The GEF Small Grants Programme

Annual Monitoring Report

1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015

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ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
ACPER	Annual Country Portfolio Evaluation Report

ASADAS	Community Water Management and Aqueducts Committees
AMR	Annual Monitoring Report
BD	Biodiversity
BMUB	German Federal Ministry of the Environment
CBA	Community-based Adaptation to Climate Change
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	Community-based organization
CBR+	Community-based REDD+
CC	Climate change
CD	Capacity development
CH	Chemicals
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CESRIKI	Center for Scientific Research, Indigenous Knowledge and Innovation
CFL	Compact Fluorescent Light
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CIWP	Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project
CO	Country Office (UNDP)
CO2	Carbon dioxide
COMDEKS	Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative
COMPACT	Community Management of Protected Areas for Conservation
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPE	Country Portfolio Evaluation
CPMT	Central Programme Management Team
CPS	Country Programme Strategy
CREMA	Community Resource Management Area
CSO	Civil society organization
CWI	Community Water Initiative
DDT	Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DLDD	Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought
DFZ	Diclofenac-free zone
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
DPO	Disabled people's organization
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EO	Evaluation Office
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FSP	Full-size project
GEB	Global environmental benefits
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
Ha	Hectare
HACCP	Hazard analysis and critical control points
HQ	Headquarter
ICCA	Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Areas and Territories
ICCA GSI	Global Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas Support Initiative
IKS	Indigenous Knowledge Systems
IPEN	International POPs Elimination Network

INMIP	International Network of Mountain Indigenous Peoples
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IPO	Indigenous peoples' organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
IW	International waters
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
KM	Knowledge Management
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LCB	Local consultative body
LD	Land degradation
LDC	Least Developed Country
LED	Light Emitting Diodes
LFA	Logical Framework Approach
LIFE	Local Initiative Facility for Urban Environment
LMMA	Locally Managed Marine Areas
MAP	Macon Asia and Pacific
MFA	Multi Focal Area
MIST	Ministry of Infrastructure, Science and Technology
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MPA	Marine Protected Area
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MEA	Multi-lateral environmental agreements
MSP	Medium-size project
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NC	National Coordinator
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NHI	National host institution
NSC	National Steering Committee
OECM	Other effective area-based conservation measure
OP	Operational Phase
OPV	Open pollinated varieties
PAs	Protected Areas
PA	Programme Assistant
PEF	Pacific Environment Fund
PIF	Project Identification Form
PIR	Project Implementation Review
PLWHA	People living with HIV/Aids
POP	Persistent organic pollutant
PTF	Programme for Tropical Forests
RAF	Resource Allocation Framework
RBM	Results Based Management
RedLAC	Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds
REDD	Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
SCS	South China Sea
SECCP	Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Project
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management

SGP	Small Grants Programme
SGP-PTF	Small Grants Programme for Operations to Promote Tropical Forests in Southeast Asia
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SMNP	Simien Mountain National Park
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SPA	Strategic Priority on Adaptation
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
STAR	System for Transparent Allocation of Resources
TACC	Territorial Approach to Climate Change
TEK	Traditional ecological knowledge
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TRAC	Target for Resource Assignment from the Core
TV	Television
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCSD	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNF	United Nations Foundation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UN-REDD	United Nations initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
USD	US Dollar
WB	World Bank
WCIP	World Conference on Indigenous Peoples
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WH	World heritage
WH LEEP	World Heritage Local Ecological Entrepreneurship Programme
WHS	World Heritage Site
WIN	World Indigenous Network
WMA	Wildlife management areas
WPC	World Parks Congress
YR	Year

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The fourth Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) of the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), covers the period from 1 July 2014 through 30 June 2015, which coincides with the final year of SGP's Operational Phase 5 (OP5) and the start of preparations for Operational Phase 6 (OP6). The GEF SGP Central Programme Management Team (CPMT) prepared this AMR based on annual reports submitted by over 100 SGP country and sub-regional programmes – including extensive responses to an indepth survey designed and conducted specifically for this purpose – and information drawn from the GEF SGP global project database.

SGP accelerated progress towards meeting OP5 objectives during the reporting period, while laying the groundwork for the new OP6, by providing enhanced guidance to country programme teams on programming and strategic directions for grant making, as well as on approaches to promote inclusion of women, youth and indigenous peoples. Total GEF grant funds committed during the reporting period amounted to over USD 28.5 million, with 856 new grantee-partners. Overall, SGP supervised and monitored 4,051 community-based and local CSO projects with grant funding of USD 142.9 million from GEF and other sources as well as co-financing – cash and in-kind – of USD 147.7 million during the reporting period.

SGP project level co-financing continued to be secured from a range of local and national partners with the aim of utilizing the GEF funds catalytically, fostering local ownership and promoting sustainability as well as broader adoption. As in previous years, SGP continued to meet its co-financing target of achieving 1:1 matching of GEF funds, through a range of partnerships at project and programme level. The significant co-financing, even in-kind, from community and local CSO partners shows that community-based projects create social capital that prevents dependency and enhances sustainability and thus increase the cost-effectiveness of donor funds.

In addition, SGP continued to serve as a delivery mechanism of choice for broader global and regional initiatives funded by key donor partners through its established country programmes. These include, among others, the Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) program with the Australian Government; the Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS) with the Japan Biodiversity Fund; the NGO Capacity Building for Environmental Governance project with the European Union; and the Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas Global Support Initiative (ICCA-GSI) with the German Government. In furthering its mandate to find innovative ways to involve indigenous and local communities in major national and global initiatives, SGP also developed a Community-Based REDD+ (CBR+) co-financing partnership with UN-REDD using Norway funding support.

SGP's cumulative portfolio, since its inception, now includes over 19,770 community-based and CSO-implemented projects in 132 countries, more than half of which are LDCs and SIDS. This represents a rich repository of community experience and knowledge for further lesson learning and exchange, which SGP will comprehensively tap in OP6 through two knowledge management initiatives; these will add critical value to the work and objectives of GEF by making community knowledge and innovation accessible for horizontal and vertical exchange at national and global levels. After the experience of more than two decades of implementation, SGP has consolidated its country programme network, with the numbers of projects supported representing a growing constituency committed to environmental protection and sustainable development. This established constituency will serve as a foundation for the start-up of the national planning and policy advocacy initiatives (i.e. CSO-Government Planning and Policy Dialogue Platform) of SGP OP6.

At present SGP extends its support through the global programme to 117 countries, while in nine countries upgraded country programmes are funded through allocations to separate full-size projects (FSPs). Following the

recommendation of the 2015 GEF-UNDP Joint Evaluation to consider the SGP Global Programme and the SGP Upgraded Country Programmes (UCPs) as two parts of the single GEF SGP corporate programme, results of UCPsupported projects are also incorporated in this report.

SGP's continuing focus on sustainable livelihoods as an integrative strategy to achieve environmental benefits in the GEF focal areas has supported participating countries to achieve progress in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which will serve well as an effective foundation for supporting the implementation of the recently agreed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In the biodiversity focal area, SGP projects have positively influenced 206 protected areas (PAs) and 299 Indigenous and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs) in this reporting period, bringing the total for the entire OP5 to 1,119 PAs and ICCAs. The strategic lessons, experience, and knowledge derived from these community-based biodiversity conservation projects - especially those that have employed landscape approaches - are currently being applied more widely through several SGP partnership programmes aimed at scaling up best practice. As such, smaller community projects are positively influencing larger conservation areas. Thus, they are now effectively contributing to the CBD's Aichi Targets, particularly Targets 1 (awareness), 6 (sustainable use), 11 (equitable management and "other effective area-based conservation measures"), 14 (restoration and safeguard of ecosystems for their services), 15 (ecosystem resilience), and 18 (respect for traditional knowledge, practices and innovations of indigenous and local communities).

In SGP's climate change portfolio, 70% of mitigation projects focused on low-carbon technologies – including renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions. This provides a good foundation for the "sustainable energy for all" framework and the SDG on clean energy that SGP aims to contribute to in OP6. In the climate change adaptation area, the SGP Community-based Adaptation (CBA) programme in SIDS and in the Mekong and Asia Pacific countries has supported climate-smart agriculture with its link to food security as well as integrated coastal zone and water resources management efforts to increase community resilience to climate change, particularly to sea level rise, storm surges and drought.

The demand from community stakeholders for support in sustainable land management has increased over the course of SGP OP5. The programme has met this demand and, as such, in the four years of OP5, projects in the land degradation focal area have developed the capacity of more than 346,000 community members to adopt sustainable land and forest management practices over an estimated 750,000 hectares of land. The SGP is seeking to share the expertise and lessons learned from these activities with the larger programmatic projects of the GEF and other agencies that are now working more intensively with local small farmers and farming communities and CSOs; while also implementing the "Climate-Smart Innovative Agro-ecology" initiative for OP6.

In the international waters focal area, SGP country programmes supported the implementation of regional GEF supported Strategic Action Programmes in ten international water bodies. Through close alignment with larger international waters programming and regional priorities, SGP has reduced or avoided a total of 1,436 tons of landbased pollution from flowing to transboundary waterbodies, and has brought 6,338 hectares of marine and coastal areas or fishing grounds brought under sustainable community management during the reporting year. The support to projects in the chemicals and waste focal area was expanded to include e-waste, mercury, lead and other heavy metals, plastics and solid waste. Capacity development in the chemicals focal area was enhanced with the incorporation of these added critical pollutants into the updated "Chemicals and Waste Management" training module made available to all. SGP supported the implementation of national policies and plans in chemicals and waste in 27 countries. This sets the foundation for the organization of local-to-global coalitions in the chemicals focal area planned for SGP OP6. Overall, in the capacity development work for all focal areas, SGP completed 55 projects that strengthened the capacities of 1,137 CSOs and 725 CBOs, comprising 60,735 people, to address global environmental issues at the community and country levels.

This AMR does not have the space to make a presentation of the 1,282 projects in all focal areas that have been completed during the reporting period. Instead, it highlights selective but representative projects and focal area results achieved by projects completed during the reporting period to show the innovative work of community and CSO stakeholders. Moreover, further information on the cross-cutting results and multi-focal synergies achieved by projects in the various GEF focal areas can also be found in the sections on capacity development, knowledge management, gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as on work with indigenous peoples and youth.

In order to contribute towards achievement of social inclusion commitments of the GEF, UNDP and other programme partners, SGP further intensified its mandate to work with poor and vulnerable stakeholders in often remote communities. About 59% of the projects completed in the reporting year integrate gender mainstreaming, while almost 30% were led by women as a result of the programme's proactive support for women's empowerment. Similarly, youth participation or leadership characterized almost 35% of completed projects. About 15% of completed projects were led by indigenous peoples' organizations during the reporting period, while more than 44% of country programmes specifically aimed at actively involving and generating benefits for indigenous people's communities. By the end of OP5, SGP will have provided support to all countries with IPs. In addition, SGP undertook special measures to promote social inclusion and ensure participation of the disabled, who are among the most vulnerable to climate change impacts, yet not actively targeted by most adaptation or disaster management plans.

This report offers select examples of projects that have achieved broader adoption and greater impact although there are many more that have succeeded as well. During the reporting period, 338 of the 1,282 projects completed were scaled up, replicated, or have influenced policy. The First Phase of the 2015 Joint Independent Evaluation of SGP remarked that *"The SGP continues to be effective, particularly at the level of individual grants. Slowly, but surely, cohorts of grants are seen to be delivering cumulative and synergistic effects at the national and sub-national levels.* The Final Evaluation stated *"Replication, scaling up and mainstreaming are happening."* For example, in **Macedonia**, several SGP projects supported the implementation of significant policy changes regarding the conservation and population recovery of endangered species such as the *Pramenka* sheep and the domestic water buffalo. Similarly, SGP Turkey supported the Southeast Asia Leopard Project which contributed to local authorities being more cognizant of their role in the conservation of the endangered Anatolian leopard. Similarly, in **Kenya**, a biodiversity project helped communities to establish the marine-based Mkunguni community conservation area (CCA) and prepare legislative guidelines for community conservation areas and their participatory management in Kenya. These guidelines have been presented to government legislators and are expected to inform national policies.

Another way by which SGP has proactively endeavored to support scaling up, replication and mainstreaming of its projects' successes and lessons learned is through its knowledge management work at national and global levels. At the country level, to promote technology transfer and learning between communities and CSOs during the reporting year, SGP country programmes carried out 1,120 peer-to-peer exchanges and 501 training sessions. To document and share the practices and lessons learned from the implementation of sustainable development projects, at the local and national level, country programmes produced over 1,200 fact sheets, case studies, publications, and videos and how-to toolkits in the reporting period. In addition, the results of GEF support to poor and vulnerable communities and local CSOs through SGP were mentioned in the local media (TV radio, print, digital and social media) over 1,600 times in the reporting period. There was no dearth of excellent examples to feature as the community and CSO projects supported by SGP garnered 80 national and international awards just for the period from July 2014 through June 2015.

SGP, with its civil society, government, and donor partners, also shared the knowledge generated through its portfolio at global forums and events including the UNFCCC COP20, CBD COP12, and CBA9, among others. SGP also created a mapping functionality for its website www.sgp.undp.org that allows users to see the location of the projects in each country. This is aimed at enhancing the potential for matching between projects and potential new partners and enhance synergy between SGP-supported projects with others including the larger projects of donors and government. A "CommunitiesConnect" platform (http://data.communitiesconnect.net/) was developed with

the GEF CSO Network, with easy uploading and automatic tagging to organize materials on the website as well as in a USB without losing the website experience, quite useful for those without internet access. This allows CSOs from around the world to share their lessons and best practices by uploading knowledge products in a variety of formats, thus further expanding the reach and promotion of the knowledge produced by communities and CSOs including those that are not SGP grantee-partners.

For this AMR, SGP further collected information and examples of new and ongoing operational and programmatic challenges at the global and country levels as well as mitigating strategies applied at the different levels. The top three challenges pertain to country political situations, including security issues, grantee-partner capacity issues, and weak relationships between government bodies and civil society. To counteract these challenges, SGP OP6 "Grantmakers+" initiatives will be designed to provide support beyond grants, such as making systematic use of the programme's experienced staff, its established networks and committed partners to provide needed capacity and institutional development. This will help mitigate these challenges to project success as well as facilitate scaling up. Building capacities of civil society grantees will continue to be a key challenge. But it will have to be SGP's continuing core function, considering that the programme continues to work with new organizations with good ideas but often limited experience. Moreover, in an era where – as recent studies indicate – CSOs are facing increasing challenges in their ability to function and access financing, SGP is laying the groundwork for greater cooperation between important country stakeholders through its support for CSO-Government dialogues, already piloted in this reporting period and set to be expanded in OP6. This increased cooperation will permit greater sharing of resources and experience to achieve common environmental objectives and sustainable development goals.

The results achieved by SGP, as reported in this AMR, demonstrate the programme's continued progress in its role as GEF's modality for supporting the meaningful involvement of grassroots communities and civil society in local actions that help create global environmental benefits. It is important to note, however, that while targets have been met or even exceeded, the work to be done continues to expand, and the Small Grants Programme must prepare itself to meet the higher expectations of GEF6, as well as to contribute to the newly agreed Sustainable Development Goals and the expected agreements to come from Climate COP21.

1. INTRODUCTION TO SGP

Launched in 1992, and funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as a corporate programme, the GEF Small Grants Programme is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of the GEF partnership, and is executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

GEF SGP aims to 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. To this end SGP provides technical and financial support to nongovernmental and community-based organizations in developing countries to generate sustainable livelihoods that mitigate climate change, conserve biodiversity, protect international waters, reduce the impact of persistent organic pollutants and prevent land degradation. Since its creation, GEF SGP has provided over 19,770 grants to communities in 132 developing countries.[1]

[1] This figure includes country programmes that have been closed, as well as those that have been Upgraded.

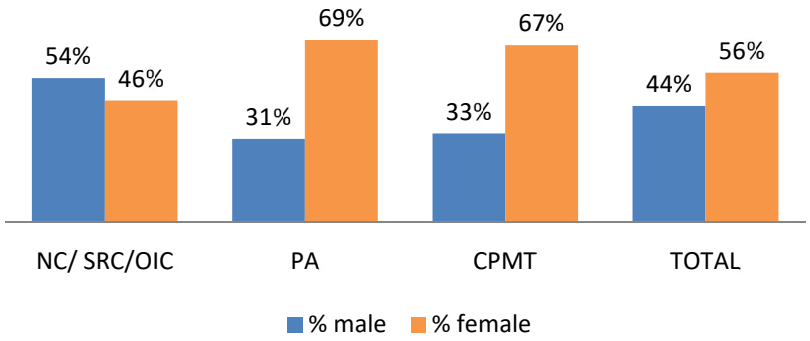
SGP Global Programme structure

While GEF SGP is a global programme, it is country-driven with a strong country presence in each programme country, and governance and direction provided by independent and civil society-led National Steering Committees. SGP staff in the field consist of one (1) National Coordinator (NC) per country, supported by a Programme Assistant (PA) in most country programmes. The two sub-regional programmes based in Fiji and Samoa respectively, are supported by Sub-Regional Coordinators (SRCs) and Sub-Regional Programme Assistants (SPAs).[2] GEF SGP country teams are usually based at UNDP Country Offices. In 18 countries they are hosted by CSOs that act as National Host Institutions (NHIs). SGP NCs and PAs are UN-contracted to assure their "neutrality" in the grant-making process and with the expectation that they perform according to the highest professional and ethical standards of the UN.

The SGP Global Programme is supported by a small team at UNDP headquarters in New York, known as the Central Programme Management Team (CPMT). CPMT has a total of nine staff and is led by the SGP Global Manager The country programme and sub-regional programme staff within the SGP Global Programme, report to the Global Manager and Deputy Global Manager, with authority delegated to four Regional Focal Points at CPMT for day-today oversight and support to regions. CPMT Regional Focal Points also serve in a technical capacity as Programme Advisors guiding programming and knowledge management in each of the GEF's focal areas: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Land Degradation and Sustainable Forest Management, Chemicals, and International Waters. A Knowledge Management and Communications Specialist, and two Programme Associates make up the remainder of the CPMT team.

GEF SGP continued to promote gender parity in its staffing. During the reporting year, overall SGP staff figures show that the majority of SGP staff were women. While a slightly higher percentage of men than women fill the positions of National Coordinators, the Programme Assistant positions employ more women than men, as do the positions at CPMT. Chart 1 below provides additional details:

Chart 1: SGP global staff gender balance



[2] The SGP Fiji Sub-regional Programme also covers Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, and Tuvalu, while the Samoa Sub-Regional Programme covers Niue, and Tokelau (funded from co-financing).

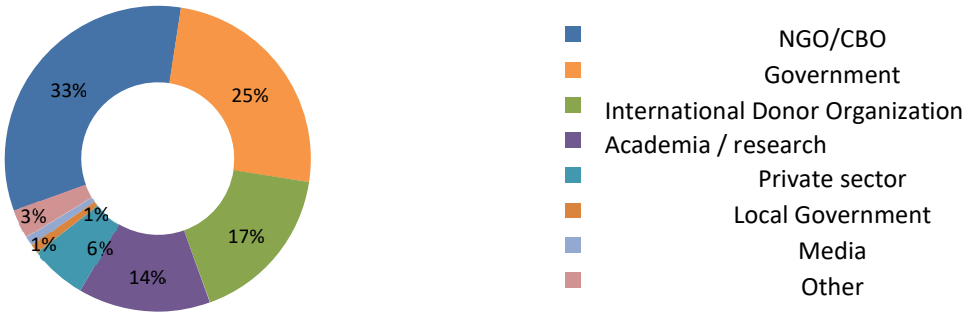
Upgraded Country Programmes

In the 5th Operational Phase (OP5) of SGP, nine of the most mature and experienced SGP country programmes were "upgraded" and funded through separate GEF Full Size Projects (FSPs)[3]. SGP Upgraded country programmes (UCPs) have a similar staffing structure as the countries within the Global SGP with dedicated National Coordinators (known as National Programme Managers) and Programme Assistants in each country. The SGP
Upgraded countries are supported by a Global Coordinator based at UNDP/GEF, and cooperate closely with the CPMT on aspects relating to SGP operational guidelines (which are common to both SGP Global and UCPs) as well as knowledge management and communications aspects. While each SGP upgraded programme also reports through the Annual GEF Project Implementation Review (PIR), they also contribute to this Annual Monitoring Report which provides a comprehensive review of results and progress across all SGP countries.

National Steering Committees

In each country GEF SGP continues to rely on the highly effective and proven oversight and decision-making mechanism provided by the multi-stakeholder National Steering Committees (NSC). According to SGP Operational Guidelines, the NSC must comprise a majority of civil society members (including NGOs, CBOs, academia, research, and media), alongside members from relevant government bodies, private sector, UNDP and other donors, all working on a voluntary basis. The diagram below shows the current global distribution of members from different stakeholder groups within NSCs. Globally, about one-quarter of NSC members are drawn from government, while nearly half are drawn from civil society (inclusive of NGOs, CBOs, academia, research, and media), and a little less than a quarter is made up of private sector and international organizations (including UNDP). Three percent were categorized as "other," generally referring to individual technical experts in specific fields.

Chart 2: SGP Global NSC composition



[3] The nine SGP Upgraded programmes which are funded through GEF Full size projects are: Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, India, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, and the Philippines.

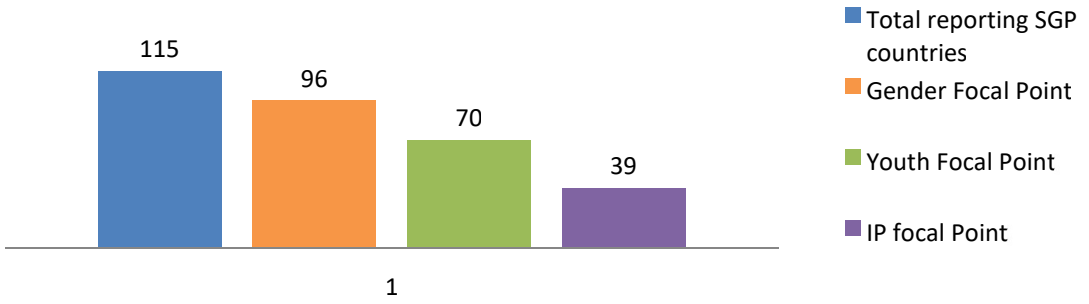
The NSC serves as the body for promoting interaction and exchange between government and civil society stakeholders, as well as promoting cross-sectoral exchange between different sectors and disciplines. The NSC provides important oversight for the programme on behalf of its partners and grantees. SGP Operational Guidelines stipulate a number of conditions to prevent any conflict of interest, such as preventing NSC members and CSOs directly related to them from submitting grant proposals during their tenure on the NSC, and recommending regular rotation of NSC membership to stimulate new actors and organizations to become involved.

SGP presently benefits from the voluntary inputs of 1,119 individuals, who are contributing their time and knowledge to SGP by serving on an NSC. With nearly 110 NSCs involved in the Global SGP programme (including those in the Sub-regional Programmes that cover multiple countries), this results in an average of around 10 members per country. NSC members are generally highly qualified, eminent and respected individuals in their country, who may possess technical expertise in one or more of the GEF focal areas and lend their skills, experience and expertise to SGP operations.

All SGP Country Programmes are required to have a designated gender focal point on the NSC to provide expertise on gender issues and facilitate review of any gender components of projects. SGP also recommended country programmes designate a youth focal point on the NSC to be able to further promote youth participation and leadership in projects.

In countries where there are significant populations of indigenous peoples, it is a best practice of SGP to also have a focal point and representatives of indigenous peoples on the NSC. Focal points were similarly identified to represent important sectors such as women and youth. See Chart 3 below for the number of participating countries with these various Focal Points during the reporting period.

Chart 3: SGP NSC focal points



UNDP Country Offices

The UNDP Country Offices (COs) provide considerable active support to the successful implementation of GEF SGP at the country level, with the UNDP Resident Representative serving as a secondary supervisor of the NC, and as a member of the NSC, while UNDP programme staff provide support for programme synergy, partnerships, and resource mobilization. UNOPS, as the executing agency, provides overall financial and administrative support to the programme, while at the country level UNDP Country Offices act on behalf of UNOPS on financial transactions and administrative matters. A detailed GEF SGP organizational chart is shown in Annex 4, which shows the programme structures and relationships at global and country level.

UN Office for Project Services

UNOPS serves as the Executing Agency of the SGP Global Programme, as well as for the majority of the Upgraded programmes. It provides financial, administrative and human resource management services to the programme.

Global SGP Steering Committee

A global SGP Steering Committee provides strategic direction to the programme overall. It is chaired by the GEF Secretariat which also represents the other GEF partners and includes UNDP as SGP's Implementing Agency and the GEF CSO Network. It meets on average twice per year, usually in conjunction with the GEF Council Meetings.

2. ANNUAL GLOBAL OVERVIEW OF SGP

This Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) reviews the implementation and results of the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) during the period 1 July 2014 through 30 June 2015. This is the fourth AMR prepared by SGP in the 5th Operational Phase (OP5). The previous AMR covered the period from 1 July 2013 through 30 June 2014.

GEF Funding

During this reporting period, the SGP Global Programme received approval for additional GEF funding of USD 6,965,151 in November 2014. This brought the total GEF funding for SGP in OP5 to the level of USD 255m. Of this amount, USD 134m was provided from GEF Core funds, while almost USD 120m were additionally endorsed by countries from the GEF 5 System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) and approved in three tranches. Table 1a below shows the successive tranches of funding received by the SGP Global Programme in OP5.

Table 1a: GEF Funding received by SGP in OP5 (not including the Upgraded Country Programmes)[4] Project Date of Approval Amount[5] (USD)

Global Core	PIF Approval by Council	18-Nov-10	
	CEO Endorsement	25-Apr-11	134,615,385
STAR I	PIF Approval by Council	9-Nov-11	
	CEO Endorsement	20-Apr-12	40,828,365
STAR II	PIF Approval by Council	12-Apr-13	
	CEO Endorsement	19-Sep-13	72,851,267
STAR III	PIF Approval by Council	01-May-14	
	CEO Endorsement	20-Nov-14	6,965,151

Upgrading Country Programmes: The nine SGP country programmes, which were "upgraded" in OP5, are now funded through separate GEF Full Size Projects (FSPs). Table 1b below lists these country programmes, the GEF funding received by each, as well as the dates of the GEF CEO endorsement. While these Country Programmes report through separate annual Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs) to the GEF, they also record grant project information in the SGP database and provide inputs to the annual survey of the country programmes that gathers information on the reporting year for the preparation of this overall AMR. The results from completed projects that are reflected in Chapter 3 include examples from SGP Upgraded Country Programmes.

[4] Nine SGP Country Programmes were upgraded in OP5 and are now funded separately through national Full Sized Projects (FSPs). The Upgraded SGP countries include: Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, India, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, and Philippines. [5]
Not inclusive of GEF Agency fees.

Table 1b: Total Funding for SGP Upgraded Country Programmes in OP5

Upgraded Country Programmes	CEO Endorsement/Approval	Budget[6] (USD)
Bolivia	10-Jul-12	4,166,667
Brazil	5-Dec-12	5,000,000
Costa Rica	24-Nov-11	4,398,148
Ecuador	24-Nov-11	4,398,145
India	27-Jan-12	5,000,000
Kenya	28-Dec-11	5,000,000
Mexico	2-Feb-12	4,662,755
Pakistan	30-Nov-11	2,777,778
Philippines	11-Dec-12	4,583,333

In addition to the above, six country programmes will be upgraded during SGP's 6th Operational Phase (OP6), in line with the upgrading criteria determined in the GEF Council Paper "SGP: Implementation Arrangements in GEF6". These six countries, all long running and mature SGP country programmes, are preparing FSP proposals to fund their SGP programmes in OP6: Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Peru, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

Country Coverage

Throughout the course of successive phases, SGP has been active in supporting CSOs in a total of 132 countries (including seven country programmes that have been closed to date).[7] During the reporting year, two country programmes, SGP Syria and SGP Slovakia, were closed in July 2014 and December 2014 respectively. SGP also started a new country programme in Colombia in 2014.

Table 2: SGP Country Coverage

Categories of SGP countries	Names	Number
Countries active in the SGP Global OP5 programme during the reporting period[8]	(See Annex 1 for a full listing)	110
Countries Upgraded in OP5 and funded through separate FSPs in OP5[9]	Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, India, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines	9
Countries Upgrading in OP6 and expected to be funded through separate FSPs in OP6	Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Peru, Sri Lanka, Thailand	6
Country programmes closed	Poland, Lithuania, Chile, Bulgaria, Romania, Syria, Slovakia	7
Country programmes started	Colombia	1
Total		**132**

[6] These amounts represent the project budgets and are exclusive of GEF Agency fees.

[7] Closed country programmes include: Bulgaria, Chile, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Syria.

[8] The total number of countries in the SGP Global Programme has decreased by two in this reporting period as Syria and Slovakia were closed. At the same time, SGP started one new country programme in Colombia. A start up mission was also undertaken to Republic of Congo in 2014, and the Country Programme there is in the process of being started up.

[9] The upgraded country programmes also completed the AMR survey, and data on results and examples from these countries is included in this report. The upgraded country programmes as FSPs also report separately through PIRs. It is hoped that in future the double reporting burden on these countries can be avoided.

SGP continued to expand its support to LDCs and SIDS during the reporting year. The SGP Global Programme currently includes 40 LDCs and 37 SIDS, with countries that are LDCs or/and SIDs constituting 59% of all SGP country programmes.

Cumulative Grant Commitment

As a programme that was initially launched as a pilot in 1992, SGP has grown in size and coverage over the years and successive operational phases. Since its inception to date SGP has cumulatively funded 19,722 grant projects worth USD 523m in GEF and non-GEF resources in all SGP countries (those within the Global Programme as well as the Upgraded Country Programmes)). The total value of all grants for the SGP Global Programme amounts to $498.6m for 19,051 grant projects), while the nine Upgraded Country Programmes have supported 671 grant projects amounting to $24.6m.

The Tables below (3a and 3b) show the breakdown of grant projects and grant funding and in cash and in kind cofinancing recorded by SGP in its successive operational phases. Table 3a provides the breakdown for all SGP countries, inclusive of those in the Global Programme as well as the nine Upgraded Country Programmes, while Table 3b provides this breakdown for the SGP Global Programme only. Such a breakdown is not relevant for the Upgraded countries, as they have been implemented through separate FSPs during OP5 only – for all prior phases they were within the Global Programme. As shown below SGP has grown in terms of volume of resources programmed and co-financing leveraged in the course of successive phases. The current Operational Phase (OP5) is the largest phase with 5,934 projects funded for USD 194.4 million in grant funding[5] and close to USD 203 in total co-financing to date.

Cumulatively, SGP has raised USD 666.5m in co-financing at the project level (including in cash and in kind) against USD 523m committed in grant funds[11] in all SGP countries. For the countries in the Global Programme, the total value of all co-financing recorded cumulatively is USD 641m against a grant funding total of USD 498m. This overall level exceeds the 1:1 target set by SGP to raise matching co-financing globally for the total value of GEF resources. It is important to note that this figure recorded in the SGP database reflects only the co-financing recorded at the level of individual grant projects, often made up of multiple local and national sources of funding and support. In addition, programme level co-financing is also leveraged by SGP at the global, regional or country level, through donor-funded programmes which utilize the SGP as a delivery mechanism. Such programme partnerships are separately described in Chapter 4 under “Progress in OP5” and are listed in Annex 2 and 7.

SGP has committed to securing 1:1 co-financing at the global level, which is made up of programme level partnerships that provide funding at the global, regional or country level, as well as project level co-financing. Project level co-financing is made up of a variety of sources including local communities and grantee organizations (32%), national NGOs and foundations (13.3%), international NGOs (5.2%), local governments (9.1%), national governments (14.7%), multilateral organizations (11%), bilateral donors (3.2%) and private sector (7.4%). The target of 1:1 has been kept relatively modest, in order for SGP, according to its design, to continue to provide the grant funding support needed by local and small scale organizations to undertake community driven projects. A higher co-financing target would prevent the fulfilment of this aim by making the GEF grant funding support available primarily to higher capacity CSOs that have greater resources available to provide higher levels of cofinancing. The matching support that SGP

[5] Including GEF funded grants as well as those funded from other sources of funding managed by SGP as a delivery mechanism. [11] Includes GEF funded grants as well as those funded from other sources of funding.

is able to secure from a variety of sources, including local sources and in-kind support by grantees, provides a strong element of local ownership as well as leading to greater sustainability by embedding objectives within the community and grantees own endeavors.

Table 3a: SGP Projects by Operational Phase, *including* Upgraded Countries in OP5[6]
(Cumulative since Pilot Phase) (*in millions, USD)*

Operational Phase	Number of Projects	Grant Amount	Co-financing in Cash	Co-financing in Kind	Co-financing Total
Pilot Phase	625	11.15 m	5.22 m	6.76 m	11.98 m
OP1	877	15.21 m	10.66 m	8.00 m	18.66 m
OP2	4,489	96.10 m	69.60 m	83.57 m	153.18 m
OP3	3,208	78.28 m	63.42 m	58.67 m	122.09 m
OP4	4,589	128.12 m	80.96 m	76.69 m	157.65 m
OP5	5,934	194.40 m	82.39 m	120.60 m	202.99 m
Total	**19,722**	**523.25 m**	**312.26 m**	**354.29 m**	**666.55 m**

Table 3b: SGP Projects by Operational Phase, *excluding* Upgraded Countries in OP5[7] (Cumulative since Pilot Phase) (*in millions, USD)*

Operational Phase	Number of Projects	Grant Amount	Co-financing in Cash	Co-financing in Kind	Co-financing Total
Pilot Phase	625	11.15 m	5.22 m	6.76 m	11.98 m
OP1	877	15.21 m	10.66 m	8.00 m	18.66 m
OP2	4,489	96.10 m	69.60 m	83.57 m	153.18 m
OP3	3,208	78.28 m	63.42 m	58.67 m	122.09 m
OP4	4,589	128.12 m	80.96 m	76.69 m	157.65 m
OP5		169.78 m	72.04 m	105.56 m	177.61 m
Total	5,263 **9,051**	**498.63 m**	**301.91 m**	**339.26 m**	**641.16 m**

New Grants Committed

During the reporting period covered by this AMR (1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015) 856 new grant projects were approved and committed by SGP. The total amount of grant funding thus committed amounted to USD 28.6m with the funds

[6] Includes GEF grants as well as those funded from other sources of grant funding.
[7] Includes GEF grants as well as those funded from other sources of grant funding.

largely made up of STAR and Core funds in OP5, and small residual amounts of OP4 RAF still in use in a few countries.[8] Total co-financing in cash and in kind amounted to USD 25.6m. The project level co-financing recorded was slightly below the 1:1 target, whereas in previous years co-financing has slightly exceeded this target.

The number of new projects committed and their value is lower in the current reporting year than what was recorded for the previous year. This is expected since the current reporting year represents a transition year, when SGP completed OP5 and started the new Operational Phase (OP6). Project commitment levels and funding amounts are expected to rise again once OP6 is fully operational with all preparatory and strategic activities (such as the preparation and approval of Country Programme Strategies) fully implemented. Grant making according to SGP's new strategic outcomes in OP6 will then commence in earnest.

Table 4: New GEF SGP Projects Approved by GEF Sources of Funding, *incl.* Upgraded Countries in OP5 (July 2014 to June 2015) (*in millions, USD)*

Funding Sources	Number of Projects	Grant Amount	Co-financing in Cash	Co-financing in Kind	Co-financing Total
GEF Core Funds	376	12.45 m	3.20 m	9.18 m	12.37 m
GEF STAR Funds	474	15.82 m	5.70 m	7.12 m	12.83 m
GEF RAF Funding	6	0.27 m	0.18 m	0.22 m	0.40 m
Total	**856**	**28.54 m**	**9.08 m**	**16.52 m**	**25.60 m**

Active Portfolio of Grant Projects

The total number of grant projects under implementation (including GEF as well as non-GEF donor funded grants) that were supervised and monitored during the reporting period by SGP amounted to 4,051 projects for a total grant value of over USD 142m and total co-financing value of over USD 147m (see Table 5). The active portfolio of grant projects funded from GEF funding sources amounts to 3,706 projects for a value of USD 130m.

Table 5: GEF SGP Total Active Projects by GEF and other Sources of Funding, *including* Upgraded Countries in OP5 (*in millions, USD)*

Funding Sources	Number of Projects	Grant Amount	Co-financing in Cash	Co-financing in Kind
GEF Funds	**3,706**	**130.54 m**	**56.72 m**	**81.85 m**
GEF STAR Funds	2,086	74.68 m	31.72 m	46.12 m
GEF Core Funds	1,398	48.64 m	20.05 m	31.75 m
GEF RAF Funding	222	7.21 m	4.95 m	3.98 m
Non GEF Funds	**345**	**11.76 m**	**3.62 m**	**5.51 m**
COMDEKS	119	3.97 m	1.37 m	2.34 m
DFAT-Australia – Mekong, Asia & Pacific and SIDS CBA	96	3.35 m	0.89 m	1.43 m
EU -NGO Strengthening Project	52	1.92 m	0.33 m	0.48 m
New Zealand Aid - Pacific Environment Fund	23	0.83 m	0.05 m	0.37 m
Community-based REDD+	15	0.36 m	0.01 m	0.09 m

[8] Remaining RAF funds from OP4 continue to be prioritized for commitment in a few countries, notably SGP Afghanistan and SGP Papua New Guinea, which were unable to utilize these funds earlier due to delays, security issues or transitions.

UNDP TRAC	8	0.33 m	0.54 m	0.05 m
EU – Programme for Tropical Forests (PTF)	7	0.16 m	0.14 m	0.02 m
GEF Strategic Priority on Adaptation (SPA) CBA project	4	0.15 m	0.20 m	0.55 m
United Nations Foundation (UNF) – COMPACT	1	0.05 m	0.00 m	0.05 m
Other	20	0.65 m	0.10 m	0.14 m
Total	**4,051**	**142.29 m**	**60.34 m**	**87.37 m**

The project results described in Chapter 3, refer primarily to the portfolio of GEF funded grant projects. Other non-GEF funded grant projects that have been implemented through the SGP programme are not described, except for a brief description of current donor-funded partner programmes in the section on partnerships and in Annex 7.

Types of Grantees: Of the portfolio of grant projects under implementation, 57% are implemented by NGOs and 41% by CBOs, with 2% categorized as "other" in the SGP database. Those listed as "other" mainly include academic and research institutions, foundations, and other types of CSO grantees. The breakdown shows the share of projects implemented directly by CBOs to have increased slightly since the previous reporting year.

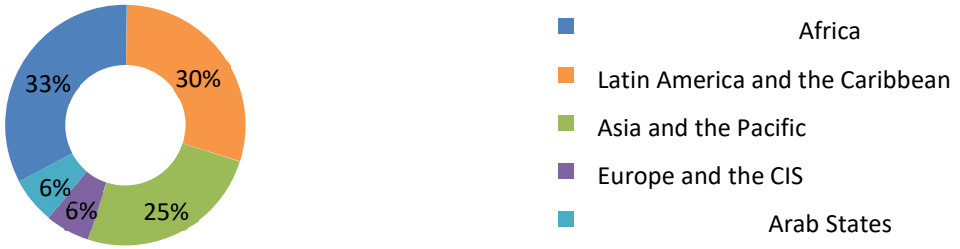
Chart 4: GEF SGP Total Active Projects by Grantee Type, including Upgraded countries in OP5

Types of Grants: As stipulated by SGP Operational Guidelines, SGP provides planning grants to enable grantees to further develop and elaborate proposals that have merit but where support is needed to fully prepare a sound project proposal for SGP funding. Planning grants have a ceiling of USD 5,000 and collectively amount to 3% of the funds of the active portfolio of projects under implementation. In the case of all regular projects total funding for a planning grant together with the resulting SGP grant project should remain below the ceiling of USD 50,000 per grantee organization.

In OP5, SGP Operational Guidelines permitted funding of "Strategic Grants" up to USD 150,000, in exceptional cases where a project may be deemed particularly strategic and likely to result in significant and wider scale benefits, including at the portfolio level.[9] A special call for proposals is issued for Strategic Projects and requires CPMT initial screening prior to final approval by the NSC. SGP's currently active portfolio of projects shows that the vast majority of projects (98%) consist of regular SGP grants with a ceiling of USD 50,000, while 2% are Strategic Grants that are higher than $50,000 with a maximum GEF grant amount of USD 150,000. The number of Strategic Projects that are currently active is 85 (out of a total of 3,706 GEF-funded grant projects) and the total value of these projects is USD 9.8m (out of a total of USD 130m in active GEF-funded grant projects).

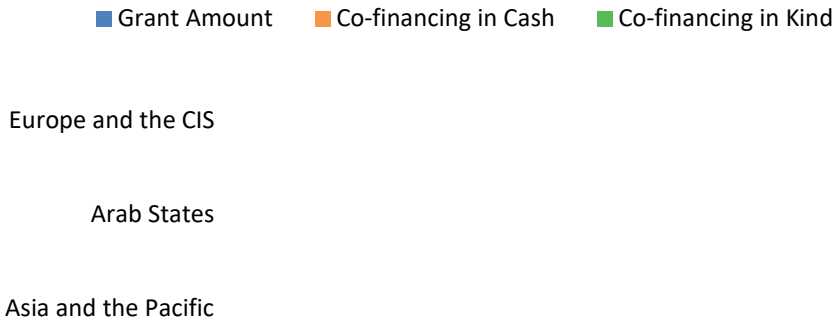
[9] A Strategic project window was first created in OP3 as a pilot initiative targeted more towards transboundary projects. Due to cumbersome approval procedures and difficulty in developing and implementing transboundary projects involving multiple SGP country programmes, this window was not utilized in OP4. It has been reintroduced in OP5 to meet demands for scaled up efforts especially in "mature" SGP country programmes accompanied by a detailed guidance note, and more streamlined procedures for review and approval.

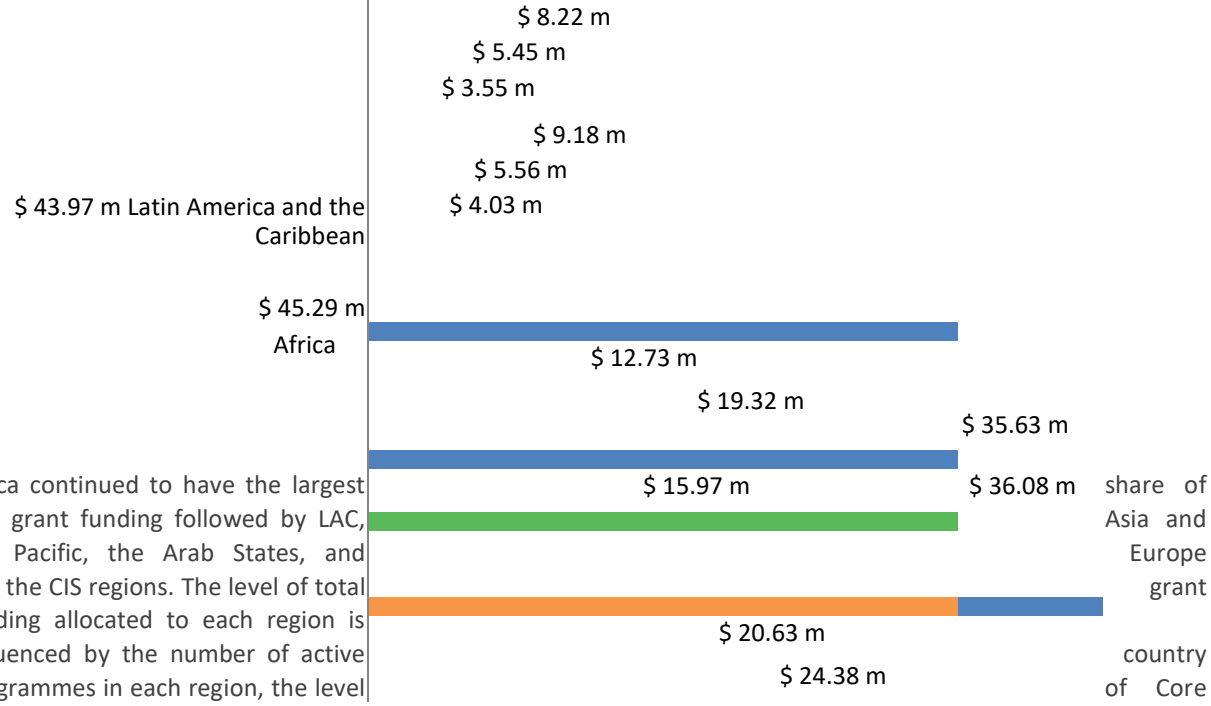
Chart 5: GEF SGP Active Projects by Region *(not including SGP Upgraded countries)*



Further details on the breakdown of the portfolio by region, including grants and in-kind and cash co-financing, are presented in the chart below.

Chart 6: SGP Active Projects by Region, including Co-financing *(not including SGP Upgraded countries)*





Africa continued to have the largest share of GEF grant funding followed by LAC, Asia and the Pacific, the Arab States, and Europe and the CIS regions. The level of total grant funding allocated to each region is influenced by the number of active country programmes in each region, the level of Core allocated resources, additional STAR funds committed by countries in each region, as well as any non-GEF grant funding targeted to specific regions[10]. Africa, with 39 country programmes is also the largest region for SGP in terms of volume of resources within the active portfolio of projects, it is followed by LAC (with 33 countries) and Asia and Pacific (with 32 countries). Europe and the CIS, and the Arab States region with 13 and 9 country programmes respectively make up the two smaller regions also in terms of value of the active portfolio. The total co-financing (including in-kind and cash cofinancing) exceeded the grant funding level in all regions with the exception of Asia and the Pacific. In Europe and the CIS, and the Arab States, the amount of cash co-financing raised has been higher than the in-kind co-financing.

Focal Area Distribution of Active Portfolio: The table below shows the distribution of the active portfolio by GEF focal areas. As in past years, Biodiversity continued to be the largest focal area with 1577 ongoing projects, reflecting the historical strengths of the programme and the interest of many NGO and CBO grantees to address natural resource management issues. Climate Change is the second largest focal area in terms of ongoing grant projects, with 959 projects. This is closely followed by Land Degradation with 875 ongoing projects in the active portfolio of projects and after by Capacity Development with 177 active projects and International Waters and Chemicals with 120 and 113 ongoing projects, respectively. The number of Multifocal area projects (97) has declined significantly in view of the guidance provided by CPMT that each project should identify a primary focal area as well as one or more secondary focal areas where relevant. Thus, while many SGP projects continued to have multiple benefits and relevance to more than one focal area, for better tracking and portfolio data, these are included under the primary focal area identified as the focus of the project. Climate Change Adaptation, which is separately co-funded from non-GEF sources, accounted for 3 percent of all projects.

Table 6: SGP Total Active Projects by Focal Area
(*in millions, USD)*

Focal Area	Number of Projects	Grant Amount	Co-financing in Cash	Co-financing in Kind

[10] For example SIDS countries have received additional grant funding for CBA projects from Australia's DFAT which is delivered through SGP. Similarly 13 countries in Eastern Europe and Arab States have received additional grant funding from the EU for CSO strengthening projects. Such partnerships complement the GEF funded project portfolios of different country programmes.

Biodiversity	1,577	55.96 m	23.07 m	34.09 m
Capacity Development	177	6.75 m	1.63 m	1.96 m
Chemicals	113	3.92 m	1.81 m	2.76 m
Climate Change Adaptation	133	4.61 m	1.18 m	2.50 m
Climate Change Mitigation	959	32.82 m	16.62 m	19.31 m
International Waters	120	4.67 m	2.52 m	3.59 m
Land Degradation	875	30.21 m	12.35 m	21.28 m
Multifocal Areas	97	3.35 m	1.15 m	1.87 m
Total	**4,051**	**142.29 m**	**60.34 m**	**87.37 m**

SGP's total portfolio of active projects in the current AMR reporting period stands at 4,051[11] with a grant funding of USD 142m and total co-financing of USD 147.7m (see Table 6). However, SGP continues to engage with many projects from its cumulative portfolio of over 19,000 projects which may be completed, and with high sustainability, still continue to be involved in the programme's grantee-partner networks, CSO-Government dialogues, and in knowledge management activities (later sections of this AMR will cover these aspects further).

Completed Projects: The next section describes the progress achieved towards SGP's objectives in each of the GEF focal areas which are developed in full alignment with GEF's strategic objectives in the relevant operational phase. This information is based on country reports prepared by all SGP country programmes, reporting specifically on the cohort of grant projects that have been completed during the reporting year. Thus, the examples and results reported in the focal area sections draw upon quantitative indicators and qualitative information from 1,282 completed projects only, and do not consider ongoing grant projects that are still under implementation and which will be expected to report results in the future once they are completed. It should be noted that the AMR reports on the results of grant projects completed within the reporting year, which may have been funded in different years and even different Operational phases of the SGP. Given the local nature of most SGP projects, the time frame for project completion varies from 1 -3 years on average with some taking less time and some longer. Thus projects being completed in the reporting year would include many funded in OP5 as well as in OP4 that are reaching completion now. However, given the start of the period of OP5 (2011-2014) objectives and outcomes are broadly aligned with the current operational phase. As SGP builds on lessons learnt and the directions tested and demonstrated in previous phases there is a great degree of continuity and synergy in the scope and results of projects funded and overall outcomes expected and achieved.

3. PROGRESS TOWARD OBJECTIVES

BIODIVERSITY

In line with the overall GEF-5 strategic priorities, the key focus for GEF SGP during OP5 was to: (i) *improve the sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas through community-based actions*; and (ii) *promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions*.

During the fourth year of the OP5 reporting period, GEF SGP has focused its support of biodiversity conservation in and around protected areas (PAs) and indigenous and community conservation areas and territories (ICCAs); the

[11] Of these 3,706 projects are funded from GEF grant funds, including Core and STAR funds in OP5, as well as some residual Core and RAF funded projects from OP4.

sustainable use of biodiversity in production landscapes and seascapes; as well as through the appropriate protection and transmission of traditional knowledge and genetic resources by culturally appropriate means.[12]

Progress towards OP5 indicators under the BD Portfolio

The target outcome for SGP in this focal area is to *positively influence* larger protected areas or ICCA landscapes and seascapes in which the community project or group of projects are situated. This involves not just actual projects on the ground, but also additional capacity and institutional development activities, and the indirect consequences of the process of their implementation (e.g. networking by project communities with other communities, strengthening of traditional cross-cutting practices for sustainable use, recognition of traditional stewardship modalities to land ownership and resource access, and improved policies for democratic governance). Based on figures from the OP5 Yr4 country reports, progress made during the reporting period exceeded the OP5 biodiversity focal area targets. This is due to the programme being well positioned to further enhance, with its partners such as the global ICCA Consortium, the increased recognition of ICCAs in recent decisions of parties to the CBD as part of "other effective area-based conservation measures" and the enthusiasm by which country stakeholders have proceeded to networking and the formation of federations. Thus, 505 ICCAs and PAs were positively influenced through SGP support by the end of the reporting period leading to a total of 1, 119 PAs and ICCAs for OP5. It can be said that SGP projects have positively influenced approximately 6.27 million hectares of ICCAs and PAs over the same OP5 Yr 4 period through clusters of SGP projects targeting sustainable livelihoods and responsible stewardship by communities in the buffer zones of formal protected areas, as well as through the appropriate recognition of ICCAs.

These results are presented in Table 7 below.

Table 7: progress on biodiversity indicators in YR4 and in OP5

Indicators	Targets for OP5	Summary of progress in the current reporting period	
		Total progress in OP5 YR4	Cumulative in OP5
Number and hectares of ICCAs and other PAs positively influenced through SGP support	465 ICCAs and PAs positively influenced through SGP projects	206 (PAs) 299 (ICCAs)	1,119 PAs and ICCAs have been positively influenced in OP5[13]
	12,700,000 hectares of ICCAs and PAs positively influenced through SGP support	5,735,084 ha (PAs) 1,034,770 ha (ICCAs) ``	7.1m hectares have been positively influenced cumulative in OP5[14]

As a consequence of the high increase in coverage of PAs and ICCAs positively influenced, the number of significant plant and animal species to have had their conservation status improved, likewise increased to 1,507 species, about three times the target for OP5. This reported number, however, is in the process of validation given that community stakeholders involved in these projects usually include not only those species considered endangered and therefore, significant for conservation but also those that have important food, material, medicinal and even spiritual values.

As an integral contribution to the GEF-5 Strategic Priorities, SGP has focused on supporting the diversity and quality of governance of protected and conserved areas, including through the creation of "federations" of ICCAs through

[12] Methods include *inter alia* the development of community biocultural protocols, *in situ* seed banks, traditional knowledge journals, and local socio-ecological assessments which are relevant to the GEF mandate under the CBD Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), and the Inter-Governmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

[13] Total is composed of 614 PAs and ICCAs positively influenced according to the last AMR, plus 505 for the current reporting period from 2014-2015.

[14] Total is composed of 10.4m ha according to the last AMR, plus 6.27m for the current reporting period.

multiple small grants, as exemplified inter alia by the national '*Tafo Mihaavo*' network in Madagascar, the national ICCA Federation of the Philippines, as well as the Working Group on ICCAs in Indonesia (WGII). In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a catalytic SGP grant reviewed the legal and policy context for the appropriate recognition of ICCAs in the country. In addition, in Ecuador the Upgraded SGP country programme has supported three priority "bio-corridor" landscapes bringing together indigenous peoples, municipal and regional governments, NGOs, academia and civil society into appropriate decision-making networks, thereby contributing to the national sustainable development targets on well-being, or '*sumak kawsay*', as recognized under the new Ecuadorian constitution.

In relation to the Aichi 2020 Target 11 to expand the global coverage of terrestrial and inland waters protected areas from 12% to 17% by 2020, GEF SGP has channeled support towards government listed protected areas (including through a special focus on the shared governance of globally significant protected areas), as well as "other effective area-based conservation measures" (OECMs). These include the appropriate recognition of indigenous peoples' and community conserved areas and territories (ICCAs), as well as protection of biodiversity in socio-ecological production landscapes (i.e. such as under the government of Japan *Satoyama*/COMDEKS programme being delivered by SGP).

The results of these global efforts towards the CBD Aichi targets are being tracked through the GEF SGP global online database, as well as increasingly through the UNEP-WCMC Global Registry on ICCAs which includes a detailed questionnaire on the conservation status, polygon boundaries (where available), and free prior and informed consent (FPIC) of the communities concerned for the ICCAs in question. In March 2015, the Steering Committee for the ICCA Global Registry (initiated and supported by the SGP since 2009) was held back-to-back with the Steering Committee of the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) in Cambridge, UK. As part of the re-launch of the WDPA through the new 'Protected Planet' portal, the data on ICCAs (submitted directly through the Registry, as well as via other national and/or expert reporting frameworks) will increasingly be included as a data layer within the same integrated global reporting platform for the 2020 Aichi targets (developed in partnership with the CBD Secretariat). As part of the Global ICCA Support Initiative funded by the German BMUB, the SGP is currently working with the ICCA Consortium, the IUCN Global Programme on Protected Areas (GPAP), and UNEP WCMC to establish a robust and credible "peer review" mechanism to verify the data quality for ICCA recognition under the Global Registry and Protected Planet platform.

Table 8 below illustrates the number of hectares of PAs that were positively influenced by SGP in each region. In terms of regional distribution of SGP projects addressing the conservation of ICCAs, including Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs), more ICCAs were strengthened in Latin America and the Caribbean, than in Africa and Asia.

Table 8: Hectares of Protected Areas positively influenced through SGP projects in each region

Indicators	Africa	Arab States	Asia	Europe/CIS	LAC	Pacific	Total
Hectares of PAs positively influenced through	1,038,412	265,000	1,131,110	564,795	2,735,366	401	5,735,084

Numerous SGP biodiversity projects completed during the reporting period have had significant impacts at the national and local levels on policy development processes. In a number of countries, draft policies on issues such as the promotion of protected area network assessments are being based on data provided through SGP projects. Similarly, the "niche" of the SGP in strengthening ICCAs is in the process of becoming increasingly codified through

OP5 funding, as well as the additional cost sharing provided by the German Federal Ministry of the Environment (BMUB).

Key country-level results that demonstrate progress towards OP5 BD objectives

SGP **Bhutan**[15], in collaboration with the Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN), established local support groups and carried out awareness and education campaigns on the conservation of the critically endangered White-bellied heron (*Ardea insignis*). The White-bellied heron is among the "50 rarest bird species" according to BirdLife International with an estimated population of less than 200 herons worldwide. To support its conservation, SGP carried out nine awareness raising meetings in seven communities and created 11 fishponds to improve their feeding grounds. An annual census conducted in early 2015 recorded 28 White-bellied Herons and five nests with eleven chicks (as of June 2015) – a hopeful sign for the recovery of the species.

SGP Peru- Native Bean

In **Peru**, a SGP project promoted the *in-situ* conservation of the diversity of native beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) in the community of Pucallpa in the province of Lamas, San Martin. As a result, 30 native varieties of beans at risk of being lost were documented; the diet and food sovereignty of the indigenous population was secured; and ancestral Quechua practices related to traditional gastronomic preparations were revitalized.[16] This was complemented by the Amazon-based NGO *Choba Choba* (i) organizing three seed fairs on traditional foods; (ii) publishing two calendars on conservation knowledge and practices; and (iii) disseminating 20 brochures on native beans and their associated recipes, revalorizing the agro-biodiversity of Pucallpa, and inspiring further efforts to systematize and replicate the traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) of the region. At the same time, 25 hectares were reforested with native forest species, and the traditional system of "orchard farms" was strengthened by maintaining the canopy of the forest within the complex agro-ecological system.

Following the killing of the last rhino in 1983 in which the species was officially declared extinct in **Uganda**, SGP supported a group of conservationists in OP3 to bring rhinos back to country and establish the Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary (ZRS),[17] a 7,000 ha breeding sanctuary for rhinoceros at Nakitoma in the Nakasongola district of Uganda. With six imported rhinos and nine calves being born since, the sanctuary now boasts the only 14 wild rhinos in the country.

[15] BHU/SGP/OP5/CORE/BD/2011/01

[16] PER50/SGP/OP5/STAR/BD/Y1/12/04

[17] UGA/95/G52/008 & UGA/03/24

With the aim to prevent poaching of these rhinos,[18] SGP continued to support this initiative in OP5 to carry out ear notching, micro chipping, and the collection of DNA samples from ten of the 15 rhinos in the Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, in February 2015.

SGP **Fiji** supported the 'Lomani Gau Initiative' to establish four new terrestrial ICCAs and seven new marine ICCAs on the island of Gau[19]; as well as to strengthen three existing marine PAs, and establish at least ten Local Consultative Bodies (LCBs), locally referred to as 'Yaubula Management Committees' at the village level. As a direct outcome of the project, 'Yaubula Management Plans' now integrate the sustainable use of natural resources and environmental protection into village development activities.

In **Belize**, a SGP COMPACT project supported the effective co-management of the Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary.[20] A conservation action plan was also prepared for the Northern Barrier Reef Complex of the protection for the West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*). In doing so, the project provided (i) tour guide training for young fishermen; (ii) training for teachers on the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System World Heritage Site; (iii) implementation of a volunteer and internship program for youths; and (iv) training of participants in the Sarteneja Homestay Program in hospitality management (with 455 beneficiaries, including 65 women, 22 men, and 368 youths).

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

The GEF Climate Change (CC) focal area supports the implementation of targets and priorities to mitigate climate change and to contribute to the overall objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In line with the overall GEF-5 strategic priorities, GEF SGP's key focus during OP5 was to: (i) *promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level*; *(ii) promote and support energy efficient, low-carbon transport at the community level,* and to *(iii) support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry*.

SGP Lesotho- : *Demonstration of fruit drying using a solar dryer to project beneficiaries at Soloane in Mokhotlong*

[18] UGA/SGP/OP5/STAR/BD/14/41

[19] FJI/SGP/OP4/Y1/RAF/07/02

[20] BZE/COMPACT/OP5/CORE/BD/11/03

Progress towards the Objectives

During the reporting year, SGP country programs continued to make steady progress towards the above objectives. In the last year, 351 climate change projects were completed. Projects distribution was consistent with historical trends of the portfolio with a majority of the projects (70%) falling under Objective 1 focusing on low carbon technologies for renewable energy (38%) and energy efficiency solutions (32%) -see Figure 1. SGP is very close to fully achieving the target on this objective (see Table 10). Based on stakeholder priorities and in line with GEF directions as well as the need to focus efforts to achieve greater impact, SGP will focus on this objective in OP6, while capturing additional social and environmental benefits. Sustainable transport projects historically made only a small percentage of the portfolio and the objective may not be fully achieved (likely only 50%), see Table 10.

Sustainable transport initiatives usually require a larger investment and globally are not the best fit for SGP, given the program focus on off grid poor communities. SGP will not focus on sustainable transport as a separate objective in OP6. Carbon sequestration was a new area for the SGP's climate portfolio, and countries made a good progress with an average of 30% of the projects corresponding to this objective throughout OP5 (though only 17% during this reporting period). It is estimated that the target (100,000 hectares under improved sustainable land management and climate proofing practices and restoration and enhancement of 50,000 hectares of forests and non-forest lands initiated) will be achieved; however the final numbers will be available in the next annual report. The tree last annual reports indicate that most carbon sequestration projects were started later in OP5. A number of innovative initiatives were reported and the new Community-Based REDD+ partnership was established under this objective. SGP will continue to work on carbon sequestration, but in OP6 this objective will be integrated in to the landscape conservation and climate- smart agro-ecology initiatives under the landscape approach.

Table 10. Progress Towards Objectives: Climate Change[21]

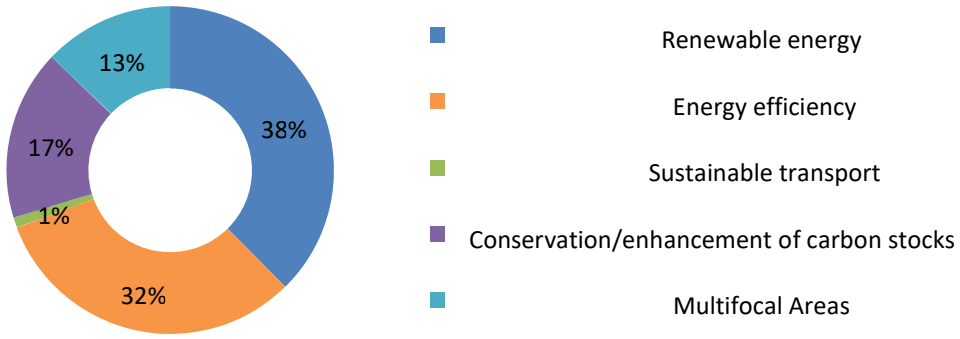
SGP OP5 within reporting	SGP OP5 Results Achievements	OP5 Target to	Achievements	Cumulative Outcomes	Indicators
			period (July 2014-June 2015)	date	
Innovative lowGHG technologies deployed and successfully	Number of countries with demonstrations addressing	127 countries with demonstrations addressing	During the reported period 71 countries reported on completed	197 countries reported separately on completed projects involving demonstrations, meaning

[21] Includes results reported by SGP Upgraded country programmes.

demonstrated at the community level	community-level barriers to deployment of low-GHG technologies	community-level barriers to deployment of low-GHG technologies	projects involving such demonstrations and 35 reported on advanced activities.	some countries reported individually on more than one demonstration. Each SGP country had at least one demonstration activity. In all reported 197 cases more than one national partner was involved.
Up-scaling and replication of good practices and lessons, as appropriate	Number of national or international partners or agencies are aware of SGP practices and lessons	At least 100 national or international partners or agencies are aware of SGP practices and lessons	In all 106 cases more than one national partner was involved.	
Low-GHG transport options demonstrated at the community level	Number of countries where community-level low-GHG transport options have been demonstrated	50 countries with communitylevel low-GHG transportation demonstrations	2 demonstrations reported	22 countries reported on demonstrations
Up-scaling and replication of good practices and lessons, as appropriate	Number of governments having been influenced by SGP demonstration practices	At least 20 governments (local or national) having been influenced in policy development and implementation	Local governments were aware of the demonstration practices	In all 22 cases local governments were aware of the demonstrations. The specific information on policy influence will be collected cumulatively for OP5 next year.
Sustainable land use, land use change, and forestry management and climate proofing practices adopted at the community level for forest and non-forest land-use types	Hectares under improved sustainable land management and climate proofing practices Hectares of forests and non-forest lands with restoration and enhancement initiated	100,000 hectares under improved sustainable land management and climate proofing practices Restoration and enhancement of 50,000 hectares of forests and non-forest lands initiated	Projects started later in OP5, specific data will be available next year	Projects started later in OP5, specific data will be available next year

Overall, as evident during the reporting period, steady progress is being made towards the achievement of the objectives, and a number of innovative ideas emerged and were scaled up by partners and national stakeholders. It is also clear that the SGP climate change portfolio forms a solid basis for OP6 with significant co-benefits achieved, as evidenced by the examples below.

Chart 7: Typology of Climate Change Projects[22]



SGP countries continued to pioneer, test, adapt and disseminate a wide range of technologies for renewable energy and energy efficiency tailored to the needs and resources of different communities. The renewable energy projects primarily benefit remote and poor off-grid communities that were relying on unsustainable energy sources such as firewood, kerosene or batteries. The choice of locally appropriate renewable energy technologies was based on a community's socio-economic and geographical conditions, but typically included one or a mix of solar, wind, hydro, biomass and biogas power. SGP climate change projects also focused on integrated multifocal approaches, helping communities to address their energy needs while achieving environmental conservation and producing significant economic and social co-benefits beyond emissions avoidance. In most vulnerable countries, particularly SIDS and LDCs, climate resilience always forms an important part of the intervention as a good practice noted also by GEF and other partners.

SGP renewable energy and energy efficient solutions produced significant economic, health and social benefits for vulnerable groups, particularly women, children, youth and disabled. In many cases, especially for solar, biogas and efficient stoves, projects were led by women, benefited women, and inspired the creation or growth of artisanal microenterprises. Most typical benefits include access to health services, including maternal health, improved hygiene and respiratory health, extended hours for work and study as well as time saved from wood collection. For example, in Burkina Faso women were able to access maternal health services leading to decreased mother and infant mortality. In Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire respiratory health of women and children was improved due to improving fish smoking stoves. In Djibouti, Argentina and Cote d'Ivoire renewable energy applications provided access to potable water, improving hygiene and health. In Albania and Armenia solar energy and energy efficiency applications generated savings and helped grow incomes in poor communities. Recently SGP has also started to document low carbon technology benefits to people with disabilities. For example, in a promising pilot in Cape Verde electric solar charged vehicles were employed by people with motor disabilities.

In OP5 not all of these additional benefits were consistently tracked and evaluated. However, even these ad hoc reports indicate significant additional value of GEF investment beyond simply mitigating emissions. In OP6 SGP will focus on capturing these co-benefits more systematically, looking in more detail at particularly promising cases. Currently CPMT is conducting a pilot co-benefits study with preliminary results indicating thousands of dollars of additional value, exceeding initial the GEF investment multiple times.

[22] Other projects include advocacy, awareness, capacity building and other initiatives within the focal area in supporting of the main objectives.

As in previous years and consistent with the global trends of falling costs, solar power applications, such as solar home systems or solar powered lighting, cook stoves, chargers, driers, refrigerators, greenhouses, storage facilities and water pumps (both for irrigation and potable water supply) continue to prevail across all regions. During the reporting period, communities in **Barbados**, **Belize**, **Benin**, **Bolivia**, **Botswana**, **Burkina Faso**, **Cambodia**, **Comoros**, **Costa Rica**, **Cote d'Ivoire**, **Fiji**, **Ghana**, **Jamaica**, **Liberia**, **Madagascar**, **Marshall Islands**, **Mauritania**, **Moldova**, **Morocco**, **Nigeria**, **Senegal**, **Togo**, **Tunisia**, **Vanuatu**, **Yemen**, and **Zimbabwe** employed solar power applications to provide essential services to the communities. Some of the typical examples of solar energy powering essential community institutions include solar electrification of health centers in Africa. In **Liberia**, solar energy replaced fossil fuel generators, leading to the reduction of 10 tons of C02 per day. SGP **Niger**, facilitated community access to health services - previously unavailable - using solar energy and benefitting 384 households. In **Nigeria**, over 2,000 people benefitted from access to clinics and water pumps through solar electrification.

Community solar installations also provided energy access and associated benefits such as additional income and time to a large number of beneficiaries in other regions. In **Cambodia**, solar battery charging stations benefitted an entire community of 2,659 households, with savings reinvested in community development and income generation activities.

SGP South Africa- 7kw Solar PV Panel installed at the Fairview Primary School in Barberton, Mpumalanga Province, SA

In many countries, SGP supported solutions for solar electrification and heating in residential buildings, hospitals, orphanages, public spaces and schools serving poor and disadvantaged communities, often remote and with limited energy access. Additionally, many beneficiary households were women-led or involved institutions serving children and youth in solar energy pilots. These types of interventions resulted in the reduction of heating and other energy-related costs for vulnerable groups in countries with varied income levels across the world. These included **Afghanistan**, **Albania**, **Antigua and Barbuda**, **Armenia**, **Belarus**, **Bhutan**, **Egypt**, **Eritrea**, **Georgia**, **Kazakhstan**, **Moldova**, **Nepal**, **Palau**, **Palestinian Authority**, **South Africa** and **Suriname**. Many of the projects included awareness raising components targeting youth, for instance in countries such as **Gambia**, **Kazakhstan**, **Saint Lucia**, **South Africa**, and **Trinidad and Tobago**.

The overwhelming majority of community initiatives also included sustainability mechanisms involving training of community engineers, metering and payment systems, or community revolving funds (as in **Cape Verde**, **Fiji**, and **Yemen**), among others. These mechanisms are particularly important with respect to maintenance of solar installations.

Other renewable energy technologies were employed to a lesser extent, although not less successfully. Biogas technologies provided an alternative to fossil fuels while generating natural fertilizer as a by-product in **Botswana**, **Democratic Republic of Congo**, **India**, **Indonesia**, and **South Africa**. Some countries, like **Cuba** and **Jordan**, even developed advanced local technologies. In **Jordan**, a project partner comprised of national specialists developed the first biogas digester for the poultry industry. In **Tanzania**, biogas projects were scaled up during the reporting period, benefitting over 1,000 people and increasing awareness of over 3,000. SGP **Dominican Republic** continued to scale up micro hydro projects, establishing nine community micro-hydro systems during the reporting period. As a result, more than 1,150 households now have access to electricity from renewable sources of energy, with avoidance of over 3,800 tons of CO2 per year[23].

Innovative waste-to-energy solutions were being scaled up as well as piloted in new countries. **Rwanda** is currently replicating its particularly successful waste briquettes production, implemented by disadvantaged women. SGP **Madagascar** piloted rice waste fuel production to replace firewood, with 130 local producers and 250 households participating. In **Indonesia**, SGP is working with the private sector and banks to scale up the fuel briquettes production from coconut shells. Biomass technologies were piloted in **China**, **Macedonia**, **Sri Lanka**, and **Thailand**. In China, a project promoting biomass crop residue stoves was scaled up through private foundation support and was certified for the voluntary carbon market by the Gold Standard foundation, which will increase benefits for the community even further. A number of countries including **Cape Verde**, **Tajikistan**, and **Thailand** used a combination of technologies including biogas, solar energy and biomass to help communities become self-reliant in terms of energy supply.

Energy efficiency solutions ranged from efficient cook stoves and lighting (including LED) to building applications. Promotion of energy efficient stoves was prevalent in most SGP countries where populations still rely on fuel wood as the primary energy source. Energy efficient lighting, buildings and supplementary renewable energy applications were used in countries where grid electricity is more widely available but buildings, particularly in poor communities, need improvement.

Energy efficient and LED lighting was used for illuminating public spaces, buildings and households, as well as for creating business opportunities and generating awareness in poor and remote communities in **Belarus**, **Kazakhstan**, **Maldives**, **Moldova**, **Ukraine** and **Vietnam**. In **Ukraine**, energy efficient lighting reduced the energy consumption of a town with 15,000 inhabitants by 80%. Many country programmes (e.g. **Iran**, **Turkey**, and **Ukraine**) incorporated awareness components targeting youth and children as well as providing practitioners' training.

Energy efficient stoves using local materials are among the most extensively deployed energy efficiency solution in SGP countries reliant on fuel wood. Improved stoves have been developed in **Burundi**, **Bhutan**, **Cote d'Ivoire**, **Ghana**, **Guatemala**, **Guinea**, **Guinea-Bissau**, **Lesotho**, **India**, **Nicaragua**, **Pakistan**, **Panama**, and **Timor Leste.** Improved stoves are used for home cooking as well as in small enterprises, and their use is combined with reforestation initiatives, management of fuel lots and energy forests and improved charcoal production. In Nicaragua the time spent on wood collection was reduced by 60% and use of wood for cooking fell by 40%.

Many of the reported carbon sequestration projects focused on forest conservation and tree planting with native species, including medicinal plants, and were implemented in **Burundi**, **Cameroon**, **Central African Republic**, **Ethiopia, Ghana**, **Guatemala**, **Lesotho**, **Mozambique**, **Tajikistan**, **Uruguay**, **Uzbekistan Zambia**, and **Zimbabwe**. In **Lesotho**, the carbon sequestration initiative also included improved cook stoves and alternative livelihood components, consistent with the SGP integrated approach. Other initiatives also emphasized alternative livelihoods to ensure sustainability of forest conservation and reforestation efforts, such as improved management of

[23] This data is consistent with a very conservative, low estimate, given that emissions per capita in Dominican republic are 2.2 tons per year (Source: World Bank, 2008)

agricultural lands (**Bolivia** and **Uganda**), agroforestry (**Cameroon**, **Malawi**, **Tajikistan**, and **Zimbabwe**), forest management and fire prevention (**Costa Rica, Mexico**, and **Venezuela**)**.** In **Uzbekistan**, pistachio trees were planted as a sequestration pilot, storing about 170 tons of CO2 per year.

LAND DEGRADATION

A key focus of the SGP Land Degradation focal area lies in the achievement of two strategic priorities of the GEF, outlined in the GEF OP5 cycle as *i) maintaining or improving the flows of agro-ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities*; and *ii) reducing pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscapes*. As such the Land Degradation (LD) portfolio of SGP is also aligned to helping developing countries implement the UNCCD and its 10-year strategic plan at the community level. The 10-year strategic plan is informed by the Millennium Ecosystems Assessment, which provides the basic information and rationale for the strategic approaches proposed in the plan, one of which is the involvement of local communities as land and resource managers [24]. Consequently, the SGP portfolio continues to focus on promoting activities that create and demonstrate good practices in adaptive community-based land management, while incorporating indigenous knowledge and modern practices to address the degradation and destruction of agricultural lands, rangelands, and forest landscapes.

An analysis and categorization of the focal area focus during this period indicates that LD projects over the past year concentrated in the following practices: i) agroecology, integrated pest management, sustainable forest management, agro-sylvo-pastoral management, range management, use of technology for water use efficiency and energy savings within farms.

SGP Tunisia – Oasis rehabilitation before and after pictures

At the global level, CPMT provided technical, administrative and strategic guidance on Sustainable Land Management (SLM) activities and shared comparative local-level experiences, either from other SGP countries or other countries with good SLM practices. Tables 11 a and b, below, summarize the progress of this focal area across SGP countries.

This focal area continues to expand rapidly in number of projects and investment levels. In terms of achievement of indicators, the land area brought under improved management practices by projects completed in the reporting year within the Global SGP amounted to 461,672 hectares, with a cumulative achievement of 758,260 hectare since the start of OP5. As for the number of community members demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices, this included 166,367 people in the course of projects completed in the reporting year within the Global

[24] http://www.millenniumassessment.org/documents/document.355.aspx.pdf.

SGP, while cumulatively it is estimated that practices of 346,123 community members have been influenced since the start of OP5. These results are presented in Table 11a below:

Table 11a: Summary of Progress under the Land Degradation Focal Area in SGP global country programs

Indicator	Targets for OP5	Total Units OP5 YR4	Summary of Progress OP5
Hectares of land[25] under improved management practices including forest, agriculture and water	150,000 hectares under improved agricultural, land and water management practices	461, 672 ha	758,260 [26] ha
Number of community members demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices	At least 60,000 community members with improved practices that have reduced pressure on land and forests	166,367	346,123[272829]

Several SGP upgraded country programmes, particularly Bolivia, Brazil, India and Kenya, reported results in the LD focal area, which amounted to an additional 110,336 hectares of land brought under improved management practices through the projects completed this year, with cumulative improvement seen in 137,699 ha since the start of OP5. The participation of about 4,639 community members was secured through projects completed in the reporting year, while the cumulative figure, since the start of OP5 reaches over 70,000 people. These results are presented in Table 11 b below:

Table 11b: Summary of Progress under the Land Degradation Focal Area in the Upgraded SGP country programs

Indicator	Total Units OP5 YR4	Summary of Progress OP5
Hectares of degraded land[34] under improved management practices including forest, agriculture and water	110,336 ha	137,699 [35] ha
Number of community members demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices	4,639 people	70,104[36]

The above significant progress can be attributed to increased interest of national stakeholders with involvement of greater numbers of participating community members, and possibly as a result of replication, scaling up as well as increased resource allocation from other focal areas into this cross cutting theme. This re-affirms the findings of the joint UNDP/GEF evaluation phase I report which found that LD portfolio resources have increased from 8% in 2007

[25] This figure includes the restoration and enhancement of 50,000 hectares of forests and non-forest lands, which is covered by the indicators of the number of hectares of land rehabilitated/restored (under range management, forestry and agriculture).

[26] OP5 Y2: 71,606 ha + OP5 Y3: 224,982 ha+ OP5 Y4: 461,672 ha= 758,260 ha. Note that a great proportion of this figure has been contributed by Argentina with a large land area of 283,150 ha.

[27] OP5 Y2: 75,601 people + OP5 Y3: 104,155 people+ OP5 Y4: 166,367 = 346,123 people

[28] This figure includes the restoration and enhancement of 50,000 hectares of forests and non-forest lands, which is covered by the indicators of the number of hectares of land rehabilitated/restored (under range management, forestry and agriculture).

[29] OP5 Y2: 4,500 ha + OP5 Y3: 22,863 ha+ OP5 Y4: 110,336 ha= 137,699 ha [36] OP5 Y2: 50,000 people + OP5 Y3: 15,465 people+ OP5 Y4: 4,639 = 70,104 people [37] GEF IOE, 2015. Phase I joint UNDP/GEF SGP evaluation findings Report.

to 21% in 2015[37]. In addition, as a STAR focal area in OP5, greater levels of funding were made available to SGP to support LD projects in subsequent tranches of STAR funding endorsed by countries to their respective SGP Country Programmes.

As in previous years, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean continue to be the predominant regions for the implementation of land degradation projects during the reporting period. It is foreseen that in the future, SGP LD projects can be effectively used to demonstrate the advantages of an integrated programme approach, particularly where there is need to demonstrate how food security can be reached among poor and vulnerable local communities, a focus of an upcoming food security programme for sub-Saharan Africa. In Africa, in particular, SGP projects can demonstrate on-the-ground actions that can generate useful policy directions to be considered by larger GEF projects in the region. SGP grant projects also have potential for replication and adoption of approaches in similar environments.

Selected country-level examples that demonstrate progress towards OP5 objectives under the LD portfolio

In **Nigeria**, a community-based climate change project being implemented by Wise Administration of Terrestrial Environment and Resources is regenerating 125 ha of deforested land out of the 480 hectares of community forest, by planting 60,000 tree seedlings in five communities with 16,020 direct beneficiaries in Bumaji Clan, Boki LGA, in Cross River State. Grantee-partners were trained to appreciate the value of forests, and engage in forest conservation and sustainable use of forest resources. Livelihood diversification efforts resulted in the empowerment of 40 hunters in rearing goats; 36 farmers in bee keeping, and 90 farmers in the cultivation of yams and cassava. This has created additional job opportunities and reduced idleness that could have led to communal conflict. One hundred households also benefitted from training on construction and use of energy saving stoves, which have drastically reduced their use of firewood by 50%. 628 people have increased knowledge of natural resources and climate change issues and have been involved in sustainable forest management. Food security improved in 233 households and malnutrition dropped by 10%.

In **Botswana**, SGP empowered civil society participation in the implementation of the Makgadikgadi Framework Management Plan. Birdlife Botswana facilitated three multi-stakeholder-forums for 128 participants under the auspices of the Makgadikgadi Wetland Management Committee meeting in Letlhakane and Nata. These multi stakeholder-forums enhanced participation and ensured replication in the planning and implementation of similar projects. Various initiatives were undertaken to strengthen the institutional capacity of four local conservation Trusts. The grantee trained 40 farmers from four villages in the Boteti sub-district on the concept of conservation agriculture for the promotion of multiple livelihood systems in communal areas. Similarly, in Botswana, Nlapkhwane Lingilila Environment Conservation Trust working on the project Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Natural Resources in Nlapkhwane, constructed 24 gabions out of a target of 30 across a steep-sided gully created by soil erosion (*dongas)* and gullies. As a result of the construction efforts, the *dongas* and gullies are filling up and grasses and shrubs are growing in areas that were initially bare leading to land and vegetation recovery.

In **Belarus** SGP introduced the cultivation and use of green manure as an approach to ecological agriculture in collaboration with the farmer's cooperative "Rosa-Agro" and implemented this over an area of 400 hectares. The enhanced soil fertility through the application of green manure enabled organic cultivation of highly profitable crops such as beets, corn, and canola and led to an increase in farm productivity of 27%. Farming revenue increased to about USD 460 per hectare, improving the livelihoods of over 60 cooperative members. Moreover, pollution of the rivers Issa and Rudno was considerably reduced by the shift from use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The project presented its results to over 300 professionals from the fields of agriculture and ecology at the Ecological Festival and forum.[30]

[30] BLR/SGP/OP5/Y3/STAR/LD/13/01

An innovative project in **Kazakhstan** demonstrated a water-saving and erosion-prevention technology for rice irrigation that not only prevents land degradation but also decreases the use of water for irrigation by 20 to 25%, and increases rice yields by 12-18%. Given that rice production is one of the most water consuming crops in the agricultural sector, this is an important accomplishment and a pilot that can be replicated by many other communities worldwide. The technology regulates the water supply and release in the rice production cycle by setting dampers to regulate water flow in the fields. To date, the project has successfully decreased land degradation by 15%; brought 200 hectares under sustainable management; achieved water savings of 20% and increased rice yields by 15%. Moreover, the project also decreased the sediment load that passes through the drainage system of the damper and improved the soil conditions of irrigated lands. The farming practices of 60 families, including 27 women and 40 children were likewise improved.

SGP Kazakhstan –Rice paddy fields supported through flood irrigation systems in the drier parts of the country

SGP **Morocco** supported the establishment of a sustainable community laundry in the Tabesbaste oasis in the Southeast of Morocco.[31] In the past, communities washed and laundered clothes along flowing river streams where every women would wash and discard used water either back into the stream or in the land adjacent to it (see picture below on the left). This process was considered to compromise the oasis ecosystem and further polluted water downstream. Chemical detergents typically used for laundry in *khettaras* (traditional watering systems) have disastrous impacts on the local environment, water, soil and agriculture, which is the main driver of the local economy. Furthermore, soils can be contaminated with non-biodegradable solvents which may eventually lead to food poisoning from crops from such oasis areas. Through the project, local communities were able to reduce the release of chemical detergents into the irrigation system by up to 10 tons annually when they were better organized and using a modern cleaning facility which was built with the necessary mechanisms to remove unwanted chemicals from laundry water (see the photo on the right, below). The project guaranteed longterm access to clean irrigating water for 200 farm families, decreasing degradation of over 50 ha of oasis land. The project has also created two permanent jobs for women, and set up a sustainable mechanism to finance the maintenance of *khettaras,* the preservation of soil and the maintenance of oasis agriculture.

[31] MOR/SGP/OP5/Y1/STAR/LD/12/01

SGP Morocco- BEFORE- women using chemicals detergents in khettaras – AFTER- New Environmentally friendly laundry built for the same communities

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

During this reporting period, the SFM portfolio was primarily implemented in Africa (86% of projects), with the remaining regions contributing only a few projects each, adding up to 14% of projects overall. However, as forests are also target areas for projects under focal areas such as biodiversity, climate change and land degradation, this portfolio comprises diverse types of projects, which are often funded under other related focal areas.

Most projects aim to address objectives such as *i) increasing ecological connectivity and improving forest biodiversity values at landscape levels*; *ii) promoting good management practices in community and small holder forestry and rangelands*; as well as the new objective of *iii) managing woodlots and protection of communal forest zones for medicinal and educational purposes*.

The SFM portfolio of projects completed during the reporting period show the clear preference of communities for joint management processes that ensure their participation in the management of forests as well as generate access to and rights over communal resources, including forest products. Communities initiated projects predominantly related to the development of forest management plans, with an increasing share in use of nontimber products. In addition to that, benefit sharing was a key concern for most communities especially as regards deriving sustenance from the forest as well as its utilization for educational and medicinal purposes.

SGP Mexico – Community member measuring forest tree diameter for forest management and carbon stock accounting in the Ejido

Table 12 below provides the number of projects supported and the area coverage of these projects. As SFM is not a specific focal area under GEF funding but receives support and contributes to results of other related focal areas, there may be significant additional projects concerned with forest resources that may not be captured fully here.

Table 12: Number of Hectares Restored through Improved Forest Management Practices (July 2014 – June 2015)

	Number of Projects (#)	Number of hectares (ha)
Total	**29**	**278,597**

Most of the projects completed in the reporting year were in Africa where communities' livelihoods' are often clearly supported by the goods and services generated by forests. Furthermore, rehabilitation of degraded lands tends to be very expensive if the land is within the drier ecosystems or with no vegetation to help in providing cover material. The nature of degradation is not seen by communities by way of forest cover alone, but in terms of accompanying land degradation effects such as erosion caused by winds and rains, loss of biodiversity and increased soil infertility. Overall the strategies that have been deployed in many community managed forests are to provide community driven management plans with clear resource access strategies, which can allow the maintenance of biodiversity, the meeting of water resource needs for community and wildlife, as well as timber and other non-timber harvesting requirements.

Selected country-level examples that demonstrate the progress towards OP5 objectives under the SFM portfolio

In **Ghana**, eight forest fringe communities actively participated in sustainable forestry management. Community forest management committees were formed and sustainable forest management by-laws were reviewed and used as educational material to reach out to over 800 people living around the Togo Plateau forest reserve. Due to awareness creation, environmental laws were enacted and resulted in a drastic reduction in the incidence of bushfires. It is on record that since the commencement of the project there has not been any incidence of bushfire within the 1,000 ha forest and non-forest lands. A hunters association was formed and registered as the first resource

user group. This group was the primary target for education on wildfire prevention and management, wildlife breeding, endangered species, hunting laws, and to ward off illegal chainsaw operators in the area. This was geared towards protecting timber, wildlife and their natural habitats. Entrepreneurship and enterprise management initiatives were supported and 80 beneficiaries were able to invest in honey production, small ruminant rearing and processing of non-timber forest products resulting in a 100 percent increase in disposable income.

In **Tanzania**, Chome forest is one of the country's large forest reserves practicing participatory forest Management. It constitutes one of the most important environmental areas within the Eastern Arc Mountains. Its forest has high biodiversity values and is a carbon store house. It is home to six plants and one vertebrate species endemic to these forests as well as 62 species that are endemic to the Eastern Arc Mountains. In recognition of these singular characteristics, in 2008, the area was upgraded from Forest Reserve to Nature Reserve. The SGP supported project has added value and contributed to ongoing management and conservation of this globally significant Nature Reserve. Further, project support has contributed to realizing the following results: (i) 2,172 ha. of Chome forest are properly preserved, maintaining its biodiversity values and with a degradation rate of less than 1% (ii) More than 2,290 people (1,000 women and 1,290 men) receive tangible benefits from participation in the management of Chome Nature Reserve (iii) Reduced rates of tree cutting and incidences of forest fires as per disturbance transect data, in areas of Chome, adjacent to the 2 target adjacent villages (iv) Approximately 150 households adopted fuel efficient stoves with a reduction of fuel wood demand of around 30% (v) Village Land Use Plans approved for two communities at the end of the project (vi) two Village Natural Resources Management Committees are actively working and promoting JFM within the communities, with environmental governance system in place on sustainable basis.

INTERNATIONAL WATERS

The Goal of the international waters (IW) focal area is the promotion of collective management for transboundary water systems and subsequent implementation of the full range of policy, legal and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services.[32] SGP's niche in the international waters focal area lies in its community-based approach that supports the implementation of intergovernmental agreements or policies at the community level, specifically the regional Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs).

During the reporting period, SGP continued to support the implementation of SAPs and aligned its IW portfolio with regional priorities in 24 international water bodies. The IW portfolio primarily focused on: 1) conservation and rehabilitation of coastal or freshwater ecosystems and habitats, including the removal of invasive species to maintain health of the ecosystems; 2) prevention and reduction of land-based pollution, such as the construction of eco-toilets to reduce waste discharge to transboundary water systems; 3) freshwater resources management; and 4) fisheries, land, forest and other natural resources management. Country programmes were further directed to align their international waters activities with regional programmes. During the reporting period, 42 international waters projects were completed. Table 13 outlines progress made towards achieving OP5 targets in the international waters portfolio in GEF-5 during the reporting period:

Table 13: Achievements of projects in the International Waters Portfolio (July 2014 – June 2015)

[32] GEF. 2009. Compilation of the Focal Area Strategies for GEF-5 (https://www.thegef.org/gef/pubs/GEF-5_FA_Strategies).

Indicators	Targets	Achievements (July 2014 – June 2015)
Number of SAPs to which SGP is providing implementation support	10 SAPs for which SGP is supporting on the ground implementation of regional priority actions	Supported implementation of regional priority actions in 10 SAPs (Arafura Timor Seas, Congo River, East Asia Seas, Lake Victoria, Mediterranean Sea, Niger River, Nile River, South China Sea/Gulf of Thailand, West Indian Ocean, Zambezi River)
Number of regional transboundary water management processes to which SGP is contributing good practices and lessons	15 regional transboundary water management processes to which SGP is contributing good practices and lessons	Contributed practices and lessons learnt in 16 regional bodies (above list plus Caledon River, Dniester River, Kura Araks River, Limpopo River, Oueme River, and Panj River)

In terms of direct on-the-ground results, SGP projects have worked on reducing land-based pollution including solid waste, sewage, waste water and agricultural waste. Country programs have reported with SGP interventions during the reporting year, a total of 1,436 tons of land-based pollution has been reduced or prevented from flowing to transboundary waterbodies. SGP has promoted the conservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal areas or fishing grounds, with 6,338 hectares of marine and coastal areas or fishing grounds brought under sustainable community management during the reporting year. In terms of managing river or lake basins, a total of 6,468 hectares of basin area have been restored or rehabilitated by international waters projects of SGP in the past year.

Considerable efforts were also undertaken to identify partnership opportunities for cooperation and collaboration between SGP and Full-Sized Projects (FSPs). At the global level, SGP worked with UNDP and UNEP to incorporate a USD 1m community component in its jointly implemented project "Implementing Integrated Land, Water & Wastewater Management in Caribbean SIDS" (short: IWEco project). In the East Asian Seas, frequent communication with PEMSEA ensured the sharing of information and knowledge and provided data and information for regional consolidation. To collect and promote good practices in community-based international waters management, SGP has conducted a regional review of the Caribbean international waters portfolio to identify good practices. Three good project cases were completed and incorporated in a journal article published in a special issue of the journal "Environmental Development", which is an exceptional initiative organized by the Benguela Current Commission. A journal article was published in the Future of Food: Journal on Food, Agriculture and Society, which has consolidated good experience from the Community Water Initiative highlighting four project cases. Inputs were provided to the Global Sustainable Development Report of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

To reduce the pollution of waterways and rivers of the Nile Basin (Ruvubu) in Kayanza province[33], SGP **Burundi** supported waste management activities. These activities included the construction and use of ecological toilets, the use of organic manure from the toilets for farm fertilization; and the introduction of modern cow breeding. As a result, over 150 people were trained in cow-breeding, 40 ecological toilets were constructed at four schools and the pollution from these sources of the Nile was reduced.

During the reporting period, SGP **Cambodia** completed two IW projects developing the capacities of the Kep Community Fisheries and Angkol Community Fisheries committee members to promote the sustainable use of community marine fishing areas in Kep province.[34] As a key result, 2,512 ha of community marine fishing areas were

[33] BDI/SGP/OP5/CORE/IW/2013/10

[34] KHM/SGP/OP5/Y3/CORE/IW/2013/07 and KHM/SGP/OP5/CORE/IW/11/03

brought under sustainable practices. SGP supported local communities to achieve the protection of 200 ha of sea grass and 57.41 ha of mangrove forest to increase fish productivity and reduce illegal fishing activities, replanting mangrove trees on seven hectares of degraded land.

SGP Cambodia – Fisher arriving at the patrolling hut

Similarly, SGP **Tajikistan,** in partnership with the Mission East organization, promoted the application of ecosanitation toilets to improve the sanitary and hygienic living conditions of the population and reduce pollution of the transboundary Pyani River, which also flows through Afghanistan.[35] With the support of the Aga Khan Foundation, 35 women participated in seminars on water contamination and the construction of eco-sanitary toilets. The eco-sanitation system was successfully installed in four secondary schools, two public bathrooms, one district administration, and four households in the villages Qalai Khumb and Dashtak. Overall, more than 40 ecosanitary toilets were constructed in the Darvaz district and its neighboring regions, and these sanitation facilities now reduce river pollution by up to 93 tons of waste annually.

The Setsoto Women's Empowerment Group supported by SGP **South Africa** implemented a project that improved the health of Caledon River as well as other rivers and dams in Setsoto by reducing local pollution. The CBO established a partnership with a recycling company that picks up garbage from these areas and undertook awareness-raising campaigns on river rehabilitation, water conservation and waste management. As a complementary activity, the project also set up food gardens and made crafts and furniture from non-native trees that were removed from the river shore. The furniture supplies a local orphanage with tables and chairs, which is an additional social benefit for the community.

CHEMICALS AND WASTE

The goal of the chemicals focal area in GEF-5 is to promote the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycles in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the global environment.[36] SGP supports the phasing out of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and chemicals of global concern at the community level through the introduction of POP substitutes and the promotion of environmentally friendly

[35] TJK/SGP/OP5/Y3/CORE/IW/LD/2013/01

[36] GEF. 2009. Compilation of the Focal Area Strategies for GEF-5 (https://www.thegef.org/gef/pubs/GEF-5_FA_Strategies).

practices in pesticide management. In OP5, SGP's strategy for addressing POPs and other harmful chemicals is two-fold: *i) managing and reducing the use of these substances*; and *ii) addressing the disposal, cleanup and mitigation of environmental contamination*. Community-level stakeholders in developing countries are often unaware of the full extent of potential negative environmental and health effects from POPs and lack the technical capacity to safely manage and dispose of harmful chemicals. One core role of SGP is the demonstration, piloting and testing of community-based models to eliminate POPs, which can be scaled-up and replicated to catalyze successful large-scale approaches.

During the reporting period, the chemicals portfolio focused its activities on: 1) avoidance of open burning of solid waste; 2) organic farming and pesticide management in agriculture; 3) reduction of chemical usage and contamination through innovative alternatives; and 4) capacity development, awareness raising and knowledge sharing. Throughout the reporting year, the SGP portfolio generated valuable experiences and lessons learnt in piloting and testing innovative approaches to chemicals management at the community level. In particular, the POPs Training Module was updated to the "Chemicals and Waste Management" Training Module, which includes the expansion of SGP chemicals and waste focal area to include work related to the e-waste, mercury and other heavy metals, lead, plastics and solid waste issues. Cases on chemicals and waste management was collected and consolidated with a view to finalizing a publication for global distribution. The partnership with the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) has been strengthened during the year. IPEN representatives were present at four SGP regional workshops, and provided technical presentations on chemicals and waste management. Table 14 summarizes the portfolio progress and quantitative outputs generated during the reporting period.

Table 14. A Summary of Progress under the Chemicals Focal Area (July 2014 – June 2015)

OP5 Indicators	OP5 Targets	Achievements (July 2014 – June 2015)
Tons of solid waste avoided from burning	100 tons of solid waste avoided from burning	51,229 tons of solid waste avoided from burning
Tons of obsolete pesticides disposed of appropriately	30 tons of obsolete pesticides disposed of appropriately	31 tons of pesticides disposed of appropriately
Number of countries where SGP is contributing to the implementation of national plans and policies to address POPs, harmful chemicals and other pollutants	15 countries where SGP is contributing to the implementation of national plans and policies to address POPs, harmful chemicals and other pollutants	27 countries where SGP is contributing to the implementation of national plans and policies

In **Afghanistan**, SGP funded a project to facilitate the collection and management of solid waste. The project trained over 400 people in Jalalabad, including shopkeepers, farmers, herders, media representatives, CSO representatives and municipality staff on waste management and composting techniques.[37] Organic waste is now composted to provide farmers with organic fertilizer, and inorganic waste is processed through proper incineration or other methods by the municipality. Key messages on environmental protection, waste management and composting were disseminated through Public Service Announcements and prime time appearances on radio and TV, as well as through two campaigns on waste management and environmental protection held with CSOs, government agencies and youth. These key messages have reached thousands of people in Nangarhar Province, and the project continues to follow up with local people to ensure sustainability.

[37] AFG/SGP/OP4/Y3/RAF/14/22

To assist in phasing out POPs pesticides in public health and agriculture, SGP **Gambia** supported a woman farmers' group to apply integrated pest management options, including non-chemical alternatives.[38] POPs pesticides have been used in agriculture in the Gambia, and in some areas DDT was used to control malaria. Artemisia is a highvalue crop, which also reduces the malaria infection rate as well as the need for DDT as a pesticide. When Artemisia was planted alongside regular vegetable crops, no pest infestations on vegetables were observed, reducing the use of chemical agents for pest control. This project tests an alternative to DDT, which is being experimented and validated, with the possibility to be promoted nationally.

SGP China - Collecting e-waste for environmentally sound recycling and disposal

In **Ghana**, two projects replaced waste burning practices through composting organic wastes and using these for sustainable land management in farmer organizations, thereby also mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.[39] Two waste processing units were installed processing up to 20 tons of waste every month and reducing annual emissions by about 91 tons of CO2-equivalent. All biodegradable waste is locally composted through an aerobic process and used as organic fertilizer on organic farms. About 120 vegetable farmers working on 40 ha have been trained in the application of compost and development of bio-pesticides.

In **Suriname**, a chemicals project aimed to enhance agricultural productivity and to reduce the use of chemicals in pest control by training 25 male and twelve female farmers in the identification and treatment of plant diseases.[48] Moreover, two plant clinics were established in two different districts to address farmers' questions once a month. As a direct result, crop productivity increased by at least 30% through a reduction of pest and disease pressure by 75%. A video to illustrate these results was produced by UNDP and can be found at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=POXWO-PTlTw.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

SGP continued to build the capacities of CSOs and CBOs in environmental management across all GEF focal areas. As one of the main contributors of capacity development at the community level of the GEF, SGP aligned with the GEF and followed the main objectives of the Capacity Development Strategy of the GEF in OP5 which are to enhance and strengthen the capacities of stakeholders to engage in consultative processes on environmental issues;

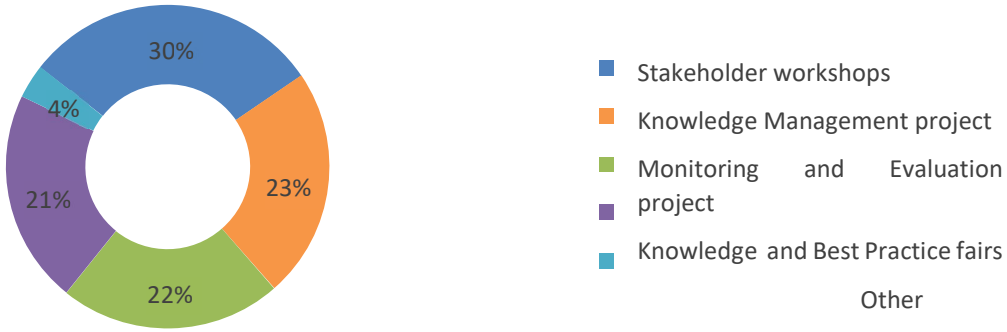
[38] GMB/SGP/OP5/Y3/STAR/CH/13/15

[39] GHA/SGP/OP5/Y3/STAR/CH/07/24/024 and GHA/SGP/OP5/Y3/STAR/CH/07/04/022 [48] SUR/SGP/OP4/CORE/2010/03

generate, access and use information and knowledge; develop policy and legislative frameworks; implement and manage global convention guidelines; and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends. To do so, SGP started dedicated grant making on capacity development (CD) especially designed for community and CSO stakeholders, as there was a recognition that certain capacities need to be supported beyond the usual "learning by doing" approach of projects as they are critical to the proper design of projects for the achievement of global environmental benefits, and the enhancement of broader adoption through knowledge sharing, networking and policy advocacy, and assessment of impacts.

During this reporting year**,** SGP completed 55 dedicated capacity development projects to strengthen the capacities of 1,137 CSOs and 725 CBOs, comprising 60,735 people, to address global environmental issues at the community level. To this end, 30% of the SGP country programmes carried out stakeholder workshops, 23% knowledge management projects, 22% M&E projects aimed at strengthen portfolio level monitoring and evaluation tools, and 21% for knowledge and best practice fairs. These capacity development projects go beyond the project, to strategically connect the portfolio to larger frameworks and networks with the aim to produce broader adoption.

Chart 8: Type of Capacity Development project



SGP **Zimbabwe**[40] conducted a knowledge and best practice fair to share the sustainable development practices created and applied by CSOs with a wide range of stakeholders across the country, created a networking platform for knowledge exchange among SGP grantees, designed its country programme webpage, and launched the publication "20 Years of Sustainable Action through the GEF Small Grants Programme in Zimbabwe". Meanwhile, **Sri Lanka**[41] facilitated an M&E training workshop for CSOs, including members of the GEF CSO network, which improved their capacities to develop log frames for managing sustainable development projects allowing them to monitor their contribution to the global environment with concrete indicators, and carried out another training on biodiversity valuation for selected NGOs, which can create the right incentives for ecosystem conservation, in collaboration with the University of Sri Jayawardenapura.

To improve the capacity of SGP grantees in **Indonesia**[42] to sustain the results of their projects after these end, SGP used a capacity development grant for the creation and improvement of *Terasmitra*, an online platform that aims to bridge the gap between small environmental entrepreneurs and the global market. *Terasmitra*'s slogan is "create, connect, collaborate, and change the world" and serves as *i) a networking and knowledge exchange platform for SGP grantees; ii) an online shopping platform for biodiversity-based products such as arts, crafts and food,* and *iii) as a platform to offer ecotourism services.* A knowledge management database for SGP Indonesia is also under development.

[40] ZIM/SGP/OP5/Y3/STAR/KM/13/16
[41] SRL/SGP/OP5/CORE/MF/2011/08
[42] INS/SGP/OP5/STAR/CD/12/36

SGP Indonesia – Screen Shot of Terasmitra platform

In **Ghana**, a capacity development project[43] analyzed the needs of the CSOs in terms of their skills to carry out sustainable development projects and organized a stakeholder workshop that enhanced the institutional capacities of 150 professionals from 30 CSOs and 10 CBOs on accounting, project management, resource mobilization, institutional organization[44], effective communication, and environmental sustainability. As part of this project and in partnership with the GEF CSO network, a national knowledge platform was launched to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and lessons learned from civil society projects and to support scaling up of civil society's engagement to address global environmental issues. Hands-on training in apiculture, honey processing and bottling, compost preparation and packaging, and construction of improved cook stoves for commercial and institutional usage were carried out.

SGP **Malawi** enhanced collaboration and networking among CSOs through the formalization of a CSO network, known in Malawi as the GEF Partners Network which includes SGP grantees, GEF CSO Network members and other CBOs and NGOs in the country. The aim of the network is to improve their skills on knowledge management, M&E and policy advocacy. SGP **Bolivia**[45] improved knowledge on land rights of the Isoceño-Guaraníes, Ayoreas and Chiquitanas indigenous peoples by training 75 indigenous leaders in land rights and conflict resolution.

SGP **Turkey** organized a Climate Summit with the purpose of enhancing the capacities of local and provincial governments by training over 2,000 people on climate change and land degradation laws and frameworks. As a result, a nationwide thematic network was established between private actors through chambers of commerce. Moreover, a new law on rehabilitation of riverbeds to mitigate flooding is currently under consideration by the government.

4. GRANTMAKERS +

[43] GHA/SGP/OP5/Y3/STAR/MULTI/09/04/035

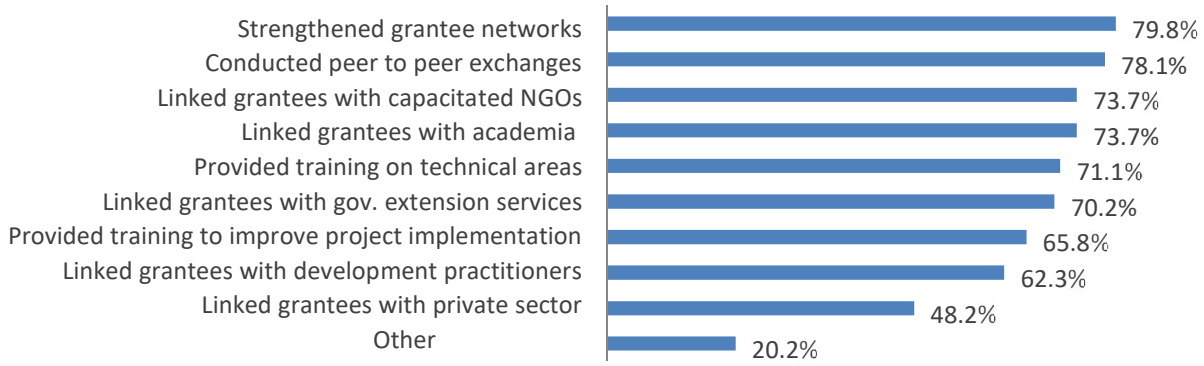
[44] (e.g. formation of primary, secondary and macro level organizations, managing formal organizations, promoting participation through formulation of rules and regulations, constitutions, bylaws, etc.)

[45] BOL/SGP/OP5/Y2/FSP/13/07

The new "Grantmakers+" role of the SGP for OP6 was initiated at the start of 2015. "Grantmakers+" refers to the additional aspects of SGP work that must be done to maintain the programme's effectiveness and efficiency despite limited resources. In addition to grant funds, SGP will also offer non-grant services needed by community and CSO stakeholders. This also refers to other activities using SGPs experienced staff, NSC members, and partners to support building higher level capacities for CSOs, helping them access non-GEF donors, networking of CSOs to build a critical mass of constituencies, organizing South –South knowledge exchanges, facilitating the organization of policy dialogues between CSOs and Government, and designing processes that enhance social inclusion of vulnerable sectors such as that of women, indigenous peoples, the youth and persons with disabilities. As such, SGP at the project as well as country and global programme levels takes a holistic approach to creating broader influence and expanding its coverage beyond the limits defined by GEF funding criteria for community projects. This section of the AMR reflects the initial results of SGP in these new areas of work during the reporting year.

An example of how "Grantmakers+" works is shown by the multiple services provided by SGP country programmes to its community and CSO stakeholders (see Chart 9 below):

Chart 9: Regular Capacity Development Strategies used by SGP country programmes



SOCIAL INCLUSION OF KEY CONSTITUENCIES

A key element of empowering communities to undertake environmental action is ensuring that all members of society have the agency to improve their immediate environment, raise awareness among their communities and advocate for better policies and programmes. Therefore, SGP makes an effort to actively involve key constituencies such as women, youth, indigenous peoples and the disabled.

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Gender equality and women's empowerment continues to be a fundamental component across the entire portfolio. During the reporting year, the results for gender from the GEF and UNDP Joint Independent Evaluation concluded that 1) the majority of the CPSs mention practical steps to promote gender in SGP projects; 2) the majority of stakeholders of SGP at the national level (60%) find that the SGP grant selection process includes consideration of gender equality to a great extent and 47% find that grants have effectively contributed to gender equality and women's empowerment; 3) National Coordinators and National Steering Committees are perceived to have some level of gender expertise; and 4) actual results on the ground are evident and half of the projects were found to have benefitted women and men equally, or to have disproportionately benefited women. Many other projects benefited women, although not to the same extent as men.

In addition, CPMT proactively produces and shares guidance with all country programmes. For example, in February 2014, CPMT created and shared an important tool for the screening and approval of projects: a review checklist on gender to be used by the National Steering Committees.

Chart 10: SGP strategies used for promoting Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

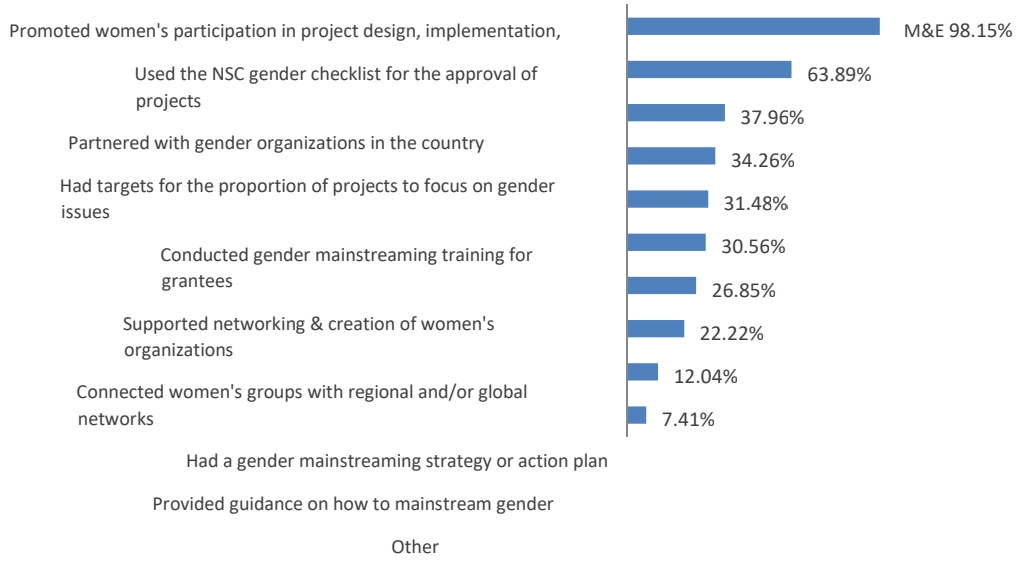


Chart 10, above, illustrates the different mechanisms used by SGP country programmes during the reporting year to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. Global and national strategies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment continued to show promising results. Approximately 758 projects (59%) out of the 1,282 projects completed during the reporting period included a strong gender component and 364 projects (29%) were led by women. The gender context among SGP country programmes is highly diverse, ranging from contexts in which women are not involved in public life to those in which women dominate in some realms of society, as well as those in which gender roles are less restrictive to both men and women. Thus, the gender approach of each country programme is adapted to the particular circumstances of its communities.

For example, SGP projects have also propelled women into national policy arenas. One such project, supported by SGP **Albania**[46], was proposed and implemented almost exclusively by women. The aim of the project was to reduce plastic consumption by reusing denim garments to make shopping bags. Besides producing this product and educating the public about the importance of reusing bags, the project also lobbied the government to force retailers to disclose and charge for the price of plastic bags to customers. Women were not only involved in drafting the proposal and had decision-making power regarding the activities of the project but were also involved in the policy dialogue meetings between the government and the civil society organizations during the drafting of the new legislation.

[46] ALB/SGP/OP5/Y4/STAR/POP/14/03

SGP Albania- Woman repurposing denim to create shopping bags

In some instances, women are usually underrepresented in project planning. The Sabah Bio-Cultural Law Project (SBLP) supported by SGP Malaysia, found a solution to this issue through the use of focus groups in the community, which not only involved women in the planning process but also gave them a decision-making role. Participatory methods in training sessions, workshops, role-playing scenarios, and dialogues also increased the participation of women in the project planning process. As a result, when project implementation began, two women representatives of five were elected by the community to be part of the Melangkap Bio-Cultural Committee, whose task was to ensure smooth relations between the project proponent and the five districts.

Women's livelihoods can also be effectively improved by reducing the work, expense, and risk caused by daily household tasks, which disproportionately fall on them. SGP is effectively improving the livelihoods of women, thus increasing their economic stability and position in society, as well as enabling them to contribute to sustainable development in their communities through business development in **Nicaragua,** handcrafts in **Iran** and **Trinidad and Tobago,** eco-tourism in **Uruguay,** the establishment of self-help groups in **Ethiopia, India** and **Kenya**, bio-coal production in **Cameroon**, eco-tourism in the **Solomon Islands,** tree nurseries in **South Africa**, fish processing in **Sri Lanka**, weaving in **Mauritius**, beekeeping in **China** and **Brazil**, and agricultural projects in **Zambia** and **Zimbabwe**. Renewable energy is also becoming a field increasingly open to women. In **Ghana**, SGP supported women to establish a Climate Innovation Centre to promote new technologies in renewable energy.

YOUTH

Environmental protection is an intergenerational effort as it requires the expertise of the elders, as well as the formation of the youth as future leaders. Being both the beneficiaries of development results and the agents of development changes, youth have a critical role in environment and development work at the community level and have thus become a prominent target group for SGP. In 2014, SGP contributed to the development of UNDP's first-ever Youth Strategy. The expected outcomes of the Youth Strategy advocate that youth are 1) economically empowered; 2) engaged in public life and participate in political processes and institutions; and 3) agents for community resilience.[47] Youth will further continue to be a SGP priority target group during the Sixth Operational Phase (OP6). For a few years now, SGP has been an active member of the UNFCCC coordinated Inter-Agency Joint Framework Initiative for Children and Youth in Climate Action and collaborated in a number of initiatives. During the

[47] UNDP. 2014. UNDP Youth Strategy 2014-2017 (http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Democratic%20Governance/Youth/UNDP_Youth-Strategy-2014-17_Web.pdf). New York, NY.

reporting year, SGP has been collaborating with UNFCCC in a Global Youth Video Competition, whose winners will be honored at the UNFCCC COP21 in Paris.

During the reporting period, 79 country programmes reported having completed at least one project involving youth leadership or participation, totaling 446 projects (35%) out of the 1,282 projects completed. This indicates a 32% increase in the number of projects involving youth from the previous year (339 projects involved youth during 2013-2014). Ten country programmes reported to have each funded more than ten youth-engaging projects. These included **Burundi**, **Ecuador**, **Ethiopia**, **Kyrgyzstan**, **Malaysia**, **Mauritius**, **Mongolia**, **Palau**, **Senegal,** and **Thailand**. Key activities involving youth mainly focus on environmental education and awareness raising, piloting and testing new technologies, sustainable livelihoods, reforestation and afforestation, as well as sustainable waste management.

In **Kazakhstan**, a project demonstrating energy-efficient practices in villages and small towns of Akmola oblast closely worked with the local youth, by incorporating a competition among youth projects in 2013 and 2014.[48] Originally planned as a competition of local initiatives, it gained the status of the Central Asian Competition to prepare for the EXPO-2017 to be held in Astana. At the competition in 2014, participants presented hand-made prototypes of green technologies proposed for practical use, including more than 100 proposals by schoolchildren and students. Nineteen projects won grants to implement their ideas in practice. As a direct result, LED lighting systems, including energy-saving control systems, solar water heaters as well as wind turbines, are now installed at local schools and colleges, and energy-efficient woodworking machines are in use. In total, these youth projects were installed in 15 schools and colleges for about 8,000 youths.

SGP Trinidad and Tobago- Youth at "A Sea Change" Film Screening

In **Trinidad and Tobago**, a youth-led project raised public awareness on climate change and promoted behavioral change through local knowledge products and advocacy tools.[49] The film "A Sea Change" was screened as part of the Sustain Trinidad and Tobago's annual environmental film series. The film was also used to demonstrate the technical requirements of documentary film production including interview techniques, sound recording and camera handling.

[48] KAZ/SGP/OP5/Y2/STAR/CC/12/25

[49] TRI/SGP/OP5/Y2/CORE/CC/12/01

Workshop participants were exposed to film theory as well as hands on experience with the equipment. A website (www.aseachangett.com) was created to promote the film and environmental awareness.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

SGP's engagement with indigenous peoples is premised on adherence and support to UNDP's Policy of Engagement with Indigenous Peoples (2001), the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), and the GEF's Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples (2012). SGP recognizes that indigenous peoples have deeply rooted cultural, political, and territorial rights, and supports efforts to reverse their marginalized situation whilst generating global environmental benefits across the GEF focal areas. As such, SGP respects customary law and practice and supports securing rights to land and resources, as well as participation of indigenous groups in local and national environmental governance. SGP grants promote the revitalization of indigenous cultural practices and strengthening customary institutions (with particular relevance to CBD Article 8j as well as Aichi Targets 11 and 18).

To facilitate support for indigenous peoples, SGP developed a participatory project preparation and design process to increase access to funding of indigenous peoples and produced a Handbook on the use of participatory video, and almanario flipcharts, among others, that build on oral traditions. SGP also provides expedited planning grants, and accepts proposals in local and vernacular languages. As articulated in the UNDG Guidelines and relevant UNPFII recommendations, the model of joint decision-making and participation of indigenous peoples in SGP National Steering Committees (NSCs) has been proposed for replication in the programming of other UN agencies.

During OP6, SGP proposes to develop further proactive mentoring and capacity-building of indigenous fellows at national, regional and global levels to work alongside SGP national coordinators to expand and improve the portfolio of SGP 'Grant-makers+' role supporting indigenous peoples. Potential activities to be carried out by the indigenous fellows include increased uptake of alternative formats (such as participatory video which is still not adopted/mainstreamed by all participating SGP country programmes), as well as strengthening linkages between SGP and the relevant regional and international indigenous networks, foundations and NGOs.

Approximately 192 projects (15%) of the 1,282 SGP projects completed during the reporting period involved indigenous peoples. Of these projects, ten reported accepting proposals in local languages. The SGP countries with the highest reported number of projects in collaboration with indigenous peoples included **Mexico** (35); **Ecuador** (13); **Panama** (11); **Burundi** (10); **Nepal** (9); **Peru** (8); **Samoa** and **Mozambique** (7 each), and **Fiji**, **Namibia**, **Costa Rica**, **Tanzania** and **Malaysia** (6 each). Other SGP countries with portfolios comprising at least two projects with indigenous peoples included **Belize**, **Bhutan**, **China**, **Cameroon**, **Djibouti**, **Egypt**, **Guyana**, **Honduras**, **Indonesia**, **Kenya**, **Lesotho**, the **Marshall Islands**, **Nicaragua**, **Palau** and **Suriname**. Some highlights of the portfolio are captured below.

In **Guyana**, an SGP project strengthened conservation efforts covering approximately 1,120,000 hectares of the North *Rupununi* wetlands, an area populated primarily by native Amerindian peoples.[50] Involving the 16 indigenous communities, SGP supported the implementation of a community-based monitoring system for the endangered *Arapaima* fish, as well as a draft '*Arapaima* Management Plan' in consultation with the relevant government departments and ministries. In total, at least 719 indigenous peoples' community members were trained in ecological monitoring, management effectiveness and governance of the target landscape.

[50] GUY/SGP/OP5/Y2/CORE/2013/01

In **China**, a project in Heyuan village, Yunnan Province, supported 12 ICCAs covering a total of 3,000 hectares of globally significant ecosystems listed as a natural World Heritage Site (WHS), and identified as a biodiversity hotspot by the government NBSAP.[51] The SGP project supported 12 ethnic minority communities to (i) establish their community management committee; (ii) conduct ICCA baseline surveys; (iii) revive community customary governance; and (iv) incorporate customary laws into the ICCA management regulations. It further provided alternative livelihood trainings for 200 female and 500 male participating farmers and supported the establishment of farmer cooperatives. In January 2015, the project was awarded the 'China Social Innovation Award'.

In **Panama**, an SGP project strengthened the technical and scientific capacity of Ngäbe indigenous leaders and communities to co-manage two protected areas - the *Damani* wetland and the *Escudo de Veraguas* protected sea/landscape.[52] The first project achieved the conservation of 24,000 hectares, including 29 key species, by involving 20 families in (i) capacity building of indigenous leaders in environmental laws concerning the protection of the two PAs; and (ii) producing a technical document for wetland site registration under the Ramsar Convention. The SGP project also resulted in the finalization of a national law to manage the area through a collaborative scientific committee as well as up-scaling through a GEF MSP proposal through *Conservation International*.

SGP Panama- Women from the Ngäbe indigenous group monitoring forest conservation efforts in the PA

In **Madagascar**, a project in collaboration with the NGO *Haonasoa* developed long-term governance and management capacities of a federation of 14 local community ICCAs in the high *Matsiatra* region in the centre of Madagascar.[53] Through the management of 75 hectares of production landscapes, supporting the plantation of natural fibers used in basket work, fish farming, bee-keeping, and micro-hydro dams, the ICCA federation reduced dependence on natural forest resources and increased the revenue of 136 households. Moreover, 1,708 additional households were supported through co-financing provided by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF).

[51] CPR/SGP/OP5/Y3/STAR/BD/13/06

[52] PAN/SGP/OP5/STAR/BD/13/10

[53] MDG/SGP/OP5/Y1/STAR/BD/12/07

PEOPLE WITH DISABIL ITIES

People with disabilities[54] are still struggling to be adequately included and served under national legislation and development plans in many countries. In its work in Community-Based Adaptation, SGP found that people with disabilities are often not involved in planning of most national plans for adaptation and may not be mentioned in these plans. Yet they are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Given SGP's mandate to lead in social inclusion aspects of sustainable development as well as to be innovative, the programme started to support projects by and for people with disabilities.

During the reporting period and in pursuit of this vision, SGP has made an effort to mainstream these groups into SGP programmes. For example, **Cape Verde, Belarus, Antigua & Barbuda** and **Honduras** proactively included people with disabilities in projects with priorities to alleviate disability concerns of the target population; **Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, South Africa, Belarus** and **Surinam** worked with Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) to ensure equitable benefits and to provide explicit access to SGP country programmes for such organizations; and **Grenada, Guyana, PNG, Guinea Bissau, Timor Leste, St Kitts & Nevis, Micronesia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines** specified disability as an element in baseline surveys, situational analyses and in the design of country programme strategies. However, more deliberate efforts by country teams will further be necessary to realistically include people with disabilities in all stages of programme implementation and increase the number of designated projects.

In **Zambia**, a land degradation project in collaboration with the Zani Muone Women Organization led by HIVpositive women increased local income through organic gardening while promoting a society free of stigma and discrimination for people living with HIV/Aids (PLWHA) and their families.[55] Members of Zani-Muone try to live by example as PLWHAs by engaging in environmentally friendly small-scale income generation projects to improve their livelihoods. The project substantially improved local nutrition and reduced soil degradation, while training 500 people in organic gardening techniques. Additionally, 50 local community members were trained in improved soil and water management techniques, with over 100 households now applying these strategies.

In **Suriname**, a project developed educational materials for five schools specifically designed for children with disabilities, including hearing, sight, and learning disabilities. In total, 68 teachers were trained and 320 children participated in the project.[56] Furthermore, the grantee *Foundation Care4U,* with contributions from both UN organizations as well as the private sector, organized an event to bring children with and without disabilities together for a day out at the Zoo on the International Day for People with Disabilities.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

During the reporting period, SGP continued to document and share the experiences and best practices developed through its portfolio with key stakeholders at the global and local levels. Many SGP projects served as demonstration sites where communities engaged in peer-to-peer knowledge exchange, and development practitioners and local policymakers were able to observe tested community methods and technologies. As such, 77 SGP projects and grantees received national and international awards for their innovative solutions to environmental and sustainable development challenges during the reporting year, these include 16 Equator Prize winners, 3 Energy Globe Awards and 2 SEED awards, among others (See Annex 3).

[54] "The term persons with disabilities is used to apply to all persons with disabilities including those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various attitudinal and environmental barriers, hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others." – UNDESA Enable FAQ - http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/faqs.htm

[55] ZMB/SGP/OP5 /CORE/LD/13/28

[56] SUR/SGP/OP5/Y3/STAR/BD/13/29

In terms of communications, as described below, SGP continued to communicate the results of the portfolio through traditional and new media at the global and local levels, increasing the visibility and awareness of the programme.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

At the global level, CPMT continued to work in sharing the knowledge generated by CSO's and communities with key audiences and other communities at global forums and events, as well as through other media. On the occasion of the UN SIDS Conference three case studies from SGP were featured in the UNDP publication "Island Innovations" launched at the conference[57] and an article was published in Outreach Magazine[58] showcasing the work of SGP and DFAT on SIDS.

Case studies capturing community-based practices supported by SGP were also developed across all focal areas and disseminated widely at UNSIDS, UNFCCC COP20, CBA9, among others, as well as in our global website. In addition, case studies of good practices in chemicals and waste management were collected and consolidated with the aim of developing a global publication. Furthermore, the POPs Training Module was updated to the "Chemicals and Waste Management" Training Module.

In addition, SGP CPMT started a partnership with Yale University's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and to collaborate on a Capstone Course called *Scaling Up Community Initiatives: Understanding the Dimensions of Scalable Successes.* The objective of the partnerships is to contribute to the syllabus of the course and improve the understanding of the students about community based initiatives in sustainable development. As a result of this joint initiative the students will research, document and analyze SGP's experiences in promoting the replication, scaling up, and mainstreaming of project results to achieve greater impact (also referred to as "broader adoption")[59]; for this purpose, a framework for analyzing the work of SGP was developed during the reporting period. Similar collaboration initiatives with universities and research centers will continue to be pursued at the local and global levels.

At the local level, during the reporting year, SGP country programmes carried out 1,120 peer-to-peer exchanges and 501 training sessions to promote technology transfer and learning within CSOs. SGP country programmes reported several ways in which they worked directly with communities to improve the knowledge of communities and other key stakeholders: (i) by organizing training workshops; (ii) by capturing their lessons learned, and (iii) by conducting knowledge exchanges and other forms of knowledge transfer, sharing and learning.

Many SGP country programmes reported producing knowledge products including fact sheets, case studies, posters, banners, flyers, and reports in local languages. For example, **SGP China** produced a guide to the protection of the Chinese Bee, a guide to the cultivation techniques of *Pleioblastus amarus*, and training materials about the installation and utilization of portable solar power LED lamps and electricity supply systems. **SGP Ecuador** created a handbook of handicraft products entitled, "Weaving for Life: A Handbook for Handicrafts Based on the Chabira." **SGP Indonesia** produced thirteen short movies illustrating different means of sustainable livelihood generation. SGP **Kazakhstan** participated in production of films about mountain land degradation prevention, sustainable pasture management, and energy use opportunities. SGP **Mauritius** participated in several educational films by EcoTV about their projects. **SGP Morocco** created two tool-kits on aromatic and medicinal plants and soil conservation and wrote

[57] http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environmentenergy/IslandInnovations_UNDP_GEF_LeveragingTheEnvironment/

[58] http://www.stakeholderforum.org/sf/outreach/index.php/previous-editions/sids/206-sids-day-5-climate-change-and-socialdevelopment/11698-providing-a-voice-to-civil-society-organisations-and-communities-guaranteeing-opportunities-for-the-most-vulnerableand-disadvantaged

[59] During the summer of 2015, five students traveled to selected countries to study in depth the scaling up experiences and lessons learnt by the SGP country programmes. The case studies will be discussed, analyzed and presented later this year and a final report will be available by December 2015.

five case studies to record the knowledge gained from their projects. SGP **Tajikistan** produced a guidebook on the construction of eco-sanitation toilets, and a booklet with information on health threats due to river pollution. SGP **Turkey** produced a booklet on the best practices over the last 20 years. All these knowledge products have been widely disseminated in each of the countries as well as at the global levels.

Table 15 provides an overview of the KM and communication products produced by SGP country programmes and grantee partners during the reporting period. Annex 6 provides a selective list of knowledge product examples produced by country programmes.

Table 15: Number of KM and communication products produced by SGP country programmes and grantees.

Fact sheets or case studies	Brochures	Publications or reports	Videos or photostories	How-to tool-kits or guidelines
310	**307**	**254**	**285**	**76**

PARTICIPATION AT KEY EVENTS AND GLOBAL FORUMS

During the reporting period SGP with its CSO, government and donor partners, and with the aim to promote broader adoption of best practices from its community and CSO stakeholders, was active in several global forums and events. For the UN SIDS conference held in Samoa in September 2014, SGP organized a panel discussion on building resilience to climate change through Community-Based Adaptation and site visits to three projects showcasing community action for sustainable development with the goal of advancing the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). In particular, SGP's contribution to the SIDS Conference discussions was aimed at drawing attention to an integrated approach for tackling environment and climate change issues through genuine and durable partnerships with stakeholders - particularly with communities and civil society - at all levels. SGP was also represented at the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) side event where it presented its experiences with volunteerism which has led to social cohesion and successful results. Furthermore, an SGP grantee, the Grand-Sable Women Planters Farmers Entrepreneurs Association in Mauritius, was among the recipients of the 2013 Island Bright award at the conference.

In Sept 2014, SGP's engagement with IPs was highlighted at the high level World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) during the UN General Assembly. The SGP IP Fellowship and the ICCA Global Support Initiative (ICCA-GSI) with German Federal Ministry of the Environment (BMUB) funding was launched at the 2014 Equator Prize Ceremony at Lincoln Centre in New York. Further launch activities and outreach on ICCA-GSI were organized by SGP at the CBD COP12 in Korea in October 2014.

GEF CEO Dr. Naoko Ishii and German Environment Minister Barbara Hendrick in the launch of the GEF SGP IP Fellowship and the ICCA-Global Support Initiative at the Equator Prize Celebration

SGP also played a leading role as co-leader of Stream 6 on Protected Areas Governance, Diversity and Quality during the IUCN 2014 World Parks Congress (WPC) in Sydney, Australia in November 2014. Key activities included the organization of approximately 28 Stream workshops and side events, as well as back-to-back workshops with the ICCA Consortium and partners working on PA governance.

In December 2014, CPMT in coordination with the GEF and UNDP participated in the UNFCCC COP20 in Lima, Peru. SGP was represented in joint side events such as one on mountain ecosystems and adaptation to climate change with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), ANDES (Peru), and the International Network of Mountain Indigenous Peoples (INMIP), and an event organized by the Earth Child Institute on Youth and Climate change with the participation of SGP and the Joint Framework Initiative on Children Youth and Climate Change among others. A knowledge fair showcased the work of SGP in Peru and brought together 40 community-based organizations from various regions of the country.

UNDP Administrator Helen Clark and GEF Country Relations Coordinator William Ehlers at the UNFCCC COP20 in Lima, Peru

At the 9th International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation (CBA9) held in Kenya in April, 2015, SGP collaborated with the International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS) task force on climate and nutrition and other

partners to organize a workshop for selected participants about nutrition in community based adaptation. SGP also participated at an event on Indigenous Knowledge, Culture and Adaptation.

SGP also participated in the POPs Elimination Network-IPEN Asia regional workshop in Jakarta, Indonesia during April 2015, and presented SGP's strategic directions and good cases of chemicals and waste management to NGOs. Additionally, SGP participated in the seventh COP meeting of the Stockholm Convention in May 2015, and presented a community-based approach to chemicals and waste management. An SGP chemicals and waste brochure was disseminated at the COP meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

During the reporting period, SGP continued to regularly update its global website www.sgp.undp.org, which was launched on September 1, 2012. To date, the website has had 77,425 visitors, of which 13,145 were unique visitors, accounting for 1,530,585 page views. During the reporting period the website had 367,205 page views and 7,700 unique visitors. In particular, CPMT developed a mapping functionality, released in June 2015, that allows users to see the location of projects in each country.

SGP website project mapping functionality example

Currently, the website has almost 500 resources in its online library including global and local publications. In addition, SGP has continued to expand its social media presence and has over 3,000 followers on Facebook. Some members of CPMT have also been using Twitter and expanding the reach of the programme through this media.

SGP also continued to write stories about the results of its portfolio for the GEF, UNDP and SGP websites. The Communities Connect Platform (http://data.communitiesconnect.net/), a collaborative initiative with the GEF CSO Network, was revamped during the reporting year to a more robust and powerful platform with easy uploading and automatic tagging to organize materials. The online platform is accompanied by an offline USB version, quite useful for those without internet access, allowing CSOs from around the world to share their lessons and best practices by uploading knowledge products in a variety of formats, further expanding the reach and promotion of the knowledge produced by communities and CSOs including those that are not SGP grantee-partners. Meanwhile, SGP country programmes reported that SGP was mentioned 1,648 times in all forms of media (TV, Radio, Print and Digital) during the reporting period.

REPLICATION, UP-SCALING, AND POLICY INFLUENCE

SGP aims to encourage positive effects beyond the community grant projects through replication, scaling up or by influencing policy at the local, national or even regional level. To this end national Coordinators (NCs) and National Steering Committees (NSCs) have worked with grantee partners on engaging key partners such as the government, academia, international development agencies and the private sector at the national level to mobilize resources for project co-financing, replication or scaling up. The First Phase of the 2015 Joint Independent Evaluation of SGP remarked that *"The SGP continues to be effective, particularly at the level of individual grants. Slowly, but surely, cohorts of grants are seen to be delivering cumulative and synergistic effects at the national and sub-national levels.* The Final Evaluation stated *"Replication, scaling up and mainstreaming are happening."*

SGP country programmes reported that 210 out of 1,282 (16%) projects completed during the reporting year were replicated or scaled up. Among these, 17 country programmes supported the replication or scaling up of four or more projects, including **Bolivia**, **Cambodia**, **Côte d'Ivoire**, **Ecuador**, **Ethiopia**, **Guinea**, **Macedonia**, **Mexico**, **Mozambique**, and **Yemen**.

In **Zimbabwe**, a project with the Makoni Organic Farmers Association as the grantee partner aiming to eliminate chemicals through organic farming was scaled up during the reporting period through additional funding of USD 75,000 from the UNDP Coca Cola Initiative in December 2014. This funding will facilitate the expansion of the seven initially established organic gardens by one hectare each as well as increase the number of previously certified organic farmers from 224 (76 men and 148 women) to 372.[60]

In **Ukraine**, the Association for Rural Development, supported by SGP, installed energy-efficient street lighting and inspired local authorities to allocate resources to expand the modernization of the street lighting system in the community. The project initially covered 5,000 m^2 in Radomyshl town, constructing 1,500 meters of power cables and dismantling 83 old glow lamps across five streets. The additional funding doubled the installation of energyefficient lamps. The project and its upscaling by the local authorities led to an 80 percent reduction in municipal energy consumption, saving 82,750 kilowatt of electric energy between January and May 2015 alone. [61]

In terms of policy influence, 118 out of 1,282 (9%) projects completed during the reporting period reported influencing policy through project activities and by liaising with local authorities and other government institutions. Country programmes that stood out in their efforts to influence policy include **Burkina Faso**, the **Dominican Republic**, **Indonesia**, and **Peru**, with each reporting that five or more projects had positively influenced local policies.

In **Macedonia**, several SGP projects supported the implementation of significant policy changes regarding the conservation and population recovery of autochthonic and endangered species in agro-biodiversity. Through these changes in national legislation, breeds such as the Pramenka sheep (Ovchepolka and Karakachanka), the Shepherd dog (Sharplaninec), the domestic water buffalo, and the Busha cattle, among others, are now officially recognized as autochthonic and indigenous breeds and farmers who protect them are now eligible to receive subsidies and financial support.

In SGP **Kenya,** a biodiversity project assisted communities in developing various training manuals about biodiversity and socio-economic factors affecting coral reefs. Through the project the marine-based Mkunguni community conservation area (CCA) was established, which also serves as a fish spawning site. The communities also produced an education and awareness raising toolkit and prepared legislative guidelines for CCAs and their participatory

[60] ZIM/SGP/OP5/CORE/CH/11/06

[61] UKR/SGP/OP5/Y4/STAR/CC/14/32

management in Kenya which have been presented to government legislators and are expected to inform national CCA guidelines. [62]

SGP Macedonia – Water buffalos are among the endangered local breeds conserved

In **Turkey**, the Southeast Asia Leopard Project has contributed to local authorities recognizing their role in the conservation of the endangered Anatolian leopard (*Panthera pardus tulliana*), which is one of the rarest and most threatened species at the national level. Between 2008 and 2014, nine leopards were killed or found dead, two of these in the project region. Initiated by this project, local authorities are now promoting the development of an action plan for raising local awareness on the importance of its protection in the region and fostering the leopard's reputation as a flagship species. Activities have already led to public recognition of leopard conservation as a priority on national media by the regional director of the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs. Moreover, the grantee continues to advocate for the establishment of a monitoring system that can collect data from the field, covering an area of 30,000 hectares of steppe mountain ecosystem in the Southeast of Turkey[63]. A similar initiative to protect the Snow leopard (*Panthera uncia)*, supported by SGP in **Kazakhstan**, has been successful in raising awareness and tracking the movement and ecosystem of this endangered species. Furthermore, SGP **Kyrgyzstan** has been providing technical and expert support in establishing a working level secretariat on conservation of the Snow leopard, which now serves technical support and ensures coordination with all 12 Snow leopard range countries.

SGP **Togo** is currently organizing a national forum on community and sacred forests for village chiefs, religious leaders, forest authorities, CSOs, academics, international organizations, and technical and financial partners, which is expected to lead to the official registration of these forests.[73] This will prevent results of restoration and conservation efforts from being compromised by any individual, family or community.

LIVELIHOODS AND SUSTAINABILITY

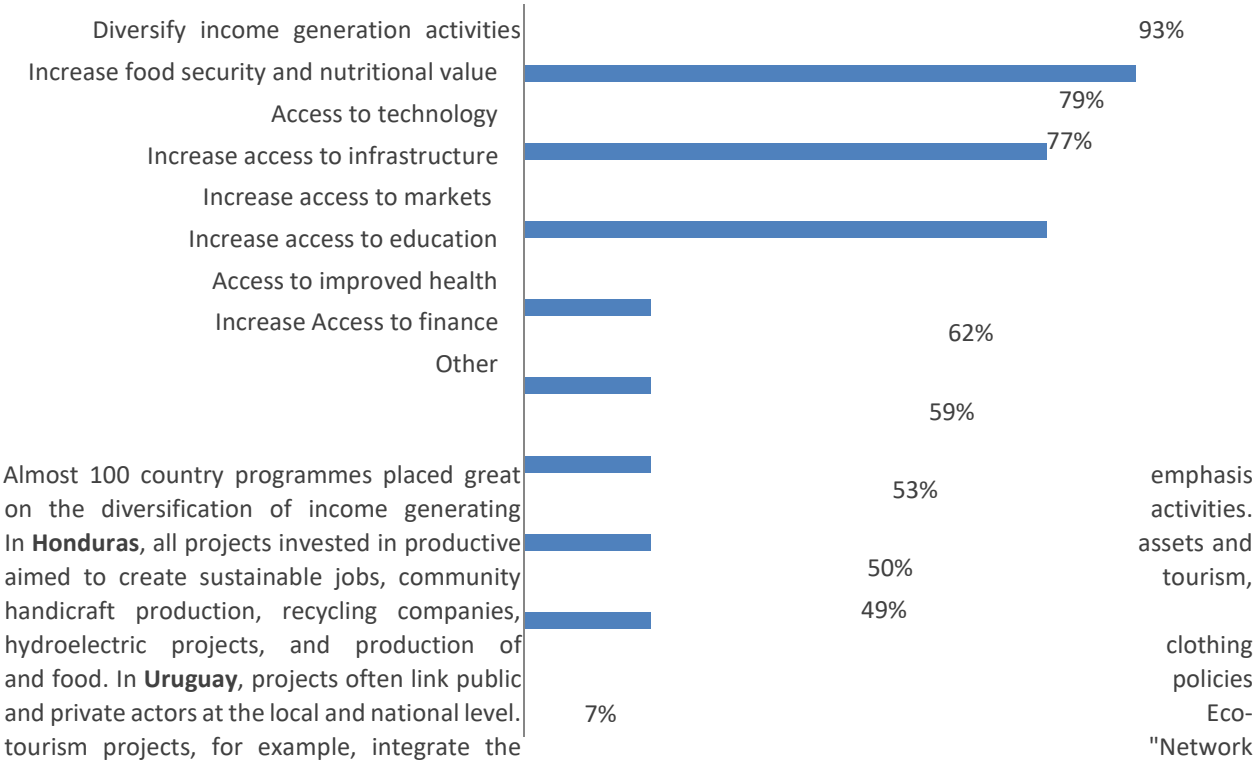
Acknowledging the direct and complex link between human needs and environmental challenges, SGP supports local efforts that promote sustainable livelihoods that achieve global environmental benefits. During the reporting year, SGP country programmes continued to focus on strengthening sustainable livelihoods by enabling communities to access resources and increase productivity, as well as by generating new income opportunities across focal areas.

[62] KEN/SGP/OP5/FSP/BD/13/07

[63] TUR/SGP/OP5/Y3/STAR/BD/13/16 – Grantee: Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation Society [73] TGO/SGP/OP4/Y3/CORE/2010/09

SGP country programmes reported that over 900 of 1,282 projects completed during the reporting period contributed to improvement in the livelihoods of communities. This translates to over 70% of projects incorporating components of improving livelihoods and promoting sustainability. Countries such as **Armenia**, **Belarus**, **Bolivia**, **Burkina Faso**, **Burundi**, **Cameroon**, **Democratic Republic of Congo** (DRC), **Madagascar**, **Macedonia**, **Mauritius**, **Mongolia, Nepal**, **Nicaragua**, **Senegal**, and **Timor Leste** each reported completing more than ten projects that led to improved livelihoods. The **Dominican Republic**, **Ecuador**, **Ethiopia**, **Ghana**, **Honduras**, **Indonesia**, **Mexico**, **Mozambique**, **Panama**, **Tanzania**, **Thailand** and **Ukraine** reported that more than 20 projects completed this year have had an impact on improvement of livelihoods.

Chart 11: % of country programmes employing strategies to improve community livelihoods and quality of life



Almost 100 country programmes placed great emphasis on the diversification of income generating activities. In **Honduras**, all projects invested in productive assets and aimed to create sustainable jobs, community tourism, handicraft production, recycling companies, clothing hydroelectric projects, and production of policies and food. In **Uruguay**, projects often link public Eco- and private actors at the local and national level. "Network tourism projects, for example, integrate the of the painted birds" in coordination with the Ministry of Tourism as well as tourist agencies, hotels, and gastronomy.

In terms of project sustainability, strategies employed included linking country programme strategies (CPS) to national priorities, and facilitating partnerships and alliances at the local, national or regional level. In many cases project innovations pioneered and tested at community level were shared with a wider set of stakeholders and through established networks and partnerships. Many country programmes mobilized additional resources to enable project proponents to gain access to additional knowledge and investments at regional and national levels (Grantmaker+ services). Building and facilitating grantee networks has continued to be an important strategy for knowledge exchange to enhance sustainability.

A relatively new approach to enhance the sustainability of the projects is employed in **Armenia** where mandatory commitments are secured from the beneficiary communities to budget operational and maintenance costs of the project facilities and assets upon receipt of ownership - beyond the GEF-SGP funding period. Availability of such a written obligation is a key criteria for project approval by the NSC. For example, Spitak town allocated necessary

funds in its annual budget to ensure due operation and maintenance of the orchard and greenhouse farming established by the land degradation project in order for it to become financially sustainable.[64]

Regional networks have proven to be an effective approach to ensure sustainability of project activities beyond their duration. In **Costa Rica**, the creation of the Regional Network of ASADAS (Community Water Management and Aqueducts Committees) secures peer-to-peer trainings and development of capacities. It further creates a stronger organization to influence policy and facilitates the access of small community organizations to governmental programs.[65]

In **Nigeria**, all project proposals are mandated to incorporate a sustainability strategy and plan the beginning of the project and ensure that the strategy informs all project activities. Such strategies may include transfer of technology to the indigenous communities through capacity building, ensuring local manufacture of tools and equipment and conducting "trainings-of-trainers". This facilitates commitment among beneficiaries to continue training other community members, thereby achieving catalytic effects.

CSO GOVERNMENT DIALOGUES

One of the key aspects of the SGP OP6 strategy is a clearer focus on the support of civil society provided by the programme outside of grants. One of its initiatives addresses the implementation of CSO-government dialogues. These dialogues are expected to build trust and foster relationships between civil society and governments regarding environment and sustainable development policies, involve local communities/CSOs int national policy development and planning and allow them to provide fresh insights on local pressing issues. It is expected that the dialogues build on the lessons learned and the trust developed between the National Steering Committees, UN, GEF and other actors. The dialogues will not be a parallel undertaking and will rely on existing mechanisms of CSO involvement as well as GEF and SGP activities.

In some countries, including **Benin**, **Brazil**, **Honduras** and **Panama**, SGP initiated policy and advocacy activities in partnership with other CSOs. SGP Panama worked with national partners to include local CBOs in the national environmental NGO alliance, organizing forums and dialogues such as most recent discussion of 16 CBOs with the government on conservation measures in micro watersheds in June 2015. In **Dominica**, SGP grantee partners participated in the review consultations of the national Disaster Risk and Vulnerability Reduction project, the National Biodiversity Strategy and the Action Plan and in the Third National Communication to the UNCCD.

In many other countries - **Mauritius**, **Solomon Islands**, **Barbados, Saint Lucia, Cape Verde, Trinidad and Tobago**, **Suriname** and **Bahamas** - the dialogues were scheduled around global conventions and events such as UNSIDS in which meaningful participation of CSOs is critical as country positions are being developed. SGP Mauritius initiated the first open dialogue in the context of the 2014 UNSIDS Conference with government and CSOs, including members of the delegation to support the CSO stakeholders in expressing their needs and ideas for solutions for **Mauritius** and other SIDS.

[64] ARM/SGP/OP5/Y4/STAR/LD/14/35

[65] COS/SGP/FSP/OP5/BD/12/07

4• Thursday August 28, 2014 The Barbados Advocate

PM Stuart receives civil society report

PRIME Minister Freundel Stuart is now in a better position to articulate the views of civil society in Barbados when he makes his input at the upcoming Third Global UN Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Stuart was presented with a copy of the report on the National Civil Society Organizations' Consultation on SIDS and the Post 2015 Development Agenda Processes on Monday evening at Government Headquarters.

Approximately 44 persons from 22 organizations participated in the recent civil society consultation, which was facilitated by the Barbados Chapter of the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN), and co-hosted by the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Small

Prime Minister Freundel Stuart (second from right) looking through the civil society organisations' report on SIDS while (from left) President of the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN), William Clarke, ; National Coordinator of CYEN Barbados, Waynelle Collymore-Taylor; Project Coordinator of CYEN, Jamilla Sealy; Special Envoy to CYEN and SIDS, Stefan Knights; and National Coordinator of the GEF Small Grants Programme-UNDP, David Symoe, look on.

SGP Barbados - Prime Minister of Barbados receives the civil society report to be included in the national message at UN SIDS conference

SGP also provided support to the Samoan Umbrella of Non-Governmental Organizations (SUNGO) in its role, assigned by the Government of Samoa, as the principal host for the Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum of UNSIDS. The Conference brought together more than 300 CSOs in one place to share, deliberate and discuss solutions to problems specific to their countries and in particular their local and indigenous communities. The goal of the Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum was to 'develop and encourage just, accountable, innovative and effective partnerships at national, regional and global levels". This event took place on 29 August 2014 preceding the main UNSIDS conference.

Mozambique conducted CSO-government dialogues on ICCAs, and SGP Djibouti facilitated CSO dialogues with the country social development agency helping identify priorities for assistance. Country programmes, including **Morocco**, **Cambodia**, **Nepal**, and **Guatemala,** facilitated participation of CSOs in ongoing national dialogues. In Morocco, two partner NGOs were integrated in the United Nations Environmental Working Group, which is a national platform coordinated by UNDP for establishing dialogue and synergies between UN agencies, government and civil society.

SOUTH-SOUTH EXCHANGE

For the sixth operational phase of the GEF, SGP proposed to establish a South-South Community Innovation Exchange Platform to promote knowledge exchange between SGP countries and encourage cross country and region replication of good practices. The rationale for this is to be able to produce high impact and scaling up of the innovations and practices developed by SGP grantees, as well as other CSOs at the regional level. Even though this is an initiative for OP6, some SGP country programmes have been engaged in South-South Cooperation through their current portfolios.

During this reporting period, 29 percent of SGP country programmes (33 SGP countries) engaged in South-South exchanges. These exchanges increased the capacity and technical knowledge of SGP grantees, improving results in existing projects, up-scaling projects, and leading to the development of new projects.

For example, grantees from five SGP country programmes including **Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador, Uruguay,** and **Venezuela** participated in a South-South exchange facilitated by the United Nations Committee to Combat Desertification in Chile. As part of this exchange participants took part in the celebration of the International Day to Combat Desertification and visited four projects in the field to exchange information about soil management techniques, low energy stoves, water heaters, civil society engagement, policy influence, among many other issues. This knowledge has strengthened grantees' understanding of how to improve their own projects.

SGP Uruguay- South-South exchange facilitated by the United Nations Committee to Combat Desertification in Chile

Similarly, in May 2015 SGP grantees from **Fiji, the Solomon Islands,** and **Cuba**, as well as participants from GEF, UNDP, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) of the European Union, the School of Urban and Suburban Agriculture, the Institute of Fundamental Research in Tropical Agriculture, and the Ministry of Agriculture Cuba, participated in a South-South exchange in Cuba. The exchange allowed leaders and visiting farmers to learn lowcost and proven ecological farming practices from Cuba that could be easily adapted and transferred to the Pacific as solutions to the pressing food security and environmental concerns that are shared by many small island states. As a result, demonstration farms that can teach these techniques to a larger audience will be established in Fiji and the Solomon Islands next year.

SGP Bhutan organized the participation of 12 members of the Gamri Watershed, located in the eastern region of the country, in a seven-day study visit to the Spring-Shed Development Initiative implemented by the Rural Management and Development Department in Sikkim, India. In Sikkim, as in Bhutan, springs serve as the main water source for many rural communities. During the visit, participants learned how climate change affects the hydrological cycle and discovered that due to heavier rains in the monsoon season in recent years, much of the water typically provided by the season is lost as surface runoff. Participants were able to learn several techniques to renew springs, including the restoration of hill top forests, recharging of lakes, and digging of trenches at spring recharge areas to collect the surface runoff during monsoon season and to increase infiltration. Based upon this learning experience, SGP Bhutan will pilot a project to use this knowledge to recharge two springs.

Technology transfer has been another common thread in many South-South exchanges. Barefoot College has continued to provide excellent opportunities this year, including a six-month exchange of women from **Burkina Faso** to **India** for solar power training. Technologies to produce biodiesel from cooking oil were shared between projects in **Iran** and **Lebanon**. Energy efficient brick kiln and stove technologies were shared amongst **Nepal, India,** and

Pakistan grantees. Grantees in **Vietnam** organized a 2014 conference titled “Opportunities for LED Lights in the National Strategy of Energy Saving, Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development in Vietnam” to present their project “Piloting LED Lights in Fishing to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions” with partners from Japan and **Malaysia**.

5. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

SGP continued to make satisfactory progress in the implementation of OP5 with commitment of significant grant resources and an overall portfolio of 5,934 grant projects funded from OP5 resources. Key targets in each of the GEF focal area objectives were achieved or surpassed by the portfolio of projects completed during the OP5 period.

The year under review also marked the transition period to OP6 during which the design and key objectives of the new phase were elaborated. A global design workshop carried out in June 2014 brought select SGP country experiences into review for the effective and realistic design of new outcomes and for their validation and ground testing by country programmes.

Since the start of 2015 a series of five regional workshops was conducted bringing together CPMT and all SGP countries in the respective regions: Asia and the Pacific (February 2015), Latin America and Caribbean (March 2015), Anglophone and Lusophone Africa (April 2015), Arab States and Europe and CIS (May 2015), and Francophone Africa and Arab States (June 2015). GEF Secretariat, UNDP, GEF CSO Network, IPAG, IPEN, ICCA Consortium, the Global Fund for Community Foundations and a number of other global and regional partners also participated in the regional workshops. The aim of these workshops was to take stock of results and challenges and to jointly agree on the key initiatives and outcomes of OP6 and key steps towards their implementation.

Concomitantly with the regional workshops, CPMT continued to produce and elaborate the technical directions of the seven key outcomes defined as part of the OP6 approach, as well as the updating and revision of a series of new templates and guidance documents to operationalize the new approaches. Consultations were carried out and feedback from country programmes was included through regional workshops as well as through a series of regional and thematic teleconferences and other virtual means. Key new programming challenges were identified, among them the shift to grantmaking within selected landscape/seascapes areas, and implementation of more targeted Grantmaker+ strategies. Experiences were shared among countries to support the implementation of these approaches, including identification of possible risks and measures to mitigate them. As SGP's hallmark, flexibility and adaptation of approaches to local and country contexts to ensure effective results was encouraged.

In addition, with the initiation of GEF6 in midyear, the National Coordinators of the SGP Upgraded Country Programs met with their NSCs to discuss the transition from GEF5 to GEF6. Upgraded Country Programmes worked with UNDP Country Offices and GEF OFPs to develop proposals for GEF6 focusing their strategies increasingly on landscape management approaches. All Upgraded Country Programmes were successful in obtaining endorsements for STAR funding for continuation of the SGP in their respective countries, though in some cases, due to stronger competition, allocations have been reduced. This has necessitated a heightened strategic focus in GEF6 on a reduced number of landscapes and communities to be supported in order to ensure results and impact. During the reporting year a number of Upgraded Country Programmes had Mid-Term Reviews or a Terminal Evaluation, which provided valuable information for discussions among stakeholders regarding the strategic importance of promoting and implementing a landscape management approach in GEF6. This focus on landscape management was discussed with and accepted by GEFSec as a viable approach to community driven programming for global environmental and sustainable development benefits.

PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

During the reporting period, SGP continued to be involved in a range of partnership programmes and projects cofinanced by other donors. Annex 7 provides further details about several global level partnership programmes that were active in the last year, while Annex 2 provides a listing of programme level co-financing leveraged by SGP at the global and country level in OP5 through 30 June 2015. For many of these partnerships, especially those at the

global level, SGP served as a delivery mechanism to execute donor funding utilizing its operational guidelines, operating procedures, oversight by National Coordinators, and NSCs as decision making and governance bodies.

Among the notable partnerships implemented by SGP during the reporting year is the ongoing **Community-Based Adaptation (CBA)** programme funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia (DFAT), which supports activities in SIDS as well as in several countries in the Mekong and Asia/Pacific region. The project continued to support mainstreaming of adaptation to climate change at the community level, uptake of CBA lessons into relevant national and sub-national policies and development programmes, and scaling up practices and sharing knowledge for replication of CBA experiences. The past year saw steady progress across all four regions involved in the CBA programme (see Annex 7 for a full listing of countries and further details). In an independent evaluation commissioned by DFAT of the SIDS and MAP CBA programme, SGP received good and excellent ratings on all aspects of its implementation. The assessed areas included delivery of lasting results and impacts, maximization of value for money, policy alignment and risks management, and effective partnerships development. [66]

The **Community-based REDD+ (CBR+)**, a partnership established between SGP and UN-REDD in early 2014, with the aim to provide approaches and methodologies that assure full involvement of indigenous and local communities in REDD+ implementation (particularly as these stakeholders tend to view REDD+ with some suspicion as a "top-down" approach), has become fully operational in the six pilot countries during the reporting period. Each NSC has approved its respective CBR+ Country Strategy, guiding the selection and design of the first set of CBR+ projects. As of June 2015, over 150 CBR+ project proposals had been received in five of the six pilot countries, which are currently being reviewed and shortlisted with the involvement of NCs, NSCs and Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs). In some cases disbursements of the first CBR+ grants to successful applicants have already been made.

The **Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS)** project is being implemented in a wide variety of landscapes in 20 countries, including 16 countries within the Global SGP Programme and four Upgraded SGP country programmes. SGP NCs and NSCs provide portfolio oversight, monitoring and knowledge management. The project is designed to support innovations identified by communities for biodiversity conservation, promotion of ecosystem services, agro-ecosystem management, development of alternative livelihoods, and strengthening of governance systems at the landscape level. There are 119 grant projects funded by COMDEKS that are under implementation, 53 that have been completed, and a small number of additional projects are in the pipeline (as of May 2015). The COMDEKS programme continues to place great emphasis on knowledge management activities and the collection and dissemination of lessons learned at the global and local levels (please see Annex 7 for details of two flagship publications).

[66] Partners Performance Assessment by the Australian Government, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, April, 2015.

SGP Cameroon- COMDEKS Community consultation process at the landscape level in Bogo

SGP also serves as the delivery mechanism for the **EU-NGO Building Capacities of NGOs for Environmental Governance Project**, which supports environmental governance through the strengthening and capacity development of NGOs in 13 countries. During this reporting period eight first phase countries have further expanded their portfolios while five additional countries have been added in the second phase of the project. SGP NCs and NSCs provide portfolio oversight, monitoring and knowledge management in all SGP countries.

Towards the end of the previous reporting period, a major new partnership programme was approved with USD 16m in funding from the German Federal Ministry of Environment (BMUB), the **Indigenous and Community Conserved Territories and Areas: Global Support Initiative (ICCA GSI)**. This project is now under implementation and is designed to help SGP to further scale up its work in several ICCAs and to promote increased advocacy, legal and policy reforms and exchange of knowledge. In July 2014, a Workshop on ICCA GSI monitoring framework was conducted with the ICCA Global Consortium and IUCN at IUCN HQ. Additionally, ICCA GSI launch events were held at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) during the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2014 and at the CBD COP12 in Korea in October 2014. Twenty-six SGP country programmes (including six Upgraded countries) will participate in the ICCA GSI project (see Annex 7 for a full listing of countries and further details on the project).

Partnerships and co-financing at local and national levels are a key pillar for sustainability, replication and upscaling of SGP projects and provide important financial and technical resources to SGP country programmes. Through the 5th Operational Phase, Global SGP country programmes were able to attract a total of more than USD 13 m in funds that were allocated to SGP through partnerships with other donors (See Annex 2). These funds fall under different arrangements, including cost-sharing, parallel financing, direct support, and in-kind support.

Donors who supported key initiatives of SGP country programmes included actors from the private sector, academia, government, and international organizations as well as foundations. For example, SGP **Brazil** was able to raise over USD 900,000 through a partnership with Fundo Clima (the national climate fund) for the Territorial and Environmental Management of Indigenous Lands of the Cerrado and Caatinga, as well as another USD 500,000 in grant funds from GEF FSP GATI for Indigenous People across Brazil to improve market access for local biodiversity products. Other country programmes that established strategic partnerships that allocated substantial additional funds to SGP projects included **Ecuador**, **Iran**, **Mozambique**, and **Tunisia**, among others.

SGP **Cambodia** during the reporting period under the ongoing Cambodia Community Based Adaptation Programme (CCBAP), processed 20% of the last grants payment, completing 7 projects, integrating communitybased adaptation measures in 60 villages across eleven provinces. Direct beneficiaries included approximately 6,330 families with 30,974 people in total.

SGP **Ethiopia** obtained co-financing of USD 18,300 from UNESCO during the reporting period to conduct three trainings on income generation, entrepreneurship, business skills, financial management, and value chain management. The trainings involved 77 participants in total and employed a training-of-trainers approach to further transfer the skill sets to additional community members around the Simien Mountains National Park (SMNP).

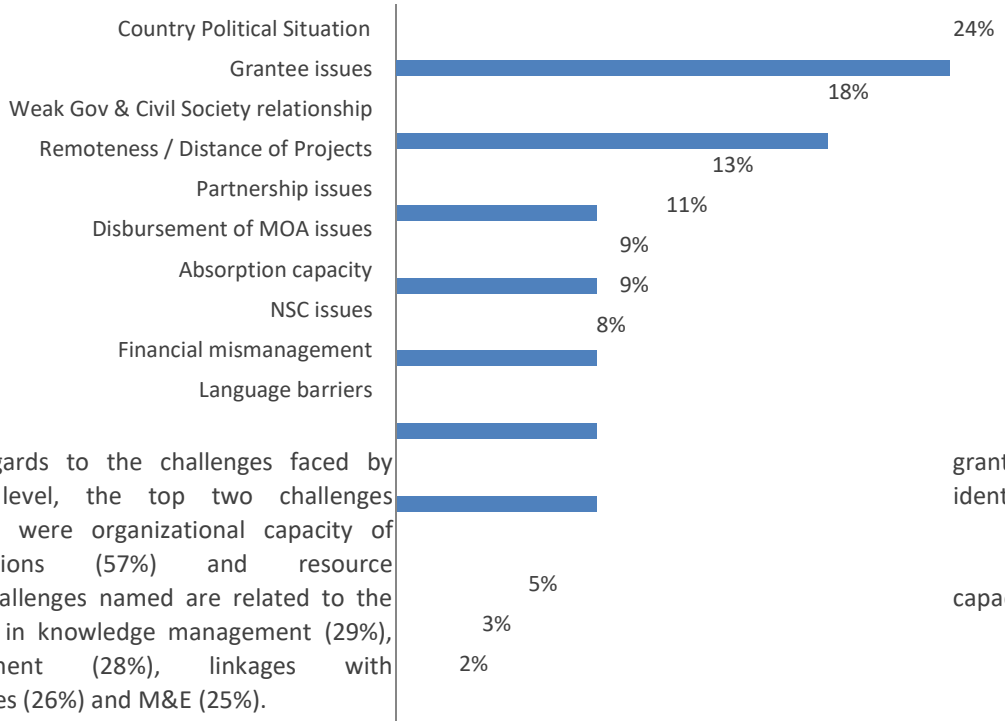
SGP **Egypt** is involved as a core partner in the National Campaign for Energy Conservation organized by the Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy. Throughout this campaign, the Ministry is planning to conduct nine capacity building workshops on energy efficiency in nine Egyptian governorates. Two such workshops were already conducted in July and August 2014 at the headquarters of the Electricity Distribution Companies in Alexandria and Minia cities and were attended by about 60 participants each, representing local authorities, experts, SGP NSC members, and NGOs.

Through a project co-financed by the Airbus Foundation, SGP **India** supported the installation of 41 biogas plants in households, saving 8-9 kg of firewood per day, reducing deforestation and avoiding emissions of 1,600 tons of CO2 over the past three years. Additionally, in collaboration with the Steel Authority of India Limited project, SGP India established 18 women's self-help groups and installed 80 improved cook stoves, and 240 solar lights, as well as three street lighting systems across 14 villages.

PROGRAMMATIC CHALLENGES AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL

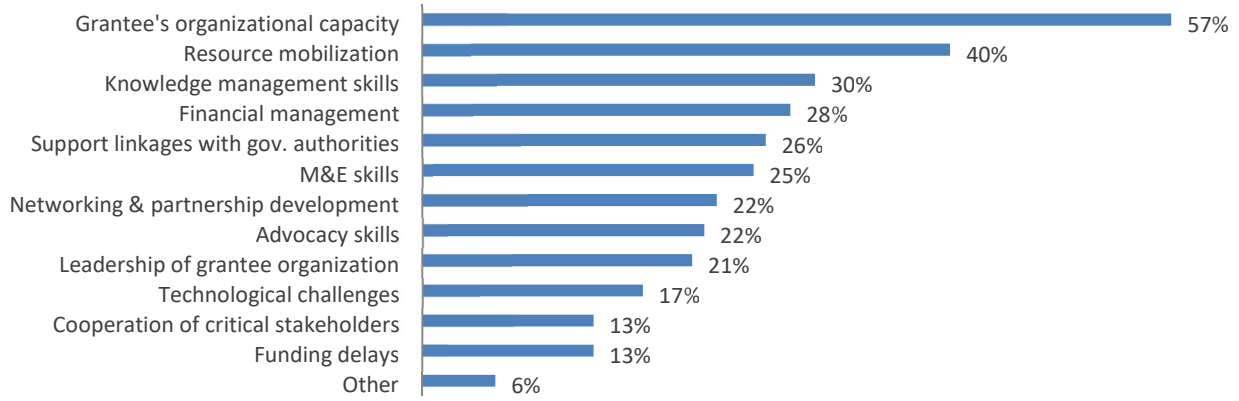
Several programmatic challenges were identified by SGP country programmes in the global survey conducted for the preparation of this report. The top three challenges identified by SGP country programmes are country political situation (24%), grantee capacity issues (18%), and weak relationship between government bodies and civil society organizations (13%). This underscores SGP's important role in providing Grantmaker+ services in developing capacities of communities and civil society organizations, thus paving the way for stronger civil society engagement and to promote government-CSO dialogue platforms in a more systematic manner in OP6. Other relevant issues identified that have an impact on the ability of the countries to implement grant portfolios effectively include difficulties related to the disbursement of grant Memoranda of Agreements, the political situation in the respective country, as well as remoteness and distance of different project sites. See Chart 12 for a ranking of these programme level challenges as identified by SGP country programmes.

Chart 12: Ranking of programmatic challenges faced by country programmes



With regards to the challenges faced by grantees at the project level, the top two challenges identified by the countries were organizational capacity of grantee organizations (57%) and resource mobilization. Other challenges named are related to the capacities of the grantees in knowledge management (29%), financial management (28%), linkages with government authorities (26%) and M&E (25%).

Chart 13: Ranking of challenges encountered at the project level *(reported by NCs)*



Additionally, SGP country programmes reported that 80 projects in 32 countries were terminated before project completion during the reporting period. Reasons for early termination varied across the different projects, but were often linked to the organizational capacity of grantees, including difficulties in implementation of project activities, lack of leadership, and delayed submission or non-submission of progress reports. Security issues played a critical role in some SGP countries such as **Afghanistan**, **Algeria**, **Cameroon**, **Central African Republic** (CAR), **Lebanon** and **Pakistan**. Remoteness posed an issue to effective project implementation, particularly in SIDS such as **Cape Verde**, **Jamaica**, **Maldives**, **Micronesia** and **Papua New Guinea** due to the large number and dispersion of islands as well as in some other countries including **Belize**, **Costa Rica**, **Kazakhstan**, **Liberia**, **Mali**, **Sri Lanka**, **Tanzania** and **Zimbabwe** where distances or access to remote locations are challenges. In Costa Rica, for instance, more than 120 projects were active during the reporting period, which made monitoring and evaluation of all projects a substantial challenge, especially when projects are geographically dispersed.

The section below describes some of the steps taken by SGP during the reporting year as well as planned in OP6 to address some of the challenges and difficulties identified by SGP country programmes in the course of programme and grant projects implementation and M&E.

SOLUTIONS AND OTHER MITIGATING ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

Based on the feedback received regarding challenges, outlined in the previous section, the design of SGP in OP6 will include key elements that will help address many of these concerns. In OP6, emphasis will be placed on SGP's role in grantmaking, as well as Grantmaker+, and the services it can provide to build up social capital and sustain capacity. Additionally a key element of the design of OP6 is the focusing of SGP grant making largely within selected landscape/seascape areas, concentrating the majority of SGP grant funds, to allow for more strategic outcomes, greater networking between projects, and more effective and efficient oversight and M&E by country programmes with the consolidation rather than dispersal of projects over the whole country. The active guidance and oversight of NSC members plays a central role in overcoming challenges, be they technical, political or managerial, and in ensuring the smooth and productive functioning of country programmes and projects. While maintaining majority membership of civil society members in the NSC, the committee is to be enhanced by including the participation of other critical government agencies. With the CSO-Government Dialogue Platform of OP6, this will help mitigate the challenge of weak relationship between government and civil society prevalent in quite a number of countries. Moreover, CPMT provides support and guidance and, if required, can intervene to help find solutions for challenges experienced at the country level. CPMT and UNOPS Regional Focal Points are in constant communication with NCs and PAs. During the reporting year, CPMT has again conducted monitoring and troubleshooting missions to specific countries to help clarify the particular circumstances and resolve challenges. In situations beyond SGP control, such as political, economic or social turmoil or natural disasters in countries, CPMT maintains close contact with SGP country teams and the UNDP CO to mitigate risks to the programme and staff. To overcome local obstacles and

challenges at the local level, SGP country programmes have employed a number of creative and tailored strategies during the reporting year. Some of these are briefly outlined in the following paragraphs.

A weak **relationship between local governments and civil society** often limits the capacity of NGOs, CBOs and other civil society groups in their access to information, as well as receiving policy support or financial contributions from the government. SGP staff and NSC members hence have been liaising with local governments and civil society to establish trust and communication between them. NCs of country programmes like **Cape Verde**, **Djibouti** and **El Salvador**, for instance, have taken notable action to foster collaboration between communities and policy makers. In **China**, for example, encouraging grantees to regularly report their activities to the local government has helped to gradually build trust and increase government support. Additionally, SGP staff and their partners organized numerous knowledge fairs and networking events, bringing together public, private and civil stakeholders to facilitate communication and foster positive relationships. Continued participation in governmentled events further increased SGP's visibility and approachability.

Another key pillar of civil society empowerment has been the facilitation of **partnerships and networks**. Regional networks and other exchange mechanisms have proven to be an effective approach to ensure sustainability of project activities beyond their duration. In several SGP countries peer-to-peer trainings, or stakeholder workshops, are organized in order to further develop capacities of grantees.

On the matter of limited **organizational capacity** of grantee-partner organizations, NCs have allocated significant portions of their time to capacity building activities, particularly to support workshops and trainings on proposal writing, financial management, as well as technical and financial reporting. SGP **St. Vincent and the Grenadines**, for instance, conducted inception workshops to sensitize grantees on requirements for reporting to GEF as well as a series of capacity development workshops on project management and GEF focal areas. Moreover, a mentorship programme is now being established in collaboration with a more mature NGO (SusGren) to assist smaller NGOs.

Another issue for project monitoring and evaluation is that grantees sometimes experience difficulties with defining and **tracking of indicators**. Country programmes such as SGP **Zimbabwe** have consequently conducted onsite trainings for grantees on indicator design and monitoring combined with Results Based Management.

Solutions to challenges related to the **disbursement of funds** and the possibility of financial mismanagement were addressed by country programmes such as **Dominica**, **Ethiopia,** and **Madagascar**. Specific measures included establishing core and technical committees in the respective project areas to manage processes in case of delayed disbursement or risk of mismanagement of funds. Continuous follow-up was conducted through telephone and M&E visits and increased supervision of project back accounts.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Since the start of OP5, GEF SGP has submitted an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) to the GEF. This is the fourth AMR developed and submitted by SGP to UNDP and the GEF. It is based on data and information gathered through an exhaustive global survey completed by all SGP country and sub-regional programmes, which delivered current information on implementation progress and challenges, lessons learned, partnerships, social inclusion, country level impact, programme management and key results. CPMT reviewed and analyzed this information and compiled a global report together with figures and data drawn from the SGP global database, reflecting CPMT's global perspective, an assessment of key results in the different focal and thematic areas, and programme progress and implementation challenges.

During this reporting period, the Fifth Independent Evaluation of SGP - conducted jointly by the Independent Evaluation Offices of the GEF and UNDP - was completed and a final report was issued in March 2015. The Evaluation, which was launched in April 2013, was underway for over two years with two phases of assessment. In total 13 SGP countries, including four Upgraded countries and nine under the SGP Global Programme were visited for in-depth country level assessments. The Evaluation covers the period from 2008 to 2015 and includes an indepth focus on OP4 and OP5. This Joint GEF/UNDP evaluation of the SGP drew the following conclusions:

"1) SGP continues to support communities with projects that are effective, efficient and relevant in achieving global environmental benefits while addressing livelihoods and poverty, as well as promoting gender equality and empowering women. Replication, scaling up and mainstreaming are happening.

2) The introduction of upgrading and related policies contributed to the evolution of the SGP by setting out expectations for country programmes and their development over time. The new policies have resulted in increased resources for the SGP. However, they have also brought challenges. The current criteria for selecting countries for upgrading to Full-Sized Projects are not optimal.

3) As a global programme, acting nationally and locally, and being grassroots driven, the SGP must align to GEF, UNDP, national and local priorities. Within this context, the SGP has successfully remained coherent whilst being flexible. However, different perspectives and changing contexts create tensions. The global or long-term vision of the SGP has not been updated.

4) The SGP governance and management structures have been adequate, but are increasingly strained by an ever rapidly changing context. The GEF corporate nature of the SGP and the role and value added of UNDP as the GEF Agency are not clearly articulated.

5) Despite important progress, M&E does not adequately support decision-making and remains too complex."

During the reporting year, the GEF Evaluation Office also published its Seventh Annual Country Portfolio Evaluation Report (ACPER), including Country Portfolio Evaluations (CPEs) of Eritrea and Tanzania, as well as the Country Portfolio Study (CPS) of Sierra Leone.[67] Based on findings from the CPS Tanzania, the ACPER stated, that *"the likelihood of sustainability has been most successful when pursued through the fostering of institutional and individual capacity development and the promotion of livelihood activities through community-based approaches—e.g., the SGP"*. Furthermore, the findings and conclusions drawn from these CPEs and CPSs conducted in the SubSaharan Africa region also led to the recommendation to the Council *"to request the Secretariat to explore and pursue, where appropriate, the use of established SGP country programmes as service providers to implement community level activities for FSPs and MSP"*.

In addition, 30 SGP country programmes were evaluated as part of other evaluations conducted at the country level by other organizations during the reporting period. These included evaluations by external firms as in **Burundi**, as well as through independent consultants in **South Africa** and **Niger**, an NSC evaluation of the CPS implementation in **Ukraine**, a GEF independent evaluation in **Panama**, and independent terminal evaluations in Upgraded countries such as **Costa Rica** and **Ecuador**.

During the reporting period, a total of 2,610 projects were visited for M&E purposes. The majority (80%) of SGP Country programmes reported that 80 percent or more of the projects visited were progressing satisfactorily. Among these, more than 10% of country programmes reported that 100% of projects visited were found to be progressing satisfactorily. These countries included **Colombia**, **Georgia**, **Mali**, **Pakistan**, the **Palestinian Authority**, and **Vietnam**. Another 40% of country programmes (including **Antigua & Barbuda**, **Argentina**, **Bahamas**, **Benin**, **Eritrea**, **Palau**, **Paraguay**, **Rwanda**, **Samoa**, and **Senegal**) reported that 90% of their projects were progressing satisfactorily, while 30% (including **Haiti**, **Lesotho**, **Liberia**, and **Tunisia**) reported that 80% of their projects were progressing satisfactorily. Additionally 13% of country programmes reported that 70% of all projects visited were progressing

[67] This report can be viewed at https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/ACPER_2014.pdf

satisfactorily, while 6% reported that the percentage of projects visited that were seen to be achieving satisfactory progress was 60% or less.

As SGP works with low capacity communities and CSOs at the frontline of needed action, many of which may face difficult situations, SGP inherently takes on the risk of working with such partners in order to promote sustainable solutions in challenging circumstances and build capacity of these key local actors. For projects identified as "not progressing satisfactorily" the NC together with the NSC, will identify ways to get the projects back on track, usually through provision of additional capacity building and problem solving support. If a project continues to face challenges and is unable to demonstrate progress despite all support efforts provided, only then will it be recommended for termination.

GRANT APPROVAL PROCE SS

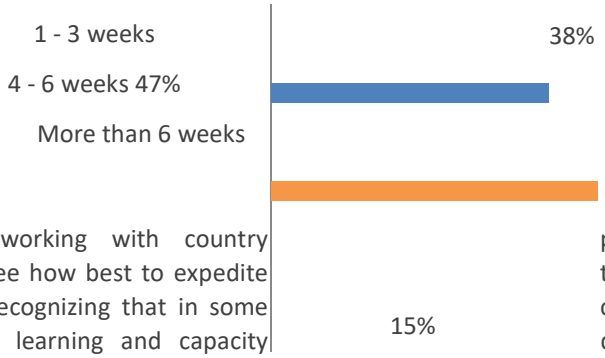
To improve efficiency and effectiveness, SGP continued to monitor and facilitate the quick turnaround of projects from concept to implementation on the ground, particularly the time between NSC approval and signature of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the grantee and UNDP.

Similar to previous years, the majority (85%) of SGP Country Programmes reported that the average overall time lapse between NSC approval and MOA signature is less than 6 weeks, as illustrated in Chart 14, below. Of these, 38% of countries reported that this process takes 1 to 3 weeks while 47% reported a timeframe in the range of 4-6 weeks. These results confirm one of the strengths of GEF SGP as an efficient mechanism for delivering funding relatively quickly to local grantees.

However, 15% of countries reported that the time to process the signature of the MOA after approval of the grant takes more than six weeks. The dominant reported reasons for this longer time frame were the following:

- Weak capacity of grantees, as some organizations are not formally registered and do not have a bank account. This requires more time and guidance from the NC, and it is itself a capacity building opportunity for the grantee on how to compile the documentation and how to register and open a bank account. Through SGP's initiatives, the groups receive training in managing their finances and record keeping.
- Conditional approval of some projects by the NSC with comments, which the grantee is required to address prior to MOA signature. This type of "conditional approval" by the NSC is the standard working modality in several countries, where due to distances or other complicating factors, in-person convening of the NSC at frequent intervals is not possible. The NSC may thus conditionally approve projects that have merit but which need improvements. Upon addressing NSC concerns the project is then approved virtually and may be further processed for MOA signature. Such arrangements require more time for follow-up and support from the NC in coordination with the grantees.

Chart 14: Average Time Lapse between NSC Project Approval and MOA signature



UNOPS and CPMT are working with country programmes that have experienced challenges to see how best to expedite the process of MOA signature after NSC approval, while recognizing that in some cases additional time is warranted because of the learning and capacity development required in finalizing project proposals and preparing documentation needed for MOAs. Among the concrete solutions that SGP has utilized to minimize these delays are (a) the option for grantees to use planning grants, in order to cover some of the preparation costs and take the needed time for improving the design of the proposed grant projects and to address possible NSC comments, (b) to enable grantees where the community in unable to accept funds directly, to work through an intermediary NGO that can help to channel funds as well as provide additional support, and (c) build capacity of new grantees on proposal writing, project management, financial management, and sometimes even in setting up of bank accounts and filling out of MOA templates.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Potential risks to GEF SGP can be divided into Programmatic risks which have the potential to affect the ability of the programme to realize its goals, and Operational risks which may affect day-to-day operations and financial management of the programme. These sets of risks are addressed below.

Programmatic risks

It was noted in the GEF SGP OP5 CEO Endorsement document for Core funding (January 2011), that given SGP's experience of the past 20 years there are few unforeseen risks to be expected, and risk mitigation measures are already in place for known risks. However, the following risks were identified in the document and are being tracked on an ongoing basis by SGP. Some additional were also identified during the implementation of OP5 in successive years. Table 16 below presents the possible risks, as well as the mitigation measures implemented.

Based on the assessment of the current situation facing SGP as it transitions from OP5 to OP6, two of the previously identified risks have been lowered from "moderate" to "low" as a result of continuous consultations of the SGP team with UNDP and the GEF Secretariat to apply lessons learnt from OP5 to the design of OP6. One risk, associated with challenges of working with countries in conflict and post conflict environments, has been raised from "low" to "moderate" in this reporting period. In addition, based on the outcomes agreed in the design of OP6 and the SGP Implementation Arrangements paper, two new risks have been identified and rated at present as "moderate".

Table 16: Programmatic Risks and mitigation measures in OP5

Risk	Level of risk	Mitigation measures/ Updates

The variation in grant allocations for countries from Core and STAR – with some countries no longer eligible for SGP core resources, and thus becoming wholly dependent on receiving a sufficient STAR allocation that ensures cost-effectiveness of the program – was identified as a risk.	Low	While this was a high risk for some country programmes in OP5 that received limited or no STAR funds, or very limited Core funds – SGP has reflected on the lessons learnt from such unequal and predetermined funding access. In the design of the new OP6 phase, with the agreement and support of the GEF Secretariat and UNDP, SGP's design has been based on flexible country allocations, which will be guided on an annual basis by consideration of a range of performance and other factors, such as evidence of strategic programming, level of commitment achieved, co-financing leveraged, potential for resource mobilization, as well as capacity needs and equity considerations. In addition, in OP6 there will be no more Pure STAR countries, and all countries would have some access to Core funding, so that no country programmes would be wholly dependent on STAR funds (except for the Upgraded countries which are separately funded as FSPs). Moreover, the design of SGP in OP6 values the role that SGP plays not only in delivery of grants but also the added value that it brings as a Grantmaker+ to foster and sustain CSO capacity and to promote networking, knowledge exchange and scaling up. Grant and non-grant activities will be more closely integrated in the design of OP6 to provide effective support to civil society to address global environmental challenges in line with SGP's programming directions in GEF6.

The challenge of working directly with CBOs and NGOs that have a low level of technical and management capacity. This challenge has been extensively discussed earlier in the report.	Moderate	The risk level remains unchanged since the previous year. Mitigating measures continue to include building grantee capacity, linking and networking grantees, and working in a flexible manner, as well as continuous oversight and monitoring of the SGP portfolio in each country by the SGP country team, CPMT, the UNDP CO and the NSC. With the return to following the Council decision to cover SGP costs at the level of services rendered, greater flexibility has been possible in providing funding for necessary site visits and monitoring measures to manage risks in challenging country contexts.
The upgrading of 10 countries to be implemented as "stand-alone" FSPs in OP5 was identified as another possible risk.	Low	This risk has been largely mitigated through the support of UNDP and the GEF Secretariat to the upgrading process. Based on the lessons learnt from the initial Upgrading of 9 countries at the start of OP5 a number of improvements have been considered to facilitate the process. These are captured in the Council paper on SGP Implementation Arrangements in GEF 6 (May 2014). As SGP transitions to OP6, six additional countries are upgrading to FSPs. As such the lessons of the past upgrading will be applied to facilitate the process. In addition a number of observations of the 2015 SGP Joint Evaluation will be considered to facilitate global networking and knowledge exchange within the SGP as a global corporate programme.

The addition of new country programmes, in LDCs, SIDS, and/or countries in conflict/post-conflict situations was identified as another potential risk for SGP.	Moderate	This risk has been changed from low, to moderate in the past year. The SGP country programme in Syria has been closed as of June 2014, while in the Central African Republic the SGP programme is being relocated to a more secure region to be closer to the portfolio of projects on the ground. Ongoing conflicts in Mali, Yemen, and Chad among others, continue to require close monitoring. SGP programmes in other post conflict countries such as Afghanistan and East Timor continue to be closely monitored with the support of UNDP Country Offices. SGP remains active in several SIDS and other countries where UNDP does not have local Country Office presence. These programmes may come under Sub-regional or multi-country offices that are distant and may require additional budgeting of costs of operations and oversight.
Delays in programme implementation in certain countries, for example those that can result from a broad review by governments of their overall development priorities and in cases where the government requires a reclarification of its working relationship with civil society.	Low	This risk has been changed to low, from moderate in the past year. In countries where there was initial delay experienced due to such political change processes solutions were identified in previous years and the portfolio has now caught up to speed in pipelining and approving grant projects. While the occurrence of such risks overall is limited, effects in specific countries can lead to significant delay in programme implementation. SGP will continue to closely monitor the situation in specific countries should such risks to implementation of activities emerge.
The overall expansion of the GEF SGP to a greater number of countries was identified as another potential risk.	Low	The overall level of effort for coordination and implementation at the central level has increased as a consequence. The adequate staffing of the CPMT is an important element in ensuring effective oversight of country programmes.
Potential climate change effects were identified as another risk, particularly with respect to biodiversity and land degradation.	Low	SGP has been piloting community based adaptation measures. These ongoing projects are providing valuable methodologies and field tested results and approaches from working with communities in different contexts. Natural disasters and extreme weather events continue to impose risks, especially in the case of SIDS, which will be closely monitored.
Other emerging risks	Low	During the reporting year some countries continued to face local
		challenges as described earlier in the section on Country level Challenges. For example, due to changes in government, changes in legal procedures, NSC membership, etc. CPMT and country programmes remain in close coordination on these matters.

As SGP begins OP6, some of the new and emerging risks identified by CPMT and country programmes relate to the design and outcomes of OP6 that will necessitate a different approach to grantmaking. The two key risks, and the mitigation measures related to these, include the following:

- The shift, for most SGP country programmes, to implementation of a community landscape/seascape conservation approach. This approach requires a clustering of projects with 70% of grant funds going towards specific landscape conservation objectives identified in consultation with communities through a participatory baseline assessment process. The risk in some countries is ensuring the transparency and criteria of selection of such landscape/seascape areas of focus. CPMT has provided significant guidance, templates and has facilitated discussions to guide country programmes on key steps and lessons. The

experience of COMPACT, COMDEKS, and the CBR+ projects that are already clustering grants within specific landscapes or seascapes to achieve wider objectives is being captured and shared.

- A reduced level of funding for grant making may reduce the impact and effectiveness of SGP country programmes. While SGP Core resources are expected to be at the level of OP5, in OP6 SGP countries will have lowered ceilings for access to STAR funds. To keep SGP programmes running at optimal levels, several key measures are planned: (a) flexible allocation of grant funding, (b) clustering and focusing of grant portfolios within landscape and seascape focus areas to increase impact and reduce cost of M&E; (c) enhance SGP's role as a Grantmaker+ to capitalize on and achieve value from the important non-grant services provided by SGP staff, NSCs, and other networks to build and sustain capacity; and (d) increase resource mobilization and partnerships, including the use of SGP as a delivery mechanism for other donor funded projects that can tap its existing network and structure while providing greater resources for programming both grants as well as non-grant activities for the benefit of CSOs.

The above identified potential risks in OP6 will be closely monitored as OP6 gets fully underway and a more detailed analysis will be conducted in the next AMR period.

The SGP Steering Committee at the global level was re-activated, following a specific recommendation by the 2015 SGP Joint Evaluation. It is chaired by the GEF Secretariat and includes UNDP and GEF CSO Network. The SGP Steering Committee is expected to meet at least twice yearly, generally around the time frame of the GEF Council meetings. The revitalized SGP Steering Committee will provide a mechanism for strategic guidance and oversight and for addressing key any programmatic issues as required.

Operational Risks

UNOPS which serves as the Implementing Partner for SGP, oversees the operational risks, and ensures appropriate measures are put in place to mitigate any unforeseen risks. The UNOPS risk mitigation framework for SGP entails a spectrum of control layers, which are deployed at decision points as well as at different transactional levels.

During 2014, UNOPS audited 10 SGP country programmes. The audits were chiefly focused on grant management, financial management, human resources, and transactional processes. The audit opinion was "unqualified" for all 10 countries audited.

In addition to the internal audits which are carried out by the expert audit firm, UNOPS has also developed a selfaudit checklist which is tailored meticulously on the processes end-to-end. The self-audit checklist serves as the assurance tool for having the country programme processes aligned with the UNOPS and SGP policies. The selfaudit checklist is available through the UNOPS SGP Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), which are the overarching guiding document on SGP operations, and it is implemented quarterly.

The UNOPS SGP SOPs are a one-stop shop so far as the SGP operations are concerned, and they are kept abreast of new UNOPS policies as well as evolving programme needs. Among others, the SOPs are supplemented by trainings, which are delivered during the SGP regional workshops and through webinar sessions on an ad-hoc basis. During the SGP regional workshops for OP6 preparation, a series of trainings were delivered, among others, on ethics – "how to put ethics into work". The ethics training was focused on how SGP personnel are required to conduct themselves on and off duty, and act with due diligence when conflicting priorities and interests are at stake.

On an ongoing basis monthly finance meetings are organized between UNOPS and CPMT to review finance and operational matters and implement specific measures for risk management or improvement of efficiency. In addition, Board Meetings are organized between UNDP and UNOPS with involvement of CPMT at least twice a year

where overall implementation progress, programme management matters, delivery and risks are regularly tracked and key decisions taken.

6. FINANCIAL DELIVERY

The total expenditure over the reporting year (1 July 2014 till 30 June 2015) of GEF SGP, including the ongoing phase (OP5) as well as some ongoing commitments of prior operational phases, amounted to a total delivery of USD 50.6m. Of this, the majority of the funding (USD 49.7m) was drawn from the OP5 phase funding.

Table 17: GEF SGP Delivery (1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015) in USD

Operational Phase	Expenditure
OP3	**81,438**
OP4	**768,024**
OP5	**49,731,253**
Grand Total	**50,580,714**

7. ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES GRANTS AND CO-FINANCING

In USD

Country	Year started (*)	GEF SGP Funding		Co-financing (**)				
		Number of Projects	GEF Grant Amount	Project level Cofinancing in Cash	Project level Cofinancing in Kind	Non-GEF Grant Amount	Total Cofinancing
AFGHANISTAN	2013	35	1,653,369	1,108,839	999,349		2,108,188
ALBANIA	1999	227	2,858,990	991,642	635,734		1,627,376
ALGERIA	2012	13	95,282	40,655	21,818		62,473
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	2013	24	991,705	474,389	1,076,066	170,000	1,720,455
ARGENTINA	2006	164	4,112,924	1,606,740	3,835,861	40,000	5,482,601
ARMENIA	2009	52	1,794,600	2,561,308	932,237	200,000	3,693,546
BAHAMAS	2011	38	948,162	434,478	643,300		1,077,777
BARBADOS (Sub-region) (until 2012)	1994	112	2,294,468	1,060,902	1,973,001		3,033,903
BARBADOS	2012	27	1,321,631	375,292	2,632,672	100,000	3,107,964
BELARUS, REPUBLIC OF	2006	122	4,794,831	4,183,096	842,159	196,686	5,221,941
BELIZE	1993	204	5,339,252	2,446,263	3,862,513	378,535	6,687,312
BENIN	2007	65	2,049,872	1,789,075	645,115		2,434,190
BHUTAN	1999	138	3,627,430	1,038,465	2,258,931	355,000	3,652,396
BOLIVIA (upgraded in 2011)	1997	355	9,904,759	3,122,152	8,195,490	213,387	11,531,029
BOTSWANA	1993	176	5,032,686	8,532,681	2,379,219		10,911,900
BRAZIL (upgraded in 2011)	1995	411	11,275,785	6,698,841	8,129,870	255,000	15,083,712
BULGARIA (until 2013)	2006	121	3,949,348	3,965,018	1,541,422		5,506,440
BURKINA FASO	1994	183	6,224,411	1,403,143	2,407,822	40,196	3,851,161
BURUNDI	2010	45	2,129,555	318,491	1,895,288		2,213,779
CAMBODIA	2005	81	2,972,938	1,598,661	4,047,816	4,238,328	9,884,805
CAMEROON, REPUBLIC OF	2007	91	2,862,807	1,240,906	2,218,162	425,000	3,884,068
CAPE VERDE	2010	87	2,015,175	634,463	1,325,588	120,000	2,080,051
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	2010	35	991,458	148,762	591,477		740,239
CHAD	2007	50	1,245,251	973,437	251,540	150,000	1,374,978
CHILE (until 2012)	1994	257	7,024,145	472,138	5,312,939	52,904	5,837,981
COMOROS	2007	60	1,948,997	867,095	872,632	120,000	1,859,727

COSTA RICA (upgraded in 2011)	1993	622	11,771,729	7,639,286	10,273,151	275,649	18,188,086
COTE d'IVOIRE	1993	298	5,460,516	2,428,142	2,764,126		5,192,267
CUBA	2005	123	4,887,114	8,040,912	1,197,997	170,000	9,408,909
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	2010	92	2,919,149	773,533	1,288,706		2,062,239
DJIBOUTI	2014	6	199,331	202,631	45,222		247,853
DOMINICA	1995	64	1,742,625	745,165	2,027,839	877,758	3,650,763
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1994	421	9,822,146	14,520,553	16,176,721	170,000	30,867,274
ECUADOR (upgraded in 2011)	1993	297	10,175,033	7,374,517	6,921,567	365,287	14,661,371
EGYPT	1994	317	7,246,520	4,391,997	2,055,969	156,000	6,603,966
EL SALVADOR	2003	176	4,271,361	4,285,268	2,165,611	255,000	6,705,878
ERITREA	2009	31	1,452,000	433,883	2,196,758		2,630,641
ETHIOPIA	2006	167	4,404,731	1,139,989	3,158,692	951,250	5,249,931
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA	2013	22	706,672	156,378	347,709	43,750	547,838
FIJI sub-region (Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu)	2005	92	3,382,458	664,061	2,534,757	1,098,836	4,297,654
GAMBIA	2009	71	2,057,760	630,733	779,360		1,410,093
GEORGIA, REPUBLIC OF	2013	33	749,863	461,984	580,801	199,682	1,242,467
GHANA	1993	210	5,051,717	3,983,113	3,699,705	644,785	8,327,603
GRENADA	2013	10	345,110	-	-	50,000	50,000
GUATEMALA	1997	345	4,080,626	2,060,957	5,066,729	346,581	7,474,267
GUINEA	2010	89	2,830,750	679,662	1,118,460		1,798,122
GUINEA-BISSAU	2011	32	975,590	635,474	63,528		699,002
GUYANA	2013	11	427,510	49,240	443,663	71,501	564,404
HAITI	2008	46	1,779,188	195,596	517,575	163,012	876,183
HONDURAS	2002	183	5,391,379	915,493	12,088,471	877,989	13,881,953
INDIA (upgraded in 2011)	1996	350	9,473,112	12,865,067	5,812,866	1,438,872	20,116,806
INDONESIA	1993	466	8,739,518	2,345,791	7,942,707	866,000	11,154,498
IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)	2001	238	5,359,760	4,953,673	22,137,829	100,000	27,191,502
JAMAICA	2005	77	2,878,297	1,706,274	2,922,314	754,596	5,383,184
JORDAN	1993	193	6,240,000	4,428,906	8,156,315	200,000	12,785,221
KAZAKHSTAN	1997	303	6,122,475	5,066,795	4,577,803	522,890	10,167,488
KENYA (upgraded in 2011)	1993	310	10,455,472	4,169,501	3,355,513	920,333	8,445,348
KYRGYZSTAN	2002	266	3,887,542	1,643,252	2,456,975	403,500	4,503,727
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	2009	62	2,330,332	301,250	204,951	241,824	748,025

LEBANON	2006	74	2,599,785	1,399,608	585,350	200,000	2,184,958
LESOTHO	2008	56	1,699,448	377,954	1,658,079		2,036,033
LIBERIA	2009	76	2,326,000	159,000	827,010	24,000	1,010,010
LITHUANIA, REPUBLIC OF (until 2009)	2001	104	2,611,280	6,108,566	3,884,123		9,992,689
MACEDONIA, THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF	2006	99	1,887,066	1,565,988	756,942		2,322,929
MADAGASCAR	2008	228	5,074,668	2,285,824	1,552,436		3,838,260
MALAWI	2009	53	1,700,000	1,139,398	955,470	255,000	2,349,868
MALAYSIA	2001	156	5,791,302	11,398,100	4,582,906		15,981,006
MALDIVES	2010	42	1,305,766	299,189	468,608	135,875	903,672
MALI	1994	339	9,345,801	8,855,274	6,275,156	468,111	15,598,541
MARSHALL ISLANDS	2014	11	445,015	68,170	165,000		233,170
MAURITANIA	2002	165	4,382,744	1,262,096	2,762,666	865,407	4,890,169
MAURITIUS	1996	148	4,976,273	6,493,954	4,806,161	170,000	11,470,115
MEXICO (upgraded in 2011)	1994	559	13,720,423	8,185,260	10,752,299	458,470	19,396,029
MICRONESIA Sub-region (until 2011)	2005	47	1,164,675	125,394	1,594,882	552,208	2,272,484
MOLDOVA	2013	11	397,665	298,496	160,885	200,000	659,381
MONGOLIA	2003	394	2,979,827	1,198,266	2,602,116	455,002	4,255,385
MOROCCO	2000	152	4,404,120	5,214,275	4,990,868	510,953	10,716,096
MOZAMBIQUE	2005	230	4,600,905	1,611,568	1,491,161		3,102,729
NAMIBIA	2003	97	2,360,416	3,276,727	2,064,116	1,804,454	7,145,298
NEPAL	1998	195	6,598,046	5,425,467	2,536,986	254,482	8,216,934
NICARAGUA	2004	196	4,039,495	1,271,873	2,328,024		3,599,896
NIGER	2004	126	3,987,885	2,160,869	2,376,629	1,153,830	5,691,328
NIGERIA	2009	111	3,442,869	24,500	2,574,101		2,598,601
PALAU	2014	21	959,988	117,625	709,392	45,000	872,017
PAKISTAN (upgraded in 2011)	1994	264	7,893,503	8,921,111	3,651,486	2,052,547	14,625,144
PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY	1999	124	4,125,725	1,089,760	1,212,031	250,416	2,552,207
PANAMA	2007	128	2,819,704	492,390	2,600,870	195,600	3,288,860
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	1994	183	3,437,378	941,668	112,979	137,897	1,192,544
PARAGUAY	2011	31	749,488	107,334	846,313		953,647
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA	2010	69	3,254,868	1,594,958	1,613,287		3,208,245
PERU	1999	272	9,284,854	1,401,129	5,445,439		6,846,569
PHILIPPINES (upgraded in 2011)	1992	284	9,006,989	4,240,726	2,436,046	193,752	6,870,524
POLAND (until 2009)	1994	383	6,753,858	19,931,470	4,518,701	13,423	24,463,593
ROMANIA (until 2013)	2005	95	3,145,566	1,963,567	1,335,397		3,298,963
RWANDA	2006	61	2,623,751	402,729	1,753,643	49,876	2,206,248

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	2014	16	808,982	49,925	1,256,876	100,000	1,406,802
SAINT LUCIA	2012	36	977,035	691,430	924,413	216,933	1,832,776
SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	2014	13	646,440	191,252	540,935	-	732,187
SAMOA sub-region (Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau)	2005	133	2,121,238	503,913	1,375,852	940,430	2,820,194
SENEGAL	1994	244	8,562,580	2,785,621	3,526,385	449,855	6,761,861
SEYCHELLES	2010	37	1,732,862	560,845	901,145	120,000	1,581,991
SIERRA LEONE	2013	52	1,463,022	65,551	1,043,377		1,108,928
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	2010	67	1,693,002	2,113,123	552,783	279,998	2,945,905
SOLOMON ISLANDS	2009	48	1,440,257	164,390	295,679	10,000	470,069
SOUTH AFRICA	2003	97	4,335,662	6,275,628	1,806,798		8,082,426
SRI LANKA	1994	369	7,958,359	1,818,407	2,544,648	720,932	5,083,987
SURINAME	1997	124	3,565,145	2,463,799	1,777,552	220,950	4,462,301
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC (until 2014)	2005	45	1,712,288	578,916	982,536		1,561,452
TAJIKISTAN	2010	40	1,049,940	715,362	742,795	134,231	1,592,388
THAILAND	1994	384	6,272,796	2,059,846	7,160,935	107,615	9,328,396
TIMOR-LESTE	2013	27	567,970	18,099	149,266	100,000	267,365
TOGO	2010	72	2,010,193	300,890	749,938		1,050,828
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	1995	102	2,927,341	862,677	2,541,959	169,966	3,574,601
TUNISIA	1993	157	4,930,750	7,644,695	2,921,022	616,250	11,181,967
TURKEY	1993	242	5,188,577	5,050,322	3,363,280	280,000	8,693,603
UGANDA	1998	188	6,200,367	2,434,310	3,404,873	459,444	6,298,627
UKRAINE	2010	109	5,127,385	2,848,242	2,351,600	190,000	5,389,842
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA	1997	248	7,306,641	2,872,346	2,126,027	1,275,121	6,273,494
URUGUAY	2006	101	2,425,357	138,568	3,061,069	-	3,199,637
UZBEKISTAN	2008	72	2,026,218	1,684,304	926,646		2,610,950
VANUATU	2008	36	1,360,762	649,566	680,497	304,799	1,634,862
VENEZUELA	2010	81	3,173,163	1,325,279	3,125,520		4,450,799
VIET NAM	1999	190	5,119,704	1,555,111	3,759,366	720,000	6,034,477
YEMEN	2006	77	2,386,793	1,620,135	2,427,632		4,047,767
ZAMBIA	2008	44	1,700,000	600,887	247,574		848,461
ZIMBABWE	1994	171	6,004,391	2,226,200	13,424,231		15,650,431
		18,402	**486,169,585**	**312,255,935**	**354,289,176**	**37,082,959**	**703,628,070**

Data drawn from the database on 9 August 2015

(*) The criteria for the start year of the country has been changed in order to use the same criteria (grant making started) that is applied by the GEF Evaluation Team

(**) A GEF Strategic Priority for Adaptation - CBA project which was implemented in 10 countries through SGP as delivery mechanism is not included in the GEF grant funds (as this was a separate FSP), the grants funded under this project are however captured in non-GEF grant amount column and the total amount is $2,884,660

ANNEX 2: SGP GLOBAL PROGRAMME LEVEL CO-FINANCING IN OP5

PROGRAMME LEVEL CO-FINANCING				
GLOBAL	***Name of project/component***	***Donor***	***Amount of Agreement/ SGP component (**)***	***Expected Project duration (***)***
	Small Island Developing States - Community Based Adaptation (SIDS CBA)	DFAT	$6,286,794	2011-2016
	Strengthening Environmental Governance by Building Capacity of NGOs (EU-NGOs) (*)	EU	$3,300,000	2012-2017
	Community Development and Knowledge Management in the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS Phase 1)	Japan BD Fund/UNEP	$2,000,000	2011-2015
	Community Development and Knowledge Management in the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS Phase 2)	Japan BD Fund/UNEP	$8,000,000	2013-2016
	Community Based REDD+	UNREDD/UNEP	$4,000,000	2014-2017
	Global ICCA Support Initiative	BMUB	$16,300,000	2014-2019
	Sub-Total Global (Programme Level) CoFinancing		***$39,886,794***	

COUNTRY LEVEL CO-FINANCING				
COUNTRY (*)	***Name of project/component***	***Donor***	***Amount of Agreement/ SGP component (**)***	***Expected Project duration (***)***
Albania	Climate Change	UNDP TRAC	$150,000	2011-2012
Burkina Faso	Projet COGEL	Burkina Faso's Government	$150,000	TBD
Cambodia	Cambodia Community Based Adaptation Programme	Sweden Government	$4,205,928	2010-2015
Cameroon	Community Based Adaptation	UNDP/AAP	$234,600	2012-2015
Mauritania	Alliance Mondiale contre le Changement Climatique Mauritanie	EU	$2,192,000	2014-2017
Palestinian Authority	Enhancing Capacities of the PA in Mainstreaming Environment and Climate Change	Belgium	$300,000	2013-2015
Tajikistan	UNDP /TAPRI	Japon	$150,230	2011-2012
Tanzania	Climate Change Adaptation Support through Small Grants Programme	UNDP	$2,500,000	2013-2014
Thailand	Water for People Partnership	Water for People Partnership	$147,886	TBD
Tunisia	Cost-sharing to the GEF SGP for up-scaling of projects	Swiss Government	$1,344,000	2011-2014
Uganda	Promoting chemical safety for children at work in rural agricultural communities	SAICM/UNEP	$250,000	2012-2014
Uruguay	Educacion Ambiental para el desarrollo local sustentable	Ministry of Housing Spatial Planning and Environment	$73,500	2013-2015
Uruguay	Desarrollo del Turismo y del Ecoturismo responsible mediante el involucramiento de la sociedad civil	Ministry of Turism	$100,000	2013-2015

Uruguay	Intercambio de experiencias participativas para el desarrollo de un habitat sostenible	Fondo Conjunto de Cooperación México Uruguay	$77,000	2013-2015
Uruguay	Ahorro familiar y mejoramiento de dieta de mujeres y hombres de familias pobres	Fondo Chile contra el Hambre y la Pobreza/PNUD Chile y ONG Canelo	$163,000	2013-2015
Zambia	Small grants to NGOs/CBOs	Danish Embassy	$900,000	2012-2013
Zimbabwe	UNDP Coca Cola Initiative	Coca Cola	$75,000	TBD
	Sub-Total Country (Programme Level) CoFinancing		***$13,013,144***	
	TOTAL PROGRAMME LEVEL CO-FINANCING		***$52,899,938***	

PROJECT LEVEL CO-FINANCING (from Database)	
Project level Co-Financing for GEF funded grants	***$167,180,145***
Project level Co-Financing for non-GEF funded grants	***$10,428,931***
TOTAL PROJECT LEVEL CO-FINANCING	**$177,609,075**
TOTAL OP5 CO-FINANCING (PROGRAMME & PROJECT LEVEL) (****)	***$230,509,014***

SGP Delivery of GEF Full size Projects (*****)

Global	***Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWECO)***	***$1,000,000***
Iran	***MENARID GEF Project***	***$130,000***
	TOTAL PROJECT SGP Delivery of GEF Full Size Projects	**$1,130,000**

(*)	*Not including upgraded countries*
(**)	*Includes both grants and non-grant funding*
(***)	*Some project durations will continue in OP6*
(****)	*Note: OP5 is still under implementation therefore the total co-financing commitment thus far is still an intermediate figure and does not reflect the final level of co-financing commited by the end of the phase.*
(*****)	*Not counted as co-financing as funding source is GEF*

ANNEX 3: AWARD WINNING GEF SGP PROJECTS

The list below includes SGP projects and grantees, which received national and international awards during the period July 2014 – June 2015.

2015

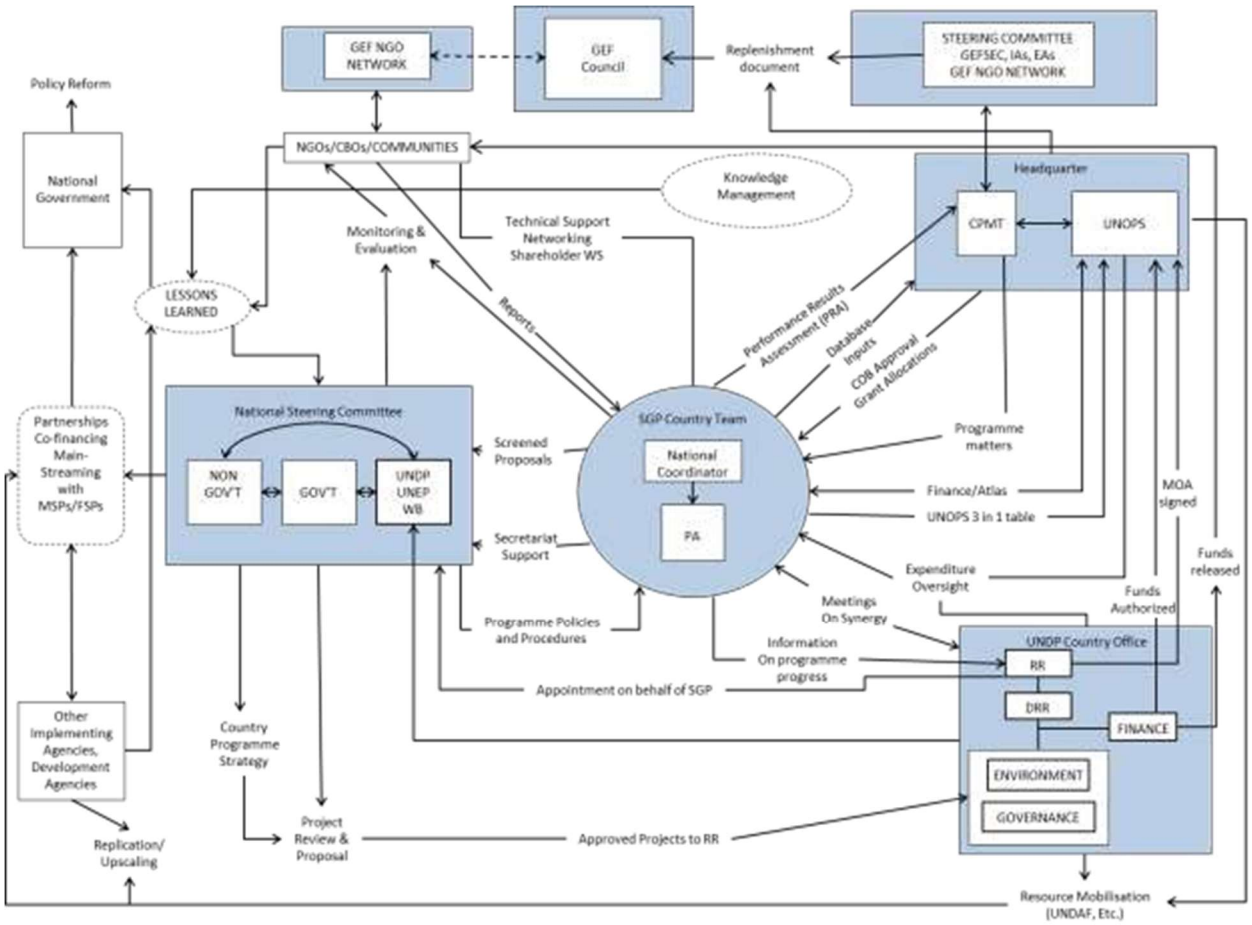
- Bourse de la fondation occitane pour le caractere novateur du foyer dolo à gaz, March 2015, **Burkina Faso**
- Climate Change Innovation Prize, February 2015, **Cameroon**
- Climate Challenge Innovation in Agriculture and Forestry Award of Agence Française de Développement and the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development, February 2015, **Cameroon**
- China Social Innovation Prize, January 2015, **China**
- SEE Ecology Award, June 2015, **China**
- Hero Award, June 2015, **Costa Rica**
- 2nd Prize Best Honey Award, May 2015, **Dominica**
- Man of the year to SGP NC of Dominican Republic, March 2015, **Dominican Republic**
- Energy Efficiency Award, June 2015, **Dominican Republic**
- Community Development Award, June 2015, **Dominican Republic**
- Conservation Award, June 2015, **Dominican Republic**
- Greening Day National Award, May 2015, **Eritrea**
- Basaman Mama Award 2015, June 2015**, India**
- Diageo – British Council Competition Award, April 2015, **Indonesia**
- The Kalpataru Award, June 2015, **Indonesia**
- Sasakawa Certificate of Distinction, March 2015, **Jamaica**
- Hivos Social Innovation Award, February 2015 , **Malawi**
- Energy Globe Award, May 2015, **Malaysia**
- **Zayed Future Energy Prize, 2015, Maldives**
- Barclays Colours of Life Award, January 2015, **Mauritius**
- Gender and Climate Change Award by Gender Link at the 2015 National Summit of Gender Links on the SADC Gender Protocol, June 2015, **Mauritius**
- Foire de l'innovation Paysanne en Afrique de l'OUEST (FIPAO), May 2015, **Niger**
- Rana Dorada, May 2015, **Panama**
- Equator Prize, June 2015, **Zambia**

2014

- Ocean Hero Award, October 2014, **Belize**
- Equator Prize, June 2014, **Benin**
- Décoration par le Gouvernement du Burkina Faso: Medaille de l' ordre de mérite, agrafe Environnement, December 2014, **Burkina Faso**
- Pequi de Ouro, November 2044, **Brazil**
- Equator Prize, June 2014, **Cameroon**
- Equator Prize, June 2014, **Central African Republic**
- Ford Conservation and Environment First Prize, November 2014, (2 Awards to 2 grantees) **China**
- SEED Award, 2014, **Comoros**
- Energy Global Award, April 2014, **Costa Rica**
- To Do Contest, 2014, **Costa Rica**
- Agro-Eco Tourism, June 2014, (3 Awards to 3 different grantees) **Dominica**
- Capacity Building Award, June 2014, **Dominican Republic**
- Equator Prize, June 2014, **Ecuador**
- Champions of Agribusiness Initiative, 2014 Islamic Development Bank awardee, October 2014, **Ghana** Equator Prize, June 2014, **Ghana**

- Avany Women's Self Help Group Award, March 2014, **India**
- Equator Prize, June 2014, **India**
- Best Garden for International Biodiversity Day from the Madhya Pradesh Biodiversity Board, May 2014,
  India
- SEED Award, 2014, **India**
- All Grassrootds Women of the Decade Achievers Award, September 2014, **India**
- Ramon Magsaysay Award, August 2014, **Indonesia**
- Danamon Social Entrepreneurship Award, December 2014, **Indonesia**
- International Visitor Leadership Programme for Sustainable Cities Award, June 2014, **Indonesia**
- National Department of Environment Award, June 2014, **Iran**
- Activities on Waste Management and Training Workshops to Local Women Award by Department of
  Environment, Bureau of Public Participation and Education, December 2014, **Iran**
- The Paul K Feyeraben Foundation's International Award for Abolhassani ICCA, June 2014, **Iran**
- Department of Environment Award at Women's Day for Art for Conservation, 2014, **Iran**
- Fighting Fires in Oak Forest of Zagros and Developing Local Network Award by Department of Environment, July 2014, **Iran**
- Equator Prize, June 2014, **Jamaica**
- Parliament Recognition Letter, July 2014, **Kazakhstan**
- Ministry of Environment and Water Resources Award, July 2014, **Kazakhstan**
- Africa Women Agricultural and Development Fellowship Award, January 2014, **Kenya**
- Youth in Agriculture Blog Competition Award, July 2014, **Kenya**
- National Environment Trust Fund Green Innovation Award, (2 Awards to 2 different grantees) October 2014, **Kenya**
- Eco-Warrior Award, October 2014, **Kenya**
- Tusk Conservation Award, November 2014, **Kenya**
- Public Service Excellence Award, August 2014, **Mauritius**
- Equator Prize, June 2014, **Mexico**
- Energy Globe Award, September 2014, **Mexico**
- Energy Globe Award, May 2014, **Mongolia**
- Equator Prize, June 2014, **Morocco**
- **SEED Awards, September 2014, Mozambique**
- Science and Technology Promotion Award, December 2014, **Nepal**
- Equator Prize, June 2014, **Nepal**
- Ashoka Award, June 2014, **Nigeria**
- Rana Dorada, June 2014, **Panama**
- Equator Prize, June 2014, **Papua New Guinea**
- Equator Prize, June 2014, **South Africa**
- Equator Prize, June 2014, **Togo**
- Equator Prize, June 2014, **Turkey** Equator Prize, June 2014, **Zambia**
- Equator Prize, June 2014, **Zimbabwe**
- Humanitarian Water and Food Award, June 2014, **Zimbabwe**

ANNEX 4: GEF SGP ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



ANNEX 5: COMPENDIUM OF ARTICLES ON SGP PROJECTS AND PROGRAMME

From July 2014- June 2015, SGP contributed the following articles and stories to the GEF website. In addition, SGP collaborated with UNDP to produce several stories for the global and country pages.

SGP Launches in Colombia
Youth Video Competition for Paris 2015 Launched on UN World Environment Day
Conserving Timor Leste's Rich Forest Cover
Women Salt Producers Advance Solar Technique
Ukraine: Children for Environment
Trading Ghost Nets for Sustainable Fishing Gear, Guinea Bissau
Ecological Forum Environment for Ukraine 2013
Curbing Emissions through Solar Water Heaters, Jordan
Community-based Framing Organizations Showcase Their Products at COP20 Fair
At the COP20: Supporting Mountain Communities and their Ecosystems in Adaptation to Climate Change
At the COP20: Inspiring Youth to Take Action for Climate Resilience

GEF, UNDP and the German Government Create New Global Support Initiative for ICCAs Equator Prize 2014
SGP and UN SIDS: Building Genuine and Durable Partnerships
Engaging Herd-boys to Conserve the Southern Bald Ibis in the Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho
Supporting Innovation for Environmental Conservation and Research: Turkey's Sunboat
Indigenous Women Present Natural Dye Fashion

ANNEX 6: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT PRODUCTS DEVELOPED BY SELECT SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

SGP Armenia created several educational videos and brochures this year to disseminate the knowledge gained from their country programme. Brochures topics included the use of solar convective dryers, biohumus production, and organic apiculture. Also printed was an "I am Environment-friendly" brochure for children.

SGP Cameroon produced a case study entitled, "CAMEROON: Promoting Biodiversity Conservation through Sustainable Livelihood Options: Women in Freshwater Prawn Farming."

SGP Cape Verde created a factsheet to educate the public about their Project EcoBike.

SGP China produced a wealth of knowledge products, including a guide to the protection of the Chinese Bee, a guide to the cultivation techniques of *Pleioblastus amarus*, and training materials about the installation and utilization of portable solar power LED lamp and electricity supply systems.

SGP Dominica made guides and manuals on planning grant implementation, project implementation, beekeeping and beekeeping hive construction, rabbit rearing, and composting.

SGP Ecuador created a handbook of handicraft products entitled, "Weaving for Life: A Handbook for Handicrafts Based on the Chabira."

SGP Indonesia produced thirteen short movies illustrating different means of sustainable livelihood generation.

SGP Jamaica was engaged in releasing a video on biodiesel solutions and creating a brochure on the management plan for the invasive species of lionfish.

SGP Jordan supported the production of several publications in Arabic. One guide booklet on the use of herbal plants in the Eastern Desert was produced by a study team of the Jordanian Badia Research Programme. A series of publications with the theme "Badia: the Living Desert" were produce by the same study team.

SGP Kenya had a project featured in a documentary produced by Wasini Beach Management.

SGP Kazakhstan was a part of films about mountain land degradation prevention, sustainable pastures management, and energy use opportunities. Also created were info sheets about efficient water use practices, ecotourism development, beekeeping, and more, and publications about sustainable pasture use, efficient water use for rice production, energy auditing for educational facilities, and several other topics.

SGP Mauritius participated in several educational films by EcoTV about their projects. These films included: Empowering Primary School Drop-outs in Sustainable Agriculture, Preservation of the Marine and Coastal Ecosystem of Blue Bay and Pointe d'Esny, Creating a Native Green Space at the Citadel of Port Louis, Grand Sable Women Planters Farmers Association, Marine Environmental Education in the Community, Pilot Demonstration Facility For Windrow Composting Of Agricultural Wastes And Production Of Bio-vegetables, among others. Several radio shows have also helped the country programme disseminate information about similar topics.

SGP Mongolia made their Green Development Guidebook available to communities to encourage community participation in project decision-making. Their Mongolian Eco-Product guidebook also provided technical training for communities.

SGP Morocco created two tool-kits in aromatic and medicinal plants and soil conservation and wrote five case studies to record the knowledge gained from their projects.

SGP Suriname produced an educational video to promote bamboo as an alternate for wood, a video about protecting riverbanks through mangrove reforestation, and several other short films.

SGP Trinidad and Tobago released a video called "A Sea Change" by Sustainable Trinidad and Tobago. The programme also wrote a SGP Case Study Booklet.

SGP Ukraine has made books and videos to disseminate the knowledge gained through their projects. Their books include *50 Rare Species of the Lugansk Region*, *Youth Guide to Biodiversity*, and *Atlas of Lugansk Ecological Network*. Their videos include "Strengthening Environmental Governance by Building the Capacity of NonGovernmental Organizations," "Energy Efficiency Technologies in the Kindergarten," among others.

SGP Uruguay wrote a fact sheet called "Local Actions for Wetland Conservation."

SGP Yemen distributed a leaflet to disseminate knowledge about rainwater harvesting techniques.

SGP Zimbabwe documented 20 years of SGP work and conducted a knowledge fair.

ANNEX 7: KEY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMMES OF GEF SGP

Name of Partnership	Goal	Funding Amount/ Duration	Focal Area	Countries covered	Partner/ Donor	Key activities
ABS Multi-Partner Capacity Development Initiative	To engage with local communities and national policy enabling frameworks under the Nagoya Protocol on and Benefit Sharing (ABS) adopted at CBD COP10 in Japan in October 2010	2011 onwards (secondment of ABS expert to SGP CPMT in NY including non-grant support as cash co-financing)	Biodiversity	Benin, Cameroon, Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Honduras, Namibia, Palau, PNG, Vanuatu and others	ABS Capacity Development Initiative' (a multi-donor initiative implemented by GIZ) and the NGO Natural Justice	• Support provided to over 12 SGP country programmes on the topic of ABS, traditional knowledge (TK) by GIZ/Natural Justice expert (Ms. Johanna von Braun) • ABS support missions and joint activities conducted during UN SIDS conference (Samoa, Sept 2014) and CBD COP12 (South Korea, Oct 2014) • PIF for UNDP/GEF MediumSize Project (MSP) on ABS and local communities with Mane Cosmetics in Cameroon approved
BMUB Global		USD 16.3m	Biodiversity		Funded by the	• UNDP Prodoc and budget for

ICCA Support Initiative (ICCA GSI)	Support to indigenous peoples' and community conserved areas and territories (ICCAs) through the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) as a contribution to the achievement of Targets 11, 14 and 18 of the CBD Aichi 2020 framework			20 SGP countries for WP1 (small grants): Argentina, Belize, Benin, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Paraguay, Peru, Senegal, Suriname, Tanzania, Vietnam, Zambia 6 SGP countries for WP2 (Legal and Policy) and WP3 (Networking and Knowledge) including	German Federal Ministry of the Environment (BMUB)	ICCA GSI submitted for UNDP PAC clearance, SGP Board review, and UNOPS ATLAS input (May to July 2014) • Workshop on ICCA GSI monitoring framework conducted with ICCA Global Consortium and IUCN at IUCN HQ (July 2014) • ICCA GSI launch events at World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) during UN General Assembly in New York (Sept 2014), and CBD COP12, Korea (Oct 2014) • GSI co-lead of 28 sessions during the World Parks Congress (WPC) Stream 6 on protected area governance, pre-WPC workshop with WIN (Blue Mountains) and post-WPC event (Jervis Bay) in Sydney, Australia (Nov 2014) • Regional ICCA GSI inception meetings organized with SGP National Coordinators for five OP6 regional workshops (AsiaPacific, LAC, Anglophone Africa, Arab States-CIS, and francophone Africa) between Feb-June 2015 • Finalization of three GSI global
				Upgrading country programmes: Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Georgia, Kenya, Philippines		sub-contracts with the ICCA Global Consortium (WP1), UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WP2), and IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme □ Steering Committee of the global ICCA Registry held at UNEP WCMC back-to-back with the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) in March 2015

Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS)	Develop sound biodiversity management and sustainable livelihood activities with local communities to maintain, rebuild and revitalize socioecological production landscapes and seascapes	USD 10m (2011-2016)	Biodiversity Conservation Multi-focal area	Phase 1 (since 2011): Brazil, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Fiji, India, Malawi, Nepal, Slovakia and Turkey Phase 2 (since June 2013): Bhutan, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Kyrgyzstan, Indonesia, Mongolia Namibia, and Niger	Funded by the Japan Biodiversity Fund established within the CBD Secretariat Implemented by UNDP, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment of Japan, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), and the United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS).	• The COMDEKS Programme is currently implemented in 20 countries around the world, supporting innovations identified by the communities for biodiversity conservation, promotion of ecosystem services, agroecosystem management and strengthening of governance systems at the landscape level. Currently, the Programme is implemented in Bhutan, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Slovakia and Turkey. • During this reporting period, the COMDEKS Programme has supported local community activities in the twenty mentioned countries. Currently, there are one hundred and fortyone individual COMDEKS project proposals under implementation, fifty-three completed projects with additional projects in the pipeline (updated as of May 2015). • The COMDEKS Programme further continued to place a large emphasis on knowledge management activities and the collection and dissemination of lessons learned at the global and local levels.

						In particular, two comprehensive flagship publications were launched during two major global conferences: the Publication "Communities in Action for Landscape Resilience and Sustainability: The COMDEKS Programme" during CBD COP-12 in Korean in October 2014, and the launch of the "Toolkit for the Indicators of Resilience in Socio-ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes", during the World Parks Congress in Sydney, in November 2014. A COMDEKS Brochure was also developed during this reporting period. Additional key knowledge products include quarterly newsletters.
EU-NGO Strengthening Governance Project	Promote sustainable development and improved environmental management in target countries from two neighboring regions of the European Region through more effective civil society participation in environmental governance	EUR 3.5m	Capacity Development	Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Ukraine, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Lebanon, Moldova, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia;	Funded by the European Commission	The first phase, considered a pilot phase, focused on eight countries: Armenia, Belarus, and Ukraine in the Eastern region; and Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, the occupied Palestinian territory, and Tunisia in the Southern region. A second phase of the project has been launched in 2014 in five additional countries, three in the Eastern region – Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova – and two countries in the Southern region – Algeria and Morocco.

						During this reporting period the EU-NGOs Project has focused its activities on consolidating the project in the first phase countries, as well as launching the second phase of the project in the second phase countries. During this reporting period, project activities were concentrated on grantmaking and associated capacity building, training and exchanges in the selected countries. Considerable progress has been made, and currently there are 45 NGOs implementing individual projects funded by EU resources, with a number of additional projects in the pipeline.

Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) Programme	The goals of the programme which is active in the SIDS and Mekong and Asia Pacific countries are: i) To improve the adaptive capacity of communities, thereby to reduce vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change risks, ii) To provide countries with concrete groundlevel experience with local climate change adaptation, and iii) To provide clear policy lessons and mainstream with national processes and upscale practices across scale.	Total funding: USD 11.8m (for MAP countries: USD 5.5m and for SIDS countries: USD 6.3m)	Climate Change-Adaptation	**MAP Countries:** Cambodia, Sri Lanka Vietnam, and Laos, Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Timor Leste **SIDS Countries:** Cape Verde, Comoros, Mauritius, Maldives, Seychelles, Antigua & Bermuda, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, St. Kitts &Nevis, Dominica, Dominican	Funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of the Government of Australia	Overall, 44 full-size SIDS CBA projects and 9 SIDS CBA planning grants were approved in 2014. The Asia component of MAP CBA was fully committed in 2013. The total funding committed in projects across both projects (SIDS and MAP) is USD 4.3m in OP5 with 114 full-size projects that are ongoing or completed. The new SIDS and MAP projects addressed a range of thematic areas with agriculture and food security (18.75%), land degradation (11.25%), integrated coastal zone management (30%) and water resource management (40%) continuing to be the most prevalent programming area. Reporting on crosscutting themes such as gender (98% of projects addressed gender issues, with 45% led by women) and children and youth (66% engagement) also increased. Highlights of the year included SGP participation in various conferences: i) in preparation for the UN SIDS Conference, SGP provided support for CSO-Government dialogues.

				Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Lucia, St. Vincent & Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago.		These were designed to pave the way for agreements to be made for strengthened cooperation, partnerships and networking between CSOs, academia, private sector and media for post-conference tasks expected under the SIDS ACCELERATED MODALITIES OF ACTION [S.A.M.O.A.] Pathway. Successful examples include: In Saint Lucia, the first-ever National Coalition of Civil Society Organizations (NCCSOs) was established as a long-term structure to enhance the voices of over 40 CSOs and to enable continued capacity development; and ii) the 8th international CBA conference (CBA8; Kathmandu, Nepal) on Financing local adaptation.

		USD 4m	Climate		UN-REDD	As of mid-2015,

Communitybased REDD+ (CBR+)	CBR+ aims to catalyze REDD+ readiness from the ground up, bringing resources and capacity to communities, empowering them to engage in national REDD+ activities and pilot important REDD+ methodologies and approaches. Specifically, CBR+ will: • Activate community-based action and build capacities to improve equitability and effectiveness in the implementation of REDD+ readiness; • Support countries in implementing the Cancun safeguards and UN-REDD Guidelines and ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, civil society and marginalized groups such as women and the poor in REDD+; • Ensure critical links and improved coordination between community grants within the biodiversity, climate change and land degradation focal areas of the SGP and national REDD+ activities under the UN-REDD Programme, thereby multiplying potential impacts and results; • Support learning and sharing of lessons drawn from community-based experiences in support of REDD+.	(UN-REDD) USD 3.9m (SGP Co-financing)	Change and Sustainable Forest Management	Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Nigeria, DRC, Paraguay and Panama		Community-Based REDD+ (CBR+) is fully operational in the 6 pilot countries (i.e. Cambodia, DR Congo, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay and Sri Lanka). Each CBR+ National Steering Committee has formally approved their country's CBR+ Country Plan and those plans are already guiding the design and selection of the first set of CBR+ projects in each country. Along the way, extensive capacity-building has been provided to grassroots stakeholders, via workshops to raise awareness on REDD+ concepts and the CBR+ initiative, and to train communities and local civil society organizations to enhance capacities in project design, proposal writing and project management. In this sense, even before grants have been disbursed, the CBR+ initiative is achieving tangible benefits in terms of community-level capacitybuilding and learning, helping stakeholders understand REDD+ approaches and translate them into projects and activities. As of June 2015, over 150 CBR+ project proposals had been received in 5 of the 6 pilot countries, with this number constantly growing as the application window remains open in some countries. This volume of interest in CBR+ in the pilot countries exceeds original expectations and signals the value of this initiative, which reinvigorates the interest of grassroots stakeholders in national REDD+ efforts. It also

						indicates robust demand from communities
						for the type of support the

						The pilot countries are currently at varying stages of reviewing and shortlisting proposals, working with the best candidates to strengthen their project design and intended impacts, and in some cases disbursing the first rounds of CBR+ grants to successful applicants. Within 2015, it is expected that all of the pilot countries will have disbursed at least one round of grants. The UNREDD Programme and SGP will help the pilot countries assess the typologies of projects and capacitybuilding needs to ensure that lessons from these first rounds inform and enhance subsequent rounds and strengthen the overall initiative.