, besides the places that suffer from environmental problems to know more about the related problem. -Implement 5 radio episodes and 10 spots in topics related to environmental governance, role of media, media laws and rules of the Palestinian environmental law. -Set up a blog and YouTube link to publish the documented reports and electronic newsletters (4). -Study day about the environmental circumstances and role of media.		
	Environmental Knowledge Fair Project.	GEF-Core Fund	Institute of Modern Media (IMM), Al Quds	West Bank Ramallah governorate	-Release the Knowledge Fair articles in Al-Ayyam and Al-Quds Newspapers. The event will also be covered on AQTV and the -Hona AlQuds Community Media Network, operated by the IMM. --Final		

Outcomes (OP5 country strategy)	Projects implemented in response	Source & amount of Budget (USDS)	Name of grantee	Project site	Main accomplishments	Sust.	Rep./s cal.
		50,000\$	University		report sum up the project implementation, participants, results and lessons- learnt.		
Cross cutting program Institutional Capacity Development	Environmental leaders towards a sustainable community	EU fund 17,400\$	NATUF Organization for Environment and Community Development	Gaza Strip	-Capacity building program for 20 Environmental leaders -Motivate and supervise the targeted Environmental leaders to carry and implement 4small initiatives: -Conduct training courses in the fields of climate change (CC) and its adaptation and mitigation techniques on the local and international level and environmental sciences in relation to CC.		
	Capacity Building for Environmental Governance and Management: Quarries as a Case Study in the West Bank	EU fund 37,600\$	The Applied Research Institute- Jerusalem (ARIJ)	West Bank Bethlehem governorate	-Consultation sessions that identify the needs and expectations of policymakers. -A policy brief, to update policy-makers on the progress and results of the project where all interested organizations and individuals, national organizations and the international bodies are subscribed to. -Utilize websites and social media for dissemination purposes including project publications.		
	Enhancing Palestinian Environmental Awareness and improving public participation in Environmental Governance	EU Fund 34,800\$ Co-financing –in kind 8,722.5\$	Ma'an Development Centre / Gaza	Gaza Strip	-Community Advocating Committees formulated. -Empower women and men for active participation with the key governmental and nongovernmental organizations influencing the environment in the Gaza Strip.		
	Environmental Town Hall Debates	EU Fund 35,000\$ Co-financing cash 9,400\$	Al Quds University	West Bank Ramallah governorate	-NGOs/ CBOs and Environment Quality Authority (EQA) have actively participated in a consultation workshop identifying key issues of Palestinian environmental sector. -Ten GEF grantees and other NGOs working in the environmental sector have increased media capacity. -Civil society awareness is raised through ten TV reports on the most pressing environmental issues. -Public dialogue on environmental issues is stimulated through ten town hall debates triggering discussion between decision- makers, NGOs and the local community; -Pressure is applied on decision makers in favor of environmental governance through the broadcasting of the filmed town hall debates and their online accessibility.		
	Strengthening	EU Fund	Juzoor for Health	West Bank	-Maximize the chances of transfer of good practices, after a		

Outcomes (OP5 country strategy)	Projects implemented in response	Source & amount of Budget (USDS)	Name of grantee	Project site	Main accomplishments	Sust .	Rep./s cal.
	environmental activists for better environmental governance	37,600\$	and Social Development	Ramallah governorate	comprehensive monitoring and documentation from proven success stories and effective pilot initiatives. -Disseminate the lessons learnt for the most relevant stakeholders in environmental education and governance with regard to the design and implementation		
	Strengthening Environmental Governance by Building the Capacity of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) on the Environmental Auditing	EU Fund 37,600\$	Palestinian Hydrology Group	West Bank Ramallah governorate	-Introduce website and social media,which will include basic information on the project, its teams, results, publications, and events. It will provide links to other websites (international organizations, research projects, NGOs) related to the topic .		

Annex 2 Analysis of GEF OP1 through OP5 Projects

a. GEF/SGP Previous Operational context

The GEF/SGP fourth operational phase (OP4) was officially launched in the Palestinian Authority “PA” in July 2008 one year after the official start of the same phase in other countries. At the time of preparing this CPS, the activation and continuation of SGP activities in the PA required the establishment of a regional agreement with the National programme in Egypt. Moreover SGP Palestine relied on a grant of 500,000 USD from the UNDP/PAPP programme budget (TRAC), which corresponds to about half of the overall SGP funding during the latest phase (OP3).

Since the start of OP4, GEF/SGP –Palestine was under the umbrella of the GEF/SGP Egypt programme, it was legally binding by this cover to allow SGP operations in Palestine. The Operational Phase 5 (OP5) officially started in March 2011 and finished in February 2014. During the OP5, GEF/SGP - Palestine was still under the umbrella of the GEF/SGP Egypt programme, Palestine GEF-SGP program was moved under the Jordan programme for the OP6 until Palestine have a sustainable programme of its own. This was decided on after discussions with UNDP in both countries; although Palestine is eligible to have its own program.

The fifth Operational Program (OP5) of the GEF small grant programme (SGP) was approved by the GEF Council in November 2010. The development goal of GEF SGP was to secure global environmental benefits in the areas of biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, protection of international waters, prevention of land degradation, and phasing out of persistent organic pollutants through community-based initiatives and actions. During OP5 GEF/SGP Palestine relied on a core grant allocation of almost 600,000 USD\$ from the UNDP/PAPP programme budget (TRAC), in addition to a co-fund from the European Union (EU)/NGOs Programme for an amount of 200,000 USD\$ and a Belgium Aid co-fund for an amount of 300,000 USD\$. The EU fund has focused on supporting projects that tackle the issue of Environmental Governance and Institutions Capacity Building while the Belgium fund has focused on supporting projects targeting issues of climate change mitigation and/or adaptation.

In responding to recommendations in the report of the *Third Independent Evaluation of the GEF SGP*, the programme continued to focus on achieving the following principle objectives:

- Increasing the global reach of the program, especially to address global environmental problems in vulnerable countries;
- Implementing well-designed project portfolios that incorporate new GEF focal areas and themes;
- Strengthening of existing Country Programmes;
- Demonstrating local and global benefits of the programme and application of lessons learned and good practices;
- Enhancing sustainability of SGP-funded projects, and;
- Realizing SGP’s potential as a GEF corporate programme.

The primary objective of the fifth operational phase of the GEF/SGP was to secure global environment benefits in the areas of biodiversity, climate change mitigation, and international waters — three of the five GEF focal areas — through community-based approaches that also generated local benefits. During SGP fifth operational phase, March 2011 - February 2014, four Strategic outcomes were identified of priority to be accomplished during OP5 a following:

Outcome 1: Community practices in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity/ agro-biodiversity promoted and up-scaled in the mountain and coastal ecosystems

Outcome 2: Local community best practices in utilizing renewable energy forms; and adopting of less polluting transport modalities upgraded and replicated

Outcome 3: Local community capacity to implement sustainable land and watershed management developed for minimizing land degradation impacts

Outcome4: Local community capacity for environmentally sound management of POPs developed

b. Accomplishments and success stories achieved in last operational phase

During OP5, the GEF/SGP in Palestine succeeded to diversify the projects that GEF/SGP is funding so instead of only focusing on projects related to biodiversity conservation, reducing barriers to energy efficiency, NGOs were encouraged to explore newer project ideas addressing other local and national priorities in demonstrating renewable energy applications, preventing land degradation and reducing release of POPs to the environment. NGOs were also encouraged to implement projects targeting more than one GEF/SGP thematic focal area and thus accomplished higher number of multifocal projects. In addition, during OP5 GEF/SGP has focused on strengthening the technical and developmental capacities of the NGOs / CBOs in several areas that are related to proactive assessment of community needs, environmental governance and integration of sustainable development within environment conservation efforts. The EU/NGOs programme and UNDP/GEF/SGP programme focused on strengthen the NGOs capacity in the environmental governance and the Belgium government fund focused on climate change interventions.

During OP5, 28 projects were funded by GEF/SGP programme and implemented by Palestinian NGOs and CBOs; where 16 projects were funded from the GEF/SGP- Core budget, 6 projects were funded from the Belgium Aid and another 6 projects were funded by the EU/NGO programme fund. The projects were classified to respond to four GEF focal areas (see figure (1)), where “Climate Change Mitigation” had the highest number of projects reaching up to 10 projects; forming 45% of total number of projects implemented during OP5. In comparison to the number of projects implemented during OPI-OP4, Conservation of Biodiversity had the highest number of projects granted during this phase by GEF/SGP (see figure (2)).

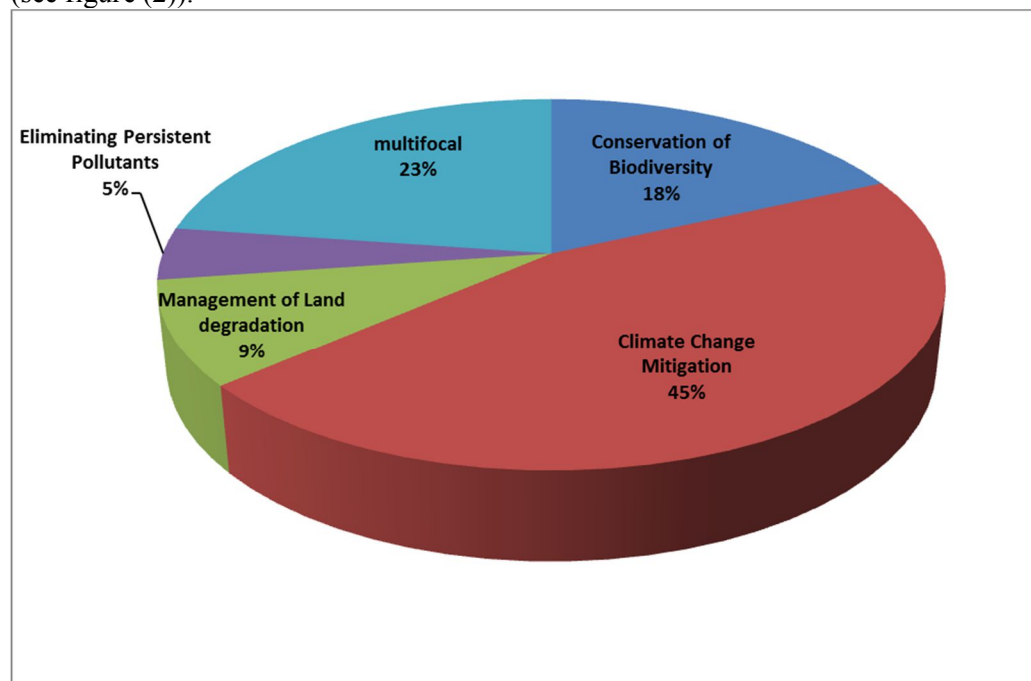


Figure (1): Distribution of number of GEF/SGP projects implemented during OP5 (includes projects funded by GEF/SGP Core fund and the Belgium aid)

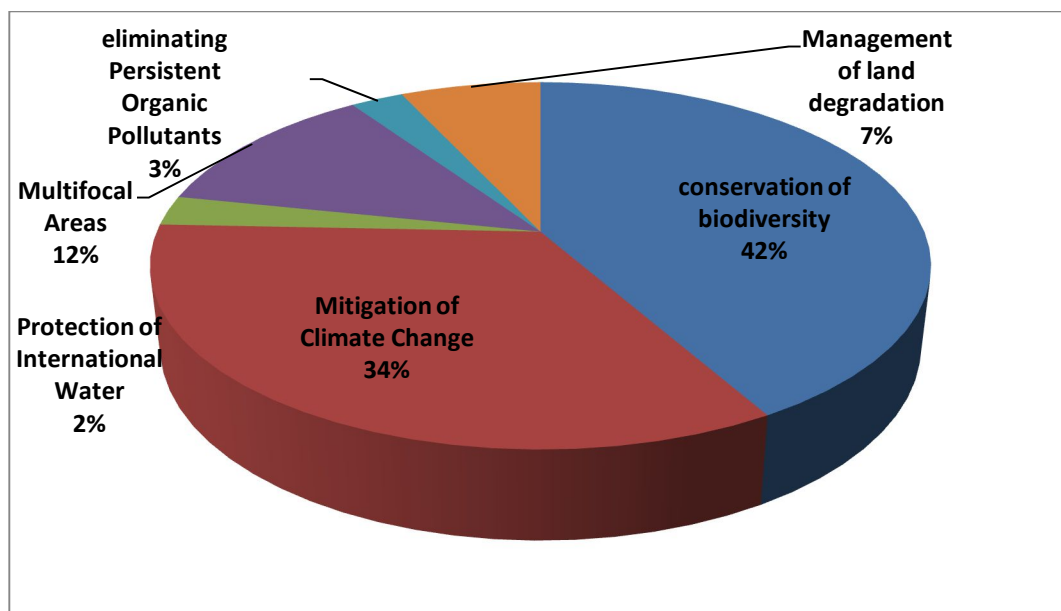


Figure (2): Distrubution of Projects over the different thematic focal areas during OP1 through OP4

The highest amount of GEF/SGP allocated grant was donated to projects implemented in the field of *Climate Change Mitigation* where total amount has reached up to 439,200USD\$ because of the co-fund that was provided by the Belgium Government to GEF/SGP - Palestine to target this focal area. The Belgium co- fund allocated to GEF/SGP was 300,000USD\$, which forms 33.4% of total funds allocated to Palestine through GEF/SGP in OP5.

GEF/SGP programme was able also to accomplish co-financing to its projects through the EU /NGO programme fund. The EU has granted GEF/SGP – Palestine a fund of 200,000USD\$ under its NGO programme, where it was announced separately and has supported 6 projects under the “Environmental Governance” field.

Looking at the GEF/SGP Core grant, GEF/SGP programme was also able to accomplish cash and in-kind co-financing to its core budget funded projects through its implementing NGOs and local communities. The total amount of cash co-financing during OP5 reach up to 152,380 USD \$ and the in kind co-financing reached up to 12,300 USD\$. Relatively speaking, the total co-financing secured in parallel to GEF/SGP Core grants in OP5 formed 27.4% of total amount granted by GEF/SGP core fund (see figure (3)).

Looking at co-finance from other donors to GEF/SGP – Palestine, the total budget allocated to GEF/SGP – Palestine by the Belgium Government and the EU formed almost half (55.6%) of the total budget granted to the Palestinian NGOs during OP5 (See figure (3)).

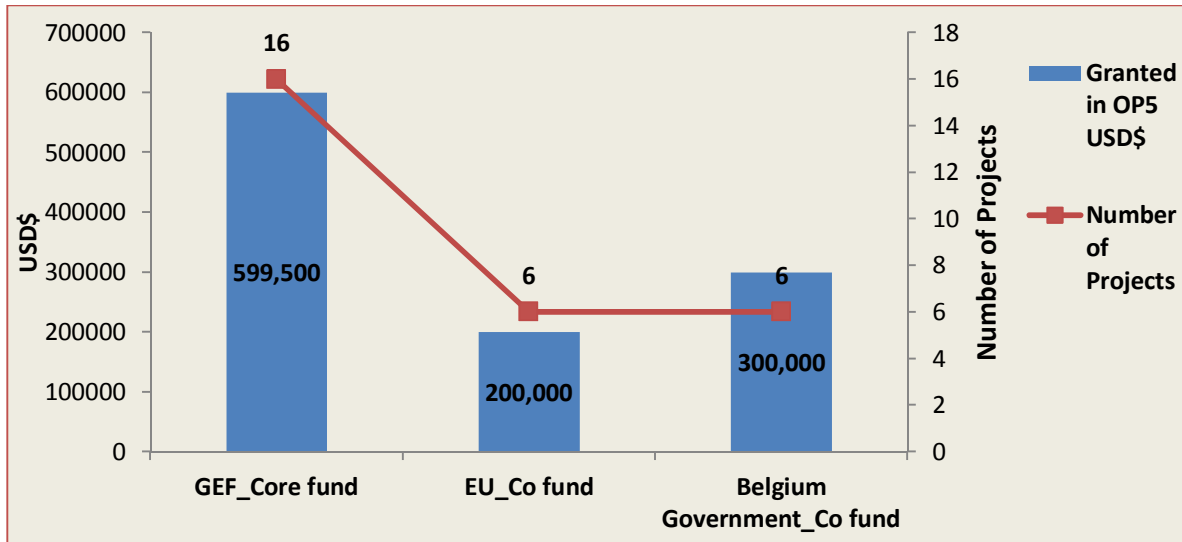


Figure (3): Total number of projects and budget allocated during GEF/SGP-OP5

c. OP5 Emphasis Areas:

Looking at the GEF/SGP adopted outcomes for OP5 (mentioned above) in comparison to the implemented project during the same phase, It appears that the most prominent impact for GEF/SGP projects implemented in the OP5 was under the Climate Change Mitigation focal area. Those projects were mainly focusing on installing green innovations such as solar energy systems, and biogas units (145 solar units and 20 biogas units). This is in addition to the introduction of an innovative technology for charcoal producers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions which was scaled up and replicated during the same phase. These types of projects are scalable and can be replicated in other area facing similar physical and socio-economic conditions (see Annex 3).

The six GEF-SG projects that were funded under the Belgium fund had to respond to the Belgium project entitled:” Enhancing the Capacities of the PA in Mainstreaming Environment and Climate Change in oPt”. The resources of this project were channeled through UNDP to GEF/SGP –Palestine from the Government of Belgium which contributed some of its resources to maintain GEF/SGP in Palestine for its environmental benefits as well as its strong political message to the international community that will keep Palestine linked and at pace with developmental issues at the global level as well. The project aimed to maintain the GEF/SGP Programme in oPt and implement pilot projects in the GEF themes in climate change within the oPt. The project implemented under this fund were implemented half in the West Bank and the other half??? In the Gaza Strip???

In the field of Biodiversity Conservation, the GEF/SGP projects focused on the inventory of Palestinian forested areas including the identification of dominant plant species and association, ecosystem services, guidelines for best and sustainable forested resources utilization by locals, and drivers behind vegetation cover changes over a period of time. This is in addition to the conservation of 60 threatened plant species through increasing the green area. Another project was conducted to combat the red Palm pest. This type of projects can be replicated in other forested areas / protected areas and for wider range of species.

In the field of Management of Land Degradation, GEF/SGP projects were focusing on rehabilitation of rangelands near watersheds; through planting field crops and pastoral seedlings, construction of retaining wall and rock blocks in the plains adjacent to the watersheds and rehabilitation of water tracks. This is in addition to rehabilitation of stone cutting areas through planting of medicinal and indigenous plants. Both projects have positive impact on the surrounding environment and benefited the neighboring local communities.

In the field of Eliminating Persistent Organic Pollutants, one GEF/SGP project was implemented, but focusing more on implementing applied research on the agrochemicals used in traditional and best practices in olive farming to measure the impact of using pesticides on the quality of the olive oil.

Up to five projects were implemented under the title of multifocal projects where several implemented interventions under these projects comes in line with more than one GEF/SGP focal area. Three projects were classified by GEF/SGP as multifocal projects since they targeted Climate Change Mitigation, Biodiversity Conservation and Prevention of Land Degradation focal areas. Those projects worked on enhancing the capacity of students and teachers on environmental leadership and awareness, and on conducting demonstrations for sustainable environmental practices for Palestinian farmer. Another two projects has targeted environmental governance supported by media coverage on issue such as climate change mitigation.

Part of GEF/SGP funded projects are those co-funded by EU/NGO programme during OP5 through the mechanism of SGP that targeted the field of environmental governance and institutional capacity development. The eight projects implemented under this focal area have focused on transferring knowledge and good practices for better environmental governance and disseminate the lessons learnt for the relevant stakeholders including decision makers in environmental education and governance through different tools including media networks, social media, websites, newspapers, and TV networks. The capacity building programs implemented during OP5 for the grantee institutions were in the field of environmental leadership, ecogardens, on-farm sustainable environmental practices, strawberry plantations, global gap certificate, solar panels maintenance, and farmers practices to develop their olive oil production (see Annex 1).

No projects were implemented in the fields of adopting of less polluting transport modalities upgraded and replicated during OP5; although these fields were of the focal areas that GEF/SGP were highlighting in it National Country Strategy for Palestine in OP5.

Investigating the GEF Country Strategy impacts that were set for OP5, it appears that the granted projects were able to respond to the CPS outputs set in the strategy but some shifts and missing impacts. For more details please see Table (1).

Table (1): Accomplished CPS outputs from the results framework for GEF SGP OP5

CPS Impacts	CPS Outputs set for OP5	Accomplishment of OP5
<p>Increased biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and realization of its values in food and medicine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Endangered agro-biodiversity native species restored in the coastal area -Preservation and application of traditional and indigenous knowledge and practices relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity/ Agro- biodiversity promoted - Enhanced local capacity to conserve the turtle beaches - Enhanced local capacity to conserve medicinal, herbal and aromatic plants in the mountain eco-system - Increased domestication and sustainable use of wild edible plants - Improved biodiversity based handicrafts -Increased usage of native species and expanding of organic farming 	<p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">✓</p>
<p>Increased access to sustainable, climate-friendly energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced utilization of solar energy for water heating in urban areas - Increased utilization of solar in generating electricity in remote 	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">✓</p>

technologies through removal of culture, institutional, technical and economic barriers	<p>communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased awareness and use of alternative energy resources and energy efficiency and conservation - Increased local community capacity to monitor ground transport emissions - Improved capacity of local community and government to plan; operate and maintain sustainable transport system in main cities 	<p>✓</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p>
Minimization of land degradation potential in limited areas in the West Bank and Gaza	<p>Reduced heavy usage of agro-chemicals and fertilizers in agriculture practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced management and utilization of agriculture waste in agriculture practices - Optimized irrigation use and Improved water quality for irrigation - Enhanced quality of rangeland management system in the Eastern Slopes in the West Bank - Encouraged adopting livelihood alternatives by local communities - Increased local community capacity in production of land degradation maps for limited area in Gaza and West Bank 	<p>X</p> <p>X</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>X</p>
Environmentally sound management of POPs promoted to reduce posed risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved community capacity for identifying and management of POPs contamination - Improved Knowledge and skills in handling and use of POPs - Increased community awareness on danger of POPs - Integrated Pest Management in Agriculture practices promoted 	<p>X</p> <p>✓</p> <p>X</p> <p>✓</p>

d. OP5 in relevance to OP6

The following are the links between OP5 outcomes and OP6 focal areas in relevance that can be useful when considering success projects as mentioned below.

OP5 Outcomes	Relevance to OP6
Outcome 1: Community practices in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity/ agro-biodiversity	Focal Area 1: Community Landscape Seascape conservation; maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society and promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use.
Outcome 2: Local community best practices in utilizing renewable energy forms; and adopting of less polluting transport modalities upgraded and replicated	Focal Area 3: Energy access co-benefits; support trans boundary shifts towards a low emission and resilient development path
Outcome 3: Local community capacity to implement sustainable land and watershed management developed for minimizing land degradation impacts	Focal Area 2: Innovative climate –smart agro-ecology ; sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)
Outcome 4: Local community capacity for environmentally sound management of POPs developed	Focal Area 4: Local to global chemicals coalitions
Cross cutting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional capacity development 	Cross cutting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSO-government dialogue policy and planning dialogue

- Environmental governance

- platforms
- Promoting social inclusion:
 - Gender mainstreaming
 - Youth involvement
 - Indigenous Peoples fellowships
- Global reach for citizen practice based knowledge programme
 - Digital library of community innovations
 - South south community innovation exchange

e. Key lessons learned from previous operational phase

The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) continued its SGP programme in Palestine for the Operation phase 5, which officially started in March 2011 and finished in February 2014 and operated under the umbrella of the GEF/SGP Egypt programme. Of the most important lessons learnt from OP5 is outlined as follows:

Most of the projects that were funded by GEF- SGP during the OP5 had worked out specific interventions that focused on *Climate Change Mitigation* through the installation of solar units, or biogas units, or adopting upgraded charcoal technology¹. These projects has succeeded in providing vulnerable communities with source of energy depending on alternative energy sources mainly solar and biogas, more efficient water harvesting techniques and improved green areas surrounding. It is important to note the co-fund provided by the Belgium Government and channeled through the mechanism of SGP has increased the number of projects in this field.

Another area that GEF/SGP has well targeted during OP5 is the Institutional *Capacity Building* and *Environmental Governance* which was co-funded by EU/NGO programme. These projects has succeeded in educating local communities on environmental leadership, building pressure groups and participating in training sessions on best environmental practices and others. The NGOs/ CBOs specialized in environment had the chance to get together and exchange experiences and information on conserving environment at the community and national levels. Most of the institutions that got training and got involved in awareness campaigns are those stakeholders that work in the fields related to GEF-SGP focal areas, in addition to schools and universities. At the end GEF was able to outreach a diverse range of stakeholders all over the West Bank and Gaza Strip region.

However, if compared to biodiversity conservation, prevention of land degradation and reduction of Persistent pollutants focal areas that GEF was also targeting during OP5, it appears that GEF-SGP impact on these fields is not as significant as on climate change mitigation and capacity building components noting that only three project (see Annex 3) were specialized in biodiversity conservation and management, two under land degradation prevention and one for POPs. The POPs focal area was poorly targeted in OP5 period.

Hence, there is need to focus more on having higher impact through either focusing more on specific interventions identified of high priority under the GEF-SGP focal areas and/or through focusing on certain defined geographical area within the landscape/seascape approach set lately for GEF-SGP OP6. There are also further needs for up-scaling and replicating best practices through co-finance and partnership with other donors or participating in other GEF Programmes.

¹ 145 installed units of solar, 21 wheelchairs running on solar units and 21 biogas units during OP5

Of the most successful stories that took place during GEF- SGP OP5 is as following:

OP5 OUTCOME1:

1. Project entitled: “*Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Diversity, and Wild Resources of Palestinian Indigenous Crops*”, implemented by Biodiversity and environment Research Center (BERC) and funded by GEF-Core Fund with a total amount of 35,000\$. The project team was able to conserve local and global environment through conserving threatened 60 plant species and protect biodiversity through increasing the green area. This project has worked on conserving the Palestinian medicinal plants and preserved traditional knowledge associated with their uses. People enjoy the garden and learn about natural plants.

2. Project entitled:” *Palestinian Forests Sustainability and Rehabilitation:*

Al Qarin Protected Area in the Southern West Bank and Umm at Tut Protected Area in the Northern West Bank within the Mediterranean Eco-system (PFSR)”, implemented by The Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem (ARIJ)and funded by GEF-core fund with a total amount of 40,000\$. The project team succeeded in identify the biotic and a biotic components of the two targeted protected areas (PAs) and their interrelations within the targeted Pas, assessing the status of natural forest resources conservation and management programs, analyzing the landscape and land use/land cover of targets areas using GIS &RS techniques and subsequently interrelate findings with degradation and causes behind degradation, analyzing the vegetation cover changes that have taken place since 1984 using NDVI and analysis of satellite images, conducting economic feasibility study for both areas (Ecosystem Services), increasing the awareness of local communities on the value of forest resources sustainable practices and methods of utilization, and create a draft management plan for the targeted Pas based on information derived from participation of stakeholders. Most importantly the study information was recorded on a specialized website which has the ability to accept information about all forested areas in the West Bank.

Outcome 1:
Community practices in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Successful PROJECTS

1. Conservation and sustainable use of plant diversity and wild resources of Palestinian indigenous crops
2. Palestinian Forests Sustainability and Rehabilitation: Al Qarin and Um At Tut Protected Areas.

REASON

1. In line with National Strategies
1. Mostly related to the OP5 focal area
2. Sustainable and replication/scalable
3. Worked on KBAs (*Key biodiversity Areas according got IUCN classification*) and globally important /threatened species.
4. Worked on ecosystem services and set guidelines for forestry sustainable use
5. Worked in a participatory approach with local communities.
6. Effective in terms of number of activities and global benefits.

OP5 OUTCOME 2:

1. Project entitled: “*Towards a Sustainable and Environment Friendly Charcoal Production in Yabad Cluster*”, implemented by World Vision and funded by GEF/SGP- Co-fund by Belgium

Government with total amount of 80,000\$. The project was conducted in a participatory approach with local committee of charcoal producers and Yabad municipality. The project team constructed the first production unit using the “closed water filtering system”, where the first burning cycle has started, and the baseline values for emissions pollutants were measured. Several measuring devices were purchased to be used in the measuring process through the Environmental Quality Authority, one of the key project partners, number of direct beneficiaries from this Phase is 650 people who are directly involved in processing and number of indirect beneficiaries is the whole Yabad cluster (21,000 inhabitants). This project is considered a replicable project that warranted the positive/sound impact of the introduced technique on the environment and the health of the people working in this occupation and those living in surrounding areas.

2. Project entitled:” **Contribute to Solve the Climate Change Problem in the area of Al-Masafer/Baninaim/Hebron East through creating environmental and integrated ecosystem that depend on using solar energy, water harvesting and increasing the green area**”; implemented by Bani-Naim Charitable Society and funded by GEF/SGP- co-fund from Belgium Government with a total amount of 35,000\$. The project team has used the solar units to run a water pump to get water from a constructed cistern with a capacity of about 4800 cubic meters of water, and area of about 380 m² in AL- Masafer, this water was used to irrigate constructed greenhouses for farmers of an area about 5000 m², and planting not less than 5000 trees. In addition, the project has conducted environmental awareness program for people of local community, to raise their awareness about usage of alternative energy and water harvesting. The project team was able to join the different interventions to come out with a solution to water scarcity and shortage in electricity in an area like Al Masafer and encouraged farmers of the area on cultivating crops in green houses and thus raise their income and awareness on green and sound practices. The project is replicable and sustainable especially that the local people are running and benefiting from its outcomes.

OP5 Outcome 2:
Community best practices in utilizing renewable energy forms; and adopting of less polluting transport modalities impacts

Successful PROJECTS

1. Towards a Sustainable and Environment Friendly Charcoal Production in Yabad Cluster
2. Contribute to Solve the Climate Change Problem in the area of Al-Masafer /Baninaim /Hebron East through creating environmental and integrated ecosystem that depend on using solar energy, water harvesting and increasing the green area

REASON

1. In line with National Strategies
2. Mostly related to the OP5 focal area
3. Sustainable and replication /scalable
4. Works not only on providing alternative energy but also serve vulnerable areas without source of energy and serve to enhance health conditions of local communities.
5. Works on introducing environmentally sound technology; reduce pollution and health problems.
6. Partnership opportunities, and socio-economic condition improvements

OP5 OUTCOME 3:

1. Project entitled: “**Rehabilitation of the stone cutting area through the increase of the vegetation cover and planting of medicinal and indigenous plants**”, implemented by Bani Naim Charitable Society. The project is funded by GEF/SGP Core Fund with a total amount of 32,000\$, and co-funding from World Vision with an amount of 30,000\$, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) with an amount of 25,000\$ and in kind funding from local community of a total amount of 50,000\$. This project was about to enhance the vegetation cover in the area of an expired quarry in Bani Naim town, where 6 dunums were rehabilitate to become a birds’ garden and a natural museum, 2 dunums were cultivated with trees and herbal and medicinal plants, a cisterns with a 100 cubic meter capacity was established and over 50 job opportunity for 2000 working days was secured. This project was ranked as a successful project since it has decreased the impact of the quarry mainly the dust to the minimum and provided income for local community from the cultivations. The project is sustainable and replicable, since the local community believes in the importance of rehabilitating the area and reducing the impact of the quarry and the benefits that they will gain from the greening of the area. The project team has worked on cultivating fruit trees and medicinal plants, and in parallel secured as source of water. This project goes in line with GEF/SGP in OP6 under **Focal Area 2: Innovative climate –smart agro-ecology** (sustainable land management in production systems)
2. Project entitled: “**Preservation and treatment of soil degradation in Al Dhriyya through implementation of soil preservation techniques and water harvesting**”, implemented by Land Research center and funded by the GEF- Core Fund with a total of 40,000\$. The project performed rehabilitation for rangeland of 100 dunums near the watershed plain field in the valley of Ennab El- Kabira south Hebron, where they planted 50 dunums with field crops by using 750 kg of seeds, planted 10 dunums of 200 tree seedlings, planted 40 dunums with pastoral plants by using 1000 seedlings, constructed retaining wall near the watersheds of 800 m², placed 150 m² of rock blocks in the plains adjacent to the watersheds, and rehabilitated 70 m² of water tracks. This project was very efficient in terms of number of activities it has accomplished, it supported the farmers living in difficult conditions through creating a reliable year –round water source for fruit orchards and creating stone terraces that support soil and plant growth; which in turn produce greater income for the farmers and decrease effect of desertification in the area. It was ranked as a sustainable and replicable project especially that the local community has worked themselves in the project and is totally convinced of the importance and value of this project. This project goes in line with GEF/SGP in OP6 under **Focal Area 2: Innovative climate –smart agro-ecology** (sustainable land management in production systems).

OP5 Outcome 3:

Local community capacity to implement sustainable land and watershed management developed for minimizing land degradation impacts

Successful PROJECTS

1. Preservation and treatment of soil degradation in Al Dhriyya through implementation of soil preservation techniques and water harvesting.
2. Rehabilitation of the stone cutting area through the increase of the vegetation cover and planting of medicinal and indigenous plants.

REASON

1. In line with National Strategies
2. Mostly related to the OP5 focal area
3. Sustainable and replication /scalable
4. Effective in terms of number of activities and beneficiaries; works dual on the production system of rangelands and preservation of a watershed area.
5. Combat land degradation and introduce shifts to lands covered with useful vegetation
6. Economic benefit to local communities.

Not forgetting the success accomplished by GEF/SGP environmental governance and institutional capacity building projects implemented under the specific call funded by EU/NGO programme and channel through the mechanism of GEF/SGP. The projects were able to highlight important issues and for the first time taking into consideration the role of media in advocating for environmental conditions, introducing knowledge fairs, policy briefs, public dialogue on environmental issues, town hall debates , consultation sessions and advocating committees in addition to building environmental leaders. All mentioned issues are sectors that rarely dealt with in Palestine, but of significant potential to introduce a change in valuing the environmental aspects and its benefits. In addition, to press on a change at both the policy makers and the public levels.

Annex 3

Multilateral Environmental Agreements and International Conventions to which Palestine seek to Accede as a Matter of Priority

1. Atmosphere:

(i) Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP Convention)

<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/lrtap/full%20text/1979.CLRTAP.e.pdf>

(ii) Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer

<http://ozone.unep.org/pdfs/viennaconvention2002.pdf>

(iii) Montreal Protocol

<http://ozone.unep.org/pdfs/Montreal-Protocol2000.pdf>

2. Climate

(i) UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/conveng.pdf>

(ii) Kyoto Protocol

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.pdf>

3. Nature Conservation and Biodiversity

(i) (Ramsar) Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat

http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-texts-convention-on/main/ramsar/1-31-38%5E20671_4000_0

(ii) (UNESCO) Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

<http://www.unesco.org.uk/uploads/Cultural%20and%20Natural%20Heritage%20Convention.pdf>

(iii) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

<http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/E-Text.pdf>

(iv) (Bonn) Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals

http://www.cms.int/documents/convtxt/cms_convtxt_english.pdf

(v) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cbd-en.pdf>

4. Chemicals and Wastes

(i) Basel Convention on the Control of Trans boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal

<http://www.basel.int/Portals/4/Basel%20Convention/docs/text/BaselConventionText-e.pdf>

(ii) Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

<http://www.pic.int/TheConvention/Overview/TextoftheConvention/tabid/1048/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

(iii) (Stockholm) Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

<http://chm.pops.int/Convention/ConventionText/tabid/2232/Default.aspx>

5. Land

(i) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

<http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/conventionText/conv-eng.pdf>

6. Marine

(i) Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean

http://195.97.36.231/dbases/webdocs/BCP/bc95_Eng_p.pdf

(ii) Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N95/274/67/PDF/N9527467.pdf?OpenElement>

7. Freshwater

(i) United Nations Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses

http://untreaty.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/8_3_1997.pdf

Annex 5

OP6 donor partner strategy annexes (Synergies between relevant donors’ strategies and GEF/SGP –OP6 in Palestine)

GEF/SGP Focal Area/Strategic Objectives	Donor’s Name	Donor’s Relevant Strategic Objectives
<p>Focal Area 1: Community Landscape Seascape conservation; maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society and promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use.</p>	<p>EU Single Support Framework Palestine (2014-2015)</p>	<p>Support to water and land development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support is to contribute to the improvement of the socio-economic situation of the vulnerable population in Palestine – with a particular focus on Area C – while bridging emergency to environmental sustainable development. (access to and the sustainable utilisation of land and water resources are enhanced).
	<p>Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conserved Areas and Territories’ (ICCAs)</p>	<p>Conserve critical ecosystems and threatened species, to maintain essential ecosystem functions (e.g., water security), and to provide corridors and linkages for animal and gene movement, including between two or more officially protected areas;</p> <p>Collective ecological knowledge and capacities, including sustainable use of wild resources and maintenance of agrobiodiversity</p>
<p>Focal Area 2: Innovative climate –smart agro-ecology ; sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)</p>	<p>Cross Border Cooperation within the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)/ Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme (2014 - 2020)</p>	<p>Environmental protection, climate change adaptation and mitigation; might serve the purpose of addressing common environmental challenges of the area. (Undertaking measures for anticipating and mitigating the adverse effects of climate change (such as improving water and energy efficiency) and enhancing environmental protection (through more sound management of wastes, and integrated ECAP-based planning for coastal areas)</p>
	<p>Kingdom of the Netherlands - Multi-Annual Strategic Plan: <i>Palestinian</i></p>	<p>Food Security:</p>

	<p><i>Territories- 2014 - 2017</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable increase in food production to the benefit of the Palestinian people through improved access to and use of land and water for food production, and improved agricultural productivity of existing Palestinian farmlands; and • Improved access to markets for Palestinian farmers through increased competitiveness of agricultural products. <p>Water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving cross-border cooperation on treatment of wastewater. • Promoting innovation in water-related research
	<p>We Effect Regional Office for Europe and Asia- Country office of Palestine: Programme Document_2014-2016</p>	<p>Right to food: Support agricultural cooperatives and other farmer CBOs to apply sustainable production techniques, using eco-friendly farming practices. Promote small-scale farmers’ participation in markets at all levels; through strengthening cooperation among cooperators and cooperative organizations, improving quality of the agricultural produce of targeted farmers and installing of new value added initiatives.</p> <p>Right to a safe, healthy environment in ecological balance: Contribute for maintaining people’s right to a safe and healthy environment in ecological balance now and for future generations. Eco-friendly agricultural practices to be introduced and applied by the targeted Palestinian farmers and their organizations. Provide technical support on applying good farming practices to increase efficiency of utilizing natural resources.</p>
	<p>Australian Government: Aid Investment Plan -Palestinian Territories (2015-2019)</p>	<p>Improved public financial management and a more competitive agricultural economy in the PTs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the competitiveness and increase the incomes of Palestinian farmers. • Provide additional, small-scale support to civil society through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and Direct Aid Program (DAP).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aid to UNICEF’s water and sanitation activity in disadvantaged schools until 2017.
Swiss Cooperation Strategy for the Occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) /2015–2018	<p>Agro-economic development: “Focus on improving small-scale agribusiness holders’ performance and resilience and contribute to a more conducive economic environment.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve access to quality agricultural services in selected value chains (supply side); • improve the productivity and competitiveness of small-scale agribusinesses (market side)
EU Single Support Framework Palestine (2014-2015)	<p>Support to the private sector and sustainable economic Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the competitiveness of Palestinian products and services in an environmentally sustainable way, including in terms of climate change impacts. <p>Support to water and land development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the access to and the sustainable utilization of land and water resources (including the treatment of wastewater and the re-use of the treated wastewater). • The development of water re-use scheme and rainfall water harvesting techniques are enhanced
GIZ programme in Palestine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water, sanitation and solid waste management • Environment and climate change
Sweden’s international development cooperation with Palestine 2015–2019	<p>Improved environment and greater resilience to environmental change, climate impacts and disasters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access to clean water and sanitation • Safer waste management • Strengthened capacity of local public institutions and civil society actors to prevent and manage disasters, environmental risks and climate change

	The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Priorities for bilateral and multilateral activities for promoting climate change mitigation and adaption measures across the globe.
Focal Area 3: Energy access co-benefits; support trans boundary shifts towards a low emission and resilient development path	EU Single Support Framework Palestine (2014-2015)	Palestine is also eligible for support under EU internal programmes for e.g. research and innovation, energy, transport and education, youth, culture and media (in particular Erasmus + and creative Europe).
	Norwegian Church Aid actalliance- country plan – occupied Paletinian Territory (2011-2015)	Environmental sustainability: Commitment to the protection of the environment as part of the Creation with its inherent value that shall be respected and preserved. NCA shall contribute to the sustainable management of natural resources for the common good of all humanity and the benefit of future generations through appling the guiding principles on Climate Change.
Cross cutting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSO-government dialogue policy and planning dialogue platforms • Promoting social inclusion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gender mainstreaming ▪ Youth involvement ▪ Indigenous Peoples fellowships • Global reach for citizen practice based knowledge programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Digital library of community innovations ▪ South south community innovation exchange 	Sweden’s international development cooperation with Palestine 2015–2019	Strengthened democracy, improved gender equality and greater respect for human rights
	Cross Border Cooperation within the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)/ Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme (2014 - 2020)	Support to education, research, technological development and innovation Promotion of social inclusion and fight against poverty
	Kingdom of the Netherlands - Multi-Annual Strategic Plan: <i>Palestinian Territories- 2014 - 2017</i>	Food Security: Improved access to markets for Palestinian farmers through improved institutional capacity of the PA for service delivery to the agricultural sector. Cross-cutting issues- Gender: By mainstreaming gender in food security portfolio, in particular through the land and water resource development and high value crops programmes, to upgrade the role of women in the agricultural sector, inter alia by involving women cooperatives in high quality, certified agricultural production techniques and by stimulating female ownership and entrepreneurship vis-à-vis agricultural land resources.

	<p>We Effect Regional Office for Europe and Asia- Country office of Palestine: Programme Document_2014-2016</p>	<p>Economic Justice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empower cooperatives and CBOs/CSOs to provide service to their members and to facilitate their access to entrepreneurship and business opportunities. • Increase participating organizations access to financial services through member-based solutions. Improve democratic and governance practices within the target group. The programme will also increase its beneficiaries' access to market. <p>Equal Rights for Women and Men:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empower women economically through supporting their access to entrepreneurial and business opportunities • Build leadership capacities of women beneficiaries. The programme will raise people's awareness of women's contributions to the development process work and social position.
	<p>Australian Government: Aid Investment Plan -Palestinian Territories (2015-2019)</p>	<p>Provide opportunities for women and young Palestinians in farming communities to develop skills, gain employment and exercise leadership. Gender equality is a cross-cutting feature of this Aid Investment Plan.</p>
	<p>Swiss Cooperation Strategy for the Occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) /2015–2018</p>	<p>Agro-economic development: promote Palestinian policies and regulations that benefit small producers, and support advocacy and coordination work that challenge economic Constraints and impediments. Unions and cooperatives have an important role to play in this domain. Strengthening their capacities and governance structures will be an integral part of the programme.</p>
	<p>EU Single Support Framework Palestine (2014-2015)</p>	<p>The Civil Society Thematic Programme will focus on income generating activities and employment initiatives targeting women and youth (including with disabilities). The Civil Society Facility helps to strengthen civil</p>

		society role in Palestine's process of development. Local ownership and gender mainstreaming will be common added value elements for the implementation of the EU programs.
Norwegian Church Aid actalliance- country plan – occupied Paletinian Territory (2011-2015)	Church	Gender equality: commitment to women’s rights and gender equality which recognizes that gender inequalities and continued discrimination of women are based on unequal power relations, access to resources and assets. NCA is committed to promote justice and rights for woman, men and children affected by climate change
GIZ programme in Palestine		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic reform, employment and the labor market • Institution building and civil society
Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conserved Areas and Territories’ (ICCAs)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules and institutions: “tailored to the context”, (bio-cultural diversity), skilled at adaptive management and capable of flexible, culture-related responses • Securing the rights of Indigenous Peoples & local communities to their land & natural resources through local governance – <i>de jure</i> and/or <i>de facto</i> • Participatory governance of official Protected Areas, useful to resolve conflicts between PAs and local people • foundation of cultural identity and pride for indigenous peoples and local communities

Annex 6

The GEF agencies that have comparative advantage for GEF programme at global level

GEF Agency	Comparative Advantage for the GEF
Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s	Investment projects at the country and multi-country level in Asia as well as the ability to incorporate capacity building and technical assistance into its projects. The ADB has strong experience in the fields of energy efficiency, renewable energy, adaptation to climate change and natural resources management including water and sustainable land management.
African Development Bank (AFDB)'s	lies in its capacity as a regional development bank. The AFDB will focus on establishing a track record for environmental projects related to the GEF focal areas of Climate Change (adaptation, renewable energy and energy efficiency), Land Degradation (deforestation, desertification) and International Waters (water management and fisheries).
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)'s	lies in its experience and track record in market creation and transformation; and ensuring sustainability through private sector (including small and medium-sized enterprises) and municipal environmental infrastructure projects at the country and regional level in the countries of eastern and central Europe and central Asia, particularly in the fields of energy efficiency, mainstreaming of biodiversity and water management.
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)'s	Its technical capacity and experience in fisheries, forestry, agriculture, and natural resources management. The FAO has strong experience in sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity, bioenergy, biosafety, sustainable development in production landscapes, and integrated pest and pesticides management.
Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)'s	Includes investment projects at the country and regional level in Latin America and the Caribbean. IDB finances operations related to the following GEF focal areas: Biodiversity (protected areas, marine resources, forestry biotechnology), Climate Change (including biofuels), International Waters (watershed management), Land Degradation (erosion control), and POPs (pest management).
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)'s	lies in its work related to land degradation, rural sustainable development, integrated land management, and its role in the implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. IFAD has been working intensively in marginal lands, degraded ecosystems and in post-conflict situations.
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s	Lies in its global network of country offices, its experience in integrated policy development, human resources development, institutional strengthening, and non-governmental and community participation. UNDP assists countries in promoting, designing and implementing activities consistent with both the GEF mandate and national sustainable development plans. UNDP also has extensive inter-country programming experience.
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)'s	Its being the only United Nations organization with a mandate derived from the General Assembly to coordinate the work of the United Nations in the area of environment for which the core business is the field of environment. UNEP's comparative strength is in providing the GEF with a range of relevant experiences, proof of concept, testing of ideas, and the best available science and knowledge upon which it can base its investments. It also serves as the Secretariat to three of the MEAs, for which GEF is the/a financial mechanism. UNEP's comparative advantage



	also includes its ability to serve as a broker in multi-stakeholder consultations.
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)'s	It can involve the industrial sector in GEF projects in the following areas: industrial energy efficiency, renewable energy services, water management, chemicals management (including POP and ODS), and biotechnology. UNIDO also has extensive knowledge of small and medium enterprises (SME's) in developing and transition economy countries.
The World Bank's	A leading international financial institution at the global scale in a number of sectors, similar to the comparative advantage of the regional development banks. The World Bank has strong experience in investment lending focusing on institution building, infrastructure development and policy reform across all the focal areas of the GEF.

