





ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT REPORTING YEAR 2023-2024

INTRODUCTION

Launched in 1992, for the past thirty years, the GEF 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, and chemicals and waste management – while improving livelihoods. SGP has constantly evolved and grown into a unique global delivery mechanism to scale up local actions that can develop and deliver solutions to these multiple challenges. Driven by evidence, as noted in this report, the active participation of local communities in dealing with critical environmental problems holds the key to promoting effective stewardship of the environment and sustainable development. SGP plays a unique role in meeting the objectives of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and contributing 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 Action Plan (NAP), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), and others, all of which emphasize the importance of engaging wider stakeholders including CSOs, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples to achieve the objectives.

Over the years, SGP has matured as 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 to achieve the relevant MEAs' objectives and Sustainable Development Goals. This was evidentially noted by various evaluations by GEF and UNDP during the reporting period. Specifically, the Evaluation of Community Based Approaches (CBA) at the GEF acknowledged that "SGP has a long history of supporting CBAs and is a built-in resource and mechanism for identifying bottom-up initiatives with a track record of implementation success and existing capacity." It also indicated that "the success of these (GEF) projects—particularly SGP initiatives—shows the potential impact of larger investments and provides a dedicated window to respond to funding requests from IPLCs." According to the Evaluation of UNDP Support to Ecosystem Management and Biodiversity Conservation, "the organization's (UNDP's) support through the SGP has made a significant contribution to local financing and was an important mechanism for building awareness of the capacity of Indigenous and local institutions, and threats in government and private sector processes."

Methodology of this report: This report covers the reporting period from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024, in alignment with the GEF reporting year. The results presented in this report are based on reporting by 115 SGP country programmes. A conservative methodological approach is used for results calculations with an emphasis on 953 GEF-funded projects that were completed during the reporting period. This approach is consistent with SGP results generation in the past years. Any ongoing progress from projects under implementation is not included unless explicitly stated.

Annual Portfolio Overview

During the reporting year, July 1st, 2023 – June 30th, 2024 (FY24), a total of 1,000 new projects were approved for grant funding representing a total amount of USD 34.2 million in both GEF and non-GEF funding. Of these, 887 new projects with a total amount of USD 30.2 million were supported by GEF funding. The total number of grant projects under implementation during FY24 is 2,351 projects, with a total grant value of USD 88.3 million and a total co-financing value of USD 81.2 million. Of these, the active portfolio funded by GEF finance is 2,123 projects with a value of USD 80.3 million, leveraging USD 73.6 million in co-finance. The remaining projects are supported by co-financing sources including the AusAid CBA, ICCA-GSI, and others. During the reporting year, 953 GEF-funded projects were completed, in addition to projects under implementation during the reporting period, as noted in the paragraph above. Since inception, the cumulative total of SGP-supported projects has now reached a total of 29,744 projects with a total GEF and other donor funds of \$838.0 million. In addition, over \$990.5 million have been mobilized to co-finance these community based SGP projects. Of these, cash co-financing constituted a total of \$434.6 million and was mobilized from multilateral and bilateral donors, foundations, NGOs, and other partners at the country level (refer to Annex II).

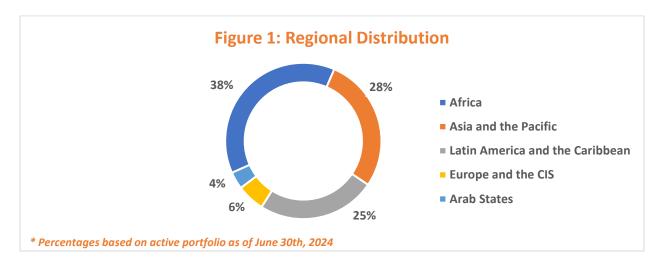
In terms of **country coverage**, SGP is operational in 127 countries, with 112 countries supported by the SGP Global Programme and 15 supported under the SGP Upgraded Country Programmes (UCP). Under OP7, Malaysia transitioned to UCP status; Eswatini, Bangladesh, and Gabon have joined as new country programmes under the SGP Global Programme to date; Pakistan Country Programme was financially closed. Least developed countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) currently account for 62% of SGP Global country programmes, with support provided to CSOs in 39 LDCs and 37 SIDS.

Table 1: SGP COUNTRY COVERAGE, 1992-2024

Category of SGP countries	Names	Number
Country coverage of SGP Global Programme	Included in Annex I	112
Countries Upgraded in OP5 and funded through separate FSPs	Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, India, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines	9
Countries Upgraded in OP6 and funded through separate FSPs	Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Peru, Sri Lanka, Thailand	6
Countries Upgraded in OP7 and funded through separate FSPs	Malaysia	1
Country programmes closed	Poland, Lithuania, Chile, Bulgaria, Romania, Syria, Slovakia, Nicaragua, Pakistan	9
Country programmes started* in OP7	Eswatini, Bangladesh, Gabon	3
Status as of June 30, 2024	(Excluding country programmes closed)	127

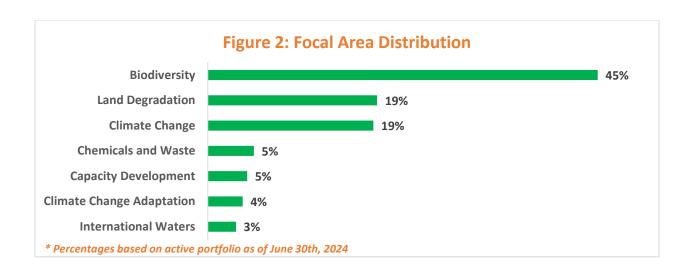
^{*} Started is defined as recruitment of the National Coordinator, setting up Country Programme Office, establishment of National Steering Committee, and inception stage information sharing and capacity development activities with country stakeholders

In terms of **regional distribution** of the SGP's portfolio of active projects over the reporting period (as noted in Figure 1 below), Africa had the largest share of grant funds at 38%, followed by Asia/Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean at 28% and 25%, respectively. Europe and the CIS accounted for 6% of the active projects' portfolio, and the Arab States comprised 4%. The different distribution by region is largely due to the number of countries within a given region (i.e., Africa region has the largest number of countries) and the STAR allocation by countries. Please refer to the tables in Annex II for more details on the regional and country distribution.



With regards to **focal area distribution** of all SGP grant projects under implementation (as noted in Figure 2 below), Biodiversity continued to have the largest share of the portfolio (45%) as the primary focal area, followed by Climate Change Mitigation and Land Degradation, each comprising 19%. International Waters accounted for 3%, Chemicals and Waste accounted for 5%, and projects with a primary focus on Capacity Development comprised 5% of SGP's portfolio. Climate Change Adaptation activities which are cofinanced by the Government of Australia (DFAT), accounted for 4% of all ongoing projects.

As noted by many evaluations, all results reflect an overarching landscape approach -- towards more systematic and purposeful innovation, whereby CBOs, through a participatory process, identify potential innovations (as projects) in relation to landscape outcomes and analyze the social, economic, and ecological vulnerabilities and potential resilience enhancing strategies at landscape level, as well as consciously identify the indicators of success regarding the innovation. The experience and knowledge generated is further disseminated through landscape networks and the SGP global network. Here, it is important to note that most SGP projects continue to have multiple benefits with relevance to more than one focal area. For better tracking of portfolio data, however, projects were categorized under one focal area identified as the primary focus which is what the data is reflective of.



PROGRESS TOWARDS GEF-7 CORE INDICATORS

In GEF-7, the SGP places greater emphasis on promoting strategic and results-based investments at the local level, in alignment with GEF-7 Focal Area Strategies and Impact Programs. In this context, the SGP has aligned its results framework with the GEF-7 results framework, by applying the relevant Core Indicators and Sub-Indicators as agreed with the GEF Secretariat and in line with the agreed guidelines as outlined in ME/GN/01: Guidelines on Core Indicators and Sub-Indicators.

Performance Results: During the reporting period, SGP supported 538,217 hectares of marine protected areas with improved management effectiveness and restored 55,180 hectares of degraded agricultural lands. 2,083,991 hectares of landscapes were under improved management to benefit biodiversity; 150,042 hectares of landscapes were under sustainable land management in production systems; and 1,599,679 hectares of marine habitat were supported with improved practices to benefit biodiversity. In total, 706,915 beneficiaries directly benefited from SGP intervention, with a majority of 375,125 being female.

SGP RESULTS ON GEF-7 CORE INDICATORS* FOR 2023-2024

Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness (hectares)	538,217
Area of degraded agricultural lands restored (hectares)	55,180
Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares)	2,083,991
Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (hectares)	150,042
Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (hectares, excluding protected areas)	1,599,679
Number of direct beneficiaries as co-benefit of SGP intervention	706,915
Number of females	375,125
Number of males	331,790

PROGRESS TOWARDS FOCAL AREA OBJECTIVES

Biodiversity Results

SGP's biodiversity focal area portfolio supported improvements in the management effectiveness of protected areas and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes/seascapes and sectors.

Performance Results: With 344 biodiversity projects completed during the reporting year, SGP has positively influenced, both directly and indirectly, 102 protected areas and 70 Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs), covering a total of 3.9 million hectares. 154 target landscapes/seascapes were under improved community-based conservation and sustainable use. SGP also helped to maintain or improve the conservation status of at least 496 species. With regards to the sustainable use of biodiversity, a total of 311 biodiversity-based products, with a positive impact on the sustainable use of biodiversity, have been supported by SGP projects.

BIODIVERSITY RESULTS - KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Total number of projects completed	344
Number of Protected Areas (PAs)	102
Hectares of PAs influenced	3,666,337
Number of ICCAs	70
Hectares of ICCAs influenced	233,556
Number of sustainably produced biodiversity and agrobiodiversity products	311
Number of species with maintained or improved conservation status	496
Number of target landscapes/seascapes under improved community conservation and sustainable use	154

In **Algeria**, a project implemented by the *Association MARENOSTRUM Cherchell* aimed to enhance knowledge and access to information on marine and coastal biodiversity in the wilaya of *Tipaza*. During the project, naturalist outings were organized to provide the general public and university students with educational brochures, with a focus on the use of the *PARSAC* application — a digital tool for data collection on marine biodiversity — and the adoption of a participatory citizen science approach to enrich the marine biodiversity database. Educational outings and workshops engaged schoolchildren with activities such as summary games and hands-on observation of marine species, fostering a comprehensive understanding of marine protection. In addition, training sessions in marine biology equipped 183 participants, including 105 women and 78 men, with the skills necessary for systematic observation and conservation efforts. Introductory training in scientific monitoring protocols provided diving participants

with theoretical and practical skills in naturalistic monitoring techniques and scientific diving. The training sessions brought together divers and non-divers from different coastal wilayas to establish a network of naturalist observers and ambassadors for the *PARSAC* application, facilitating data collection along the entire coastline.

Through a series of participatory consultative workshops, the project engaged local directorates, research institutes, universities, scuba diving clubs, and other stakeholders to refine the *PARSAC* application. This collaborative approach ensured the digital tool met the diverse informational needs of the community.

In **Costa Rica**, a project in the *Biological Corridor of Montes del Aguacate*, led by *Panthera*, enhanced the community's perception of wildlife and reduced negative interactions between ranchers and large felines like pumas, jaguars, and ocelots. The project established 36 monitoring stations equipped with trap cameras. Additionally, 10 producer farms were selected based on assessments, and the families were trained to join the *Panthera* and *National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC)* monitoring teams. With the support of the *Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG)*, these producers developed "farm plans" to improve productivity and prevent feline intrusions. Anti-predator measures, including drinkers, feeders, and electric fences, were installed to deter wildlife attacks, enhance grazing, prevent soil erosion and compaction, provide pasture for cattle, and restore soils and water sources.

Panthera, in collaboration with MAG and SINAC, also organized awareness workshops for neighboring communities, sharing updates on species monitoring through photos, videos, and testimonials. Two model farms equipped with anti-predator measures were established as national examples. Additionally, exchange workshops were held with participants from the Paso de Las Lapas Biological Corridor, which is working to set up trap cameras for monitoring the scarlet macaw. This project, involving the ministries of livestock, agriculture, and environment, not only boosts farm-level productivity and diversification but also promotes ecosystem and wildlife preservation.

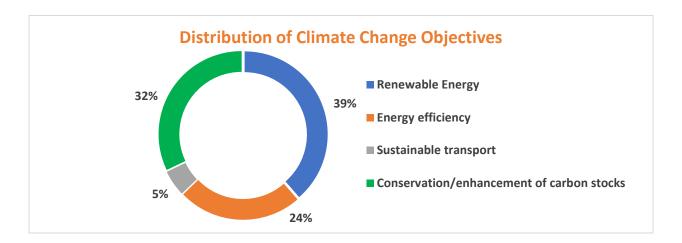
Climate Change Results

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

Performance Results: With 217 climate change projects completed during the reporting year, renewable energy projects comprised 39%, while projects focusing on energy efficiency solutions made up 24%, and projects on the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks (e.g., forest management) accounted for 32%. Thirty-one percent of reporting SGP country programmes addressed community-level barriers to deploying low-GHG technologies. 65 typologies of community-oriented and locally adapted energy access solutions were successfully demonstrated, scaled up, and replicated. 18,248 households have benefited from energy access with associated benefits including increased income, health benefits, and improved services.

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION RESULTS - KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Total number of projects completed	217
Number of country programmes that addressed community-level barriers to deployment of low-GHG technologies	36
Number of typologies of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations or scaling up and replication	65
Number of households supported with energy access co-benefits	18,248



In **Barbados**, a project completed by the *Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity (BIMAP)* contributed to climate change mitigation, in alignment with the country's goal of achieving 100% renewable carbon neutrality by 2030. Building on prior sustainability measures — such as outfitting the compound with LED light fixtures and installing water tanks with rain harvesting systems — the SGP project further demonstrated *BIMAP*'s commitment to environmental stewardship.

A major achievement of the project was the installation of a 36 kWp grid-tie solar PV power system on the roof of the institute at its *Wildey* location, resulting in a 50% reduction in the institute's reliance on fossil fuels. The process involved site visits, electrical upgrades, solar PV setup, and grid connection, all executed through a collaborative effort between *BIMAP* and the installer. A public awareness campaign was conducted to highlight the benefits of PV power systems for energy efficiency. With this sustainable energy solution, *BIMAP*'s staff and students have notably reduced their carbon footprint. In addition, *BIMAP* transitioned to a paperless campus with the application of innovative strategies to minimize paper usage. By integrating the *MOODLE* e-learning environment into course delivery, facilitating online registrations and payments, and offering digital course components, the institute reduced its paper consumption by 40%. The transition promoted an eco-friendly environment for both staff and students.

In **Sierra Leone**, the predominant cooking fuels are firewood, charcoal, and kerosene. Rural areas show higher reliance on firewood compared to urban areas and the capital city, Freetown. The use of improved biomass cookstoves is minimal, with a penetration rate of only 0.01%. To address ecological and

environmental issues from traditional fuel use, the *Playhouse Foundation* completed a project engendering the production of clean cookstoves and clean fuels in *Kono District*.

The project improved the capacity of 49 direct beneficiaries in clean cookstove production, with 23 top performers receiving additional training in sales and marketing. Community advocacy through radios and roadshows in *Kono District* increased clean cooking knowledge—covering health, sanitation benefits, and cost savings—among 20,000 people. Consumer behavior changed as a result of advocacy and marketing efforts, leading to the sale of 500 cookstoves in 2024. Sales points were established in 10 of the 14 chiefdoms in *Kono District*. Entrepreneurs from the project have started producing clean cookstoves in 4 chiefdoms. Four *Clean Cookstove Brand Ambassadors* were appointed, and the #KonoBreathes campaign was launched to further raise awareness about clean energy access. Five Paramount Chiefs allocated land around markets in *Sandor*, *Nimiyama*, *Gbense*, *Tankoro*, and *Fiama* Chiefdoms for cookstove production, supported by chiefdom authorities. Project beneficiaries established five small- to medium-sized enterprises, which have been registered with the chiefdom councils, *Koidu-New Sembehun City Council*, and the *Kono District Council* for cookstove production.

Sustainable Land Management Results

The land degradation focal area portfolio supported the restoration and prevention of land degradation and promoted sustainable land and forest management. Activities supported mainly targeted rural communities, which are highly dependent on agroecosystems and forest ecosystems for their livelihoods.

Performance Results: With 189 sustainable land and forest management projects completed this year, SGP positively influenced 143,843 community members with improved agricultural, land, and water management practices. 98,440 hectares of land were supported with improved management practices including forest, agricultural lands, and water management. 6,049 farmer leaders were involved in successful demonstrations of agroecological practices, such as incorporating measures to reduce farmbased emissions and enhancement of resilience to climate change, and 538 farmer organizations and networks have disseminated improved climate-smart agroecological practices.

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT RESULTS - KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Total number of projects completed	189
Number of community members demonstrating agricultural, land and water management practices	143,843
Hectares brought under improved agricultural, land and water management practices	98,440
Number of farmer leaders involved in successful demonstrations of agroecological practices	6,049
Number of farmer organizations, groups or networks disseminating improved climate-smart agroecological practices	538

In **Vanuatu**, a women-led NGO *Erromango Woman I Toktok Together* completed a project to empower women in forest management and food security. Major threats contributing to land degradation in the region include deforestation due to agricultural expansion, logging, and the impacts of natural disasters. Slash-and-burn techniques and tilling on steep slopes have exacerbated soil erosion, undermining local agriculture.

The project targeted local women, who are critical in agriculture but often lack awareness of the underlying environmental issues. Through the project, women in 11 villages were educated about the impacts of deforestation and strategies for enhancing food security. The project facilitated knowledge exchange on best practices for forest restoration and food stock improvement, particularly in the wake of twin cyclones that struck the island in 2023. Key activities of the project included promoting backyard gardening and the preservation of resilient native crops such as "wild yam," a vital energy source during food shortages and disasters. The project supported the recovery of yam stock by distributing seedlings to women and men across the island. These seedlings were integrated into backyard gardens alongside other crops and fruit trees, protected by wire fencing to prevent damage from roaming animals. Additionally, the project fostered networking among women across three other islands in the *Tafea* province, further promoting the use of resilient yam crops to enhance regional food security.

In **Nepal**, a project was completed by the *Nepal Gaja Development Foundation* in collaboration with the *Kathekhola Rural Municipality* to prevent landslides in the area by employing innovative and integrated approaches. To control the landslides, the project utilized reinforced cement concrete walls where broad check dams were not feasible, and check dams where they were possible. Additionally, the project focused on the plantation of nitrogen-fixing plants, grasses, non-timber forest products (NTFPs), and bamboo in the watershed area, along with the construction of forest land drainage systems to divert flowing water. The project resulted in the construction of 114 cubic meters of check dams, the planting of 6,000 nitrogen-fixing plants, grasses, NTFPs, and bamboo, and the construction of 12 kilometers of temporary drainage to divert water. These efforts successfully protected over 10 hectares of land from landslides. Furthermore, diverting water through the drainage system provided irrigation for more than 11 hectares of agricultural land. In total, 600 households benefited from these initiatives, enhancing both land stability and agricultural productivity in the region.

The project organized a two-day training program on eco-friendly and climate-resilient off-season vegetable farming, specifically targeting female farmers. Additionally, two selected farmers from the training had the opportunity to observe the *Jeevatu* (organic manure) making process in *Kathmandu*. This training on *Jeevatu* proved to be highly beneficial for the farmers of *Lekhani* village. The knowledge and process of creating *Jeevatu* were shared with numerous farmers in the village, who are now applying this skill in their cultivation, particularly in potato farming.

On **sustainable forest management**, during the reporting year, SGP projects were 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.

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT RESULTS - KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Total number of projects completed	13
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In **Belarus**, a project completed by the *District branch of the Belarusian Union of Women* created an urban green space in the *Slavgorod* city. A 500 m² mini-forest was established using the *Miyawaki* method, designed to replicate indigenous forest ecosystems with native plants. It involved comprehensive landscape design and energy-efficient infrastructure, including pathways with benches, gazebos, garbage bins, solar-powered street lighting, bicycle parking, and recreational areas. Absorbing approximately 3,000 tons of CO₂ annually, it has reduced surrounding temperatures by at least 5°C on hot summer days and contributed to air quality improvement, with leaves and bark capturing over 15% of microparticles and dust. Additionally, noise pollution in and around the green space has been reduced by 10 dB; local biodiversity has increased 18 times. The green space serves approximately 4,000 local residents and 2,000 tourists annually, enhancing their physical and mental well-being, including a decrease in respiratory diseases.

The project also engaged five local organizations in environmental education activities. At least 60 schoolchildren contributed to creating art objects and other elements for the mini-forest, and 200 schoolchildren participated in educational events during the *Days of the Environmental Activist*. Ten media reports were prepared, disseminating the project's impact throughout South-East Belarus. This led to the creation of three new environmental education and tourism products: an excursion program, a booklet titled *Cities in a Changing Climate*, and a promotional flyer in both electronic and printed formats. What's more, the project reduced anthropogenic pressure and prevented the degradation of the natural source *Golubaya Krynitsa* by effectively redirecting tourist flow to the new green space.

In **Bhutan**, the *Shingman Group*, a Non-Wood Forest Product group in *Norbugang* village, completed a project promoting nature-based solutions and alternative livelihoods through the introduction of bamboo handicrafts. The community had traditionally relied on the sale of oranges as their primary source of income. However, a recent widespread die-off of orange trees in the southeastern region significantly reduced this income stream, leaving the community vulnerable. To address this challenge, *Shingman Group*, with the support of the *Department of Forests and Park Services* and other stakeholders, launched the project to replicate successful projects implemented in two other villages in 2019 and 2020, where communities experienced significant economic benefits.

The project enabled the sustainable management of local forests by promoting the responsible use of resources such as cane and bamboo for handicraft activities. Additionally, the community planted bamboo across 238 hectares, reinforcing their commitment to sustainability. During the project, 80 beneficiaries received training in forest management, including sustainable harvesting practices. For the project's sustainability, various committees within the group are responsible for overseeing activities, ensuring proper record-keeping, and maintaining a group fund through annual membership fees and product sales. The project also includes the development of a management plan based on resource assessments, which will be monitored by the *Norbugang Forest Range* to ensure the sustainable use of forest resources.

International Waters Results

During the reporting year, 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 the SGP are often categorized under the biodiversity focal area as the primary focal area with strong benefits towards transboundary waterbodies.

Performance Results: With 30 international waters projects completed in the reporting year, SGP continued to support the implementation of SAPs for the transboundary water bodies. Projects completed involved 11 seascapes and freshwater landscapes, including marine protected areas, marine sanctuaries, gulfs, bays, lakes, rivers, and underground waters. Through the project activities, a total of 23 tons of land-based pollution, such as solid waste, sewage, wastewater, and agricultural waste have been prevented from entering the water bodies; 1,518,329 hectares of marine/coastal areas or fishing grounds have been brought under sustainable management through interventions such as mangroves replantation, seagrass protection, coral reefs rehabilitation etc.; and 2,417 hectares of seascapes were influenced with improved community conservation and sustainable use management systems.

INTERNATIONAL WATERS RESULTS - KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Total number of projects completed	30
Number of seascapes/inland freshwater Landscapes	11
Tons of land-based pollution (such as solid waste, sewage, wastewater, and agricultural waste etc.) avoided, reduced or prevented from entering water bodies	23
Hectares of marine/coastal areas or fishing grounds sustainably managed (such as hectares of mangroves replanted, seagrass protected, coral reefs rehabilitated etc.)	1,518,329
Hectares of seascapes influenced with improved community conservation and sustainable use management systems	2,417

In the Maldives, Maldives Resilient Reefs (MRR), in close collaboration with the Laamu Hithadhoo Council and the Blue Marine Foundation, has made significant strides in establishing the first legally enforceable Community Conserved Area (CCA) in the country. The CCA is home to a rich biodiversity of marine life and serves as a critical multi-species grouper spawning aggregation site. Created through a bottom-up approach under the Decentralization Act, it allows local communities to manage marine resources within the council's jurisdiction. During the project, the Hithadhoo CCA received strong support from the local community and tourism operators, with a participatory process ensuring that the management plan and regulations reflected everyone's needs and concerns. Women were consulted on the draft management plan, with efforts to increase their participation in swimming, snorkeling, diving, awareness sessions, and

citizen science training. Men, especially those in fishing, were included in consultations and training sessions. Youth were engaged in citizen science training, marine research, and conservation activities.

As a result of the project, the *Hithadhoo Kandu Kolhu* area will be a No-Take Zone, eliminating fishing pressure and enabling fish stocks to replenish, while sustainable fishing methods will be used in the rest of the CCA. A user fee negotiated with tourism operators will cover operational expenses and generate funds for community projects. The Environment Officer at the *Hithadhoo Council*, supported by the *MRR/Blue Marine* team, is already conducting monitoring activities, with community members trained in citizen science of marine ecosystems. A blueprint has been drafted for other local councils interested in establishing CCAs, paving the way for increasing protected ocean area in the Maldives and supporting the 2030 international commitment to protect 30% of the ocean.

Placencia, Belize, known for its vibrant tourism industry, has experienced substantial economic growth over recent years. Despite this progress, the community faces several challenges, particularly concerning local stakeholder participation in resource management. In response to these challenges, the Placencia Tour Guide Cooperative Society Limited (PTGCSL) implemented a project enhancing local stewardship over blue economy resources by promoting sustainable livelihoods for 25 residents of Placencia Village.

The project facilitated the establishment of a dedicated office space for visitor operations. An important milestone was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the *Southern Environmental Association*, enhancing local marine tourism excursions and fostering collaboration between organizations. Another achievement of the project was the creation of a seaweed mariculture flagship tour. A palapa facility was constructed on a small water caye to serve as a reception area for visitors before and after their seaweed mariculture tours. In addition, 15 cooperative members received training in both the blue economy concept and essential soft skills. As a result of these efforts, *PTGCSL* obtained its tour operator's license. The project supports the local tour guides in legally participating in the tourism sector and assures tourists that their tours are conducted according to legal and industry standards. It not only improved local management of marine resources but also contributed to the sustainable livelihoods of the *Placencia Village* community.

Chemicals and Waste Management Results

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.

Performance Results: Results of the 96 chemicals and waste management projects completed during the reporting period include the avoided use of 12,494 kilograms of pesticides and the release or utilization of 23,414 kilograms of harmful chemicals. In addition, the capacities of 64 national coalitions and networks on chemicals and waste management have been strengthened.

CHEMICALS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT RESULTS - KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Total number of projects completed (including Mercury)	96
Total number of mercury management projects completed	2
Kg of pesticides avoided, reduced or prevented	12,494
Kg of harmful chemicals avoided from utilization or release	23,414
Number of national coalitions and networks on chemicals and waste management established or strengthened	64

In **Nigeria**, *Digital Peers International* completed a project deploying IT strategies to engage youth in plastic waste management in the *Federal Capital Territory (FCT)*. With less than 10% of the 95,000-142,000 tons of plastic waste generated annually being recycled, the project targeted reaching approximately 4 million people to reduce 3 to 4 metric tons of plastic waste generated per day. To achieve this, 400 youth were selected from a pool of applicants, organized into teams, and provided with training and tools for plastic use and waste management solutions through IT platforms. Site visits were conducted for these youth and students from three government secondary schools, showcasing opportunities in plastic recycling through tours of recycling factories and dump sites.

The project resulted in the development of a Gamified Plastic Waste Management App and an E-Library & Directory App. The former encourages users to participate in virtual challenges, fostering a sense of competition and accomplishment in waste management efforts, while the latter serves as an information hub, providing resources on plastic waste management, recycling locations, and relevant contacts for plastic waste collection. Additionally, an ICT boot camp called DIGITEST 2023 was held, where children aged 8 to 18 went through intensive training and competition to create and refine ideas for plastic waste management apps and other innovative solutions. The youth were also trained on alternative uses of recycled plastics, such as making bricks, tiles, household furniture, and interior decorations. The project utilized data collected on the volume of waste generated in the *FCT* City Centre and collaborated with the *Abuja Environmental Protection Board* and the *University of Abuja* to facilitate seamless connections between plastic waste collectors and recycling factories.

In **North Macedonia**, a project implemented by *Regionalen Centar za Zastapuvanje* (*Regional Advocacy Center*) promoted the sustainable and conscientious management of waste from electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) while fostering a circular economy. The project established partnerships with two companies—an IT company that engaged its experts in mentoring and training, and another company specializing in the sale of electronic devices, with a specific focus on promoting the repair of old devices. Over a ten-month period, mentoring and training were provided to six young individuals including two women, from both rural areas and urban environments. Most of the participants had minimal prior experience with minor electronic device repairs. An experienced trainer and a team of three additional trainers were contracted to guide these young individuals. Additionally, a three-day workshop, titled

"Possibilities and Ways to Address WEEE and Its Environmental Impact," was organized with the participation of 15 youth representatives from environmental organizations in both rural and urban areas.

The project secured three offices through one-year and five-year agreements, providing dedicated spaces for repair services. These rooms were equipped with work desks, storage space for electronic devices, tool storage, and waiting areas. Basic diagnostic and repair equipment was procured for each location, ensuring that the facilities were fully operational and capable of servicing the community. The project results were promoted through the association's website, social networks, and a promotional video broadcast on regional TV media. Meetings were held with civil society organizations and local institutions to spread the campaign and project ideas within their target groups, further extending the project's reach.

PROGRESS ON CROSS-CUTTING INITIATIVES

SGP deploys the following cross-cutting initiatives and social inclusion activities to further enhance innovation and inclusion and capacity towards long-term impact. They assist in enhancing the overall effectiveness of its entire portfolio by expanding the role and value of SGP beyond individual grantmaking. Principally, it covers capacity development, CSO-government dialogues, south-south exchanges, and social inclusion efforts (including women, indigenous peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities).

Introduced in OP6, the Innovation Programmes, which aims to enable targeted investment on emerging environmental issues under the focal area/strategic initiative also contributes to promoting these crosscutting issues that could be potentially scaled up, replicated, and mainstreamed in SGP and other programmes.

Capacity Development

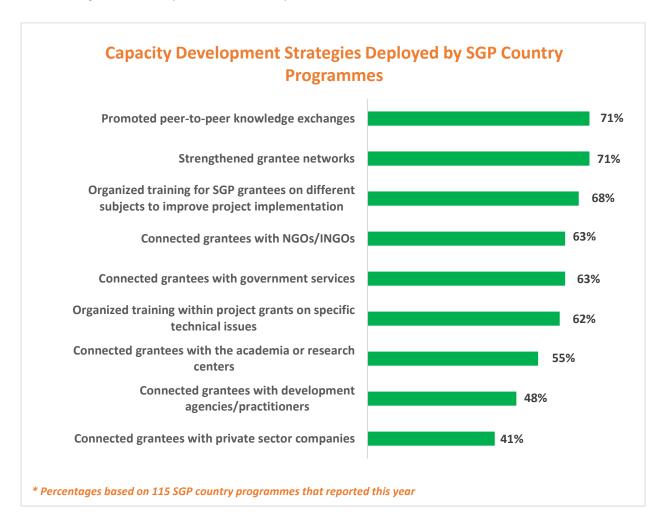
SGP provides support to enhance and strengthen the capacity of communities and civil society organizations to address global environmental challenges. Community-level capacity development activities have been supported since OP5, in alignment with the GEF focal area strategies. SGP country programmes and National Coordinators (NCs) play a critical role in providing capacity development and technical assistance to local CSOs and CBOs from project design to completion stages. In addition, through peer-to-peer learning, South-South exchanges, and CSO-Government dialogues, National Coordinators support scale and synergies within and across landscapes/seascapes, at both intra- and inter-country levels. These actions support delivering efficient and effective global environmental and socio-economic benefits. Such integration of capacity development and knowledge-sharing activities as part of country programme management also ensures the sustainability and long-term impact of SGP projects while building grantee capacities for innovation and further co-finance mobilization. As noted in the Third Joint GEF-UNDP Evaluation of the Small Grants Programme, "In the absence of the SGP, local communities would not have the requisite capacity to address threats to the environment, and CSOs would not be able to play a vital role in changing people's behavior; then, the achievement of global environmental benefits would be significantly compromised."

Performance Results: With 64 capacity development projects completed during the reporting period, capacities of 492 CSOs and 530 CBOs were strengthened, comprising 29,637 people, to address global environmental issues at the community level.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT RESULTS - KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Total number of projects completed	64
Number of CSOs whose capacities were developed or improved	492
Number of CBOs whose capacities were developed or improved	530

As key results reported across the SGP portfolio, 82 SGP country programmes (CPs) reported having strengthened grantee networks; 82 CPs promoted peer-to-peer knowledge exchanges; 78 CPs organized training for SGP grantees on different subjects to improve project implementation; 73 CPs connected grantees with NGOs/INGOs; 73 CPs connected grantees with government services; 71 CPs organized training within project grants on specific technical issues; 63 CPs connected grantees with the academia or research centers; 55 CPs connected grantees with development agencies/practitioners; and 47 CPs connected grantees with private sector companies.



In **Malaysia**, a project conducted by *Wetlands International* aims to address the challenges faced by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) in the country, ensuring their sustainable operation within the country, with a focus on capacity building, project financial management, and project monitoring and evaluation. The stakeholders include past and current SGP grantees, local NGOs, CSOs, CBOs, research institutions, academia, potential funding agencies, government agencies at both state and federal levels, and media agencies. The targeted beneficiaries primarily consist of local NGOs, CSOs, and CBOs managing, implementing, and preparing project reports for the SGP in *Klang Valley*, *Sabah*, and *Sarawak*.

The project has three main objectives: enhancing capacity for SGP grantees, reviewing project and financial reports, and organizing monitoring and evaluation trips to selected project sites. Capacity building for SGP grantees included a training needs assessment conducted via a multiple-choice questionnaire, followed by the engagement of experts based on the assessment results and virtual training sessions delivered through Zoom. E-posters were designed, reminders were sent, and all sessions were recorded and archived for future access. For project and financial report reviews, the project team developed checklists aligned with SGP's format requirements and reporting standards, provided constructive feedback to trainees, and held focus group discussions to address any difficulties or knowledge gaps. The organization of monitoring and evaluation trips involved collaboration with the SGP National Coordinator to plan and schedule site visits for National Steering Committee (NSC) members, allowing them to observe project impacts and interact with grantees.

CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms

CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue works 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.

During the reporting period, 46 SGP country programmes (40% of reporting country programmes) conducted CSO-Government Dialogues. A total of 168 dialogue platforms were organized representing the involvement of 5,714 CSO/CBO representatives.

In **Cambodia**, under a capacity development project, the *NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF)* organized nine dialogue meetings, influencing four key laws and policies: the Forestry Law, the Protected Area Law, policies on non-timber forest products (NTFPs) commercialization and supply chain management, and strategies related to COP26 outcomes.

During the projects, a workshop was held to explore the feasibility and strategies for the commercialization and supply chain management of NTFPs, bringing together government officials, academia, NGOs, and community leaders. Recommendations from this workshop were incorporated into policy discussions and strategies for NTFP commercialization and supply chain management. Additionally, a consultation workshop was organized to review the key achievements of COP26 and their implications for Cambodia. This hybrid meeting engaged representatives from CSO networks, Indigenous Peoples (IP) organizations, persons with disabilities organizations, technical ministries, and academic institutions. Insights from the workshop informed and influenced Cambodia's engagement with international stakeholders on climate change and environmental issues. To further disseminate knowledge and foster collaborative approaches to environmental governance, *NGOF* conducted Zoom dialogues to share lessons learned and best practices from the SGP project, facilitating meaningful engagement between CSOs, IPs, government bodies, and international partners.

South-South Exchange

South-South Cooperation is another key initiative to improve knowledge exchange and technology transfer among countries and regions in the south. During this reporting period, 21 SGP country programmes (18% of reporting programmes) facilitated 40 South-South exchanges that supported the transfer of knowledge on new innovations between communities, CSOs, and other partners across countries.

SGP **Morocco** facilitated the participation of the *Moroccan Biodiversity and Livelihoods Association* (*MBLA*) in the regional workshop of the *Small Initiatives Program for Civil Society Organizations in North Africa* (*PPI-OSCAN 3*), held in *Agadir* in May 2024. This workshop brought together around 30 participants from Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt, primarily representing the 27 beneficiary organizations of *PPI-OSCAN 3*, along with institutional and financial partners of the program, such as the *French Facility for Global Environment*. *MBLA* had the opportunity to share its experience, particularly in biodiversity conservation, with a focus on Indigenous and Community Heritage Areas and Territories (IPACs) and cultural and traditional conservation practices. The event served as a platform to discuss success stories in nature conservation across North Africa, allowing participants to capitalize on good practices and share feedback.

In June 2024, the *Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund* organized a webinar titled "*Agdal*: A Model in the Service of Man and Nature - Lessons Learned from Morocco." This event aimed to share the Moroccan experience, specifically that of the SGP grantee *Ifrane Model Forest Association (AFMI)*, with civil society organizations and other actors across the Mediterranean, including in Tunisia, Jordan, and Egypt. Members of *AFMI* presented their inspiring journey in revitalizing the traditional silvopastoral resource management system, known as *Agdal*, which successfully combines nature-based solutions with the ancestral knowledge of local communities to preserve pastures. The session provided a unique opportunity for discussions on adopting these good practices in other countries in the region, promoting natural resource management through South-South cooperation.

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. Specific information is presented below:

Gender equality and women's empowerment is a critical element of SGP efforts in empowering the vulnerable as well as supporting them as key solution providers. Among the completed projects during this period, 41% of the projects were led by women, i.e., had a female project coordinator/manager or led by a woman cooperative or women's group. Further, 817 of the projects completed during the reporting period, which is 86% of total projects completed, were reported to be gender responsive. Key strategies deployed by SGP country programmes (CPs) to promote gender equality and women's empowerment include the use of gender checklist by the National Steering Committee for appraising projects (74 CPs) and the incorporation of gender-specific activities, outputs, outcomes, and

disaggregated indicators in project design (69 CPs). Of the reporting countries, 101 CPs (88%) had a gender focal point in their SGP NSC.



In **Zimbabwe**, the *Youth Development Initiative Trust* supported semi-intensive fish farming to enhance economic resilience and food security for women in *Arda Transau*. The project benefited 50 women, including four with disabilities, with 86% of them being youth aged 15-35. Key activities included training and equipping these women to engage in fish farming, supporting and sustaining fish farms, and constructing 50 functional ponds. Additionally, the project focused on rehabilitating degraded areas through gulley reclamation, tree planting, wetland protection, and market linkages. A total of 75,000 fingerlings were distributed to the beneficiaries. Household fish farming allowed the collection of fish waste, which was used as fertilizer for surrounding gardens, promoting integrated farming and efficient water and waste management. In addition, the project developed a fish farming mobile application called *Hove Dzedu* (Our Fish). This app, available both online and offline, provides comprehensive and interactive content on fish farming. For those without mobile phones, a hard copy manual was developed. The app offers features such as practical information and assistance on rearing fish and maintaining ponds,

performance monitoring for individual beneficiaries, personalized feedback, and timely problem identification.

The project empowered women in *Arda Transau* by involving them in various activities within the fish farming value chain, such as fish production, processing, and marketing. This engagement provided opportunities for women to take on decision-making roles, secure leadership positions, and have a voice in shaping policies and interventions at the household level. As a result, total profits amounted to USD 8,117, and eight women managed to cover tuition fees for a total of 13 children. Two months after the first batch harvest, household food consumption scores increased by 62%. There was a 78% increase in protein intake for beneficiary households, as they now had fish as a regular part of their diets.

Indigenous Peoples are a key partner and important target group for SGP. SGP has supported efforts that respect customary law and practice, including efforts to secure rights to land and resources as well as the participation of indigenous groups in local and national environmental governance. During the reporting period, 210 projects, which is 22% of the total completed projects involved indigenous peoples. 872 indigenous leaders participated in various activities supported by the SGP which led to improved capacities of IP groups and organizations for organizing projects that provide for concrete action to meet their needs as well as for strong representation in policy advocacy. Efforts aimed at fostering agility and improving access in SGP grant-making/management were continued, with 13 CPs accepting proposals in local languages; 32 CPs involving Indigenous Peoples in respective NSCs and/or TAGs; and 36 CPs enhanced outreach and networking with Indigenous Peoples' groups. Of the reporting countries, 49 (43%) of them reported having an Indigenous Peoples focal point in their SGP NSC.

In the **Solomon Islands**, the *White Rock Group* completed a project that supported the Indigenous Peoples of *Rennell* Island, a minority Polynesian race. The *Hatagua* community in west *Rennell* faced constant water shortages due to their distance from water sources and reliance on rain catchment. Families had to fetch water using buckets and containers from local shops, with some resorting to pots and bottles, while others had nothing to collect water with due to low supply and high demand. Over the years, changing weather patterns resulting from climate change led to frequent droughts.

The sustainable water supply project provided easy access to clean and safe water, especially for women, children, and people with special needs, by installing solar-powered pumps. Two water tanks of 10,000 liters capacity each, along with pipes and other materials, were purchased. Technical experts from the community advised the project team on the optimal locations for the water tank stands and solar panels. Community members actively participated throughout the project, which enabled fresh water to be pumped from the ground using solar power, stored in water tanks, and distributed throughout the community. Previously, during the dry season, community members had to walk long distances to access underground water. With the solar-powered pumps, this water is now easily accessible to 132 people, including children, ensuring a reliable supply for cooking, drinking, and household sanitation. It will help minimize the spread of water-borne diseases such as cholera, typhoid, and diarrhea. The reliable water supply also enhances the community's resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Youth is increasingly becoming an important target group of SGP as they are key stakeholders for sustainable development. Intergenerational efforts that equally benefit from the expertise of the elders, as well as the force of the youth, are essential for the achievement of the SDGs and MEA objectives. During the reporting period, 393 projects were completed with youth participation or leadership, which is 41% of the total completed during the period. 253 youth organizations participated in SGP projects and in relevant national environment and sustainable development strategy development. Of the reporting countries, 82 (71%) operated with a Youth focal point in their SGP NSC.

In **Peru**, a project completed by *Comunidad Campesina Ccapacmarca* actively involved 40 young community members and has successfully declared 1,548 hectares of land as headwaters through communal agreement for the implementation of the Public Investment Project (PIP) aimed at creating a support service for sustainable forest development in the communities of the *Ccapacmarca* district in the *Cusco* region. The young participants have received training in integrated water resource management and agroecological production systems. They also participated in practical workshops on organic fertilization. Through their efforts, the project has dedicated 20 hectares of land to the agroecological cultivation of quinoa and tarwi, and enclosed 31 hectares for the protection and expansion of native species, *queuña*. The youth have also played a key role in restoring three native plants: *queñua*, *tarwi*, and quinoa. In addition, a water resource management plan has been established for the *Quepuro* micro basin. Twenty hectares of land have been restored for the agroecological production of Andean cereals, i.e., quinoa and *tarwi*, and 131 hectares have been managed communally for the restoration of vegetation cover, including natural pastures, infiltration trenches, closed-off areas, and protected areas near the *Qenqo* community. The project promoted sustainable forest management and showcased the leadership of youth in enhancing community resilience and self-sufficiency.

Persons with disabilities (PwD) are also a key target group for SGP support. SGP's inherent flexibility to test innovation has supported efforts to mainstream and engage PwD groups enabling them to actively participate in global environmental and livelihood efforts. During the reporting period, 50 organizations engaged in persons with disabilities have participated in SGP projects and in relevant national environment and sustainable development strategy development. The SGP Innovation Programme with a focus on PwD engagement in global environmental solutions is currently under implementation in eight SGP countries.

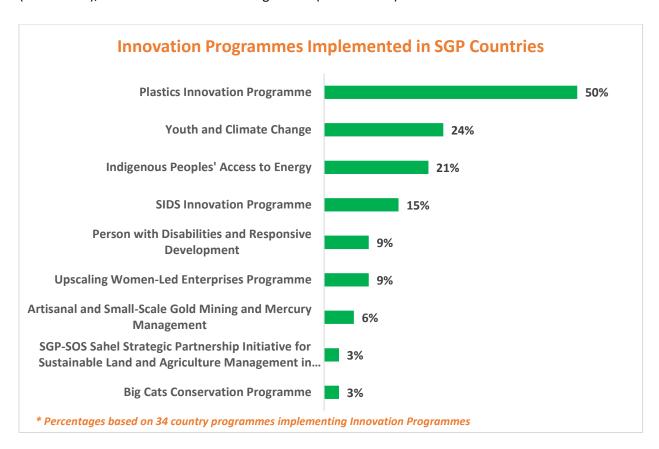
In **Georgia**, a project implemented by *Keda Local Action Group* aimed to create an effective and replicable initiative with the active participation of persons with disabilities, improving their socio-economic conditions while achieving environmental goals. As a direct adaptation measure, a 16-meter-long retaining wall was constructed in the village of *Kuchula* near the residence of *Mzia Bajelidze*, which addressed immediate environmental concerns. During the project, disabled individuals in *Keda* Municipality formed an informal coalition, *Climate Ambassadors*. The project conducted training on environmental subjects, covering sustainable natural resource management, climate change, and environmental protection. Workshops and seminars were integral to the project, along with the development of thematic publications to enhance awareness. Through these specialized training and hands-on activities, the members of the alliance enhanced their skills in socio-economic and environmental matters specific to *Keda* Municipality. In addition, a comprehensive climate change

adaptation plan was developed, outlining measures tailored for local communities, which improved readiness to mitigate climate-related natural disasters.

Young individuals were actively involved in various activities. They led an information campaign and mobilized disabled individuals. Environmental events, organized jointly by the coalition and local students, raised awareness among the residents of *Keda* about environmental issues and facilitated the social integration of disabled individuals. A video produced during the project reached over 225,000 people across Georgia via social media, significantly boosting public engagement and awareness of environmental issues.

Innovation Programmes

Introduced in OP6, the Innovation Programmes at the SGP help achieve targeted results and a larger impact, foster learning and knowledge sharing among participating countries, and promote partnership and leverage resources on emerging thematic issues related to the SGP Strategic Initiatives. During the reporting period, SGP Innovation Programmes were implemented in a total of 34 countries (30% of reporting countries), including Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining and Mercury Management (2 countries), Upscaling Women-led Enterprise (3 countries), Persons with Disabilities and Responsive Development (3 countries), Indigenous Peoples' Access to Energy (7 countries), Youth and Climate Change (8 countries), Big Cats Conservation (1 country), SGP-SOS Sahel Strategic Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land and Agriculture Management in the Drylands (1 country), SIDS Innovation Programme (5 countries), and Plastics Innovation Programme (15 countries).



In **South Africa**, *Dziphathu Green Technologies*, a small, youth-led startup, completed a project producing low-smoke charcoal eco-briquettes made entirely from waste materials. This innovative project collects and converts waste plastic into building materials using advanced Nano Technology. The technique features a unique manufacturing process for producing construction materials, such as paving and building bricks, from plastic waste, aggregate (which can include other waste materials), sawdust, and Nano carbon-based reinforcing material. Remarkably, the process requires neither water nor cement, yet the resulting products are stronger than traditional cement-based materials. Although still undergoing testing in collaboration with a local university and in close partnership with the *Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)* and the *National Cleaner Production Center (NCPC)*, the potential of this technology is promising.

The project constructed a workshop space, as the youth had previously been operating in an open backyard. It also supported the construction of a storeroom, office space with necessary equipment, the purchase of machinery, and marketing efforts for income generation. As a result, the project collected five tons of waste and produced 2,000 bags of eco-briquettes (4kg and 5kg) that were sold to local retailers and the community at ZAR 45 (USD 2) for a 4kg bag and ZAR 55 (USD 3) for a 5kg bag. Each month, approximately 200 bags are sold, generating an estimated ZAR 10,000 (USD 545), along with an additional ZAR 6,000 (USD 327) from the sale of bricks and pavers. The project has created 16 jobs for young unemployed people in the community. Its success attracted additional funding from *South African National Parks* to replicate its operations at a site near the *Kruger National Park* gate, where ecobriquettes will be supplied to lodges within the park.

BROADER CONTRIBUTIONS

Scaling up, Replication, and Policy Influence

During the reporting year, 125 projects (i.e., 13% of total completed projects) were replicated or scaled up, while 82 projects (i.e., 9% of total completed) reported influencing policy through project activities by liaising with local authorities and other government institutions. While we see an increasing number of projects being replicated or scaled up over the years, it is important to note that since these results have long-term horizons, often much after the intervention is completed, there is considerable under reporting of results in this area. The following examples illustrate the great potential of the SGP in contributing as an incubator of innovations and a platform for broader adoption from completed projects for this reporting period.

Illustrative Examples

In **Fiji**, a project implemented by the *Yavusa Navakavu Development Trust* demonstrates successful scaling through innovative resource mapping, leveraging its results to attract further support. The major achievement of the project was the development of the *Navakavu* Blue Economic Zone Master Plan for the community, utilizing detailed mapping of land and marine resources. This map, the first of its kind in any Fijian resource-owning unit, served as a powerful tool for the *Navakavu* people to effectively manage their environment and plan for sustainable development. A lead consultant, *Blue Horizon*, was hired to plan, consult, and design the Master Plan. The *Navakavu* community actively participated in the entire process. A governance workshop was conducted to establish a technical expertise mechanism available within *Navakavu*. Following this, a series of training sessions were held, covering key areas such as project management, financial management, and monitoring and evaluation.

Strategic partnerships played a crucial role in scaling up the project. For instance, UNDP funding was secured for the construction of a mangrove walkway, and the Fijian government expressed interest in supporting the *Navakavu* yavusa (clan) due to the project's outcomes and the community's commitment to sustainable practices. This potential government support could encompass various areas such as infrastructure development or livelihood initiatives, directly benefiting the community's well-being.

In **Eswatini**, *Women Unlimited* completed a project under the Plastics Innovation Programme, developing several key initiatives at the national level to influence policy on plastic waste management. The project aimed to establish a community-based zero-waste management system, raise awareness, and ensure public participation in local and global campaigns. A primary goal of the project was to advocate for an outright ban on single-use plastic materials. This milestone was achieved when the country announced a ban on single-use plastics this year. In addition, the project led to the establishment of a National Action Plan on plastic waste management. A diagnostic analysis of policy gaps in plastic waste management was conducted, with recommended strategies to address these gaps.

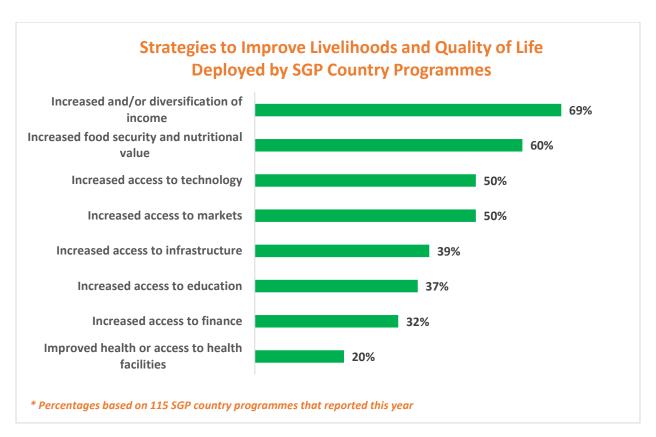
The Eswatini Waste Conference, also known locally as *Indaba*, was hosted under the project by *Women Unlimited* in partnership with the Eswatini Government. The event brought together policy leaders,

academia, industry, and local community stakeholders to discuss pressing issues related to waste management in Eswatini and to build a circular economy within the waste sector. Significant investments were made in the knowledge and training of policy leaders and stakeholders, contributing to improved environmental practices and local development. During the project, women, who are more actively involved in waste picking and sorting, received training on how to create sustainable livelihoods through plastic and other waste, establishing innovative income-generating waste management solutions in the *Kwaluseni* area. Partnering with the Eswatini Environment Authority, the project held community-based roadshows for all environmental commemoration days. The knowledge gained from the project was disseminated through media blogs, videos, and social media stories, ensuring widespread awareness and engagement.

Livelihoods and Sustainability

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

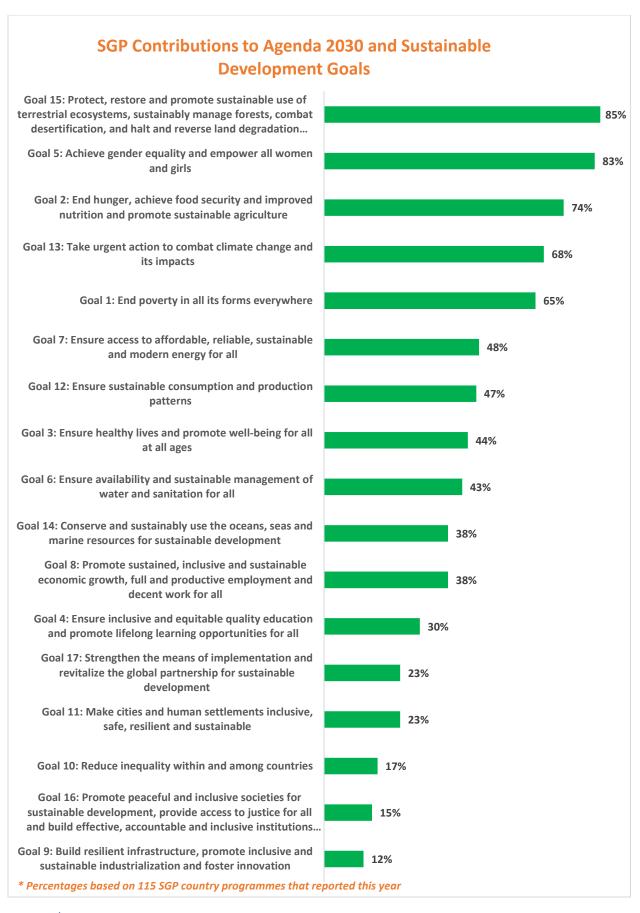
During the reporting period, 693 projects (73% of completed) reported concrete results in the improvement of the livelihoods of the communities. Specifically, efforts were noted across SGP's portfolio with respect to increasing and diversification of income (79 CPs); increased food security and nutritional value (69 CPs); increased access to technology (57 CPs); and increased access to markets (57 CPs). A percentage-based breakdown is presented below.



Contributions to Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals

SGP is closely aligned with and contributes actively to the achievement of the Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During the reporting period, grantees were encouraged to design projects that maximized positive synergies between conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, sustainable land management, mitigation of climate change, and other global environmental benefits, as well as contribute to improved livelihood outcomes and other social development targets.

As a result, SGP projects contributed to meeting several SDGs. Noteworthy mentions are -- Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (98 CPs); Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (96 CPs); Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture (85 CPs); Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (78 CPs); and Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere (75 CPs). A percentage-based breakdown is presented in the graph below.



PROGRAMME EFFECTIVENESS FUNCTIONS

Monitoring and Evaluation

The SGP further refined its results-based management approach, integrating innovative digital tools and methodologies across all levels of the programme. Efforts were made to enhance the monitoring and evaluation capacities of project grantees, country offices, and global operations, ensuring alignment with the GEF-7 Focal Area Strategies and Impact Programs. Notably, the focus on promoting strategic, results-driven investments at the local level has been a key priority, empowering country teams to develop and implement robust measurement frameworks. These frameworks are tailored to country-specific priorities while remaining consistent with the overarching GEF results framework, allowing for aggregation and analysis of global outcomes. This approach has strengthened the capacity for results-based reporting and fostered a more cohesive environment for knowledge sharing and the dissemination of best practices across the SGP network.

One of the significant achievements in this period is the publication of country results monitoring reports. These reports provide a comprehensive overview of the aggregated results for completed projects, reflecting the ongoing operational phases. The methodology employed ensures that results are based on verified, quality-assured data, leveraging both annual monitoring processes and evaluative evidence where available. Importantly, the results include both direct and indirect global-environmental and socioeconomic benefits, highlighting SGP's commitment to fostering behavioral change and encouraging community action for sustainable environmental change. To further strengthen the integrity of reported data, we have enhanced our quality assurance practices, ensuring that results are accurate, consistent, and free from duplication, particularly when aggregating results across multiple years and operational phases.

During the reporting year, 1,696 projects, representing 72% of the active portfolio, received 1,380 inperson monitoring visits from SGP country programme staff and NSC members.

Knowledge Management

SGP continued to support the wider adoption of lessons and best practices generated by its portfolio of projects through knowledge management efforts at national and global levels. During the reporting year, at the country level to promote technology transfer and learning between communities and CSOs, SGP country programmes carried out 1,221 training sessions, produced 1,419 fact sheets, case studies, brochures, publications, and videos as well as 108 how-to toolkits and guidelines that describe specific practices. The results of GEF support to poor and vulnerable communities and local CSOs through the SGP were mentioned in the local media (TV, radio, print, digital, and social media) over 2,526 times. Furthermore, SGP community-driven projects were recognized nationally and internationally, winning 38 national and international awards.

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Financial Delivery

During the reporting year, as noted in the table below, USD 44,574,398 was delivered by the SGP global programme. In terms of the breakdown in delivery, direct grantmaking to CSOs/CBOs accounted for 66%, programme costs and services (including capacity development activities to CSOs/CBOs, knowledge sharing and communication, and monitoring and evaluation) were 24%, and programme management cost was 10%. The fees and costs for UNDP as an implementing agency and UNOPS' execution services were also included as per the guidance of the GEF Secretariat.

In comparison to the previous year, there has been a slight decrease in delivery, with the total amount dropping from USD 44,857,186 to USD 44,574,398. Although the overall delivery showed a decrease, the grantmaking to CSOs and CBOs showed an increase, reaching USD 29,350,688 compared to USD 29,101,125 last year. Because of a stricter control of expenses, especially a closer monitoring of country operation budget, the Programme Costs/Services reduced from last year's USD 11,270,342 to USD 10,766,270.

GEF SGP Delivery for Global Programme, July 2023 - June 2024, USD Source: UNOPS and UNDP				
Operational Phase	Expenditure			
OP5	651,797			
OP6	4,431,295			
OP7	39,491,307			
Total Expenditure (including UNDP and UNOPS fees)	44,574,398			
Expenditure as grant and other costs during reporting period (2023-2024)				
Grantmaking to CSOs and CBOs	29,350,688 (66%)			
Programme Costs/Services (capacity development, knowledge management, M&E, etc.)	10,766,270 (24%)			
Project Management Cost	4,457,440 (10%)			
Total	44,574,398			

Partnership Platform

The 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 serves as co-finance to the GEF resources. The synergies created by the collaborations are critical to the wider impact of grant activities. During the reporting period, a number of new partnerships have been established and matured with significant additional resources for which the SGP serves as the delivery platform.

The COVID-19 Response Initiative of Global Support Initiative to territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities (ICCA-GSI) is under implementation in 45 countries. It aims to support Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and local communities (LCs) to cope with and recover from the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the reporting period, the implementation of 203 projects positively influenced over 4.7 million hectares of land, benefiting approximately 1.5 million IPs and LCs. Cumulatively, 655 projects have positively influenced over 11.3 million hectares of land and benefited over 1.9 million IPs and LCs. As of March 2024, with support from UNEP-WCMC, over 31,179,900 hectares of ICCAs spread over 310 ICCAs in 24 countries and territories have been registered at the international level through the Global ICCA Registry and/or World Database for Protected Areas (WDPA).

The Community Development and Knowledge Management for the *Satoyama Initiative* (COMDEKS) Phase 4 was launched in 2023, covering 15 countries. The goal of this phase is to further expand and ensure sustainable biodiversity management, governance, and sustainable livelihood activities with local communities in socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS) and to provide a valuable contribution to the implementation of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly in relation to the "30 by 30" goals to expand conservation of biodiversity in 30 percent of the landscapes and seascapes globally.

The Community-Based Adaptation Programme (CBA) Phase 3 is currently under implementation with the involvement of 26 countries from the Southeast Asia and Pacific region. The main goal of this new phase of CBA funding is to further enhance the capacities of local communities across priority landscapes/seascapes by building their social and ecological resilience to climate change and contextualizing these initiatives within COVID-19 recovery and resilience efforts. This new phase will focus on green and blue recovery, 'building forward better' initiatives, building resilient livelihoods, and mainstreaming, scaling up and replicating CBA best practices to national processes and policies.

The **Plastic Waste Management & Behavior Change Programme** is an ongoing partnership between the SGP and Rare. 18 countries joined the training programme. The primary objective is to support the design and implementation of behavior change programmes at both the national and local levels, leveraging best practices and the latest insights from behavioral science and design thinking to sustainably prevent and manage plastic waste. Through this partnership, for the first time, the SGP provided national coordinators, grantees, and other stakeholders in all its 127 country programmes with a plastics and behavior change guidance tool, which includes resources and best practices on plastics management. SGP is currently working with Rare to produce a publication on best practices and lessons for community-level behavior change initiatives.

Launched in June 2023, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) **Great Green Wall** (GGW) Innovation Programme is a partnership between the SGP and the African Union Commission, aimed at addressing land degradation, desertification, and climate change in eight countries from the Southern African region. CSOs have been identified as crucial actors in the implementation strategy of the GGWI-SADC. Engagement with women and youth organizations would be essential to ensure that innovations and best practices developed through women-led initiatives can be scaled up through partnerships and influence policy. Therefore, the overall goal of the programme is to demonstrate and generate lessons

and good practices on how related community-led projects could actively promote the participation of women, youth, and civil society organizations (CSOs) in the implementation of the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI) Strategy, thereby providing concrete results on both environmental and socio-economic issues.

The second framework of the SGP's partnership with the **Caribbean Biodiversity Fund** (CBF) is currently underway, involving 12 Caribbean SIDS. Aiming to bolster biodiversity conservation efforts, promote sustainable finance mechanisms, and support local communities in their conservation endeavors, this partnership represents a unique opportunity to leverage their respective strengths and resources by combining the CBF's regional reach and expertise with the SGP's grassroots approach and network of local partners.

A partnership between **1000** Landscape for **1** Billion People (1000L) and the SGP was launched in late 2023. The goal is to create an enabling environment and empower landscape partnerships to achieve a larger impact. The partners of 1000L and the SGP will jointly leverage their decades of experience to provide strong technical support to landscape partnerships while also generating and allocating complimentary funding to catalyze landscape action.

Beginning in 2023, Phase 2 of the collaboration between the SGP and the Mountain Partnership, hosted by the FAO, is currently in the incubation stage. The objective of this phase is to build the resilience of mountain communities through capacity development, technical training, strengthening value-chains, and improving market access. It will also contribute to business incubation and acceleration. The collaboration is based on synergizing programming and efforts, and effectively utilizing resources between SGP and the Mountain Partnership.

Building on the achievements of the first phase, SGP's partnership with **SOS SAHEL** will continue to contribute to the realization of environmentally sustainable development in the drylands of the Sahel region. Joint efforts are being made to leverage additional financial resources while also providing possibilities for other partners to join this initiative. During the reporting period, a coordination meeting was held to bring together the coordination teams from the participating countries, as well as representatives from the regional and global teams of both organizations.

During the reporting period, SGP's **Plastic Innovation Programme** partnered with UNDP was successfully closed. It represents a radical shift from the predominant focus on downstream measures that have failed to address plastic pollution at source.

Going forward, SGP will continue to support local actions that are inclusive, innovative, and impactful, with the potential for broader adoption of successful approaches and tools through enhanced policy, programme, and project linkages strengthened by partnerships.

Illustrative Examples

In **Indonesia**, with the support of ICCA-GSI, the *Sedau* villagers launched the *Mount Jae Tourism Initiative* to recover from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This initiative introduced tour packages focused on traditional medicine and coffee cultivation, transforming *Mount Jae Campground* into a more attractive tourist destination. The project actively engaged 653 villagers in decision-making processes and activities, implemented across 560 hectares of land, 70% of which are forests.

For the tours on traditional medicine, residents educate visitors about medicinal plants long used by the community. During the COVID-19 pandemic, these plants were used to boost immunity. Meanwhile, some of the plants are employed to prevent mosquito breeding around homes, significantly reducing mosquito-borne diseases in the village. In addition, the traditional coffee cultivation practices in *Sedau* Village were revitalized. A women's group experimented with new methods based on traditional processes, such as not pruning coffee plants, harvesting, and sorting coffee beans. This led to the development of the skill of *seong kopi* (roasting coffee). A 'coffee tour' package was then created, allowing tourists to visit coffee plantations, pick ripe coffee cherries, and witness the processing of coffee beans in residents' homes. Coffee shops were also established, where tourists can enjoy freshly brewed coffee and purchase souvenirs, including packaged medicinal plants and other agroforestry products.

The *Mount Jae Tourism Initiative* successfully created new jobs for those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and significantly increased community incomes rising by 400% to 733%, from USD 38.01 (600,000 rupees) before the pandemic to USD 190-316 (3-5 million rupees) in 2023.

In **Zambia**, *Conservation Farming Unit* is implementing a project under the Great Green Wall Innovation Programme, building capacity for women and youth in climate resilience agriculture and agroforestry. Launched on May 22, 2024, with support from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, the project aims to address climate change impacts by reducing water demand, increasing agricultural yields, and enhancing farmers' income, thereby decreasing their vulnerability to poverty and climate-related shocks. Five demonstration sites have already been selected, demarcated, and pegged for agroforestry, conservation agriculture, and reforestation. The project recruited five lead farmers who will train their fellow farmers in climate-resilient agricultural practices. Each lead farmer is responsible for one of the demonstration sites, working with a group of follower farmers. Additionally, 250 hectares of land have been identified for agroforestry activities, and 560 tree seedlings have been delivered to the project site, where planting is underway. Training packs have also been provided for the upcoming capacity-building activities.

In **Peru**, two projects were selected and approved by the NSC under COMDEKS Phase 4, to be implemented by *Instituto de Educación Rural IER-Juli* and *Centro Andino de Educación y* Promoción "José María Arguedas". The primary objective of these projects is to enhance socio-ecological resilience at the landscape level through the adoption and replication of innovative local models for the conservation and sustainable use of native agrobiodiversity, including agroecosystem management. The projects aim to foster engagement among stakeholders in the landscape by convening a diverse group of landscape actors to form a working group or platform. Strategic technical assistance will be provided to community groups

and rural producers based on the priorities outlined in the landscape strategy. The projects will also contribute to knowledge management and partnerships by facilitating the exchange of sustainable innovations and practices among community organizations and participating producers. Lessons learned from these experiences will be incorporated into a digital case study publication on the landscape. Furthermore, additional communication materials will be developed to support the COMDEKS and SGP communication and knowledge strategy in the Southern Andes, ensuring that successful practices and findings are effectively shared and disseminated.

Annex I: Country Level Cumulative Grants and Co-financing

	V	GEF S	GP Funding	Co-financing			
	Year started (*)	Number of Projects	GEF Grant Amount Committed	Project level Co-financing in Cash	Project level Co-financing in Kind	Non-GEF Grant Amount Committed	Total Co- financing
AFGHANISTAN	2013	110	\$4,375,438	\$1,689,251	\$4,172,522	\$250,000	\$6,111,773
ALBANIA	1999	301	\$4,831,438	\$1,538,850	\$889,846	\$-	\$2,428,696
ALGERIA	2012	53	\$1,999,389	\$826,135	\$173,754	\$120,843	\$1,120,732
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	2013	66	\$2,560,720	\$767,071	\$2,523,113	\$255,000	\$3,545,184
ARGENTINA	2006	304	\$8,118,226	\$2,626,943	\$8,717,136	\$907,538	\$12,251,616
ARMENIA	2009	110	\$4,714,000	\$5,012,534	\$1,855,563	\$400,000	\$7,268,098
BAHAMAS	2011	81	\$2,586,052	\$1,906,043	\$1,334,770	\$-	\$3,240,813
BANGLADESH	2021	6	\$224,108	\$-	\$302,543	\$-	\$302,543
BARBADOS	2012	112	\$3,168,814	\$1,487,243	\$6,037,797	\$138,463	\$7,663,503
BARBADOS Sub- region	1994	112	\$2,294,468	\$1,060,902	\$1,973,001	\$-	\$3,033,903
BELARUS	2006	183	\$7,046,439	\$8,646,098	\$1,665,691	\$196,686	\$10,508,474
BELIZE	1993	260	\$7,630,171	\$4,374,160	\$7,194,046	\$1,450,474	\$13,018,681
BENIN	2007	97	\$3,249,872	\$3,425,118	\$1,110,190	\$700,000	\$5,235,307
BHUTAN	1999	207	\$5,973,880	\$1,864,701	\$3,373,494	\$612,000	\$5,850,195
BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF)	1997	469	\$13,319,485	\$3,958,259	\$9,357,774	\$482,640	\$13,798,673
BOTSWANA	1993	232	\$7,014,343	\$8,885,972	\$3,182,496	\$50,000	\$12,118,468
BRAZIL	1995	468	\$21,856,937	\$7,577,123	\$7,817,608	\$732,846	\$16,127,578
BULGARIA	2006	121	\$3,949,348	\$3,965,018	\$1,541,422	\$-	\$5,506,440
BURKINA FASO	1994	287	\$9,883,325	\$2,035,663	\$4,096,940	\$290,196	\$6,422,799
BURUNDI	2010	85	\$3,629,010	\$918,882	\$2,958,390	\$-	\$3,877,272
CABO VERDE	2010	159	\$4,453,275	\$1,974,121	\$3,435,936	\$562,050	\$5,972,107
CAMBODIA	2005	133	\$4,652,647	\$2,893,103	\$5,736,851	\$5,139,933	\$13,769,887
CAMEROON	2007	184	\$5,248,817	\$1,654,320	\$4,069,952	\$770,000	\$6,494,272
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	2010	113	\$2,950,905	\$310,630	\$1,361,977	\$250,000	\$1,922,607
CHAD	2007	50	\$1,245,251	\$973,437	\$251,540	\$150,000	\$1,374,978
CHILE	1994	257	\$7,024,145	\$472,138	\$5,312,939	\$52,904	\$5,837,981
CHINA	2010	169	\$8,044,147	\$4,581,506	\$13,038,174	\$1,977,985	\$19,597,665
COLOMBIA	2015	253	\$5,974,717	\$156,449	\$2,961,931	\$699,092	\$3,817,472
COMOROS	2007	108	\$3,540,427	\$1,242,475	\$1,547,641	\$120,000	\$2,910,116
CONGO	2017	33	\$1,500,000	\$-	\$1,567,019	\$407,500	\$1,974,519
CONGO (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE)	2010	286	\$7,959,499	\$1,222,231	\$6,817,908	\$614,760	\$8,654,899
COOK ISLANDS	2016	19	\$864,100	\$105,420	\$423,944	\$-	\$529,365
COSTA RICA	1993	688	\$14,479,898	\$8,777,766	\$19,958,644	\$300,649	\$29,037,059

		GEF SGP Funding		Co-financing			
Country Year started (*)	Number of Projects	GEF Grant Amount Committed	Project level Co-financing in Cash	Project level Co-financing in Kind	Non-GEF Grant Amount Committed	Total Co- financing	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	1993	415	\$7,149,677	\$3,690,761	\$3,517,754	\$-	\$7,208,515
CUBA	2005	166	\$7,118,294	\$12,015,859	\$1,705,530	\$284,105	\$14,005,494
DJIBOUTI	2014	76	\$2,148,301	\$1,220,185	\$1,418,454	\$-	\$2,638,639
DOMINICA	1995	112	\$3,405,625	\$1,412,583	\$2,713,212	\$832,258	\$4,958,054
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1994	520	\$12,600,153	\$18,739,492	\$19,536,578	\$257,500	\$38,533,571
ECUADOR	1993	361	\$11,646,299	\$8,014,572	\$8,523,299	\$1,005,037	\$17,542,908
EGYPT	1994	375	\$9,667,381	\$5,581,131	\$2,748,313	\$200,000	\$8,529,444
EL SALVADOR	2003	227	\$5,771,361	\$4,729,500	\$3,621,192	\$313,000	\$8,663,692
ERITREA	2009	68	\$3,133,000	\$443,883	\$4,781,079	\$-	\$5,224,963
ESWATINI (KINGDOM OF)	2021	20	\$646,842	\$32,643	\$179,324	\$-	\$211,967
ETHIOPIA	2006	256	\$7,192,042	\$1,789,429	\$4,928,622	\$726,250	\$7,444,301
FIJI	2016	56	\$1,477,000	\$214,669	\$754,750	\$416,600	\$1,386,018
FIJI Sub-region (Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu)	2005	179	\$6,737,378	\$889,006	\$4,524,539	\$1,156,336	\$6,569,881
GABON	2021	32	\$916,000	\$182,904	\$432,166	\$-	\$615,070
GAMBIA	2009	168	\$4,454,493	\$1,395,674	\$1,866,284	\$-	\$3,261,958
GEORGIA	2013	99	\$2,512,642	\$1,869,753	\$1,577,629	\$215,373	\$3,662,755
GHANA	1993	302	\$7,341,695	\$6,724,893	\$5,990,705	\$722,785	\$13,438,383
GRENADA	2013	60	\$2,961,273	\$618,632	\$1,260,355	\$140,989	\$2,019,976
GUATEMALA	1997	388	\$5,925,626	\$2,761,622	\$5,775,264	\$1,351,581	\$9,888,466
GUINEA	2010	172	\$4,555,587	\$988,644	\$1,874,144	\$300,000	\$3,162,789
GUINEA-BISSAU	2011	101	\$3,494,622	\$666,731	\$3,032,271	\$755,000	\$4,454,002
GUYANA	2013	37	\$1,356,400	\$417,624	\$1,183,832	\$115,982	\$1,717,438
HAITI	2008	74	\$2,628,518	\$530,107	\$889,206	\$443,899	\$1,863,213
HONDURAS	2002	218	\$7,053,262	\$1,195,318	\$8,484,307	\$877,989	\$10,557,613
INDIA	1996	412	\$11,894,224	\$14,770,977	\$9,030,033	\$1,477,398	\$25,278,408
INDONESIA	1993	637	\$13,531,959	\$2,516,534	\$15,592,287	\$1,694,000	\$19,802,821
IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)	2001	270	\$5,959,525	\$5,123,552	\$23,474,737	\$1,340,000	\$29,938,289
JAMAICA	2005	119	\$5,723,686	\$2,875,706	\$6,584,012	\$972,096	\$10,431,814
JORDAN	1993	253	\$7,755,250	\$5,052,692	\$8,739,778	\$715,000	\$14,507,470
KAZAKHSTAN	1997	374	\$8,558,747	\$5,630,882	\$5,145,042	\$522,890	\$11,298,814
KENYA	1993	389	\$13,389,671	\$5,781,510	\$5,563,476	\$1,222,705	\$12,567,691
KIRIBATI	2016	33	\$1,022,555	\$103,342	\$1,536,360	\$166,949	\$1,806,651
KYRGYZSTAN	2002	296	\$4,671,387	\$2,764,105	\$3,155,886	\$877,993	\$6,797,984
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	2009	173	\$5,871,726	\$1,005,847	\$1,062,927	\$707,884	\$2,776,657
LEBANON	2006	105	\$4,067,621	\$2,270,947	\$1,093,588	\$449,428	\$3,813,963

	GEF SGP Funding			Co-financing			
Country	Year started (*)	Number of Projects	GEF Grant Amount Committed	Project level Co-financing in Cash	Project level Co-financing in Kind	Non-GEF Grant Amount Committed	Total Co- financing
LESOTHO	2008	122	\$3,630,258	\$716,433	\$3,998,232	\$-	\$4,714,665
LIBERIA	2009	141	\$4,300,900	\$159,000	\$2,596,180	\$15,000	\$2,770,180
LITHUANIA	2001	104	\$2,611,280	\$6,108,566	\$3,884,123	\$-	\$9,992,689
MADAGASCAR	2008	418	\$8,447,595	\$2,508,509	\$3,773,913	\$649,670	\$6,932,092
MALAWI	2009	84	\$2,487,798	\$1,355,243	\$1,141,212	\$280,000	\$2,776,456
MALAYSIA	2001	233	\$8,778,973	\$12,493,980	\$6,271,989	\$686,500	\$19,452,469
MALDIVES	2010	104	\$2,993,546	\$1,588,912	\$1,076,648	\$769,763	\$3,435,322
MALI	1994	437	\$11,755,797	\$15,903,527	\$7,117,853	\$468,111	\$23,489,491
MARSHALL ISLANDS	2014	55	\$2,256,117	\$831,187	\$921,000	\$147,057	\$1,899,244
MAURITANIA	2002	215	\$5,823,442	\$2,875,233	\$2,945,121	\$2,121,666	\$7,942,021
MAURITIUS	1996	186	\$6,643,180	\$8,357,252	\$5,951,678	\$170,000	\$14,478,930
MEXICO	1994	761	\$19,941,535	\$10,762,287	\$12,560,460	\$1,901,444	\$25,224,191
MICRONESIA (FEDERATED STATES OF)	2013	56	\$1,976,585	\$456,260	\$1,149,436	\$118,500	\$1,724,196
MICRONESIA Sub- region	2005	46	\$1,164,675	\$125,269	\$1,795,672	\$550,208	\$2,471,149
MOLDOVA (REPUBLIC OF)	2013	79	\$2,792,841	\$3,028,723	\$1,086,941	\$195,417	\$4,311,081
MONGOLIA	2003	477	\$4,879,056	\$1,968,412	\$3,767,156	\$962,969	\$6,698,536
MOROCCO	2000	189	\$6,003,611	\$7,761,966	\$6,344,634	\$1,575,953	\$15,682,553
MOZAMBIQUE	2005	236	\$4,735,159	\$1,951,132	\$2,075,296	\$-	\$4,026,427
NAMIBIA	2003	177	\$4,072,102	\$3,737,464	\$2,608,015	\$2,437,253	\$8,782,732
NAURU	2016	9	\$243,680	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
NEPAL	1998	275	\$9,692,821	\$8,299,048	\$3,308,744	\$254,482	\$11,862,274
NICARAGUA	2004	196	\$4,039,495	\$1,271,873	\$2,328,024	\$-	\$3,599,896
NIGER	2004	190	\$6,054,973	\$2,730,922	\$4,317,121	\$1,461,621	\$8,509,664
NIGERIA	2009	216	\$8,404,997	\$69,500	\$7,559,574	\$466,250	\$8,095,324
NIUE	2016	20	\$515,000	\$7,027	\$305,666	\$-	\$312,693
NORTH MACEDONIA	2006	167	\$3,215,065	\$2,139,819	\$1,240,177	\$-	\$3,379,995
PAKISTAN	1994	302	\$9,373,503	\$9,194,163	\$4,790,708	\$2,052,547	\$16,037,418
PALAU	2014	58	\$2,493,588	\$302,770	\$3,183,954	\$120,000	\$3,606,724
PALESTINE, STATE OF	1999	163	\$5,448,125	\$1,316,318	\$2,017,519	\$402,846	\$3,736,683
PANAMA	2007	276	\$6,398,858	\$1,501,784	\$6,411,180	\$690,000	\$8,602,964
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	1994	254	\$5,527,740	\$1,336,748	\$120,723	\$223,405	\$1,680,875
PARAGUAY	2011	96	\$2,872,471	\$1,270,647	\$3,598,128	\$1,097,990	\$5,966,765
PERU	1999	361	\$12,549,197	\$2,282,044	\$8,171,541	\$735,226	\$11,188,812
PHILIPPINES	1992	316	\$11,265,116	\$4,240,726	\$2,436,046	\$193,752	\$6,870,524
POLAND	1994	383	\$6,753,858	\$19,931,470	\$4,518,701	\$13,423	\$24,463,593

		GEF S	GP Funding		Co-fin	ancing	
Country	Year started (*)	Number of Projects	GEF Grant Amount Committed	Project level Co-financing in Cash	Project level Co-financing in Kind	Non-GEF Grant Amount Committed	Total Co- financing
ROMANIA	2005	95	\$3,145,566	\$1,963,567	\$1,335,397	\$-	\$3,298,963
RWANDA	2006	85	\$3,478,393	\$579,757	\$3,026,770	\$49,876	\$3,656,404
SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	2014	67	\$2,393,659	\$653,153	\$2,283,228	\$206,150	\$3,142,531
SAINT LUCIA	2012	121	\$3,403,613	\$2,941,245	\$3,292,585	\$316,811	\$6,550,641
SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	2014	49	\$2,667,013	\$858,917	\$1,873,018	\$135,244	\$2,867,180
SAMOA	2016	76	\$1,542,225	\$606,960	\$3,013,965	\$325,047	\$3,945,972
SAMOA Sub- region (Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau)	2005	217	\$4,180,768	\$1,184,754	\$3,843,632	\$1,124,562	\$6,152,948
SENEGAL	1994	336	\$10,972,581	\$2,978,857	\$5,826,515	\$1,195,855	\$10,001,227
SEYCHELLES	2010	79	\$3,373,732	\$1,526,327	\$2,039,356	\$120,000	\$3,685,683
SIERRA LEONE	2013	182	\$4,098,593	\$875,365	\$2,377,421	\$-	\$3,252,786
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	2010	67	\$1,693,002	\$2,113,123	\$552,783	\$279,998	\$2,945,905
SOLOMON ISLANDS	2009	138	\$2,961,780	\$319,155	\$900,923	\$157,196	\$1,377,275
SOUTH AFRICA	2003	159	\$6,627,022	\$11,079,373	\$2,554,232	\$50,000	\$13,683,605
SRI LANKA	1994	448	\$10,824,320	\$2,614,702	\$3,819,428	\$1,335,932	\$7,770,062
SURINAME	1997	155	\$4,385,041	\$2,624,824	\$2,451,755	\$320,904	\$5,397,483
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	2005	45	\$1,712,288	\$578,916	\$982,536	\$-	\$1,561,452
TAJIKISTAN	2010	118	\$2,357,994	\$1,389,821	\$2,017,962	\$384,231	\$3,792,014
TANZANIA (UNITED REPUBLIC OF)	1997	365	\$11,551,575	\$3,606,989	\$2,709,694	\$2,024,877	\$8,341,559
THAILAND	1994	492	\$8,573,762	\$2,690,489	\$8,604,915	\$107,615	\$11,403,019
TIMOR-LESTE	2013	129	\$2,581,230	\$150,988	\$1,746,835	\$279,500	\$2,177,323
TOGO	2010	144	\$3,923,015	\$418,203	\$1,963,251	\$-	\$2,381,454
TOKELAU	2016	-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
TONGA	2016	53	\$1,537,003	\$3,140	\$340,240	\$150,000	\$493,380
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	1995	154	\$4,566,630	\$1,628,390	\$4,620,392	\$276,990	\$6,525,772
TUNISIA	1993	194	\$6,205,607	\$7,819,542	\$3,608,475	\$921,058	\$12,349,076
TÜRKIYE	1993	367	\$7,589,001	\$6,493,372	\$5,556,702	\$669,360	\$12,719,434
TUVALU	2016	19	\$359,330	\$14,869	\$260,869	\$160,000	\$435,738
UGANDA	1998	265	\$8,820,935	\$2,708,630	\$4,569,352	\$409,444	\$7,687,426
UKRAINE	2010	187	\$8,525,473	\$4,585,875	\$4,211,564	\$1,286,383	\$10,083,822
URUGUAY	2006	164	\$3,634,966	\$192,032	\$4,482,167	\$63,270	\$4,737,469
UZBEKISTAN	2008	122	\$2,999,683	\$4,777,313	\$2,446,454	\$-	\$7,223,767
VANUATU	2008	118	\$4,014,759	\$1,528,828	\$2,774,691	\$624,508	\$4,928,027

		GEF SGP Funding		Co-financing			
Country	Year started (*)	Number of Projects	GEF Grant Amount Committed	Project level Co-financing in Cash	Project level Co-financing in Kind	Non-GEF Grant Amount Committed	Total Co- financing
VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)	2010	239	\$6,628,388	\$1,510,634	\$7,208,000	\$-	\$8,718,634
VIET NAM	1999	257	\$6,941,136	\$4,239,887	\$6,303,497	\$1,868,260	\$12,411,644
YEMEN	2006	120	\$3,767,007	\$3,664,029	\$2,956,720	\$-	\$6,620,749
ZAMBIA	2008	84	\$2,894,450	\$1,088,874	\$905,038	\$566,600	\$2,560,512
ZIMBABWE	1994	215	\$8,145,796	\$3,001,088	\$14,104,077	\$-	\$17,105,165
TOTAL		27,186	\$763,923,391	\$434,547,477	\$555,997,286	\$74,063,311	\$1,064,608,073

SOURCE: Quality Assured Dataset after initial inputs in SGP Database, 2024

These projects above represent all the projects as per SGP database, including projects terminated before completion, under implementation, not active yet, satisfactorily completed, and activities completed with final reports pending.

(*) The criteria for the start year of the country (i.e., grant making started) are the same as applied by the GEF Evaluation Team

Annex II: Portfolio Overview

Table 1: Active SGP Projects as of June 30, 2024 Including global and upgraded countries, in millions USD

	Funding Sources	Number of Projects	Grant Amount	Co-financing in Cash	Co-financing in Kind
GEF Funds		2,123	80.27	30.37	43.21
	GEF Core Funds	1,014	33.70	20.12	19.99
	GEF STAR Funds	1,084	45.88	10.23	22.70
	GEF RAF Funding	25	0.69	0.02	0.51
Non-GEF Funds		228	8.06	2.54	5.04
	AusAid CBA	79	2.41	0.25	1.12
	ICCA-GSI	49	1.67	0.43	0.64
	Packard Foundation	16	0.80	0.28	0.32
	TNC	14	0.47	0.00	0.00
	WRI	12	0.63	0.06	0.03
	Other	58	2.07	1.52	2.94
Total		2,351	88.33	32.92	48.25

Table 2: Focal Area Distribution of Active Projects

For both GEF funds and non-GEF funds, including global and upgraded countries, in millions USD

Focal Area	Number of Projects	Grant Amount	Co-financing in Cash	Co-financing in Kind
Biodiversity	1,050	44.42	18.79	18.16
Capacity Development	106	3.98	2.38	1.69
Chemicals and Waste	124	4.63	2.11	5.87
Climate Change Adaptation	94	3.32	0.69	1.63
Climate Change Mitigation	446	14.83	3.34	10.99
International Waters	76	2.92	0.96	1.61
Land Degradation	456	14.24	4.63	8.30
Total	2,351	88.33	32.92	48.25

Table 3: Regional Distribution of Active SGP Projects

For both GEF funds and non-GEF funds, including global and upgraded countries, in millions USD

Region	Number of Projects	Grant Amount	Co-financing in Cash	Co-financing in Kind
Arab States	84	3.29	0.91	1.09
Europe and the CIS	136	4.34	2.78	2.12
Latin America and the Caribbean	576	30.28	6.26	11.51
Asia and the Pacific	658	22.92	7.42	18.17
Africa	897	27.50	15.55	15.35
Total	2,351	88.33	32.92	48.25

Table 4: Cumulative SGP Projects by Operational Phase (both Global and UCPs)

For both GEF funds and non-GEF funds, including global and upgraded countries, in millions USD

Operational Phase	Number of Projects	Grant Amount	Co-financing in Cash	Co-financing in Kind	Co-financing Total
Pilot Phase	602	10.63	5.16	6.66	11.82
OP1	876	15.19	10.66	7.99	18.65
OP2	4,488	96.07	69.62	83.77	153.39
OP3	3,205	78.18	62.25	54.58	116.83
OP4	4,626	129.24	79.77	76.79	156.56
OP5	7,373	234.71	105.75	157.67	263.42
OP6	4,604	140.78	54.76	88.83	143.59
OP7	3,970	133.18	46.58	79.71	126.29
Total	29,744	837.99	434.55	556.00	990.54

Table 5: Cumulative SGP Global Countries Projects by Operational Phase (Global only)

For both GEF funds and non-GEF funds, global countries only, in millions USD

Operational Phase	Number of Projects	Grant Amount	Co-financing in Cash	Co-financing in Kind	Co-financing Total
Pilot Phase	602	10.63	5.16	6.66	11.82
OP1	876	15.19	10.66	7.99	18.65
OP2	4,488	96.07	69.62	83.77	153.39
OP3	3,205	78.18	62.25	54.58	116.83
OP4	4,626	129.24	79.77	76.79	156.56
OP5	6,706	209.64	92.98	138.67	231.65
OP6	3,942	119.39	46.66	73.43	120.09
OP7	3,450	105.57	42.29	69.93	112.22
Total	27,895	763.93	409.40	511.81	921.21

Table 6: New SGP Projects Approved, July 2023 to June 2024

For both GEF funds and non-GEF funds, including global and upgraded countries, in millions USD

Funding Sources	Number of Projects	Grant Amount	Co-financing in Cash	Co-financing in Kind	Co-financing Total
GEF Core Funds	424	13.41	11.07	7.77	18.84
GEF STAR Funds	463	16.76	6.00	9.76	15.76
Total (GEF Funds)	887	30.17	17.07	17.53	34.60
Total (Non-GEF funds)	113	4.03	0.57	2.55	3.11
Total (All Funds)	1,000	34.20	17.64	20.08	37.71

Table 7: SGP Funding Status to date, Global Programme (OP5 – OP8)
7a. GEF Funding for SGP in OP8, Global Country Programmes

Project	Date of Ap	pproval	Amount (USD) (excluding Agency Fees)
Global (Part I)	PIF Approval by Council	29-Jun-23	
Global (Part I)	CEO Endorsement	12-Aug-24	126,186,603
Total Amount			126,186,603

7b. GEF Funding for SGP in OP7, Global Country Programmes

Project	Date of Ap	pproval	Amount (USD) (excluding Agency Fees)
Global Core (Part I)	PIF Approval by Council	18-Dec-18	
Global Core (Fart I)	CEO Endorsement	20-May-20	61,538,462
Global Core (Part II)	PIF Approval by Council	2-Jun-20	
Global Core (Part II)	CEO Endorsement	17-Feb-22	61,538,462
CTAD (Dort III)	PIF Approval by Council	11-Dec-20	
STAR (Part III)	CEO Endorsement	9-Jun-22	43,937,623
Total Amount			167,014,547

7c. GEF Funding for SGP in OP6, Global Country Programmes

Project	Date of Ap	proval	Amount (USD) (excluding Agency Fees)
Global Core (Part I)	PIF Approval by Council	30-Oct-14	
Global Core (Part I)	CEO Endorsement	09-Jul-15	67,307,692
Global Core (Part II)	PIF Approval by Council	27-Oct-16	
Global Core (Part II)	CEO Endorsement	05-Sep-17	67,307,692
STAR (Part III)	PIF Approval by Council	25-May-17	
STAN (Purt III)	CEO Endorsement	12-Dec-17	17,337,500
STAD (Dort IV)	PIF Approval by Council	30-Nov-17	
STAR (Part IV)	CEO Endorsement	24-Apr-18	19,167,177
Total Amount			171,120,061

7d. GEF Funding for SGP in OP5, Global Country Programmes

Project	Date of Approval		Amount (USD) (excluding Agency Fees)
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
Total Amount			255,260,168

Table 8: SGP Funding Status to date, Upgraded Country Programmes 8a. GEF Funding for SGP Upgraded Country Programmes in OP7

Upgraded Country Programme	CEO Endorsement/Approval	PIF Approval	Project Budget (USD) Exclusive of Agency Fees
Bolivia	22-Jul-2021	26-May-2021	1,959,132
Brazil	26-Apr-2021	11-Jun-2019	4,481,210
Costa Rica	6-May-2020	11-Jun-2019	2,081,945
Ecuador	12-Jul-2019	9-Apr-2019	1,826,484
Egypt	1-Dec-2021	19-Dec-2019	2,096,119
India	28-May-2021	11-Jun-2019	4,474,886
Indonesia	2-Jun-2022	3-Jun-2020	3,561,644
Kazakhstan	7-Jan-2022	13-May-2021	1,826,484
Kenya	2-Dec-2021	19-Dec-2019	2,655,726
Malaysia	2-Dec-2021	19-Dec-2019	2,500,000
Mexico	11-Nov-2021	3-Jun-2020	4,481,210
Peru	3-Jun-2021	18-Jun-2020	1,959,132
Philippines	7-Jun-2021	11-Jun-2019	4,436,210
Sri Lanka	14-Sep-2021	28-Aug-2020	1,822,146
Total Amount			40,162,328

8b. GEF Funding for SGP Upgraded Country Programmes in OP6

Upgraded Country Programme	CEO	DIE Annuaval	Project Budget (USD)
	Endorsement/Approval	PIF Approval	Exclusive of Agency Fees
Bolivia	31-Jan-2017	11-Mar-2016	3,634,703
Costa Rica	14-Mar-2016	28-Apr-2015	2,323,125
Ecuador	14-June-2016	MSP	1,826,484
Egypt	12-Dec-2016	28-Apr-2015	2,843,241
Indonesia	25-Jan-2017	28-Apr-2015	3,561,644
Kazakhstan	2-Jun-2017	4-May-2016	2,649,726
Kenya	19-Jul-2017	4-May-2016	3,561,644
Mexico	6-Nov-2017	11-Mar-2016	4,429,223
Pakistan	14-Feb-2017	11-Mar-2016	2,656,726
Peru	29-Nov-2016	28-Apr-2015	3,196,672
Sri Lanka	18-Nov-2016	28-Apr-2015	2,497,078
Thailand	3-Apr-2019	30-Oct-2017	2,381,620
Total Amount			35,561,886

8c. GEF Funding for SGP Upgraded Country Programmes in OP5

Upgraded Country Programme	CEO Endorsement/Approval	Project Budget (USD) - Exclusive of Agency Fees
Bolivia	10-Jul-2012	4,166,667
Brazil	5-Dec-2012	5,000,000
Costa Rica	24-Nov-2011	4,398,148
Ecuador	24-Nov-2011	4,398,145
India	27-Jan-2012	5,000,000
Kenya	28-Dec-2011	5,000,000
Mexico	2-Feb-2012	4,662,755
Pakistan	30-Nov-2011	2,777,778
Philippines	11-Dec-2012	4,583,333
Total Amount		39,986,826