



OPERATIONAL PHASE 8 (OP8)
SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY (CPS)
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

Contents

1.	INTRODUCTION	2
2.	COUNTRY PROGRAMME SUMMARY: Key results and achievements (1 page)	3
3.	COUNTRY PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT (2 pages)	3
3.1	Alignment with national priorities	3
3.2	Gaps and opportunities	4
3.3	OP8 strategic priorities of the SGP Country Programme	5
4.	OP8 PRIORITY LANDSCAPES/SEASCAPES & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES (4 pages)	9
4.1	Grantmaking within the priority landscape/seascapes	9
4.2	CSO-government-private sector dialogue platforms	12
4.3	Promoting social Inclusion, including gender equality and women’s empowerment	12
4.4	Knowledge Management	13
5.	COMMUNICATION PLAN (1/2 page)	14
6.	RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND PARTNERSHIP PLAN (1 page)	14
7.	PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES (1/2 page)	15
8.	RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN (1/2 page)	15
9.	MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN (8 pages)	18
9.1	Monitoring approaches at project and country levels	18
9.2	CPS Results Framework	21
10.	NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT	25



OP8 Financial Resources - SGP Country Programme (estimated US\$)¹

Total SGP Grants to date since Country Programme start date 2009	USD 2,859,552
OP8 GEF Core Funds	USD 500,000
OP8 GEF STAR Funds	USD 916,759
Other funds (secured)	USD
Other funds (expected/to be mobilized)	USD

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 objective 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).

¹ 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 Bahamas Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) Country Programme was established in 2009. Since its inception, GEF SGP Bahamas has completed a total of 86 projects, dispersing US\$2,943,666 of grant funding and engaging with over 43 civil society organizations (CSOs). As seen in Table 1, there has been a strong thematic focus on climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation. A key lesson learnt during Operational Phase 7 (OP7) is the need for additional capacity development of CSOs including a mentorship programme in grant management and additional training on grant management, including monitoring and evaluation and reporting.

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	
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)	02 September 1993
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	30 June 1999
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	30 December 2020
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	29 March 1994
UNFCCC National Communications	01 April 2001/02 November 2015
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	Not available
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	Not available (National Policy for the Adaptation to Climate Change is dated March 2005)
Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the Paris Accord 01 November 2022 UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) 10 November 2000 UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP) April 2006 Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) 03 October 2005 SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	03 March 2021
Minamata Convention (MC) on Mercury	12 February 2020
UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Not Available
Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) for the UN SDGs	July 2021
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international waterbodies (IW)	Not Available



Disaster Reconstruction Authority Act	29 November 2019
Ministry of The Environment Act	19 December 2019
Environmental Protection (Control of Plastic Pollution) Act	01 January 2020
The Bahamas National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.	1 Jan 2020
Fisheries Act	31 December 2020
Forestry (Declaration of Protected Trees) Order	16 February 2021
Biologic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Act	8 March 2021
Climate Change and Carbon Market Initiatives Act	20 May 2022
Carbon Credits Trading Act	11 August 2022
Bahamas Updated NDC	7 November 2022
Disaster Risk Management Act	9 December 2022
Biennial Update Report 1	29 December 2022
National Investment Fund Act	30 December 2022
Fisheries Resources (Jurisdiction and Conservation) (Amendment) Regulations	1 July 2023
Environmental Planning and Protection Act (Amendment)	29 May 2024
Natural Gases Act	1 July 2024

3.2 Gaps and opportunities

Given the country's environmental priorities as represented in Table 1 above, further opportunities are available for the meaningful involvement of communities and CSOs in conservation of biological diversity and also climate change mitigation and adaptation throughout OP8. The focus on both conservation of biological diversity and climate change mitigation in OP7 including a number of renewable energy projects and projects addressing ecosystem restoration and increasing resilience of marine ecosystems provide a basis for the involvement of CSOs in meeting national goals. Further, The Bahamas became a signatory to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) in 2020, supported by GEF MSP initiated to create enabling conditions that facilitated accession to the Protocol which concluded during OP7. As The National Chemical Profile and Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plan are also in the relatively early stages of implementation, additional opportunities for CSOs and community involvement exist in the area of landscape/seascape conservation and local to global chemicals coalitions. Partnerships forged in climate change mitigation OP7 projects such as between CSOs, Ministry of the Environment and Department of Environment Planning and Protection (DEPP) allow for continued collaboration in OP8.

As a signatory to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and with a submitted INDC, communities and CSOs can be involved in the preparation and implementation of national plans to meet intended nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and greenhouse gas emission reductions. These initiatives provide an opportunity for CSOs and communities to be involved from the onset and provide feedback on the approach



that the nation should take in implementing these conventions, and opportunities for CSO involvement in other multilateral agreement negotiations should be encouraged.

Through direct support from SGP OP6 grant, the University of The Bahamas led development of a white paper proposal to government officials for a National Conservation Policy in SGP OP7. The proposal resulted from the University's strategic collaboration with public officers, academics, private sector professionals, and non-profit organisations. This collaboration provided meaningful and active engagement in national policy creation and in implementation of international conventions including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3.3 OP8 strategic priorities of the SGP Country Programme

Government Funded Projects and Programmes

The National Development Plan (NDP): one of its four pillars is conservation of the built and natural environment. This project will align well with all eight strategic initiatives of OP8 but particularly, in order of priority, Initiative 1: community landscape/seascape conservation, Initiative 2: local to global chemical management, and Initiative 4: low-carbon energy access co-benefits. As it is a national plan, it will also align with the entire country approach, chosen as the landscape/seascape approach.

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

UNDP CO/UN System Projects and Programmes

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

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

Major Donor Projects and Programmes

IDB/GoB support for the **Design, Preparation, and Execution of Climate Resilient and Inclusive Transport Programs in The Bahamas**. Relevant objectives include the support for the strengthening of climate resilient transportation projects, and institutional capacity building for climate resilient mobility. The project will complement the landscape/seascape conservation approach, chosen as the top priority of the strategic initiatives by stakeholders. It can further create synergies with the top priority of the strategic initiatives of



landscape/seascape conservation, as well as a model for CSO-government dialogue, social inclusion, capacity building and knowledge management. This project is currently ongoing.

IDB/GoB project for **Reef Positive Businesses: Restoring Ocean Health Through Smart Coral Farming**. The project supports marine biodiversity conservation through coral reefs restoration and local eco-tourism attractions’ enhancement. This project benefits the local community by upgrading a local coral reef farm that operates as a tourism destination with snorkeling experiences that emphasize coral reef conservation. This project can create synergies with strategic initiatives of social inclusion and capacity development. This project is currently ongoing.

IDB/GoB project to foster **Local Sustainable Development in the Blue Economy**. This project contributes to the improvement of sustainable growth in The Bahamas, through the promotion of growth among Small and Medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Blue Economy, to facilitate growth in the sustainable tourism sector, increase the development of agriculture and marine research and strengthen Marine Protected Areas. It has a monitoring and evaluation component focused on assessing the **Impact of protection of blue natural capital and promotion of the blue economy in The Bahamas**. This project is designed to promote sustainable development on the Family Islands. It can create synergies with the top priority of the strategic initiatives of landscape/seascape conservation, as well as a model for CSO-government dialogue, social inclusion, capacity building and knowledge management. This project is currently ongoing.

Other NGO-led/funded Projects and Programs

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

Table 2. SGP Country Programme’s alignment with SGP 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>Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species</p> <p>1) Improve the effectiveness of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and management through equitable governance systems by recognizing and respecting the rights of</p>	<p>The SGP Country Programme will support community CSO initiatives focused on the development and co-management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), including the strengthening of national policies that enhance the environmental benefits of services provided to communities in proximity to the MPAs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GEF FSP: Building a Sustainable National Marine Protected Area Network - GEF FSP: Meeting the Challenge of 2020 in The Bahamas - GEF MSP: Strengthening Access and Benefit Sharing in The Bahamas;



<p>Indigenous Peoples and local communities.</p> <p>2) Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy approaches (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.).</p> <p>3) Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Caribbean Challenge - Draft National Development Plan: 3 phases diagnoses (complete), national conservation (ongoing), plan development (ongoing) - GoB/IDB local Sustainable Development in the Blue Economy Program; - Disney Reverse the Decline Project. - Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) programme. - CARICOM Environmental and Natural Resources Policy Framework and Action Plan 2020-2030 (CENRPF)
<p>Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security</p> <p>1) Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems (mountains, island ecosystems, etc.).</p> <p>2) Increase diversification and livelihood improvement.</p> <p>3) Remove deforestation from supply chain and expand restoration of degraded lands.</p>	<p>The GEF SGP will support initiatives led by community CSOs aimed at conserving significant forest landscapes within communities and at enhancing climate-resilient food production. Priority areas will focus on Pine Forest and Mangrove Forest ecosystems, and productive agricultural landscapes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Bahamas Protected Areas Fund Mission for Mangroves - GEF FSP: Pine Islands – Forest/Mangrove Innovation and Integration (Grand Bahama, New Providence, Abaco and Andros); - GEF FSP: Farms Wide Open – Innovative and Climate Resilient Farming in The Bahamas
<p>Low-carbon energy access co-benefits</p> <p>Support implementation of Paris Agreement and the NDCs</p> <p>1) Promote renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods</p> <p>2) promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas.</p>	<p>At the community level GEF SGP will seek to support community projects that may pilot innovative ways to increase the use of renewable energy sources and technology that will allow for more energy efficiency in the current ways by which the energy is used.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Bahamas Debt Conversion Project for Marine Conservation - GEF MSP: Promoting Sustainable Energy in The Bahamas; - GEF FSP: Meeting the Challenge of 2020 in The Bahamas; - GoB/IDB: Advancing Renewable Energy in The Bahamas
<p>Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management</p>	<p>GEF SGP will support smaller community initiatives that will seek to promote a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GEF Regional Project: Disposal of Obsolete Pesticides including POPs,



<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reduce and promote alternative to mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining. 2) Promote plastics/solid waste management and circular economy. 3) Reduce/remove use of chemicals in agriculture. 4) Enhance local to global coalitions on chemicals, waste and mercury management. 	<p>circular economy, and to properly handle, manage and dispose of the chemicals of POPs, ODS, and mercury.</p>	<p>Promotion of Alternatives and Strengthening Pesticides Management in the Caribbean</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cape Eleuthera Institute: Producing feed for Nile tilapia using alternative, nutrient dense, locally available ingredients such as fish discards, spiny lobster discards, black soldier fly larvae etc. -GoB Coconut 360° Program: promoting promotes a circular economy by showcasing the many uses of the coconut, focusing on research, training, and market expansion.
<p><i>Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Improve capacities to promote community-driven, socially inclusive and integrated solutions to address low-emission and resilient urban development. 2) Demonstrate innovative socially inclusive urban solutions/ approaches (including waste and chemical management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity). 3) Implement public-private partnership approach for low carbon energy access for marginalized urban communities. 	<p>GEF SGP will support collaborative and community initiatives that will seek drive socially inclusive, integrative solutions to environmental challenges plaguing urban environments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -GoB/IDB Sustainable Nassau Action Plan. -GoB/IDB Support for the Design, Preparation, and Execution of Climate Resilient and Inclusive Transport Programs in The Bahamas -GoB PPPs with Eco Energy for New Providence, EA Energy for Abaco and Eleuthera and Exuma Renewable Energy Corporation for the Exuma Islands.
<p><i>CSO-government-private sector policy and planning dialogue platforms</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Promote/enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, strategy development related to global environment and sustainable development issues. 	<p>The GEF SGP will support community voices advocating the creation and full implementation of policies and strategies intended to address challenges related to environmental and sustainable development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -GoB National Development Plan: 3 phases – diagnoses (complete), national conservation (ongoing), plan development (ongoing); -GoB Freedom of Information Bill 2015 -CSOs-GoB White Paper Proposal for national conservation policy “Conservation Governance Enhancement Initiative”



<p>Enhancing social inclusion 1) Promote inclusive targeted initiatives 2) Mainstream social inclusion in all projects. (e.g. women/girls, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities)</p>	<p>The GEF SGP will focus on ensuring community CSO initiatives target, monitor and mainstream inclusivity</p>	<p>- Contribution to UNDP CDP Declaration 2015/101 49th Session Theme: Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda; - GoB contribution to United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework</p>
<p>Knowledge Management (KM) 1) Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities. 2) Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs. 3) Conduct South-South Exchanges to promote technology transfer and replication of good practices.</p>	<p>The GEF SGP will focus on improving the capacity of CSOs to effectively capture and manage knowledge, lessons, and technology transfers via South-South exchanges</p>	<p>- Contribution to UNDP CDP Declaration 2015/101 49th Session Theme: Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda; - GoB contribution to United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework</p>
<p>Results Management, Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) 1) Administer new M&E strategy in Country Programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms.</p>	<p>The GEF SGP will improve its M&E programmes, strategies, and approaches by prioritizing participatory decision making mechanisms</p>	<p>- GoB contribution to United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework</p>

OP8 PRIORITY LANDSCAPES/SEASCAPES & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

4.1 Grantmaking within the priority landscape/seascapes

a) Process for selecting priority landscapes and seascapes

The Bahamas GEF SGP CPS consultation and scoping exercises is based on updating the OP7 CPS to reinforce the GEF OP8 priorities. The process consisted of a number of steps in order to gain feedback from stakeholders to decide upon the landscape/seascape approach to be utilized in the country along with the priorities and planning for delivering OP7 outcomes.

The steps are found in greater detail in Annex 1: Baseline Study of Landscape/Seascape and are summarized here: A comprehensive list of stakeholders was identified with input from the National Coordinator (NC) that included over 30 CSOs and governmental agencies. A virtual consultation of the National Steering Committee (NSC) was also held to gain feedback regarding planning and prioritization of activities in OP8.



b) Selected landscapes/seascapes for OP8

As a Small Island Developing State, The Bahamas was able to identify either the entire country as one landscape/seascape or to identify particular landscapes/seascapes within the country. Feedback from stakeholders strongly supported the classification of the entire country as one landscape/seascape rather than isolating particular areas. This was largely due to the archipelagic geography of the country and the dispersal of CSOs on different islands making the identification of particular landscapes/seascapes an unsuitable approach for the nation. The country's 700+ islands feature wetlands/mangroves, forests, as well as biological, marine, agricultural, and coastal landscapes. The size and quality landscape on each island varies, justifying continuation of the entire country as one landscape/seascape. Since 2011, the SGP has been investing in The Bahamas, which has approximately 1,393,237 hectares and is located at 25.0343° N, 77.3963° W.

Considering the entire country as one landscape/seascape is important to the country given the wide geographical scope of national priorities as identified in Table 2. As detailed in Section 2.3, there are a number of government, GEF and NGO funded projects and programmes that take place across the archipelago and that can be built upon for SGP OP6. Selecting the entire country as one landscape/seascape allows for OP8 funded projects to build upon existing national priorities that span the nation.

Figure 1: Map of The Bahamas

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c) OP8 Strategic Initiatives in the landscapes/seascapes

The updating exercises allowed stakeholders to identify the strategic initiatives to be prioritized for OP8. SGP OP8 **Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species** was identified as the number one priority for OP8. Stakeholders opined that both governmental agencies and CSOs were already committed to the management and protection of landscapes and seascapes and that there were greater possibilities to obtain co-financing for conservation projects. The other two initiatives identified for prioritization in OP8 were SGP OP8 **Low-carbon energy access co-benefits** and SGP OP8 **Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management**. Both of these initiatives were thought to be relevant to national priorities as The Bahamas addresses climate change and the impacts of waste management on ecosystems and human health. The Baseline Study of Landscape/Seascape details critical issues and needs of The Bahamas which include addressing impacts from climate change, deterioration of major ecosystems, decline of ecological resources, increased energy insecurity, loss of biodiversity, inadequate waste management and unregulated development. The selected strategic initiatives for OP8 align with these critical issues and needs through a focus on conservation, low-carbon energy access and chemical management.



d) Grantmaking outside the priority landscapes/seascapes

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

4.2 CSO-government-private sector dialogue platforms

The NDP Secretariat has identified the Ecosystem Based Development Plan for Andros as a model for further development of land use plans in the country. The process was stakeholder consultation heavy and is designed to allow residents to contribute to the development of a masterplan for their island, incorporating the island's natural resources. This model should be replicated nationally, with CSOs involved in the consultations. Several CSOs, including The University of The Bahamas, The Bahamas National Trust, and Save the Bays were involved in national preparations to attend UNFCCC COP 29 as members of the national delegation and observers. Involvement in south-south development exchanges by these CSOs on climate change should also be encouraged. CSOs should also be involved in national preparations for other international agreements such as the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing. CSOs have recommended the development of a cohesive CSO network in order to streamline access to policy makers and also to serve as a knowledge-sharing platform among CSOs of similar concerns, where synergies could be built, and also to pass on grant project management knowledge. In addition, the passage of a Freedom of Information Act would significantly improve the transparency barriers that have been identified by CSOs at a national level. During OP8, GEF SGP can facilitate the development of this cohesive CSO network by providing assistance and support either in funds for projects or in-kind contributions. The CSO network will take into account gender equality and youth participation. The CSO network can also inform and assist with the work of the GEF SGP in OP6.

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

Social inclusion is a cross-cutting theme for OP8 and should be implemented in all strategic initiatives at all stages of project cycles. The SGP CPS for OP8 is committed to promoting women's empowerment, gender equality and the involvement of youth in country portfolio programming. The Bahamas SGP will continue to provide support to women-led projects in OP8. While gender equality is often focused on increasing the participation of females in projects, in the Bahamian context there is often significantly more involvement by females. To address the need for gender equality, the SGP will require projects to track the percentage of males and females that were involved or benefitted from projects. Specific encouragement of male



participation in potential projects may be needed to ensure gender equality in The Bahamas.

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

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

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

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

4.4 Knowledge Management

Knowledge management is a critical component of effective projects and is a cross-cutting theme for OP8. All projects and project proposals shall include a plan for knowledge management and include a specific budget for knowledge management. While CSOs have identified existing methods of knowledge management, these methods are mostly reliant on individual CSO websites or membership-based databases. During OP8, the development of an integrated knowledge management network that incorporates knowledge from individual CSOs will be developed. This will aid CSOs in peer-to-peer exchanges and assist in the replication and scaling up of projects. This comprehensive knowledge management network can be integrated with the OP8 digital library and facilitate South-South exchange where feasible.



4. COMMUNICATION PLAN

The Communications Strategy for the GEF SGP OP8 will be part of the larger national communications strategy on OP8 and will include both CSOs and government stakeholders. Improving the awareness of the GEF SGP initiatives will be achieved through the hosting of a Knowledge Management and Best Practice Fair. It will also include the use of a quarterly e-newsletter provided free of charge to all stakeholders, the use of seminar and awareness raising presentations made by the NC and NSC members whenever the opportunity presents itself. Further the launch of each project will do its best to receive local media coverage to highlight the work and involvement of the GEF SGP throughout. Finally, each project will seek the opportunity to appear on local radio to share their stories with the broadcasting listeners.

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

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

5. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND PARTNERSHIP PLAN

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

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

b) Co-financing opportunities

Synergies with ongoing national plans should create opportunities for in-kind as well as cash co-financing for projects in the selected strategic initiatives. These donors include The Government of The Bahamas, Inter-American Development Bank, The Bahamas Protected Areas Fund, Disney's Reverse the Decline, The Nature Conservancy, BAMSI, and IICA. Only a small number of CSOs were able to contribute cash co-financing, but the donors used in OP7 should be engaged again for OP8 projects.



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

To **Recover Costs to Co-finance**, synergies in training needs can be fulfilled by the NSC. A train-the-trainer approach and development of a CSO network means that inter-CSO training can also take place, with successful grant case studies highlighted by CSOs themselves.

If SGP projects are aligned with national priorities and projects, SGP can serve as a delivery mechanism for achievement of national goals and objective, the inclusion of stakeholders in national planning processes for MEAs, as well as further strengthening CSO engagement and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. See Annex 2.

6. PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The SGP team including the NSC and NC can be tapped to help communities and CSOs develop proposals to access other donors and funding facilities. The NSC can provide training on the strategic priorities selected in OP8. This training can be part of existing workshops already planned for ongoing national projects inclusive of hurricane recovery and reconstruction and responses to COVID-19. In addition, electronic resources can be recorded and accessed by CSOs through the NSC and GEF SGP national website. Additional workshops on project management as well as reporting writing and grant budgeting can also be held. Projects which address the strategic low-carbon energy priority can also be addressed to the Green Climate Fund. The Government of The Bahamas either itself or through other donors should also be accessing funds to implement priorities agreed under the National Development Plan, and these can also serve as potential donors. BPAF should also serve as a significant donor for projects in the landscape/seascape conservation area. Significant national projects are being carried out through funding from GEF STAR allocations, as well as through the Inter-American Development Bank and the Disney Corporation. These private donors could act as sources of financing for projects which align with these projects.

7. 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
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<p>Risks to UNDP’s social and environmental safeguards include:</p> <p>1.) Human Rights: projects in OP7 usually did not specifically incorporate a human rights approach to projects, and did not include a grievance mechanism for affected stakeholders. There is a risk that OP8 projects will similarly exclude a human rights approach.</p> <p>2. Gender equality and empowerment of women: very few projects in OP7 had as their goals the empowerment of women. Many CSOs in the environmental field are mainly women-centric and many CSOs therefore did not identify women’s empowerment as a specific national need. They instead focused on the need to include more young men in projects. There is a risk that women’s empowerment will not form part of OP8 projects. Gender inclusion is a more appropriate term according to national circumstances</p> <p>3. Environmental sustainability: many CSOs identified problems with lack of transparency in government projects and no precautionary</p>	<p>High</p> <p>Low</p> <p>Low</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Low</p> <p>Low</p>	<p>Specific training on social inclusion, including a human rights based approach and gender inclusion will help CSOs to include these elements in their original project proposal.</p> <p>In relation to environmental sustainability, the proposals made in the CPS for a CSO network and improve CSO-government dialogue, combined with the heavy stakeholder engagement in the NDP planning process is a mitigating factor.</p> <p>It is likely though, that monitoring and evaluation of these criteria will remain challenging for CSOs and government agencies.</p>
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<p>approach being taken at the national level. It is likely that these barriers between CSO-government dialogue may persist in OP8. While OP8 SGP projects are likely to include environmental sustainability, lack of access to policy formation fora may preclude environmental sustainability being included at the national level.</p>			
<p>Climate Risks: Climate change is the most pressing environmental challenge for The Bahamas. Despite this, there is a risk that climate resilience will not be included into OP8 projects or at the national level.</p>	<p>OP8 projects: Low National level: Medium</p>	<p>Low Medium</p>	<p>Several successful OP6 projects were based on climate mitigation, and it is expected that these will continue in OP8 and be replicated across the family islands. There will be additional climate risk screening noting that the country experiences hurricanes frequently that result in impacts to the environment.</p>
<p>Significant cuts in GEF SGP funding for OP8 could lead to grant applications exceeding resources. Too many administrative requirements may mean that CSOs may not apply for or complete projects.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Training on synergies between projects and CSO collaboration.</p>

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



national positions for The Paris Agreement. Number of projects: the NSC will track the number of projects applied for and completed.

8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

9.1 Monitoring approaches at project and country levels

M&E of the CPS is imperative to ensure that the goals and outcomes of OP8 are met. In order to ensure that the CPS is implemented, there are a number of activities that will take place. The SGP database will be updated to track progress of funded projects. The Annual Country Programme Strategy Review will take place in collaboration with the NC and the NSC to track the progress of the CPS throughout OP8. The NSC will continue to meet bi-annually. An Annual Country Report and Annual Monitoring Report will also be completed to assess the effectiveness of the SGP and identify areas for improvement. Finally, at the end of OP8, a strategic CPS review will take place during the process of preparing the CPS for the subsequent Operational Phase. It may also be helpful to review and categorize indicators for projects using a sub-regional grouping such as northern, central and southern Bahamas to ensure that impacts are evenly spread throughout the country.

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

The involvement of local stakeholders is imperative to project success in OP8. To encourage the participation of local stakeholders, project workplans must include the ways that stakeholders have taken part in setting the objectives and outputs of the project and detail how stakeholders will participate in monitoring the project. Interim and final reports of projects should also include an evaluation of stakeholder participation.

Results of individual projects will be aggregated at the national level through usage of the SGP database. The Country Programme Strategy Review and Annual Monitoring Report will also aggregate results of individual projects and provide a basis for assessing the efficacy of the CPS for OP8.

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	NC, NSC, country stakeholders, grantees	A SGP planning grant to engage consultants may be	At start of OP8



M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible Parties	Budget Source	Timing
	community projects		used to update OP8 CPS	
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 ²
Annual Monitoring Report Survey ³	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF. It serves as the primary tools to record and analytically present results to donors	NC/PA in close collaboration with NSC. CPMT provides technical guidance support and receives final country submission for further action	Staff time	Once per year in June- July
Country Portfolio Review	Methodological results capture of the portfolio at a given point to note impact level change as well as broader adoption. The goal is to support reporting to stakeholders, learning, and support to strategic	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	Once per operational phase

² 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.

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



M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible Parties	Budget Source	Timing
	development/ implementation of CPS		Global technical M&E support can be expected	
SGP Database	Ensure recording of all Project and Country Programme inputs in SGP database	NCs, PAs,	Staff time	Throughout the operational phase. Ensure quality assurance and completion of data prior to annual monitoring cycle (May- June of every year)
Audit	Ensure compliance with project implementation/ management standards and norms	External/indepe ndent auditors. NC/ PA to provide requisite support.	Global Operating Budget	Annually for selected countries on risk-assessment basis



9.2 CPS Results Framework

Table 5: Results Framework of SGP OP8 Country Programme Strategy

<p>Alignment with SDGs</p> <p>SDG 6,7,13,14, and 15</p>		
<p>Synergy with UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD):</p> <p>Output 4.2: Government, local communities, private sector entities have strengthened capacities to implement sustainable management of natural resources solutions, including sustainable commodities and green and inclusive value chains.</p>		
<p>OP8 SGP Programme Goal: 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>		
<p>1</p> <p>OP8 SGP CPS Strategic Initiatives</p>	<p>2</p> <p>CPS Indicators and Targets</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Means of Verification</p>
<p><u>Strategic Initiative 1:</u></p> <p><i>Community-based Conservation of Threatened Ecosystems and Species</i></p> <p>The SGP Country Programme will support community CSO initiatives focused on the development and co-management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), including the strengthening of national policies that enhance the environmental benefits of services provided to communities in proximity to the MPAs.</p>	<p>5 hectares of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (GEF core indicator 4.1 and 4.3)</p> <p>12 hectares of marine protected areas created or under improved management (GEF core indicator 2)</p> <p>10 hectares of marine habitat under improved practices (GEF core indicator 5)</p> <p>10 community-based protected area/ conserved area designations and/or networks strengthened</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>Strategic Initiative 2: <i>Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries, and Food Security</i></p> <p>The GEF SGP will support initiatives led by community CSOs aimed at conserving significant forest landscapes within communities. Priority areas will focus on Pine Forest and Mangrove Forest ecosystems</p>	<p>5 hectares of land and ecosystems under restoration (GEF core indicator 3.1)</p> <p>5 partnerships to advance sustainable agriculture and fisheries and/or food security (such as diversification, sustainable intensification, sustainable fisheries management, agroecological farming practices, climate-smart agriculture, certification programmes, local sourcing initiatives, waste reduction and circular economy, etc.)</p> <p>5 hectares of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (GEF core indicator 4.3)</p> <p>2 hectares of degraded agricultural lands restored (hectares) (GEF core indicator 3.1)</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports)</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</p> <p>Country Programme Review</p> <p>Socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes (SEPLs)</p>
<p>Strategic Initiative 3: Low-carbon Energy Access Co-benefits</p> <p>At the community level, GEF SGP will seek to support community projects that may pilot innovative ways to increase the use of renewable energy sources and technology that will allow for more energy efficiency in the current ways by which the energy is used.</p>	<p>20 tons of greenhouse gas emissions mitigated/avoided (GEF core indicator 6)</p> <p>2 kW increase in installed renewable energy capacity from community-scale systems (e.g., biomass, micro-hydro, solar, etc.)</p> <p>4 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.)</p> <p>10 number of households achieving energy access, with co-benefits estimated and valued</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports)</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p>
<p>Strategic Initiative 4: <i>Local to Global Coalitions for Chemicals and Waste Management</i></p> <p>GEF SGP will support smaller community initiatives that</p>	<p>1 policy recommendation or advocacy initiative related to land-based pollution as a result of SGP project</p> <p>1 local to global coalition for chemicals and waste management strengthened and/or established</p> <p>3 tons of Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), POPs and mercury containing</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports)</p>



<p>will seek to properly handle, manage and dispose of the chemicals of POPs, ODS, and mercury.</p>	<p>materials and products removed or disposed (GEF core indicator 9.6)</p> <p>10 communities working on increasing awareness and outreach for sound chemicals, waste and mercury management.</p>	<p>Strategic partnership with IPEN and Mercury GOLD country partners</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), global database</p> <p>Country Programme Review</p>
<p><u>Strategic Initiative 5:</u> Catalyzing Sustainable Urban Solutions</p> <p>The GEF SGP will support new and ongoing initiatives that amplify and accelerate greener, more resilient, and livable cities.</p>	<p>Two community-based sustainable solutions in urban landscapes (e.g., transport, biodiversity conservation, chemical and waste management, energy efficiency, watershed protection, etc.)</p> <p>At least 1 projects with targeted urban solutions focus</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</p> <p>Country Programme Review</p>
<p><u>Strategic Initiative 6:</u>CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms</p> <p>The GEF SGP will support new and ongoing initiatives to develop long-term CSO-Government dialogue platforms to facilitate more meaningful and active engagement in national implementation of international conventions including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p>	<p>1 CSO-government-private sector dialogue formed or strengthened</p> <p>1 high-level policy change associated with increased community participation in multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms</p> <p>25 representatives from social inclusion group (indigenous Peoples, women, youth, persons with disability, farmers, other marginalized groups) meaningfully engaged in multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), global database</p> <p>Country Programme Review</p>



<p><u>Strategic Initiative 7:</u></p> <p>Enhancing social inclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Promote targeted initiatives 2) Mainstream social inclusion in all projects 	<p>25 people benefitting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex (GEF core indicator 11)</p> <p>10 projects with focused interventions promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment</p> <p>10 projects that demonstrate models of engaging (a) Indigenous Peoples, (b) youth, and (c) persons with disabilities.</p> <p>10 grants with targeted support for 1) women or women groups; 2) youth or youth-led groups; 3) Indigenous Peoples’ groups</p> <p>\$50,000.00 of total grant portfolio accessed by 1) women or women groups; 2) youth or youth-led groups; 3) indigenous peoples’ groups</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</p> <p>Country Programme Review</p>
<p><u>Strategic Initiative 8:</u></p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management</p> <p>The GEF SGP will support initiatives to administer new M&E strategy in country programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms</p>	<p>5 projects with meetings involving local CSOs/CBOs or communities to monitor project results, assess impacts, and identify lessons learned4 knowledge exchange/sharing events with participation of local communities</p> <p>1 online knowledge repository developed as a result of SGP project1 country/cross-country impact review conducted with evidence of SGP impact and lessons learned.</p> <p>3 South-South exchanges between communities, NGOs/CSOs, or other partners within or across countries to transfer knowledge, replicate technology, tools or approaches on global environmental issues</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</p> <p>Country Programme Review</p>