

COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY OF THE SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME MALAWI

SEVENTH OPERATIONAL PHASE (OP7)

JUNE 2022



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OP7 Financial Resources - SGP National Programme (estimated in United States dollars)

Total SGP grants to date since 2009	USD\$2,580 000
GEF OP7 Core Fund:	USD\$500,000
STAR GEF OP7 Fund:	USD N/A
Other funds (guaranteed)	USD Nil
Other funds (expected/to be mobilised)	USD 100,000

1. CONTEXT

As a global programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the GEF Small Grants Programme, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), aligns its operational phase strategies with those of the GEF and its co-financing partners and offers a global portfolio of innovative, inclusive, and impactful projects that address environmental and sustainable development issues. The programme provides grants of up to \$50,000 directly to local communities, including community-based organisations and other non-governmental groups, for projects in Biodiversity, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Land Degradation and Sustainable Forest Management, International Waters and Chemicals.

The financial and technical support to projects facilitates conservation and restoration of the environment while enhancing people's well-being and livelihoods. Actions at the local level by civil society and grassroots community-based organisations, including women's groups, youth, and persons with disabilities, are recognised as essential to forming multi-stakeholder alliances to achieve global environmental benefits and contribute to GEF-7 programming directions, UNDP Strategic Plan 2018-2021, and national priorities to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other international commitments.¹

Building on more than 26 years of successful operations in more than 133 countries, the seventh Operational Phase of the SGP aims to "promote and support *innovative, inclusive and scalable initiatives, and encourage multi-stakeholder partnerships at the local level to address global environmental issues in priority landscapes and seascapes.*"

2. SUMMARY: Key Results and Achievements

Results

The Malawi Small Grants Programme started in 2009 during the 4th Operational Phase (OP4). Since then, the programme has allocated a total of USD 2,580 000, with which the programme has funded 88 projects with an average award of USD29,318. The total amount of cash co-financing has been USD1,355,243 and in-kind co-financing has been USD 1,141,212.

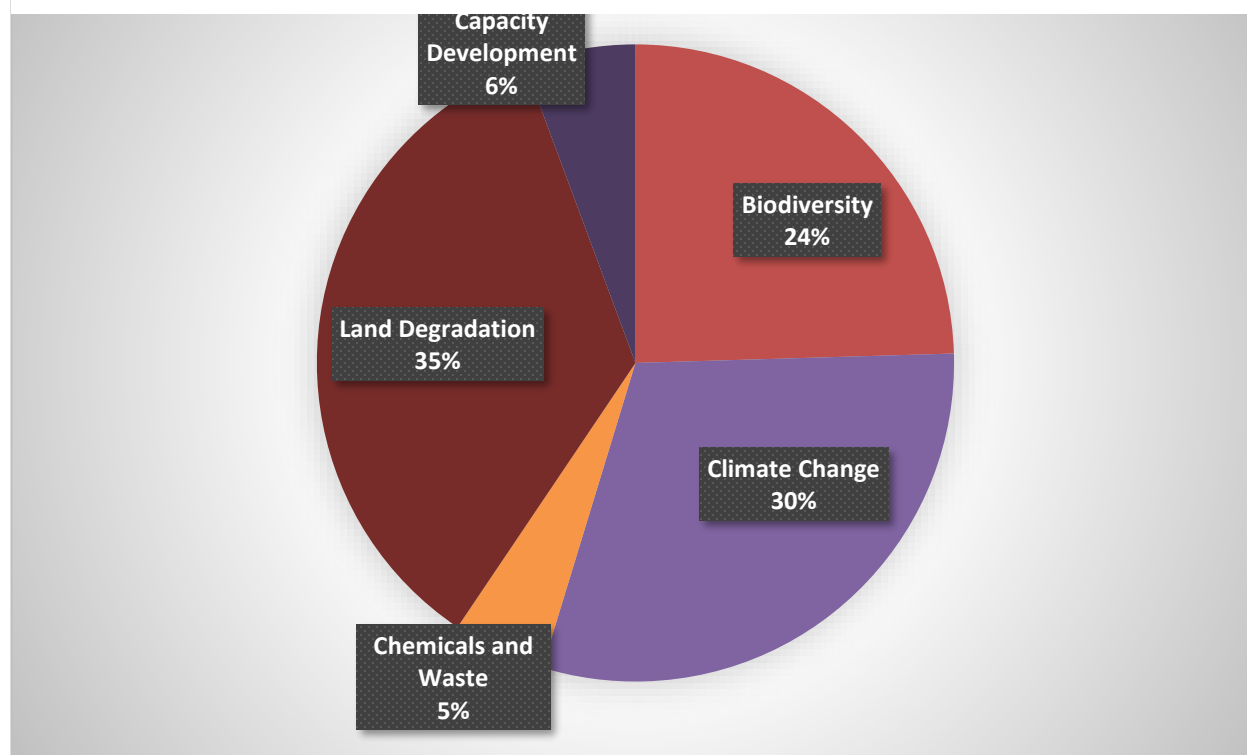
¹ The initial concept of PMF OP7 was incorporated into the strategic guidance for the overall replenishment negotiations of the GEF-7 in 2017 and subsequently endorsed by the GEF Council document entitled « GEF Small Grants Programme » : modalities for the implementation of the FIN-7 » (GEF/C.54/05.rev) in June 2018.

Table 1: Total Grants and Co-financing

Basic Stats	Total Amounts	Average Amounts
Number of Projects	88	
Total Amount in Grants	2 580 000 USD	29 318 USD
Total Amount of Cash Co-financing	1 355 243 USD	15 400 USD
Total Amount of Kind Co-financing	1 141 212 USD	12 968 USD
Total Amount of Co-financing	2 496 456 USD	28 369 USD

The programme has been underway through 3 successive operational phases. During the 4th Operational Phase (2008 - 2011), the programme had a national geographical focus. The national focus was maintained in the 5th Operational Phase (2011-2014) with a special interest in addressing issues in hotspot areas. A specific landscape was selected during the 6th Operational Phase (2015-2018): the Lakeshore Landscape covering Karonga, Rumphu, Nkhata Bay, Nkhotakhota and Salima districts.

Figure 1: The thematic distribution for Malawi’s SGP portfolio



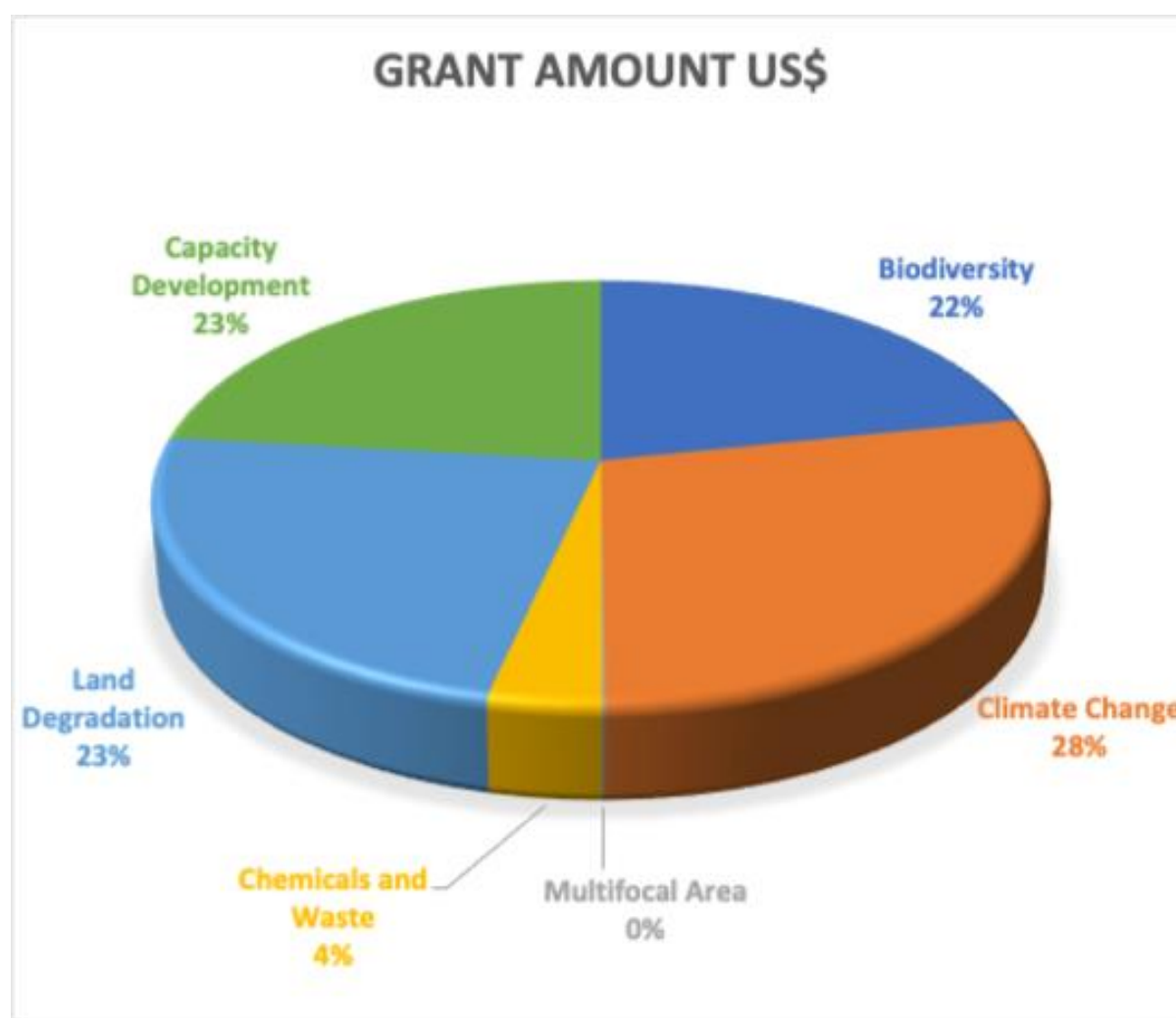
In *Figure 1*, the thematic distribution for Malawi’s SGP portfolio shows a significant focus on Land Degradation (35%), followed by Climate Change (30%), biodiversity (24%), and Capacity Building (6%) and Chemicals and Waste (5%). However, the climate change focal area has received the most funding (883 692 USD).

Table 2: Financing by focal area

Focal Areas - Total	Number of Projects	Grant Amount	Co-financing in Cash	Co-financing in Kind
Biodiversity	26	684 263 USD	713 033 USD	389 057 USD
Climate Change	32	883 692 USD	269 889 USD	304 895 USD
Multifocal Area	1	3 850 USD	480 USD	2 329 USD
Chemicals and Waste	5	112 529 USD	17 894 USD	82 656 USD
Land Degradation	37	730 666 USD	326 052 USD	322 241 USD
Capacity Development	6	165 000 USD	27 896 USD	40 035 USD

The proportion of financing per focal area shows more resources directed towards climate change (28%), followed by Land degradation and capacity development (each at 23%), biodiversity (22%), and chemicals and waste (4%) (Figure 2).

Figure 2: The proportion of financing per focal area



Achievements

Although an evaluation was not at the end of each Operational Phase, information from the SGP database showed the following achievements over the three successive Operational Phases (OP4, OP5 and OP6):

- i. Conservation of 744 ha of community forests.
- ii. Provision of gravity-fed potable water to 2,500 households (direct beneficiaries) with extended coverage using resources generated from user fees.
- iii. The restoration of over 68 ha of degraded land.
- iv. Generation of over US\$26,000 from various enterprises such as beekeeping; arts and craft; mushroom production; vegetable production; bakery; poultry production; piggery; waste composting; waste collection fees; and solar-based enterprises leading to increased incomes and contributing to adaptation to impacts of climate change.
- v. Development of innovations and new technologies such as fish solar drier and smoking kilns.
- vi. Empowerment and transformation of more than 800 women and youth through increased access to microfinancing using the village savings and loans (VSL) modality resulting in various off-farm enterprises and reduced dependence on natural resource extraction for livelihood support.
- vii. Social inclusion of 1,600 HIV and AIDS affected people in climate change-related livelihood activities, including conservation farming, energy-efficient cook stoves and fruit and vegetable production.
- viii. One grantee won the Hivos Social Innovation Award in 2015, and another received the 2016 SEED Africa Award for innovation.
- ix. Supported a total of 89 grantees; these included 64 NGOs and 25 CBOs.

Lessons Learnt

A few lessons have emerged from the implementation of the programme in Malawi as follows:

- a) Capacity building through awareness-raising initiatives is key for people-centred programming. Activities associated with or resulting in environmental degradation continue to happen due to a lack of community awareness of the consequences of such activities and alternative sustainable practices. Investments in training and awareness of communities for the success of the programme and national priorities towards sustainable development should be prioritised.
- b) Communities-led initiatives have also proven very effective in SGP programming. Communities need to control their environment and development projects throughout all the phases, i.e., planning, implementation and decision making. This ensures effective and efficient adoption of the new technologies, fosters innovations, and enhances ownership.
- c) The programme has for so long experience challenges in knowledge management, which have been exacerbated by gaps in the monitoring and evaluation framework. These challenges have negatively affected the consolidation and documentation of programme results. There is a need for a systematic and harmonised monitoring and reporting framework. Therefore, each project should have a monitoring framework corresponding to a standard framework against which results should be reported and documented. This grantee-specific M&E framework will be linked. Results-based reporting should be emphasised during financial and administration training and field monitoring so that the impacts of the intervention are captured and reported.

- d) Communities appreciate projects that show practical and tangible benefits for the environment and their livelihoods. Therefore, an integrated approach to project design and implementation is needed.

3. COUNTRY PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

3.1. Alignment with national priorities

The following table shows the list of international conventions to Malawi as a party.

Table 3: List of relevant conventions

Conventions/ International planning frameworks	Date of ratification /completion
GEF-7 National Dialogues	
Convention on Biological Diversity (CDB)	2010
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS)	2010
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	1992
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	1994
Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	2001
National Implementation Plan (PNMO) of the CS	2011
Minamata Convention (CM) on Mercury	2013
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - UN 2030 Agenda	2015

The following table shows the national plans and strategies relevant to the SGP strategic areas.

Table 4: National/Regional plans or programmes

Name of Plan/strategy	Operational period
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for Shared International Water Bodies (IW)	2016 for SADC Regional SAP on Integrated Water Resources Development and Management. 2019 for the Shire River Aquifer System
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	2015-2025
UNFCCC National Adaptation Action Plans (NAPAs)	From 2015
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Measures (NAMA)	From 2012
Bonn Challenge	2016-2030
Forests and Landscape Restoration Strategy	From 2017
National Charcoal Strategy	2017-2027
National Waste Management Strategy (NWMS)	2019-2023
Malawi 2063	2020-2063
Voluntary National Reviews (NRVs) for the UNITED Nations SDGs	2020
Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the Paris Agreement	From 2022
National Communications to the UNFCCC (1st, 2 nd , 3 rd)	2002, 2011, 2020
National Action Programmes under the UNFCCC (NAP)	Under development

3.2. Gaps and Opportunities

Gaps exist in the following areas:

- i. Climate variability - erratic and unpredictable weather patterns attributed to climate change. An increase in the intensity and frequency of such incidents resulted in riverine and flash floods. This affects crop yield, increased evapotranspiration due to high temperatures causing soil drying, and damage to properties resulting from storms. The rural population, over 80%, is especially vulnerable to climate change effects.
- ii. Increased social vulnerabilities - Food insecurity because of low agricultural productivity; increased incidence of illnesses due to use of poor water; increased incidence of dangerous and damaging floods, landslides, and mudflows; damages to social infrastructure such as roads and bridges due to floods; increased power blackouts due to problems with electricity generation.
- iii. Deforestation- caused by heavy dependence on biomass fuel and increasing demand for charcoal in urban areas; growing population developing competing land interest leading to conversion of forest land areas for settlement and agriculture.
- iv. Threatened fauna species due to poaching and habitat loss because of deforestation
- v. Energy supply- deficiency of the national grid and limited connectivity across the country has made firewood and charcoal the main sources of household cooking energy.
- vi. Limited capacity among grantees in terms of measuring project impact and indicators, especially Under Climate change thematic area.

Opportunities:

- i. Existence of an enabling policy framework for addressing climate change impacts, including the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPAs) and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), which outline priority areas of focus for adaptation and mitigation across various sectors
- ii. Ongoing land management initiatives are promoted through agriculture extension services such as catchment management, land restoration, and other sustainable agricultural practices. There will need for the SGP to incorporate climate-smart innovation in agro-ecology in the landscape to enhance effectiveness.
- iii. Malawi signed up to the Bonn Challenge² pledge to restore 4.5 million ha of degraded areas important for biodiversity. At the same time, Malawi adopted the National Charcoal Strategy to address charcoal-led deforestation; and the National Forests and Landscape Restoration Strategy to guide the restoration of degraded forests and landscapes.
- iv. Availability of both terrestrial and aquatic key biodiversity areas in the landscape is an opportunity for resource mobilisation towards conservation of the areas, including management of threatened flora and fauna species.
- v. There is also potential for solar power plants and mini-grids; there is good solar irradiation such that off-grid solar photovoltaic systems in a few homes and schools are working well. In terms of biomass energy potential, the area has some of the largest protected forests and community forests such that agro-forestry projects would succeed

² The Bonn Challenge is a global goal to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested ecosystem into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030.

3.3. Strategic Priorities of the National SGP Program/OP7

Based on the baseline carried out in preparing this CSP. In line with national priorities and the approved global strategic initiatives of the programme for the seventh operational phase (OP7), several priorities were identified as strategic priorities for Malawi’s SGP during OP7. These are summarised in *Table 5* below.

Table 5: Alignment of the SGP country programme with the strategic initiatives of the SGP/OP7 and the country priorities/projects/programmes.

1	2	3
SGP OP7 Strategic Initiatives – Global	SGP Country Programme’s OP7 Priorities	Complementarity of the SGP country programme with GEF, UNDP and other projects and programmes
<p>Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species</p> <p>Key objectives/interests:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Improve the effectiveness of protected area management through ICCAs and shared governance with the private sector and Government. 2) Improve community-led biodiversity-friendly practices and approaches, including the promotion of the blue economy (e.g., agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.) 	<p>Strategic Initiative 1:</p> <p>Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Protect biodiversity hotspots, threatened plant species and headwaters of key tributaries ii. Development and implementation of an appropriate conservation framework for wetlands and steep slopes 	<p>Alignment with SDGs</p> <p>SGP will contribute to the following SDGs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Goal 1: No poverty - Goal 2: Zero hunger - Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation - Goal 13: Climate action - Goal 15: Life on land <p>SGP contributes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNDAF Outcome 7: Households have increased food and nutrition security, equitable access to WASH and healthy ecosystems and resilient livelihoods - CPD Output 2 under UNDAF outcome 7: Scaled-up action, finance and partnerships for climate change adaptation, mitigation, and disaster risk management across sectors. <p>SGP contributes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2015-2025 Strategic Objective 3: Reduce direct pressure on biodiversity -NBSAP 2015-2025 Strategic Objective 4: Improve the status of biodiversity <p>The programme is also complementary to USAID supported Restoring Fisheries for Sustainable Livelihoods in Lake Malawi program, or REFRESH, (operational in Rumphi and Nkhata Bay)</p>

<p>Co-benefits of access to low-carbon energy Supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement and NDCs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Promote renewable and energy-efficient technologies that provide socio-economic benefits and improve livelihoods. 2) Promote the need for off-grid energy services in rural and urban areas. 	<p>Strategic Initiative 3: Co-benefits of access to low-carbon energy sources</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Promote renewable and energy-efficient technologies that provide socio-economic benefits and improve livelihoods. ii. Support the promotion and use of clean energy, e.g., solar and biogas, as well as energy-saving technologies. 	<p>Alignment with SDGs SGP will contribute to the following SDGs: - Goal 1: No poverty - Goal 4: Quality education - Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy - Goal 13: Climate action</p> <p>SGP contributes to: - UNDAF Outcome 9: Malawi has Strengthened economic diversification, inclusive business, Entrepreneurship and access to clean energy: - CPD Output 1.3 under UNDAF outcome 9: Inclusive and sustainable solutions adopted at the national and sub-national levels to achieve increased energy efficiency and universal modern energy access (especially off-grid sources of renewable energy).</p> <p>SGP complements: USAID Modern Cooking for Healthy Forests Project (operational in Mzimba)</p>
<p>Catalysing sustainable urban solutions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The capacity building promotes community-based, socially inclusive, and integrated solutions to address low-emission and resilient urban development. 2) Demonstrate innovative and socially inclusive urban solutions/approaches (including waste and chemical management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity). 	<p>Strategic Initiative 5: Catalysing sustainable urban solutions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Demonstration of innovative and socially inclusive urban solutions/approaches (including waste and chemical management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity) 	<p>Alignment with SDGs SGP will contribute to the following SDGs: - Goal 1: No poverty - Goal 2: Zero hunger - Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation - Goal 13: Climate action - Goal 15: life on land - Goal 1: No poverty - Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production - Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy</p> <p>SGP contributes to: - UNDAF Outcome 7: Households have increased food and nutrition security, equitable access to WASH and healthy ecosystems and resilient livelihoods - CPD Output 2 under UNDAF outcome 7: Scaled-up action, finance and partnerships for climate change adaptation, mitigation, and disaster risk management across sectors.</p> <p>SGP Contributes to: -NWMS 2019-2023 Strategic Objective 6: To establish environmentally sound</p>

		infrastructure and systems for Waste Management.
<p>Strengthening social inclusion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Promote targeted initiatives 2) Integrating social inclusion into all projects (e.g., women/girls, youth, and persons with disabilities) 	<p>Strengthening social inclusion</p> <p>Gender</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Support women’s improved access, use, and control of resources; enhance women’s decision-making capabilities on natural resources. ii. Carry gender analysis and support women-led stand-alone projects in line with the GEF focal areas. <p>Youth and People with Disabilities (PWD)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Provide training for youth and PWDs and link them with relevant organisations at the country level. 	<p>Alignment with SDGs</p> <p>SGP will contribute to the following SDGs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Goal 5: Gender Equality - Goal 10: Reduced inequalities <p>SGP contributes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNDAF Outcome 7: Households have increased food and nutrition security, equitable access to WASH and healthy ecosystems and resilient livelihoods - CPD Output 2 under UNDAF outcome 7: Scaled-up action, finance and partnerships for climate change adaptation, mitigation, and disaster risk management across sectors.
<p>Knowledge Management</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Capture knowledge and lessons learned from projects and activities 2) Improving the capabilities of CSOs/OCB 	<p>Strategic Initiative 8:</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation and knowledge management</p> <p>Monitoring & Evaluation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Administer new M&E strategy in the country programme and project design, implementation and overall decision-making using participatory mechanisms. <p>Results Measurement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Measurement of SGP global environmental; results of new socio-economic result indicators; innovation and capacity development; and impact in terms of 	

	projects replicated or scaled up	
Management, monitoring and evaluation of results 1) Administer the new M&E strategy in designing, implementing, and overall decision-making of country programmes and projects using participatory mechanisms.	Management, monitoring and evaluation of results Monitoring & Evaluation i. Administer new M&E strategy in the country programme and project design, implementation and overall decision-making using participatory mechanisms. Results Measurement i. Measurement of SGP global environmental; results of new socio-economic result indicators; innovation and capacity development; and impact in terms of projects replicated or scaled up	The SGP Malawi programme will ensure alignment with GEF 7 Results The programme will also be guided by GEF SGP Country Monitoring and Evaluation Guidelines

4. PRIORITY LANDSCAPES AND OP7 STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

4.1. Granting of Grants in the Priority Landscape

4.1.1 Method for selecting priority landscapes

The landscape selection followed the following process:

- i. Review of OP6 programme results.
- ii. Stakeholder consultation.
- iii. Delineation of potential landscapes; and
- iv. Identification of landscape that meets most of the selection criteria.

The process was informed by a comprehensive literature review which provided the basis for programme review and the scope for identification of the possible landscape concerning the standard criteria for landscape selection.

Review of OP6 programme results: The Technical Guidance for CPS development guided the assessment of the 6th Operational Phase to determine whether to continue working in the same landscape or move to another landscape altogether. The decision is based on whether the Country programme is perceived to have achieved what was intended in the landscape during the 6th Operational Phase. It was determined

that the SGP has been operational in the Lakeshore landscape for one phase (OP6). However, due to limited information on the progress and impact of OP6, the selection criteria were applied to arrive at a proposed landscape while mindful of the need to build on the gains made during OP6 and the previous phases.

Stakeholder consultation: A series of in-depth interviews were conducted with 31 key informants drawn from a pool of experts in the relevant GEF/SGP focal areas. The key informants were selected through purposive sampling of institutions, agencies, technical experts, and civil society organisations working within the GEF focal areas and previous SGP grantees from OP6. Respondents suggested individual districts where interventions could address challenges of specific GEF-related sectors. A total of 21 districts from across the country were suggested.

Delineation of potential landscapes: The 21 suggested districts were further delineated into landscapes subject to the adopted landscape definition³ and defined parameters for delineation. The following spatial and socio-ecological parameters for the landscape delineation process were adopted:

- Watershed boundaries.
- Interaction between highland and lowland topography and land use; and
- Jurisdictional boundaries (manageable number of administrative units by districts).

Based on the defined spatial and socio-ecological parameters, 17 districts from the total suggested districts qualified for delineation into landscapes. A total of 7 homogeneous clusters were formed from the listed districts, namely, **Chitipa/Karonga, Mzimba/Rumphi/ Nkhatabay, Kasungu/Nkhotakhota; Mulanje/Thyolo; Salima/ Dedza/Lilongwe; Balaka/Ntcheu/Mangochi; Machinga/Zomba/Phalombe.**

The seven quota samples were subjected to a selection process based on the following key criteria for landscape selection as defined by the Technical Guidance for OP7 CPS development: biodiversity significance (e.g., Hotspots, Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), etc.); areas of high land/forest degradation; high poverty/low human development index; and areas with limited energy access.

Data parameters were developed for each of the criteria as follows:

- **Biodiversity significance:** Number of terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in the area. Number of freshwater KBAs in the area; Number of management units (protected areas or Ramsar sites).
- **Areas of high land and forest degradation:** Soil loss rate; Forest cover loss.
- **Areas with limited energy access:** Proportion of Households with Electricity in Dwelling unit.
- **High poverty/low human development index:** Incidence of multi-dimensional poverty.

The seven quota samples were further analysed using a weighted scorecard of the landscape selection criteria (Biodiversity significance, Areas of high land and forest degradation, High poverty/low human development index, and Areas with limited energy access). Based on discussions with the National Steering Committee, biodiversity significance and areas with high land/forest degradation were considered more weight in determining a suitable landscape than poverty and energy access. A weighted

³ The Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative defines a landscape as a “social-ecological system that consists of a mosaic of natural and/or human-modified ecosystems, often with a characteristic configuration of topography, vegetation, land use, and settlements that is influenced by the ecological, historical, economic and cultural processes and activities of the area”. The Initiative further highlights that “landscape boundaries may be discrete, fuzzy or nested, and may correspond to watershed boundaries, distinct land features, and/or jurisdictional and administrative boundaries, or cross-cut such demarcations”.

score approach was applied to the data parameters to rank the potential sites. Based on the final scoring results, the **Mzimba/Rumphi/Nkhatabay** cluster ranked highest and qualified as the target landscape.

a) Landscape chosen for OP7

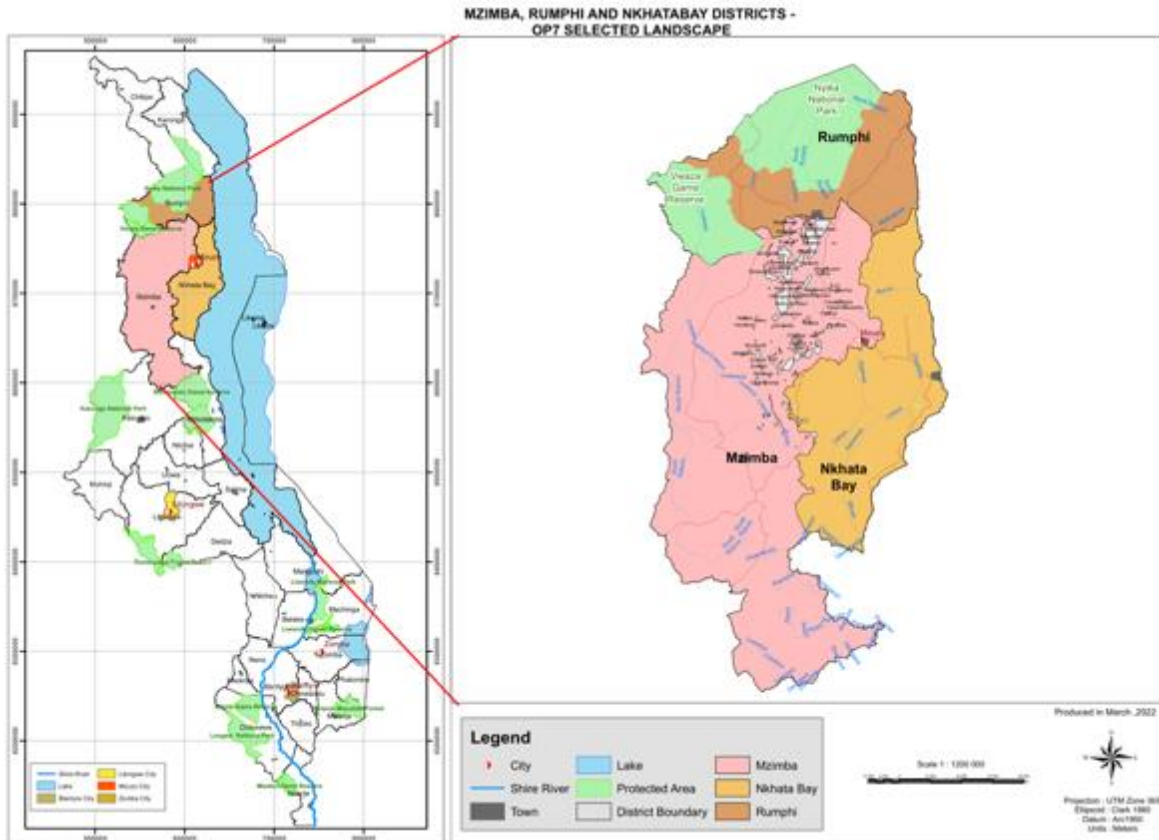


Figure 3: Map of OP7 Selected Landscape- Mzimba, Rumphi and Nkhatabay Districts

The landscape lies between 11.01 degrees South latitude and 33.5 degrees East longitude in the northern region of Malawi. Lake Malawi borders it on the eastern side (parts of Rumphi and Khanabad) and Zambia on the western side (parts of Mzimba and Rumphi). Mzimba district headquarters (boma) is about .278 km from Lilongwe (the capital city of Malawi) using the M1 and M9 roads; Rumphi boma, on the other hand, is about 456 km using the M1 and M24 roads; while Nkhatabay is about 436 km using the M1, M5 and the T318 roads. Mzuzu is the only city in the landscape; it lies in Mzimba and is about 47 and 68 km to Nkhatabay and Rumphi districts, respectively.

The landscape covers an area of about 19,270 km² or 1,927,000 ha, divided according to the districts as follows: Mzimba - 1,044,950 ha, Rumphi - 476,900, and Nkhatabay - 407,100 ha.⁴ As discussed above, the land is used for settlements, agriculture, forest reserves, and national parks and wildlife reserves, especially in Rumphi district.

⁴ Land sizes quoted from the Socioeconomic Profile documents for the districts.

In the Mzimba district, 575,350 ha (55%) of the land is available for agriculture production. This is a big area compared to the 130,878 ha (27%) and 44,781 ha (11%) land available in Rumphu and Nkhatabay districts, respectively. The average smallholder farmland holding size for Mzimba is 2.45 ha; in Rumphu, it is 0.8 ha, and in Nkhatabay, it is 0.4 ha. The Forest reserve area covers 40% of land in Mzimba, 3.1% in Rumphu and 46% in the Nkhatabay district.

The aim of the Baseline Assessment for the selected landscape was to characterise the biophysical and socio-economic environment, identify the key environmental challenges and identify the opportunities for community and CSO actions. The study facilitated stakeholder consultations to achieve a broad consensus on the environmental challenges in the landscape and the specific areas where the challenges are critical and documented and recommended practical high-yielding solutions for developing an impact-oriented strategic plan for providing alternative livelihood solutions for vulnerable communities in the landscape.

A highly consultative approach was used to collect baseline data. Stakeholder consultations were the source of information on environmental challenges in the target area. Additionally, a community survey was conducted to collect primary data on the biophysical and socio-economic characteristics of the landscape; secondary data was collected through a desktop review of documents.

b) OP7 Strategic Initiatives in the Landscape

- **Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species:** The programme will promote conservation measures and sustainable land use practices that ensure ecosystem integrity and sustain the provision of ecosystem services. Community participation will be encouraged to promote project efficiency and sustainability of results. Through direct involvement in SGP activities, the local population will increase awareness and appreciation of the benefits of multiple ecosystem services and gain knowledge and practical experience of biodiversity-friendly income-generating activities. Examples of interventions include: rehabilitation of deforested areas through agro-forestry, Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), Woodlots/Village forest areas; promotion of alternative energy sources such as waste to energy to decrease biomass usage, thereby reducing forest loss and enhancing ecosystem services upon which production systems depend; promotion of value addition and forest protection through non-timber forest products, and livelihoods support such as beekeeping, fruit production and processing, seedlings for agro-forestry, and afforestation.
- **Low carbon energy access co-benefits:** The programme will facilitate engagement with the Department of Energy and the Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority. The collaboration will support the design and implementation of interventions to promote renewable and energy-efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods. The programme will support innovative and catalytic financing toward off-grid energy service needs

in the landscape in complementarity with ongoing Government led interventions. It will also support capacity development and innovation to introduce suitable technologies through appropriate business models and community participation to ensure sustainability.

● **Cross-cutting Issues:**

Malawi's SGP will ensure that cross-cutting initiatives are integral to implementing the programme in OP7. These are CSO-Government-Private Sector dialogue, knowledge management; social inclusion; and governance.

a) Knowledge management

- The programme will prioritise knowledge management as a critical component of programme delivery in OP7. This will involve sharing and disseminating programme work, results, lessons, and good practices at different levels as follows:

i) Project Level

- Individual grantees to include a knowledge management plan with a corresponding budget that allows the programme to capture their experience and access the training needed to carry out the projects.
- Peer-to-peer learning between local communities and SGP grantees to share knowledge, help communities learn from each other and as a tool for replication and up-scaling of best practices.
- Conduct knowledge exchange visits, forums, training workshops, and dialogues between communities and key stakeholders. Given the nature of SGP, these learning exchanges can be on technical issues related to its environmental work (i.e., testing technology or new approach) or on social or livelihood issues.
- Training on climate change, sustainable agriculture, and biodiversity conservation, project Management, accounting, marketing, and governance, among others.

ii) National Level

- SGP secretariat will work with the grantees in capturing their lessons; conducting knowledge exchanges; organising training workshops; working with the Government in achieving national environmental priorities to help scale up and replicate best practices and lessons learned
- Production and translation of knowledge materials in local languages, including project fact sheets, informational brochures, how-to manuals and case studies.
- Producing content for dissemination on SGP Social media page
- Conducting knowledge fairs and stakeholder workshops to allow communities to connect with key stakeholders like the academia, other NGOs, the Government and other development Practitioners for replication, upscaling, policy influence, technical support, and knowledge transfer.
- Creating or strengthening networks for fostering knowledge through strengthening existing networks of CSOs around environmental and sustainable development issues.
- Support centres of excellent or demonstration sites showing different innovations

- Acting as a broker between grantees and other key partners by connecting grantees with Government services, NGOs/INGOs, academia or research centres, development agencies/practitioners, and private sector companies.
- National Steering Committees (NSC) contribute to knowledge exchange of community practices between the civil society and the Government, UNDP and other key stakeholders and help identify projects for replication and scaling up.

iii) Global

- The programme will also contribute to the broader OP7 digital library through sharing of publications, manuals and other materials that the programme will generate.

b) Promoting social inclusion, including gender equality and women's empowerment

- The baseline study sought to establish the status of inclusive participation in the landscape and relevant cultural practices. It was determined that the total population in the landscape is comprised of 51% women and 49% youth⁵.
- The landscape predominantly follows patrilineal cultural practices. However, the stakeholder interactions revealed considerable inequalities in decision-making processes, resource allocation, property ownership and job opportunities.
- Women have generally been more active in development projects that require community mobilisation and social contribution. However, it was noted that incentivised projects had been dominated by male participation.
- The programme will therefore consider this context and ensure that minority needs inclusion is mainstreamed into all projects and activities; participation of vulnerable groups is a requirement for all projects; and facilitate sensitisation activities on gender equality before and during project implementation.

4.2. Grants outside priority landscapes and seascapes

During the scoping process, stakeholders highlighted the need for attention to be given to urban areas owing to the growing environmental challenges such as poor waste management and energy demands fuelling deforestation in surrounding catchments. 30% of the resources will be allocated to projects targeting **catalysing sustainable urban solutions** :

The programme will implement activities targeting vulnerable people and communities in urban contexts. The SGP will also promote an integrated management approach to address urbanisation challenges from the point of origin (i.e., in rural areas and migration corridors) to the destinations of people's movement during this urbanisation transition. The programme will demonstrate selected urban solutions by addressing several key urban environmental issues, including waste and chemicals management; urban wetland and watershed management; energy and transport; ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation.

c) Monitoring and Evaluation

⁵ Youth defined as 10-35 years according to the National Youth Policy of 2013

- Capturing lessons: All grantees must report progress and document impact stories and lessons. A harmonised comprehensive template for reporting will be provided to ensure consistency in reporting. There will also be an end of OP7 evaluation which will capture the lessons learnt during the process as this was not done in OP6

4.3. Criteria for awarding projects

The criteria for awarding projects within and outside the landscape will be as follows:

- ✓ Relevance to the Malawi SGP Country Strategy.
- ✓ Relevance to national priorities.
- ✓ Potential to influence policy processes.
- ✓ Potential to harness skills and resources of diverse players such as academia and the private sector.
- ✓ Potential for social inclusion, particularly the youth, people with disabilities and gender equality; and
- ✓ Projects that address waste pollution and forest-related energy issues in urban areas.

5. COMMUNICATION PLAN

To achieve the GEF-SGP goals, it is essential to implement interventions in a collaborative and inclusive approach. To achieve this, communication provides an effective way of promoting and engaging with key stakeholders and beneficiaries. During the scoping study, informants clearly expressed the need for the programme to facilitate linkages amongst collaborators through a free-flow information system and an effective knowledge management system.

The communication plan addresses challenges such as the lack of information about GEF-SGP amongst partners, potential collaborators, and beneficiaries; a lack of coordination between key players and interventions in the implementation of the programme; and limited availability of information on previous and ongoing interventions in the programme to facilitate learning and knowledge exchange.

The plan provides a starting point for effective and timely exchange of information amongst partners within and outside the programme at community, national and global levels. It aims to improve the quality of engagement between the programme stakeholders for enhanced impact and sustainability of interventions.

Table 6: Communication Plan

Objective	Target	Key messages	Tools/ medium	Indicators	Responsible
To promote awareness of the SGP and application process	Potential grantees	The SGP supports innovative ideas for the good of the environment and development.	Physical meetings; posters; radio, handbook.	Number of information products developed Number and type of dissemination platforms used Number of people accessing information products	SGP Country team
To promote community participation in SGP implementation and adoption of technologies	Target communities Grantees	Role of communities in conserving the environment while improving their livelihoods.	Radio, community meetings, storytelling, South-south exchange.	Number of people participating in community engagements	SGP Country team
To enhance the linkage of SGP projects to district planning and reporting frameworks in the target landscapes and urban areas	District Council Authorities in the target landscapes and urban areas.	SGP's significance in delivering district plans and priorities related to sustainable development.	Progress reports, physical meetings, case studies, handbooks.	Number of SGP strategic initiatives reflected in district development plans Number of SGP implementing partners involved in district development processes in the target landscapes and urban areas.	SGP Country team Grantees
To enhance recognition of the SGP in national frameworks	GEF Operational Focal Point	SGP linkage to national priorities with grassroots initiatives.	Progress reports, learning events, factsheets, and case studies.	Number of national policy platforms engaged	SGP Country team Government partners
To enhance the contribution of the SGP to national policy	Government Departments and Agencies	Creating an enabling policy framework for	Emails, physical meetings, print media, website; visual media	Number of national policy engagement platforms participated in	SGP Country team

		the meaningful impact of local initiatives.	products, learning events, field visits	Number of SGP priority initiatives reflected in national policy	SGP Country team
To increase resources for SGP implementation	Development partners	SGP addresses local impacts of global environmental challenges.	Physical meetings, Emails, social media platforms, and print media.	Percentage increase in programme funding	SGP Country team
To increase co-financing for SGP implementation	Private sector	Investing in the environment is good for business and corporate social responsibility.	Physical engagements, case studies, visual media products.	Percentage increase in funding contribution from the private sector	SGP Country team

6. RESOURCE MOBILISATION AND PARTNERSHIP PLAN

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

The total guaranteed financing for Malawi's SGP for OP7 is \$500,000, excluding co-financing and resource mobilisation.

6.2. Co-financing opportunities

The OP7 will need to diversify its funding sources through the following:

- i. Engagement with Government and UNDP to secure SGP funding for grants and/or operational resources, such as allocations from Government's STAR and UNDP TRAC for OP7. The National Steering Committee will have to showcase contributions made through the SDG grants to national development and lobby the Government for their buy-in for SGP to be recognised as the critical link between Government policies and active grassroots participation.
- ii. Positioning SGP as a delivery mechanism for community components of other UNDP and Government led projects and programmes by bringing to the fore SGP's comparative advantage, such as its ground reach through the grassroots networks and demonstrable community empowerment dividends already achieved.
- iii. Engage with other GEF Implementing Agencies (ADB, FAO, UNEP, and World Bank) to support the small grants program within their GEF programs.
- iv. Engage with new potential donors such as Irish Aid, NORAD, USAID, UKAID, JICA, WFP, EU, India, and China to support the small grants program.
- v. Engage with the private sector to support SGP as part of their corporate social responsibility platform
- vi. Engage in proactive new programme development drive through collaborative efforts with Grantee Partners Network and other organisations
- vii. SGP to increase its visibility as part of its resource mobilisation drive. The visibility materials include newsletters, posters, and policy briefs.

6.3. Grantmaker and partnership opportunities

Working at the landscape level during OP7 will present opportunities to identify new partners to collaborate on various aspects of planning and implementing the CPS. These strategic partnerships might include: (i) leveraging co-financing; implementing capacity-building activities; (ii) conducting exchanges; and (iii) influencing policy at local, national, and regional levels. Forging partnerships related to a given landscape will require acting at different levels and being sensitive to the importance of including diverse stakeholders and institutions – for example, with traditional institutions of governance at the community level on the one hand and with national-level authorities on the other. The SGP National Secretariat will work closely with district and urban councils to build the capacity of the grant applicants so that they explore other opportunities for grants from other donors to scale up their interventions under the grant.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

The risk management plan has identified risks that may affect the implementation of the OP7 program strategy, their degree of risk, level of the probability of the risk-taking place, including the mitigation action towards the risk. The risks were identified through consultation meetings with OP6 selected institutions and stakeholder meetings during the baseline assessment. The risks are summarised in the table below.

Table 7: Description of the risks identified in OP7

Description of the Risk and Effect on the Program	Degree of risk (low, medium, high)	Probability of risk (low, medium, high)	Planned Risk Mitigation Action
GEF SGP projects adversely impact fragile habitats and ecosystems, thereby threatening environmental degradation in fragile environments.	High	Low	GEF SGP projects to comply with UNDP social and environmental standards. The call must include the standards as part of the selection criteria.
GEF SGP projects may lack community-based climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction as a cross-cutting theme. This may exacerbate the vulnerability of communities to climate change impacts.	Low	Low	GEF SGP projects to comply with UNDP social and environmental standards on climate change adaptation and mitigation. The call must include the standards as part of the selection criteria
Intermittent funding to the recipient of the SGP grants would affect the smooth implementation of the program.	High	Medium	To avoid the situation, the National Secretariat must address the causes of delays in funding disbursement and approval processes. In OP6, the challenge was real.
Low community and stakeholder participation risk the sustainability of the program.	Medium	Low	The project design is to be informed by community and stakeholder consultation, including the roles of each stakeholder—the selection team to consider this aspect when selecting the grantees.
Grant recipients misappropriate SGP grants, which would affect donor confidence in the program, thus risking future continued funding.	High	Medium	Need for thorough due diligence on the grantees. Grants are also provided in tranches and not a lump sum. Disbursements are based on verified progress. Furthermore, the grantees sign agreements that state that any procurement above \$2,500 needs authorisation from the Secretariat

Natural disasters such as cyclones, floods, and dry spells have a negative impact on both the implementation and impact of the SGP projects. The gains and positive impacts from the program may be negatively affected.	High	High	The grantees develop a risk management plan that considers natural disasters. The risk management plan will be updated quarterly depending on the emerging risks.
Low global funding towards the grants considering the Ukraine-Russia war. This would affect the availability of resources for the program	High	Medium	There is a need to diversify funding sources for the SGP projects, including lobbying the Government for allocation to the program.
Political interference at the local level. This may affect program implementation locally, thus affecting program impact.	High	Medium	There is a need for a thorough stakeholder analysis by the grantee recipients and active involvement of the relevant stakeholders in program implementation. The selection criteria include an evaluation of stakeholder analysis and participation in the program.
COVID 19 pandemic. Any resurgence of the COVID 19 pandemic would greatly affect program implementation as both staff and stakeholders cannot physically meet for program implementation.	High	Medium	The program would recommend adherence to COVID safety measures such as using masks, social distances, and washing hands, including an awareness of COVID 19 and its preventative measures.
Limited government support would affect the sustainability of interventions.	Medium	Medium	GEF SGP Secretariat: - to create awareness among the respective councils on the program and how it contributes to the national achievement of the MW2063 vision. - to facilitate joint monitoring visits with the Government, thereby lobbying for more government support for the program OP 7 grantee recipients work with government line ministries for specific projects.

8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

Monitoring and evaluation are important aspects of the OP7 SGP activities. During the consultations with Rumphu District Environmental Sub Committee (DESC), there were concerns that OP6 project implementers in the district did not adequately engage the authorities because they had problems confirming project activities, outcomes, and impacts. It was also evident that the Local Authorities doubted the accountability of community-based organisations. Since district and urban Councils have authority over local development activities and managing of the environment, they must be involved in monitoring activities. Before inception, the Local Authorities must be briefed on the project proposals, and project reports must be shared with the Council during implementation.

The project implementers will be required to compile periodical reports (quarterly and annual reports) to provide updates on project implementation progress. The grantees will be provided templates for the reports in line with the M&E framework and adopted programme indicators. The templates will require the development of case studies and success stories to capture the achievements and notable experiences in implementing the projects. These compilations will be captured in handbooks, factsheets, case studies, films, and video materials. They will be added to the digital library to inform learning across the programme at local, national, and global levels.

The programme will facilitate training on knowledge management to help grantees develop storytelling skills and to access the learning platforms available through the programme for cross-learning. The programme will also facilitate beneficiary networking events for current and previous cohorts to promote synergy between interventions and maximise the benefits from the provided support.

8.1. Monitoring approaches

8.1.1 Monitoring Approaches at Project Level.

At the project level, grantees will identify GEF-7 global environmental indicators (Annex) and socio-economic benefit indicators (Annex), which their project will contribute towards. The grantees will set a quantitative target for the selected indicators, which will be included in their project design and monitoring & evaluation plan, and form part of the Memorandum of Agreement between them and the SGP Secretariat. Preference will be given to projects with a high degree of alignment on both CPS indicators and targets. Project designs should elaborate on how the beneficiary communities will be involved in monitoring the project results and include 5% of its budget for community M&E activities such as community storytelling sessions, community learning circles, and visual monitoring/reporting. The SGP National Secretariat will monitor grantees' progress towards meeting the indicators through site visits, mid-term/progress and final reports and update the country database.

8.1.2 Monitoring approaches at National Level

A database will be used to enter the results of all projects against GEF-7 global indicators and generate monitoring reports, using a standardised data collection and reporting system developed by the SGP. The GEF SGP CMPT will aggregate the country programme results and impacts and report on the progress by monitoring targets and indicators in the results framework. The SGP National Secretariat will provide the NSC members with monitoring reports, quarterly project progress reports, final technical and financial reports, and results of completed projects submitted to NSC. An Annual Monitoring Report that illustrates the results of SGP projects against GEF-7 global indicators and national priorities/ targets will also be

presented to the GEF-7 Focal Point (Malawi Government). NSC members will also be invited to undertake monitoring activities, particularly where there is a need for further oversight in project implementation. Government extension staff will help facilitate the project by offering technical support and training. The frequency of their visits will be necessarily high since they will need to check on whether the project is properly implemented, especially if there are elements of technology transfer. The monitoring can be weekly or bi-weekly during actual project implementation but will change after the project completes its activities

8.1.3 Capacity Building

The SGP country programme will train and mentor grantees to effectively report against the targeted indicators. Other agencies/experts can be engaged when necessary for specialised capacity building and training. The Secretariat will use meetings with the District Executive Committees (DEC) in the target landscape and urban areas to plan and develop a viable capacity-building plan for the recipients of the grants to increase the capacity of implementing partners.

8.1.4 Incorporation of ethical guidelines in M&E activities.

The SGP country programme will adopt a 'make no harm' approach when administering all actions. It will consider the welfare, beliefs, and customs of those involved or affected, avoid or disclose any conflict of interest, and acknowledge the influence of culture within and across groups. It will be a requirement in the proposals to describe the contextualised community considerations and how project activities need to be tailor-made for these.

Table 8: M&E plan at the national program level

M&E Activity	Object	Responsible parties	Source of the budget	Calendar
Development of the Country Program Strategy (CPS)	Framework for action, including the identification of community projects.	NC, NSC, national stakeholders, Beneficiaries	An SGP planning grant for hiring consultants can be used to update the CPS OP7 plan.	At the beginning of OP7
As part of the NSC meetings, ongoing project results and analysis review includes an annual CPS review.	Assess the effectiveness of projects, country portfolio, learning and adaptive management.	NC, NSC, Country Office. The final deliberations were shared/analysed with CPMT colleagues.	Staff time, country operating budget	At least one annual review to ensure that the OP7 CPS is on track to achieve its outcomes and make timely and evidence-based changes to the CPS as required.
Annual Monitoring Report Survey	Enable effective reporting to the CPMT and GEF. It is the main tool for recording and analytically presenting results to donors.	NC/AP in close collaboration with the NSC. The CPMT provides technical guidance support and receives final submissions from countries for further actions.	Staff time	Once a year from June-July
Country Portfolio Review	The capture of the methodological results of the portfolio at a given time to note changes in impact as well as wider adoption. The objective is to support reporting to stakeholders, learning and support for the strategic development and implementation of the NPS.	NC, NSC	The SGP Planning Grant to hire consultants can review the impact of previous operational cycles and use the lessons to develop and implement the OP7 NPS. Global M&E technical support can be expected.	Once per operational phase
SGP database	Ensure that all project and country programme inputs are recorded in the Spatulas.	NC, PAs,	Staff time	Throughout the operational phase. Ensure quality assurance and data completion before the annual monitoring cycle (May to June).
Audit	Ensure compliance with the rules and standards of implementation and management of the project.	UNOPS / External subcontractor. NC/AP to provide the necessary support.	Overall operating budget	Annually for some countries, based on a risk assessment

M&E Activity	Object	Responsible parties	Source of the budget	Calendar
Impact Reviews	Ensure evidence-based knowledge production of results for the entire operational phase. This will include specific results on strengths such as social inclusion, broader adoption and delivery mechanism	NC	Staff Time	Once per operational phase

8.2. CPS Results Framework

Table 9: Results Framework National Program Strategy for SGP OP7

<p>Alignment with the SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms- Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture- Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls- Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainability of water and sanitation for all- Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all- Goal 11: Make Cities and Human Settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable- Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production- Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact- Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development- Goal 15: Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems- Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development
<p>Synergy with the UNDP country programme document (CPD):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- National Priority/Goal: Transition of Malawi to a productive, competitive, and resilient nation.- UNDAF Outcomes: By 2023, Malawi has strengthened economic diversification, inclusive business, entrepreneurship, and access to clean energy- Related Strategic Plan Outcomes: Outcome 1: Advance poverty reduction in all its forms and dimensions - National Priority/Goal: Actively respond to climate change, prevent disasters, strengthen sustainable natural resource management and environmental protection- UNDAF Outcomes: By 2023, households have increased food and nutrition security, equitable access to healthy ecosystems and resilient livelihoods.- Related Strategic Plan Outcomes: Outcome 3: Strengthening resilience and shocks to crises
<p>The objective of the SGP OP7 program: <i>To promote and support innovative, inclusive, and impactful initiatives and to encourage multi-stakeholder partnerships at the local level to address global environmental issues in priority landscapes and seascapes.</i></p>

1 OP7 SGP CPS Strategic Initiatives	2 OP7 CPS Indicators and Targets	3 Means of verification
<p>Strategic Initiative 1: Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Protect biodiversity hotspots, threatened plant species and headwaters of key tributaries ii. - Development and implementation of an appropriate conservation framework for wetlands and steep slopes 	<p><i>Indicator 1.1: Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares) (GEF Core Indicator 4.1)</i> Baseline: 744 ha⁶ Target: 100ha</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.2: Area of degraded agricultural lands restored (hectares)) (GEF core indicator 3.1) – Note: this is an indicator under the Strategic Initiative “Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security.”</i> Baseline: 68 ha⁷ Target: 5000 ha</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.3⁸: Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (hectares; excluding protected areas) (GEF core indicator 5)</i> Baseline: 0 Target: 30 ha</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.4⁹: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment</i> Baseline: 3,950 Target: 10,000</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.5: number of community protected/conserved area designations and networks¹⁰</i></p>	<p>Individual project reports prepared by the PMF country teams (as part of the mid-term and final progress reports)</p> <p>Benchmark comparison variables (use of conceptual models and partner data, where appropriate)</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), the global database of the PMF</p> <p>Review of the National Programme</p>

⁶ This is cumulative from available GEF SGP reports from previous phases.

⁷ This is cumulative from available GEF SGP reports from previous phases.

⁸ GEF Core Indicator 5

⁹ GEF core indicator 11

¹⁰ This applies to conserved areas outside government protected areas i.e., at Traditional Authority, Group Village Head, Village and Household levels

	<p>Baseline: 2 Target: 20</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.6: Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness (hectares) (GEF core indicator 2.2)</i> Baseline: TBD Target: TBD</p>	
<p>Strategic Initiative 3: Co-benefits of access to low-carbon energy sources</p> <p>i. -Promote renewable and energy-efficient technologies that provide socio-economic benefits and improve livelihoods.</p> <p>ii. -Support the promotion and use of clean energy, e.g., solar and biogas, and energy-saving technologies.</p>	<p><i>Indicator 3.1: Number of direct beneficiaries as co-benefit of SGP intervention</i> Baseline: TBD Target: 4000 h/h</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.2: KW of renewable energy capacity installed from local technologies (e.g., on renewable energy technology types of biomasses, small hydropower plant, solar)</i> Baseline: TBD Target: 20 KW</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.3: Number of energy access solutions adapted to local needs and focused on communities, with successful demonstrations or scale-up and replication.</i> Baseline: 3 Target: 6</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.4: Number of typologies of community-oriented locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations or scaling up and replication</i> Baseline: TBD Target: TBD</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.5: Area of forests and non-forest land with restoration and improvement of carbon stocks.</i></p>	<p>Individual project reports prepared by the SGP country teams (as part of the mid-term and final progress reports)</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), global SGP database</p> <p>Review of the National Programme Strategy (Noce contribution)</p>

	<p>Baseline: 744 ha¹¹ Target: 100</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.6: Number of households achieving energy access, with co-benefits estimated and valued</i> Baseline: TBD Target:TBD</p>	
<p>Strategic Initiative 5: Catalysing sustainable urban solutions</p> <p>i. Demonstration of innovative and socially inclusive urban solutions/approaches (including waste and chemical management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity)</p>	<p><i>Indicators 5.1: Number of community-based urban solutions/ approaches (including chemical and waste management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity) deployed.</i> Baseline: 0 Target: 2</p> <p><i>Indicator 5.2: Number of communities with improved capacities to promote community-driven integrated solutions for low-emission and resilient urban development.</i> Baseline: 0 Target: 10</p> <p><i>Indicator 5.3: Number of projects with improved capacities to promote community-driven integrated solutions for low-emission and resilient urban development.</i> Target:TBD Baseline: TBD</p>	<p>Individual project reports prepared by SGP country teams</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), global SGP database</p> <p>Review of the National Programme</p>
<p>Strategic Initiative 7: Strengthening social inclusion</p> <p>Strengthening social inclusion Gender</p> <p>i. Support women’s improved access, use, and control of</p>	<p><i>Indicator 7.1: Number of indirect project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)</i> Baseline: TBD Target: 10,000 direct beneficiaries disaggregated by sex as co-benefit of GEF investment (GEF core indicator 11)</p>	<p>Individual project reports prepared by SGP country teams</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), global SGP database</p> <p>Review of the National Programme</p>

¹¹ This is cumulative from available GEF SGP reports from previous phases.




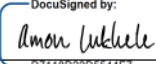



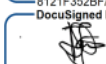
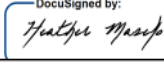

<p>resources; enhance women’s decision-making capabilities on natural resources.</p> <p>ii. Carry gender analysis and support women-led stand-alone projects in line with the GEF focal areas.</p> <p>Youth and People with Disabilities (PWD)</p> <p>i. Provide training for youth and PWDs and link them with relevant organisations at the country level.</p>	<p><i>Indicator 7.2 Number of projects contributing to closing gender gaps related to access to and control over natural resources</i> Baseline: 1 Target: 6</p> <p><i>Indicator 7.3: Number of projects that improve the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance</i> Baseline: 1 Target: 6</p> <p><i>Indicator 7.4: Number of projects that target socio-economic benefits and services for women</i> Baseline: 1 Target: 6</p> <p><i>Indicator 7.5: Proportion of women-led SGP projects and concrete integration mechanisms to increase women’s participation.</i> Baseline: 3.7% Target: 40% of women-led SGP projects and concrete integration mechanisms aimed at increasing women’s participation.</p> <p><i>Indicator 7.6: Proportion of SGP projects that demonstrate appropriate models of youth engagement</i> Baseline: 3.7% Target: 20% of SGP projects that demonstrate appropriate models of youth engagement</p> <p><i>Indicator 7.7: Proportion of SGP projects that demonstrate models of disability engagement</i> Baseline: 0</p>	
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	Target: 5% of SGP projects that demonstrate models of disability engagement.	
<p>Strategic Initiative 8: Monitoring and evaluation and knowledge management</p> <p>Monitoring & Evaluation</p> <p>i. Administer new M&E strategy in the country programme and project design, implementation and overall decision-making using participatory mechanisms.</p> <p>Results Measurement</p> <p>i. Measurement of SGP global environmental; results of new socio-economic result indicators; innovation and capacity development; and impact in terms of projects replicated or scaled up</p>	<p><i>Indicator 8.1: Frequency of updating the SGP database for effective data collection, management and analysis supporting gains in programme performance and learning.</i> Baseline: 0 Target: Quarterly</p> <p><i>Indicator 8.2: Number of CBOs whose capacities are developed or improved</i> Baseline: Target: 10</p> <p><i>Indicator 8.3: Number of peer-to-peer knowledge exchanges facilitated</i> Baseline: 0 Target: 2</p> <p><i>Indicator 8.4: Number of training sessions organised</i> Baseline: Target: 20</p> <p><i>Indicator 8.5: Number of knowledge fairs organised</i> Baseline: 0 Target: 3</p> <p><i>Indicator 8.6: Number of Stakeholder workshops organised</i> Baseline: 0 Target: 5</p> <p><i>Indicator 8.7: Number of grantee networks strengthened</i> Baseline: 0 Target: 2</p>	<p>Individual project reports prepared by SGP country teams Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), global SGP database</p> <p>Review of the National Programme</p>

	<p><i>Indicator 8.8: Number of How-to-toolkits developed</i> Baseline: 0 Target: 1</p> <p><i>Indicator 8.9: Number of knowledge products developed</i> Baseline: 0 Target: 1</p> <p><i>Indicator 8.10: Number of country/cross-country impact reviews undertaken that generate evidence of SGP impact and lessons learnt.</i> Baseline: 0 Target: 1</p> <p><i>Indicator 8.11: Number of projects administering results management modalities in programme design and implementation and overall decision-making through participatory mechanisms.</i> Baseline: 0 Target: 100% of projects</p> <p><i>Indicator 8.12: Number of projects using citizen-based knowledge platform (digital library of community innovations) to document and curate community-based solutions to environment issues</i> Baseline: TBD Target: TBD</p> <p><i>Indicator 8.13: Number of projects reporting adoption of improved practices or approaches as a result of South-South exchanges between communities, CSOs and other partners across countries.</i></p>	
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	<p>Baseline: TBD Target: TBD</p> <p><i>Indicator 8.14: Number of south-south exchanges at global and regional levels to transfer knowledge, replicate technology, tools and approaches on global environmental issues.</i></p> <p>Baseline: TBD Target: TBD</p>	
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9. Approval of the National Steering Committee

NSC members participate in the development, review, and approval of the OP7 CPS	Signatures
Dorothy Tembo-Nhlema	DocuSigned by:  <small>FF630EF52798422...</small>
Dr Stern Kita	DocuSigned by:  <small>81BA7463F5A114...</small>
Dr Maggie Munthali	DocuSigned by:  <small>EA1343D02001419...</small>
Amon Lukhele	DocuSigned by:  <small>D7118D22D5544E7...</small>
Msekiwa Matsimbe	DocuSigned by:  <small>8E51BEE9E41041F...</small>
Robert Kapyepye	DocuSigned by:  <small>6180E69AC61C44B...</small>
Rashid Mpinganjira	DocuSigned by:  <small>8121F352BFAC47B...</small>
Julius Ng'oma	DocuSigned by:  <small>4AEB3CEBF82B449...</small>
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ANNEXES

Appendix 1: List of indicators

Appendix 2: Landscape Baseline Assessment Report

Appendix 3: Scoping Report

Appendix 1: List of Indicators

The following indicators will be used to track progress and impact of the SGP in Malawi during OP7:

- Indicator 1.1 : Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares)
- Indicator 1.2: Area of degraded agricultural lands restored (hectares)
- Indicator 1.3 : Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (hectares; excluding protected areas)
- Indicator 1.4: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment
- Indicator 1.5: number of community protected/conserved area designations and/or networks
- Indicator 2.1: Area of degraded agricultural lands restored (hectares)
- Indicator 2.2: Number of linkages and partnerships for sustainable food production practices (such as diversification and sustainable intensification) and supply chain management (esp. SMEs)
- Indicator 2.3: number of communities with functional bylaws for ecosystem-based management
- Indicator 3.1: Number of direct beneficiaries as co-benefit of SGP intervention
- Indicator 3.2: number of renewable energy capacity installed from local technologies (e.g. on renewable energy technology types biomass, small hydropower plant, solar)
- Indicator 3.3: number of energy access solutions adapted to local needs and focused on communities, with successful demonstrations or scale-up and replication.
- Indicator 3.4: Area of forests and non-forest land with restoration and improvement of carbon stocks.
- Indicator 4.1: Number of projects working on increasing awareness and outreach for sound chemicals, waste and mercury management
- Indicator 4.2 of knowledge products on waste management generated
- Indicators 5.1: number of community-based urban solutions/ approaches (including chemical and waste management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity) deployed.
- Indicator 5.2 number of communities with improved capacities to promote community-driven integrated solutions for low-emission and resilient urban development.
- Indicators 6.1: Number of high-level policy changes attributed to increased community representation through the CSO government-private sector dialogues
- Indicator 6.2: Proportion representation of social inclusion groups (indigenous peoples, women, youth, people with disabilities, farmers, and other marginalised groups) supported with meaningful participation in dialogue platforms.
- Indicator 6.3 Number of public-private partnerships on key global environmental issues promoted.
- Indicator 7.1: Number of indirect project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)
- Indicator 7.2 Number of projects contributing to closing gender gaps related to access to and control over natural resources
- Indicator 7.3: Number of projects that improve the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance
- Indicator 7.4 Proportion of women-led SGP projects and/or concrete integration mechanisms aimed at increasing women's participation.
- Indicator 7.5: Proportion of women-led SGP projects and/or concrete integration mechanisms aimed at increasing women's participation.
- Indicator 7.6 Proportion of SGP projects that demonstrate appropriate models of youth engagement
- Indicator 7.7 Proportion of SGP projects that demonstrate models of disability engagement
- Indicator 8.1: Frequency of updating the SGP database for effective data collection, management and analysis supporting gains in programme performance and learning.
- Indicator 8.2: Number of CBOs whose capacities are developed or improved
- Indicator 8.3: Number of peer-to-peer knowledge exchanges facilitated
- Indicator 8.4: Number of training sessions organised

- Indicator 8.5: Number of knowledge fairs organised
- Indicator 8.6: Number of Stakeholder workshops organised
- Indicator 8.7: Number of grantee networks strengthened
- Indicator 8.8: Number of How-to-toolkits developed
- Indicator 8.9: Number of knowledge products developed
- Indicator 8.10: Number of country/cross-country impact reviews undertaken that generate evidence of SGP impact and lessons learnt.
- Indicator 8.11: Number of projects administering results management modalities in programme design and implementation and overall decision-making through participatory mechanisms.
- Indicator 8.12: Number of South-South exchanges at global and regional levels to transfer knowledge and replicate technologies, tools and approaches on global environmental issues.