



SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY FOR OP7

STATE OF PALESTINE

Table of Content

1. Introduction
2. Summary Background: Key Results/Achievements
3. Country Priorities and Strategic Alignment
 - 3.1. Alignment with National Priorities
 - 3.2. Gaps and Opportunities
 - 3.3. OP7 Strategic Priorities
4. OP7 Priority Landscape/Seascapes & Strategic Initiatives
 - 4.1. Grant making Within the Landscape/Seascapes
 - a) Process for Selecting Landscape/Seascapes
 - b) Selected Landscapes and Seascapes
 - c) Strategic Initiatives in the Landscapes/Seascapes
 - 4.2. Grant making Outside the Landscape/Seascape
 - a) CSO-Government-Private Sector Dialogue Platform
 - b) Promoting Social Inclusion
 - c) Knowledge Management
5. Communication Plan
6. Resource Mobilization Plan
7. Risk Management Plan
8. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
9. National Steering Committee Endorsement

OP7 Financial Resources - SGP Country Programme (estimated US\$)¹

Total SGP Grants to date since (year):	USD
OP7 GEF Core Funds:	USD \$500,000 (tbc)
OP7 GEF STAR Funds:	USD
Other funds (secured)	USD
Other funds (expected/to be mobilized)	USD

¹ The level of SGP OP7 resources is an estimated total of: (i) the GEF7 core grant allocation (to be reviewed annually by CPMT on the basis of performance, co-financing and strategic partnerships, demonstrated NSC commitment rates, and UNOPS delivery); (ii) approved STAR resources; as well as (iii) other sources of third party cost sharing & co-financing (country, regional and/or global levels). SGP countries with remaining OP6 balances that have not been pipelined will be expected to use these balances in line with the OP7 strategic approach in order to be coherent in terms of SGP programming and results expected.



1. BACKGROUND

As a GEF corporate programme, SGP aligns its operational phase strategies to that of the GEF, and provides a series of demonstration projects for further scaling up, replication and mainstreaming. Action at the local level by civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities is deemed a vital component of the GEF 20/20 Strategy (i.e., convening multi-stakeholder alliances to deliver global environmental benefits and contribute to UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD), which in turn is linked to UNDP Strategic Plan and related Integrated Results and Resources Framework (2018-2021) and focus on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Building on its over 26 years of successful operations in total over 133 countries, the 7th Operational Phase of the SGP aims *“to promote and support innovative, inclusive and scalable initiatives, and foster multi stakeholder partnerships at the local level to tackle global environmental issues in priority landscapes and seascapes.”*

In August 1998, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Programme of assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP) formally launched the Small Grants Programme (SGP) in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with the support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)². In practice, the launching coincided with the Second Operational Phase of the global GEF/SGP. Prior to its launch in October 1996, a GEF identification mission to the Palestinian Territories (PT) was conducted. Its purpose was to brief the UNDP and the Palestinian partners on GEF, its modality and eligibility criteria in addition to identify possibilities for future programming options. The UNDP/PAPP has partnered with GEF/SGP since 1996 and supported local communities in the State of Palestine in addressing the linked challenges of environment and development and increasing resilience in these areas through its small grant mechanism.

To facilitate the process of initiating the GEF/SGP in the State of Palestine, another starts up mission was conducted in 1998 in partnership with the Environment Quality Authority (EQA). EQA is GEF/SGP official counterpart in the State of Palestine. The mission aimed at seeking possible options of Programme structuring and identifying potential areas for GFF/SGP support to the Palestinian NGOs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The programme supports the activities of non-governmental and community-based organizations towards climate change abatement, conservation of biodiversity, protection of international waters, reduction of the impact of persistent organic pollutants and prevention of land degradation whilst generating sustainable livelihoods. The GEF/SGP is rooted in the belief that global environmental problems can only be adequately addressed through grassroots involvement, and the small amounts of funding can make significant difference (think globally and act locally). GEF/SGP programme has implemented its operation phase OP4, OP5, and OP6 and now is setting its country strategy to implement its OP7.

Currently, GEF/SGP is managed by the National Coordinator and directly supported by the UNDP/ PAPP Natural Unit Special Representative at the UNDP Jerusalem main office. There is one National Focal Group (NFG) in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, The National Focal Group voluntarily provides technical and advisory support for the Programme as well as decision body for projects' selection. Also, NFG influences the direction of the Programme in determining its eligibility criteria and national priorities. The NFG is

²The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a multilateral financial mechanism created in 1992 to provide grant and concessional funds to recipient countries for projects and programs that address biodiversity loss, climate change, the protection of international waters, the degradation of land and international waters, ozone depletion, and persistent organic pollutants. GEF is a designated financial mechanism for international environmental conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and Minamata Convention on Mercury.



composed of nine members, 2 of whom are women, of diverse professional calibres and with particular specialty in most of the GEF/SGP focus.

2. SUMMARY: Key Results/Accomplishments

The Sixth Operational Program (OP6) of the GEF small grant programme (SGP) was approved by the GEF Council in 2016. The development goal of GEF SGP was to effectively support the creation of global environmental benefits and the safeguarding of the global environment through community and local solutions that complement and add value to the national and global level action. During OP6, GEF/SGP the State of Palestine relied on a core grant allocation of almost 600,000 USD\$ from the SGP Core budget. In OP6, 18 projects were funded by GEF/SGP programme and implemented by Palestinian NGOs and CBOs. The projects were classified to respond to three GEF focal areas, where “Conservation of Biodiversity” had the highest number of projects reaching up to 9 projects; forming 52.9% of total number of projects implemented during OP6. The chemical projects have been also quite dominate in OP6 reaching up to 7 projects forming 38.8% of the projects (Annex 1). While the capacity development projects accounted for the least with 2 projects, of less than 2% of GEF/SGP projects. One of the key elements of (OP6) was to focus on a certain natural landscape. Accordingly, the funded projects in OP6 were geographically distributed to cover four landscape/seascape which included (1) the Gaza Strip landscape/seascape; (2) the Jalbun Catchment Area; (3) Wadi El Zarqa El Elwi Cluster; and (4) Wadi El-Quff Area. It should be noted that these landscape areas were selected based on specific social, economic, environmental and topographic criteria.

Throughout the implemented projects, GEF was able to achieve variant goals through variant research and developmental activities, which according to the outputs and indicators contributed in environmental, economic and agricultural development as small-scale projects. Most of the projects funded by GEF- SGP during the OP6 worked out specific interventions that focused on *Conservation of Biodiversity* to promote behaviour change and local communities’ participation in terms of conserving the ecosystem and improving the sustainability of natural forest. These projects focused on the inventory of Palestinian Nature Reserve and Forested areas including the identification of dominant plant species and association, ecosystem services, and applying good practices for best and sustainable natural resources utilization by locals. It should be noted that the implemented projects worked also on 1) strengthening the capacity of the men, women and youth on environmental and economic benefits form ecosystem conservation; where 86 trainings were conducted, benefitting about 2880 citizens, 1565 males and 1315 females. 2) providing practical mechanism and income generating activities to protect the ecosystem and development of women’s participation in the environmental and economic fields; as one exhibition was conducted in Wadi Al Quf area to promote the recycled local wooden products that was made by the targeted women. The event had about 180 visitors, and 3) rehabilitating of environmental tracks, construction of educational garden and dams, and the land rehabilitation. The main related indicators are; the development of a Management Plan for Janata nature reserve and the technical report for Wadi Al-Zarqa Al-Ulwi, the water harvesting dam constructed at Jalboun area, the 30.65 km of environmental trails and pathways in forests and natural reserves which rehabilitated for educations and tourism purposes, cleaning Solomon Pools in Bethlehem, the replantation of forty donums with 10,000 indigenous young trees in Wadi AlQuf and 50 acacias. All the projects’ implemented activities within this focal area concentrated on both, environmental and agricultural concerns, and achieved all its goals and objects side by side with the local community councils and CSOs.



In the field of waste and chemical, GEF/SGP projects were focusing on reducing the exposure of human and the environment harmful chemical and solid waste through community approach including; (1) formulation of practical solution to handle solid waste such as transfer of waste to energy via installing and operating of the biological digestion to produce gas and organic fertilizer; (2) producing guidelines for best agricultural practices agro-logical farming, food safety of products, and (3) pesticide management to adopt a safe farming pattern. This is in addition to establish a demonstration site with an area of 1567.7 dunmm for sustainable environmental practices for Palestinian farmers through cleaning, rehabilitating the agricultural land, preparing the soil bed, and providing the farmers with needed environmental tools (a, alternative to chemical pesticides, agricultural extension for clean pest, biodegradable organic mulch....). Moreover, a comparison study was conducted on the amount of chemicals and harmful pesticides in the soil and crops and the national pesticides database in Palestine was updated.

Related to the educational visits and materials made through the 18 projects, 60 workshops for the projects' announcement, steering committee meetings and educational workshops, 67 field visits were conducted, for educational and truism purposes, 13 booklet and brochures were designed, where 8836 total copies were distributed to the beneficiaries and other related and interested sectors, a two days cultural event was made for betillu, Deir Ammar and Jamala villages, making two documentary films about flora and funa biodiversity in AlHashimi Nature Reserve, and another one about the flora and fauna species in Fakou'a- Jenin, the production and broadcasting of radio and TV episodes and spots for the awareness section of the projects, and producing a colored map and 2 signboards for Fakou'a area.

Although GEF contributes small grants but it has been able to contribute to partners' performance, especially in terms of enhancing their general knowledge of and skills in applying nature conservation measures. There are further needs for up-scaling and replicating best practices through co-finance and forging partnership with other donors or by the oPT programme participating in other national and regional GEF Programme.

3. COUNTRY PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

3.1. Alignment with National Priorities

SGP OP7 will continue to reflect national priorities as shown in the implementation of international conventions, programs/projects that are indicated in Table 1.

Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
GEF-7 National Dialogues	2019
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Ratified on the 2 nd January 2015 and entered into force 2 nd April 2015
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	Completed in 1999 -Will be updated in 2020-2021
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention of Biological Diversity	Ratified on the 2 nd January 2015 and entered into force 2 nd April 2015
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	----
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Signed on 18th December 2015 entered into

Paris agreement	force 17 March 2016 22/2/2006 Signed and ratified
UNFCCC National Communications (1st, 2nd, 3rd)	1 st National Communications Report –submitted on 11 th November 2016
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	Not submitted yet
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	11 th Nov. 2016
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	National Strategy for Combating Desertification (2010-2020) Palestine is a member in the Knowledge Hub of the convention since 28th March 2018” Signed on 6 Dec 2017
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	The strategy mentioned above include an action plan and a financing mechanism
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Ratification 28/12/2017, entry into force 28/03/2018
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	should be submitted before 28/3/2020
Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	National Development Plan 2014 Palestinian National Food Security Strategy 2005 The National Strategy to Achieve the MDG by 2015
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies 3	-----
Minamata Convention on Mercury	Accession date 18 th March 2019
Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer	Accession date 18 th March 2019
Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer	Accession date 18 th March 2019
Rotterdam Convention	Ratification/Accession date 28/12/2017 (a) Entry into force 28/03/2018
Basel convention on the Control of Trans boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal	Ratified on 1 st Jan 2015 and entered into force on 1 st April 2014
Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Paris Accord	August 2017
UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	
Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) for the UN SDGs	Palestinian national voluntary review on the implementation of the 2030 agenda “June 2018

Table 1. List of relevant conventions and national/regional plans or programmes

3.2. Gaps and Opportunities

In alignment with national priorities, the State of Palestine agreed on ratifying 17 multilateral environmental conventions upon which the State of Palestine has signed three conventions and one protocol; (i) Basal Convention on the Control of Trans boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, (ii) Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention of Biological Diversity, and (iii) UN framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In addition, on the year 2019 the State of Palestine has signed another two conventions and one protocol

³ Please identify existing IW regional projects and the regional SAPs adopted by countries sharing international waterbodies as to align SGP local interventions. Please check this website to find some of the SAPs: <http://iwlearn.net/publications/SAP>



namely; (i) Minamata Convention on Mercury, (ii) Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, and (iii) Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

Moreover, several national strategies and action plans were set in relevance to GEF-SGP strategies and focal areas including, National Policy Agenda “Putting Citizens First” 2017-2022, Cross-Sectoral Environmental Strategy 2017-2022, National Water Sector Strategic Plan and Action 2017-2022, Agriculture Sector Strategy 2017-2022, Energy Sector Strategy 2016-2020, National Strategy for Solid Waste Management in the State of Palestine 2017-2022, National Strategy for Combating Desertification (2010-2020), EQA Strategic Action Plan (2016-2020) and EQA budget 2017-2019, fifth Palestinian national report to the convention on biological diversity, 2015; and Sustainable Consumption And Production National Action Plan 2016. It should be noted that currently, EQA in the process of updating and revising the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the State of Palestine (NBSAPP).

The EQA is working to develop the bylaws needed and preparing the requested documents for the alignment with the conventions they ratified. Of the main challenges that face the PA in joining the international conventions as noted by EQA in the consultative meetings, is first having the final government decision on the specific convention to join, second is the acceptance and facilitation of the conventions’ secretariat in processing the papers. The funding and available allocated budgets for the State of Palestine are still not channeled to the Palestinian Government and in some cases, Palestine gets funding only on a small-scale project as the case with GEF SGP. The State of Palestine, however, should become eligible for large and medium GEF project budgets especially given that it has signed the CBD, Basel and Minamata Conventions and the UNFCCC.

EQA staff have already started communicating with partners to prepare for this full membership, mainly by reviewing laws and bylaws to make sure they are in alignment with the convention. For this purpose, the EQA decided to reactivate the National Committee for Climate Change. The EQA is putting effort into reviewing the technical and legal status of the environment in the State of Palestine in order to have a clearer vision on how to move forward.

The EQA has developed and submitted the Initial National Communication Report on Climate Change (INCR) and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) on 2016 as well as the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) on August 2017 to the Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The INCR report was developed in accordance with the recommended and applicable guidelines, highlights the key outcomes of EQA work on GHG inventories, analysis of mitigation and adaptation potentials, making it a vital source of information about GHGs emissions, the measures to tackle climate change, and the technical and institutional challenges faced. While the NAP plan identifies a wide range of ‘highly vulnerable’ issues across 12 themes/sectors with 3.5 billion \$ for 10 years to adapt to CC.

On 2016, the Palestinian Government nominated the (EQA) to become the Country’s National Designated Authority (NDA) to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Through this the EQA was able to (i) establish several institutional processes including a ‘no objection procedures’ and ‘coordination mechanism’; (ii) create an enabling environment to mainstream climate change in the national and local planning process; and (iii) access the GCF resources and fulfill its duties as a NDA to the GCF. In the same manner and through UNDP fund the NDA developed the operational manual with standards operating procedures to access and utilize GCF finance. Accordingly, the EQA, in joint efforts with its partners, has succeed to receive support from the Green Climate Fund with support from Agence Française de



Development for the project water Banking and Adaptation of Agriculture to Climate Change in Gaza on November, 2019

Another significant success is the change in the status of the environment strategy, from a sectoral strategy to a cross-sectoral strategy, which implies mainstreaming the environment across all sectors in the national planning cycle 2017-2022 process. Accordingly, the Environmental cross-sectoral strategy has been developed for the year 2017-2020. It should be noted that before starting the national planning cycle 2017-2022 process, the EQA produced the environmental policy paper in order to guide other sectors on environmental priorities in 2016. The environmental policy paper aimed at giving directions to other sectors on how to protect the environment and integrate environmental and climate change issues in their policies and strategies. The cross-sectoral strategy has five main strategic objectives, each of which has many interventions and activities. These five objectives, developed in accordance with the EQA mandate including: (1) Environmental pollution levels are low and controlled, (2) Natural environment and biodiversity are maintained and managed in a sustainable manner; (3) Measures for climate change adaptation, combat desertification, and deal with environmental disasters and emergencies are adopted and implemented; (4) The environmental legal framework is updated, activated, and integrated; the institutional framework is empowered and efficient, and the international cooperation is enhanced; and (5) The level of environmental awareness, knowledge, and practice are increased and enhanced. The cross-sectoral strategy was developed in accordance with the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), and published in 2016. In terms of biodiversity, the EQA produced the 5th national Report on Biodiversity in 2015 and currently they are in the process of producing the 6th national Report on Biological Biodiversity which will be ready by 2020. Moreover, the EQA, in joint efforts with its partners, has updated the distribution of the protected areas, which have been reflected in the National Spatial Plan.

Although the road towards sustainable development in the State of Palestine is paved with challenges and obstacles, there is an opportunity for civil society to promote environmental issues and sustainable development in the territory. The advantages are that the political and institutional environment of the State of Palestine facilitates the work of civil society organizations (CSOs) who fund and implement environmental initiatives along with promoting environmental advocacy and awareness. The State of Palestine enjoys the presence of vibrant civil society that has been working long before the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority. Despite the level of active promotion and advocacy of environmental and development issues in the State of Palestine, there are significant data and information gaps. This mainly refers to the: 1) lack of cooperation between stakeholders and lack of a national monitoring program to track the changes and trends in the conditions of affected populations particularly women and youth; and 2) low of local engagement of environmental CBOs as well as human rights NGOs in the natural resource management.

For the Palestinian Government, the NGOs, CBOs and other local CSOs are strategic partners in achieving sustainable development. Accordingly, an inclusive policy in the creation of national and sectorial policy agendas was adopted in the NPA 2017-2022. In addition, most of the conventions, national plans and strategies listed above have included a clear mentioning of the importance of engagement and participation of the civil society organizations and local communities in the formulation, implementation and development of the national policies and practices. Accordingly, it is envisaged that there is unlimited opportunities and great potential for NGOs/CSOs and local communities to play a key role in the future updates of such documents as well as in the implementation process.

3.3. OP7 Strategic Priorities of the SGP Country Programme

Table 2. SGP Country Programme’s alignment with SGP OP7 Strategic Initiatives and Country Priorities/Projects/Programmes

1	2	3
<p>SGP OP7 Strategic Initiatives - Global</p>	<p>SGP Country Programme’s OP7 Priorities (Choose priorities among the SGP OP7 Strategic Initiatives on the left column. Some are mandatory and already included.)</p>	<p>SGP Country Programme’s complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and programmes (identify related projects/ programmes for cooperation)</p>
<p><i>Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species</i></p> <p>Key objectives/focus:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Improve management effectiveness of protected areas through ICCAs and shared governance with private sector and government. 2) Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.) 3) Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species 	<p>Promote ecologically sustainable use of the protected areas through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying tools and revenue mechanism from environmental services in protected areas, • Improving the management of protected areas; • Improving, diversifying and strengthening protected-area governance types, through supporting to an array of policies, strategies, and practices that engage and encourages key public, local and private sector participation in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use; • Catalyzing private sector investment in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use; • Reducing significant threats that might jeopardize the biodiversity; • Monitoring the productivity and losses in natural resources (e.g., water, land degradation, and deforestation). • Increasing public awareness and community participation especially women, in the conservation and management efforts (design and, implementation). 	<p>Within the UNDP strategy 2017-2021, UNDP developed signature solutions to address complex and interconnected challenges and provide sustained responses. Through Signature solution 2, UNDP aims at strengthening effective, inclusive and accountable governance systems and processes to be recognized as crucial to sustainable development and human security. Where through Signature solution 4, UNDP aims at promoting nature-based solutions for a sustainable planet, by applying integrated actions developed in partnership with FAO, UNEP and others to address biodiversity loss by tackling market, policy and governance failures that lead to ecosystem degradation.</p>
<p><i>Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems (mountains, SIDS, etc). 2) Increase diversification and livelihood improvement 	<p>Improve and stabilize food security and ecosystem services through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and promoting agro-ecological innovations to maintain socio-ecological production of landscapes and seascape; • Encouraging the utilization of the local varieties and breeds (traditional and conventional agricultural knowledge); • Improving the land management and restoration of degraded lands, and landscape functions by promoting key 	<p>According to UNDP strategy 2017-2021 through Signature solution 1: Keeping people out of poverty, UNDP aims at focusing on rural areas which are largely dependent on agriculture and natural resources, where this signature solution will be closely related to issues of food security and the resilience of agricultural</p>

<p>3) Remove deforestation from supply chain and expanded restoration of degraded lands.</p>	<p>practices that confer adaptation features and enhanced resilience of ecosystems;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operationalizing innovative finance mechanisms such as payments for ecosystem services, habitat banking aggregate offsets, and tradable development rights and quotas; • Providing the value chain actors with technical and managerial support. 	<p>systems.</p> <p>Within “Signature solution 4: Promote nature-based solutions for a sustainable planet” the United Nations will be involved in reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries.</p>
<p>Low-carbon energy access co-benefits</p> <p>Support implementation of Paris Agreement and the NDCs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Promote renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods. 2) Promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas. 	<p>. Increase the utilization of locally renewable available resources and improve the efficiency through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting innovative technological projects such as (i) biogas; (ii) biofuel; and (iii) solar and wind energy; • Encouraging energy efficiency interventions that promote residential energy conservation; Scaling up and replicating inclusive market-based solutions for affordable and clean access to sustainable source of energy, learning from successful experiences and successful pilot projects; • Enhancing energy governance to increase the demand on the renewable energy resources; • Supporting households and communities to enhance access to efficient solutions such as cooking, heating, lighting and productive uses; • Optimizing the synergies between food, water and energy systems to promote socio-economic development and reduce poverty; • Implementing of advocacy projects to influence national strategies to adopt regulations and initiatives that promote the usage of clean and renewable energy. 	<p>Through Signature solution 5: Close the energy gap, UNDP is seeking increasing energy access, particularly access to clean and affordable energy as a critical enabler for sustainable development, promoting renewable energy and enhancing energy efficiency, where the transition to clean and affordable energy will help countries to reduce the impacts of indoor and outdoor air pollution. Also, this signature solution participates in supporting innovative private and public solutions to increase energy access and delivery.</p>
<p>Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reduce and promote alternative to mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining 2) Promote plastics/solid waste management and circular economy 3) Reduce/remove use of chemicals in agriculture 4) Enhance local to global 	<p>Improve management of plastics/ chemicals /solid waste through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging sound management of agricultural chemicals and their wastes through (i) promoting pesticide alternatives to pesticides and other chemical products (e.g., packing, storage and environmentally safe disposal of obsolete pesticides); (ii) Shifting into a sustainable and economically feasible organic farming; Promoting innovative practices for organic farming at local level; • Promoting community-based plastics/solid 	<p>No UNDP related strategies</p>

<p>coalitions on chemicals, waste and mercury management</p>	<p>waste sorting, recycling or disposal to contribute towards a future free of plastic waste and lead reduction of waste accumulation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting Local to global coalitions dialogue platforms to discuss collaboration opportunities for effective implementation of waste management, through developing civil society and local communities' technical capacity, knowledge exchange, lessons learned, and awareness-raising on plastics/solid waste/e-waste, hazardous waste management; • Promoting alternatives to income from handling plastic/ solid waste and • Promoting safe practices in handling e-waste and hazardous waste through piloting/testing interventions at the community level Implementing of advocacy projects to influence national strategies for policies and strategies to manage plastic, solid waste, e-waste and hazardous chemicals. 	
<p><i>Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Improved capacities to promote community-driven, socially inclusive and integrated solutions to address low-emission and resilient urban development 2) Demonstrated innovative socially-inclusive urban solutions/ approaches (including waste and chemical management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity) 3) Implement public-private partnership approach for low carbon energy access for marginalized urban communities 	<p>Facilitate integrated urban planning, and management, that leads to sustainable and resilient development and sound ecosystem management through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing understanding of the benefits of urban planning and implications of climate change for urban development; • Demonstrating, supporting and managing local innovative, replicable and locally attuned nature-based solutions to improve urban resilience to: flood risk reduction, climate-smart investment in clean energy, reduce GHG emissions; chemical and waste management systems, sustainable resource consumption and production patterns, natural reserves and biodiversity, urban water resource management and green spaces in an integrated urban planning manner; • Fostering knowledge sharing and partnership development on sustainable cities and resilience at all levels, national, and global; • Strengthening collaboration and mutual understanding between all stakeholders (public-private) to attract and implement more private finance into pro-poor energy 	<p>Through the Combined Strategic Plan of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and UN-Women</p> <p>They aim at engaging citizens through volunteerism, empowerment, participation and other means to strengthen national ownership and capacity, and delivery of the sustainable development agenda.</p>

	<p>markets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving human resources, and technical capacity through knowledge management, transfer of technology, and partnership and collaboration 	
<p>Community-based Adaptation (With AusAID or other funding – not eligible with GEF funding)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce vulnerability and improve the adaptive capacity of communities Provide countries with concrete ground-level experience on CCA Provide clear policy lessons and mainstream CBA within national processes. 	<p><i>Not applicable</i></p>	<p><i>Not applicable</i></p>
<p>CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote/enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, strategy development related to global environment and sustainable development issues 	<p>Strengthen partnerships between government, civil societies and private sector through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting CSO-Government-Private Sector inclusive dialogue platforms to participate, envision and plan for the desired environmental, agricultural, and economic development outcomes Encouraging CSOs, to expand and scaling up local innovative practices; Providing CSOs with technical and managerial support related to local development works, and networking at community both local and national level. 	<p>As part of its integrated approach, UNDP will focus in addition on risk reduction to address vulnerabilities faced by the poor and marginalized arising from climate change and environmental degradation. Enabling greater voice and participation of the poor in structures and processes of governance will be essential as well, to promote agency and well-being. More transparent and democratically governed public Palestinian institutions is expected to be enhanced according to the Strategy of Sweden’s international Development Cooperation with Palestine, where the political influence and enjoyment of human rights for women and children shall be increased.</p>
<p>Enhancing social inclusion (mandatory)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote targeted initiatives Mainstream social inclusion in all projects (e.g., women/girls, indigenous peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities) 	<p>Promote gender mainstreaming to reduce gender inequality and promoting women’s, youth and people with disabilities empowerment in SGP initiatives through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> supporting continuous, coordinated and effective input from women/youth to decision-making; promoting youth entrepreneurship through supporting youth initiatives that contribute to the social, economic and environmental innovation required to protect the environment in sustainable manner. 	<p>Among the Common Strategic Plan of UNDP, UNISEF, UNFPA and UN-women 2017- 2022, one of the key areas of collaboration is (d) Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encouraging social entrepreneurship for diversified and sustainable economic development for vulnerable and low-income households; • building partnerships, support the networking and creation of women/youth organizations; • Strengthening the skills and knowledge of rural women to enhance their participation in emerging local economies through Implementation of replicable livelihoods, demonstration projects for poverty eradication while targeting gender equality youth and people with disabilities; • recognize the traditional and indigenous knowledge of women and youth; • conducting gender mainstreaming training for potential grantees. 	
<p>Knowledge Management (mandatory)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities</i> 2) <i>Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs</i> 3) <i>Conduct South-South Exchanges to promote technology transfer and replication of good practices</i> 	<p>Contribution of best practices, and lessons learnt on communities’ platforms shared through;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyzing good practices and lessons learned from SGP projects; • Identifying projects that are scalable and replicable; • Strengthening the capacities and maintaining up-to-date knowledge of CSOs/CBOs to synergize and support the implementation of the projects; • Utilizing the citizen-based knowledge platform (digital library of community innovations by SGP stakeholders for networking and knowledge sharing of local actions; • Facilitating the exchange of experiences, knowledge transfer, and replication of appropriate technology, tools and approach on global environmental issues between countries especially South-South cooperation; and • coordinating to increase the efficiency of UN interventions by avoiding duplication and increasing complementarity between activities. 	<p>The UNDP through the global development advisory and implementation services platform is intended to serve a dual purpose: firstly, to provide high-quality technical and policy advisory support to country platforms and UNDP country programmes; and secondly to support UNDP global knowledge, innovation and partnership-building efforts within the UNDS, as well as with IFIs and a wide range of other partners.</p> <p>In the UNDAF Strategic Programming Framework for Palestine 2018-2022, is was declared that the UNCT in Palestine’s comparative advantages include Its extensive multi-sectoral development expertise which can draw together a wide range of knowledge to deal with complex multi-sectoral policy issues, such as youth, climate change and others.</p> <p>The Strategy of Sweden’s international Development Cooperation with Palestine has three main activities, where “Strengthened capacity of local</p>

		<p>public institutions and civil society actors to prevent and manage disaster, environmental risks and climate change” is a priority.</p> <p>The GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation (BMZ) operates on institution building and civil society as a priority, through “<i>Strengthening women in decision-making in the Middle East – LEAD</i>” project (of an overall term 2015-2021) and “<i>Strengthening civil society organizations in the Palestinian territories</i>” project (of an overall term 2016-2022) and other projects.</p>
<p>Results Management, Monitoring & Evaluation (mandatory)</p> <p>1) <i>Administer new M&E strategy in country programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms</i></p>	<p>Improving GEF-SGP project monitoring and evaluation especially the impacts of granted projects through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updating the SGP database for effective collection, archive and management of M&E data and information/ knowledge sharing • using social, economic, and environmental indicators for the evaluation process of the granted projects; • monitoring and documenting the impacts, challenges, success and the lesson learned at all levels; and • sharing the knowledge gathered throughout the implementation of CPS at local, national regional and global levels 	<p>According to UNDP strategy 2017-2021, civil society plays many important roles in support of the 2030 Agenda, from advocacy and planning to implementation, monitoring and accountability. So, UNDP will continue to partner with and advocate for the inclusion of civil society (including women’s rights and disabled people’s organizations) in country-led efforts, UNDP will also work with Governments to strengthen the capacities of civil society organizations to create space and opportunities for civil society to effectively engage in sustainable development.</p> <p>Greater freedom of expressions through independent media and more effective accountability mechanisms of civil society is expected to be enhanced according to the Strategy of Sweden’s international Development Cooperation with Palestine.</p>

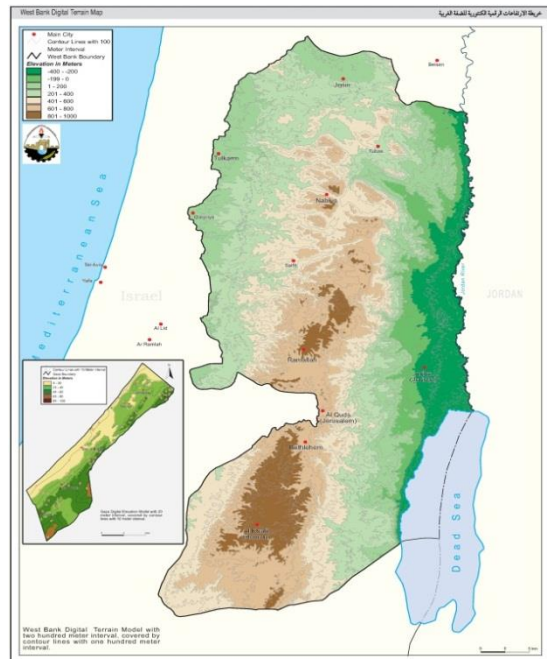
4. OP7 PRIORITY LANDSCAPES/SEASCAPES & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

4.1. Grant making Within the Priority Landscape/Seascapes⁴

a) Process for selecting priority landscapes and seascapes

The selected landscapes/seascapes for the grant strategy in OP6 were within 5 specific areas. These areas were selected according to a baseline survey, field visits and consultation with the related stakeholders which ranked and evaluated the landscapes depending on the needs and the environmental problems facing the Palestinian localities and areas. However, and based on the experience gained from implementing OP6 and the nature of SGP “small grants, as well as stakeholders’ recommendations and the data collected during the updating process for the OP7, the whole country will be selected as one landscapes/seascapes, believing that giving equal chance for all the Palestinian areas will bring about greater strategic impact to achieve triple wins (environmentally, socially and economically). Moreover, by considering all of the country as one cluster, the SGP projects would serve as seeds or pilots on other areas within the West bank and Gaza.

A steering committee meeting and interviews were held bringing participants together from the Palestinian Authorities, civil society organizations (CSOs), and environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The objectives of these meeting and interviews were: (1) introduce the participants to the objectives and strategic initiatives of the GEF SGP OP7; (2) introduce the initial selection of the landscapes/seascapes and the criteria upon which these were selected; (3) stress the importance of stakeholder participation in defining the landscapes/seascapes and the project typologies; and (4) stress the importance of social inclusion and women participation in developing the projects, project implementation and envisioning the desired social, economic, and environmental outcomes of joint conservation and development actions.



Map 1: The digital terrain map for the West Bank and Gaza

After presenting the environmental problems and reviewing the socio-economic, institutional, biodiversity, and environmental indicators Table A, the participants recommended the West Bank and Gaza strip to be taken as a single landscape/ seascapedue to their small

Table A		
Main Indicators for the year 2017	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Population (capita)	2,881,957	1,899,291
Number of House Holds (HH)	531,619	334,710
HH connected to Sewage network (%HH)	43.4%	86.8%
Food Insecurity (%HH)	12%	68%
Unemployment (%)	17.3%	25.9%
Poverty Rate	13.9%	53.0%
Connection to water network (%)	88.1%	7.8%
Localities served by solid waste service (%)	92.7%	97.9%
Forest Area (km ²)	78.3	1.76
Natural Reserves (km ²)	703	0

⁴Refer to the various guidance documents on landscape/seascape selection and assessments.

geographical extent and the instability of the geopolitical situation, (*MAP 1*). Accordingly, each targeted area will be selected based on its needs taking into consideration the cross cutting issues. Moreover, the participatory process resulted in set of recommendations that enables the SGP country programme to support the implementation of national priorities and simultaneously respond to societal needs please (see Annex 2 for the recommendation).

b) Selected Landscapes/Seascapes for OP7

The state of Palestine consists of two physically separated landmasses: the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and the Gaza Strip. Despite its small geographical area, the state of Palestine is characterized by a great variation in topography (Map 1). This variation is directly reflected on climate and the distribution and diversification of agricultural patterns, from irrigated agriculture in the Jordan Valley (the lowest area in the world) to rainfed farming in the mountains. The Gaza Strip is a coastal zone at the eastern extreme of the Mediterranean Sea on the edge of the Sinai Desert. The West Bank is divided into four major geomorphological parts: Nablus Mountains, Jerusalem Mountains, Hebron Mountains, and the Jordan Valley. The mountainous area of the West Bank serves as the main rainfall collection and replenishment zone for the underground water aquifers. The Gaza Strip is essentially a foreshore plain gradually sloping westward. In the north of the Gaza Strip there are four ridges with different elevations ranging between 20 to 90 m above Sea Level.

c) OP7 Strategic Initiatives in the landscapes/seascapes

In designing the project typologies, the following criteria was used: (i) respond to societal needs and priorities; (ii) derive from the country's own priorities and programs; (3) promote gender participation and mainstreaming; (iii) promote CSO-Government dialogue; (iv) integrate GEF focal areas; (v) link biodiversity conservation with sustainable development and social concerns; (vi) has the potential to achieve triple (social, economic, and environmental) wins; and (vii) are scalable and replicable. Therefore, and to address the pressing environmental and socio-economic concerns and to promote local inclusion and ownership, the selected project typologies are the following:

- 1) support income-generating opportunities and employment, especially for the least economically empowered groups. Actions might cover the following areas of intervention:
 - Promote agro ecological principles and practices through utilizing traditional and conventional agricultural knowledge and endemic crop varieties.
 - Support and improve capacities of agricultural production and marketing cooperatives to adopt local/international quality standards, improve products' competitiveness (quality and efficiency), and green branding of Palestinian made products.
 - Support and guide farmers to identify multiple revenue streams and develop multifunctional farms that provide ecosystem, social, cultural and economic services,
 - Promote linkages between eco-tourism, recreational tourism, agro-tourism, and marketing of locally produced quality items (food, handicrafts, etc).
 - Develop more sustainable agriculture practices, and improving ecosystem function and the provision of ecosystem services in production landscapes.
 - Supports teaching, promoting, advocacy, awareness and capacity building for climate smart agricultural principles and practices within the realms of agroecology.

- 2) promote proper management of waste streams especially plastic and solid waste. Action might cover the following areas of intervention:
 - Demonstrating alternatives to the uses of input chemical pesticides and chemical fertilizers.
 - Awareness campaigns on the impacts of agricultural pesticides and fertilizers on human health, water use efficiency, soil degradation, and water resources.
 - Promoting proper management (packing, storage) and disposal of obsolete pesticides.
 - Promote community-based plastics/solid waste sorting, recycling or disposal to contribute towards a future free of plastic waste and lead reduction of waste accumulation
- 3) transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path. Actions will cover the following areas of intervention:
 - Increasing C sequestration in agricultural production landscapes
 - Demonstrate, and disseminate the financial and economic benefits of utilizing renewable energy sources (e.g., solar, biogas) in operating farm equipment.
 - Environmentally friendly biogas generation from agricultural organic waste.
- 4) improve the sustainability of the protected area and nature reserve, reduce threats to biodiversity, and generate revenue streams for the local communities from the sustainable utilization of environmental services. Actions might cover the following areas of intervention:
promote local communities' participation in the nature reserve sustainable management the
 - Create income-generating opportunities through reinforcing environmental service provision, cultural and ecological tourism, agro-businesses, local industries, corporate social responsibility, integration of informal economy;
 - Inventory of natural resources especially biological diversity in the natural reserve
 - Engage key public and private sector actors in order to realize both revenue streams and conservation objectives.
 - Reduce local population dependence on forest wood to meet their energy needs.
 - guide and inform scaling up and policy development through co-benefits of alternative energy sources, (e.g., reduced deforestation, improved carbon sequestration and climate resilience; reducing poverty, improving livelihoods, and stimulating economic development)
 - support the local enterprises to optimize production of environmentally responsible green agriculture
 - establish the " local Market" Initiative where cooperative products are regularly marketed.
 - Identify tools and revenue mechanism (from multiple uses) of natural reserve.
 - Develop inclusive management and operational plans, responding to societal needs and development opportunities;
 - Inclusive Implementation of management programs/plans as well as the revenue mechanism
 - Promote alternatives to income from handling waste through community-based waste sorting, and recycling Capacity building of local communities, especially women, in the design, implementation, and management of protected area projects (e.g., training of eco-tourism guides)
- 5) land degradation resulting from overgrazing, unsustainable agricultural practices. Actions will cover the following areas of intervention:
 - Training in public involvement in environmental inspection and policing.
 - Monitor land degradation/desertification; identify areas at risk of land degradation due to changes in climate/land use pressures;
 - develop using a participatory approach a management plan for the sustainable management of rehabilitated rangelands

It should be noted that the above selected project typologies would serve as a priority in the project selection process for OP7.

4.2. Grant making Outside the Priority Landscapes/Seascapes

a) CSO-Government-Private Sector Dialogue Platform

Although the road towards sustainable development in the State of Palestine is paved with challenges and obstacles, there is an opportunity for civil society to promote environmental issues and sustainable development in the territory. The advantages are that the political and institutional environment of the State of Palestine facilitates the work of civil society organizations (CSOs) who fund and implement environmental initiatives along with promoting environmental advocacy and awareness.

- The State of Palestine enjoys the presence of vibrant civil society that has been working long before the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority. Currently there are 45 environmental NGOs of which 32 are officially registered at the EQA. This number reflects the involvement of this sector and its potential role in advancing the work and achievement of Palestinian environmental priorities of sustainable development. The unique role of civil society in Palestine and its established network is a clear advantage for the involvement of other organizations in the environmental sector. The EQA has a “technical” mandate to oversee and track the work done by these CSOs so as to ensure that is in line with national agenda and priorities... In order to raise awareness on the importance of environmental planning and to promote effective engagement of civil society and CSO-government, dialogue platforms should be established at the local, national and regional level aiming at: Build the trust and strengthen the linkages between of civil society, CSO and government;
- Increase the exchange of data and the best practices at national, regional and international;
- Promote technical and scientific co-operation, transfer of knowledge of research and management facilities;
- Demonstrate and scaling up CSOs activities and achievements which complement the government efforts;
- Exchange consultation of personnel, and information sharing within regional neighbouring countries among Palestinian institutions especially South-South exchanges of experiences
- Build a clear mechanism to coordinate/facilitate the work of CSOs, and thus ensuring a better environmental governance at all level; and

b) Promoting Social Inclusion, including gender equality and women’s empowerment

Promoting social inclusion in SGP OP7 will be achieved by expanding support for gender equality and women’s and youth empowerment as well as indigenous people through:

Women empowerment and gender equality were included in the grant making strategies and the following principles that should be considered in grant making:

- Include gender criteria in all projects and enhance gender mainstreaming among SGP Grantees.
- Promote equal participation of women, men and youth in capacity building, technology transfer, knowledge sharing and policy advocacy.



- Support project(s) that conduct gender mainstreaming training for potential grantees.
- Support the networking and creation of women organizations and youth
- conduct gender sensitive analysis of project impacts.
- Create an enabling environment to support Women's and Youth Participation in environmental management at all levels as agents of positive change

Empower indigenous people:

- Promote local stakeholders' participation in developing actions that correspond to their expressed needs that were identified in the scoping exercise;
- Promote job creation and income generation for the local community while sustaining the resource base that these communities traditionally relied upon;
- promote participation of persons with disabilities in country portfolio programming and projects.
- Ensure local community participation in envisioning development outcomes, designing actions for the different interventions, utilizing traditional and conventional knowledge especially in the climate-smart agro-ecology area, project implementation, and monitoring of project outcome;
- Supports teaching, promoting, advocacy, awareness and capacity building for climate smart agricultural principles and practices within the realms of agroecology; and
- Networking of community CSOs and cooperatives with socially responsible enterprises to contribute to the improvement of the business environment and the integration of the often inform agro-sector and conservation sector economies

c) Knowledge Management

The main objective of the knowledge management plan in OP7 is to help creation, sharing, and effective application of knowledge to improve environmental management and promoting sustainable and best practices. Therefore, the GEF/SGP programme will capture the lessons learnt, innovative ideas and good practices generated from its grant projects through the Annual Country Report (ARC) that the NC supposed to prepared with support of the NFG based on the generated projects' final reports; in particular the sections describe the success story and lessons learnt behind each accomplishment. The type of knowledge that will be gathered will vary according to the outcomes of the projects implemented during the operation period, but it will mainly focus on the following:

1. Status and need of local communities and its neighboring environment at landscape/seascape level within GEF/SGP thematic areas.
2. Lessons Learnt at landscape/seascape level.
3. Innovative ideas and technologies and their operation mechanisms
4. Replicable and scalable project ideas.
5. Impact of the project results on the GEF/SGP thematic areas including biodiversity conservation, and sustainable utilization, agro-ecology and climate innovative interventions, low emission and carbon sequestration, agriculture, rangelands, landscapes management, social inclusion and gender empowerment, , Indigenous Peoples fellowships and others.

The knowledge generated/gathered will be shared and disseminated with civil society, government agencies, private sector and other related stakeholders through final workshops conducted upon completion of each project (by the grantee partners) and at the end of the operational year of a number of projects (by SGP-NC). This can also be disseminated through media (Radio and TV), social media, advocacy campaigns, newspapers, posters, info graphs and others. GEF/SGP will encourage grantee partners to use the describe dissemination activities as part of their project activities. Knowledge



fairs, face-to-face events, field visit, demonstration sites, and mentoring schemes and learning projects can all be used to encourage the exchange of knowledge among the grantee partners. This can be done after the submission of the semi-annual progress reports and after the completion of the projects.

Each grantee partner will be requested 1) to allocate a small amount of its grant for knowledge management activities, and clearly identify the type of knowledge management products that will be produced, and 2) to contribute to the global reach for citizen practice-based knowledge programme mainly; the digital library of community innovations, and the south-south community innovation exchange. The purposes of these programme are to support knowledge transfer and exchange across countries and regions encouraging replication of good practices.

5. COMMUNICATION PLAN

A communications strategy should be at the heart of GEF/SGP program in the State of Palestine. Therefore, an effective communication strategy should be implemented through appropriate action plan and means of communication that aim to increase effectiveness of GEF efforts, better able to leverage its funding, and to promote participation, build relationships and foster partnerships; as well as to articulate the contribution of the SGP to the national priorities, GEF programming, and UNDP strategies. The strategy will focus on establishing permanent and sustainable mechanisms of dialogue, and ensuring participation of all of the relevant stakeholders in the Palestinian society. To establish a systematic approach to ensure consistent and an effective communication action plan throughout the entire partnership structure, GEF should focus on the following activates/actions:

1. Inform all of the related stakeholders about OP7 through workshop, meetings, briefing session's seminars, and national and local dialogue initiative.
2. Create and implement a media strategy including media audit, journalist education, promotion of success stories, media training, and social media.
3. Engage with new stakeholders such as the private sector, policy makers, and NGOs through targeted programs to facilitate partnerships, raise awareness, and increase support.
4. Enhance the capacities of the stakeholders through training sessions on proposal development/project idea development, integration to achieve multiple impacts from the same project in different thematic areas.
5. Enhance the capacities of the stakeholders through training sessions on M&E.
6. Networking with other donors and key partners for complementary funds.
7. Identify and build alliances with relevant groups in other sector which have strategic gain for GEF.
8. Develop a communications plan in every GEF project, since the impact of GEF funding and support takes place on the local level.

6. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND PARTNERSHIP PLAN

6.1. Secured and planned cash and in-kind co-financing

The GEF/SGP in the State of Palestine will continue 1) to rely on GEF global fund for projects that can provide global environmental benefits related to GEF focal areas; and 2) to use the experiences and lessons learned from the NGOs and CSO in influencing policy suggestion/review, formulation, and implementation at both the local and national levels.

To reinforce community ownership to the GEF/SGP project intervention and sustainability, GEF/SGP Palestine also needs to maximize partnership and ownership which was requested by its grantees to



contribute to the projects budget by not less than 10% in the form of providing in-kind contribution; e.g., technical support, venue, project supervision personnel and etc. Few others, however, may offer cash contributions out of their core operational budget GEF/SGP will ensure to mobilize the community resources, mainly through involvement of governorates, municipalities and village councils where in-kind contributions could be in the form of venues for training, technical expertise, land, service equipment, etc

6.2. Cofinancing Opportunities

GEF in the State of Palestine will keep tracking other donors who have common interest with GEF Palestine, in order to attract funding projects under landscape/seascape approach. GEF/SGP programme will encourage the NGO/CBOs to find co-financing for the project ideas submitted to GEF/SGP- OP7 by giving this as a high important while ranking the projects to be funded in the selection process. Both cash and in-kind co-funding will be considered priority. GEF/SGP in the State of Palestine will highlight the relevant bilateral donors to the grantees in its introductory workshop (noted earlier) and how to access them.

For the non-GEF resources, the grantees are encouraged to seek co-finance from other donors sharing with GEF/SGP similar development and environment concerns at the National and community levels which are diverse. For example, EU and Spain aid are targeting agriculture sector and environment, FAO is targeting food security sector, UNICEF is targeting water and children's sectors, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is targeting water treatment, World Bank are targeting water and wastewater treatment. Austria, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Netherlands aids are targeting water, Spain, and the Netherlands are targeting Land and water development, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Italy, Sweden, United Kingdom, France are targeting development projects related to environment. The programme will help communities develop fundable proposals to these bilateral development partners in the State of Palestine.

Grantees will also be helped to look for funding through the "*effective area-based conservation measures*" and *international initiatives*; which are announce as part of the international conventions or congresses such as the 'International Climate Initiative' (ICI), 'Support to Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Areas and Territories' (ICCAs)⁵, and others. The ICCAs through the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) is financed as a contribution to the achievement of Targets 11, 14 and 18 of the CBD Aichi 2020 frameworks, and will work in at least 26 countries at the global level. Jordan is among the 26 countries included in the Global ICCA Support Initiative; thus, the State of Palestine can channel funding through Jordan under the cooperation of the transboundary and an inclusive regional agenda to be captured in both Jordan and the State of Palestine CPS's.

The "Community Conserved Areas and Territories' ICCAs is considered a solution to the internationally recognized targets on the good governance of protected areas, protection of traditional knowledge, and support towards sustainable development. This initiative is useful for scaling up and replicating successful GEF/SGP projects under biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation thematic areas and good governance projects implemented in a Protected/Conserved area.

Other non-GEF resources of potential to support GEF/SGP are diverse including UN- agencies, EU and EU countries aid programmes, a UNDP/PAPP, and international funds such as Green Climate Fund (GCF), the climate adaptation Funds, the Clean Development Mechanisms Fund, as well as bilateral funds, such as International Climate Initiative (Germany), International Climate Fund (UK), Islamic development Banks.

⁵http://www.iccaconsortium.org/?page_id=2069http://www.iccaconsortium.org/?page_id=2069

7. Grantmaker Plus& Partnership Opportunities

GEF/SGP in Palestine shall work to strengthen partnership and linkages with different potential partners in Gaza Strip and West Bank, particularly those sharing similar development and environment concerns at the National and community levels. In this regards, GEF/SGP Palestine will launch an introductory/training workshop about GEF/SGP focal areas and strategic objectives for the OP7 for both potential donors and potential grantees from civil society organizations. This step shall be accomplished before opening the GEF/SGP call for the OP7. GEF/SGP will expand its grantees base so as to enjoy a diverse set of projects. The GEF/SGP shall build strategic partnerships with national government agencies with those that were not explored before such as the partnership with Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Ministry of local government, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, and others.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Table 5. Description of risks identified in OP7

Describe identified risk	Degree of risk (low, medium, high)	Probability of risk (low, medium, high)	Risk mitigation measure foreseen
Conflict over Changing land use patterns in protected areas and in rangelands	Medium	Medium	Reduce probability through inclusive development, adaptive governance, and providing benefits to all stakeholders in the local surrounding communities.
Commitment and support from the related governmental organization	Low	Low	close coordination between the relevantstakeholders
lack of sufficient technical and management capacity of some potential grantees from civil society organizations	Low-medium	Low medium	Increase the capacity of the grantees' management and technical skillscontinuous supervision and monitoring by the SGP country team
Delays in projects implementation	Low	Low	continuous supervision and follow up by SGP country team
Acceptance of the landscape/seascape approach by local communities and other stakeholders.	Low	Low- medium	Conduct awareness and promotion of the new approach in the selected landscape among all of the stakeholders
Outbreak of severe political instability in the state of Palestine which would result in restrictions on movement	Low- medium	Low- medium	Work with the local community and empower them to follow up the work with continuous supervision by the relevant stakeholders



Risks will be tracked during the implementation of the OP7 CPS and reviewed during the CPS Annual review. At that time the degree of risk, or probability of risk may be adjusted. Identified risks may also be removed and new risks added if necessary, with appropriate mitigation measures identified.

9. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

9.1. Monitoring Approaches at Project and Country Levels

The M&E plan is required at the project level as an integral part of the project cycle in GEF/SGP implementation in the State of Palestine. The goal of participatory project M&E is to assess progress in project implementation and achievement of results, helps to ensure project success and sustainability, and at the same time promote community ownership of GEF/SGP projects.

All GEF/SGP projects that will be funded during OP7 should follow the existing M&E procedures in the state of Palestine which includes the following:

- M&E plan with a set of appropriate indicators built for each project in line with the 'Country Strategy' targets and indicators set in Table 4 as well as aim to contribute to the global indicators sets discussed and provided in the OP7 global PIF and PRODIC.
- At the project level: Submission of 1) quarterly progress reports and semi-annual (giving details of activities and progress, measured against targets, as also statement of income and expenditure and 2) final evaluation report where the project is evaluated in terms of impact and reflect on issues like reliability, scaling up; sustainability, etc). These reports are submitted to SGP National Coordinator (NC) as part of the GEF/SGP grantees' responsibilities under the grant agreement, and is also required for grant disbursements
- At the national level: Submission of semi-annual progress reports and annual Country Report (ACR) by the NC based on collected and analyzed information in the course of participatory M&E in The State of Palestine to the CPMT (Central Programme Management Team) as an AMR (Annual Monitoring Report) by the GEF/SGP -NC. These reports will form the basis of the annual global reporting to be carried out by the CPMT for GEF.
- Participatory monitoring and assessment involve early consultation with the community members and stakeholders about project design, the problems to be addressed, potential courses of action community resources which can be brought to bear and the role of external support, participatory research to complete baseline information, participatory definition and agreement on project concept, consensus about the project objectives and activities.

To establish a systematic approach to ensure consistent and an effective M&E plan throughout the entire partnership structure, GEF should focus on raising the capacities of the Palestinian NGOs through capacity building program, training sessions and guidance in terms of proposal development/project idea development, reporting and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) in order to enhance their capabilities in project cycle management and to support participatory M&E at all project levels.

Table 3. M&E Plan at the Country Programme Level

M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible Parties	Budget Source	Timing
Country Programme Strategy elaboration	Framework for action including identification of community projects.	NC, NSC, country stakeholders, grantees	A SGP planning grant to engage consultants may be used to update OP7 CPS.	At start of OP7
As part of NSC meetings, ongoing review of project results and analysis. This includes an Annual CPS Review.	Assess effectiveness of projects, country portfolio; learning; adaptive management.	NC, NSC, UNDP Country Office. Final deliberations shared/ analyzed with CPMT colleagues.	Staff time, Country Operating Budget	At least annual review ⁶ to ensure OP7 CPS is on track to achieve its results and make timely and evidence-based modifications to CPS as may be needed ⁷ .
Annual Monitoring Report Survey ⁸	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF. It serves as the primary tools to record and analytically present results to donors.	NC/PA in close collaboration with NSC. CPMT provides technical guidance support and receives final country submission for further action.	Staff time	Once per year in June- July
Country Portfolio Review	Methodological results capture of the portfolio at a given point to note impact level change as well as broader adoption. The goal is to support reporting to stakeholders, learning, and support to strategic development/ implementation of CPS.	NC, NSC	SGP planning grant to engage consultants may be used to undertake previous operational cycles impact review and utilize lessons for both OP7 CPS development and its implementation. Global technical M&E support can be expected.	Once per operational phase
SGP Database	Ensure recording of all Project and Country Programme inputs in SGP database.	NCS, PAs,	Staff time	Throughout the operational phase. Ensure quality assurance and completion of data prior to annual

⁶It is recommended that the Annual CPS review is done close to AMR submissions for both processes to benefit from each other (suggested timeframe is May- July).

⁷ Please note OP7 CPS will be regarded as a dynamic document and can be updated by the SGP country team and NSC on a periodic basis to reflect any necessary adjustments to ensure maximum impact. This CPS update process should be part of the Annual CPS Review.

⁸ Timely and quality country level submissions to *Annual Monitoring Process* are mandatory. As a Global Programme, it enables aggregated reporting by CPMT to GEF, UNDP and other stakeholders.

M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible Parties	Budget Source	Timing
				monitoring cycle (May- June of every year).
Audit	Ensure compliance with project implementation/management standards and norms.	UNOPS / External Contractor. NC/ PA to provide requisite support.	Global Operating Budget	Annually for selected countries on risk-assessment basis

9.2. CPS Results Framework

Table 4: Results Framework of SGP OP7 Country Programme Strategy

<p>Alignment with SDGs <i>GOAL 1: No Poverty, GOAL 2: End hunger, GOAL 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being, GOAL 5: Gender Equality, GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality, GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, GOAL 13: Climate Action, GOAL 15: Life on Land, GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal.</i></p>		
<p>Synergy with UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD): <i>Output 3.7 aligns with Strategic Initiative 1, where outputs 3.2 and 3.8 aligns with Strategic Initiative 2. output 3.6 aligns with Strategic Initiative 3, and outputs 1.1 and 3.1 align with Strategic Initiative 5. Additionally, outputs 2.1, 3.3 and 3.4 align with Strategic Initiative 6, outputs 2.11, 2.4, 2.5, 4.2 and 4.3 align with Strategic Initiative 7, where the outputs 2.9, 2.10, 4.6 and 4.7 align with Strategic Initiative 8</i></p>		
<p>OP7 SGP Programme Goal: <i>Promote and support innovative, inclusive and impactful initiatives, and foster multi-stakeholder partnerships at the local level to tackle global environmental issues in priority landscapes and seascapes.</i></p>		
1 OP7 SGP CPS Strategic Initiatives (Copy text of column 2 of Table 2. Include title of the strategic initiative and relevant focus/objectives)	2 OP7 CPS Indicators and Targets (Identify relevant targets for the	3 Means of verification
<p><u>Strategic Initiative 1:</u> <i>Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species</i></p> <p>Promote ecologically sustainable use of the protected areas</p>	<p><i>3 hectares of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (GEF core indicator 4.1)</i></p> <p><i>0 hectares of Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness (GEF core indicator 2.2)</i></p> <p><i>0 hectares of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity; excluding protected areas (GEF core indicator 5)</i></p> <p><i>15 number of community-based protected area/ conserved area designations and/or networks strengthened</i></p>	<p><i>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports)</i></p> <p><i>Baseline assessment comparison variables (use of conceptual models and partner data as appropriate)</i></p> <p><i>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</i></p> <p><i>Country Programme Review</i></p>



	<p><i>At least 3000-5000 people reached thorough visibility and awareness sessions</i></p> <p><i>2 private sectors involved in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use</i></p>	
<p><u>Strategic Initiative 2:</u></p> <p><i>Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security</i></p> <p>Improve and stabilize food security and ecosystem services</p>	<p><i>5 hectares of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (GEF core indicator 4.3)</i></p> <p><i>3 hectares of degraded agricultural lands restored (hectares) (GEF core indicator 3.1)</i></p> <p><i>2 number of linkages and partnerships for sustainable food production practices (such as diversification and sustainable intensification) and supply chain management (esp. SMEs)</i></p> <p><i>15 number of small-holder farmers supported towards the achievement of national Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets</i></p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports)</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</p> <p>Country Programme Review</p> <p>Socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes (SEPLs)</p>
<p><u>Strategic Initiative 3:</u></p> <p><i>Low-carbon energy access co-benefits</i></p> <p>Increase the utilization of locally renewable available resources and improve the efficiency through:</p>	<p><i>1000 KW of installed renewable energy capacity from local technologies (e.g on types of renewable energy technology biomass, small hydro, solar).</i></p> <p><i>5 number of typologies of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations or scaling up and replication.</i></p> <p><i>5 number of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations for scaling up and replication</i></p> <p><i>25 number of households achieving energy access, with co-benefits estimated and valued</i></p> <p><i>2 hectares of forests and non-forest</i></p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports)</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p>

	<i>lands with restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks initiated.</i>	
<p><u>Strategic Initiative 4:</u></p> <p><i>Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management</i></p> <p>Improve management of plastics/ chemicals /solid waste through</p>	<p><i>10 tons of Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), POPs and mercury containing materials and products removed or disposed (GEF core indicator 9.6)</i></p> <p><i>15 number of communities working on increasing awareness and outreach for sound chemicals, waste and mercury management.</i></p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (<i>as part of midterm and final Progress reports</i>)</p> <p>Strategic partnership with IPEN and Mercury GOLD country partners</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), global database Country Programme Review</p>
<p><u>Strategic Initiative 5:</u></p> <p><i>Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions</i></p> <p>Facilitate integrated urban planning, and management, that leads to sustainable and resilient development and sound ecosystem management</p>	<p><i>15 number of community-based urban solutions/ approaches (including chemical and waste management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity) deployed.</i></p> <p><i>15 number of communities with improved capacities to promote community-driven integrated solutions for low-emission and resilient urban development.</i></p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</p> <p>Country Programme Review</p>
<p><u>Strategic Initiative 6:</u></p> <p><i>CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms</i></p> <p>Strengthen partnerships between government, civil societies and private sector</p>	<p><i>20 number of CSO-government-private sector dialogues convened to support community voice and representation in national/ sub-national policy development.</i></p> <p><i>150 number of representatives from social inclusion group (indigenous people, women, youth, persons with disability, farmers, other marginalized groups) supported with meaningful participation in dialogue platforms.</i></p> <p><i>2 number of Public-Private Partnership on key global environmental issues promoted</i></p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), global database</p> <p>Country Programme Review</p>
<p><u>Strategic Initiative 7:</u></p> <p><i>Enhancing social inclusion</i></p>	<p><i>2000-3000 number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment (GEF core indicator 11)</i></p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</p>




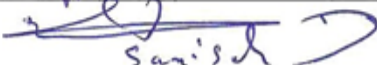





<p>Promote gender mainstreaming to reduce gender inequality and promoting women’s, youth and people with disabilities empowerment in SGP initiatives</p>	<p><i>7 number of SGP projects led by women and/or mainstream concrete mechanisms for increased participation of women.</i></p> <p><i>3 number of SGP projects that have targeted support for Indigenous Peoples in terms of country level programming and management.</i></p> <p><i>10 number of SGP projects that demonstrate appropriate models of engaging youth</i></p> <p><i>2 number of SGP projects that demonstrate models of engaging persons with disability.</i></p>	<p>Country Programme Review</p>
<p><i>Strategic Initiative 8:</i></p> <p><i>Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management</i></p> <p>Contribution of best practices, and lessons learnt on communities’ platforms shared</p> <p>Contribution of best practices, and lessons learnt on communities’ platforms shared</p>	<p><i>7 number of projects administering results management modalities in programme design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms.</i></p> <p><i>Frequency of updating SGP database for effective data collection, management and analysis supporting gains in programme performance and learning.</i></p> <p><i>Quarterly</i></p> <p><i>2 number of south- south exchanges at global and regional levels to transfer knowledge, replicate technology, tools and approaches on global environmental issues.</i></p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</p> <p>Country Programme Review</p>



10. National Steering Committee Endorsement

Note: The signature of NSC members are required as endorsement of the complete final CPS duly reviewed and agreed at the National Steering Committee meeting.

NSC members involved in OP7 CPS development, review and endorsement	Signatures
Mohammed Said Hmaid	
Ghazi Kelani	
Husam Tubail	
Sami Sehwal	 Sami's
Malveena AlJamal	
Samer Kalbouneh	
Imad Hussein	
(Add more rows as necessary)	