



***SGP Country Programme Strategy for OP7  
The Commonwealth of The Bahamas***

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

AMR	Annual Monitoring Report
BEST	Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology Commission
BNT	Bahamas National Trust
BPAF	Bahamas Protected Areas Fund
BREEF	Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CDP	Committee for Development Policy
COB	College of The Bahamas
CPS	Country Programme Strategy
CSO	Civil Society Organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FSP	Full-sized Project
GEF	Global Environmental Fund
GoB	Government of The Bahamas
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IWEco	Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystem Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MSP	Medium-sized Project
NAMA	UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHI	National Host Institution
NSC	National Steering Committee
OP5	Operational Phase 5
OP6	Operational Phase 6
SGP	Small Grants Programme
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UWICED	University of the West Indies Center for Environment and Development



## OP7 Financial Resources - SGP Country Programme (estimated US\$)<sup>1</sup>

Total SGP Grants to date since (2009):	<b>USD1 681 921</b>
OP7 GEF Core Funds:	USD \$500,000 (tbc)
OP7 GEF STAR Funds:	<b>USD \$550,000</b>
OP6 GEF Core and STAR remaining balance (if applicable)	<b>USD \$79,369 (STAR) + USD136,880 (CORE)</b>

### 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>2</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 Bahamas Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) Country Programme was established in 2009. Since its inception, GEF SGP Bahamas has completed a total of 59 projects, dispersing US\$1 681 921 of grant funding and engaging with over 38 civil society organizations (CSOs). As seen in Table 1, there has been a strong thematic focus on climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation. Key lessons learnt during Operational Phase 6 (OP6) is the need for additional capacity development of CSOs including a mentorship programme in grant management and additional training on grant management, including monitoring and evaluation and reporting.

**Table 1: Key Results of OP6**

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

<sup>2</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.



% of OP6 Grant Funds		
Climate Change	<p>Projects have successfully demonstrated the usage of renewable energy technology solutions in communities and schools and have been recognized by GEF as innovative project models<sup>3</sup>.</p> <p>Students and scientists from overseas have used the model.</p> <p>Reducing impacts through recycling project trained 16 community members in monitoring and evaluation, project management and applied trades, and educated over 750 students in recycling.</p>	<p>Demonstration model seeks to be replicated in other Family Islands and to share innovative solutions.</p>
Biodiversity Conservation	<p>Project in The Elizabeth Harbour focused on mitigating impacts from tourism on reefs from anchoring.</p> <p>Promoting sustainable fishing practices across family islands as well as the project to conserve Abaco's juvenile lobster populations focused on training of fishermen and protection of fishing stocks with global environmental benefits, in line with WWF initiatives and over 200 fishermen received sustainable catch certifications.</p>	<p>Use of moorings and engagement of local community in monitoring is replicable across the country.</p> <p>The project collected data on stocks which was used by the Department of Marine Resources to establish baseline stock assessments and assisted the country in qualifying for MSC certification. They are designed to be replicated as workshops across other Family Islands.</p>
International Waters	<p>Encouraging sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems through increasing awareness and engagement of public and tourists in protecting, rehabilitating and mitigating coral reef loss</p>	<p>Production and dissemination of outreach and educational resources including climate tool kit that can be used to train community members and educators on all islands.</p> <p>Grantee to scale up to larger project during OP6.</p> <p>Influential in designating a new Marine Protected Area</p>
Land Degradation	<p>Removal of invasive species from vulnerable coastlines and planting of native coastal vegetation, including coconuts, to aid in stabilization of the coastline and decrease levels of erosion. Workshops on coconut harvesting, agro-processing and small business management provided.</p>	<p>Development of new agro-processing industry that provides opportunities for development of sustainable livelihoods and can be replicated in other Family Islands.</p>
Capacity Development	<p>Three grant writing and training and information exchange workshops were successful in building capacity within local CSOs.</p> <p>Project in the historic community of Gambier focused on community building initiatives around waste management.</p>	<p>These workshops were over-subscribed so the aim is to replicate them on more family islands, including Grand Bahama, Abaco, Andros and Exuma.</p>

### 3. COUNTRY PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

<sup>3</sup> GEF Small Grants Programme: Climate Change-Low Carbon Energy Access Co-Benefits Strategic Initiative Technical Guidance Note



### 3.1. Alignment with National Priorities

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

Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
GEF-7 National Dialogues	November 2019
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	2 September 1993
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	30 June 1999
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	Not a signatory <sup>4</sup>
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	29 March 1994
UNFCCC National Communications (1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> )	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2001/2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2015
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	Not available
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	Not available (National Policy for the Adaptation to Climate Change is dated March 2005)
Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Paris Accord	Not Available
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	10 November 2000
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	April 2006
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	3 October 2005
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	In progress (National Coordinating Committee established and series of workshops and validation of the National Chemical Profile in progress)
Minamata Convention (MC) on Mercury	12 February 2020
Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	Not Available
UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Not Available
Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) for the UN SDGs	Not Available
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	August 2005
GEF-6 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	26 February 2016
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies <sup>5</sup>	Not Available
Paris Agreement on Climate Change	22 April 2016
Intended Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement	December 2015

### 3.2. Gaps and Opportunities

<sup>4</sup> While The Bahamas is not a signatory to this Protocol yet, a GEF MSP ‘Strengthening Access and Benefit Sharing’ has been initiated which is designed to create enabling conditions for fair and equitable access and benefit sharing, and lay the groundwork for accession to the Protocol.

<sup>5</sup> Although The Bahamas has not prepared an SAP or specifically endorsed the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem (16 April 2013), it does participate in the regional project for protecting shared international waters such as the Integrated Watershed and Coastal Area Management (IWCAM) Project, the new Development of a model of integrated land, water and ecosystem management for The Bahamas and Other SIDS project (IWECO), and the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Project (see: [www.clmeproject.org](http://www.clmeproject.org)).



Further opportunities are available for the meaningful involvement of communities and CSOs in climate change mitigation and adaptation throughout OP7. The focus on climate change mitigation in OP6 including a number of renewable energy projects provide a basis for the involvement of CSOs in meeting national goals. Partnerships forged in climate change mitigation OP6 projects such as between CSOs, Ministry of the Environment and BEST Commission allow for continued collaboration in OP7.

Additional opportunities for CSOs and community involvement are in the area of landscape/seascape conservation and local to global chemicals coalitions. While The Bahamas is not yet a signatory to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS), there is a GEF MSP that has been initiated to create enabling conditions to facilitate accession to the Protocol which is continuing the process during OP7. The National Chemical Profile and Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plan are also in the relatively early stages of implementation. As a signatory to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and with a submitted INDC, communities and CSOs can be involved in the preparation and implementation of national plans to meet intended nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to greenhouse gas emission reductions. These initiatives provide an opportunity for CSOs and communities to be involved from the onset and provide feedback on the approach that the nation should take in implementing these conventions, and opportunities for CSO involvement in other multilateral agreement negotiations should be encouraged.

The development of a CSO-Government dialogue platform would be beneficial for CSOs and communities to have more meaningful and active engagement in national implementation of international conventions including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This effort is being lead by the University of The Bahamas through direct support from SGP OP6 grant.

### **3.3. OP7 Strategic Priorities of the SGP Country Programme**

#### ***Government Funded Projects and Programmes***

The National Development Plan (NDP): one of its four pillars is conservation of the built and natural environment. This project will align well with all four strategic initiatives of OP6, but particularly, in order of priority, the first three selected initiatives: community landscape/seascape conservation, local to global chemical management, and low-carbon energy access co-benefits. As it is a national plan, it will also align with the entire country approach, chosen as the landscape/seascape approach.

The Caribbean Challenge and The Bahamas Protected Areas Fund: the Caribbean Challenge is a policy initiative among a number of Caribbean states to protect 20% of the nearshore environment by 2020. A GEF FSP focused on marine protected areas led to the creation of The Bahamas Protected Areas Fund, which is designed to be a sustainable financing mechanism for protected areas. This project is currently ongoing. CSO's sit on the board of directors of BPAF.

#### ***UNDP CO/UN System Projects and Programmes***

National Development Plan (see bullet point one above): the stakeholder-driven process promotes CSO-government dialogue, social inclusion, capacity building and aligns with the UNDP CDP thematic focus of strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda. This project is currently ongoing.

While these projects may not have specific CSO engagement requirements, SGP can facilitate involvement through the CSO network and the CSO-Government dialogue platform.

#### ***Major Donor Projects and Programmes***



IDB/GoB Feasibility Studies for a Climate-Resilient Coastal Zone Management Investment Programme: this project is designed in two components: Component 1 to support to policy framework and institutional sustainability for risk-resilient integrated coastal zone management (ICZM); and Component 2 to design and feasibility analysis of a risk-resilient ICZM investment program. The project will complement the landscape/seascape conservation approach, chosen as the top priority of the strategic initiatives by stakeholders. This project is currently ongoing. CSO's sit on the Technical Advisory Committee for this project.

IDB/GoB Ecosystem Based Development for Andros Island: this project is designed to develop a masterplan incorporating island's natural resources, guide future development and physical planning and mainstream natural capital into development plan. It is designed to become a replicable model of stakeholder-based development of land use plans in the family islands. The project can create synergies with the top priority of the strategic initiatives of landscape/seascape conservation, as well as a model for CSO-government dialogue, social inclusion, capacity building and knowledge management. This project is currently ongoing. CSO's sit on the Technical Advisory Committee for this project.

***Other NGO-led/funded Projects and Programs***

NGO-led Youth Education Programs: Several NGOs, including Young Marine Explorers, Earth Care, Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation (BREEF) and Bahamas National Trust (BNT), focus on youth education and have ongoing programs that align with the social inclusion strategic initiative.



**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></p>	<p><b>SGP Country Programme's complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and programmes</b></p>
<p><b><i>Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species</i></b></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>	<p>The SGP Country Programme will support community CSO initiatives that focus on the development and co-management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs); inclusive of the strengthening of national policies that enhance environmental benefits to services provided by the communities within proximity to the MPAs.</p>	<p>GEF FSP: Building a Sustainable National Marine Protected Area Network;            GEF FSP: Meeting the Challenge of 2020 in The Bahamas;            GEF MSP: Strengthening Access and Benefit Sharing in The Bahamas; The Caribbean Challenge and The Bahamas Protected Areas Fund;            National Development Plan: 3 phases – diagnoses (complete), national conservation (ongoing), plan development (ongoing);            GoB/IDB Feasibility Studies for a Climate-Resilient Coastal Zone Management Investment Programme;            GoB/IDB Ecosystem Based Development for Andros Island;            GoB/IDB Sustainable Cities Initiative: Urban Design Lab Nassau;            Conchervation Campaign;            Disney Reverse the Decline Project.</p>
<p><b><i>Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security</i></b></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>	<p>The GEF SGP will support initiatives by community CSOs that will seek to assist in the conservation of significant forest landscapes within communities. Priority areas will include Pine Forest and Mangrove Forest ecosystems.</p>	<p>GEF FSP: Pine Islands – Forest/Mangrove Innovation and Integration (Grand Bahama, New Providence, Abaco and Andros);            GoB/IDB Ecosystem Based Development for Andros Island.</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>	<p>At the community level GEF SGP will seek to support community projects that may pilot innovative ways to increase the use of renewable energy sources and technology that will allow for more energy efficiency in the current ways by which the energy is used.</p>	<p>GEF MSP: Promoting Sustainable Energy in The Bahamas; GEF FSP: Meeting the Challenge of 2020 in The Bahamas; GoB/IDB Sustainable Cities Initiative: Urban Design Lab Nassau.</p>
<p><b>Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management</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>	<p>GEF SGP will support smaller community initiatives that will seek to properly handle, manage and dispose of the chemicals of POPs, ODS, and mercury.</p>	<p>GEF Regional Project: Disposal of Obsolete Pesticides including POPs, Promotion of Alternatives and Strengthening Pesticides Management in the Caribbean</p>
<p><b>CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Promote/enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, strategy development related to global environment and sustainable development issues</li> </ol>	<p>The GEF SGP will support in the ongoing initiatives to produce the National Development Plan: 3 phases – diagnoses (complete), national conservation (ongoing), plan development (ongoing); GoB/IDB Ecosystem Based Development for Andros Island; ITU Bahamas Declaration: Powering Smart Sustainable Cities, Nations &amp; Islands; Conservation Campaign; Disney Reverse the Decline Project; Freedom of Information Bill 2015.</p>	<p>Contribution to UNDP CDP Declaration 2015/101 49<sup>th</sup> Session Theme: Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda; Contribution to UNDP CDP Declaration 2015/101 49<sup>th</sup> Session Theme: Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda;</p>
<p><b>Enhancing social inclusion (mandatory)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Promote targeted initiatives</li> <li>2) Mainstream social inclusion in all projects (e.g. women/girls, indigenous peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Enhancing social inclusion</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) Promote targeted initiatives</li> <li>4) Mainstream social inclusion in all projects</li> </ol> <p>The GEF SGP will support in the ongoing initiatives to produce the National Development Plan: 3 phases – diagnoses (complete), national conservation (ongoing), plan development (ongoing);</p>	<p>Contribution to UNDP CDP Declaration 2015/101 49<sup>th</sup> Session Theme: Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda; Contribution to UNDP CDP Declaration 2015/101 49<sup>th</sup> Session Theme: Strengthening the</p>



	<p>GoB/IDB Ecosystem Based Development for Andros Island;          GoB/IDB Sustainable Cities Initiative: Urban Design Lab Nassau;          ITU Bahamas Declaration: Powering Smart Sustainable Cities, Nations &amp; Islands; NGO-led Youth Education Programmes;          BNT Conchervation Campaign.</p>	<p>demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda;</p>
<p><b>Knowledge Management (mandatory)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities</li> <li>2) Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs</li> <li>3) Conduct South-South Exchanges to promote technology transfer and replication of good practices</li> </ol>	<p><b>Knowledge Management</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4) Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities</li> <li>5) Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs</li> <li>6) Conduct South-South Exchanges to promote technology transfer and replication of good practices</li> </ol> <p>The GEF SGP will support in the ongoing initiatives to produce the GoB/IDB Sustainable Cities Initiative: Urban Design Lab Nassau;          ITU Bahamas Declaration: Powering Smart Sustainable Cities, Nations &amp; Islands;          BNT Conchervation Campaign;          Disney Reverse the Decline Project.</p>	<p>Contribution to UNDP CDP Declaration 2015/101 49<sup>th</sup> Session Theme: Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda;</p>
<p><b>Results Management, Monitoring &amp; Evaluation (mandatory)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Administer new M&amp;E strategy in country programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms</li> </ol>	<p><b>Results Management, Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Administer new M&amp;E strategy in country programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms</li> </ol>	

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

##### 4.1. Grantmaking Within the Priority Landscape/Seascapes<sup>6</sup>

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

The Bahamas GEF SGP CPS consultation and scoping exercises is based on updating the OP6 CPS to reinforce the GEF OP7 priorities. The process consisted of a number of steps in order to gain feedback from

<sup>6</sup> Refer to the various guidance documents on landscape/seascape selection and assessments.



stakeholders to decide upon the landscape/seascape approach to be utilized in the country along with the priorities and planning for delivering OP7 outcomes.

The steps are found in greater detail in Annex 1: Baseline Study of Landscape/Seascape and are summarized here: A comprehensive list of stakeholders was identified with input from the National Coordinator (NC) that included over 30 CSOs and governmental agencies. A virtual consultation of the National Steering Committee (NSC) was also held to gain feedback regarding planning and prioritization of activities in OP7.

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

As a Small Island Developing State, The Bahamas was able to identify either the entire country as one landscape/seascape or to identify particular landscapes/seascapes within the country. Feedback from stakeholders strongly supported the classification of the entire country as one landscape/seascape rather than isolating particular areas. This was largely due to the archipelagic geography of the country and the dispersal of CSOs on different islands making the identification of particular landscapes/seascapes an unsuitable approach for the nation. Considering the entire country as one landscape/seascape is important to the country given the wide geographical scope of national priorities as identified in Table 2. As detailed in Section 2.3, there are a number of government, GEF and NGO funded projects and programmes that take place across the archipelago and that can be built upon for SGP OP6. Selecting the entire country as one landscape/seascape allows for OP7 funded projects to build upon existing national priorities that span the nation.

**Figure 1: Map of The Bahamas**

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

The updating exercises allowed stakeholders to identify the strategic initiatives to be prioritized for OP7. SGP OP7 ***Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species*** was identified as the number one priority for OP7. Stakeholders opined that both governmental agencies and CSOs were already committed to the management and protection of landscapes and seascapes and that there were greater possibilities to obtain co-financing for conservation projects. The other two initiatives identified for prioritization in OP7 were SGP OP7 ***Low-carbon energy access co-benefits*** and SGP OP7 ***Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management***. Both of these initiatives were thought to be relevant to national priorities as The Bahamas addresses climate change and the impacts of waste management on ecosystems and human health. The Baseline Study of Landscape/Seascape details critical issues and needs of The Bahamas which include addressing impacts from climate change, deterioration of major ecosystems, decline of ecological resources, increased energy insecurity, loss of biodiversity, inadequate waste management and unregulated development. The selected strategic initiatives for OP7 align with these critical issues and needs through a focus on conservation, low-carbon energy access and chemical management.

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

CSOs have expressed concern over capacity constraints regarding project management. Further workshops on grant project management, including training on reporting and grant budgeting, would be a useful use of funds outside of the three strategic priority areas. Training on the strategic initiatives could take place at the same time. CSOs also expressed a desire for a more cohesive mechanism for CSO-government dialogue. The creation of a CSO network, where grant mentorship as well as coordinated recommendations on policy could be made, would also be a useful use of grant funds. This would increase citizen participation in environmental issues in a formal capacity, increase involvement of CSOs in the development and implementation of national priorities, as well as contribute to the promotion of the National Development Plan.

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

The NDP Secretariat has identified the Ecosystem Based Development Plan for Andros as a model for further development of land use plans in the country. The process was stakeholder consultation heavy and is designed to allow residents to contribute to the development of a masterplan for their island, incorporating the island's natural resources. This model should be replicated nationally, with CSOs involved in the consultations. Several CSOs, including The University of The Bahamas, The Bahamas National Trust, and Save the Bays were involved in national preparations to attend UNFCCC COP 21 as members of the national delegation and observers. Involvement in south-south development exchanges by these CSOs on climate change should also be encouraged. CSOs should also be involved in national preparations for other international agreements such as the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing. CSOs have recommended the development of a cohesive CSO network in order to streamline access to policy makers and also to serve as a knowledge-sharing platform among CSOs of similar concerns, where synergies could be built, and also to pass on grant project management knowledge. In addition, the passage of a Freedom of Information Act would significantly improve the transparency barriers that have been identified by CSOs at a national level. During OP7 GEF SGP can facilitate the development of this cohesive CSO network by providing assistance and support either in funds for projects or in-kind contributions. The CSO network will



take into account gender equality and youth participation. The CSO network can also inform and assist with the work of the GEF SGP in OP6.

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

Social inclusion is a cross-cutting theme for OP6 and should be implemented in all strategic initiatives at all stages of project cycles. The SGP CPS for OP6 is committed to promoting women's empowerment, gender equality and the involvement of youth in country portfolio programming. The Bahamas SGP will continue to provide support to women-led projects in OP6. While gender equality is often focused on increasing the participation of females in projects, in the Bahamian context there is often significantly more involvement by females. To address the need for gender equality, the SGP will require projects to track the percentage of males and females that were involved or benefitted from projects. There may be a need to specifically encourage the participation of males in potential projects.

To include youth in country portfolio programming, GEF SGP will also require projects to track the percentage of youth involved or benefitting from projects. GEF SGP may propose partnerships with CSOs specifically focused on youth engagement in order to increase the number of youth involved in programming. CSOs are already identifying and in some cases implementing projects which attract young males in particular. For example, BNT has a dive certification programme which is proving to be popular among young men. Examples such as these projects should be shared within the CSO network and with the GEF SGP.

Further the GEF SGP Bahamas will seek to Support women's improved access, use, and control of resources, including land, water, forest, and fisheries by: (i) contributing to shape policy and gender norms to improve women's access to and control over land, water, forests and other natural resources; (ii) providing targeted support to raise awareness and assist women in exercising their legal rights; and (iii); enhancing women's decision-making capabilities regarding land, forests, water and other biological resources they use.

Enhancing women's participation and role in natural resources decision-making processes, with women as agents of change at all levels by: (i) promoting women's equal engagement in community, rural and urban planning processes; (ii) promoting women's voice in decision-making and policy in global and national planning and decision-making bodies; (iii) supporting women's engagement in producer organizations, cooperatives, labor unions, outgrow schemes etc.; (iv) promoting women's voice (including indigenous peoples and local community groups) in partnerships and alliances with regional and national networks; and (v) providing policy level training opportunities to help women participate in decision-making forums.

Targeting women as specific beneficiaries by (i) increasing awareness of the roles of women and men in the sustainable management and use of natural resources; (ii) creating opportunities from (alternative) sustainable livelihoods and income-generation opportunities such as conservation, rehabilitation and restoration actions for women; (iii) engaging women in processes for making commodities and supply chains more sustainable; (iv) supporting clean technology and energy solutions that also offer women the possibility to reduce their environmental footprint and start new businesses; and (v) supporting women entrepreneurs, and activities that offer women access to credit and finance



### **c) Knowledge Management**

Knowledge management is a critical component of effective projects and is a cross-cutting theme for OP7. All projects and project proposals shall include a plan for knowledge management and include a specific budget for knowledge management. While CSOs have identified existing methods of knowledge management, these methods are mostly reliant on individual CSO websites or membership-based databases. During OP7, the development of an integrated knowledge management network that incorporates knowledge from individual CSOs will be developed. This will aid CSOs in peer to peer exchanges and assist in the replication and scaling up of projects. This comprehensive knowledge management network can be integrated with the OP7 digital library and facilitate South-South exchange where feasible.

## **5. COMMUNICATION PLAN**

The Communications Strategy for the GEF SGP OP6 will be part of the larger national communications strategy on OP6 and will include both CSOs and government stakeholders. Improving the awareness of the GEF SGP initiatives will be achieved through the hosting of a Knowledge Management and Best Practice Fair. It will also include the use of a quarterly e-newsletter provided free of charge to all stakeholders, the use of seminar and awareness raising presentations made by the NC and NSC members whenever the opportunity presents itself. Further the launch of each project will do its best to receive local media coverage to highlight the work and involvement of the GEF SGP throughout. Finally, each project will seek the opportunity to appear on local radio to share their stories with the broadcasting listeners.

With regards to communication, the GEF SGP Bahamas will contribute stories and case studies to SGP Global and link to SGP key messages:

- SGP is a global incubator of innovative ideas and solutions developed by civil society organizations to achieve the SDGs and global environmental benefits.
- SGP is a social inclusion platform that has 25 years of experience working to empower and improve the skills of women, indigenous people, youth and people with disabilities.
- SGP is a unique mechanism to bring the voices and knowledge of civil society to national and international platforms.

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

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

#### ***Landscape/seascape Level Co-financing***

Bilateral opportunities should be explored using existing relationships such as with the US Embassy, People's Republic of China, UWICED, FAO, CDB, UNDP and other UN agencies, and these efforts should be expanded. The Bahamas Protected Areas Fund is also anticipated to be a large donor for landscape/seascape conservation projects. The Gerace Research Foundation has expressed an interest in assisting the GoB in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

#### ***Diversify Funding Sources***



Non-GEF sources of funding can include the UNFCCC as well as bilateral agencies such as the US Embassy, People's Republic of China, UWICED, FAO, CDB, UNDP and other UN agencies. The Gerace Research Centre has also approached the GoB about potential funding for achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### ***Recover Costs to Co-finance***

Synergies in training needs can be supplied as set out in paragraph 3.3.5 above, fulfilled by the NSC. A train-the-trainer approach and development of a CSO network means that inter-CSO training can also take place, with successful grant case studies highlighted by CSOs themselves.

### ***SGP Delivery Mechanism***

If SGP projects are aligned with national priorities and projects, SGP can serve as a delivery mechanism for achievement of national goals and objective, the inclusion of stakeholders in national planning processes for MEAs, as well as further strengthening CSO engagement and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

### ***Project Level Co-financing***

Synergies with ongoing national plans should create opportunities for in-kind as well as cash co-financing for projects in the selected strategic initiatives. These donors include The Government of The Bahamas, Inter-American Development Bank, The Bahamas Protected Areas Fund, Disney's Reverse the Decline, The Nature Conservancy, BAMSI, and IICA. Only a small number of CSOs were able to contribute cash co-financing, but the donors used in OP5 should be engaged again for OP6 projects.

**Table 5. Potential Targeted Donors for Projects**

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Strategic Initiative(s)</b>
Government of The Bahamas	Implementation of environmental pillar of the National Development Plan	All three strategic initiatives
	Freedom of Information Bill 2015	Grantmaker +: Social inclusion, CSO-Government Dialogue
Inter-American Development Bank and GoB	Integrated Coastal Zone Management	Community landscape/seascape conservation; Local to global chemicals coalitions
	Ecosystem based Andros masterplan	All three strategic initiatives, as well as Grantmaker+: social inclusion and CSO-Government Dialogue
The Bahamas Protected Areas Fund	Sustainable financing for protected areas	Community landscape/seascape conservation; Local to global chemicals coalitions; Grantmaker+: social inclusion and CSO-Government Dialogue
Disney's Reserve the Decline	Restore vulnerable marine habitats	Community landscape/seascape conservation; Local to global chemicals coalitions; Grantmaker+: social inclusion and CSO-Government Dialogue



## 7. Grantmaker Plus & Partnership Opportunities

The SGP team including the NSC and NC can be tapped to help communities and CSOs develop proposals to access other donors and funding facilities. The NSC can provide training on the strategic priorities selected in OP7. This training can be part of existing workshops already planned for ongoing national projects inclusive of hurricane recovery and reconstruction and responses to COVID-19. In addition, electronic resources can be recorded and accessed by CSOs through the NSC and GEF SGP national website. Additional workshops on project management as well as reporting writing and grant budgeting can also be held. Projects which address the strategic low-carbon energy priority can also be addressed to the Green Climate Fund. The Government of The Bahamas either itself or through other donors should also be accessing funds to implement priorities agreed under the National Development Plan, and these can also serve as potential donors. BPAF should also serve as a significant donor for projects in the landscape/seascape conservation area. Significant national projects are being carried out through funding from GEF STAR allocations, as well as through the Inter-American Development Bank and the Disney Corporation. These private donors could act as sources of financing for projects which align with these projects.

## 8. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Table X. 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
Risks to UNDP's social and environmental safeguards include:			
1.) Human Rights: projects in OP6 usually did not specifically incorporate a human rights approach to projects, and did not include a grievance mechanism for affected stakeholders. There is a risk that OP7 projects will similarly exclude a human rights approach.	High	Medium	Specific training on social inclusion, including a human rights based approach and gender inclusion will help CSOs to include these elements in their original project proposal.
2. Gender equality and empowerment of women: very few projects in OP6 had as their goals the empowerment of women. Many CSOs in the environmental field are mainly women-centric	Low	Low	In relation to environmental sustainability, the proposals made in the CPS for a CSO network and improve CSO-government dialogue, combined with the heavy stakeholder engagement in the NDP planning process is a mitigating factor.  It is likely though, that monitoring and evaluation of these criteria will





<p>and many CSOs therefore did not identify women's empowerment as a specific national need. They instead focused on the need to include more young men in projects. There is a risk that women's empowerment will not form part of OP7 projects. Gender inclusion is a more appropriate term according to national circumstances</p> <p>3. Environmental sustainability: many CSOs identified problems with lack of transparency in government projects and no precautionary approach being taken at the national level. It is likely that these barriers between CSO-government dialogue may persist in OP7. While OP6 SGP projects are likely to include environmental sustainability, lack of access to policy formation fora may preclude environmental sustainability being included at the national level.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>remain challenging for CSOs and government agencies.</p>
<p>Climate Risks: Climate change is the most pressing environmental challenge for The Bahamas. Despite this, there is a risk that climate resilience will not be included into OP7 projects or at the national level.</p>	<p>OP7 projects: Low National level: Medium</p>	<p>Low Medium</p>	<p>Several successful OP6 projects were based on climate mitigation, and it is expected that these will continue in OP7 and be replicated across the family islands. There will be additional climate risk screening noting that the country experiences hurricanes frequently that result in impacts to the environment.</p>



Significant cuts in GEF SGP funding for OP7 could lead to grant applications exceeding resources. Too many administrative requirements may mean that CSOs may not apply for or complete projects.	High	High	Training on synergies between projects and CSO collaboration.

## 7.2 Risk Tracking

UNDP social and environmental safeguards: it is recommended that the NSC continues to provide training to CSOs which includes these safeguards. Climate risk: it is recommended that the NSC continues to provide training to CSOs which includes climate risk. The NSC should also work closely with existing institutions that are working on climate risk issues, including the Public Education and Outreach Subcommittee of the National Climate Change Committee, the IDB Integrated Coastal Zone Management team, and the Climate Change Initiative at The College of The Bahamas, as well as CSOs who participated in the preparation of national positions for The Paris Agreement. Number of projects: the NSC will track the number of projects applied for and completed.

## 9. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

### 9.1. Country Level M&E of CPS

M&E of the CPS is imperative to ensure that the goals and outcomes of OP6 are met. In order to ensure that the CPS is implemented, there are a number of activities that will take place. The SGP database will be updated to track progress of funded projects. The Annual Country Programme Strategy Review will take place in collaboration with the NC and the NSC to track the progress of the CPS throughout OP7. The NSC will continue to meet bi-annually. An Annual Country Report and Annual Monitoring Report will also be completed to assess the effectiveness of the SGP and identify areas for improvement. Finally, at the end of OP7, a strategic CPS review will take place during the process of preparing the CPS for the subsequent Operational Phase. It may also be helpful to review and categorize indicators for projects using a sub-regional grouping such as northern, central and southern Bahamas to ensure that impacts are evenly spread throughout the country.

### 9.2 M&E of Individual SGP Grantee Partners

During the implementation of projects when feasible, a pre-visit will take place in order to collect baseline data. During the implementation of the project, a minimum of two visits by the NC will take place. Interim and final reports submitted by CSOs will be reviewed to ensure compliance with project goals. To reduce costs of M&E, the NC will collaborate with grantee partners and academic institutions, where feasible, to share M&E costs and responsibilities.

### 9.3 Local Stakeholder Participation

The involvement of local stakeholders is imperative to project success in OP7. To encourage the participation of local stakeholders, project workplans must include the ways that stakeholders have taken



part in setting the objectives and outputs of the project and detail how stakeholders will participate in monitoring the project. Interim and final reports of projects should also include an evaluation of stakeholder participation.

#### 9.4 Aggregation of SGP Individual Projects

Results of individual projects will be aggregated at the national level through usage of the SGP database. The Country Programme Strategy Review and Annual Monitoring Report will also aggregate results of individual projects and provide a basis for assessing the efficacy of the CPS for OP7.

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

M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible Parties	Budget Source	Timing
Country Programme Strategy elaboration	Framework for action including identification of community projects.	NC, NSC, country stakeholders, grantees	A SGP planning grant to engage consultants may be used to update OP7 CPS.	At start of OP7
As part of NSC meetings, ongoing review of project results and analysis. This includes an Annual CPS Review.	Assess effectiveness of projects, country portfolio; learning; adaptive management.	NC, NSC, UNDP Country Office. Final deliberations shared/ analyzed with CPMT colleagues.	Staff time, Country Operating Budget	At least annual review <sup>7</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>8</sup> .
Annual Monitoring Report Survey <sup>9</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	NC, NSC	SGP planning grant to engage consultants may be used to undertake previous	Once per operational phase

<sup>7</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>8</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.

<sup>9</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.



M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible Parties	Budget Source	Timing
	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.		operational cycles impact review and utilize lessons for both OP7 CPS development and its implementation.  Global technical M&E support can be expected.	
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/ management standards and norms.	UNOPS / External Contractor. NC/ PA to provide requisite support.	Global Operating Budget	Annually for selected countries on risk-assessment basis

### 9.1. CPS Results Framework

Table 4: Results Framework of SGP OP7 Country Programme Strategy

<b>Alignment with SDGs</b> - SDG 6,7,13,14, and 15		
<b>Synergy with UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD): N/A</b>		
<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>		
<b>1</b> OP7 SGP CPS Strategic Initiatives	<b>2</b> OP7 CPS Indicators and Targets (Identify relevant targets for the	<b>3</b> Means of verification



<p><u>Strategic Initiative 1:</u></p> <p>The SGP Country Programme will support community CSO initiatives that focus on the development and co-management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs); inclusive of the strengthening of national policies that enhance environmental benefits to services provided by the communities within proximity to the MPAs.</p>	<p><i>5 hectares of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (GEF core indicator 4.1)</i></p> <p><i>12 hectares of Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness (GEF core indicator 2.2)</i></p> <p><i>10 hectares of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity; excluding protected areas (GEF core indicator 5)</i></p> <p><i>10 number of community-based protected area/ conserved area designations and/or networks strengthened</i></p>	<p><i>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports)</i></p> <p><i>Country Programme Review</i></p>
<p><u>Strategic Initiative 2:</u></p> <p>The GEF SGP will support initiatives by community CSOs that will seek to assist in the conservation of significant forest landscapes within communities. Priority areas will include Pine Forest and Mangrove Forest ecosystems.</p>	<p><i>5 hectares of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (GEF core indicator 4.3)</i></p> <p><i>2 hectares of degraded agricultural lands restored (hectares) (GEF core indicator 3.1)</i></p> <p><i>5 number of linkages and partnerships for sustainable food production practices (such as diversification and sustainable intensification) and supply chain management (esp. SMEs)</i></p>	<p><i>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports)</i></p>
<p><u>Strategic Initiative 3:</u></p> <p>At the community level GEF SGP will seek to support community projects that may pilot innovative ways to increase the use of renewable energy sources and technology that will allow for more energy efficiency in the current ways by which the energy is used.</p>	<p><i>2 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>4 number of typologies of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations or scaling up and replication.</i></p> <p><i>4 number of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations for scaling up and replication</i></p> <p><i>10 number of households achieving energy access, with co-benefits estimated and valued</i></p>	<p><i>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports)</i></p>



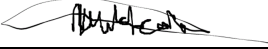
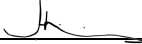



<p><b>Strategic Initiative 4:</b></p> <p>GEF SGP will support smaller community initiatives that will seek to properly handle, manage and dispose of the chemicals of POPs, ODS, and mercury.</p>	<p><i>3 tons of Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), POPs and mercury containing materials and products removed or disposed (GEF core indicator 9.6)</i></p> <p><i>10 number of communities working on increasing awareness and outreach for sound chemicals, waste and mercury management.</i></p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports)</p>
<p><b>Strategic Initiative 5:</b></p> <p>The GEF SGP will support in the ongoing initiatives to produce the National Development Plan: 3 phases – diagnoses (complete), national conservation (ongoing), plan development (ongoing); GoB/IDB Ecosystem Based Development for Andros Island; ITU Bahamas Declaration: Powering Smart Sustainable Cities, Nations &amp; Islands; Conservation Campaign; Disney Reverse the Decline Project; Freedom of Information Bill.</p>	<p><i>4 CSO-government-private sector dialogues convened to support community voice and representation in national/ sub-national policy development.</i></p> <p><i>15 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>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p>
<p><b>Strategic Initiative 6:</b></p> <p><b>Enhancing social inclusion</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Promote targeted initiatives</li> <li>2) Mainstream social inclusion in all projects</li> </ol> <p>The GEF SGP will support in the ongoing initiatives to produce the National Development Plan: 3 phases – diagnoses (complete), national conservation (ongoing), plan development (ongoing); GoB/IDB Ecosystem Based Development for Andros Island; GoB/IDB Sustainable Cities Initiative: Urban Design Lab Nassau;</p>	<p><i>25 direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment (GEF core indicator 11)</i></p> <p><i>10 SGP projects led by women and/or mainstream concrete mechanisms for increased participation of women.</i></p> <p><i>6 of SGP projects that demonstrate appropriate models of engaging youth</i></p> <p><i>4 SGP projects that demonstrate models of engaging persons with disability.</i></p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Country Programme Review</p>



<p>ITU Bahamas Declaration: Powering Smart Sustainable Cities, Nations &amp; Islands; NGO-led Youth Education Programmes; BNT Conchservation Campaign.</p>		
<p><i>Strategic Initiative 7:</i></p> <p><b>Results Management, Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</b>  <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>5 projects administering results management modalities in programme design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms.</i></p> <p><i>Frequency of updating SGP database for effective data collection, management and analysis supporting gains in programme performance and learning.</i>  <i>Quarterly</i></p> <p><i>3 of south- south exchanges at global and regional levels to transfer knowledge, replicate technology, tools and approaches on global environmental issues.</i></p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p>



## 10. National Steering Committee Endorsement

NSC members involved in OP7 CPS development, review and endorsement	Signatures
Mrs. Nakira Wilchcombe	
Mrs. Rochelle Newbold	Rochelle Newbold
Ms. Jessica Minnis	
Mrs. Casuarina McKinney-Lambert	
Mrs. Eleanor Phillips	
Mr. William Fielding	William Fielding
Mr. Dwayne Curtis	

## ANNEXES (optional)