



# OPERATIONAL PHASE 8 (OP8)

June 2024 to July 2028

## SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY (CSP) CABO VERDE





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**OP8 Financial Resources - SGP Country Programme (estimated US\$)<sup>1</sup>**

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Total SGP Grants to date since Country Programme start date (year) | <b>USD 5,015.325</b>   |
| OP8 GEF Core Funds   | <b>USD 500,000 TBC</b> |
| OP8 GEF STAR Funds   | <b>USD 950,000</b>     |
| Other funds (secured)  | <b>USD 0,00</b>        |
| Other funds (expected/to be mobilized)                             | <b>USD 50,000</b>      |

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Eighth Operational Phase of the Small Grants Programme (SGP OP8) builds on 30 years of successful experience in empowering local civil society organizations (CSOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) in designing and leading community driven initiatives that have enhanced household wellbeing, increased awareness and resilience regarding environmental threats, and generated global environmental benefits. With economic development pressures intensifying in many parts of the developing world and the associated rising inequalities, local communities, particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged groups are becoming more and more marginalized, unable to cope with threats associated with ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change. Lessons learned and experience gained in previous SGP Operational Phases have demonstrated that integrated, landscape-seascape approaches are effective in mobilizing multiple stakeholder collaboration, linking local CSOs/CBOs with enabling partners and achieving mutually supportive livelihood and environmental outcomes at scale.

The objectives of the SGP OP8 is to engage local CSOs/CBOs in landscape-seascape approaches across the world, providing them access to knowledge and information, capacitating them through learning-by-doing, skills development, and delivering technical and grant assistance for interventions that enhance wellbeing and socioeconomic conditions and generate global environmental benefits.

The OP8 objectives reflect the key features of GEF Small Grants Programme 2.0, including new approaches to support youth, women and Indigenous Peoples, linking up with complementary mechanisms, such as the Microfinance Initiative and CSO Challenge Programme, cooperating with other GEF Agencies, and leveraging opportunities with GEF strategies, including the delivery of the GEF-8 Integrated Programmes. In addition, OP8 will facilitate opportunities for innovation and scaling up, catalyze multi-stakeholder alliances to test new approaches through CSOs, and leverage its dialogue platforms towards greater impact. OP8 will also align and contribute to the UNDP Strategic Plan (2022-2025).

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<sup>1</sup> The level of SGP OP8 resources is an estimated total of: (a) the GEF8 core grant allocation; (b) approved STAR resources; as well as (c) other sources of cost sharing & co-financing (country, regional and/or global levels). SGP countries with remaining OP7 balances that have not been pipelined will be expected to use these balances in line with the OP8 strategic approach in order to be coherent in terms of SGP programming and results expected.



## 2. COUNTRY PROGRAMME SUMMARY: Key results and achievements

The Global Environment Facility Small Grant Programme (GEF SGP), implemented by UNDP, started more than 30 years ago, with significant contributions and responses to global environmental issues, mostly supporting community-based initiatives implemented by CSOs.

The global coverage of the programme is extensive and is currently operating in 127 countries, although it has previously had a wider reach in 136 countries. The SGP has supported more than 28,000 projects in local communities for an approximate amount of USD \$780 million. Introduced in Cabo Verde in 2009, the SGP has funded 177 projects to CSOs, benefited 31,372 people (15,429 women), an investment of USD \$5,015,325.

SGP's investments have materialized in all the islands of the archipelago, with emphasis on the island of Santiago with 32.81%, the island of Santo Antão with 28.38% and the island of Fogo with 10.84%. In terms of the number of projects per island, Santiago had the highest number of actions financed with 56 funded projects, followed by Santo Antão with 45 and the island of Fogo with 22 supported projects. Initiatives with national coverage were a total of 9, covering 5.11% of the total.

The SGP has maintained a balance in investments in the GEF focal areas and in line with national priorities and policies - Biodiversity Conservation with 29%, Land Degradation with 28% and Climate Change with 27%.

To date the SGP has invested USD \$1,786,612 in Cabo Verde's Protected Areas Network, which is equivalent to 36% of the total available budget. Over the last few years, and more precisely during OP7, and in response to the priorities of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, namely the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), the SGP has invested 60% of its resources in the archipelago's Protected Areas Network.

The GEF SGP was also able to promote dialogue and coordination with other donors, leading to the creation of the Network of Small International Donors operating in Cabo Verde. In line with GEF guidelines at a global level, the national programme has created conditions for greater attractiveness and ownership, resulting in its partners and beneficiaries of funded actions investing USD \$5,410,057, which is slightly more than the SGP has invested (USD \$5,015,325) since 2009. In total, investment by SGP and its partners has totaled USD \$10,425,382.

The work carried out by SGP grantees has been recognized beyond community borders. The *"Associação Comunitária Nova Experiência Marítima da Cruzinha da Garça"*, was honored for its civic and biodiversity conservation activities and awarded the Equator Initiative prize in 2010 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In 2021, the *"Associação Projeto Vitó"* received the country's medal of merit for its conservation activities, awarded by the President of the Republic of Cabo Verde, Jorge Carlos Fonseca. In 2023, the *"Associação das Mulheres do Planalto Leste de Santo Antão"* (AMUPAL) was honored for its environmental conservation and women's empowerment activities in the Cova/Paúl/Ribeira da Torre Natural Park.



### 3. COUNTRY PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

#### 3.1 Alignment with national priorities

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

| Conventions + national planning frameworks                                     | Date of ratification / completion   |
|--|---|
| GEF-8 National Dialogues   | Not conducted   |
| Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)   | March 29 <sup>th</sup> , 1995   |
| CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)                     | March 2015  |
| National Strategy for Protected Areas of Cabo Verde                            | March 2016  |
| Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)                            | Not yet submitted   |
| UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)                             | March 29 <sup>th</sup> , 1995   |
| UNFCCC National Communications   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Communication on November 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2000, 2 <sup>nd</sup> on October 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2011, 3 <sup>rd</sup> on October 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2018, and 4 <sup>th</sup> , drafted but not yet submitted |
| UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)                        | Not ratified  |
| Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the Paris Accord                | September 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2015   |
| First Biannual Update Report of Cabo Verde (BUR)                               | 2023  |
| UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)                                | May 8 <sup>th</sup> , 1995  |
| National Strategy for Food and Nutritional Security                            | 2020  |
| National Program for Agricultural Investment and Food and Nutritional Security | 2017  |
| UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)   | October 2014  |
| General Forestry Policy Regime   | May 2023  |
| Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)              | March 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2006  |
| National Adaptation Plan   | July 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2021  |
| Minamata Convention (MC) on Mercury  | --  |
| UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)                                   | October 2017  |
| United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea                                | 1994  |
| National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency (PNAEE)                             | 2015  |
| Voluntary national evaluations or reviews (VNRs) for the SDGs                  | Not conducted   |
| Second Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development (PEDS)                       | 2022  |
| GEF National Capacities Self-Assessment (NCSA)                                 | 2006/2007   |
| National Action Plan for Renewable Energy (2015-2020/2030)                     | April 2015  |
| Convention on the Protection of Wetlands (RAMSAR)                              | November 18 <sup>th</sup> 2005  |
| Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)                | August 10 <sup>th</sup> 2005  |
| National Energy Sector Master Plan 2017-2040                                   | 2017  |
| National Strategic Plan for Water and Sanitation (PLENAS)                      | February 2015   |



### 3.2 Gaps and opportunities

The GEF SGP will promote the implementation of actions that will respond to several gaps that currently exist in the country, such as those related to the promotion of co-management of natural resources in protected areas, the promotion of good practices that favor the conservation of biodiversity, and the limitations of an effective contribution of the country to the NDC. It will also be important to catalyze the SGP's effort with innovative opportunities or actions that involve and stimulate a circular model of use and reduction of waste or minimize waste with other partners, namely with the UNDP Accelerator Laboratory, NGOs, public institutions, GEF Full Size Projects and the Network of Small Donors Operating in Cabo Verde.

### 3.3 OP8 strategic priorities of the SGP Country Programme

Table 2. SGP Country Programme's alignment with SGP OP8 Strategic Initiatives and country priorities/projects/programmes

| SGP OP8 Strategic Initiatives - Global   | SGP Country Programme's OP8 Priorities   | SGP Country Programme's complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and programmes   |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b><i>Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species</i></b></p> | <p>Improve the effectiveness of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and management through equitable governance systems by recognizing and respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities</p> <p>Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy approaches (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.)</p> <p>Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species</p> | <p>II Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development (2022-2026)</p> <p>CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan</p> <p>Project Strengthening the National Biodiversity Governance System for Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources in Cabo Verde (2024-2029)</p> <p>National Species Plan (sea turtles, corals, seabirds, cetaceans)</p> <p>Project on managing multiple sectoral threats in marine ecosystems to achieve sustainable blue growth (2021-2026)</p> <p>National Strategy for Protected Areas of Cabo Verde</p> <p>Project Strengthening the National System of Protected Areas of Cabo Verde by promoting the sustainable use of biodiversity on the islands of Brava and Santo Antão</p> <p>Framework programme to support the development of biodiversity financing plans</p> <p>Unified Strategy Framework for the Promotion of the Blue Economy in Cabo Verde</p> |



| SGP OP8 Strategic Initiatives - Global  | SGP Country Programme's OP8 Priorities  | SGP Country Programme's complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and programmes   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b><i>Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security</i></b></p> | <p>Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems (mountains, island ecosystems, etc.).</p> <p>Increase diversification and livelihood improvement</p> <p>Remove deforestation from supply chain</p> <p>Promote the expansion of degraded land restoration</p> <p>Increase afforestation and reforestation and other actions that promote land degradation neutrality</p> | <p>II Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development (2022-2026)</p> <p>National Strategic Plan for Water and Sanitation</p> <p>UNCCD National Programme of Action</p> <p>National Strategy for Food and Nutrition Security</p> <p>National Program for Agricultural Investment and Food and Nutrition Security (PNIASAN)</p> <p>Towards land degradation neutrality for better equity, sustainability and resilience project</p> <p>National Adaptation Plan (NAP)</p> <p>Project to Support the Alignment of Cabo Verde's National Programme of Action with the UNCCD Ten-Year Strategy and Preparation of the Reporting and Review Process</p> <p>Unified Strategy Framework for the Promotion of the Blue Economy in Cabo Verde</p> <p>National Sea Strategy, approved in 2024</p> <p>Blue Economy Policy Charter in Cabo Verde</p> <p>Project to manage multiple sectoral threats in marine ecosystems to achieve sustainable blue growth</p> <p>Accelerating Cabo Verde's Transition to the Blue and Green Economy Project</p> <p>Climate Change Adaptation of Cabo Verde's Agri-Food Systems Project to Improve Food Security and Livelihoods</p> <p>National Investment Plan for the Blue Economy (PNIEA)</p> <p>National Strategy for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty 2022-2026</p> |



| SGP OP8 Strategic Initiatives - Global   | SGP Country Programme's OP8 Priorities   | SGP Country Programme's complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and programmes   |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b><i>Low-carbon energy access co-benefits</i></b></p>                          | <p>Support the implementation of the Paris Agreement and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), in particular national mitigation contributions related to (1) reducing energy intensity and promoting energy efficiency, and (2) increasing renewable energy goals</p> <p>Promote renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods</p> <p>Promote actions to combat energy poverty aligned with the needs of off-grid energy services in rural and urban areas</p> <p>Contribute to the achievement of the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals, namely SDG 7 and SDG 13</p> | <p>II Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development (2022-2026)</p> <p>Long-Term Development Strategy with Low Greenhouse Gas Emissions for Cabo Verde</p> <p>Cabo Verde's Energy Policy</p> <p>National Action Plan for Renewable Energy (2015-2020/2030)</p> <p>National Energy Sector Master Plan 2017-2040</p> <p>National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency</p> <p>Integrated adoption of electric mobility in the maritime sector through clean technological innovation project</p> <p>Cabo Verde: 2020 Update of the first Nationally Determined Contribution</p> <p>Climate Action Programme 2024</p> <p>National Strategy for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty 2022-2026</p> |
| <p><b><i>Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management</i></b></p> | <p>Promote plastics/solid waste management and circular economy</p> <p>Reduce/remove the use of chemicals in agriculture</p> <p>Strengthening the capacities of proposing partners in materials for biodigester construction and biogas production</p>   | <p>II Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development (2022-2026)</p> <p>National Strategic Plan for Waste Management (PENGeR)</p> <p>Legal regime for the commercialization, import, distribution and production of single-use plastic</p> <p>National Strategy for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty 2022-2026</p>  |
| <p><b><i>Enhancing social inclusion</i></b></p>                                    | <p>Promote inclusive targeted initiatives</p> <p>Mainstream social inclusion in all projects (e.g. women/girls, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities)</p>  | <p>II Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development (2022-2026)</p> <p>Strategic Plan for the Rights of People with Disabilities</p> <p>National Plan for Gender Equality (PNIG 2021-2025)</p>   |



| SGP OP8 Strategic Initiatives - Global                           | SGP Country Programme’s OP8 Priorities  | SGP Country Programme’s complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and programmes  |
|--|---|--|
|  | Promote access to microcredit   | National Strategy for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty 2022-2026<br><br>National Strategy for Risk and Disaster Reduction (climate change-natural disasters) |
| <b>Knowledge Management (KM)</b>                                 | Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities<br><br>Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs   | II Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development (2022-2026)  |
| <b>Results Management, Monitoring &amp; Evaluation (M&amp;E)</b> | Administer new M&E strategy in Country Programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms<br><br>Strengthening the capacities of grantee organizations in Results-Based Management | II Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development (2022-2026)  |

## 4. OP8 PRIORITY LANDSCAPES/SEASCAPES & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

### 4.1 Grantmaking within the priority landscape/seascapes

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

Consultations carried out in the process of preparing the strategy for OP6 and OP7 indicated a broad framework of project typologies per island. In this current phase, OP8, and in close consultation with the SGP partners, the NSC and the Programme Coordination team, the landscapes will be the same as in the previous phases (OP6 and OP7) in order to continue the work developed so far, increase the impact of the actions and also take advantage of emerging opportunities and synergies from other partners on the ground.

With regard to typologies, some of the previous phases will be maintained, but others, which will better respond to the new challenges of OP8, will be added. As in OP7, it was agreed that 70% of the GEF SGP financial resources for OP8 will be invested in priority landscapes and 30% allocated outside of these priority landscapes. The NSC and the National Coordination (NC) of the SGP should create conditions of analysis and appropriate mechanisms to enable the balance of investments inside and outside the priority landscapes.

While priority actions were raised and discussed as part of the mapping exercise, the discussion was resumed as part of the landscape resilience assessment exercise. This exercise was carried out in all identified priority areas. Effective participation in the exercise allowed participants to identify and assess the current conditions, as well as to agree on priority actions, thus contributing to the strengthening and empowerment of communication between the parties involved.

**b) Selected landscapes/seascapes for OP8**

Table 3. Size of priority landscapes identified on different islands of the Cabo Verde Archipelago for project financing in OP8 of GEF SGP.

| Ilha        | Categoria | Quantidade de paisagens | Dimensão (ha)   |
|-------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Santo Antão | Terrestre | 1                       | 29,974          |
| São Nicolau | Terrestre | 1                       | 6,220           |
| Santiago    | Terrestre | 2                       | 5,365<br>16,103 |
| Boavista    | Marítima  | 1                       | 70.470          |
| Maio        | Marítima  | 1                       | 48.663          |

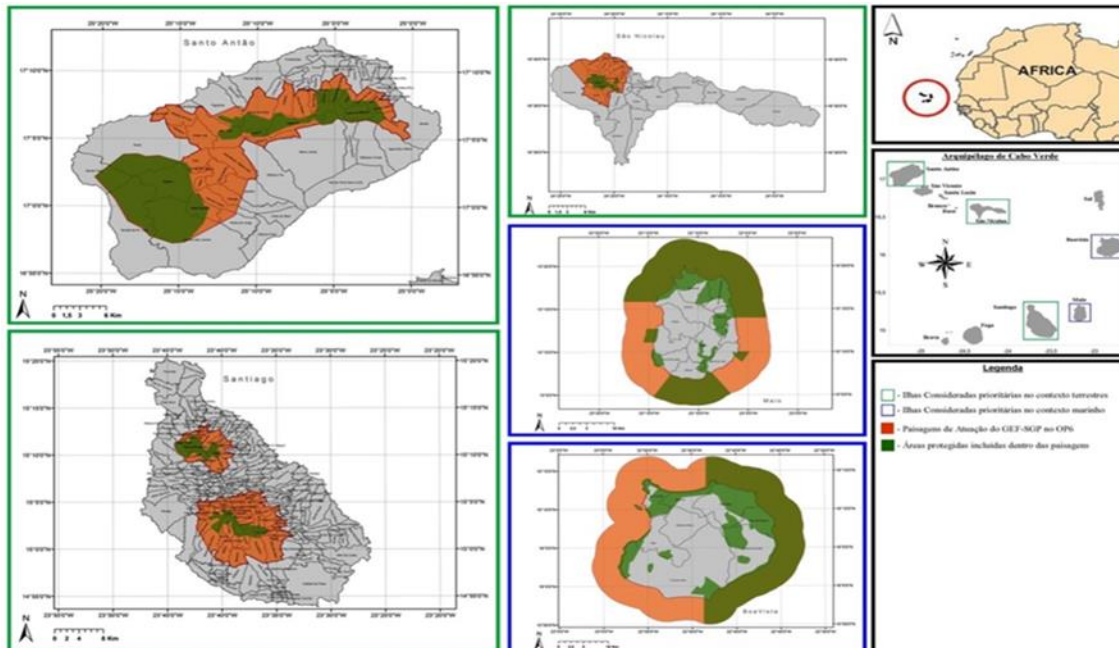


Figure 1: Priority landscapes identified on different islands of the Cabo Verde Archipelago. It should be noted that all priority areas (orange color) include at least one protected area (green color).



c) OP8 Strategic Initiatives in the landscapes/seascapes

**Priority Terrestrial Landscape of Santo Antão Island**

- Community management of ecosystems and endangered species, with a focus on practices and approaches favorable to the conservation of biodiversity (agriculture, forestry) and protection of endemic and endangered species.
- Sustainable agriculture, and food security, with the promotion of initiatives that increase efficiency and effectiveness in food production and value chain, in addition to promoting the restoration of degraded lands.
- Access to low-carbon and energy co-benefits, with the promotion of renewable technologies and energy efficiency that deliver socio-economic benefits and improve livelihoods.
- Local and global coalitions/partnerships for management of chemicals and waste.

**Priority Terrestrial Landscape of São Nicolau Island**

- Community management of ecosystems and endangered species, with a focus on practices and approaches favorable to the conservation of biodiversity (agriculture, forestry) and protection of endemic and endangered species.
- Sustainable agriculture, and food security, with the promotion of initiatives that increase efficiency and effectiveness in food production and value chain, in addition to promoting the restoration of degraded lands.
- Access to low-carbon and energy co-benefits, with the promotion of renewable technologies and energy efficiency that deliver socio-economic benefits and improve livelihoods.

**Priority Terrestrial Landscapes of Santiago Island**

- Community management of ecosystems and endangered species, with a focus on practices and approaches favorable to the conservation of biodiversity (agriculture, forestry) and protection of endemic and endangered species.
- Sustainable agriculture, and food security, with the promotion of initiatives that increase efficiency and effectiveness in food production and value chain, in addition to promoting the restoration of degraded lands.
- Access to low-carbon and energy co-benefits, with the promotion of renewable technologies and energy efficiency that deliver socio-economic benefits and improve livelihoods.
- Local and global coalitions/partners for management of chemicals and waste.



### **Priority Maritime Landscape of Maio Island**

- Community management of ecosystems and endangered species, with an impact on practices and approaches favorable to the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity (fishing and tourism) and protection of endangered species.
- Sustainable fisheries and food security, with the promotion of initiatives that increase efficiency and effectiveness in food production and value chain.
- Local and global coalitions/partners for management of chemicals and waste.

### **Priority Maritime Landscape of Boavista Island**

- Community management of ecosystems and endangered species, with an impact on practices and approaches favorable to the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity (fishing and tourism) and protection of endangered species.
- Sustainable fisheries and food security, with the promotion of initiatives that increase efficiency and effectiveness in food production and value chain.
- Local and global coalitions/partners for management of chemicals and waste.

#### **d) Grant making outside the priority landscapes/seascapes**

For OP8, some islands of the archipelago will continue to be considered as non-priority, namely: São Vicente, Santa Luzia, Sal, Fogo and Brava. These islands were also the subject of an analysis of possible actions, with the purpose of identifying ideas and typologies of appropriate and priority projects for these islands.

GEF SGP will make 30% of the resources available to initiatives located outside the priority landscapes during OP8. These resources will be strategically invested in initiatives that can enhance the support, replication or scale-up of projects in priority landscapes, both by the SGP and other partners. Even within islands with priority landscapes and if necessary, the GEF SGP may choose and, if necessary, support initiatives outside the domain (terrestrial/maritime) of the landscape in question.

Investment outside the landscapes should always consider integrating components that empower partners, namely in management, monitoring and evaluation by results, in addition to actively promoting the integration and strengthening of social inclusion in projects.



#### 4.2 CSO-government-private sector dialogue platforms

The GEF SGP has always been a promoter of dialogue between partners at both national and local levels. The program will continue to promote meetings for the exchange of experiences between grantee partners, aiming to replace the formality of the meetings, without neglecting the dialogue that should always take place with the decentralized services of the State. It will also increase the dynamics of dialogue with existing platforms, namely with the TAOLA+ Network and the National Council for the Environment and Climate Action, creating favorable conditions for engagement in initiatives of mutual interest.

In 2022, the GEF SGP funded the project «*Dialogue on Public Policies for an Integrative and Innovative Marine and Coastal Environment Management in Cabo Verde*» which aimed to create synergies between government institutions and CSOs, which could positively influence the elaboration of integrated strategies and marine and coastal conservation and management plans that would result, ultimately, in a better governance of these resources at national level. In this sense, GEF SGP will contribute and encourage partners to implement the ACTION PLAN for a more Integrative and Innovative Management of the Marine, Coastal and Terrestrial Environment in Cabo Verde in close collaboration with the Network of Environmental NGOs of Cabo Verde, TAOLA +.

The implementation of the joint Action Plan will collaborate and stimulate innovative joint work between CSOs, between them and public institutions, and between public institutions themselves, aiming at a more integrative and innovative marine, coastal and terrestrial management in Cabo Verde.

Also, with the aim of strengthening dialogue, the coordination of the SGP, in partnership with the NSC and the UNDP, will promote meetings with the Network of International Donors operating in Cabo Verde, including government programs and potential partners, improve the articulation of ideas, priorities and, of course, reduce the duplication of efforts.

#### 4.3 Promoting social Inclusion, including gender equality and women's empowerment

Capacity building actions in the areas of empowerment and gender equality will be promoted both through the grants awarded, as well as during the orientation sessions held annually with new grantee partners in collaboration with NSC and the International Donor Network operating in Cabo Verde.

The initiatives potentially funded by the program should include in their projects, actions that respond to the integration and inclusion of People with Disabilities (PwD) and young people. The programme will also promote, in line with the OP8 guidelines, equitable access to grants, and prioritize projects led by youth and young women.

In the landscapes outlined, the SGP will also promote training of platforms or networks to support projects' implementation and monitoring, as well as promote initiatives, which tend to respond both to the specific goals outlined and to the issues of social inclusion and gender.



The GEF SGP will promote and create opportunities in line with the National Strategy for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty 2022-2026, mainly for women and people with disabilities, in the fight against energy poverty and in the creation of avenues for microcredit access, namely the creation of solidarity savings groups.

The initiative to create solidarity savings groups will be articulated and coordinated with CSOs with experience in the field, as well as other United Nations agencies, namely the FAO. Access to credit could be an innovative approach to dealing with issues of sustainable use of natural resources, namely energy for the primary sector, sustainable fisheries and agriculture, and also in the creation of opportunities to increase household income.

#### **4.4 Knowledge Management**

The GEF SGP knowledge management program aims to promote, compile, systematize, share, and of course, strengthen knowledge, specifically, best practices and lessons learned with all program partners, both nationally and internationally.

In terms of knowledge sharing, the SGP will promote actions in the sense that all funded initiatives promote an informational "memory retention" of the proposing organizations themselves, as well as the GEF SGP. It will also promote the production of materials that can effectively be shared and thus promote lessons learned.

The dissemination and information actions will accompany the entire implementation process of the funded projects and may be publications such as «Photo stories» and project impact articles, which will have the potential to spread the message and thus obtain a wide reach. Annual meetings for the exchange of experiences will continue to be promoted within the scope of the projects, where information and good practices will be shared with all beneficiaries.

The SGP will invest in and emphasize, rigorously, approaches to intensify information about the program on social media networks (namely on Facebook, Youtube, Instagram), which will allow the program to increase the scope and management of knowledge, and to give credibility to good practices of projects and products resulting from investments in landscapes.



## 5. COMMUNICATION PLAN

The communication and dissemination strategy of the GEF SGP in Cabo Verde aims to promote a better understanding of issues related to local environmental vulnerabilities and their impacts at a global level. It also aims to catalyze knowledge of the SDGs and their alignments and contributions with national environmental policies and priorities.

The strategic communication process of the GEF SGP in Cabo Verde comprises 4 distinct items and will be implemented in an interactive way, namely: (1) to promote the increase of the exposure of the SGP throughout the archipelago; (2) promote and share lessons learned from projects in the local and global SGP network; (3) to increase the information process and access to the award of grants; and (4) to create conditions for decision-makers and special institutional partners to better understand the SGP.

The process of dynamic and broad dissemination of information will culminate in the creation and empowerment of the platforms or support networks in the landscapes on the various aspects of the SGP, including implementation approaches, good project governance and monitoring and evaluation.

The dissemination of the program will also be reinforced in the media through communication materials. The sharing of information will use diversified communication channels, which will allow for adequate publicity of the strategy. Information and communication technologies (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) will be used for their potential to exchange information in a fast, effective and updatable way ensuring proximity and universality of access.

## 6. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND PARTNERSHIP PLAN

### a) Secured and planned cash and in-kind co-financing

The mobilization of resources should go through several levels, namely the level of co-financing from proposing partners, contributions from the government, contributions from international organizations and cooperation with offices in Cabo Verde (embassies, cooperations, NGOs) and the private sector. The resource mobilization can be clustered into 2 levels:

- *Level of projects to be funded:* each project grantee partner is expected to contribute at the 1-to-1 level and/or to create synergies with other initiatives of mutual interest.
- *Level of national program partners:* The program will strive and create synergies with the private sector, Environment and Tourism Funds in Cabo Verde, Small Donor Network Operating in Cabo Verde, GEF Full Size Projects (FSP), municipalities, international NGOs, International Cooperations, guided by the outlined in the Country Program Strategy, enabling better management of the funds made available.



## b) Co-financing opportunities

The GEF SGP, in partnership with the NSC and the UNDP, will promote regular meetings and articulation with the Network of International Donors Operating in Cabo Verde, with the GEF Operational and Political Focal Points, private sector partners, with the aim of maximizing synergies and impact of the actions and, of course, reducing the duplication of efforts. Specifically, the SGP will develop the following actions:

1. Consolidation of management activities and coordination of possible grants (*Delivery Mechanism*) with all GEF projects being implemented at national level, namely with the projects: “Strengthening the National Biodiversity Governance System for Sustainable Management of living natural resources in Cabo Verde”, “Management of multiple sectoral threats in marine ecosystems to achieve sustainable blue growth”, “Strengthening the National System of Protected Areas of Cabo Verde through the promotion of the sustainable use of biodiversity on the islands of Brava and Santo Antão”, and “Towards neutrality of land degradation for better equity, sustainability and resilience”.
2. Articulation and development of approaches that can operationalize both the goals proposed in the SGP Program Strategy and those of partners, namely those from the private sector and the Network of International Donors Operating in Cabo Verde. The SGP should also effectively collaborate with the Maio 2025 Program (for initiatives on the island of Maio), the Eco Raízes Project (for initiatives on the islands of Santo Antão and São Nicolau) and the Terra Azul Project.
3. Socialization of the Country Program Strategy for OP8 with strategic partners such as the PRCM, Fauna & Flora and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), Bird Life International, EU, Environment Fund and Tourism Fund, to have an alignment between the programs with the aim of reducing operational costs and maximizing the impact of the projects.



## 7. PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Strategic partnerships are key to maximizing the impact of projects. They make it possible to combine the resources, knowledge and skills of different organizations, creating synergies that increase the results of initiatives. For this reason, the SGP National Coordination and the NSC will support proposing partners to maximize opportunities to access funds from other donors.

The national programme will continue to explore and materialize joint actions with United Nations agencies, namely FAO, UNDP and UNIDO in initiatives concerning sustainable agriculture and fisheries, management and governance of protected areas, and renewable energies and energy efficiency.

It will also promote the replication and/or scalability of actions that have successfully materialized in the recent past with the Accelerator Lab and the UNDP's Employment, Population, Youth Employment and Inclusive Growth Portfolio (i.e. Youth Challenge for SDGs).

The GEF SGP will identify opportunities with the Environment and Tourism Funds, as well as other Cabo Verdean private sector funds that can effectively support CSOs in responding to environmental and local community development challenges.

The SGP will organize information roundtables on accessing funds from other donors, mainly those from the International Donors Network, cooperations and embassies resident in the country. In addition, the national programme will continue to publicize calls for project proposals from other partners in its networks, as well as supporting potential proposing partners in accessing these resources.

Training actions will be developed in partnership with the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) with regard to the strengthening of CSO capacities in Organizational Development and with UNDP in the field of Results-Based Management and basic notions of the Theory of Change approach.

The SGP will create effective conditions for dialogue and formalization of actions with NGOs operating in the microcredit sector aiming to facilitate access to both information and resources by local communities and CSOs included in the program.



## 8. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Table 3. Description of risks identified in OP8

| Describe identified risk   | Degree of risk (low, medium, high) | Probability of risk (low, medium, high) | Risk mitigation measure foreseen   |
|--|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Grantee partners with limited organizational capacities  | high                               | medium                                  | Strong investment in guidance to potential grantees and training during the execution of SGP projects. Reinforcement by the SGP and its partners in the CSO Internal Organizational Development sector |
| Extreme weather events   | high                               | high                                    | Proper analysis of the execution schedules of funded projects  |
| Distancing or locating projects in hard-to-reach areas   | high                               | medium                                  | GEF SGP will be able to count on local partners, such as municipalities and multifaceted volunteers to assist in the projects  |
| Clarity of requirements for access SGP funds and suitability of requirements to grantee needs            | medium                             | medium                                  | Training actions   |
| Misuse of funds  | medium                             | low                                     | Strong investment in guidelines for potential grantees and close follow-up to new proponents. Use the references requested within the scope of the projects  |
| Corruption around the execution of projects  | low                                | low                                     | Create local conditions with training in project management; Financial Reporting Analysis  |
| Overloading of grant partners  | medium                             | medium                                  | Strengthen the GEF SGP team and/or request support from the NSC, to respond to demands.  |
| Deficit in the reporting capabilities of the grantee partners  | high                               | medium                                  | Strong investment in guidance to proposers and close follow-up to new proponents. Reporting and management training sessions in Results-Based Management.  |
| Limitations in the knowledge and effective implementation of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards | medium                             | medium                                  | Training actions for better understanding and implementation of the standards for SGP proponents.  |



## 9. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

### 9.1 Monitoring approaches at project and country levels

The process of monitoring and evaluating the funded projects and the national portfolio in general has been a continuous practice that precedes OP8, following the guidelines of the global program. The monitoring and evaluation of funded projects and the national portfolio will have at their disposal different tools for data compilation, analysis and reporting.

At the program level, the SGP will have at its disposal the GEF SGP Global database where information regarding the portfolio and data of singular projects will be compiled and stored for later analysis and reporting. The program will also use another local database in Excel format where financial, programmatic data, including mandatory global indicators of the SGP will be stored, as stipulated in the GEF SGP monitoring and evaluation directives and aligned with OP8. It is important to mention that the SGP should annually, or whenever possible, reassess its framework of indicators, to be consistent with possible updates of relevant environmental plans and programs.

The SGP will continue to make use of other tools such as the Annual Work Plan and Annual Budget, as well as the 5-1 report to ensure greater transparency, effectiveness and assurance of the quality and reliability of information. These tools will be supported by Resource Planning and Management Systems, namely OneUNOPS and/or Quantum, the latter used by UNDP.

The national programme will make use of the Annual Programme Review, a national programme monitoring and review mechanism. This reflects the SGP's commitment to transparency, performance and impact of actions, and which will allow the program to regularly review the stipulations of the CPS. It is recommended that this be carried out annually between May and June, before the annual monitoring report is drawn up. The GEF SGP may carry out an impact assessment of the results at the end of OP8 in line with the proposed targets and objectives proposed in the CPS.

All projects funded or under implementation responsibility of SGP will be monitored at least 2 times, depending on the need for greater approximation and support for the proposing partner. Virtual follow-ups will continue in OP8, as they have been proven to be efficient ways for the SGP to maintain an active line of communication and support to the grantees.

As demonstrated in previous phases, the monitoring of cluster projects on a given priority island or landscape has been shown to be effective and efficient. The support of the Delegations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, the TAOLA+ Conservation NGO Network, the members of the NSC, and also the creation of a Voluntary Support Group for follow-up will be operationalized during OP8.

Ensuring the quality of the data from the reports of the funded projects is essential to the credibility of the programme. In this sense, and soon after the approval of the proposals of the proposing partners, the NC will organize orientation sessions with the grantee partners.



The sessions will be divided into two components. One strictly linked to administrative and financial issues and responsibilities, and a second theme, new to OP8, will be training strictly linked to the theme of monitoring and evaluation and to the strengthening of the grantee partners capacities in this matter. Topics such as participatory monitoring, data collection, compilation and reporting, and ethical guidelines will be addressed. The development of the capacities of the proposing partners will also be enhanced with the holding of two training sessions in Results-Based Management and Theory of Change in partnership with UNDP.

Several tools will be used in the process of monitoring and evaluating funded projects, namely the follow-up form «SGP Check» which aims to collect technical, administrative and financial information from each follow-up carried out and where the grantee can also insert their comments on the recommendations issued by the monitoring team. The project monitoring report will also be used, which will be updated during OP8 to respond to the new annual reporting guidelines of the program.

In the completion phase of each funded project all partners must carry out a Participatory Evaluation of their projects and the results presented during an annual meeting of Exchange of Experiences of SGP grantee partners. This analysis or review will have as its main objective to evaluate the gains, effectiveness, efficiency of the projects and the proposed impacts.

Table 4. M&E Plan at the Country Programme level

| M&E Activity  | Purpose   | Responsible Parties  | Budget Source  | Timing  |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| Country Programme Strategy elaboration  | Framework for action including identification of community projects   | NC, NSC, country stakeholders, grantees  | A SGP planning grant to engage consultants may be used to update OP8 CPS | At start of OP8   |
| As part of NSC meetings, ongoing review of project results and analysis. This includes an Annual CPS Review | Assess effectiveness of projects, country portfolio; learning; adaptive management  | NC, NSC, UNDP Country Office. Final deliberations shared/ analyzed with CPMT colleagues  | Staff time, Country Operating Budget                                     | At least one annual CPS review to ensure OP8 CPS is on track to achieve its results and make timely and evidence-based modifications to CPS as may be needed <sup>2</sup> |
| Annual Monitoring Report Survey <sup>3</sup>  | Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF. It serves as the primary tools to record and analytically present results to donors | NC/PA in close collaboration with NSC. CPMT provides technical guidance support and receives final country submission for further action | Staff time   | Once per year in June-July  |

<sup>2</sup> It is recommended that the Annual CPS review is done close to AMR submissions for both processes to benefit from each other (suggested timeframe is May- July). Note that OP8 CPS will be regarded as a dynamic document and can be updated by the SGP country team and NSC on a periodic basis to reflect any necessary adjustments to ensure maximum impact.

<sup>3</sup> Timely and quality country level submissions to Annual Monitoring Process are mandatory. As a Global Programme, it enables aggregated reporting by CPMT to GEF, UNDP and other stakeholders.



| <b>M&amp;E Activity</b>   | <b>Purpose</b>  | <b>Responsible Parties</b>  | <b>Budget Source</b>  | <b>Timing</b>   |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Country Portfolio Review  | Methodological results capture of the portfolio at a given point to note impact level change as well as broader adoption. The goal is to support reporting to stakeholders, learning, and support to strategic development/ implementation of CPS | NC, NSC   | SGP planning grant to engage consultants may be used to undertake previous operational cycles impact review and utilize lessons for both OP8 CPS development and its implementation<br><br>Global technical M&E support can be expected | Once per operational phase  |
| SGP Database              | Ensure recording of all Project and Country Programme inputs in SGP database  | NCs, PAs,   | Staff time  | Throughout the operational phase. Ensure quality assurance and completion of data prior to annual monitoring cycle (May-June of every year) |
| Audit                     | Ensure compliance with project implementation/management standards and norms  | External/independent auditors. NC/ PA to provide requisite support. | Global Operating Budget   | Annually for selected countries on risk-assessment basis  |
| Results impact assessment | It involves production of knowledge evidence-based results for the entire operational phase. Measuring the results, goals and objectives proposed in the CPS  | NC and NSC  | It could be a normal or planning grant depending on the availability of resources   | At the end of OP8   |



## 9.2 CPS Results Framework

Table 5 a: SGP OP8 Country Programme Strategy SDG and UNDP CCPD alignments

|  |
|--|
| <p><b>Alignment with SDGs</b></p> <p>Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere<br/>         Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls<br/>         Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all<br/>         Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all<br/>         Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns<br/>         Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts<br/>         Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development<br/>         Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</p> |
| <p><b>Synergy with UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD)</b></p> <p>Output 3.1 Government and local communities have strengthened capacity to implement inclusive, gender-responsive and resilient climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures<br/>         Output 3.2: Legislative, institutional and financial frameworks for the sustainable use of biodiversity strengthened through more effective and inclusive participation of stakeholders, especially at the local level</p>  |
| <p><b>OP8 SGP Programme Goal</b></p> <p>Engage local CSOs/CBOs in landscape-seascape approaches across the world, providing them access to knowledge and information, capacitating them through learning-by-doing, skills development, and delivering technical and grant assistance for interventions that enhance wellbeing and socioeconomic conditions and generate global environmental benefits</p>  |




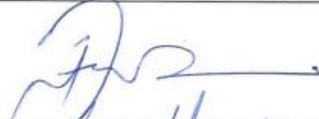
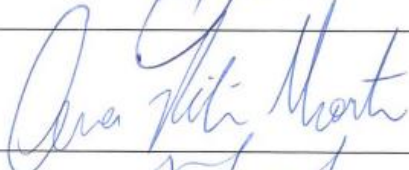
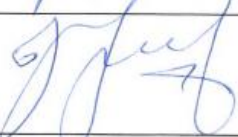




| 1<br>OP8 SGP CPS<br>Strategic Initiatives   | 2<br>OP8 CPS Targets  | 3<br>OP8 CPS indicators   | 4<br>Means of verification   |
|---|---|---|--|
| <p><u>Strategic Initiative 1:</u><br/>Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2027, at least one initiative that promotes the operationalization of co-management plans and agreements in protected areas will be supported</li> <li>By 2028, the conservation status of 6 endangered species and their habitats will be maintained or improved through investments in community conservation best practices</li> </ul>   | <p>25,000 hectares of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas)</p> <p>15,000 hectares of protected areas under improved management</p> <p>500 hectares of marine protected areas under improved management</p> <p>500 hectares of marine habitat under improved practices</p> <p>6 of threatened species and habitats targeted by conservation actions</p> | <p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports)</p> <p>Baseline assessment comparison variables (use of conceptual models and partner data as appropriate)</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</p> <p>Country Programme Review</p> |
| <p><u>Strategic Initiative 2:</u><br/>Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security</p>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2026, 2 opportunities that increase the value chain of fisheries, agriculture and livestock products will be promoted</li> <li>By 2027, 5 actions to combat desertification and restore degraded land and soils, which respond to "Land Degradation Neutrality" will be supported by the SGP</li> <li>By 2028, 5 community and climate resilience actions, linked to best practices in water use and climate-smart and innovative agriculture will be promoted</li> </ul> | <p>2 actions that promote the reuse of agricultural or fishery waste or by-products will be supported</p> <p>5 actions that will respond to climate resilience and climate-smart agriculture will be funded</p> <p>700 hectares of land and ecosystems are under restoration</p> <p>200 hectares of forest land under sustainable management</p>                                  | <p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports)</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</p> <p>Country Programme Review</p>  |
| <p><u>Strategic Initiative 3:</u><br/>Low-carbon energy access co-benefits</p>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2028, at least 2 energy access initiatives from renewable sources with co benefits are promoted</li> </ul>  | <p>KwP of renewable energy (solar) installed</p> <p>2 of locally adapted solutions promoting low-carbon technologies (such as new/modified biogas technology, locally developed energy-efficient stoves, innovative uses of solar/wind energy, etc.) funded</p>   | <p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports)</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>   |



| 1<br>OP8 SGP CPS<br>Strategic Initiatives   | 2<br>OP8 CPS Targets  | 3<br>OP8 CPS indicators   | 4<br>Means of verification  |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p><u>Strategic Initiative 4:</u><br/>Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2028, at least one initiative promoting appropriate waste management with an emphasis on plastics and/or microplastics will be promoted</li> </ul>  | <p>1 plastic management initiative supported aligned with the national policy supported</p>   | <p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports)</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), global database</p> <p>Country Programme Review</p> |
| <p><u>Strategic Initiative 5:</u><br/>Enhancing social inclusion</p>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2028, all SGP funded interventions should ensure the inclusion of vulnerable groups</li> <li>By 2028, the SGP will facilitate access to microcredit for at least 1 local communities that aim to implement actions aligned with priority initiative 2 (Sustainable agriculture and fisheries and food security) of the SGP</li> </ul> | <p># of people benefitting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex</p> <p>Total grant portfolio resources accessed by 1) women or women groups; 2) youth or youth-led groups</p> <p>1 of microcredit initiative approved to beneficiaries disaggregated by sex</p> | <p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</p> <p>Country Programme Review</p>   |
| <p><u>Strategic Initiative 6-7:</u><br/>Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management</p>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2027, at least one initiative focusing on Project Monitoring &amp; Evaluation (M&amp;E) will be supported</li> <li>By 2028, at least 10 initiatives funded by the SGP must guarantee the production and dissemination of a photo story or photo essay</li> </ul>  | <p>1 knowledge management product is disseminated per year which portrays lessons learned of grantee projects</p> <p>3 knowledge exchange/sharing events with participation of local communities and grantees realized</p>  | <p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</p> <p>Country Programme Review</p>   |



10. NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT

| NSC members involved in OP8 CPS development, review and endorsement | Signatures   |
|---|--|
| Maria Celeste Benchimol   |   |
| Dirce Varela  |  |
| Jansênio Delgado  |    |
| Ana Monteiro  |   |
| João Gomes Cardoso  |    |
| Edson Mendes  |    |
| Damaris Rosabal   | <p>Assinado por:<br/><br/>64C4E505AB15408...</p> |
| Marina Pereira Silva  |    |
| Larissa Varela  |    |