



SGP Country Programme Strategy for utilization of OP5 grant funds

Country: MALDIVES
Resources to be invested: US\$ 1, 200 000

1. SGP Maldives programme - summary background

1.1 SGP Maldives commenced in 2010, year 3 of OP4, with US \$ 150,000 in core funds. During this time, 8 grants were awarded in the various thematic areas across the country, with biodiversity conservation and climate change being the main focal areas.

Grant projects address conservation of turtles, conservation and restoration of mangroves, prevention of coastal erosion, adoption of renewable energy, 'greening' programs, youth networking and capacity building for climate change action, reducing use of and pollution by plastics and sustainable agriculture to preserve land and improve food security. At the time of CPS formulation all 8 projects were at various stages of progress. Expected results include: increased awareness of communities on environmental issues and empowerment to take action, improved or alternative livelihoods, better protection of marine and terrestrial biodiversity, increased understanding of climate change, its impacts, adaptation and mitigation options, and increased capacity of NGOs and CBOs.

In GEF-5, Maldives is a Category I country programme, at present depending only on SGP core funding for its grant-making. However, Maldives is also eligible for funding under the Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change for Small Island Developing States (CBA-SIDS) funded by AusAid, which will use GEF SGP as a delivery mechanism. The amount of funding is yet to be determined, following the formulation of country strategic document.

1.2 Key baseline considerations

The Maldives, situated in the Indian Ocean comprises a double chain of some 1190 islands distributed into 26 geographical atolls. Of these islands 193 are inhabited, 93 are tourist resorts and 55 are used for industrial, agricultural or other activity. The islands in general are very small with only 33 having a land area bigger than 1km² with an average elevation of less than 1m above sea level. The total land area is estimated at approximately 235 km².

The Maldivian population is estimated at 319, 740 (2010) growing at an annual rate of 1.76% per annum. 56% is comprised of children and youth. One third of the inhabited islands have a population less than 500 and 70% have a population less than 1000. With less than 1% of the

total area land being suitable for human habitation, population growth has far more serious consequences here than many other countries in the world. Of particular concern is the increasing settlement in the capital city, Male', for better services and livelihoods. With a land area less than 2km², and carrying 1/3 of the total population, Male' faces major environmental and social implications.

The Maldives relies totally on coastal and marine resources for subsistence and its economic development. Tourism and fishing are the major economic activities, contributing 26 % and 6.6 % (2009 estimates) to the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) respectively. The fisheries sector is particularly important in outer atolls and accounts for 20% of employment. Fishery is focused on tuna and reef fish such as grouper, snapper and aquarium fish. Agriculture is carried out mainly at subsistence level, as land is scarce and the soil is poor. Rural populations normally grow crops in their home gardens or in leased uninhabited islands. Crops include mainly leaf vegetables, chillies, fruits (watermelon, papaya, coconut) and a variety of root crops. The agricultural sector forms a significant part of rural communities livelihoods and income.

Until recently the lifestyles of the Maldivians had little direct impact on the environment. The main environmental impacts included the mining of coral and coral sand in the absence of other building materials and deforestation induced by the need for fuel wood. These activities were then generally sustainable since human populations were relatively small and stable.

Environmental vulnerability and fragility was further highlighted by the Indian Ocean tsunami which hit Maldives on 26 December, 2004. It was a nation-wide disaster which caused severe damage to the physical infrastructure of many islands, especially to those in the tourism and fisheries sector. Total damages are estimated to be US\$470 million, 62% of GDP, not reflecting the indirect cost of environmental damage including substantial soil erosion and salinization of aquifers on many affected islands. Lost tourism and fisheries income caused GDP growth, employment, and government revenues to contract in the following years (World Bank, ADB & UN system 2005).

The country has experienced rapid socio-economic development to a large extent owing to the tourism industry. In 2009, Human Development Index for Maldives was 0.771, which gives the country a rank of 95th out of 182 countries with the GDP per capita at US \$ 5196. However, great disparities in income distribution and access to essential infrastructure exist between islands. Income disparities between Malé and the atolls are in the order of 2:1 and access to social and physical infrastructure and services at 4:1 (MPND/UNDP, 1999). This is partly due to the high cost of maritime transport, the need to import building materials and failure to achieve economies of scale related to the high cost of providing these services to the small and dispersed populations. Approximately 1 in 4 of all Maldivians live on incomes of less than US\$ 1 per day (MPND/UNDP, 1999). To minimise these disparities, a population development and consolidation strategy is being pursued with the aim of developing islands with the greatest potential for growth and expansion and encouraging voluntary migration (MHAHE, 2004).

The Maldives cooperates and receives aid in various forms from a number of donors – both bilaterally and multilaterally: the Asian Bank of Development, World Bank, European Commission, various UN agencies and organizations including GEF, Japan International Cooperation Agency, AusAid, Sida, and Commonwealth Foundation among others. Until recently, as an LDC (Least Developed Country), the country had benefited from a range of special support measures from bilateral donors and multilateral organizations, and special

treatment under regional and multilateral trade agreements. However, with graduation, a number of LDC benefits will be lost or reduced: trade preferences; official development assistance (ODA) including development financing and technical cooperation, grant inflows and other forms of assistance (MoFA 2010).

The government has identified five priority areas necessary for a stable framework to achieve the new government's key objectives in the Strategic Action Plan 2009-2013: budget support and macroeconomic reform, public sector reform, good governance initiatives, social development and climate change adaptation. In mobilising co-financing, it would be prudent to take these areas into consideration and create links to GEF themes.

The government has embarked on an ambitious regionalisation and decentralization programme in support of the newly established Constitution's requirements and in line with the new government's pledges to bring better democracy, through transfer of political power to provincial and local authorities. With the introduction of a decentralized system of governance based on seven provinces, environmental management and development responsibilities and implementation would lie with province and atoll offices. It is hoped that this approach would facilitate timely decision-making, action, and delivery of results.

In terms of thematic focus, consultations revealed that all 5 areas are equally relevant and important to the Maldives, and hence should be reflected in the CPS.

The marine environment is rich in biodiversity with 248 different species of corals over 1100 species of fishes, 285 species of algae being recorded (MRC 2009). The country has declared 39 protected areas of which 25 are marine protected sites. 9 marine species are protected from fishing or collecting and 23 birds are also protected (MHE 2011). These natural heritages serve as an important component in the country's tourist industry attracting many visitors from abroad. However, these PAs lack the necessary elements for effective management. The sites are protected through legislation with no real funding for outreach and education and enforcement to protect them. Also during the last few years, a rapid human encroachment on the terrestrial vegetation, reef and wetland ecosystems of uninhabited islands and inhabited islands have occurred. Terrestrial biodiversity is also threatened due to clearing of vegetation, invasive pests and diseases, and improper use of pesticides and herbicides.

For a low lying island state such as the Maldives climate change and its implications are indeed an urgent concern, which, in the worst case scenario threatens even the very existence of the country through sea level rise. More immediate impacts would be felt through climate variability and extreme weather events on fragile coral reefs, fisheries, tourism, coastal areas, freshwater, agriculture, infrastructure and livelihoods. Maldives contributes very little to the global green house gas emissions (GHGs) but stands to be greatly impacted by the consequences of climate change. Hence, adaptation to climate change is very necessary, and may be achieved through integrating climate risk and resilience building into development and disaster risk management. Mitigation is high on the national agenda in line with the government's vision to achieve carbon neutrality by 2020. The largest contribution to GHGs come from generation of electricity for industrial and domestic uses, with energy for desalination representing the highest increase, followed by transport and waste sectors. Mitigation could focus on improving energy efficiency, switching to renewable energy, cleaner transport and carbon sequestration.

Another important area of concern is waste management. Changing consumption patterns, rapid population growth, limited technical and human capacity and the uneven distribution of population over widely dispersed islands are some of the main factors that hinder proper waste management. While POPs as a category is not highlighted – mainly due to lack of assessments, data and awareness, it would comprise part of the waste generated. Solid waste generated in the greater Male', area including all the resorts in Male' atoll as well as few resorts in other atolls are transported to the designated waste management island - Thilafushi. Inhabited islands either dump or burn their waste somewhere in their own islands or periphery whether at a designated waste management centre, the beach or own backyard. There is no systematic sorting, segregation or recycling, nor is there any established mechanism or system to deal with hazardous waste including POPs.

Adequate sanitation systems are installed in greater Male' area and a few islands only. The prevailing systems of sewerage disposal in most islands are onsite sanitation systems using septic tanks and soak-pits). These systems are badly maintained leading to contamination of groundwater and pollution of the marine environment through discharge of raw sewage directly into the sea. In OP5, international waters focal area would be given priority to address this important issue.

In a country possessing extremely limited land resources with growing population and other pressures, sustainable land management is also an essential area of concern. Competing uses, land reclamation, improper sewage and solid waste disposal, over-use of pesticides and fertilizers, degradation and salinization of aquifers, pollution, coastal erosion and other factors contribute to land degradation.

One major impediment to the successful implementation of projects to address these priority issues is a lack of capacity of NGOs and CBOs. It is foreseen that in the initial start-up phase of SGP in the Maldives, training and capacity development of NGOs, CBOs and other community groups should be given a high priority. This would be not only in terms of imparting substantial knowledge and information in the focal areas, but also on proposal writing, project and grant management, monitoring and evaluation and reporting.

Thus through the CPS, GEF-SGP will attempt to address and rectify the above issues by involving and empowering communities to take action. Priority would be given to projects addressing conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and threatened ecosystems, as well as in the focal areas of climate change mitigation, international waters, land degradation and chemicals management. In addition, livelihoods promotion, gender parity and capacity development should be integrated in the project design. In this way, while improving the local environmental conditions and their livelihoods, SGP will contribute to global environmental benefits in the 5 GEF focal areas.

2. SGP country programme niche

2.1

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

| Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks | Date of ratification / completion |
|--|---|
| UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) | 09-11-1992 |
| CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) | 2002 |
| UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) | 09-11-1992 |
| UNFCCC National Communications (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd) | 05-11-2001 (1 st), 2011(2 nd) |
| UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) | n/a |
| UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) | 03-09-2002 |
| UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP) | n/a |
| Stockholm Convention (SC) | 17-10-2006 |
| SC National Implementation Plan (NIP) | (Not yet initiated) |
| World Bank Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) | December 2007 |
| GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) | January 2009 |
| GEF-5 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) | (Not undertaken for GEF-5) |
| Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies: South Asian Seas Programme | 1995 |
| Pledge to make Maldives carbon neutral by 2020 | March 2009 |
| SAARC Convention on Cooperation on Environment | April 2012 |

2.2 Please describe how the SGP country programme will use OP5 resources to support implementation of national priorities in relation to GEF-5 Strategic Priorities. How will civil society and community-based projects be facilitated and coordinated to help the country achieve its priorities and achieve the objectives of the global conventions?

The GEF-5 strategic objectives and priorities are very much in line with the country's priorities as identified in the Maldives Strategic Action Plan 2009-2013. In particular, these relate to the environmental conservation and economic development goals of the Strategic Action Plan, together with addressing climate change, disaster risk management, fisheries, tourism, energy, water and sewerage and gender parity. In turn, as signatory to the global/Rio Conventions, the SGP country programme can help the country fulfill its obligations and achieve the Conventions' objectives, which are also similar to those of GEF-5 and national priorities.

The establishment of SGP in the Maldives is also very timely for a number of reasons. The changes in governance and decentralization promoted by the current government provide a

nurturing environment for NGOs and CBOs to play a major role in the development process of the country. SGP could greatly facilitate community empowerment and localized governance over natural resource management, environmental conservation and promoting livelihoods. As noted earlier Maldives recently graduated from LDC status to a middle-income country, with consequent reduction in international assistance in the form of grants in particular and SGP can provide a means to contribute to this gap.

The SGP modality of disbursing small grants directly to NGOs and CBOs for project implementation suits the Maldives context, being a small country with dispersed communities.

The UNDP as a GEF IA has been managing the programme since its inception in 1992. SGP being hosted at and implemented by UNDP CO Maldives is useful in that it provides a conducive and empirical basis for the initial start-up of the programme, in day to- day administrative and oversight support to the programme, providing valuable contacts and outreach, and a window for visibility at the country level. UNDP CO, in particular its Environment and Energy Unit, Poverty Unit and Disaster Risk Management work on similar issues as in the GEF Focal Areas. The UNDP CO also has extensive experience in working with communities, has close working relationship with the national government and the Resident Representatives serve as Coordinators of the UN System as a whole. These features can greatly facilitate the building of partnerships with in-country programmes of the UN system, those of government agencies, and other international donors, which is important for the growth and sustainability of SGP.

Taking the factors described above into consideration and by employing a coherent and strategic approach through consultations with the relevant stakeholders, formulation of the CPS and providing detailed guidance and facilitation, the civil society and community-based projects can contribute greatly to addressing the priorities and goals at national, GEF-5 and GEF SGP levels. This is further demonstrated in the Table 2 and 3 below.

2.3 Please insert or annex a map of the region indicating a geographic focus, if relevant.

There will be no specific geographic focus in implementing SGP, apart from encouraging SGP projects in the population centres throughout the country.

2.4 OP5 global project objectives of the GEF CEO endorsement documents and the SGP niche for grant-making in relation to the national priorities and OP5 project objectives for focal areas.

Table 2. Consistency with national priorities

| OP5 project objectives | National priorities | SGP niche |
|--|---|---|
| <p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1:</u> Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas through community-based actions</p> | <p>Proper enforcement of already enacted rules and regulations on protected areas;</p> <p>Implement the first internationally recognized protected area site (the Baa atoll UNESCO biosphere reserve)</p> | <p>Raise awareness on the issue; build capacity to implement existing PAs, including rules and regulations; designate new areas for conservation and sustainable use; assist Baa atoll counterparts to implement the UNESCO biosphere reserve</p> |
| <p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2:</u> Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions</p> | <p>Promote an integrated approach to biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use and management;</p> <p>Promote sustainable fisheries and tourism</p> | <p>Replicate successes from Baa Atoll Ecosystem Conservation project</p> |
| <p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3:</u> Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level</p> | <p>Achieve carbon neutrality by 2020 at national level;</p> <p>Promote low emission, low carbon development</p> <p>Diversify energy sources</p> | <p>Local level, stand alone RE sources, energy efficient infrastructure and consumer products at household and island level, with particular focus on Male' city.</p> |
| <p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4:</u> Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level</p> | <p>Access to affordable and energy efficient, low carbon transport.</p> | <p>Raise awareness on the issue; provide seed funding to switch to energy efficient and low carbon transport. Particularly needed in Male, the capital island, inter-island transport and fishing boats.</p> |
| <p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 5:</u> Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry</p> | <p>Promote sustainable land management through proper land use plans</p> <p>Protect coral reefs, mangroves and other vegetation</p> | <p>Community-based action to conserve mangrove and coral reef</p> <p>Reduction of land based and marine pollution that negatively impacts coral reefs, especially in Male' city harbour areas</p> |
| <p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6:</u> Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities</p> | <p>Promote sustainable agriculture for food security and improved livelihoods</p> | <p>Community initiatives for back-yard gardens; promote organic agriculture and farming, as demonstrated at Marikilu island;</p> |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7:</u> Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes) | Sustainable land management through proper land use plans. | Assist communities in consultative and consensus process for land use planning; Adopt integrated approaches for sustainable land use and management |
| <u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8:</u> Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives | Reduce negative impacts from over exploitation and pollution of ground and surface water | Pilot local level water and sanitation projects; Promote rain water harvesting and improved drainage; Reduce pollution of groundwater and other resources |
| <u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9:</u> Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level | Implement the Stockholm Convention Proper disposal of POPs and other hazardous waste | Raise awareness on POPs and other hazardous chemicals; Reduce ‘open burning’ of wastes; Reduce the use of plastics and POPs containing pesticides and fertilizers; |
| <u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10:</u> Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations and those of indigenous peoples) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends | Build capacity of CSOs and community at large to engage in democratic, decentralized governance in general and more specifically for environment and resource management | Undertake training workshops to enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs; Hold a knowledge management event to share and disseminate best practices in implementing activities related to the global conventions and GEF SGP objectives |
| <u>Cross-Cutting Results:</u> Poverty reduction, livelihoods and gender | Promote economic diversification for improved livelihoods and poverty reduction; Increase participation of women in all aspects of development | Direct community access to grants for projects to enhance livelihoods and poverty reduction; emphasis on participation of women in projects; |

3. Capacity development, poverty reduction and gender results for SGP

3.1 How will the Maldives SGP country programme in the preparation, review and implementation of projects, produce positive results in the development of capacity of civil society organizations; improving livelihoods and local benefits; as well as addressing gender and indigenous peoples’ considerations so as to achieve global environmental benefits.¹ How will the developed capacity be retained within different organizations and communities?

¹ During OP5, the SGP capacity development outcome is cross-cutting and relates to interventions corresponding with each of the relevant GEF focal areas.

Although there are over 700 NGOs registered with the Ministry of Home Affairs, few are regularly active. While most NGOs are passionate about the issues central to their organization, they lack managerial, financial and project implementation capacity. As well, there is a lack of wider supporting infrastructure for the civil society sector in general in the country.

A host of informal, semi-formal and formal associations, groups and community based organizations (CBOs) are active in many islands. Women and youth groups are the most popular of these. Almost every inhabited island has a 'women's development committee' whose objective is to work towards girls and women's development by promoting the rights of women, improving the general living standards, economic empowerment and increased political participation, increasing the number of women with higher education, improving health standards and collaborate with the government for island/ward development. Similarly youth groups, often referred as youth 'clubs' work to promote youth involvement in island development, education, employment and environmental activities.

The majority of NGOs focus on social, developmental and rights issues with a view to creating awareness and providing support mechanisms. Very few focus specifically on environmental issues. Notable NGOs based in Male that deal with environment include: Bluepeace, Live and Learn, Eco Care and Maldivers. As an attempt to consolidate and strengthen the voice of NGOs; advocate for independent functioning of the sector and mobilizing resources, the Maldives NGO Federation was created in 2006. However, there has been minimal activity up to now, with its first General Assembly taking place in 2008 and Council Meeting in April 2009.

A recent assessment undertaken by Rajje Foundation under the auspices of the Australian Government and UNDP (2009) highlighted the urgent need for capacity building, the development of civil society partnerships and networks and the forging of standards and guiding principles within the civil society sector. The UN Common Country Assessment also identified the lack of independent civil society engagement as one of the main hindrances to development in the Maldives. A civil society strengthening programme was launched in 2009 following the assessment by Rajje Foundation and aims to address the priority needs of the Maldivian civil society sector by providing technical training and access to resources, and by creating and strengthening an enabling environment for their functioning.

The GEG SGP will be instrumental in developing and retaining the capacity of CSOs in several ways:

1. By having NGO/CBO members to be on the National Steering Committee and playing an active role in implementing SGP Maldives.
2. By providing them with formal training in proposal writing and all aspects of project management including financial management, combined with the necessary elements of establishing and running a successful NGP/CBO.
3. By providing grants, to apply their skills in a practical manner to address their priorities at community level and achieve their objectives, which in turn translates to GEF-5 global objectives and benefits.
4. By adding a clause on obligation to ensure sustainability of projects beyond the SGP funding in the proposal as well as fostering incentive through results based approach.

In carrying out the above, every effort will be made to include women and other marginalized groups as much as possible, for example, by giving preference to proposals and projects that actively address gender dimensions and forecast significant positive impacts.

4. OP5 country outcomes, indicators and activities

Table 3. Results Framework

| SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1: Improve sustainability of protected areas (PAs) and indigenous and community conservation areas (ICCAs) through community-based actions | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| Outcomes | Indicators | Means of verification | Activities |
| <p><i>1.1: Improved community - level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts on biodiversity resources in and around PAs</i></p> <p><i>1.2: Benefits generated at the community level from conservation of biodiversity in and around PAs</i></p> <p><i>1.4: Increased understanding and awareness at the community - level of the importance and value of biodiversity</i></p> | <p><i>Number and hectares of ICCAs and other PAs positively influenced through SGP support</i></p> <p><i>Number of community members with improved livelihoods related to benefits from PAs</i></p> <p><i>Number of significant species with maintained or improved conservation status</i></p> <p><i>Number and hectares of significant ecosystems with maintained or improved conservation status.</i></p> | <p><i>Field visits to project sites</i></p> <p><i>Progress reports with photographic or video evidence</i></p> <p><i>Interviews with stakeholders</i></p> <p><i>Surveys</i></p> <p><i>Monitoring and Evaluation reports</i></p> | <p><i>Approx # projects²:</i></p> <p><i>Potential activities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>- awareness raising and training for policy makers and other stakeholders on all aspects (needs, uses, legislation, implementation, etc) of PAs</i> <i>- Replicate successes from the Atoll Ecosystem Conservation</i> <i>- Economic valuation of biodiversity in specific sites/islands</i> <i>Awareness raising on vulnerable/biodiversity rich sites in the Maldives.</i> |
| SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2: Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions | | | |
| Outcomes | Indicators | Means of verification | Activities |
| <p><i>2.1: Improved community - level sustainable use of biodiversity in production landscapes / seascapes through community - based initiatives, frameworks and market mechanisms, including recognized environmental standards that incorporate biodiversity considerations</i></p> | <p><i>Hectares of production landscapes / seascapes under improved sustainable use practices, leading, where possible, to certification through recognized environmental standards that incorporate biodiversity considerations</i></p> | <p><i>Field visits to project sites</i></p> <p><i>Progress reports with photographic or video evidence</i></p> <p><i>Interviews with stakeholders</i></p> <p><i>Surveys</i></p> | <p><i>Approx # projects:</i></p> <p><i>Potential activities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>- aquaculture: environmental implications, technical and commercial aspects, aquaculture activities in Mangrove areas.</i> <i>- promote eco-tourism and alternative livelihoods</i> <i>- Conservation and propagation of local and indigenous plants,</i> |

² The estimated number of OP5 projects should distinguish between the utilization of core grants (which can apply across GEF focal areas) and non-core GEF resources (which need to be directly linked to the relevant GEF focal areas). In accordance with the GEF Steering Committee decision (March 2010), up to 20% of non-core GEF resources mobilized may be used for secondary focal areas.

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|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| 2.2: Increased understanding and awareness of sustainable use of biodiversity | (supported by SGP) Number of significant species with maintained or improved conservation status Number and hectares of significant ecosystems with maintained or improved conservation status | Monitoring and Evaluation reports | specially threatened species - Baseline inventory of threatened species - Traditional arts, crafts and commodities production by sustainable means |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|

SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3: Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level

| Outcomes | Indicators | Means of verification | Activities |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p>Outcome 3.1: Innovative low - GHG technologies deployed and successfully demonstrated at the community level</p> <p>3.2: GHG emissions avoided</p> | <p>Number of countries with demonstrations addressing community level barriers to deployment of low - GHG technologies</p> <p>Number of national or international partners or agencies are aware of SGP practices and lessons</p> | <p>Field visits to project sites</p> <p>Progress reports with photographic or video evidence</p> <p>Interviews with stakeholders</p> <p>Surveys</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation reports</p> | <p>Approx # projects</p> <p>Potential activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support RE technologies (solar, wind, etc) at household and community level - Switching to energy-efficient products and appliances in public buildings and households - Awareness raising and training on climate change, mitigation and RE |

SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4: Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level

| Outcomes | Indicators | Means of verification | Activities |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p>4.1: Low - GHG transport options demonstrated at the community level</p> <p>4.2: Increased investment in community - level energy efficient, low - GHG transport systems</p> <p>Outcome 4.3: GHG emissions avoided</p> | <p>Number of countries Where community - level low - GHG transport options have been demonstrated</p> <p>Number of governments having been influenced by SGP demonstration practices</p> | <p>Field visits to project sites</p> <p>Progress reports with photographic or video evidence</p> <p>Interviews with stakeholders</p> <p>Surveys</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation reports</p> | <p>Approx # projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promoting the use of bicycles and public transport systems, specially in population centres - Awareness raising and training on climate change, mitigation and low-GHG transport systems to policy makers and stakeholders - guidelines for policy makers on sustainable transport and schemes (e.g: road use restrictions for heavy duty vehicles, pedestrian zones, tree planting, etc) -Promote Energy efficient marine transport. |

SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 5: Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry

| Outcomes | Indicators | Means of verification | Activities |
|----------|------------|-----------------------|------------|
|----------|------------|-----------------------|------------|

| <p>5.1: Sustainable land use, land use change, and forestry management and climate proofing practices adopted at the community level for forest and non - forest land - use types</p> <p>5.2: Restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks in forests and non - forest lands, including peatland</p> <p>5.3: GHG emissions avoided</p> | <p>Hectares under improved sustainable land management and climate proofing practices</p> <p>Hectares of forests and non - forest lands with restoration and enhancement initiated</p> | <p>Field visits to project sites</p> <p>Progress reports with photographic or video evidence</p> <p>Interviews with stakeholders</p> <p>Surveys</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation reports</p> | <p>Approx # projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restoration and conservation of mangroves, woods and forest and freshwater wetlands through sustainable practices - promote integrated farming and sustainable agriculture - mangroves or plants tolerant to coastal conditions grown for shoreline protection |
|--|---|--|---|
| SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6: Maintain or improve flow of agro - ecosystems and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities | | | |
| Outcomes | Indicators | Means of verification | Activities |
| <p>6.1: Improved community - level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts on agro - , and forest ecosystems and ecosystem services demonstrated to sustain ecosystem functionality</p> <p>6.2: Community - based models of sustainable forestry management developed, and tested, linked to carbon sequestration for possible upscaling and replication where appropriate, to reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhance carbon sinks from land use, land use change, and forestry activities</p> | <p>Hectares under improved agricultural, land and water management practices (by management practice)</p> <p>Number of national and international agencies or partners are aware of successful SGP demonstrations and innovative approaches</p> <p>Number of national/local governments or international policy making processes with SGP influence</p> | <p>Field visits to project sites</p> <p>Progress reports with photographic or video evidence</p> <p>Interviews with stakeholders</p> <p>Surveys</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation reports</p> | <p>Approx # projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promote integrated farming and sustainable agriculture - Conservation of mangroves, woods and forest - Improved agricultural practices: crop rotation, inter-cropping, composting, irrigation - Training and awareness on using the 'ecosystem approach' in land use - better soil and land management - better water harvesting and water cycle management - Alternative use(e.g composting, biogas) of organic waste from Male' local market |
| SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7: Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes) | | | |
| Outcomes | Indicators | Means of verification | Activities |
| <p>7.1: Improved community - level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts in land use frontiers of agro - ecosystems and forest ecosystems (rural/urban, agriculture/forest)</p> | <p>Number of community members with improved actions and practices that reduce negative impacts on land uses</p> | <p>Field visits to project sites</p> <p>Progress reports with photographic or video evidence</p> <p>Interviews with stakeholders</p> <p>Surveys</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approximate # projects - Training and awareness on using the 'ecosystem approach' in land use - Assist local councils in developing 'holistic' land-use and island development plans and implementation - integrated water management |

| | | <i>Monitoring and Evaluation reports</i> | |
|---|---|--|---|
| SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8: Support transboundary water body management with community - based initiatives | | | |
| Outcomes | Indicators | Means of verification | Activities |
| <i>8.1: Effective and climate resilient community - based actions and practices supporting implementation of SAP regional priority actions demonstrated</i> | <i>Number of SAPs to which SGP is providing implementation support Number of regional transboundary water management processes to which SGP is contributing good practices and lessons</i> | <i>Field visits to project sites Progress reports with photographic or video evidence Interviews with stakeholders Surveys Monitoring and Evaluation reports</i> | <i>Approximate # of projects - Promote integrated water management - Improving catchment and rainwater harvesting and safe rainwater use. - Improve sanitation and sewerage management - Reduce land based and marine pollution</i> |
| SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9: Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level | | | |
| Outcomes | Indicators | Means of verification | Activities |
| <i>9.1: Improved community - level initiatives and actions to prevent, reduce and phase out POPs, harmful chemicals and other pollutants, manage contaminated sites in an environmentally sound manner, and mitigate environmental contamination</i> | <i>Tons of POPs waste avoided from burning Tons of obsolete pesticides disposed of appropriately Number of countries where SGP is contributing to the implementation of national plans and policies to address POPs, harmful chemicals and other pollutants</i> | <i>Field visits to project sites Progress reports with photographic or video evidence Interviews with stakeholders Surveys Monitoring and Evaluation reports</i> | <i>Approx # of projects: - Training and awareness raising on POPs and other harmful chemicals - Popularise Stockholm, Basel, Rotterdam Conventions, Montreal Protocol and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), - Eliminate open burning of waste - Phase-out use of obsolete pesticides - Demonstrate improved use and handling of harmful chemicals - Promote integrated pest management and integrated vector management</i> |
| SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10: Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community - based organizations and those of indigenous peoples) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends | | | |
| Outcomes | Indicators | Means of verification | Activities |
| <i>10.2: Improved information flows to/from CBOs and CSOs in SGP countries regarding good practices and lessons learned, and application of such practices</i> | <i>Quantity and quality of SGP knowledge base, and use of knowledge base; Quantity and quality of contributions</i> | <i>Field visits to project sites Progress reports with photographic or video evidence</i> | <i>Approx # of projects: - Support the establishment, strengthening and legalising of CBOs/NGOs - Promote sharing and exchange of experiences</i> |

| <p>10.3: Increased public awareness and education at the community - level regarding global environmental issues</p> <p>10.4: Capacity of CBOs and CSOs strengthened to support implementation of global conventions</p> <p>10.5: Increased application of community - based environmental monitoring</p> <p>10.6: Evaluation of SGP projects and programs against expected results strengthened, including increased capacity of CBOs and CSOs to apply relevant evaluation methodologies</p> | <p>to knowledge fairs, conferences, publications and research.</p> <p>Number of demonstrations and piloted examples of community - based environmental monitoring systems used in SGP projects</p> <p>Quantity and quality of Evaluation documentation of expected project results, and unexpected effects</p> <p>Number of CBOs and CSOs demonstrating understanding of the role of evaluation through application of relevant evaluation methodologies</p> | <p>Interviews with stakeholders</p> <p>Surveys</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation reports</p> | <p>- Raise awareness on GEF and its focal areas</p> <p>- Increase public awareness and education at the community - level regarding global environmental issues</p> <p>- Training and education on environmental issues and monitoring</p> |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Cross - Cutting Results: Livelihoods and Gender</p> | | | |
| <p>Outcomes</p> | <p>Indicators</p> | <p>Means of verification</p> | <p>Activities</p> |
| <p>Generally, SGP seeks to improve livelihoods through increasing local benefits generated from environmental resources, and mainstream gender considerations in community - based environmental initiatives.</p> | <p>Percentage of projects that include gender analysis or incorporate gender relevant elements in a positive manner</p> <p>Percentage of projects with appropriate gender balance of participants and target beneficiaries</p> <p>Percentage of projects that include socioeconomic analysis</p> <p>Number of community members with sustained livelihood improvement resulting from SGP support</p> | <p>Field visits to project sites</p> <p>Progress reports with photographic or video evidence</p> <p>Interviews with stakeholders</p> <p>Surveys</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation reports</p> | <p>Approx # of projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promote women-led initiatives - alternative livelihoods for women - also see above in activities distributed in the focal areas |

5. Monitoring & Evaluation plan

5.1 The M & E procedures followed at different stages of the project cycle is detailed below.

a) Project selection procedure

Step 1 – a submitted project concept is reviewed by the NC/NSC. If approved, a dialogue is initiated between the project proponent and the NC.

Step 2 – NC or NSC members (accompanied by NC/PA) will visit the proposed site to verify feasibility of project and the capacity of the proposing NGO/CBO to implement the project. Based on the findings, recommendations are given to develop a full proposal.

Step 3 - A project development workshop is held to determine relevance to the Country Programme Strategy, GEF/SGP Guidelines and the many national action and implementation plans, GEF thematic areas, geographic location, partnerships, co-financing, community participation, sustainability and innovation.

Step 4 - The revised project proposal is tabled at a NSC meeting for appraisal and evaluation. Based on the score received proposals are approved, rejected or deferred. Deferred proposals can be improved and re-tabled at an NSC meeting.

b) Project implementation Period

(i) Monitoring Visits - During project implementation monitoring is carried out through site visits i.e. a minimum of 1 site visit will be undertaken to each project.

Other Monitoring Materials - Stakeholder meetings and discussions, phone calls and documentations such as quarterly progress reports, video films and photos that represent the different stages of the project.

The above will allow the programme to identify any problems during project implementation and make adjustments to the project design and activities to enhance chances of project success and sustainability.

(ii) Monitoring of Progress Indicators stipulated in the Project Proposal - Each project will include an M&E plan with appropriate indicators. Indicators will be based on the SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-bound) principle and will –

- measure/assess the expected results of project activities and objectives,
- be based on data that can be collected by the NGO/CBO and project participants. The method of information collection and by whom, will also be stated.

(iii) Special Measures - An agreement with academic/research institutions or specialized NGOs with expertise in GEF thematic areas could be eventually made to improve monitoring and is expected to support documenting lessons learnt. This is a mutually beneficial arrangement where students/researchers/interns are placed in project locations to gain hands on experience of community level work and provide reports to SGP on progress of project work.

(iv) Evaluation of projects - is undertaken at two levels

a) Depending on budget availability, project assessment or progress review workshops organized at the mid and at end of project implementation with the participation of NGO/CBO representatives, NSC members and SGP staff members. This responsibility can be assigned to an

independent group or consultants and at the end of each workshop a report will be prepared and presented to the NSC at a meeting.

- b) At the conclusion of project activities a participatory evaluation workshop will be held.
- c) Project Closure and Beyond

Final Report - If considered necessary a final visit to the project will be made after the receipt of the final report by the NSC/NC to verify whether the work has been successfully executed. After approving the reports, the conclusion of the project will be recorded in the SGP database. A final evaluation report will be made by the NC after receiving all necessary reports.

5.2 Methodologies adopted for stakeholder participation in setting project objectives and outputs and in monitoring, the periodicity, progress documentation and reporting

Within the limitations of GEF-5 strategies and priorities and SGP operational guidelines, all potential grantees will be provided with information and guidance on setting project objectives and outputs relevant to their actual context and priorities. They would be required to undertake consultations with stakeholders and the community at large in formulating their proposals and throughout project implementation. The proposal should outline a monitoring and evaluation methodology, responsible party and schedule – depending on the nature and duration of the project. In effect, monitoring and progress will be measured against the indicator(s) identified for each output.

Table 4. M&E Plan at the Project Level

| SGP Individual Project Level | | |
|--|---------------------|--|
| M&E Activity | Responsible Parties | Timeframe |
| Participatory Project Monitoring | Grantees | Duration of project |
| Baseline Data Collection ³ | Grantees, NC | At project concept planning and proposal stage |
| Two or Three Project Progress and Financial Reports (<i>depending on agreed disbursement schedule</i>) | Grantees, NC, PA | At each disbursement request |
| Project Workplans | Grantees, NC, PA | Duration of project |
| NC Project Proposal Site Visit (<i>as necessary / cost effective</i> ⁴) | NC | Before project approval, as appropriate |
| NC Project Monitoring Site Visit (<i>as necessary / cost effective</i>) | NC | On average once per year, as appropriate |
| NC Project Evaluation Site Visit (<i>as necessary / cost effective</i>) | NC | At end of project, as appropriate |

³ Capacity-development workshops and M&E trainings may be organized in relation to innovative techniques for community monitoring, including new technologies (i.e. GPS-enabled cameras, aerial photos, participatory GIS, etc.); as well as in response to guidelines for “climate proofing” of GEF focal area interventions; REDD+ standards; and/or other specific donor/co-financing requirements.

⁴ To ensure cost-effectiveness, project level M&E activities, including project site visits, will be conducted on a discretionary basis, based on internally assessed criteria including (but not limited to) project size and complexity, potential and realized risks, and security parameters.

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| Project Final Report | Grantees | Following completion of project activities |
| Project Evaluation Report (as necessary / cost effective) | NC, NSC, External party | Following completion of project activities |
| Prepare project description to be incorporated into global project database | PA, NC | At start of project, and ongoing as appropriate |

5.3 Please describe the strategy for how the results of SGP individual projects will be aggregated at the country programme portfolio level. Please describe the target indicators for focal area and multi-focal area outcomes.

The M & E framework and outputs will provide data on the achievement of results and benchmarks identified at individual project level. These would then be aggregated at the Country Programme portfolio level and weighed against the target indicators at Country Programme level per focal area. Target indicators for GEF SGP for OP5 are presented below:

Table 5. M&E Plan at the Programme Level

| SGP Country Programme Level | | |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| M&E Activity | Responsible Parties | Timeframe |
| Country Programme Strategy Review | NSC, NC, CPMT | Start of OP5 |
| Strategic Country Portfolio Review | NSC, NC | Once during OP5 |
| NSC Meetings | NSC, NC, UNDP CO | Minimum twice per year |
| Performance and Results Assessment (PRA) of NC Performance | NC, NSC, UNDP CO, CPMT, UNOPS | Once per year |
| Country Programme Review resulting in Annual Country Report ⁵ | NC presenting to NSC and CPMT | Once per year |
| Financial 4-in-1 Report | NC/PA, UNOPS | Quarterly |

6 Knowledge Management Plan

6.1. Please describe your plans for capturing, sharing, and disseminating the lessons learned and good practices identified through the country portfolio of SGP projects with civil society, government, and other relevant stakeholders

A knowledge management strategy is important as a vehicle through which SGP (local and global) connects/interacts with its outside partners. These include: donors (global & local); Governments, CSOs, private sector, media and the general public. Such a strategy will show the outside world, what SGP is doing and how it is doing and motivate and mobilize people and their time, financial and other resources and personal/group investment to the causes SGP cares about.

⁵ The annual Country Programme Review exercise should be carried out in consultation with the national Rio Convention focal points and the associated reporting requirements.

Key tools for knowledge management that would be used include:

Posters/brochures/videos
Publications/Documentations
Case Studies
High profile site visits
Press releases and journal articles
Media site visits
Media interviews
Database
Presentations at national and international for a
Community workshops

In addition, experience sharing workshops and visits among grantees as well as with other stakeholders and beneficiaries will be utilized. Eventually, regional and global networking and sharing e.g. in issues like organic certification, fair trade, marketing, etc will allow to disseminate information on the SGP widely. Maldives SGP will also be highlighted at international events and gatherings as contributing to global environmental sustainability.

To complement these tools, an SGP Grantee network would be created as a primary mechanism for knowledge exchange between projects.

6.2 Please describe how the SGP country programme will use this knowledge to inform and influence policy at the local, regional and national levels (i.e. identify key policy processes and relevant networks).

The knowledge and information generated from SGP projects will be shared as widely as possible, while at the same time packaged and channeled towards specific fora, platforms and focal points depending on the policy area to be targeted as and when the need arise. This could be done by the NC, NSC, grantees or UNDP in various ways. For instance, presentations, information briefs, facilitated workshops and consultations and input to policy papers. In OP5 closer collaboration will be sought with the Rio Conventions' focal points and thus have better access to inform and engage in relevant policy processes and networks.

6.3 Please describe how the SGP country programme will use this knowledge to replicate and up-scale good practices and lessons learned from SGP projects.

When SGP Maldives is able to demonstrate successful projects and accomplished a considerable knowledge base, it will encourage replicating and up-scaling of good practices and lessons learned as much as possible. This will be based on an analysis of 'demand and supply' for the practices or lessons in question. Demand driven processes are those where the project addresses the key needs identified by local or regional stakeholders. Supply driven processes will require identifying stakeholders that may benefit from a specific practice or lesson. It will also be necessary to develop a replication and up-scaling plan which would identify a strategy involving the lessons/practices, tools to replicate, desired impact and intended audience and scope. A number of ways may be then employed to replicate and upscale:

- Provision of 'selective' grants in subsequent phases
- Grantees raising co-financing from other sources.

- Partnerships with other UN agencies, donors, programmes, private sector and philanthropic sources.
- Mainstreaming into the government's existing (and new) sectoral and cross-sectoral developmental plans and programmes.
- Technical exchange of project staff, i.e using project trained individuals or organizations elsewhere in the country.
- Up-scaling best practice and demonstration project outcomes to impact policy and legislation.

7 Resource Mobilization Plan

7.1. Please describe the resource mobilization plan to enhance the sustainability of the SGP country programme with reference to: (i) the diversification of funding sources to achieve greater impact (i.e. non-GEF resources that help address sustainable development concerns); and (ii) the cost recovery policy to co-finance a share of the SGP country programme management costs.

At project level, a large part of the co-financing obtained is in-kind, given the limited financial resources of the grantees themselves, communities and the small pool of philanthropic and other donors in the country. Furthermore, there is a generally low level of resource mobilization experience and awareness at the grantee level. Obtaining co-financing at the country programme level is also challenging. Reasons include competition among stakeholders (government, UN agencies, private sector, civil society) for existing resources, no proven track record yet for GEF SGP, diminishing donor funds following graduation of Maldives from LDC status and current global financial crisis.

Sustainability of SGP will be facilitated through co-financing in financial and other in-kind resources.

(i) The NC and NSC will actively seek additional funding from non-GEF sources including other UN agencies, in particular UNDP CO, private sector, national and international donors and funding schemes.

At project level, grantees are obliged to integrate sustainability measures, though co-financing in-kind and in cash.

(ii) With the new cost recovery guidelines in place, every effort will be made to channel funds into SGP Maldives management costs. The UNDP CO being very prominent as a development partner in the country and once SGP Maldives establishes itself as an effective delivery mechanism, obtaining co-financing via cost recovery will be greatly facilitated.

7.2. Please outline possibilities to develop strategic partnerships (identifying their objectives and possible synergies with SGP) with the following potential partners: (i) national government agencies; (ii) multilateral agencies or financial institutions (such as the World Bank, regional development banks, and/or other international organizations); (iii) bilateral agencies; (iv) non-governmental organizations and foundations; and (v) private sector.

Strategic partnerships will be sought with national government agencies, multilateral and bilateral agencies, financial institutions, NGOs and foundations and private sector.

Among national government agencies, those whose mandates and objectives are relevant to the 5 thematic areas of GEF will be targeted. These include: Ministry of Housing and Environment, Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Ministry of Transport and Communication and Ministry of Tourism. These Ministries will be useful in providing nationally and locally relevant information and providing technical assistance to the NSC and grantees. At the same time, the local governance authorities, atoll and islands councils would be important partners in implementing SGP.

In terms partnership with multilateral and international organizations, the UNDP Maldives country office is the most important. UNDP Maldives already hosts the GEF SGP Maldives, and considers SGP as an integral part of its environment portfolio. It can assist in mobilizing co-financing both in-kind and cash, raising the visibility of GEF and technical assistance. At the same time, GEF SGP provides an avenue for UNDP for engaging civil society in development and environmental management, employing a proven delivery mechanism, thus forging a mutually beneficial partnership. Similar mutually beneficial cooperation will be sought with agencies such as Danish, Japanese, Swedish, Australian and United States aid and international cooperation entities.

NGOs comprise the main entities in implementing SGP in the country. NGOs provide significant resources in in-kind co-financing of SGP projects, thus contributing to local and GEF global objectives. In OP5, NGOs will be further encouraged to raise cash co-financing. Some of the more established NGOs can provide technical assistance in GEF thematic areas to grantees.

In the Maldives, until recently private sector participation in development and environmental management has been rather limited. However, the new government has put emphasis on promoting public-private partnerships for development, and so has UNDP. A number of initiatives have been launched and SGP can benefit from such cooperation