



SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME RESULTS REPORT (FY 2017-2023)

BELIZE



COUNTRY REPORT CARD

FY 2017-2023

PORTFOLIO PROFILE SINCE INCEPTION			
Country Programme Name	Belize		
Year Started	1993		
	GEF	Non-GEF	Total
Number of projects	259	49	308
Grant amount committed	7,630,171	1,450,474	9,080,645
Project level co-financing in cash	3,714,468	618,793	4,333,260
Project level co-financing in kind	5,790,950	1,003,634	6,794,584
Total co-financing *	12,578,318		
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 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023
Focal Area Distribution (by completed projects)								
Biodiversity	11	10	3	1	6	1	2	34
Climate Change	2	1	-	1	3	-	1	8
Land Degradation	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	4
Capacity Development	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	4
International Waters	1	-	-	-	1	1	3	6
Total Projects Completed	15	11	6	4	11	2	7	56

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

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	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 the total values 2016-2023 have undergone comprehensive quality assurance that supports aggregation of results over time. This includes removal of duplicative data over time and/or inclusion of more results based on verification by SGP country teams.								
PROGRESS TOWARDS FOCAL AREA OBJECTIVES								
Biodiversity								
Number of biodiversity projects completed	11	10	3	1	6	1	2	34
Number of Protected Areas (PAs) positively influenced	11	18	4	8	4	-	6	26
Hectares of PAs	177,957	382,057	77,455	121,455	141,571	-	204,555	690,756
Number of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCAs) positively influenced	1	1	-	5	4	-	1	6
Hectares of ICCAs	26	4,300	-	4,723	488	-	1,011	6,899
Number of biodiversity-based products sustainably produced	4	1	5	-	-	-	-	10
Number of significant species conserved	4	7	2	13	9	6	4	29
Number of target landscapes/seascapes under improved community conservation and sustainable use	4	4	2	4	3	-	4	14
Hectares of target landscapes/seascapes under improved community conservation and sustainable use	177,999	382,057	77,455	331,167	141,571	-	204,555	814,804
Climate Change								
Number of climate change projects completed	2	1	-	1	3	-	1	8
Did the country programme address community-level barriers to deployment of low-GHG technologies? (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	-	-	Yes	4
Number of typologies of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	4

	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
successful demonstrations or scaling up and replication								
Number of households achieving energy access co-benefits (ecosystem effects, income, health and others)	68	68	-	45	-	-	65	178
Breakdown of projects								
Low carbon technology and renewable energy projects	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	4
Energy efficiency solutions projects	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Land Degradation								
Number of land degradation projects completed	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	4
Number of community members with improved actions and practices that reduce negative impacts on land uses	300	-	225	30	-	-	-	555
Number of community members demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices	150	-	225	30	-	-	-	405
Hectares of land brought under improved management practices	202	-	31,005	379	-	-	-	31,586
Number of farmer leaders involved in successful demonstrations of agro-ecological practices	15	-	25	30	-	-	-	70
Number of farmer organizations, groups or networks disseminating climate-smart agroecological practices	4	-	4	6	-	-	-	14
International Waters								
Number of international waters projects completed	1	-	-	-	1	1	3	6
Number of seascapes/inland freshwater landscapes	4	-	-	9	6	1	1	21

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Hectares of marine/coastal areas of fishing grounds brought under sustainable management	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	341,070
Capacity Development								
Number of capacity development projects completed	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	4
Number of civil society organizations with strengthened capacities	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	6
Number of community-based organizations with strengthened capacities	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	8
Number of people with improved capacities to address global environmental issues at the community level	-	-	-	-	112	-	81	193
GRANTMAKER PLUS								
CSO-Government Dialogue								
Number of CSO-government dialogues supported	3	2	8	3	4	1	4	25
Number of CSO/CBO representatives involved in the dialogues	75	5	45	75	45	35	25	305
South-South Exchange								
Number of South-South exchanges supported	3	7	5	2	-	4	2	23
Gender								
Number of gender responsive completed projects	15	11	6	4	11	1	7	55
Number of completed projects led by women	8	5	4	4	7	1	5	34
Programme Management: NSC gender focal point (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	7
Indigenous Peoples								
Number of completed projects that included indigenous peoples	14	5	3	2	4	-	7	35

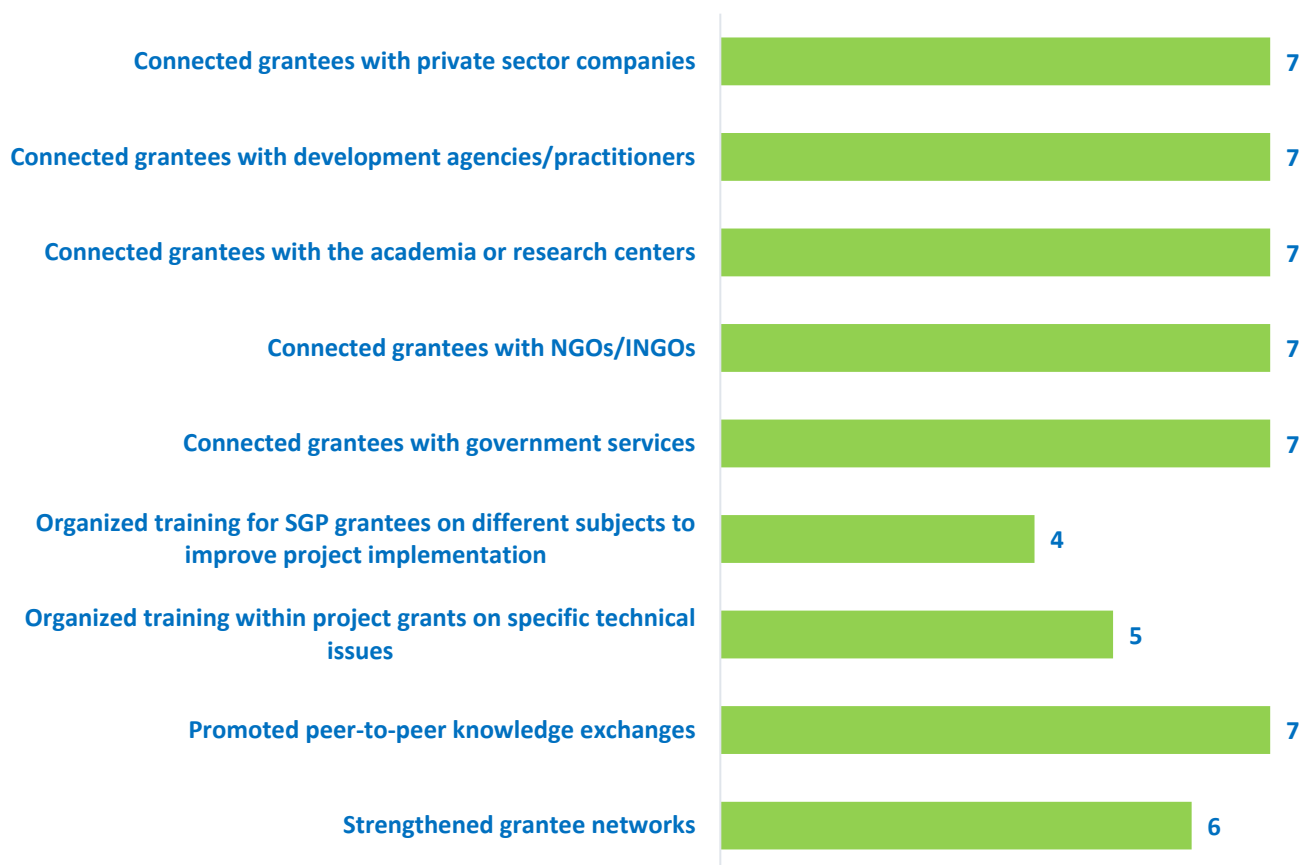
	July 2016 - June 2017	July 2017 - June 2018	July 2018 - June 2019	July 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - June 2021	July 2021 - June 2022	July 2022 - June 2023	Total Value 2016 - 2023 **
Number of indigenous leaders with improved capacities	8	10	-	15	11	-	110	154
Programme Management: NSC IP focal point (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	7
Ways to encourage IP projects								
Proposals accepted in local languages (yes/no)	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	0	4
Proposals accepted using participatory video (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	0	5
Involved indigenous peoples in NSC and/or TAG (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	7
Enhanced outreach and networking with indigenous people's groups (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	7
Youth								
Number of completed projects that included youth	15	10	1	4	6	1	7	44
Number of youth organizations	2	-	-	1	3	-	7	13
Programme Management: NSC youth focal point (yes/no)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	6
Persons with Disability								
Number of disabled persons organizations	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
BROADER ADOPTION (Scaling up, Replication, Policy Influence, Improving Livelihoods)								
Projects replicated or scaled up	-	2	-	-	2	-	1	5
Projects with policy influence	-	1	1	1	1	-	1	5
Projects improving livelihoods of communities	14	7	6	3	11	1	3	45
PROGRAMME EFFECTIVENESS								
Peer-to-peer exchanges conducted	5	5	8	8	1	2	12	41

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Community-level trainings conducted	3	5	6	6	4	1	9	34
Number of projects monitored through field visits	42	48	29	21	18	44	25	227
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT								
National Steering Committee								
Number of NSC meetings occurred during the reporting period	5	5	3	5	4	2	3	27
Average number of NSC members that participated in each NSC meeting	8	7	9	7	6	5	6	7

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 Deployed Capacity Development Strategies (Over 7-year reporting period from 2017-2023)



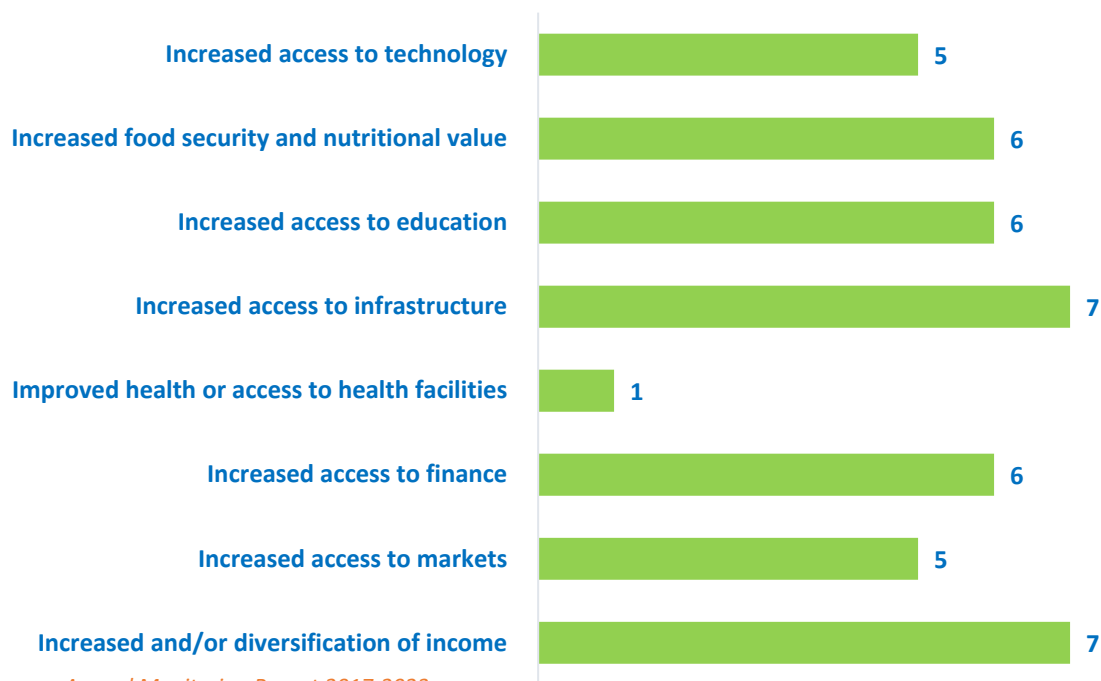
Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

**Number of Years Country Programme Deployed Gender Mainsreaming Strategies
(Over 7-year reporting period from 2017-2023)**



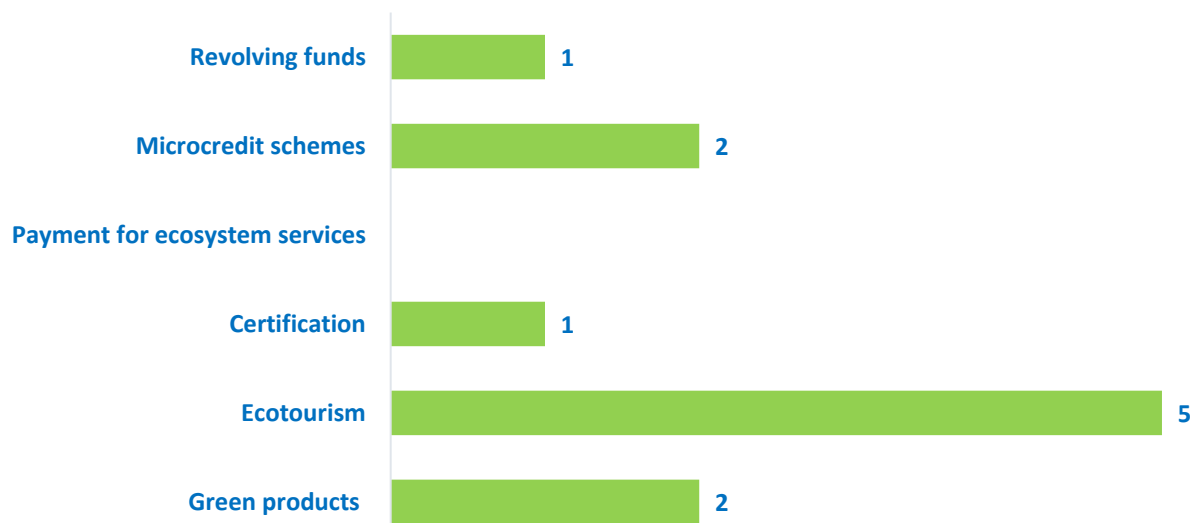
Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

**Number of Years Country Programme Deployed Strategies to Improve Community Livelihoods and Quality of Life
(Over 7-year reporting period from 2017-2023)**



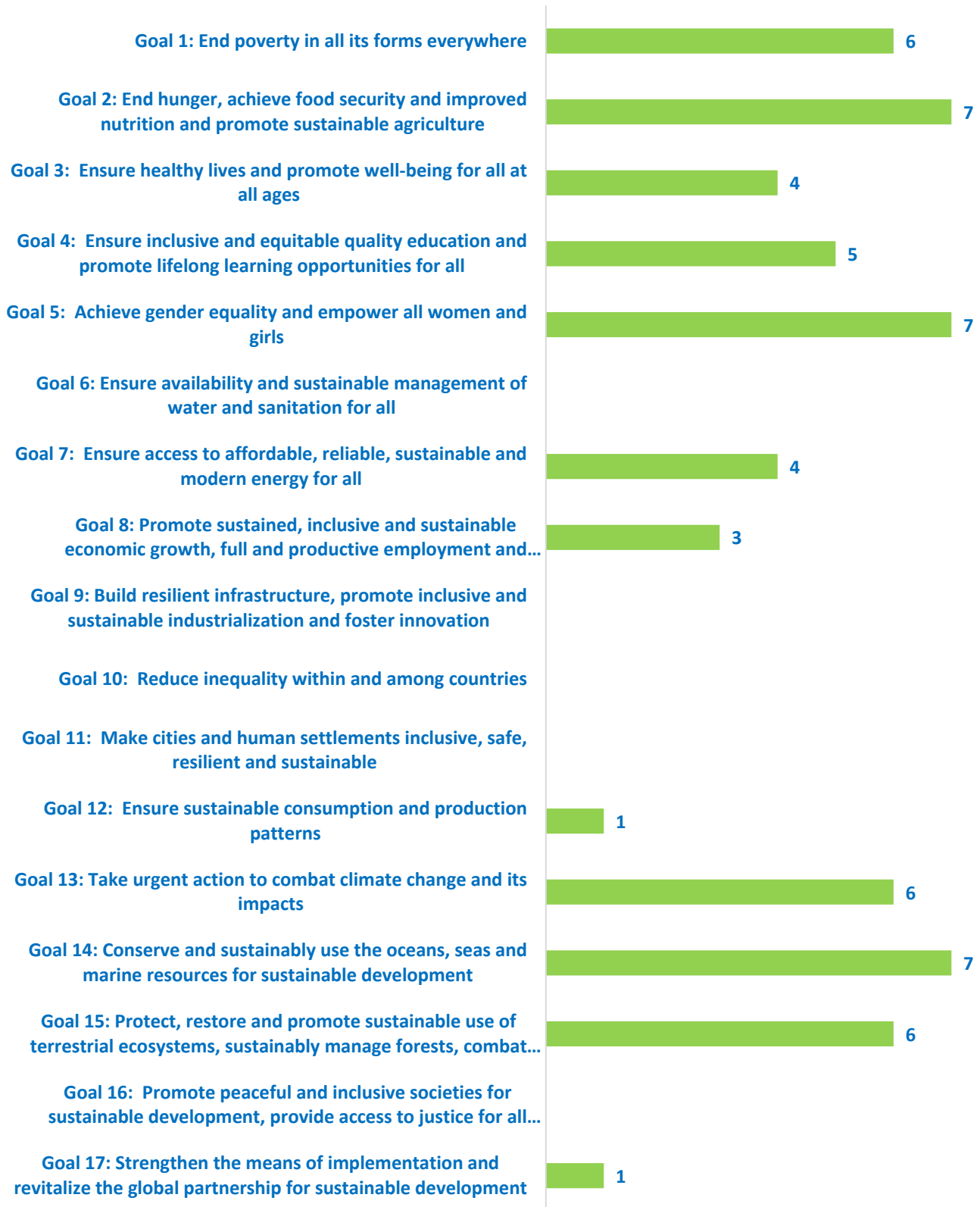
Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

**Number of Years Country Programme Deployed Market-based and Financial Mechanisms to Improve Community Livelihoods
(Over 7-year reporting period from 2017-2023)**



Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

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



Source: Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2023

EVALUATIVE EVIDENCE

UNDP [Independent Country Programme Review: Belize, 2020](#)

- The contribution of GEF Small Grant Programme (SGP) has been envisaged at the CPD design stage, to stimulate synergy between the CO environment portfolio and the SGP from the outset through leveraging additional donor funding and effectively engaging local communities. In this programme cycle, UNDP secured co-funding from the OAK Foundation for SGP community-based adaptation initiatives, including training youth in climate-resilient agro-ecological practices and support for climate-resilient livelihoods for artisanal fishers.
- The UNDP/OAK-SGP programme built the fishers' capacity in monitoring and data management activities, enabling them to contribute to the managed access structures.
- UNDP has endeavored to promote human rights and access to basic services and livelihood of vulnerable groups. For example, the Small Grants Programme (SGP) supports community-level initiatives and integration of traditional knowledge, and together with other environment portfolio projects engage indigenous peoples, small farmers and fishers.
- Vulnerable populations in its interventions, including through collaboration with CSOs and the SGP.
- Such efforts are complemented by the community-level climate change adaptation initiatives supported through the Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership and the UNDP/OAK-SGP small grants.
- The OAK Foundation - SGP partnership funded 12 community-based adaptation initiatives.
- The UNDP/OAK Re-Granting Partnership Phase II in partnership with the GEF SGP, invested in sustainable livelihoods tied to the country's natural resources base.

EXAMPLES OF PROJECT RESULTS

Climate Change

In **Belize**, a project completed by *Plenty International* supported indigenous female solar engineers to bring solar energy to *Machakil Ha* and *Graham Creek* villages – the most rural and remote communities in the country. The project trained and established two community solar power boards, officially recognized by the *Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour, and Local Government*. The solar power boards are responsible for collecting monthly fees to ensure the long-term sustainability of the solar systems, thus promoting community ownership and involvement in maintaining the solar infrastructure. Also, the project established *Belize Power Connect Limited*, a social enterprise equipped with the necessary equipment, tools, and spare parts to support solar photovoltaic efforts throughout Belize. Five individuals received training in international solar photovoltaic standards from *Solar Energy International*. 25 residents from *Graham Creek* and *Machakil Ha* villages were trained in basic solar photovoltaic maintenance. Moreover, an all-women solar board was established in *Graham Creek*. Five workshops were conducted on gender roles, community development, and finance training. 12 youths participated in a solar photovoltaics summer camp led by solar engineers.

As a result, 30 tons of CO₂ emissions were avoided through the installation of solar photovoltaics in 65 homes, 2 primary schools, and 2 micro-businesses. 284 indigenous people directly benefited from solar photovoltaic installations. 18 indigenous leaders were empowered with higher capacities to deliver local solutions and effectively advocate for policies. 15 staff members of the *Ministry of Rural Transformation* received basic solar photovoltaics training. These officers are now equipped to support the delivery of solar photovoltaics to other rural and remote communities lacking electricity. 375 books were delivered to each village, positively impacting literacy rates and socio-economic development. Health outcomes in both communities also improved due to enhanced access to electricity. A video documentary was produced, enhancing public awareness and recognition of the project's success. The project's achievements aligned with Belize's

Sustainable Energy Roadmap 2030 outcomes and targets, reinforcing the nation's commitment to sustainable energy solutions and environmental stewardship. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2022-2023)**

International Waters

In **Belize**, SGP supported development of capacity of the Toledo tour guide association to promote responsible tourism practices among its members who depend on marine resources for their livelihoods. This project built on the success of previous projects with the main objective of providing an environment for the development of sustainable and environmentally aware tourism in Punta Gorda, a coastal community of the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System World Heritage Site. The project promoted tourism products in which community members can be employed in tourism as an alternative source of livelihoods to traditional fishing. The project contributed to enforcing the policies for the sustainable use of the Hokeb Ha (Blue Creek) with adequate equipment. Furthermore, a cadre of qualified local marine guides are trained to conduct marine tours to the Sapodilla Cayes marine reserve and the Port Honduras marine reserve. One of the tour guides trained in the project moved on to successfully win the "Tour Guide of the Year" award, which reflects positively on the effectiveness of the training offered during the project. This project also contributed to the enforcement by the Belize Tourism Board Tour Guiding Statutory Instrument pertaining to mandatory completion of a refresher tour guiding course. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2016-2017)**

In **Belize**, a project implemented by *ReefKeeper Belize* aimed to promote marine conservation and environmental stewardship among the community and school children in Belize. It provided two online marine science workshops to 45 primary and secondary school teachers in collaboration with *Pathlight International*. Four educational episodes of the television show "*Undersea Belize*" were produced and aired on *PlusTV* and *Channel 5* for 16 months, reaching an estimated viewership of 40,000. The project further facilitated presentations on marine science, blue economy, persistent organic pollutants (POPs), and the *Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System* (a UNESCO World Heritage Site). To enhance practical learning experiences, eight field trips were organized for 96 teachers and students to the *South Water Caye Marine Reserve*. A *Marine Chalupa* board game was developed in collaboration with the *Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology*, available in Garifuna and English for primary school children as a valuable classroom teaching tool. Moreover, the project promoted three plastic recycling initiatives. Three cleanup activities were held on *Dangriga Beach* in 2021. In collaboration with the Department of the Environment (DOE), Children and adults learned how to crochet with used plastic bags. In *Sarawee*, a plastic repurposing project was conducted, where recycled bottles were used to create garden planters. Local children actively participated in this initiative, helping develop a park using the material. 20 barrels donated by a community group were decorated during a summer camp, featuring environmental themes, and placed around *Dangriga Town* to encourage responsible waste disposal. A recycling receptacle "*Gari the Goliath grouper*" was placed on *Havana Beach* in *Dangriga*, where interpretive signage would be added to educate the public on recycling practices and provide information on the *Goliath grouper*. A commercial was produced and aired on *PlusTV*, aimed at encouraging individuals to actively participate in reducing litter and plastic waste.

As a consequence, 0.75 tons of plastic waste were removed. The project's efforts resulted in a reported 58% increase in knowledge and a 13% increase in the appreciation of the importance of reducing plastic POPs in the environment among high school students. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2022-2023)**

CSO-Government Dialogue

In Belarus, **Belize**, Brazil, Lesotho, Ecuador, Mozambique, Panama and Venezuela relied on landscape approach as an entry point to initiate the dialogues at the regional level. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2016-2017)**

In **Belize**, SGP supported the first community forestry symposium for state actors called Forest Conservation and Governance in Belize. The event was part of a regional EU/ICCO Forest Governance Project to safeguard forest, increase government transparency and indigenous community participation in forest management. It attracted stakeholders from ministries of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Sustainable Development, Environment, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management Authority; Friends for Conservation and Development; University of Belize-Environmental Research Institute; Instituto de Investigaciones

Fundamentales en Agricultura Tropical (CUBA); Ya'axche Conservation Trust; Centro Agronomico Tropical de Investigaciones y Ensenanza (CATIE); GEF SGP Belize; GEF SGP Cuba; and farmers. These discussions led to drafting of Belize's first Agroforestry Policy. Once completed and formalized, it aims to serve as a decision-making tool in establishing a balance between sustainable and productive use of Belize's forests. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2019-2020)**

South-South Exchange

In December 2017, SGP supported a knowledge exchange with farmers from **Cuba, Belize and Jamaica**, on agro-ecology and agriculture tourism held in the Viñales National Park, Cuba. Participants received a certificate of training and academic credits for the training received in Cuba. Topics included organic agriculture, vermiculture, production and conservation of seeds, biological control of pests and diseases, use of bio-digesters for pig residual treatment, and agro-tourism activities. To sustain the south-south exchange, Professor Ruben Sanchez Curiel provided direct technical assistance and mentorship in April and May to farmers of the Maya Golden Landscape. In addition, SGP supported other exchanges between fishermen from Cuba and Belize in July 2017 on sustainable economic alternatives for fishing communities by cultivating seaweed, sponges and oysters, and on Coral Restoration between Jamaica and Belize in March 2018. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2017-2018)**

Social Inclusion – Indigenous Peoples

In **Belize**, with support from SGP *Aguacate Conservation and Development Committee (ACDC)* strengthened indigenous Stewardship of the Community Conserved Areas in Aguacate as a key strategy to safeguard indigenous livelihoods and adaptation to the effects of climate change. The project allowed for a mapping of three-square kilometers for the identification of the flora and fauna, caves and waterfalls that are within the Community Conserved Areas. This encouraged community members to take ownership of what they have and seek alternative ways to ensure sustainability of the ICCAs. As key results of the project, Aguacate leaders declared three indigenous community conservation areas with the communal land positively impacting the lives of the villagers, securing biodiversity resources, fostering alternative livelihood opportunities and sustainable management of biodiversity. Two resting sheds and camping areas were also constructed at each area. 90 residents participated in these stewardship efforts fostering landscape management governance models for voluntary conservation. Furthermore, indigenous knowledge exchanges were supported and resulted in the establishment of a local ICCA network of practitioners in the southern landscape. In particular, 40 indigenous children benefited from these traditional knowledge sharing sessions by the community elders. Agroforestry and agroecology knowledge exchanges enabled enhanced local food security and sovereignty as a response measure to cope with the COVID19 pandemic. **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2020-2021)**

Scaling up, Replication and Policy Influence

In **Belize**, an SGP project was upscaled within 3 MPAs in Belize with funds from the Marine Adaptation to Climate Change Project, in collaboration with the Government of Belize, World Bank and the Adaptation Fund, to implement ecosystem-based marine conservation and climate adaptation measures to strengthen the climate resilience of the Belize Barrier Reef System and its productive marine resources. 1500 beneficiaries and 179,690 hectares were positively influenced. A component of this project being upscaled used the approved replenishment methodology. Another project in Belize contributed to the Mangrove Task Force which conducted to the revision of the Mangrove Act to comply with the desired state party conservation report and adding Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System to World Heritage Site. As a result, the Government of Belize passed legislation for an indefinite moratorium on offshore oil exploration in Belize's territorial sea, including the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). **(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, 2017-2018)**

ALIGNMENT OF OP7 COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES

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

Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
GEF-7 National Dialogues	
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Signature: 13 June 1992 Ratification: 30 Dec 1993 Effective date: 30 March 1994
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	Belize National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	None submitted
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Date of signature 22 April 2016 Date of ratification 22 April 2016
UNFCCC National Communications (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd)	1st Communication: 16 Sept 2002 2nd Communication: 28 Oct 2011 3 rd Communication: 27 Apr 2016
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	None submitted
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	None submitted
Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Paris Accord	1 st submitted 20 Apr 2016
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	UNCCD, 1994
Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Signature: 14 May 2002 Accession: 25 January 2010
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	Submitted: 03 Feb 2011
UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	25 Sept 2015
Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) for the UN SDGs	1 st VNRs 2017 2 nd VNRs 2020 HLPF
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international waterbodies (IW) ³	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystems and Guyana and Brazil Shelf (CLME+) and management of the Gulf of Honduras
Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy	August 2015
Horizon 2030	March 2011

National Protected Areas Policy and System Plan	Updated 2016
Agriculture and Food Security Policy	May 2002-2020
National Forest Policy	May 2015
National Integrated Water Resources Authority Act	1 Sept 2015
UNESCO World Heritage Site Convention	6 Nov 1990
GoB Policy on Adaptation to Global Climate Change	Sept 2014
National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Action Plan	18 Mar 2015

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.