

SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme

A photograph showing two workers in a rural, mountainous area installing a large solar panel. One worker in a blue jacket is on the left, and another in a dark shirt and cap is on the right. They are leaning over the panel, which is mounted on a metal frame. In the background, there is a body of water, a small boat with a person, and rugged, brown mountains under a clear blue sky.

THE GEF SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME
Results Report 2022-2023

The Small Grants Programme

Results Report 2023

Introduction

The Small Grants Programme (SGP) has been providing financial and technical support to civil society and community-based organizations on innovative community-driven initiatives that address global environmental issues – such as biodiversity loss, climate change mitigation and adaptation, land degradation, international waters management, and chemicals and waste management – while improving livelihoods for over 30 years. The largest and longest standing corporate programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), SGP has been implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since its launch in 1992. During this time, SGP has constantly evolved and grown into a unique global delivery mechanism to scale up local actions that can develop and deliver solutions to multiple challenges.

Driven by evidence, as noted in this report, the active leadership of local communities to address these critical environmental problems holds the key to effective stewardship of the environment and sustainable development. Currently active in 127 countries, SGP plays a unique role in meeting the objectives of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In each participating country, SGP is facilitating close linkages and synergies with MEA-related policies and strategies, such as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), National Adaptation Plan (NAP), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and others, all of which emphasize the importance of engaging wider stakeholders, including civil society organizations (CSOs), local communities, and Indigenous Peoples.

SGP has evolved into a social inclusion platform, with a strong focus on empowering and improving the skills of women, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities. Besides its central role as an incubator and accelerator of community innovations, SGP also plays a key role in bringing together civil society, government, private sector, and others to promote systemic change from the community level. This was evidentially noted by several evaluations during the reporting period. For example, the Formative Evaluation of the Integration by UNDP of the principles of Leaving No One Behind acknowledged that SGP “has excelled at documenting success stories in reaching women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities in particular.”

SGP is preparing to expand in scope and scale in its upcoming eighth operational phase, focusing on diversification, innovation, and optimization, as well as on establishing wider partnerships and synergies with GEF agencies, donors and a diverse range of stakeholders for further impact.

Since its inception in 1992, SGP has implemented



28,675

PROJECTS



US\$795.29

TOTAL IN GRANTS,
GEF AND OTHER DONORS
(IN \$ MILLIONS)



US\$955.91

MOBILIZED IN CO-FINANCING
(IN \$ MILLIONS)



136

COUNTRIES



127

ACTIVE
COUNTRIES

Methodology

This report presents SGP's results for the period 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023, in alignment with the GEF reporting year. The results presented here are based on reporting by 124 SGP Country Programmes. A conservative methodological approach is used for results calculations, with an emphasis on 792 projects that were completed during the reporting period. This approach is consistent with SGP results reporting in the past years. Any ongoing progress from projects under implementation is not included, unless explicitly stated.





GEF Portfolio

1 JULY 2022- 30 JUNE 2023



GEF funding

ACTIVE PORTFOLIO OF GRANT PROJECTS



Combined portfolio

GEF AND OTHER PARTNERS, 1 JULY 2022- 30 JUNE 2023

1,179 NEW PROJECTS

2,209 ACTIVE PROJECTS

2,443 ACTIVE PROJECTS

792 COMPLETED PROJECTS

US\$76 GRANT PROJECT FUNDING (IN \$ MILLIONS)

US\$84 GRANT PROJECT FUNDING (IN \$ MILLIONS)

US\$82 GRANT PROJECT LEVEL CO-FINANCING (IN \$ MILLIONS)

US\$89 GRANT PROJECT LEVEL CO-FINANCING (IN \$ MILLIONS)

Geographic coverage



127 ACTIVE COUNTRIES



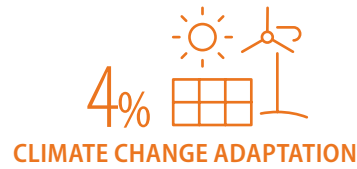
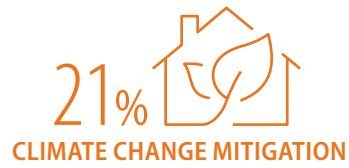
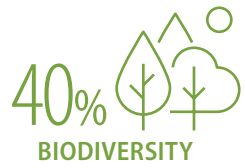
112 GLOBAL COUNTRY PROGRAMMES



15 UPGRADED COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) currently account for 63% of SGP global country programmes, covering 40 LDCs and 37 SIDS.

Focal area distribution¹



¹ Percentages in each focal area based on active portfolio as of 30 June, 2023

Progress Towards Focal area objectives

In alignment with the overall GEF programming, SGP focuses its efforts on targeted strategic initiatives that promote integrated approaches in addressing key global environmental issues by covering all GEF focal areas. Most SGP projects continue to have multiple benefits and integrated approaches with relevance to more than one focal area. However, for reporting purposes, projects were categorized under one primary focal area.



BIODIVERSITY

SGP's biodiversity focal area portfolio supported improvements in the management effectiveness of protected areas and in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes/seascapes and sectors. Support towards creation and management of Indigenous Peoples and Communities Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCAs) are a key part of SGP's biodiversity portfolio.



Spotlight on Morocco

In **Morocco**, the Research Group for the Protection of Birds in Morocco (*Groupe de Recherche pour la Protection des Oiseaux au Maroc*, or GREPOM, also known as Birdlife Morocco) implemented an ecotourism project in the Souss-Massa National Park (Parc National de Souss-Massa, or PNSM) in the south of the country through a collaboration with the National Agency for Water and Forests.

The PNSM is an internationally renowned protected area, recognized mainly for sheltering the bald ibis (*Geronticus eremita*), a globally endangered species. It faces strong human pressures that endanger its biodiversity and environmental resources. To address the challenges, the project has developed new income-generating activities focused on ecotourism, while contributing to the development and upgrading of the site to promote the nesting of waterbirds. Ornithology and birdwatching have proven promising for the development of ecotourism in the park. To attract more birdwatchers and other nature enthusiasts, a feasibility study conducted by GREPOM identified the necessary facilities to increase the visibility of birds, enhance the site's attractiveness, and promote successful bird breeding.

A breeding islet of approximately 400 m² was rehabilitated, providing an ideal environment for the reproduction of waterbirds. The initiative proved successful, with the nesting of at least 15 pairs of Kentish plover at the islet, which had not been observed there before and resulted in around 50 new individuals. To offer visitors the best birdwatching experiences while minimizing disturbances to the birds, the project set up 10 perches and developed a five km ecotourism circuit around the Ramsar site of Souss-Massa. This circuit allows visitors to observe a diverse range of waterbirds, including flamingos, Eurasian spoonbills, marbled teal, great cormorants, common cranes, ducks, and bald ibis – the last viable wild population of which is found in the PNSM.

Furthermore, the project invested in the improvement of infrastructure, including maintaining the parking area, installing shade houses along the tourist routes, and creating a cafeteria near the eco-museum. The installation of signage helped guide visitors and provided valuable information on the different areas of the site. Additionally, 13 people were trained as tour guides, including members of the local community to support conservation and awareness raising on the importance of the habitat.





CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

The climate change mitigation focal area portfolio supported low-carbon energy transformation at the community level through the introduction of low greenhouse gas (GHG) technologies, with proven environmental and economic co-benefits contributing to multiple SDGs and improved livelihoods.

Results

205

PROJECTS COMPLETED
THIS YEAR

46,808

HOUSEHOLDS SUPPORTED
WITH ENERGY ACCESS
CO-BENEFITS

90

TYPOLOGIES OF ENERGY ACCESS
SOLUTIONS WITH SUCCESSFUL
DEMONSTRATIONS OR SCALING UP
AND REPLICATION

38

COUNTRY PROGRAMMES THAT
ADDRESSED COMMUNITY-LEVEL
BARRIERS TO DEPLOYMENT
OF LOW-GHG TECHNOLOGIES

Spotlight on Belize

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

As a result of these different activities, 30 tonnes of CO₂ emissions were avoided through the installation of solar photovoltaics in 65 homes, two primary schools, and two small businesses. In total, 284 Indigenous People directly benefited from solar photovoltaic installations, while 18 Indigenous leaders



SGP Belize

improved their skills and capacity to deliver local solutions and effectively advocate for energy access policies. Additionally, 15 staff members of the Ministry of Rural Transformation received basic training on solar photovoltaics. These officers are now equipped to support the delivery of solar photovoltaics to other rural and remote communities lacking electricity. Health and sanitation outcomes in both communities also improved due to enhanced access to electricity. A video documentary was produced, enhancing public awareness and recognition of the project's success. The project's achievements align with Belize's Sustainable Energy Roadmap 2030 outcomes and targets, reinforcing the nation's commitment to sustainable energy solutions and environmental stewardship.



SUSTAINABLE LAND AND FOREST MANAGEMENT

The land degradation focal area portfolio supported the restoration and prevention of land degradation and promoted sustainable land and forest management. Activities targeted rural communities, which are highly dependent on agroecosystems and forest ecosystems for their livelihoods. On sustainable forest management, during the reporting year, SGP projects focused on sustainable land use, land-use change, and forestry management to ensure connectivity between ecosystems and restorative activities. The projects have also supported activities to decrease pressure on forest resources.

Results

138

PROJECTS COMPLETED
THIS YEAR

105,855

COMMUNITY MEMBERS
DEMONSTRATING IMPROVED
AGRICULTURAL, LAND AND WATER
MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

34,831

HECTARES OF LAND UNDER
IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL,
LAND AND WATER
MANAGEMENT

4,017

FARMER LEADERS
INVOLVED IN SUCCESSFUL
DEMONSTRATIONS OF
AGROECOLOGICAL PRACTICES

262

FARMER ORGANIZATIONS, GROUPS
OR NETWORKS DISSEMINATING
IMPROVED CLIMATE-SMART
AGROECOLOGICAL PRACTICES

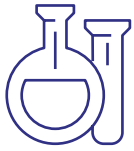
Spotlight on Malaysia

In **Malaysia**, the Lun Bawang Indigenous community living in the Long Semadoh Valley in the Maligan Highlands of Lawas, Sarawak, faced various environmental challenges, including the threat of losing their heirloom crops, land degradation, and biodiversity loss due to the lack of economic opportunities in the villages. Langit Collective, a local organization connecting smallholder farmers with urban markets, completed a project that addressed these issues by promoting sustainable farming practices, conserving the farmland and environment, preserving traditional knowledge and culture, and adding value to farmers' produce. To achieve these goals, the community worked towards organic certification and combined sustainable farming practices with their traditional knowledge.

The project achieved several significant milestones, including the production of a guidebook in English and Bahasa Malaysia documenting the best farming practices developed by farmers over the past four years. The introduction of BD500, a natural soil enhancer, to 21 acres of paddy fields belonging to 12 farmers, resulted in an estimated increase of 10-15 percent in yield. A MyOrganic certification workshop was conducted, which assisted 56 farmers in understanding organic practices. Additionally, Langit Collective led a cohort of villagers through the process of setting up their own agribusiness enterprise, utilizing excess produce to create value-added products. The establishment of a community milling and packaging facility significantly reduced farmers' workload, with a winnowing machine capable of processing 300kg of rice per



day, instead of in two weeks. Furthermore, the installation of a five kW solar system reduced diesel consumption from generators, providing financial savings of up to RM 300 (US\$66) per month.



CHEMICALS AND WASTE

The chemicals and waste management focal area portfolio supports control and reduction of the use of harmful chemicals. SGP's efforts focused on the sound management of hazardous chemicals and waste, including persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and mercury, to minimize adverse effects on human health and the global environment. There is a growing need among local communities to address issues related to waste management initiatives, including plastics and e-waste.

Results

45

PROJECTS COMPLETED
THIS YEAR (INCLUDING
MERCURY PROJECTS)

177,689

KILOGRAMS OF PESTICIDES
AVOIDED, REDUCED
OR PREVENTED

73,515

KILOGRAMS OF HARMFUL
CHEMICALS AVOIDED FROM
UTILIZATION OR RELEASE

27

NATIONAL COALITIONS AND
NETWORKS ON CHEMICALS
AND WASTE MANAGEMENT
ESTABLISHED OR STRENGTHENED

3

MERCURY
MANAGEMENT
PROJECTS
COMPLETED



Spotlight on Maldives

In the **Maldives**, a women-led project completed by the Maldives Authentic Crafts Cooperative Society aimed to conserve the environment by reducing the use of single-use plastic bags and advocating for their banning through a pilot initiative. The project focused on raising awareness about the harmful impacts of single-use plastics and introducing potential alternatives to these bags. One of the key achievements of the project was its direct contribution to changing national policy on single-use plastics, through effective advocacy and knowledge sharing. The Society was represented on the government's committee that planned and developed the phase-out plan, leading to a ban on the import, production, and sale of 10 single-use plastic items, as well as the implementation of levies on single-use plastic shopping bags. The implementation of the phase-out plan resulted in a significant reduction of plastic pollution in the country, with reports indicating that the number of plastic bags imported halved in 2022, compared to the previous year.

As a result of the project, participants and their local communities increased their awareness about single-use plastics. More than 3,000 reusable cloth bags were distributed to households and shops, and shoppers who used reusable bags after registering with the Plastic Noon Gotheh Rewards App received free mobile data and price discounts. By providing reusable bags and encouraging their use, the project replaced at least 5,000 plastic shopping bags with eco-friendly alternatives. Moreover, it empowered women by providing them with paid opportunities to produce reusable cloth bags, directly benefiting at least 20 women.



INTERNATIONAL WATERS

The international waters focal area supported the sustainable management of transboundary waterbodies through community-based activities. SGP continued to develop and demonstrate effective community-based actions and practices in support of the Strategic Action Plans (SAPs) that were developed among countries sharing the transboundary waterbodies, including river basins, large marine ecosystems, and others. It is important to note that, in addition to the international waters focal area portfolio, many of the marine, coastal, and freshwater management projects supported by SGP are often categorized under the biodiversity focal area as their primary focal area, with strong benefits towards transboundary waterbodies.

Results

24

PROJECTS COMPLETED
THIS YEAR

59,449

HECTARES OF SEASCAPES
SUSTAINABLY MANAGED

100,048

HECTARES OF MARINE, COASTAL
AREAS OR FISHING GROUNDS
SUSTAINABLY MANAGED

40

TONNES OF LAND-BASED
POLLUTION REDUCED/
PREVENTED FROM
ENTERING WATER BODIES

22

SEASCAPES/INLAND
FRESHWATER
LANDSCAPES
SUPPORTED

Spotlight on Viet Nam

In **Viet Nam**, the Youth Union of Thua Thien Hue province led a project promoting youth participation in activities contributing to the protection of the Tam Giang lagoon. The project organized seminars focusing on topics such as environmental protection and combating plastic waste. It also provided eight training courses on waste separation and the application of microorganisms for the treatment of organic waste in households. More than 300 officials and youth union members participated in a cultural exchange programme entitled Green Space – Green Vitality, while 100 youth members engaged in the Golden Bell Ringing Contest, promoting awareness under the slogan “Say no to plastic bags and single-use plastic products”. The project also included a Recycling Plastic Scrap contest, demonstrating the community’s commitment to finding practical solutions to manage plastic waste. In addition, the project launched the Green Sunday initiative, mobilizing nearly 15,000 officials, youth union members, and local residents for regular clean-up activities in the communities, with a 46 percent female participation rate. In addition, young fishermen actively advocated for waste reduction and raised awareness among their colleagues and tourists about the importance of not discharging plastic and other waste into the ocean through the Living Green for the Community club. The project’s impact was shared with other coastal provinces, inspiring other fishermen to join in the commitment to protect the ocean from plastic pollution.





CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

SGP provides support to enhance and strengthen the capacity of communities and civil society organizations to address global environmental challenges. Community-level capacity development activities have been supported since OP5, in alignment with the GEF focal area strategies.

Results

42

PROJECTS COMPLETED
THIS YEAR

508

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS WITH
DEVELOPED OR IMPROVED CAPACITIES

390

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS
WITH DEVELOPED OR IMPROVED
CAPACITIES



Spotlight on Guatemala

In **Guatemala**, a project implemented by *Comunidades de la Tierra* strengthened the capacity of 15 micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) led by women, supporting over 400 artisans. The project sought to enhance the competitiveness of these rural MSMEs by improving their business management and marketing skills to sell their products in national and international markets. The project also sought to increase their income in the short term and facilitate their access to digital platforms for increased visibility and market reach.

The project conducted a thorough assessment of the needs of the 15 MSMEs, resulting in a personalized training plan which focused on technical, administrative, and financial skills development. Additionally, it provided guidance in selecting suitable electronic markets, payment platforms, and e-commerce channels, tailored to the specific needs of each enterprise. The project also provided workshops on product design and packaging, and training on how to tailor products for online marketing, ensuring alignment with their productive and technical capacities. A total of 12 workshops and 24 design sessions were conducted, leading to the development of more than three new products by the MSMEs, which were successfully introduced to various digital platforms.





Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals





Grantmakers plus and cross-cutting approaches

Social inclusion

During the reporting period, SGP continued to undertake targeted efforts to support greater social inclusion of marginalized groups, including women, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities.



43% PROJECTS WERE LED BY WOMEN OR WOMEN'S GROUPS



28% PROJECTS ENGAGING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES



90% COUNTRIES WITH A GENDER FOCAL POINT ON THE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEES



41% COUNTRIES WITH AN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FOCAL POINT ON THE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE



81% GENDER RESPONSIVE PROJECTS



1,928 INDIGENOUS LEADERS WITH STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES



97 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES



77% COUNTRIES WITH A YOUTH FOCAL POINT ON THE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEES



SGP Lesotho

In **Lesotho**, a project completed by the civil society organization Technologies for Economic Development supported nature-based enterprises led by women. The project identified five districts – Maseru, Mafeteng, Quthing, Botha Bothe, and Qacha's Nek – as prime locations for honey production. To maximize the production potential in these hotspots, preparations are currently underway to set up fully equipped honey collection hubs in three strategic locations among the selected districts. The project trained 44 people in beekeeping, including 37 women, seven men, and 31 youth. As a result, over 200 hives and 50 trap boxes were produced and distributed among trainees to stimulate business growth. The introduction of the top bar beehive as an affordable option has shown promise in addressing challenges faced by traditional hives, offering valuable insights for future beekeeping policy development.

The interest and potential for this activity in Lesotho is evolving, as country-wide consultations and national dialogues on beekeeping continue to take place. The formation of district networks and committees, with the ultimate goal of establishing a national beekeepers association is also progressing. The project has ignited a strong interest in beekeeping, particularly among women, as well as in members of the security sector, and even Her Majesty the Queen, who sees beekeeping as a significant employment opportunity for women and girls in the country. Moreover, collaboration with Caritas Lesotho, a Catholic development and relief arm in Lesotho, has resulted in the establishment of a financing mechanism that improves access to finance for women involved in beekeeping and small businesses related to wool and mohair products, enabling at least 12 women entrepreneurs to access loans and expand their businesses. The project has also facilitated networking and capacity building among beekeepers, with 11 farmers from the targeted districts participating in the 2023 Africa Regional Beekeeping Symposium, where they received more than seven awards for their contributions to the sector. The project is also testing local honey products in collaboration with local universities to ensure quality and market readiness.

In **Algeria**, the Inter-Wilayas Youth LED Algeria Association completed a project to enhance the capacities of 25 young individuals and community actors leading green initiatives to reduce the impact of plastic waste in urban areas across the wilayas of Mila, Algiers, Béjaïa, Boumerdes, and Tizi Ouzou. The project succeeded in empowering 270 local actors in various ways. The project held multiple meetings with the National Waste Agency, Mila University's House of Entrepreneurship, and other civil society actors to foster collaborative relationships with public authorities, local associations, student clubs, and local recycling companies. A series of trainings and workshops mobilized over 115 young women and men to tackle plastic pollution, and launch their own start-ups focused on recycling and circular economy activities. Through this training, they learned about drafting business models and plans tailored to circular economy activities.



SGP Algeria



Furthermore, the participants had the opportunity to attend the REVADE National Waste Fair in October 2022, where they interacted with high-ranking state officials, including the Minister of Commerce and the Environment. Additionally, the project organized a circular economy study day in collaboration with Mila University and public institutions to encourage entrepreneurship, which allowed three waste recycling project leaders to receive support for their entrepreneurial endeavors through collaborations with the National Waste Agency.

In **Panama**, the Panamanian Foundation for Sustainable Tourism completed a project that strengthened the capacity of community tourism organizations in the Naso region by implementing various structural improvements, acquiring necessary equipment, and promoting community-led eco and cultural tourism. The project provided comprehensive training to the Indigenous community of the Naso Comarca, covering cross-cutting issues related to tourism services, entrepreneurship, community connections, financing and gender. The training not only enhanced the community members' skills, but also facilitated community exchanges outside their regular areas, allowing them to strengthen their technical capacities and gain new insights, particularly in permaculture and food security.

By supporting tourism companies and Indigenous Peoples through the Sustainable Network of Rural and Community Tourism in Panama, the project created new sources of employment, integrated local culture and knowledge into tourism activities, and contributed to the region's sustainable development. The project benefited 600 Indigenous Peoples

in total, including 390 women. One of its outcomes was that the Panama Tourism Authority increased its support for tourism in the Naso Comarca, recognizing it as a model for Indigenous tourism and further contributing to its growth and development.

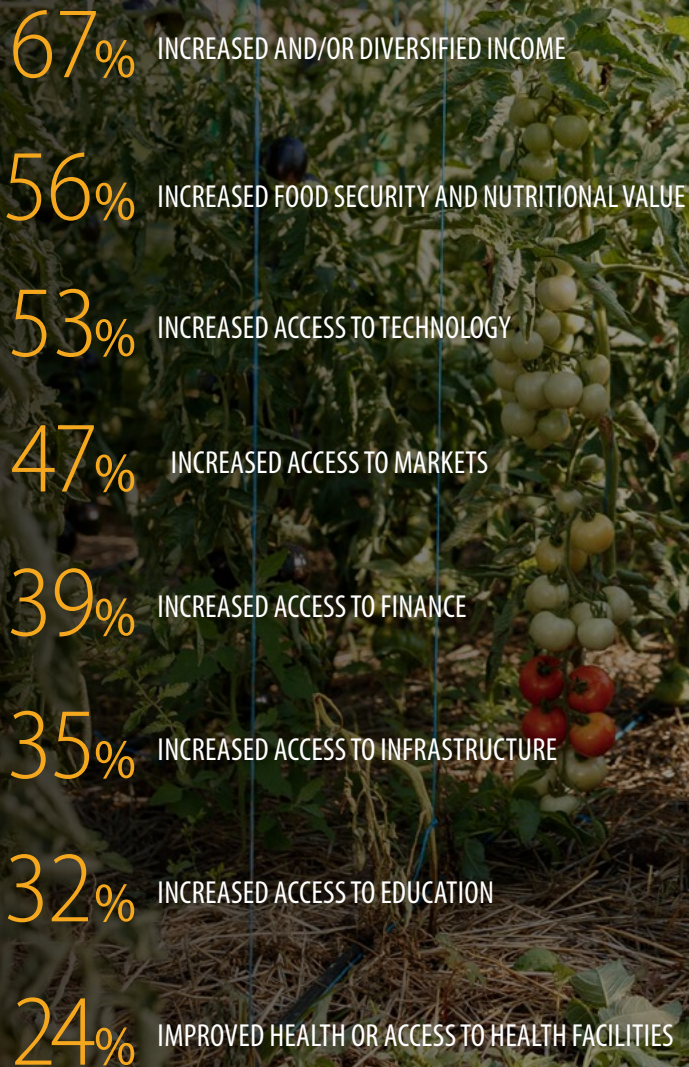
In **Bhutan**, Zhenphen Group, a community-based organization comprised of persons with disabilities (PwDs), completed a project to create an inclusive and accessible environment for PwDs within Bhutan's Royal Botanical Garden (RBG), in collaboration with the National Biodiversity Centre. Focused on addressing the lack of inclusive nature gardens with proper accessibility, facilities, and information for PwDs, the project highlighted the importance of connecting PwDs with nature for their overall well-being. It also contributed to the global Nature for All movement by ensuring that nature gardens are accessible to everyone.

By actively involving over 15 PwDs in all stages of project planning and implementation, the project transformed the RBG into a welcoming space for PwDs with disabled-friendly footpaths and restrooms. It also installed interpretation boards to enhance visitors' understanding of the garden's diverse flora and fauna. Moreover, the project fostered environmental awareness among PwDs, engaging them in bird-watching programs as part of a citizen science effort, offering GPS training, and producing informative videos that emphasized the significance of nature for PwDs. Project participants also engaged in events like White Cane Day and International Disability Day, and used these event as opportunities to advocate for the rights of PwDs.



Livelihoods and sustainability

Improving livelihoods is a core strategy of SGP, as it is recognized as a direct incentive for and benefit of improved and sustainable management of natural resources, including land, forest, and water, which generate global environmental benefits. It also often reduces pressure on the environment and natural resources.





Broader adoption Scaling up and replication

SGP encourages replication and scaling up of good results and measures that have a strong impact, including influencing relevant policies at the national, regional, and global levels. This takes place at grantee levels and portfolio levels, both within and across countries.

135 PROJECTS REPLICATED OR SCALED UP

105 PROJECTS INFLUENCED POLICY THROUGH THEIR ACTIVITIES

SGP broader adoption approaches



62% CONNECTED GRANTEEES WITH NGOs/INGOs



69% STRENGTHENED GRANTEE NETWORKS



60% CONNECTED GRANTEEES WITH GOVERNMENT SERVICES



68% ORGANIZED TRAINING WITHIN PROJECT GRANTS ON SPECIFIC TECHNICAL ISSUES



52% CONNECTED GRANTEEES WITH THE ACADEMIA OR RESEARCH CENTERS



66% PROMOTED PEER-TO-PEER EXCHANGES



43% CONNECTED GRANTEEES WITH DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES/PRACTITIONERS



66% ORGANIZED TRAINING FOR SGP GRANTEEES ON DIFFERENT SUBJECTS TO IMPROVE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION



37% CONNECTED GRANTEEES WITH PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES



In the **Seychelles**, the Seychelles Farmers Association completed a project entitled Round-the-Clock Food Production, achieving sustainable agro-ecological farming on Praslin Island. By providing suitable water storage infrastructure and implementing advanced irrigation systems, the project effectively optimized the utilization of water resources for smallholder farmers. Farmers utilized efficient drip irrigation systems that maintained soil moisture for extended durations, enhancing the farms' productivity. The project also introduced shade houses as a climate-smart technique to improve productivity. This strategy bolstered the sustainable production of agriculture products throughout the year on Praslin, meeting the growing local demand. The project also established a planning and dialogue platform to bring together government and civil society. This platform enabled project leaders to share their accomplishments and findings with relevant departments and partners, subsequently opening doors for additional support and opportunities. The project's positive impact was acknowledged by the farmers, who reported increased yields through multiple harvests in a single production year, and better product quality facilitated by enhanced pest control measures. No crop losses were reported due to adverse weather conditions, such as floods or droughts.

As a result, 50 percent of the beneficiaries chose to invest in additional shade houses, aiming to further increase their yield and income during the forthcoming planting season. The number of shade houses expanded from an initial six to 16 units by the time of reporting. The project has been upscaled to expand its reach to more farmers across all three main islands of Seychelles, engaging more youth and women in the process. In closing the project, the Minister for Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment pledged to further support the farmers on the island, and the project has been included as part of the government's strategic plan to be replicated in the coming years.



In **Kenya**, the Baringo County Conservancies Association (BCCA) implemented a project promoting the conservation, sustainable development and strengthening of the governance structures in Baringo County, in the western centre of the country. Comprising 13 community-owned wildlife conservancies, the BCCA functions as a regional landscape institution, facilitating collaborative efforts for biodiversity conservation and livelihood enhancement. BCCA operates under the stewardship of 15 elected members, each serving as a representative of conservancies selected equitably from three diverse landscapes. This balanced representation ensures comprehensive inclusivity in decision-making processes.

SGP supported capacity building of the BCCA board and staff on governance, management and strategic advocacy, which enabled their effective participation in national consultations. With support from SGP,



SGP Colombia/Leonardo Parra

the Baringo County Government and the BCCA signed a memorandum of understanding to facilitate collaboration on environmental conservation and sustainable livelihood development for communities in the county. In addition, BCCA has successfully influenced key policy developments in the region through strategic engagement. One of the project's achievements is the passage of the Baringo County Conservancies Bill, which has gained approval in the County Parliament and is poised to become law. This bill is instrumental in directing county funds towards the establishment, governance, and management of community wildlife conservancies. In addition, by gathering input from its extensive membership across 13 conservancies, the BCCA contributed to the formulation of the Baringo Climate Change Act of 2022, which was subsequently enacted by the Baringo County Government in 2022. Furthermore, BCCA's influence extended to the five-year County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP), which included community wildlife conservancy-related matters thanks to strategic lobbying and advocacy efforts by BCCA.

In **Colombia**, the Center for Intercultural Medical Studies (*Centro de Estudios Médicos Interculturales*, or CEMI) implemented a project to support and strengthen the TICCA Colombia Network, a platform to raise awareness and advocate for the national recognition, protection, and support of ICCAs in the country.

The project established the Peer Tutoring Programme, which promotes training, collaboration, and exchange of experiences between leaders and community organizations as a way of generating and strengthening knowledge and local capacities, and of developing joint initiatives for action among community organizations. The Peer Tutoring Programme is a verification mechanism that takes place prior to the international ICCA registration process. The project provided support to the Network's growth, including aiding 10 communities in registering with the ICCA Registry database and the World Database on Protected Areas.

A pivotal aspect of the project was consolidating an inclusive database of potential ICCAs in Colombia, thus expanding the reach of the Network's influence. A comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the ICCA initiative was conducted at both national and international levels, contributing to informed decision-making. Communication and knowledge materials were produced to systematically document the progress and outcomes of the Network's work plan. These products are being disseminated through various prioritized media channels, ensuring their accessibility to the Network's members, community organizations, NGOs and government, while raising awareness of the ICCA initiative across diverse communities, including Indigenous, afro-descendant, rural communities, and other interested institutions at the local and regional levels. This will contribute to the recognition, support, and strengthening of ICCAs throughout the country.

The strengthening of the TICCA Colombia Network also enabled the establishment of alliances and fostered active participation in the International ICCA Consortium and the Latin American ICCA Network, providing valuable insights to the global deliberation of the ICCA Consortium and the participation in the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 15) in December 2022. The TICCA Colombia Network has engaged in profound discussions, such as the correlation between ICCA Initiative and Other Effective Area-Based Measures (OECMs) which continue to receive support from GEF SGP at the local and national levels.

In **Senegal**, a project conducted by RENOPE contributed to dialogues on policies for the management of coastal marine resources in Senegal, **Guinea-Bissau**, and **Cabo Verde**. The project aimed to foster enhanced policy discussions concerning the conservation, management, and sustainable utilization of coastal marine resources. Workshops and dialogues were conducted on several key aspects, including reinforcing the application of legal frameworks for resource conservation, bolstering the capacity of small-scale fishing fleets, implementing participatory monitoring mechanisms, and harmonizing the legal and institutional frameworks of the involved countries. Furthermore, the project emphasized the importance of clean technologies in resource management and promoting environmentally friendly practices. Through collaborative efforts, the project generated an advocacy report that encapsulated the insights and recommendations generated during these exchanges.

The project served as a catalyst for informed and collaborative policy discussions, ensuring the engagement of a variety of stakeholders, from local communities to governmental institutions, in shaping sustainable strategies for the management of marine and coastal resources in the targeted countries.

CSO-Government Dialogues

CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogues work to ensure community voices and participation are promoted and enhanced in the global and national policy processes related to global environment and sustainable development issues. SGP has strengthened its role as a CSO-led multi-stakeholder platform by working closely with governments and different civil society actors. These platforms also provide opportunities to discuss possible shifts in relevant policies and practices, as well as encourage strong partnerships with different stakeholders to scale up and commercialize successful community projects.



31%

OF REPORTING COUNTRY PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED CSO-GOVERNMENT DIALOGUES, INVOLVING 4,579 REPRESENTATIVES FROM CIVIL SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS.



SGP Lesotho

South-South Exchange

South-South Cooperation is another key initiative to improve knowledge exchange and technology transfer among countries and regions in the south. This community innovation exchange platform is one of SGP's key initiatives with the goal of promoting exchange among SGP countries for supporting cross-regional synergies and sharing of good practices. The overall aim is to produce high-impact results and enable broader adoption of innovations and practices developed by SGP grantees, civil society, and other key stakeholders.



OF REPORTING PROGRAMMES FACILITATED 54 SOUTH-SOUTH EXCHANGES THAT SUPPORTED THE TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE ON NEW INNOVATIONS BETWEEN COMMUNITIES, CSOS, AND OTHER PARTNERS ACROSS COUNTRIES.

24%

Knowledge and communications



3,339 PROJECT CASE STUDIES, BROCHURES, PUBLICATIONS, AND VIDEOS PRODUCED



2,499 LOCAL MEDIA MENTIONS



1,169 TRAINING SESSIONS CONDUCTED



35 AWARD WINNING PROJECTS

Monitoring and evaluation



1,712 PROJECTS (70% OF ACTIVE PORTFOLIO) WERE VISITED TO TRACK PROGRESS



1,396 MONITORING AND EVALUATION VISITS WERE CONDUCTED



Partnerships

SGP fosters partnerships across a wide spectrum of stakeholders to broaden the scope of the programme and to scale up and replicate successful SGP initiatives. The finance mobilized through these partnerships serve as co-finance to GEF resources. The synergies created by the collaborations are critical to the wider impact of grant activities.

During the reporting period, several new partnerships have been established and matured with significant additional resources for which the SGP serves as the delivery platform, including the fourth phase of the Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS), funded by the Ministry of Environment Japan and the Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund, and the Plastic Waste Management & Behaviour Change Programme with Rare's Center for Behaviour and the Environment.

Ongoing global partnerships continued to progress, including the third phase of the Community-Based Adaptation Programme, funded by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT); the second phase of the Global Support Initiative for Indigenous Peoples and Community-Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCA-GSI), funded by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Government of Germany; SOS-SAHEL focused on agro-ecology in the Sahel region; and the FAO-Mountain Partnership on enhancing agri-food value chains to increase the resilience of mountain communities.

During the reporting period, SGP's partnership with the MAVA Foundation, as well as the partnership with Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) and the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), were successfully concluded.

Supported by:



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation,
Building and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the German Bundestag



SGP

The GEF
Small Grants
Programme

The Small Grants Programme (SGP) is a corporate programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Established in 1992, SGP is currently active in 127 countries and promotes community-based innovation, capacity development, and empowerment through sustainable development projects of local civil society organizations with special consideration for Indigenous Peoples, women, and youth. SGP has supported over 28,000 community-based projects on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable land management, conservation of international waters, and chemicals and waste management, while generating sustainable livelihoods.



The GEF is a family of funds dedicated to confronting biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, and strains on land and ocean health. Its grants, blended financing, and policy support helps developing countries address their biggest environmental priorities and adhere to international environmental conventions. Over the past three decades, the GEF has provided more than \$22 billion and mobilized \$120 billion in co-financing for more than 5,000 national and regional projects.
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SGP

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