

## SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY FOR OP7

### ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES



2020-2024



## Table of Content

	<b>Page</b>
1. Introduction	3
2. Summary Background: Key Results/Achievements	3
3. Country Priorities and Strategic Alignment	7
3.1.Alignment with National Priorities	7
3.2.Gaps and Opportunities	9
3.3.OP7 Strategic Priorities	8
4. OP7 Priority Landscape/Seascapes & Strategic Initiatives	10
4.1.Grant making Within the Landscape/Seascapes	10
a) Process for Selecting Landscape/Seascapes	15
b) Selected Landscapes and Seascapes	16
c) Strategic Initiatives in the Landscapes/Seascapes	19
4.2.1 Grant making Outside the Landscape/Seascape	23
a) CSO-Government-Private Sector Dialogue Platform	23
b) Promoting Social Inclusion	23
c) Knowledge Management	25
5. Communication Plan	26
6. Resource Mobilization Plan	28
7. Risk Management Plan	30
8. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan	32
	40
Annexes	41

---



## 1. BACKGROUND

As a corporate programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) aligns its Operational Phase strategies with those of the GEF and co-financing partners and provides a global portfolio of innovative, inclusive, and impactful projects that address global environmental and sustainable development issues.

Action at the local level by civil society and community-based organizations, including women groups, indigenous peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities is recognized essential to form multi-stakeholder alliances to deliver global environmental benefits and contribute to the GEF-7 Programming Directions, UNDP’s Strategic Plan 2018-2021, and national priorities to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals and other international commitments.<sup>1</sup>

Building on its over 26 years of successful operations in total over 133 countries, the 7<sup>th</sup> 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.”

## 2. SUMMARY: Key Results/Accomplishments

The Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines performed well during the Operational Phase 6 (2016-2019), with eight (8) eligible organizations successfully accessing SGP funds. The 6th Operational Phase made available US\$498,037.00 in CORE funds and STAR funding for community-based environmental projects.

---

<sup>1</sup> The initial SGP OP7 concept was incorporated into the strategic directions for the overall GEF-7 replenishment negotiations in 2017, and subsequently approved by the GEF Council paper “GEF Small Grants Programme: Implementation Arrangements for GEF-7” (GEF/C.54/05.rev) in June 2018.



Co-financing included US\$360,427 in cash and US\$437,725 in kind, totaling US\$798,152. This indicates national and community endorsement of SGP, having received major support from Government agencies as well as NGOs and the private sector to a lesser extent.

Additional resources were allocated from the Community Based Adaptation funding secured by SGP in the amount of (US\$120,000) through the Australian Aid. However, significant untapped potential for grant making still remains in the country for replication of ongoing initiatives, up-scaling of successful projects and establishment of greater partnerships.

The country programme modality for GEF-7, SGP will use a three-pronged approach that focuses on globally recognized ecosystems, sets up institutional and financial support mechanisms, and systematically develops the capacity of local and national civil society stakeholders. For greater efficiency in the use of limited resources and to promote mainstreaming and scaling up, SGP country programme can select from a set of five (5) multi-focal strategic initiatives (Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species, Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security, Low-carbon energy access co-benefits and local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management, catalyzing sustainable urban solutions).

To sustain the efficiency of SGP country programmes and staff in a phase of reduced grant-making, support mechanisms to help communities to access new funds, setting up communications to reach the grassroots, establishing CSO-Government policy and planning dialogue platforms, developing a dedicated window for grants and fellowships to indigenous peoples, vulnerable youths and persons with disabilities and expanding support for gender equality and women empowerment will be initiated. These support mechanisms will be linked to knowledge platforms at the global level. This “Grant maker+” role of SGP in GEF-7 is based on the programme’s experience and assets that were built up over the years and will create value beyond grant-making by SGP for GEF

The major source of funding for SGP country programmes in GEF-7 will be the core funds as allocated by the GEF to SGP as a corporate programme; this is expected to still fall within the range of OP5 and OP6. SGP’s implementation in OP7 will however focus on St. Vincent and the



Grenadines as the Landscape/seascape area. This owes mainly to the overlap of issues across the country and the need to promote the ridge to reef approach to project implementation. In addition to this is the smallness of the island. It is anticipated that the new landscape will foster strategic programming that has a more integrated scope with the aim to achieve greater impact and lead to synergies and opportunities for scaling up. SGP will focus on supporting and coordinating concrete actions at the grassroots level by providing small-scale finance for local community-led projects across the Islands.

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines SGP country programme has a volunteer multi-sectorial National Steering Committee (NSC), which assures a “country-driven” approach to SGP implementation and allows civil-society leadership and capacity building in the management of a national program. Strong NSCs foster joint efforts between key national civil society leaders and government officials and serve as useful platforms for CSO-government dialogue and consultations in GEF matters as well as broader national sustainable development concerns. Representatives of the NSC include from government, civil society, academia, private sector and UNDP, with majority representation coming from civil society<sup>2</sup>.

SGP is able to reach poor and vulnerable communities in remote areas, and the networking it supports increasingly promotes grassroots links and inputs to national level policy and development planning. With the current strained economic situation in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines strategic SGP funding will provide an opportunity to simultaneously address global environmental problems, as well as poverty and capacity development issues at the community level. Therefore, building on the achievements of Operational Phase 6 is essential for SGP continued success locally.

The new country programme strategy will also build on existing country and regional efforts and form partnerships with other development partners, to provide greater access to SGP funding.

## **Overview of the National Economic and Social Development Plan**

---

<sup>2</sup> Excerpt from SGP SVG Start Up Mission Report.



St. Vincent and the Grenadines, like other countries in the Caribbean, is at a crucial period of development. Having to address several financial, economic, political and other factors, including natural forces, which have adversely affected its quest to improve the welfare of its citizens. These challenges, man-made or natural, exacerbated by volatility in oil prices, and hikes in commodity prices especially for staple foods, and are unprecedented in their scope. The turning point in the international economy presents the country with a momentous challenge, which calls for bold, decisive, yet well-ordered planning.

It is against this backdrop that St. Vincent and the Grenadines developed a long-term development plan, aimed at improving the quality of life for all Vincentians. The Plan offers the opportunity for profound transformation, and provides a platform that should lead to a more secure future.

The National Economic and Social Development Plan for St. Vincent and the Grenadines covers the period 2013-2025, and outlines the country's long-term strategies for national development. The Plan offers a vision for improving the quality of life for all Vincentians and is anchored on the achievement of the following over-arching goals:

- High and sustained levels of economic growth
- Reduced unemployment and poverty levels
- Improved physical infrastructure and environmental sustainability
- High levels of human and social development
- A peaceful, safe and secure nation
- A technologically advanced work force
- A deep sense of national pride and cultural renaissance
- Regional integration
- Enhanced global solidarity

GEF SGP will work towards achieving synergies with this National Development Framework over the OP7 cycle. (Reduced unemployment and poverty levels, high and sustained levels of economic growth, high levels of human and social development)



### **3. COUNTRY PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT**

#### **3.1. Alignment with National Priorities**

##### 1.1. Alignment with national priorities

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has been one of the forerunners for environmental protection within the Caribbean. This was evidenced through the early thrust to declare one of the oldest Forest Reserve in the Western Hemisphere – the Kings Hill Enclosure Act of 1791. Further initiatives have been taken towards environmental protection and sustainable livelihoods. These have been done through drafting and enacting of several policies, over the last 20 years.

There are about 30 pieces of legislation with direct and indirect impact on the environment that fall under the administration of different state agencies with jurisdiction over various aspects of the environment. The institutional capacity for enforcement of these legislations varies among different Ministries and Statutory Agencies. However, there is a general need for capacity building in this area. These institutions include, but are not limited to The Forestry Department, National Parks Rivers and Beaches Authority, Fisheries Division, Public Health Department, Environmental Services Unit, Physical Planning and Development Board, and the Central Water and Sewerage Authority, The Maritime Administration and the Tobago Cays Marine Park Board. There are other NGOs that are involved in environmental protection, namely the St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Trust and the Sustainable Grenadines Inc.

Key Environmental Legislation and Policies in St. Vincent and the Grenadines include:

- National Parks and Protected Areas Policy 2010
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines Forest Resource Conservation Act, 1992
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) Sustainable Energy for SVG: The Government's National Energy Policy 2009.
- The National Parks Act, 2002
- The Forest Resources Conservation Act, 1992
- The Wildlife Protection Act, 1987
- Marine Parks Act, 1991

- Fisheries Act, 1986
- The Central Water and Sewerage Authority Act, 1992
- Mustique Company Limited Act, 1989
- The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines National Trust Act, 1969
- The Preservation of Historic Buildings and Antiquities Act, 1976

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

Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
GEF-7 National Dialogues	
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	R- June 1994
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	1999
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	2014
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	R-1994
UNFCCC National Communications (1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> )	2000
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	R-2016
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	R-2016
Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Paris Accord	2015
UN Convention to Combat Désertification (UNCCD)	A-1997
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	2009
Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	R-2004
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	2006
Minamata Convention (MC) on Mercury	R-2017
UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	2015
Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) for the UN SDGs	2018
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international waterbodies (IW) <sup>3</sup>	1984

### 3.2.Gaps and Opportunities

Many of these instruments or processes have demonstrated varying levels of implementation due to (i) lack of adequate financing, (ii) inadequate human and institutional capacity, (iii) lack of supporting regulations for proper enforcement and compliance, and (iv) absence of proper

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



monitoring and evaluation to check for effectiveness. In effort to harmonize the separate legislations, an overarching Environmental Act was drafted in 2010 through the OECS PERP project. However, the draft document has not been finalized nor enacted.

The National Environmental Advisory Board (NEAB) was appointed by Cabinet to assist in the coordination of multi-sector environmental activities and is comprised of representatives from 11 government departments/units and other agencies. However this body has been inactive but efforts have been made to use the existing network to coordinate environmental related projects successfully over the years.

### 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><b>SGP OP7 Strategic Initiatives - Global</b></p>	<p><b>SGP Country Programme’s OP7 Priorities</b> (Choose priorities among the SGP OP7 Strategic Initiatives on the left column. Some are mandatory and already included.)</p>	<p><b>SGP Country Programme’s complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and programmes</b> (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"> <li>1) Improve management effectiveness of protected areas through ICCAs and shared governance with private sector and government.</li> <li>2) Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.)</li> <li>3) Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.)</li> <li>2. Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species</li> </ol>	<p>The SVG CPS will contribute to the following: UNDP GEF 6/Ministry of Agriculture-Conserving biodiversity and reducing land degradation using a ridge to reef approach.</p> <p>UNDP GEF ID 5558- Development and implementation of a sustainable management mechanism for POPs in the Caribbean.</p> <p>UNDP/FAO/Fisheries Division-Climate change adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean</p> <p>Australia Direct Aid Programme /National parks beaches and authority-South Coast Marine Conservation Area Reef Guardian Pilot Programme.</p> <p>Cc4 fish-climate change adaptation for the fisheries sector in the EC</p>
<p><i>Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems (mountains, SIDS, etc.)</li> <li>2) Increase diversification and livelihood improvement</li> <li>3) Remove deforestation from supply chain and expanded restoration of degraded lands.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems (mountains, SIDS, etc.)</li> <li>2. Increase diversification and livelihood improvement</li> </ol>	<p>UNDP GEF 6/Ministry of Agriculture-Conserving biodiversity and reducing land degradation using a ridge to reef approach.</p> <p>UNDP/GEF/OECS-Adapt’ Action working together to tackle climate change.</p>



<p><b>Low-carbon energy access co-benefits</b>          Support implementation of Paris Agreement and the NDCs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Promote renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods.</li> <li>2) Promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promote renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods.</li> <li>2. Develop a legislative framework to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency.</li> <li>3. Encourage exploration and increased utilization of renewable energy technologies.</li> <li>4. Adapt the national power grid to accommodate grid-tied renewable energy sources.</li> </ol>	<p>National Energy Policy (2009) and Energy Action Plan (2010) highlight the GoSVG’s plan for energy-related matters.</p> <p>GoSVG: National Economic &amp; Social Development Plan (2013-2025)</p> <p>Geothermal Resources &amp; Development Act (2015) was passed in Parliament on August 31, 2015 to establish the National Energy Committee and to provide for the development and use of geothermal resources and for matters related thereto.</p> <p>UNDP supported - Development, approval and implementation of an E-mobility Policy geared at promoting the use of low carbon, HEV and EV vehicles.</p> <p>UNDP supported - Update and approval of Electricity Supply Act to incorporate the use of RE and allow for IPPs.</p> <p>Grenadines Transition Project – geared at transitioning the islands of the Grenadines from fossil fuel based generation to solar energy. Solar PV micro- grids with lithium-ion battery storage have since been implemented in Union Island and Mayreau, with a 3 MW solar project planned for Bequia.</p> <p>UNDP Sub-regional country programme document for Barbados and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (2017-2021)          Priority 2—Climate change, clean energy and disaster risk management.</p>



<p><b><i>Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management</i></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Reduce and promote alternative to mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining</li> <li>2) Promote plastics/solid waste management and circular economy</li> <li>3) Reduce/remove use of chemicals in agriculture</li> <li>4) Enhance local to global coalitions on chemicals, waste and mercury management</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduce/remove use of chemicals in agriculture</li> </ol>	<p>UNDP GEF ID 5558- Development and implementation of a sustainable management mechanism for POPs in the Caribbean.</p>
<p><b><i>Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions</i></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Improved capacities to promote community-driven, socially inclusive and integrated solutions to address low-emission and resilient urban development</li> <li>2) Demonstrated innovative socially-inclusive urban solutions/ approaches (including waste and chemical management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity)</li> <li>3) Implement public-private partnership approach for low carbon energy access for marginalized urban communities</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrated innovative socially-inclusive urban solutions/ approaches (including waste and chemical management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity)</li> </ol>	<p>Australia Direct Aid Programme/NPBA- South coast marine conservation area reef guardian pilot programme.</p>
<p><b><i>Community-based Adaptation</i></b> (With AusAID or other funding – not eligible with GEF funding)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Reduce vulnerability and improve the adaptive capacity of communities</li> <li>2) Provide countries with concrete ground-level experience on CCA</li> <li>3) Provide clear policy lessons and mainstream CBA within national processes.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduce vulnerability and improve the adaptive capacity of communities</li> <li>2. Provide countries with concrete ground-level experience on CCA</li> </ol>	<p>Australia Direct Aid Programme/NPBA- South coast marine conservation area reef guardian pilot programme.</p>

<p><b><i>CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms</i></b></p> <p>1) Promote/enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, strategy development related to global environment and sustainable development issues</p>	<p>Promote/enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, strategy development related to global environment and sustainable development</p>	
<p><b><i>Enhancing social inclusion(mandatory)</i></b></p> <p>1) Promote targeted initiatives 2) Mainstream social inclusion in all projects (E.g. women/girls, indigenous peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities)</p>	<p><b><i>Enhancing social inclusion</i></b></p> <p>3) Promote targeted initiatives 4) Mainstream social inclusion in all projects. Including that of women, children, youths, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples, when and where applicable, are required in each project proposal and these areas should be explained in details in appropriate sections. GEF SGP will strongly recommend and prioritize projects, which targets or promote involvement of the social excluded groups.</p>	<p>UNDP Sub-regional country programme document for Barbados and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (2017-2021) Priority 1—Evidence-based policy and planning for improved social protection for multidimensional poor and other vulnerable populations</p>
<p><b><i>Knowledge Management (mandatory)</i></b></p> <p>1) Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities 2) Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs 3) Conduct South-South Exchanges to promote technology transfer and replication of good practices</p>	<p><b><i>Knowledge Management</i></b></p> <p>4) Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities 5) Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs 6) Conduct South-South Exchanges to promote technology transfer and replication of good practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge Fairs, Peer-to-Peer exchanges, demonstration sites visits and replication and up-scaling of community innovations.</li> <li>• Establish a SGP Documentation Library and Knowledge Platform at Programme Office.</li> <li>• Production of photo stories and short videos of selected projects, capacity building for CBOs, CSOs and NGOs to facilitate the</li> </ul>	

	<p>production of photo stories and short videos etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish at least one learning center/demonstration site at the community level to increase access to information on specific sites, projects and best practices and relevant environmental issues and information.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Results Management, Monitoring &amp; Evaluation (mandatory)</b></p> <p>1) <i>Administer new M&amp;E strategy in country programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms</i></p>	<p><b>Results Management, Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</b></p> <p>1) <i>Administer new M&amp;E strategy in country programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms</i></p> <p>2) <i>A system of documentation and integration of lessons learnt will be put in place for the implementation of OP7 programme initiatives. This will include the inclusion monitoring and evaluation criteria at the project level for local organizations. At the GEF administrative level a system of data collection will be developed to provide adequate information for assessment of the overall projects and the broader programme.</i></p>	



## **4. OP7 PRIORITY LANDSCAPES/SEASCAPES & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

### **4.1. Grant making Within the Priority Landscape/Seascapes<sup>4</sup>**

#### **a) Process for selecting priority landscapes and seascapes**

In the selection of the landscape, a number of important factors were taken into consideration:

1. Current biodiversity hotspots across the island.
2. Projects being implemented in the current OP6 landscape.
3. The size of the country under consideration.
4. Trending stresses in other landscape areas across the country, such as deforestation, soil erosion, access to agricultural lands.
5. Current level of innovation and sustainable agricultural practices.
6. Alternative sources of energy across the country.
7. Opportunities for greatest impact.
3. Future approaches for project implementation

In consultation with national level stakeholders i.e. The GEF SGP National Committee and the Management team, the entire island of St. Vincent and the Grenadines was selected as the landscape area for grant- making projects. The new project approach is to promote project implementation under the ridge to reef concept. Given the interconnectivity of economic, social and environmental issues and the coastal nature of the island, the widening of the landscape was generally accepted as the better approach to project impact and implementation. This was further justified by the fact that there have been various project dedicated to the OP6 landscape area.

---

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

**b) Selected Landscapes/Seascapes for OP7**

**OP7 Landscape selection Map**



Coordinates of the area(s) - Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) is an archipelagic State in the Eastern Caribbean. It is located between the latitude 13° and 13° 30' N and longitude 61° and 61° 30' S within the Lesser Antilles Island Arc. It lies about 100 miles (160 km) west of Barbados, 68 miles (109 km) of Grenada and about 100 (160 km) miles north of Trinidad.

Total hectare of the area(s)- The country is comprised of a chain of 32 islands and cays, which covers a total land area of 150 sq. miles (389 sq. km.). This equals to a total hectare of Thirty-eight thousand , eight hundred and forty nine point eighty two(38,849.82). The main island St Vincent, is the most northern and has an area of 133 sq. miles and measuring 18 miles long and 11 miles wide. The Grenadines, of which only seven islands are inhabited – Bequia, Mustique, Canouan, Mayreau, Union Island, Palm Island and Petit St. Vincent together has an area of 17 sq



miles(4402.98 Hectares) and stretches over a distance of forty five miles (45m) to the south west of the mainland St. Vincent.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines bears the Characteristic of a small tropical island. Its temperature at sea level is generally high (annual mean of 26.7°C, with maximum of 31°C). However, the fairly strong and continuously prevailing north-easterly winds help to maintain a relatively cool temperature. Approximate annual precipitation ranges from 1700 mm on the dry coast to 7000 mm in the wet central mountains. The climatic condition is mainly affected by the subtropical anticyclone belt and the inter-tropical convergence zone. These meteorological occurrences help to shape the seasonal character of the local weather. Rainfall in St. Vincent, as a result, has a strong seasonal variation, with most of the precipitation occurring between June and December during the wet season. The dry period occurs between the months of January to May, where rainfall tend to be less showery and unevenly distributed. The Grenadines islands are typically dryer and experience acute seasonal variation in rainfall with severe shortages of both surface water and groundwater. On these Islands where the main source of supply is rainwater harvesting or “roof water”, variability in rainfall patterns can affect water availability to residence of these Islands.

The island of St. Vincent is traversed centrally by a range of mountains starting from La Soufriere Mountain, towering over 1,178m in the north, to Mount St. Andrew (736m) in the south and is referred to as the Central Mountain Range. This mountain range contains part of the Caribbean’s Key Biodiversity Hotspot and home to many island endemics and IUCN Red List Species such as the St. Vincent Parrot (*Amazona guildingii*), the Whistling Warbler (*Catharopeza bishopi*), the Black Snake (*Chironius vincentii*) and the *Pristimantis shrevei*<sup>5</sup>. Most of St. Vincent’s natural forest is found in the island’s conservation corridor in the central mountain range. The forest inventory completed in 1993 indicated that the total forestland area was approximately 12,683 ha and consisted of primary rainforest (4,306 ha), secondary rainforest (3,450 ha), dry scrub woodlands (2,178 ha).

---

<sup>5</sup> CEPF funded Integrated Watershed Management Planning and Forest Reserve Protection in the Central Mountain Range Conservation Corridor of St Vincent- Project proposal writing by Hayden Billing *et al.*

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has recorded over 1,150 species of plants and 163 species of ferns, including 15 endemic flowering plants and 4 ferns (Caribbean Conservation Association, 1991). In terms of animals, all five groups of vertebrates are represented including 7 species of amphibians, over 20 species of reptiles, 170 species of birds, 22 species of mammals, and 516 species of marine biodiversity (Ministry of Health, Wellness and Environment, 2010). These, along with thousands (and perhaps millions) of invertebrates (of which approximately 500 have been identified), contribute to the islands' faunal diversity, and provide a wide range of ecosystem and ecological services for the country.<sup>6</sup>

To date, St. Vincent and the Grenadines has recorded some 14 endemic animals (Table 2) and 19 endemic plants (Table 3). Additionally, 29 regionally endemic tree species are listed. Five mammals are Lesser Antillean endemics, two of which are restricted to Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, while 3 reptiles are also restricted to the region.

Faunal Type	Scientific Names	Local Names	Comments
Birds	<i>Amazona guildingii</i>	St. Vincent Parrot	IUCN Vulnerable
	<i>Catharopeza bishop</i>	Whistling Warbler	IUCN Endangered
Mammals	<i>Oligoryzomys victus</i>	St. Vincent Pygmy Rice Rat	Extinct
	<i>Micronycteris buriri</i>	St. Vincent Big-eared Bat	Endemic
Reptiles	<i>Anolis griseus</i>	Saint Vincent Tree Anole	Endemic
	<i>Anolis trinitatus</i>	Saint Vincent Bush Anole	Introduced to Trinidad
	<i>Chironius vincenti</i>	St. Vincent Black Snake	Endemic
	<i>Corallus cookii</i>	Congo Snake; Cook's Tree Boa	Endemic
	<i>Gonatodes daudini</i>	Grenadines Clawed Gecko	Endemic
	<i>Sphaerodactylus kirbyi</i>	Bequia Dwarf/Pygmy Gecko	Endemic
	<i>Corallus grenadensis</i>	Grenadine Boa	Endemic
Amphibians	<i>Pristimantis shrevei</i>	St. Vincent Whistling Frog	Endangered (IUCN)

Table 2: Endemic fauna in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

<sup>6</sup> *St. Vincent & the Grenadines Fifth National Report to the CBD 2015*

Floral Type	Scientific Names
<b>Flowering Plants</b>	
	<i>Trigynaea antillana</i>
	<i>Meliosma herbertii</i>
	<i>Calliandra guildingii</i>
	<i>Psidium guildingianum</i>
	<i>Gustavia antillana</i>
	<i>Tibouchina cistoides</i>
	<i>Begonia rotundifolia</i>
	<i>Hoffmannia tubiflora</i>
	<i>Malouetia retroflexa</i>
	<i>Columnea speciose</i>
	<i>Peperomia cuneate</i>
	<i>Peperomia vincentiana</i>
	<i>Croton guildingii</i>
	<i>Epidendrum vincentinum</i>
	<i>Tillandsia megastachya</i>
<b>Ferns</b>	
	<i>Cyathea tenera</i>
	<i>Pteris longibrachiata</i>
	<i>Asplenium godmani</i>
	<i>Acrostichum smithii</i>

Source: Caribbean Conservation Association 1991

Table 3: Endemic flora in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

### c) OP7 Strategic Initiatives in the landscapes/seascapes

As a result of initial stakeholder input the CPS consultations will focus on Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species, Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security, Low-carbon energy access co-benefits, Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management, Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions. This will be done in all census divisions across St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The entire island is considered to be small enough to justify the landscape, consequently the interconnectedness between different environmental issues and socio economic conditions across the islands is considered. GEF SGP will strongly recommend and prioritize projects, which targets or promote involvement of women and other social excluded groups. This will empower women throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines to better participate



in and contribute to the development of the National Development Plan of SVG and the overarching Sustainable Development Agenda.

### **Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species**

A key element of SGP's implementation in OP7 will be conservation of threatened ecosystems and species. This strategic initiative is expected to contribute towards the collection, protection and multiplication of indigenous varieties/breeds and promoting conservation of traditional products and production practices in rural areas. In this manner, two main thematic focuses are prioritized as the landscape approach projects in order to gain higher benefits and greater portfolio impact from strategically planning and provision of support in line with the local needs.

**High value areas conservation** thematic focus will concentrate on the landscape projects in existing areas that hold a high conservation value or will lead to declaration of new protected or natural landscapes. The projects should ensure multifocal and multidimensional approach in order to conserve, protect and promote the existing biological and natural values in these landscapes. It is expected to support one project in existing protected/natural areas, and at least one project that will lead to declaration of new high value landscape.

**Biological diversity** thematic focus promotes approaches for conservation and preserves the endangered and threatened species within their habitats.

### **Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security**

The agriculture and fisheries sector continues to be a driver of economic development in rural communities across SVG. Many families are dependent on agriculture and fisheries for their livelihood. However, these sectors continue to be impacted by the rigors of climate change, driving water stresses, dry spells, reduction in productivity and erosion, ocean acidification, sea temperature rise among others. Despite interventions by the national government and various development partners, responses to drive the sustainability of the sectors are still ad hoc and not mainstreamed.



SGP will stimulate projects and actions, which will lead towards promotion of adaptation measures for increasing the resilience and adaptation of agriculture and fisheries to climate change, promote innovative agro-ecological measures for protection of ecosystem and environmental friendly agricultural production.<sup>7</sup>

### **Low-carbon energy access co-benefits**

A major focus of GEF SGP is to reduce human induced climate change and to promote renewable energy and off grid energy services. Dependence on fossil fuels is still widespread across SVG. The Government is currently embarking on initiatives to explore geothermal energy, however this is still in the exploratory phase. Sustainable energy is necessary for the economic take off of small industries driving down poverty in many communities. Renewable energy technologies can provide solutions to many on farm challenges in the rural communities, adding innovation to irrigation, farm security and production monitoring. Ensuring measures and innovative solutions to ensure affordable access to different forms of energy, save energy and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emission, through models that appreciate environmental and ecological aspects is being pursued.

### **Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management**

There are a wide range of chemicals on the market in SVG. Chemicals are utilized in the agriculture, health, cleaning and industrial sectors. There is also widespread use at the household levels of household chemical products. Chemicals are used mainly to control insects, weeds, herbs, fungal, bacterial and viral diseases. There are national regulations with regards to the use, application and storage of chemicals. St. Vincent and the Grenadines is a signatory of the Rotterdam convention and there is a national pesticides board, which oversees the purchase and distribution of chemicals. However there is a problem with the application, storage and disposal of chemicals used on a daily basis. The main issues pertain to the limited knowledge base of the population on the implications of bad practices, relative to chemical use and disposal, inefficient education and training sessions on the linkages between health and the environment, the lack of product stewardship among local businesses, ineffective monitoring mechanisms on chemical use

---

<sup>7</sup> Sustainable management and reducing/or mitigating the agricultural sources that pollute the water, soil and air, organic farming and low carbon emission practices in agriculture production.



etc. This situation has impacts on health and the environment at a broad scale level. Farmers and rural communities are especially vulnerable, as well as indigenous communities who still utilize many environmental goods, services and amenities on a daily basis.

Waste management as it pertains to the disposal of plastics, scrap metals, electronics (e-waste), used vehicles and tires are among the major challenges, contributing to environmental pressures in these fragile ecosystems with many health implications. Mosquito-borne diseases, respiratory illnesses, non-communicable diseases and agricultural unproductivity are just a few. A small proportion of the population is still engaged in the practice of reusing containers and plastic bottles, but the general practice is to use single-use bags, straws and many other plastic-based products. There are little elements of product stewardship among local businesses. Currently there is one small recycling plant in Bequia of the Grenadines but the capacity is small and the transport cost is restrictive. The Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management will focus on these challenges by promoting plastics/solid waste management and circular economy, reducing/removing use of chemicals in agriculture and by enhancing local to global coalitions on chemicals, waste and mercury management.

#### **4.2. Grantmaking Outside the Priority Landscapes/Seascapes**



The priority will be given to the whole of St. Vincent and the Grenadines as the landscape, therefore eliminating the need for out of landscape priority allocations under OP7.

***a) CSO-Government-Private Sector Dialogue Platform***

CSO dialogue platforms will be organized in collaboration with relevant government agencies responsible for policy development and implementation, Tertiary Educational Institutions, Civil Society umbrella organizations, the private sector, Women's Organizations, the public and private sector media so as to distribute the cost, garner support for ongoing dialogue and increase sensitization. Thematic areas for a dialogue platform will include relevant conventions and National Action Plans and other relevant environmental documents, strategies or policies. These dialogues will take the form of public lecture series and forums.

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

According to the National Economic and social development plan of SVG 2013-2025, women in SVG are among the most vulnerable and economically powerless. Women and girls face discrimination in many areas while men and boys have privileges that influence their life chances at all levels. Gender socialization shapes and affects men and women, boys and girls across and throughout the life cycle.

In over 40% of the households across the island women are sole income earners yet women tend to be marginalized in many productive sectors

According to the 2015 overview of the labour market of SVG with the use of a gender perspective, it was noted that women (58.7%) were less likely to participate in the labour force than men (72.6%). For example, (93%) of persons employed in the construction sector are males, with females accounting for only (7%). In Agriculture, the majority of the informal workers are women, and there is an urgent call for reform of the land lease system to strengthen women's economic base as farmers and entrepreneurs. A large percentage of women do not have land tenure and they are concentrated in agro processing and small manufacturing roles. In fisheries male dominate, with women heavily concentrated in administrative and marketing roles.



The GEF SGP will work throughout the project management life cycle to consolidate and strengthen women's role in the execution of this project. Further GEF projects will empower women throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines to better participate in and contribute to the development of the National Development Plan of SVG and the overarching Sustainable Development Agenda.

SGP will focus on the engagement of women who own, influence or participate in the unit of production, to take the leadership in Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species.

The engagement of women in conservation activities, can fast track efforts to provide societal responses to environmental challenges since many women are natural caretakers and tend to remain in the agricultural and other environmental sectors where they are employed over a longer period of time.

SGP for St. Vincent and the Grenadines will foster greater engagement and inclusion of women at the leadership level. At least 50% of women will be involved in agriculture diversification initiatives and sustainable food production efforts. SGP grants will also target women's organizations as a means of providing access to finance for women to address the challenges for women.

SGP will ensure the inclusive participation of women, youth, and persons with disability, farmers and other marginalized groups in the policy and decision making platforms facilitated through this project.

In addition projects contributing to closing gender gaps related to access to and control over natural resources will be supported including projects that improve the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance and that target socio-economic benefits and services for women. This will guarantee a voice for the issues that affect women as well as tangible economic and social support for women.

These projects will complement the many institutional and policy measures, programmes and projects towards disrupting patterns and manifestations of gender discrimination in St. Vincent and the Grenadines– including Gender-Based Violence (GBV) – that are embedded in economic, social and political structures and systems. The country is part of a regional and international community of countries that have made legislative and policy changes in an effort to end



discrimination and Gender-Based Violence. SVG have, for several decades, been involved in the process of creating awareness about the problem of GBV and promoting the need for the empowerment of women at several levels of the society.

*c) Knowledge Management*

SGP will build on past experiences of its knowledge management plan and will organize the following to improve access to information exchange and dissemination by individual projects and collectively in the following ways:

- Knowledge Fairs, Peer-to-Peer exchanges, demonstration sites visits and replication and up-scaling of community innovations.
- Establish a SGP Documentation Library and Knowledge Platform at Programme Office.
- Production of photo stories and short videos of selected projects, capacity building for CBOs, CSOs and NGOs to facilitate the production of photo stories and short videos etc.
- Establish at least one learning center/demonstration site at the community level to increase access to information on specific sites, projects and best practices and relevant environmental issues and information.

## **5. COMMUNICATION PLAN**

The SGP strongly embraces the concept of effective communications and information sharing as a means of promoting GEF SGP initiatives, processes and projects. The communication plan is hinged on the foundational principles of building transparency and collective responsibility towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. SGP will develop and implement as part of this strategy a relevant communications plan, which will focus on public awareness and sensitization of all stakeholders.



SGP will achieve this by embarking on the following strategies:

- The execution of a National Knowledge Fair- This will build awareness across the island of GEF SGP projects, processes and criteria for grant access while at the same time showcasing and building knowledge about GEF SGP projects and initiatives undertaken which can be replicated or scaled up to address various prevailing environmental problems.
- The development of public awareness materials- these will take the form of videos, case studies pamphlets, flyers and other paraphernalia. These will be distributed in various communities through whistle stop events during the knowledge fair to ensure the message about GEF SGP permeates various communities and will also be available digitally or in hard copy at SGP offices and website.
- A media campaign and continued media engagement-SGP will develop a strategic alliance with various media houses to help to spread the message about SGP nationally.
- Direct meetings and training sessions with grantees, potential partners NGO's and NC. These will serve to build the capacity of organizations that have capacity challenges in area of project preparation and management. The meetings will also be used in order to discuss the lessons learned of the past SGP projects, share best practices and articulate the contribution of the SGP to the national priorities.
- Mentoring and coaching programmes- These will promote participation, build relationships and foster partnerships between NGO's already participated in the previous GEF SGP operation phases, to coach and lead new NGO through project development and application process for the new OP7. The results from the Ex-post impact assessment study, but also reports from the process of activity implementation and results achieved from every grantee continually will be disseminated and published as a tool for promoting SGP contribution to the national priorities, GEF programming, and UNDP strategies.



## **6. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND PARTNERSHIP PLAN**

Specifically the following strategies will be employed to ensure the availability of resources and the sustainability of GEF SGP projects as follows:

### **Project Level**

At the project level GEF SGP will ensure that projects embody an element complementarity through secured and planned in kind and cash contributions from grant recipients. Co-financing will be secured through strategic partnership with a number of key stakeholders including the private sector, project beneficiaries, donor agencies, civil society organizations and the government.

GEF SGP project recipients will receive capacity development and training in sustainable enterprise development and resource mobilization to assist in the availability of co-financing. They will also be supported through technical support to access funding from development banks, credit unions or commercial banks where possible.

Grantees will further be supported to access information on other development partners and projects that harmonize with GEF SGP. This will be done through the establishment of an active database to be made available to grantees.

### **Country Level**

The sustainability of the CPS strategic initiatives is extremely important to ensure the overall contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals. In that regard Co financing will be mobilized for the OP7 CPS, through discussions and meetings with various stakeholders across St/ Vincent and the Grenadines.

GEF SGP will seek assistance from the Government of SVG. This will be based on meetings and discussions to align GEF OP7 with the Government's National Economic and Social Development Plan.



Civil Society Organizations will be required to obtain co-financing as part of their project submissions, recipient CSOs will also contribute to their respective projects in cash and in kind. Contributions towards various SGP OP7 projects will be obtained with project submissions.

Compliance with agreed Co-financing options will be supervised by the SGP National Steering Committee.

SGP will also continue to strengthen cooperation with existing bilateral and multi-lateral funding agencies like CCCCC, IICA, CARDI and UNEP and the and others including CIDA, the World Bank, “Green Climate Fund”, CARICOM CRFM, JICA, the OECS Commissioner, FAO and the Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership Project, German and the Australian government-funded (DAP), will identify potential and proposed portfolio of projects with shared objectives and synergies relevant to in the OP6 priority strategic initiatives.

## 7. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

### Key risks in implementing OP7

Project related risks will be generally low except for the impact of natural disasters, and potential risks caused by internal conflicts that arise periodically within NGO / CBO organization during project implementation. However, efforts have been made at the project conceptualization and design stage to identify and mitigate these risks. This requires periodic monitoring and management through the use of participatory tools and capacity building programmes to enhance the success of the projects. Risks and recommended measures are outlined in Table 6

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
Potential social, economic and environmental risks associated with the proposed Project	low - medium (landscape approach and agro-ecology)	low - medium (landscape approach and agro-ecology)	Gather information and conduct pre-screening at design stage and mandatory final screening at appraisal (evaluate social, economic and environmental risks during the project design and appraisal). Provide plan for risk mitigation as a part from the project plan and ensure ongoing compliance with SES during implementation.
Project activities, equipment and infrastructure can increase community exposure to risks and impacts	low - medium (renewable source of energy and agro-ecology)	low - medium (renewable source of energy, management of chemicals and organic waste and agro-ecology)	Evaluate safety of affected communities during the project design Provide plan for community safety as a part from the project plan
Occupational health and safety	low - medium (energy efficiency, renewable source of energy and agro-ecology)	low - medium (energy efficiency, renewable source of energy, management of chemicals and organic waste and agro-ecology)	Provide plan as a part from the project plan for protecting workers from accident, injury or illness associated with exposure to hazards encountered in the workplace, especially in the case of contribution in-kind
Extreme weather events increasing the risk of high-impact disasters	high	high	Identification of project components that are sensitive or vulnerable to climate change. Review and approval of mitigation risk measures for affected projects Review and approval revitalization of affected communities, if applicable and capacity exists. Climate risk screening.
Misbalance within thematic focuses, Lack of	Low	Medium	Additional promotion and consultation meeting with NGO's Introducing pre-feasibility grant



quality project proposals and NGO's capacity			Promoting the mentoring approach Review of the CPS
Insufficient public ecological and environmental awareness and public involvement in the programme	Medium	Medium	Design of tailor made education, promotion and public awareness approaches
Lack of funds	Medium	Medium	Prioritize the projects with higher contribution Promoting contribution and co-financing
Low participation of social excluded groups	Low	Medium	Additional promotion, direct and consultation with NGO's represent and advocate social excluded groups Introducing pre-feasibility grant Promoting the mentoring approach



## 8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

GEF SGP St. Vincent and the Grenadines will continue work with NGOs in implementing a participatory approach to monitoring and evaluation of projects at the community level. The lessons learnt and best practices gained through project implementation will help build NGO’s capacity to sustainably maintain activities after the grant period is concluded.

Monitoring and evaluation at the country programme level will be based on the indicators and targets set in Table 3 of the CPS. For individual projects, a monitoring and evaluation plan is developed by grantees based on the CPS evaluation framework. M & E reports at the grantee level are prepared quarterly or based on a disbursement cycle. All reports are aggregated and put in a database and the results tracked to assess the outcomes of the CPS.

The GEF SGP St. Vincent and the Grenadines, over the last 3 years has established the M&E system on the project and programme levels. GEF SGP M&E activities are conducted at two levels:

1. Programme level – M&E of the National programme and its country project portfolio.
2. Project level – M&E during the project proposal preparation, implementation and at successful completion of each project.

At the project level, the M&E system consists of various types of reports to record projects progress, account for financial resources and monitor impact. Verification of project outputs are done through site visits and on-spot checks. The use of the adaptive management and participatory process in M & E will provide an opportunity for corrective measures at early stages of the project to ensure successful project outcome.

On the programme level, the information and indicators gained on the project M&E level are regularly verified, systemized and recorded in the GEF SGP global database and summarized in the Annual Country Reports (ACR). The programme M&E results are regularly communicated with the NSC, CPMT/UNOPS regional team, NGO’s and public. The findings of the M&E are used to check progress and contribution of the programme towards the CPS outcomes and to take appropriate adaptive management measures where necessary.

### 8.1. Monitoring Approaches at Project and Country 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

M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible Parties	Budget Source	Timing
As part of NSC meetings, ongoing review of project results and analysis. This includes an Annual CPS Review. All projects will also be visited at least once during the cycle of the project.	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 <sup>8</sup> to ensure OP7 CPS is on track to achieve its results and make timely and evidence-based modifications to CPS as may be needed <sup>9</sup> .
OP7 impact review	To provide evidence-based knowledge production of results for the entire operational phase	NSC	Country Operating Budget	At the end of OP7 cycle.
Monitoring and evaluation inception workshop for grantees.	To ensure capacity building of grantees on new M&E strategy.	NSC	Country Operating Budget	At the beginning of OP7 cycle.
Stakeholder consultations	To ensure that all actions under this programme is administering with a ‘do no harm’ approach. This is inclusive of due regard to the welfare, beliefs, and customs of those involved or affected, avoiding or disclosing any conflict of interest, and	NSC	Country Operating Budget	At the beginning of OP7 cycle, during OP7 cycle, at the end of OP7 cycle.

<sup>8</sup>It 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).

<sup>9</sup> 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.

M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible Parties	Budget Source	Timing
	acknowledging the influence of culture within and across groups.			
Annual Monitoring Report Survey <sup>10</sup>	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 monitoring cycle (May- June of every year).
Audit	Ensure compliance with project implementation/m anagement standards and norms.	UNOPS / External Contractor. NC/ PA to provide requisite support.	Global Operating Budget	Annually for selected countries on risk-assessment basis

<sup>10</sup> 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.



## 8.2.CPS Results Framework

Table 4: Results Framework of SGP OP7 Country Programme Strategy

<p><b>Alignment with SDGs</b>  <b>The OP7 CPS is aligned with the following Sustainable Development Goals:</b>          Goal 5- Gender equality          Goal 7- Affordable and Clean Energy          Goal 10- Reduced Inequality          Goal 11- Sustainable Cities and Communities          Goal 13- Climate Action          Goal 14-Life Below Water          Goal 15-Life on Land          Goal 17- Partnerships to achieve the goals</p>		
<p><b>Synergy with UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD):</b>  <b>This CPS is synergized with CPD outputs</b>          Output 2.1 Inclusive and sustainable solutions adopted to achieve increased energy efficiency and universal modern energy access.          Output 2.2. Action on climate change adaptation and mitigation in line with countries’ intended nationally determined contributions pledges across sectors scaled up/improved and implemented.          Output 3.1. Solutions developed at national and sub-national levels for sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste</p>		
<p><b>OP7 SGP Programme Goal:</b> <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 <b>OP7SGP CPS Strategic Initiatives</b> (Copy text of column 2 of Table 2. Include title of the strategic initiative and relevant focus/objectives )	2 <b>OP7 CPS Indicators and Targets</b> (Identify relevant targets for the	3 <b>Means of verification</b>
<p><u>Strategic Initiative 1:</u>   <i>Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species</i>   <b>Focus/Objectives:</b>           1. Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.)           2.Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species</p>	<p><i>5 hectares of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (GEF core indicator 4.1)</i>   <i>10 hectares of Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness (GEF core indicator 2.2)</i>   <i>10 hectares of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity; excluding protected areas (GEF core indicator 5)</i>   <i>3 community-based protected area/conserved area designations and/or networks strengthened</i>   <i>SGP will focus on the engagement of women who own, influence or participate in the unit of production for this strategic initiative.</i></p>	<p><i>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports)</i>   <i>Baseline assessment comparison variables (use of conceptual models and partner data as appropriate)</i>   <i>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</i></p>

		<p><i>Country Programme Review</i></p>
<p><b><u>Strategic Initiative 2:</u></b></p> <p><i>Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security</i></p> <p><i>Focus/Objectives:</i></p> <p>1. Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems (mountains, SIDS, etc.).</p> <p>2. Increase diversification and livelihood improvement.</p>	<p><i>10 acres of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (GEF core indicator 4.3). 4 acres coming from women who lead in the unit of production.</i></p> <p><i>10 acres of degraded agricultural lands restored (hectares) (GEF core indicator 3.1).</i></p> <p><i>5 linkages and partnerships for sustainable food production practices (such as diversification and sustainable intensification) and supply chain management (esp. SMEs). At least 50% women will be involved in this activity</i></p> <p><i>20 smallholder farmers or farm families supported towards the achievement of national Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets. 10 targeting female headed households</i></p> <p><i>5 projects supporting linkages and partnerships for sustainable food production practices (such as diversification and sustainable intensification) and supply chain management including in sustainable fisheries management. This activity will target at least 50% women's involvement.</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><b><u>Strategic Initiative 3:</u></b></p> <p><i>Low-carbon energy access co-Benefits</i></p> <p><i>Focus/Objectives:</i></p> <p>1. Promote renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods.</p>	<p><i>180 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 typologies of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations or scaling up and replication.</i></p> <p><i>6 households achieving energy access, with co-benefits estimated and valued. 3 of these will be female-headed households.</i></p> <p><i>10 acres of forests and non-forest lands with restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks initiated.</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>

<p><u>Strategic Initiative 4:</u></p> <p><i>Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management</i></p> <p><i>Focus/Objectives:</i></p> <p>1.Reduce/remove use of chemicals in agriculture</p>	<p>GEF OP7 will focus on raising awareness in this cycle and will not attempt to quantify the exact amount of POPs/Mercury containing materials and products directly avoided in this cycle.</p> <p><i>1 National project working on increasing awareness and outreach for sound chemicals, waste and mercury management. This activity will target educational institutions and women’s organizations, female producers and female partners of farmers.</i></p> <p>3 local to global coalitions and networks established and/or strengthened (1.<i>Montreal Protocol project which manages Ozone and Non-Ozone-Depleting Substances.</i>2.<i>The Hydrochlorofluorocarbon Phase-Out Management Plan (HPMP).</i>3. <i>GEF-5558 project: Development and Implementation of a Sustainable Management Mechanism for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in the Caribbean</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</p> <p>Country Programme Review</p>
<p><u>Strategic Initiative 5:</u></p> <p><i>Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions</i></p> <p><i>Focus/Objectives:</i></p> <p>1.Demonstrated innovative socially-inclusive urban solutions/ approaches (including waste and chemical management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity)</p>	<p><i>3 community -based urban solutions/ approaches (including chemical and waste management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity) deployed.</i></p> <p><i>3 communities with improved capacities to promote community-driven integrated solutions for low-emission and resilient urban development.</i></p> <p><i>3 projects with improved capacities to promote community-driven integrated solutions for low-emission and resilient urban development. 1 project will target women.</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><i>Focus/Objectives:</i></p> <p>1. Promote /enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, strategy development related to global</p>	<p><i>10 CSO-government-private sector dialogues convened to support community voice and representation in national/ sub-national policy development. This will be inclusive of participation of at least 3 women’s organizations.</i></p> <p><i>50 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>3 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>environment and sustainable development.</p>	<p>1 high-level policy changes attributed to increased community representation through the CSO-government-private sector dialogues.</p>	
<p><u>Strategic Initiative 7:</u> <i>Enhancing social inclusion</i> <i>Focus/Objectives:</i></p> <p>1. Promote targeted initiatives.</p> <p>2 .Mainstream social inclusion in all projects. Including that of women, children, youths, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples, when and where applicable, are required in each project proposal and these areas should be explained in details in appropriate sections. GEF SGP will strongly recommend and prioritize projects, which targets or promote involvement of the social excluded groups.</p>	<p><i>250 direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment (GEF core indicator 11)</i></p> <p>750 Indirect project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)</p> <p><i>8 SGP projects led by women and/or mainstream concrete mechanisms for increased participation of women.</i></p> <p>3 projects contributing to closing gender gaps related to access to and control over natural resources</p> <p>3 projects that improve the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance</p> <p>8 projects that target socio-economic benefits and services for women</p> <p><i>5 SGP projects that have targeted support for Indigenous Peoples in terms of country level programming and management.</i></p> <p><i>15 of SGP projects that demonstrate appropriate models of engaging youth</i></p> <p><i>3 of SGP projects that demonstrate models of engaging persons with disability.</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 8:</u> <i>Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management</i> <i>Focus/Objectives:</i></p> <p>3) <i>Administer new M&amp;E strategy in country programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms</i></p> <p><i>A system of documentation and integration of lessons learnt will</i></p>	<p><i>All projects administering results management modalities in programme design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms.</i></p> <p><i>Quarterly updating SGP database for effective data collection, management and analysis supporting gains in Programme performance and learning.</i></p> <p>1 country/cross-country impact reviews undertaken that generate evidence of SGP impact and lessons learnt inclusive of a socio economic impact assessment.</p> <p>1 project using citizen-based knowledge platform (digital library of community innovations) to document and curate community-based solutions to environment issues</p> <p>7 knowledge fairs targeting community colleges, environmental clubs, service clubs, women's organizations etc.</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><i>be put in place for the implementation of OP7 programme initiative</i></p>	<p><i>2 south- south exchanges at global and regional levels to transfer knowledge, replicate technology, tools and approaches on global environmental issues.</i></p> <p>10 projects reporting adoption of improved practices or approaches as a result of South- South exchanges between communities, CSOs and other partners across countries. 4 projects will target women.</p>	
--	---	--



## ANNEXES

### Appendix 1 Country Overview

#### **Country Situation Analysis**

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) is an archipelagic State in the Eastern Caribbean. It is located between the latitude 13° and 13° 30' N and longitude 61° and 61° 30' S within the Lesser Antilles Island Arc. It lies about 100 miles (160 km) west of Barbados, 68 miles (109 km) of Grenada and about 100 (160 km) miles north of Trinidad.

The country is comprised of a chain of 32 islands and cays, which covers a total land area of 150 sq. miles (389 sq. km.). The main island St Vincent, is the most northern and has an area of 133 sq. miles (344 sq. km) and measuring 18 miles long and 11 miles wide. The Grenadines, of which only seven islands are inhabited – Bequia, Mustique, Canouan, Mayreau, Union Island, Palm Island and Petit St. Vincent together has an area of 17 sq. miles and stretches over a distance of forty five miles (45m) to the south west of the mainland St. Vincent. . Based on the 2012 Population and Housing Census Report, the population of St. Vincent and the Grenadines stood at 109,991, with 90.6% of persons living on mainland St. Vincent, and 9.4% inhabiting the Grenadines. The census report also recorded a total population increased by 0.01% in 2012, compared to a decline of 0.2% in 2001. The population density also increased to 732 persons per square mile. The population is predominantly Afro-West Indian (71.2%) with a minority of Mixed heritage (23%), Indigenous Calinago dependents (3%), East Indian (1.1%), Caucasian (0.8%) and Portuguese (0.7%) .

#### **Economy**

The economy of St. Vincent and the Grenadines is externally driven, with employment and incomes being mainly dependent on tourism and tourism-derived activity, export agriculture and offshore business services (CDB, 2006). The Real Gross Domestic Product of St. Vincent and the Grenadines was estimated at EC\$1.07 billion in 2000. It subsequently expanded at an average annual rate of 2.7 per cent. During the period of 2000-2009, the major performers were communications, mining and quarrying, transport, and other services. Manufacturing and education experienced average negative growth while Agriculture realized average growth rates of 0.5 per cent. The decline in Education was associated with the closure of the Medical College.

In 2001, the economy experienced real growth of 1.8 percent and continued to demonstrate positive real growth up to 2008, with 2005 being the lowest (2.8%) and 2003 being the highest (7.6%). The performance in 2003 was influenced by a positive spill-off from the liberalisation of the telecommunications sector as well as activities in the hotel and restaurant and construction sectors.

In 2008, St. Vincent and the Grenadines was affected by the global economic crisis. As a result, there was negative growth of 0.6 percent. Several sectors were adversely affected. In 2009 the economy experienced a further negative growth of 2.3 percent. The major contributors to the contraction were Hotels and Restaurants that declined by 22.1 percent and Construction, which declined by 8.3 percent. Manufacturing as well as Mining and Quarrying also experienced significant declines of 8.6 and 8.3 percent, respectively. Notwithstanding the prevailing

economic conditions, some sectors posted positive growth. These included Financial Intermediation (1.4%), Health and Social Work (4.6%) and Agriculture (15.2%)<sup>11</sup>.

By the end of 2013, St. Vincent and the Grenadines had been restored to its level of real output of pre-2008. For the year 2014, the recent Staff Mission of the IMF has estimated economic growth for St. Vincent and the Grenadines at the very modest level of 1.1 percent. However, the year 2014 has been a particularly challenging one for St. Vincent and the Grenadines beyond the pre-existing limitations and challenges. The devastating storm of December 2013, which accounted for an estimated damage and loss of EC \$330 million or 17 percent of GDP, hampered any hitherto anticipated economic recovery. The harsh socio-economic effects of this natural disaster were compounded by the prolonged drought of January to May 2014; by the further marked reduction of labour output owing to the debilitating Chikungunya disease; and by the deleterious economic impact of the temporary, but prolonged, cessation of the private-sector development project in Canouan due to unresolved differences, thus far, between the two principal partners in the Canouan Development which employs some 400 workers in construction.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Public Debt was estimated at \$1.51 billion as at September 30, 2014, the equivalent of 77.6 percent of GDP. This figure was \$131 million (9.4 percent) more than the outstanding debt of \$1.38 billion as at September 2013. The increase was mainly on the external debt which moved from \$775.9 million as at September 2013 to \$882.7 million in September 2014, an increase of 14 percent. The domestic debt increased by a modest 4.8 percent and stood at \$631.2 million at the end of September 2014<sup>12</sup>. The main productive sectors of the economy are still agriculture and fisheries, tourism, manufacturing, construction, transport (air, sea and roads), banking and finance, wholesale and retail trade, education and health services, electricity and telecommunications, water and solid waste services, and public administration.

### **Political Situation**

St. Vincent and the Grenadines gained political independence from Great Britain on 27<sup>th</sup> October 1979. The country has a unicameral parliament with 15 elected members and six (6) appointed senators. The parliamentary term of office is five years. There are two major political parties in the country, the Unity Labour Party (currently in government for a fourth consecutive term) and the New Democratic Party. Two other parties contested the last general elections - the Green Party and the Democratic Republican Party.

There are many Civil Society Organisations (CSO) in St. Vincent and the Grenadines ranging from National Professional Organizations like the SVG National Trust, Sustainable Grenadines Inc., Project Promotions and WINFA to local NGOs like Rotary Club and rural community based organisations (CBO), such as JEMS Progressive Community Organisation, Mayreau Regatta &

---

<sup>11</sup> Information from the St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013-2025

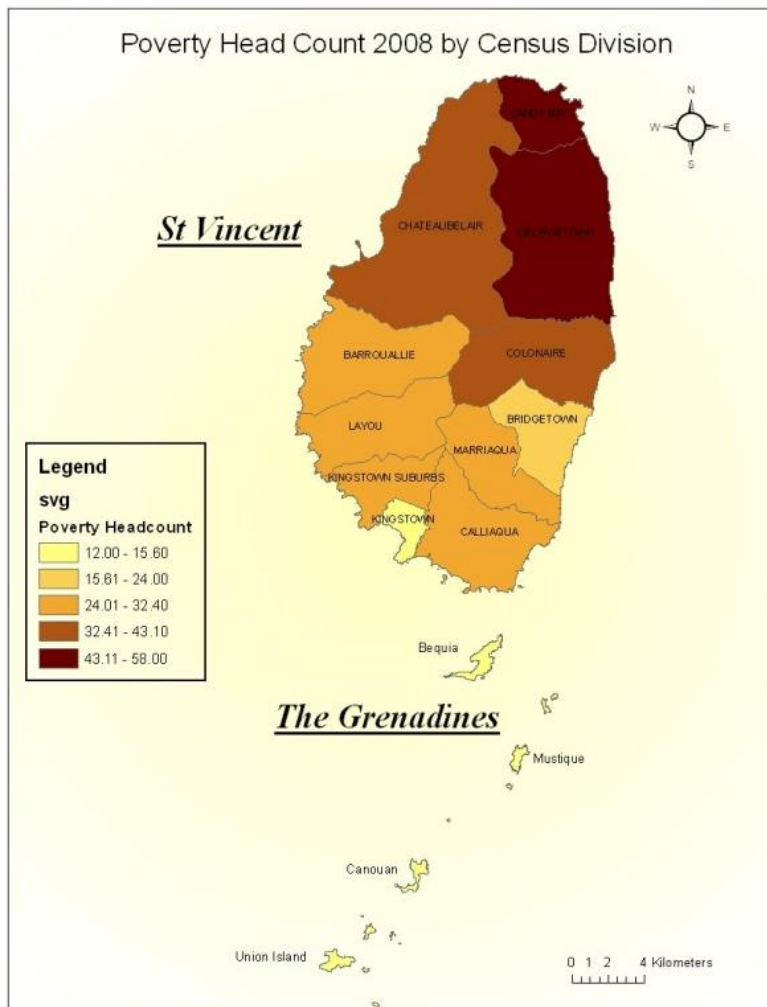
<sup>12</sup>

Source: Budget Address 2015 - Continuing the Quest for Wealth and Job Creation, Equity, Resilience, and Fiscal Consolidation in a Small Multi-Island Economy in the Midst of Exogenous Challenges by Dr. The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves; Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Sporting Committee, Union Island Environmental Attackers, Northern Grenadines Development Community Development, Inc., Union Island Development Council and the Southeast Development Council. Most of the CBOs are organized to deal with specific challenges facing their communities and are able to access some resources from government agencies, the private sector, development agencies and other donors.

### Poverty and Unemployment

Based on the Country Poverty Assessment in 2008, 30.2% of Vincentians are considered poor, 2.9% classified as indigent and a vulnerable population of around 48.2%. In terms of the geography of poverty, the Georgetown and Sandy Bay census divisions, which together comprised 9.0 percent of the population, accounted for as much as 16.5 percent of the poor. At the same time information from the Participatory Poverty Assessment show that Bottle and Glass in the Barrouallie census division is also a community in which there are significant levels of poverty. The study found that there were also high levels of unemployment and underemployment<sup>13</sup>



<sup>13</sup> St Vincent And The Grenadines Country Poverty Assessment 2007/2008 Report.

**Figure 1. Map of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Poverty Level (CPA, 2008)**

The Housing and Population Census of 2012 reported an unemployment rate of 21.5%, marginally higher than the 20.9% in 2001. Males accounted for 50.9% (5,693) of the unemployed and females, 49.1% (5,500). The majority of the unemployed were young: 15 – 19 years (14.1%), 20 – 24 years (22.8%) and 25 – 29 years (14.6%). Collectively, these three groups accounted for 51.5% of the unemployed population. The Calliaqua census division had the highest number of unemployed persons; i.e. 2,441 (20.0%). Suburbs of Kingstown followed this with 1,668 persons (14.9%) and Kingstown with 1,148 persons (10.3%). The Sandy Bay and Southern Grenadines census divisions had the lowest numbers of unemployed persons, with 196 (1.8%) and 283 (2.5%) individuals, respectively. Several census divisions had an unemployment rate that was higher than the national average of 21.5%. These are the census divisions of Colonarie (27.5%), Georgetown (26.6%), Chateaubelair (26.4%), Barrouallie (25.5%), Layou (25.7%), Suburbs of Kingstown (24.5%), and Bridgetown (21.9%). The Southern Grenadines (12.8%) had the lowest rate of unemployment, followed by Kingstown (18.0%).

## Gender and Development

According to the 2015 Country Gender Assessment for St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) as commissioned by the Caribbean Development Bank, the “situation of vulnerability and powerlessness obtains inspite of practical efforts made over the years by the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to give life and meaning to the Constitution and to regional and international treaty obligations that affirm women’s rights to live without discrimination”. The assessment further indicated that in SVG, like most societies, women and girls face discrimination that ultimately influence their life chances at ever levels – in comparison to men and boys. This is further reinforced by gender socialization that shapes and affects men, women, boys and girls throughout their life cycle.

Relative to the economic sectors and gender, by 2012, the economy was dominated by the services sector – mainly real estate, renting and business; wholesale and retail trade; transport, storage and communications. According to the 2015 overview of the labour market of SVG with the use of a gender perspective, it was noted that women (58.7%) were less likely to participate in the labour force than men (72.6%). This resulted in a gender gap – the difference between the rate of male labour market participation and female labour market participation – of 13.9 percentage points. In Agriculture, the majority of the informal workers are women, and there was an urgent call for reform of the land lease system to strengthen women’s economic base as farmers and entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector, through increasing women’s access to land and credit, and the introduction of ICT tools to improve farmers’ access to marketing support and other services. Fishing is dominated by males, and women are fairly involved in the area of Agro-processing.

SVG has implemented many institutional and policy measures, programmes and projects towards disrupting patterns and manifestations of gender discrimination – including Gender-Based Violence (GBV) – that are embedded in economic, social and political structures and systems. The country is part of a regional and international community of countries that have made legislative and policy changes in an effort to end Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

Influenced in large part by the work of the women's movement in the region and the country's commitment to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), state actors and community organisers in SVG have, for several decades, been involved in the process of creating awareness about the problem of GBV and promoting the need for change at several levels of the society.

This country has undertaken a number of initiatives to address GBV, including law reform, public education, social policy, social support and policing. In addition, the existence of civil society organisations (CSOs) and the establishment of the Gender Equality Commission concerned with achieving gender equality and ending GBV have also made important contributions to work in this area. In spite of improved action by civil society and the state, a multi-sectoral multilevel approach to ending GBV need to be strengthened.

### **Climatic Conditions**

The climate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines is a humid tropical marine type. Characteristic of small tropical islands, SVG's temperature at sea level is generally high (annual mean of 26.7°C, with minimum of 31°C). However, the fairly strong and continuously prevailing north-easterly winds help to maintain a relatively cool temperature. Approximate annual precipitation ranges from 1700 mm on the dry coast to 7000 mm in the wet central mountains. The climatic condition is mainly affected by the subtropical anticyclone belt and the inter-tropical convergence zone. These meteorological occurrences help to shape the seasonal character of the local weather. Rainfall in St. Vincent, as a result, has a strong seasonal variation, with most of the precipitation occurring between June and December during the wet season. The dry period occurs between the months of January to May, where rainfall tend to be less showery and unevenly distributed. The Grenadines islands are typically dryer and experience acute seasonal variation in rainfall with severe shortages of both surface water and groundwater. On these Islands where the main source of supply is rainwater harvesting or "roof water", variability in rainfall patterns can affect water availability to residence of these Islands.

### **Environmental Problems**

St. Vincent and the Grenadines, like other SIDS, is at a crucial period of development and faces several environmental challenges, both internally and externally. According to the UNEP National Environmental Summary for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the major environmental problems include the effects of global climate change, noticeable through extreme weather events throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines. These included a drought in the first half of 2010 followed by Hurricane Tomas. The dry period affected the agricultural sector and resulted in increased incidences of bush fires. Torrential rain falls and flash floods in 2011 and 2013 destroyed substantive areas of forest and agricultural ecosystems, as well as residential dwellings on the northern most part of Saint Vincent. These events have caused significant loss of upland biodiversity and in conjunction with sea level rise and coastal erosion have contributed to associated loss in coastal vegetation. The resulting impacts of Climate Change significantly affect human welfare, national economic activities, property, and natural resources. In addition,

while local and sub-regional data are presently not available to evaluate the specific effects of climate change for SVG, global and regional data indicate that rising sea levels and changes in storm patterns are changing the country's risk profile. Indeed, effects of climate change are already evident in many parts of the country with storm activity continuing to impact on exposed coastlines and development. The situation is only expected to worsen as SVG is highly vulnerable to the impacts of global warming and climate associated impacts (St. Vincent and the Grenadines Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Project -Environmental Assessment, 2010).

Deforestation is also of growing concern and contributes directly towards the loss in biodiversity and acute erosion resulting in loss of fertile topsoil and resultant land degradation. Since the 1993 forest inventory, the rate of deforestation occurring above the 305 metres contour boundary for crown land has continued at an alarming rate, as a result of cultivation of bananas, yams and dasheen. Additional threats include the expansion of squatting in environmentally sensitive areas and clearing of relatively inaccessible lands in the interior for illegal marijuana cultivation<sup>14</sup>. Loss of agricultural lands to development is also a major problem due to the decline in agricultural production, resulting from world free trade stipulations and limited incentives in the agriculture sector. Riverine and coastal pollution is also directly linked to land-based sources of pollution, namely sediments from erosion and subsequent runoff, agrochemical leaching, direct agrochemical influx, industrial and commercial discharge, liquid waste, and storm water runoff from city streets and construction sites. Finally, indiscriminate solid waste disposal continues to affect our island state, as solid waste legislations are seldom enforced and limited environmental educational and lack of national price lead to littering and unregulated garbage disposal.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is among the most disaster-prone countries in the world, regularly suffering disasters related to climate variability. These hazards have caused significant and recurrent damages to national infrastructure including housing, road networks, schools, hospitals and other facilities such as phone lines, water and electricity

According to The Initial National Communication on Climate Change for St. Vincent and the Grenadines the principal factors that contribute to our vulnerability include the following:

- ❑ The main population centres, housing 85 per cent of the population, lie on a narrow coastal strip less than 5 m above sea level and less than 5 km from the high-water mark.
- ❑ The infrastructure supporting these population centres--e.g. roads, telephone and electricity lines, transmission centres, water lines, airports, and marine centres, accounting for more than 80 per cent of the island's total infrastructure base--fall within this area.
- ❑ The built-up area accounting for 90 per cent of the country's economic investment is situated in this narrow coastal band.

Accelerated sea-level rise will therefore prove to be costly for the island of St. Vincent. Significant problems also exist for the Grenadines, where the white sandy beaches, coral reefs, and marine fishery support the greater part of the local economic base. Physical retreat from the shoreline will prove difficult, given the steep slopes in the interior of both Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

---

<sup>14</sup> **Source:** Fifth National Report to the United Nations Convention On Biological Diversity, 2015.

## Topography and Biodiversity

The island of St. Vincent is traversed centrally by a range of mountains starting from La Soufriere Mountain, towering over 1,178m in the north, to Mount St. Andrew (736m) in the south and is referred to as the Central Mountain Range. This mountain range contains part of the Caribbean's Key Biodiversity Hotspot and home to many island endemics and IUCN Red List Species such as the St. Vincent Parrot (*Amazona guildingii*), the Whistling Warbler (*Catharopeza bishopi*), the Black Snake (*Chironius vincentii*) and the *Pristimantis shrevei*<sup>15</sup>. Most of St. Vincent's natural forest is found in the island's conservation corridor in the central mountain range. The forest inventory completed in 1993 indicated that the total forestland area was approximately 12,683 ha and consisted of primary rainforest (4,306 ha), secondary rainforest (3,450 ha), dry scrub woodlands (2,178 ha).

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has recorded over 1,150 species of plants and 163 species of ferns, including 15 endemic flowering plants and 4 ferns (Caribbean Conservation Association, 1991). In terms of animals, all five groups of vertebrates are represented including 7 species of amphibians, over 20 species of reptiles, 170 species of birds, 22 species of mammals, and 516 species of marine biodiversity (Ministry of Health, Wellness and Environment, 2010). These, along with thousands (and perhaps millions) of invertebrates (of which approximately 500 have been identified), contribute to the islands' faunal diversity, and provide a wide range of ecosystem and ecological services for the country.<sup>16</sup>

To date, St. Vincent and the Grenadines has recorded some 14 endemic animals (Table 2) and 19 endemic plants (Table 3). Additionally, 29 regionally endemic tree species are listed. Five mammals are Lesser Antillean endemics, two of which are restricted to Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, while 3 reptiles are also restricted to the region.

Faunal Type	Scientific Names	Local Names	Comments
Birds	<i>Amazona guildingii</i>	St. Vincent Parrot	IUCN Vulnerable
	<i>Catharopeza bishopi</i>	Whistling Warbler	IUCN Endangered
Mammals	<i>Oligoryzomys victus</i>	St. Vincent Pygmy Rice Rat	Extinct
	<i>Micronycteris buriri</i>	St. Vincent Big-eared Bat	Endemic
Reptiles	<i>Anolis griseus</i>	Saint Vincent Tree Anole	Endemic
	<i>Anolis trinitatus</i>	Saint Vincent Bush Anole	Introduced to Trinidad
	<i>Chironius vincentii</i>	St. Vincent Black Snake	Endemic
	<i>Corallus cookii</i>	Congo Snake; Cook's Tree Boa	Endemic
	<i>Gonatodes daudini</i>	Grenadines Clawed Gecko	Endemic
	<i>Sphaerodactylus kirbyi</i>	Bequia Dwarf/Pygmy Gecko	Endemic
	<i>Corallus grenadensis</i>	Grenadine Boa	Endemic
Amphibians	<i>Pristimantis shrevei</i>	St. Vincent Whistling Frog	Endangered (IUCN)

Table 2: Endemic fauna in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

<sup>15</sup> CEPF funded Integrated Watershed Management Planning and Forest Reserve Protection in the Central Mountain Range Conservation Corridor of St Vincent- Project proposal writing by Hayden Billing *et al.*

<sup>16</sup> St. Vincent & the Grenadines Fifth National Report to the CBD 2015

Floral Type	Scientific Names
<b>Flowering Plants</b>	
	<i>Trigynaea antillana</i>
	<i>Meliosma herbertii</i>
	<i>Calliandra guildingii</i>
	<i>Psidium guildingianum</i>
	<i>Gustavia antillana</i>
	<i>Tibouchina cistoides</i>
	<i>Begonia rotundifolia</i>
	<i>Hoffmannia tubiflora</i>
	<i>Malouetia retroflexa</i>
	<i>Columnea speciose</i>
	<i>Peperomia cuneate</i>
	<i>Peperomia vincentiana</i>
	<i>Croton guildingii</i>
	<i>Epidendrum vincentinum</i>
	<i>Tillandsia megastachya</i>
<b>Ferns</b>	
	<i>Cyathea tenera</i>
	<i>Pteris longibrachiata</i>
	<i>Asplenium godmani</i>
	<i>Acrostichum smithii</i>

Source: Caribbean Conservation Association 1991  
Table 3: Endemic flora in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.