



SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME RESULTS REPORT (FY 2017-2023)

VANUATU



COUNTRY REPORT CARD FY 2017-2023

PORTFOLIO PROFILE SINCE INCEPTION

Country Programme Name	Vanuatu					
Year Started	2008					
	GEF Non-GEF Tota					
Number of projects	112	16	128			
Grant amount committed	3,842,682	584,508	4,427,190			
Project level co-financing in cash	1,191,288	186,590	1,377,878			
Project level co-financing in kind	2,434,879	205,534	2,640,413			
Total co-financing *	4,602,799					
Source: SGP database as of 2023						
* Total co-financing = Total project level co-financing (in cash and in kind) + non-GEF grant amount committed						

July 2018 -July 2019 -July 2020 -July 2021 -July 2022 -**Total Value** June 2019 2016 - 2023 June 2020 June 2021 June 2022 June 2023 Focal Area Distribution (by completed projects) Biodiversity 3 5 11 1 21 1 Climate Change -2 2 --4 Land Degradation 2 1 5 12 1 3 Sustainable Forest Management 1 3 3 7 --International Waters 1 1 1 3 --2 12 5 47 **Total Projects Completed** 9 19

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

	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
** Kindly note figures in column "Total Value 2016-2023" have undergone co duplicative data over time and/or inclusion of more results based on verifica			pports aggregation	of results over tim	ne. This includes rer	noval of
PROGRESS TOWARDS FOCAL AREA OBJECTIVES						
Biodiversity						
Number of biodiversity projects completed	1	3	5	11	1	21
Number of Protected Areas (PAs) positively influenced	-	-	1	1	-	2
Hectares of PAs	-	-	459	-	-	459
Number of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCAs) positively influenced	-	2	5	6	1	14
Hectares of ICCAs	-	4,903	-	-	400	5,303
Number of significant species conserved	-	5		2	1	8
Number of target landscapes/seascapes under improved community conservation and sustainable use	1	2	1	4	4	12
Hectares of target landscapes/seascapes under improved community conservation and sustainable use	1	5,405	6,259	629,600	24,500	665,765
Climate Change						
Number of climate change projects completed	-	2	2	-	-	4
Did the country programme address community-level barriers to deployment of low-GHG technologies? (yes/no)	-	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	3
Hectares of forests and non-forest lands with restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks initiated through completed projects	-	25	20	_	_	45
Number of typologies of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations or scaling up and replication	-	-	1	-	1	2

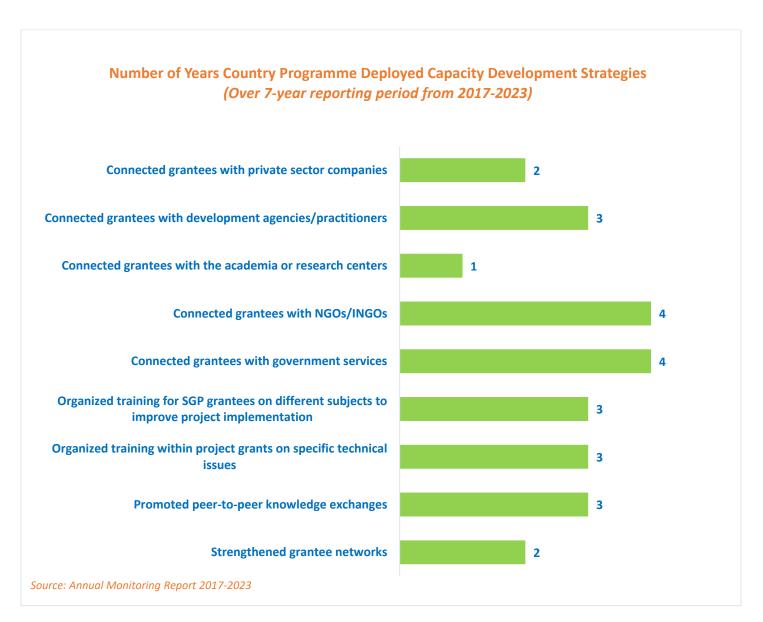
	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
Number of households achieving energy access co-benefits (ecosystem effects, income, health and others)	_	103	111	-	-	214
Breakdown of projects						
Low carbon technology and renewable energy projects	-	1	1	-	-	2
Sustainable transport projects	-	-	-	-	1	1
Conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks projects	-	1	1	-	-	2
Land Degradation	1					
Number of land degradation projects completed	1	2	1	5	3	12
Number of community members with improved actions and practices that reduce negative impacts on land uses	-	11	10	170	28	219
Number of community members demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices	-	-	-	450	28	478
Hectares of land brought under improved management practices	-	-	16	11	32	59
Number of farmer leaders involved in successful demonstrations of agro-ecological practices	-	-	2	23	20	45
Number of farmer organizations, groups or networks disseminating climate-smart agroecological practices	-	2	1	2	1	6
Sustainable Forest Management						
Number of sustainable forest management projects completed	-	1	3	3	-	7
Hectares restored through improved forest management practices	-	26	25	52	10,015	10,118
International Waters						
Number of international waters projects completed	-	1	1	-	1	3
Hectares of seascapes covered under improved community conservation and sustainable use management systems	-	-	5		-	5

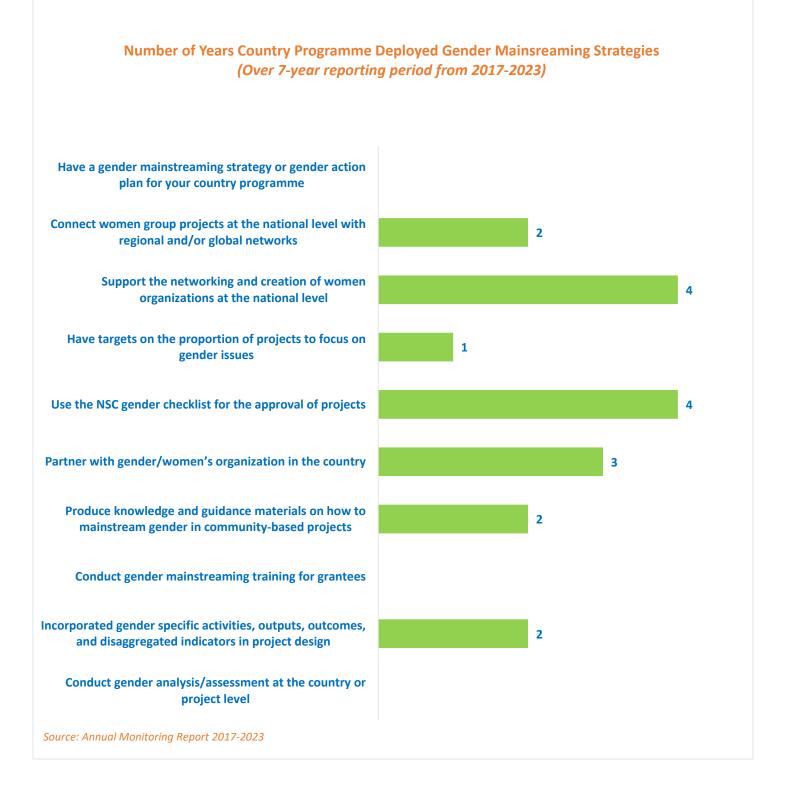
	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
Chemicals and Waste						
Community-Based Tools/Approaches Deployed as Part of	the Portfolio				Γ	
Organic farming	-	-	Yes	-	-	1
GRANTMAKER PLUS						
CSO-Government Dialogue	1 1				1	
Number of CSO-government dialogues supported	-		1		-	1
Number of CSO/CBO representatives involved in the dialogues	-	-	8	-	-	8
Gender	1				1	T
Number of gender responsive completed projects	2	3	3	4	-	12
Number of completed projects led by women	-	3	3	-	-	6
Programme Management: NSC gender focal point (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	5
Indigenous Peoples						
Number of completed projects that included indigenous peoples	-		9	6	-	15
Number of indigenous leaders with improved capacities	-	-	-	3	-	3
Programme Management: NSC IP focal point (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	5
Ways to encourage IP projects	1					
Proposals accepted in local languages (yes/no)	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	3
Proposals accepted using participatory video (yes/no)	-	Yes	-	-	Yes	2
Involved indigenous peoples in NSC and/or TAG (yes/no)	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	3
Enhanced outreach and networking with indigenous people's groups (yes/no)	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	3

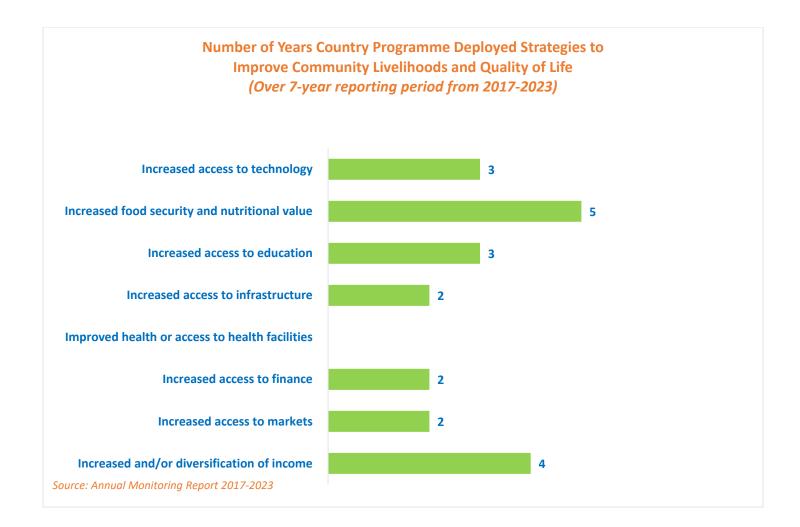
	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
Youth						
Number of completed projects that included youth	-	-	5	2	-	7
Number of youth organizations	-	-	4	2	-	6
Programme Management: NSC youth focal point (yes/no)	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
Persons with Disability						
Number of disabled persons organizations	-	-	2	-	-	2
BROADER ADOPTION (Scaling up, Replication, Po	licy Influence	e, Improving	Livelihoods)			
Projects replicated or scaled up	-	-	2	3	1	6
Projects with policy influence	1	-	3	1	1	6
Projects improving livelihoods of communities	-	6	6	6	4	22
PROGRAMME EFFECTIVENESS						
Community-level trainings conducted	-	-	2	-	2	4
Number of projects monitored through field visits	7	7	6	11	6	37
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT						
National Steering Committee						
Number of NSC meetings occurred during the reporting period	2	2	8	5	3	20
Average number of NSC members that participated in each NSC meeting	5	5	5	6	7	6

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF KEY RESULTS

Interpreting the Green Bars in Graphs: The presence of green bars indicates the number of years that the country programme has achieved specific results. If a green bar is absent, it signifies that while the associated result is not observed in the country programme, it is still evident in the overall aggregated SGP portfolio.









Number of Years Country Programme Addressed Sustainable Development Goals (Over 7-year reporting period from 2017-2023)

3

3



Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

EXMAPLES OF PROJECT RESULTS

Climate Change

In **Vanuatu**, SGP supported grantee, Tariwa Taro Association, to implement the Vanuatu National Energy Road Map 2016-2030. The main power electricity in Vanuatu is limited mainly in town and within provincial administration centers due to high infrastructural and maintenance costs and lacks technical capacity in the communities for clean energy. The rural villages on remote islands are faced limited economic opportunities and often the communities had none or poor lighting systems. The project focuses on households in remote rural communities on the outer islands of Vanuatu with poor lighting sources and lack of electricity, which is also a hurdle for women involved in handicrafts. The project reached eight rural villages, which did not have electricity and improved home lighting with solar lighting systems in over 10 villages covering 103 households, with 85 homes belonging to women handicraft makers and 18 homes with people with disabilities. Five local youth were part of the technician team in the installation and maintenance of the solar power system under the supervision of solar engineer experts. The homes of the whole island of Futuna now run on solar power. The project also promoted the importance of securing protection of forests for endemic species. The project reached communities with an endemic bird species like the Vanuatu White collared Petrel within biodiversity hotspot in Melanesia, with low carbon technologies. To replicate the project's impact, the CSO has been consulted by the government for improving home lighting in three more islands in the province with government's budgetary support. *(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2019-2020).*

Sustainable Forest Management

In **Vanuatu,** SGP supported grantee, Williams Memorial Missionary Training Institute, to restock degraded forest areas within buffer zone of a protected area with native Kauri tree on Erromango Island and to ensure the protection of this cash-income generating resource from wild beasts. The project established a community nursery whereby the community can raise seedlings to restock the depleting resource. As part of the project, the community were empowered with skills and knowledge to grow and manage seedlings in the nursery and planting out in the field. One of the primary goals of the project was to ensure increase in replanting programs in East Erromango increases the number of trees in the community area, thus preventing harvesting of wild sandalwood, which is threatening the deforestation of the wild stand of Kauri trees within National Forest Reserve in Erromango. The project involved all the community members including youth and the indigenous people, who speak the local Smae language. The project built local capacity in nursery management to rear valuable trees. Over 20,000-forest trees seedling were raised in the community nursery and local youths were trained in rearing trees seedling within nursery management. The seedlings rehabilitated 25,000 woodlots of degraded forested areas. (*Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2019-2020*)

In **Vanuatu**, SGP support the *ILiL UAS Community Association* to address forest degradation issues due to rising population pressure, low food crop yields caused by shortened fallow periods, and deterioration of community water sources. The local population's access to fuel and building supplies was impacted by the loss of the forest, making the neighborhood vulnerable to disasters. Thus, the grantee, an indigenous peoples' organization, was created to improve local livelihoods. With the support of SGP, a community forest nursery was established with enhanced water access. Members of the community planted trees in nurseries to restore the forest in the village and garden slopes to prevent soil erosion after land was cleared for gardening. Medicinal herbs were also introduced to the nursery. Training sessions engaging indigenous peoples were conducted on land and forest management. As part of the rehabilitation of the local watershed, a five-hectare tract of indigenous land with a natural forest, known as the *Lounarie Forest Conservancy*, was also proclaimed as no take and no enter zone. The project also supported World Environment Day by demonstrating its efforts and promoting the need for reforestation on Tanna Island, Vanuatu. It distributed 4,000 plant seedlings from the nursery to 10 other tribes in local communities to replant in their areas for land and forest restoration. *(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2021-2022)*

In **Vanuatu**, *Alpalack Community Project* addressed deforestation caused by agriculture in the country, particularly in the lowland areas where much of the land is used for agriculture, cattle farming, and coconut plantations. Due to the frequent cyclones that hit the region, many farmlands were left abandoned each year, leading to further degradation of the forest and land. In response to this issue, the local leader of the community of Alpalak took the initiative to champion tree planting as a means to restore the degraded forest and land. With the support of SGP funding, the initial nursery of 500 seedlings was scaled up to 5,000 nursery seedlings after the improvement of water irrigation in the nursery was implemented. These seedlings were then supplied to families in Alpalak to treat 1,000 hectares of deforested area with improved woodlots. This successful approach caught the attention of representatives from 10 tribes in the Northwest *Malekula* island, who participated in a workshop. As a consequence, nursery seedlings were distributed to farmers from these tribes, leading to the treatment of an additional 10,000 hectares of deforested areas on the island.

The project successfully brought about significant benefits to the community, directly impacting 20 households comprising over 30 capable adults, including both men and women who actively participated in project-related activities. The project's thoughtful design ensured that it operated at a scale that would make a positive contribution to the community without disrupting its existing commercial, social, and cultural activities. *(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2022-2023)*

Social Inclusion – Indigenous Peoples

In **Vanuatu**, SGP supported grantee, *Entani Community-based Organization (ENTANI)*, in a project that address the loss of biodiversity due to destruction of its' natural habit and put in place mechanism that would help improve livelihood and promote conservation of forests. The project aimed at bringing water supplies to the indigenous community who never had accessible clean water supplies. The country's freshwater system is limited, many stream waters are short and seasonal due to the young volcanic island and loose soil structure which make it hard to retain water at surface. Many communities' water supply is drawn from rain harvesting or coastal wells. To this end, ensuring access to water supply and protect the forest, were successful activities that contributed to the safeguard of the environment and to the reduction of labor on indigenous women and children who used to cross rough terrain to access creek water for drinking and domestic cooking. Face to face meeting consultations took place in each village meeting center to educate the targeted community on forest protection. Furthermore, a collaboration between the Department of forest and the village chiefs led to a floral biodiversity assessment in which native plans were studied and catalogued in the vernacular languages. The identification of some wild stand of Vanuatu endemic plans within the watershed areas prompted the village chiefs to sign the agreement for protection of the water supply reservoir to the National policy standards. *(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2020-2021)*

Social Inclusion – Youth

In **Vanuatu**, Ifira Marine Management completed a youth-led project working on the Rehabilitation and Restoration of Ifira Marine Protected Area through coastal ecosystem clean-up including coral reef cleaning. With the support from SGP, outreach activities were conducted in local communities and urban municipal departments to increase their awareness of the detrimental impact on the coral reef ecosystem and local people's coastal fishery in Port Vila city harbor caused by community waste, seafarers' passing-by, and lack of proper waste disposal. As a result of the project, a centralized waste management system was introduced to facilitate the reduction, reuse, and recycling of community waste. Waste sorting was advocated at the household level to the local communities. Sign boards were established in the local communities, and posters and fliers were distributed during community awareness meetings on waste management and coastal vegetation restoration. In addition, a two-day clean-up activity of coral predators, crown-of-thorn starfish, was organized to collect crown-of-thorn starfish from the reef. The cleanup event drew the attention of local media. The best practices of collecting waste were promoted via media. The project also received support from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to establish proper disposal containers. *(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2021-2022)*

ALIGNMENT OF OP7 COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES

List of relevant conventions and national/regional plans or programmes:

Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Vanuatu signed 9 June 1992. Ratified 25 March 1993.
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	Completed 2000.Currently under review for update.
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	Vanuatu signed 18 November 2011. Ratified 1 July 2014.
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Vanuatu signed 9 June 1992. Ratified 25 March 1993.
Paris Agreement - UNFCCC	Vanuatu signed and submitted. Ratification in progress.
UNFCCC National Communications (1st, 2nd, 3rd)	1st UNFCC National Communication completed 2002.
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	NAMA workshop held 2013. NAMAs currently in progress.
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	Submitted December 2007.
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	Vanuatu signed 10 August 1999. Ratified 28 September 1999.
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	Completed 2010.
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Vanuatu signed 22 May 2001. Ratified 16 September 2001.
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	Drafted 2007. Transmission pending.
Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	Not applicable.
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	Completed 2007.
GEF-6 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	Not applicable.
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international waterbodies	Completed 1997.
Minamata Convention on Mercury	Not applicable. Vanuatu not a signatory.
Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2016-2030	Enacted 2016.
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	Accession 1989. Entry into force 1989.
RAMSAR Wetlands Convention	Signing in progress 2016.
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The SGP and the CPS has been guided by the international conventions and national planning frameworks of Vanuatu. The Vanuatu National Sustainable Development Plan [VNSDP] 2016-2030 is the highest-level government planning document as localized Sustainable Development Goals and policy objectives. The policy framework for Vanuatu's sustainable development has 3 pillar goals: social, economic, and environmental. And the environmental pillar goal is for the country's natural environment to be sustainably managed, to continue functioning, to support and serve ecological needs, provide local food and nutrition, and well serve the culture and economy of Vanuatu to meet the needs of this current and future generations. The objectives of the VNSDP environmental pillars were derived from the existing national environmental related policies and strategies:

- 1. The National Environmental Policy and Implementation Plan (NEPIP) for Vanuatu is a framework that links the environmental-related policies ad provides a roadmap for Vanuatu long term environmental actions under the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation and the corporate planning instruments and existing policies such as the NBSAP, National Invasive species strategy (NISSAP) and National Waste Management Strategy and Action plan (NWMS). The NEPIP outlines the collective responsibilities of each Vanuatu citizen in helping Vanuatu move towards a sustainable future.
- 2. The Vanuatu NBSAP 2018-2030 focuses on strengthening the local conservation activities and incorporating the traditional knowledge in effective biodiversity and natural resource management. The landscape and seascape wide conservation approach emphasizes strengthening local indigenous communities' efforts for protection of critical ecosystems, finding innovative ways in the sustainable management of critical ecosystems, supports the knowledge flow, technology transfer, and local skills development and networking of projects at the grassroots.
- 3. Vanuatu National Road Map for coastal Fisheries Management 2019-2030 presents innovative ways to coordinate the management of inland and coastal shallow waters, ecosystems, and species, and community coastal fishing activities within the coastal zone. The Road map outlines the coordination amongst government, CSO, local village fishers, and local CSO networks such as the Vanua Tai Resource Monitors (which is a network of men and women throughout the country for monitoring critical ecosystems and endangered species such as turtles).
- 4. Overarching Vanuatu National Productive Sector Policy revised in 2020 towards a sustainable and climate-smart agriculture for food security as well as maintaining a good local economic base. And the National Forest Policy guides for sustainable forest utilization and management towards improving the local economy and balancing environmental functions. The National Biosecurity policy 2016-2030 focuses on maintaining and improving Vanuatu plant health, effective management of importation and distribution of pesticides, improving and strengthening Vanuatu Border control to mitigate the risk of importation of weeds, pests, and diseases that are threats to the Vanuatu agriculture and biodiversity. The National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan 2014 maintain border control, develop an interisland biosecurity programme in eradicating species where this is feasible and controlling the spread of species that cannot be eradicated. Local communities often face food scarcity that has impacts on children and nutritional requirements. Landholders and farmers have the local knowledge of the changes within the local environment in their food and cash crop cultivation, livestock rearing. And that local knowledge needs to be inclusive and support the shaping of the national policies towards building local communities' resilience to climate change negative impacts.
- 5. The Vanuatu National Energy Road Map 2013-2020 for access, secure reliable and affordable electricity for all citizens by 2030. Much of the Vanuatu rural communities including schools and health centers still have no access to electricity. There is a need for investment to upskill youth and women participation in rural electrification for improvement of lighting and transportation and local entrepreneurs' business and provide the learnings for that national policy.
- 6. National Water Strategy 2008 (NWS) is still active and subjectively reviewed to ensure sustainable and equitable access to safe water and sanitation and for the promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems in Vanuatu. The strategy outlines actions required by all government departments of Vanuatu, relating to water. CSOs based in all parts of Vanuatu can support local dialogue for collective management of watershed areas that are within traditional landholding for the local communities' access to adequate clean water and improved sanitation during the current pandemic. Local decisions can provide directions for policies for safe water and sanitation and management of watersheds that are within the traditional landholding, in the country.
- 7. National Waste Management Strategy 2016 is still active and aims to minimize the amount of waste generated and sent to landfills via the 3R concept (reduce, reuse, recycle). In 2019 the government imposed a National Ban on the importation of plastic shopping bags that is currently in effect. Vanuatu

National Plastic strategy 2020-2030 involves collection of plastic, recycling, and export. However, the exporting of plastic is challenged by long-distance transportation and the cost of transportation between islands. CSOs based on all islands can support advocacy on the government ban on the use of plastic and motivate local communities to reduce, reuse, and recycle waste. SGP can support dialogues between CSO, government, and private sectors to support sustainable waste management.

- 8. Climate Change and Disaster Risk Policy 2020 is framework for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, climate change, and on Vanuatu sustainable development processes through coordination and planning of programmes including projects implemented by partners, academia, civil society organizations, and private sector.
- 9. The National Integrated Coastal Management Framework 2010 emphasizes the need for government and partners, civil society organizations, private sector, provincial government, and municipalities to cooperate, collaborate, and integrate their activities into a coordinated response to mitigate and reduce degradation of critical coastal ecosystems and resources. Such a framework of collaboration provided an opportunity for SGP to work for the upscaling of local initiatives to coastal zone management.
- 10. The National Land use planning and Zone Policy 2012 is still active. The constitution of the Republic of Vanuatu states that the rules of custom shall form the basis of ownership and use of land. And as such, no government policy will ever be able to mandate a universal land use practice in Vanuatu that is within the custody of indigenous people of Vanuatu. The indigenous knowledge on their land use can be integrated with science for best land use practices to guide national land use planning policies to meet current needs.
- 11. The National Geospatial Policy is the National overarching coordinating framework policy to manage and coordinate Geospatial Data in the country. Information on local communities and the threats to their local environment requires a considerable amount of time and resources to be obtained, and such information is not always available within the national databank for development planning. The use of geospatial technology to obtain information on the local setting can be useful in planning community-based projects to address threats to the local environment.

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

METHODOLOGICAL BASIS OF COUNTRY REPORT

- Results aggregations over time are only for completed projects.
- With SGP's rolling modality, results reflect all ongoing operational phases during the indicated period. Please refer to the total projects completed on the first page for information in this regard.
- The source of reported results is the annual monitoring process, which is part of the annual monitoring requirements for each country programme. Additionally, evaluative evidence sources have also been leveraged, if available for the country programme.
- This results report benefits from extensive quality assurance. All information across all countries in the portfolio is harmonized, verified, and evidenced before being reported. Several layers of this quality assurance have been implemented in the generation of this report and there are no result duplications across years. This point is important not only for a specific unit of measurement (i.e., indicator selected) but also for results aggregation across years in a given operational phase. Reported results include both direct and indirect global-environmental and socio-economic benefits. This is due to SGP's work in two key areas:
 - SGP works towards behavioural change at individual, organizational, and community levels. Social determinants that shape human interaction with the environment play an important role, especially at the community level, as sustainability and the continuation of environmental gains often depend on them. These factors include positive shifts in knowledge, attitudes, practices, social and cultural norms, and conventions. Such interventions shape not only demand but also communication between community leaders and other influencers in promoting the adoption of environmentally friendly behaviours and practices. Often, SGP projects have ripple effects that go well beyond the direct scope of the project, emphasizing the importance of measuring indirect impact.
 - Encouraging Community Action for Environmental Change. For many years, SGP has focused on promoting and supporting local community groups to bring about broader and sustainable environmental change. This approach is a key aspect of SGP's work and recognizes the power of motivated community groups to create significant impact and drive positive transformation. Community group action refers to informal gatherings of individuals and organizations in the community who share a common belief and purpose. It involves taking practical steps over time to address environmental and socioeconomic challenges and creating positive change. This grassroots-level approach relies on the active involvement and empowerment of the community, with the initial efforts acting as a catalyst for further mobilization. By encouraging self-governance and involving those most affected by the issues, community action can extend its influence to more people in the community, underscoring the importance of measuring indirect impact.