



OPERATIONAL PHASE 8 (OP8)

SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY (CPS)

BOTSWANA



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

Total SGP Grants to date since Country Programme start date (1992)	USD6,470,796.68
OP8 GEF Core Funds	USD 500,000
OP8 GEF STAR Funds	USD 788,700
Other funds (secured)	USD 275,418
Other funds (expected/to be mobilized)	N/A

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).

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

Botswana has shown substantial commitment towards environmental management through its land tenure and the various policy and statutory instruments and the legal framework. The country has successfully set aside 45% of its land as protected area: This includes national parks, game reserves, private wildlife and nature reserves, wildlife management areas (WMAs), controlled hunting areas (CHAs), forest reserves and national monuments. The land tenure has enabled co-management of natural resources by communities presenting a platform and entry point for GEF/SGP to support community-based initiatives. The legal framework particularly the Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) Policy of 2007, promote community participation in environmental management through the CBNRM programme, availing grass root level governance structures.

In addition, Botswana has ratified Environmental Multi-Lateral Agreements (MEAs) affirming her commitment as a player in the global environment fora. The GEF/SGP was launched in Botswana in 1992 to provide facilitative access to funding and technical support to CSOs. Since inception, GEF/SGP Botswana has supported 217 projects with funds amounting to USD 6,814,864.37 as per Table 1 in the focal areas of; biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, international waters, persistent organic pollutants and chemicals and multi-focal. A total of USD 8,732,648.96 and USD2,526,038.87 has been invested as co-financing both in cash and in kind through these SGP supported projects since its Pilot Phase to its Operational Phase 7 showing the continued commitment on sustainable development agenda forged between the SGP, government, local communities and other stakeholders.

Table A: Funds allocated per Operational Phase

Phase. Operational Phases	Start Year	Amount allocated (USD)	Co-Financing Amount (USD)	Co-Financing in Kind (USD)
Pilot	1992-1996	155,250	26,607.00	5,727.00
OP1	1996-1998	278,033	5,000.00	00.00
OP2	1999-2004	911,135.69	670,335.16	465,247.00
OP3	2005-2007	1,306,267	3,460,307.07	565,584.84
OP4	2007-2010	1,200,000	2,878,429.84	663,241.40
OP5	2011-2014	1,182,000	1,683,101.79	734,418.40
OP6	2015-2018	650,000	8,868.10	91,820.23
OP7	2019-2024	1,132,178.68	333,863.53	105,265.00
Total		6,814,864.38	9,066,512.49	(2,526,038.87)

The country portfolio has been dominated by biodiversity (39%), multi-focal area (20%), land degradation (17%) and climate change (11%). The least funded focal areas are international waters (6%) and persistent organic pollutants, chemicals and waste (4%).

Some of the highlights of the SGP Country Programme in Botswana include the following:

- Gaing-O Community Trust and Nata Sanctuary Trust initiatives facilitated management of Lesser Flamingos, a near threatened species and protection of their key breeding sites in Makgadikgadi Wetlands.
- Cheetah Conservation Botswana successfully piloted and introduced the livestock guarding dog programme as a measure to mitigate small stock and predator conflicts with emphasis on Cheetahs. This have since been up-scaled and replicated to other areas in the country through government support and other partners.
- Value addition to morula by the Kgetsi ya Tsie Tswapong Hills Women's Resource Enterprise Community Trust (KYT) to produce nuts, oil and soap, and production of *Sclerocarya birrea* (morula) sweets by Dibapalwa Nageng Trust generates income, improves livelihoods, creates employment, enhances skills and presents opportunities for business ventures for women. In addition, it increases the conservation value of morula tree, identified as a national tree.
- The national monuments and heritage sites of Lekhubu Island, Gcwihaba Caves and Tsodilo hills used by Gaing-O Community Trust, Cgaecgae Tlhabolo Trust and Tsodilo Community Trust respectively have been used to promote ecotourism and create employment and ultimately improving livelihoods of local communities.
- Tshole Trust successfully sensitised local communities on proper handling, disposal, management of waste oil; opportunities presented by used oil were also explored; environmental pollution reduced through proper disposal of used oil and public health safeguarded. These have since been upscaled and replicated to other areas in the country through government support such as National Environment Fund and other partners.
- Mokolodi Nature Reserve (MNR) employs a total of 87 people (65 women and 22 men) mostly from villages around the reserve and 22 of these are youths. Since its establishment, the education center has hosted about 270 000 students from schools and orphanages around the country, with an average of 9000 children per annum. Through this, the young people in Botswana are empowered on environmental conservation and they grow up to be good custodians of their natural history, helping to conserve their common heritage for future generations. Through partnerships with the academic institutions such as BUAN and UB, the Nature Reserve is also used for research purposes, therefore, contributing to body of knowledge on sustainable management of natural resources.
- Somarelang Tikologo, an urban based CSO, through its project 'Urban Community Empowerment Programme' was a finalist at the BIE-Cosmos Expo Shangai in 2010 for better cities, better lives.

3. COUNTRY PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

3.1 Alignment with national priorities

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

Rio Conventions+ National Planning Frameworks	Date of Ratification
GEF-7 National Dialogues	2018
United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity (UNCBD)	1995
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	2004, 2007, 2016



Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefits Sharing	2014
UNEP Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer	1991
UNEP Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer	1991
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	1994
UNFCCC Kyoto Protocol	2003
UNFCCC National Communications (1st, 2nd, 3rd)	2001, 2012 2019
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	2016
UN Convention to Combat Desertification	1996
UNCCD National Action Plan (NAP)	2006
Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Paris Accord	2015
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	2006
United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals	2015
Country Programme Document (CPD) 2022 - 2026	2021
Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) for the UN SDGs	2017
Botswana Domesticated SDGs Indicators	2018
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pesticides (POPs)	2002
Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plan (NIP)	2008
Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the ozone layer	1991
Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade	2008
Minamata Convention on Mercury	2013
World Heritage Convention	1998
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (RAMSAR Convention)	1997
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)	1997
Basel Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal	1998
Biosafety Protocol (Cartagena)	2003
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	2007
GEF-6 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	2014
African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources	2003
Protocol on wildlife conservation and law enforcement in the SADC.	2000
SADC Revised Protocol on Shared Water Course System	2001

Strategic Action Plans (SAPs) for shared international water bodies (ORASECOM ZAMCOM and OKACOM)	2003, 2008, 2010
Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa	2012
Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	2003
CBNRM Policy Strategy and Action Plan	2018
National Development Plan 11	2016

3.2 Gaps and opportunities

African Development practitioners and Scholars have long recognized that sustainable development can only be achieved if African countries have capacity in terms of technology, human and financial resources (Moleele & Ntsabane 2002, The African Regional Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development (Kampala, 1989), the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (Cairo, 1995) and the Pan-African Conference on Environment (Bamako, 1991). There has been limitations and constraints in the implementation of the United Nations Conventions.

Based on the scoping exercise and baseline studies conducted for the country Programme CPS development, gaps were identified for meaningful involvement of communities and CSOs to further implement the national priorities. The gaps include but not limited to;

- constraints in accessing funding to support community led initiatives at the local levels due to limited capacity to write sound proposals,
- limited practical skills on project management leading to low capacity to implement projects,
- limited basic infrastructure like roads and water supply and electricity
- lack of awareness by the local communities on MEAs, and their key objective or goal to protect the environment.
- governance issues amongst some of the CSOs,
- transport and communication challenges for CSOs resulting in receiving calls late,
- lack of skills for networking and linkages with other actors,
- Limited SGP funds for monitoring and evaluation of supported projects,
- Limited support from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for funded projects.

In bridging these gaps, there are opportunities that exists for SGP to serve as an entry point to support meaningful involvement of communities and CSOs in OP8. These include;

- assistance with project identification and proposal development to enable communities to access funds
- mentoring on project management tools for successful implementation of community led initiatives,
- empowering the local communities through capacity building initiatives on MEAS, available donor agencies and their associated funding mechanisms

Capacity development for successful projects will be done in phases; pre-proposal development, funding and mentoring during implementation to ensure delivery of successful and sustainable projects.



In order to ensure business continuity, accountability and credibility, community institutions will be trained on governance, leadership and advocacy skills aimed at strengthening CSOs operations. Moreover, for communications, the Programme will support grantees with laptops, data routers and smart phones to empower them to participate in the digital environment.

In order to enhance knowledge sharing, networking platforms through OP8 south-south cooperation mechanisms will be promoted amongst the community projects. This will create opportunities between funded and non-funded projects to interact and share best practices. The networking platforms will provide an opportunity for communities to actively participate and share insights in the implementation of the relevant conventions, regional and national programmes. Furthermore, SGP OP 7 strategic initiative on CSO Government-Private sector policy and planning dialogue platforms present opportunities for CSOs to prepare and participate through consultative processes in international events including coming up with country positions at Conference of Parties such as CITES, UNFCCC, UNCBD and UNCCD COPs. The same platforms will be used for feedback from the events and also promote the development of national policy/strategy plans in line with the conventions.

3.3 OP8 strategic priorities of the SGP Country Programme

Botswana is committed to global and regional environmental conservation initiatives in attaining its Aspirations for sustainable development. The country is a signatory to and has ratified a number of multilateral environmental agreements. Table 2 shows some examples of relevant conventions and national planning frameworks that address conservation as well climate change which Botswana is party to. In addition, the Government has developed various policies and strategies aimed at addressing environmental conservation and poverty reduction.

The GEF/SGP brings along its vast experience in working with CSOs and in particular rural communities as good constituents strategically positioned to complement the efforts of the government and UNDP Country Office particularly with the UNDP Environment and Climate Change Unit for synergy, greater impact and ripple effects. A potential for synergy also exists with the UNDP Economic Diversification and Poverty Reduction Unit as it focuses on supporting the government on her efforts in eradicating poverty by promoting multi-dimensional approach to poverty eradication. Therefore, synergies between the two units will reap great results in addressing the poverty-environment nexus in the country. As a longstanding environmental funding modality with the knowledge of the grant making landscape, the Programme has the ability to reach a wider audience at grassroots level. The Programme also has an existing governance structure comprising the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and the National Steering Committee (NSC) for overseeing approval, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects. The two structures also have experts who bring wealth of experience to support the Programme.

The government of Botswana through the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and its various departments presents an opportunity for collaboration through its various environmental financing windows. The National Environment Fund coordinated by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has themes / areas of focus that directly link and overlap with the OP8 strategic initiatives; complementary funding has been availed for some initiatives. The Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) in the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) established exclusively for elephant conservation and development projects for communities within the elephant range present an opportunity for co-financing projects in the eligible areas.



The women economic empowerment Programme under the Department of Gender Affairs at the Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs provides grants to women groups and individuals for business start up presenting an opportunity to link up with the Programme through social inclusion. The Empowerment of Non-State Actors Programme, a multi-lateral funding modality by the European Union and the government of Botswana, Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs support among other themes such as gender and environment presenting an entry point for grantees supported by the Programme.

The initiatives supported by GEF/SGP have acted as incubators in the design of the GEF Medium Size Project (MSP) for BirdLife Botswana and the World Bank Full Size Project (FSP) for the Centre for Conservation of African Resources: Animals, Communities and Land Use (CARACAL). The Programme has funded community components for GEF FSP for Indigenous Vegetation Project, Environmental Support, Biokavango, Integrated Water Resources Management and Renewable Energy-Based Rural Electrification Programme for Botswana to ensure that the project impacts were felt at community level. Moreover, Table 3 outlines areas of potential complementary and synergy in OP6 for the Country Programme with the government funded programmes, UNDP strategies and GEF funded projects in Botswana.

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
Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species 1) 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. 2) Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy approaches (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.).	1) <i>Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy (e.g. agriculture, fisheries forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.)</i> 2) <i>Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species</i>	The Programme complements and serves as a delivery mechanism for implementation of some components of the following projects and programmes: Implementation of area-based management plans; Makgadikgadi Framework Management Plan and Okavango Delta Management Plans. Implementation of the National Biodiversity and Action Plan of 2016. CBNRM Strategic and Action Plan (2019-2023): Strategic Goal 1, To expand and diversify the tourism product. Goal 4 To ensure natural resource conservation. Goal 6 To enhance capacity and skills development. SPEDU Strategy for Selebi-Phikwe Regional Economic Diversification (2013) Support the Implementation of National Elephant Action Plan and Rhino Management Plan Strategic Planning Framework for the Conservation and Management of Elephants in the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area. United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026: The SGP complements the UNSDF implementation by strengthening local communities' participation in environmental management and sustainable economic development through supporting and piloting community driven initiatives implemented by CSOs and in particular rural communities through the pillar of; Implementation of Policies and Programmes. UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD 2022-2026): SGP complements the CPD implementation as it serves as a delivery mechanism on all the three pillars of; i) policies and programme design; ii) implementation of policies and programmes; iii) data for planning, monitoring, evaluation and decision making. The Programme as

3) Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species.		innovative lab, offers the platform to test the policies designed through implementation at the grassroots level. The Programme offers an opportunity for the CO to undertake M&E of piloted interventions and use these experiences to inform policy design and implementation in the country. Botswana Government and UNDP project on: Environment and Climate Change Response in Botswana (2018-2020): Output 2 improved national capacities to plan for delivery, identify and resolve implementation challenges, and account for the delivery of high-quality sustainable development (economic and environmental); Output 3 increased institutional capacities to collect, manage, analyse package and utilize data to improve planning, monitoring, evaluation and decision making. Managing the human-wildlife interface to sustain the flow of agro-ecosystem services and prevent illegal wildlife trafficking in Kgalagadi and Ghanzi Drylands: Component 3 - Integrated landscape planning in conservation areas and SLM practices in communal lands. The Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN): The goal of the project is developing and piloting new approaches and methodology for leveraging increased biodiversity investments. Access and Benefits Sharing (ABS) Project, “Strengthening human resources, legal frameworks, and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol: Component 2 Building trust between users and providers of genetic resources to facilitate the identification of biodiscovery efforts. Component 3: Strengthening the capacity of indigenous and local communities to contribute to the implementation of Nagoya Protocol. Integrating Indigenous Practices and Climate Smart Agriculture into crop and livestock production systems in Botswana- project funded by Green Climate Fund. The project aims to contribute to adaptation and building resilience in crop and livestock production systems through adoption of indigenous and Climate Smart Agriculture practices. Orange-Senqu Project: Component 4: Addressing Land Degradation through community-based ecosystem management.
<i>Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security</i> 1) Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems (mountains, island ecosystems, etc.). 2) Increase diversification and livelihood improvement. 3) Remove deforestation from supply chain and expand restoration of degraded lands.	1) <i>Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems.</i> 2) <i>Increase diversification and livelihood improvement</i> 3) <i>Remove deforestation from supply chain and expanded restoration of degraded lands.</i>	The Programme complements and serves as a delivery mechanism for implementation of some components of the following projects and programmes: Implementation of the National Biodiversity and Action Plan of 2016. Implementation of National Climate Change Strategy for Botswana, 2018. CBNRM Strategic and Action Plan (2019-2023): Strategic Goal 1, To expand and diversify the tourism product. Goal 3: To intensify and improve economic benefits and related distribution. Managing the human-wildlife interface to sustain the flow of agro-ecosystem services and prevent illegal wildlife trafficking in Kgalagadi and Ghanzi Drylands: Component 2: Incentives and systems for community’s benefits and participation in combating wildlife crime; Component 3: Integrated landscape planning in conservation areas and SLM practices in communal lands. Access and Benefits Sharing (ABS) Project, “Strengthening human resources, legal frameworks, and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol: Component 2 Building trust between users and providers of genetic resources to facilitate the identification of biodiscovery efforts.

		Ministry of Land and Agriculture: Continuous utilisation of Wastewater Irrigation scheme based on the pilot project implemented by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Integrating Indigenous Practices and Climate Smart Agriculture into crop and livestock production systems in Botswana- project funded by Green Climate Fund. The project aims to contribute to adaptation and building resilience in crop and livestock production systems through adoption of indigenous and Climate Smart Agriculture practices. Orange-Senqu Project: Component 4: Addressing Land Degradation through community-based ecosystem management. The Government of Botswana, Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, 2015. Efficient and sustainable utilization of all components of biodiversity in Botswana through appropriate land and resource use practices and management Ministry of Lands and Agriculture: Livestock Management and Infrastructural Development (LIMD) & Integrated Support Programme for Arable Agricultural Development (ISPAAD). Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation: Climate proofing dryland with small scale farmers with the view to improve livelihoods and food security in light of climate change and variability. Ecoexist: Conservation Agriculture project: Improving food security and resilience to human-elephant conflict Pabalelo Trust: Backyard gardening and Conservation agriculture project.
Low-carbon energy access co-benefits Support implementation of Paris Agreement and the NDCs 1) Promote renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods. 2) Promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas.	1) <i>Promote renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socioeconomic benefits and improving livelihoods.</i> 2) <i>Promote off grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas.</i>	The Programme complements and serves as a delivery mechanism for implementation of some components of the following projects and programmes: Botswana Government and UNDP project on: Environment and Climate Change Response in Botswana (2018-2020): Output 2 improved national capacities to plan for delivery, identify and resolve implementation challenges, and account for the delivery of high-quality sustainable development (economic and environmental). The Government of Botswana, Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, 2015. Botswana National Biogas Programme, 2024 2028. The target is to have constructed a total of 750 small-scale digesters countrywide with 630 digesters supported by Government through a subsidy. The subsidy will cover cost of biogas appliances and labour for construction. Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation: Solar street lighting project called SEDING. Botswana's Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) Investment Prospectors (2017) and associated frameworks that aims to respond to the dual challenge of; reducing the carbon intensity of energy while making it available to everyone on the country. Through community driven initiatives, the Programme will complement initiatives such as on-going 100 MW off grid connected PV that is spearheaded by Botswana Power Corporation.
Enhancing social inclusion 1) Promote inclusive targeted initiatives. 2) Mainstream social inclusion in all projects.	Enhancing social inclusion 1) Promote targeted inclusive initiatives.	The Programme complements and serves as a delivery mechanism for implementation of some components of the following projects and programmes: UNSDF (2022-2026): Outcome 1: By 2021, Botswana has quality policies and programmes towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals targets and national aspirations Disability Inclusive Development: Guidance and Entry Points, 2018.

(e.g. women/girls, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities).	2) Mainstream social inclusion in all projects (e.g. women/girls, indigenous peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities)	Managing the human-wildlife interface to sustain the flow of agro-ecosystem services and prevent illegal wildlife trafficking in Kgalagadi and Ghanzi Drylands: Component 4: Knowledge management, M&E and gender mainstreaming. Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs: Youth Development Fund Citizen Entrepreneurship Development Agency: Young Farmers Fund Ministry of Youth and Gender; Gender Department: Women economic empowerment programme Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs: Remote Area Development Programme, empowering economically vulnerable people by engagement them in suitable social and economic activities Office of the President: Programme on empowering People Living With Disability (PLWDs)
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.	Knowledge Management 1) Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities. 2) Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs. 3) To promote and advocate for innovative practices on capturing knowledge and lessons from project activities 4) Conduct South-South Exchanges to promote technology transfer and replication of good practices.	Managing the human-wildlife interface to sustain the flow of agro-ecosystem services and prevent illegal wildlife trafficking in Kgalagadi and Ghanzi Drylands: Component 4: Knowledge management, M&E and gender mainstreaming. Access and Benefits Sharing (ABS) Project, “Strengthening human resources, legal frameworks, and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol: Component 2 Building trust between users and providers of genetic resources to facilitate the identification of biodiscovery efforts. Promoting production and utilisation of bio-methane from agro-waste in South-Eastern Botswana implemented by BITRI and UNDP: Component 3: Facilitation and establishment of appropriate biogas utilisation platforms in at least two districts of South-Eastern Botswana Support to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development to Lead in the Coordination of SDGs Implementation in Botswana project implemented by UNDP: Output 3 A comprehensive advocacy, sensitization and awareness drive undertaken across the country on the SDGs, targets and indicators, to ensure no one is left behind. Support to Economic Diversification and Inclusive Growth in Botswana, Project implemented by UNDP: Output 3.1 Increased Institutional capacities to collect, manage, analyse, package and utilize data. Support to Implementation of Suppliers Development Programme (SDP), project implemented by UNDP: Increased institutional capacities to collect, manage, analyses, package and utilise data to improve planning, monitoring, evaluation and decision making towards sustainable development of the economy. Botswana Government and UNDP project, Support to the fulfilment of human rights, access to justice and empowerment of youth and women: Output 2.3 Effective public engagement in the development of laws, policies and programmes to reduce corruption and deepen access to justice, peace and security for women, youth and vulnerable groups. Output 3.1 inter sectoral coordination, monitoring and evaluation of national programs strengthened.
Results Management, Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) 1) Administer new M&E strategy in Country Programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using	Results Management, Monitoring & Evaluation 1) Administer new M&E strategy in Country Programme and project design, implementation	The Programme complements and serves as a delivery mechanism for implementation of some components of the following projects and programmes: United Nations Sustainable Development Framework 2022-2026: UNDP CPD pillars on data and M&E 2022 - 2026 The SGP complements these programmes through implementation by strengthening local communities’ participation in environmental management and sustainable economic development through supporting and piloting community driven initiatives implemented by

participatory mechanisms.	and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms. 2) <i>Translate the new M&E strategy into applicable and simple tools as well as tap into Indigenous Tools of M&E at community levels.</i>	CSOs and in particular rural communities through pillar of; Data for planning, monitoring, evaluation and decision-making.
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4. OP8 PRIORITY LANDSCAPES/SEASCAPES & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

4.1 Grantmaking within the priority landscape/seascapes

a) Process for selecting priority landscapes and seascapes

A meeting was convened with GEF focal point at the Ministry of Environment and Tourism on the 28th October 2024. Follow up meetings were also held with the Rural Development Council and the Acting CBNRM Coordinator on the 5th November 2024. Part of the agenda for these meetings was to discuss the implementation of OP7 and the implications thereof as well as preparation of OP8 CPS. The TAG and NSC were also engaged in a meeting on the 27th November 2024 to also discuss the review of the OP7 as well as the OP8 strategy development.

As an outcome of these meetings, it was agreed that the three selected landscapes under OP7 be retained for OP8 as not much activity had taken place as yet. Further stakeholder consultation meetings were held in the respective selected landscapes to obtain consensus about the retention of the selected OP7 landscapes for OP8. The consultation meeting for the Okavango Panhandle landscape was held on the 11th November, 2024 at which consensus was obtained. Stakeholder consultations for Makgadikgadi and Bobirwa were held on the 13 & 14th November, 2024 respectively, and likewise, consensus was obtained for the retention of the OP7 selected landscapes during OP8.

Implementation of OP7 was disrupted at the onset by the Covid-19 global pandemic. Due to the movement restrictions imposed as a result of the pandemic, activities for OP7 did not commence until 2021. Even as they commenced, there was limited uptake of projects. Furthermore, the SGP secretariat was without a full staff compliment for most of 2021. As a result, OP7 activity only started gaining traction in 2023.

Based on these meetings, the landscapes of; Makgadikgadi Wetland Area (Figures 2 & 3), Bobirwa (Figure 4) and Panhandle of the Okavango Delta (Figure 5) were finally selected. The prioritisation exercise was guided by the criteria for selecting a landscape as per guidance provided by HQ. In addition to the global environmental, socio-economic characteristics, the landscapes were selected based on the stakeholder capacities and the long-term consideration for SGP role on opportunities for partnerships. These landscapes were selected based on the investment made through the Global Environment Facility Medium sized



project in Makgadikgadi Wetland Area (SLM Makgadikgadi), area based management plans (Makgadikgadi and Okavango Delta Management plans) developed by the government, presence of active and strong private sector such as mines in the MWA and government programmes such as SPEDU initiative in the Bobirwa area as well as the presence of eligible organisations that could take upscale the Programme.

The Makgadikgadi wetlands delineated by the Makgadikgadi Framework Management Plan (MFMP) landscape (**Figure 3**), Okavango Panhandle representing the Okavango Delta landscape and Bobirwa District landscape will be the selected landscapes for OP8. Therefore, the landscapes will receive 70% of the grant resources allocated for OP8 and the remaining 30% of the resources will be used for supporting initiatives outside the landscapes.

Makgadikgadi Wetland Area was in OP6 landscape and was selected as the Programme had only been supporting initiatives there in two years following approval of OP6 CPS in 2017. To this end, it was emphasized that the desired impact has not yet been broadly realised hence a need to intensify efforts and direct funding to the same areas. The area was selected as there was a need to enhance a business development perspective of funded projects in the area to improve operational efficiency and sustainability. The other areas were selected based on the government efforts of diversifying the CBNRM programme in Botswana by focusing in areas that received minimal support. Furthermore, not much work had been done in these areas, poverty levels remained relatively high and there are salient environmental challenges such as human-elephant conflicts, drought and land degradation especially around Bobirwa area and foot & mouth disease. It was also shared that the areas have great potential for tourism.

b) Selected landscapes/seascapes for OP8

Selected Landscapes

Makgadikgadi Wetland System

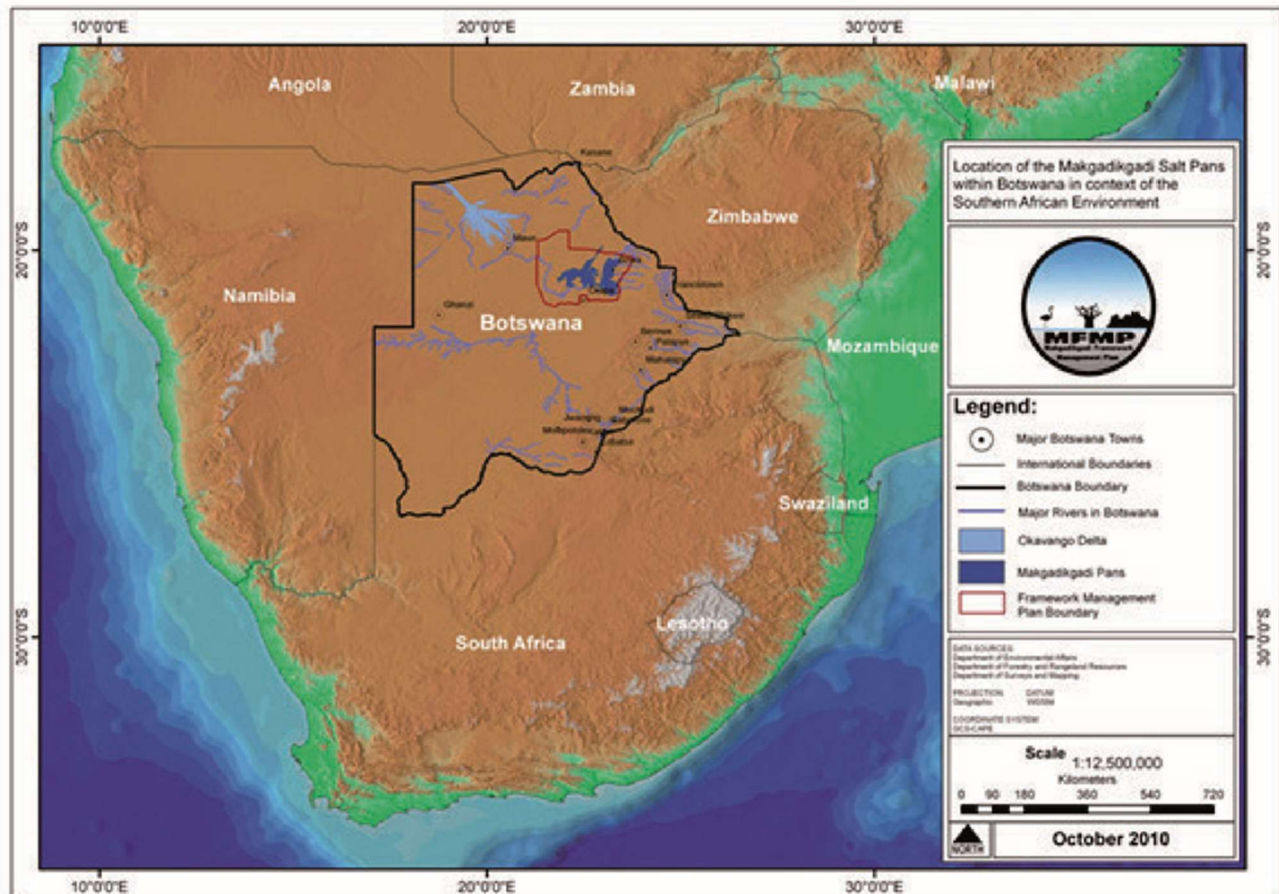


Figure 2: Location of the Makgadikgadi Pans in Botswana and Southern Africa.

Sources: Department of Environmental Affairs and Centre for Applied Research, 2010

The Makgadikgadi Wetland System (MWS) is an area of national and international significance, covering an area of 36,452 km² and is richly endowed with rangelands and wetlands (Figure 3). The area delineated for the Makgadikgadi Framework Management Plan was selected on the past strategic project funded by the GEF and implemented by BirdLife Botswana. Furthermore, the existence of other development partners within the landscape such as Debswana Letlhakane Orapa and Damtshaa mines, Lucara mine, Botswana Soda Ash mine, World Bank and Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area in MWS presents opportunities for collaboration and complementary funding for CSO initiatives through corporate social investment windows. The poverty levels are at 33% and 18.9% in Boteti and Tutume respectively; districts that fall within the chosen area.

Makgadikgadi Location Map

Legend

Settlements

- Other Settlement
- RAD Settlement
- Town
- Village

Roads

Railwayline

River

Makgadikgadi Boundary

districts

Pans

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intelmap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Swisstopo, Mapbox, OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Grid: WGS 1984
 Angular Unit: Degree
 Prime Meridian: Greenwich
 Datum: WGS1984
 Spheroid: WGS1984

The Makgadikgadi ecosystem landscape was favoured as the government invested huge financial resources in the development of the Makgadikgadi Framework Management Plan as an area-based management and also linked it to the NBSAP. The implementation of an area-based management as the Makgadikgadi one



was also identified as a priority by the Country Programme Document for Botswana especially as it offers opportunities for replication and scale-up. In addition, the existence of governance structures such as Makgadikgadi Framework Management Plan Implementation Committee and Makgadikgadi Wetlands Management Committee (MWMC) comprising largely community leaders and Community Based Organizations offer platform for coordination of development activities aligned to the implementation of the MFMP.

Makgadikgadi Framework Management Plan recognises that the socio-economic development of Makgadikgadi Wetlands is affected by different land tenure systems, often conflicting policies with the use and management of its natural resources insufficiently coordinated. As a result, a holistic and integrated management plan was developed to conserve the integrity of the wetland system and to optimise the sustainable utilisation of its resources. The overall aim of the MFMP is to, improve the livelihoods of local communities through wise use of the natural resources.

The MFMP derives its existence on the principles focusing on local stakeholder involvement through participatory planning and implementation; development that meet the livelihood needs of the communities as well as the environment, and vulnerable groups.

Panhandle of the Okavango Delta

The Okavango Delta is located in the northwest of Botswana and comprises of permanent marshlands and seasonally flooded plains (Figure 4). It is commonly referred to as the “jewel of Kalahari” owing to its uniqueness. It is one of the very few major interior delta systems that do not flow into the sea or ocean, with a wetland system that is almost intact. The delta has two international designations under the Ramsar and the World Heritage Convention, and this has contributed to the protection and management of the landscape. The site was designated as a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Site) on 12 September 1996. At the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2014, it was inscribed on the World Heritage List due to its exceptional biodiversity and scenic values (Criteria: vii, ix and x). Hence, the delta is not only of great significance to its inhabitants, the local and indigenous communities, and the country but also to the global community.

At the time of the inscription, the World Heritage Committee encouraged the State Party of Botswana to expand and strengthen programmes which accommodate traditional resource use for livelihoods, user access rights, cultural rights and access to opportunities to participate in the tourism sector, in keeping with the World Heritage site’s Outstanding Universal Value (Decision 38 COM 8B.5). Supportive of the existing efforts by the government of Botswana and other stakeholders, a process was undertaken to replicate the COMPACT initiative in the Okavango delta WHS- panhandle in Botswana in the selected villages (**Table 4**). Through the three-year project, Okavango Delta WHS established the COMPACT community conservation programme constituting a permanent structure to support involvement of local communities in the conservation of World Heritage and to provided small-grants for community-based conservation and livelihood projects as well as targeted capacity building, networking and exchange activities.

Table 4: List of Villages Within the Panhandle of Okavango Delta World Heritage Site.

Villages	Villages
Xaxaba	Gudigwa
Jao	Mohembo
Ditshiping	Shakawe
Xakao	Nxamasere
Ngarange	Sepopa
Mogotho	Ikoga
Shaowe	Etsha 1 to 13
Seronga	Shaikarawe
Eretsha	Beetsha
Kauxwi	Sekondomboro
Xakao	Mawana
Xhaoga	Kajaja
Gonutsoga	Qauxa
Tobera	Kauxwi
	Kaputura

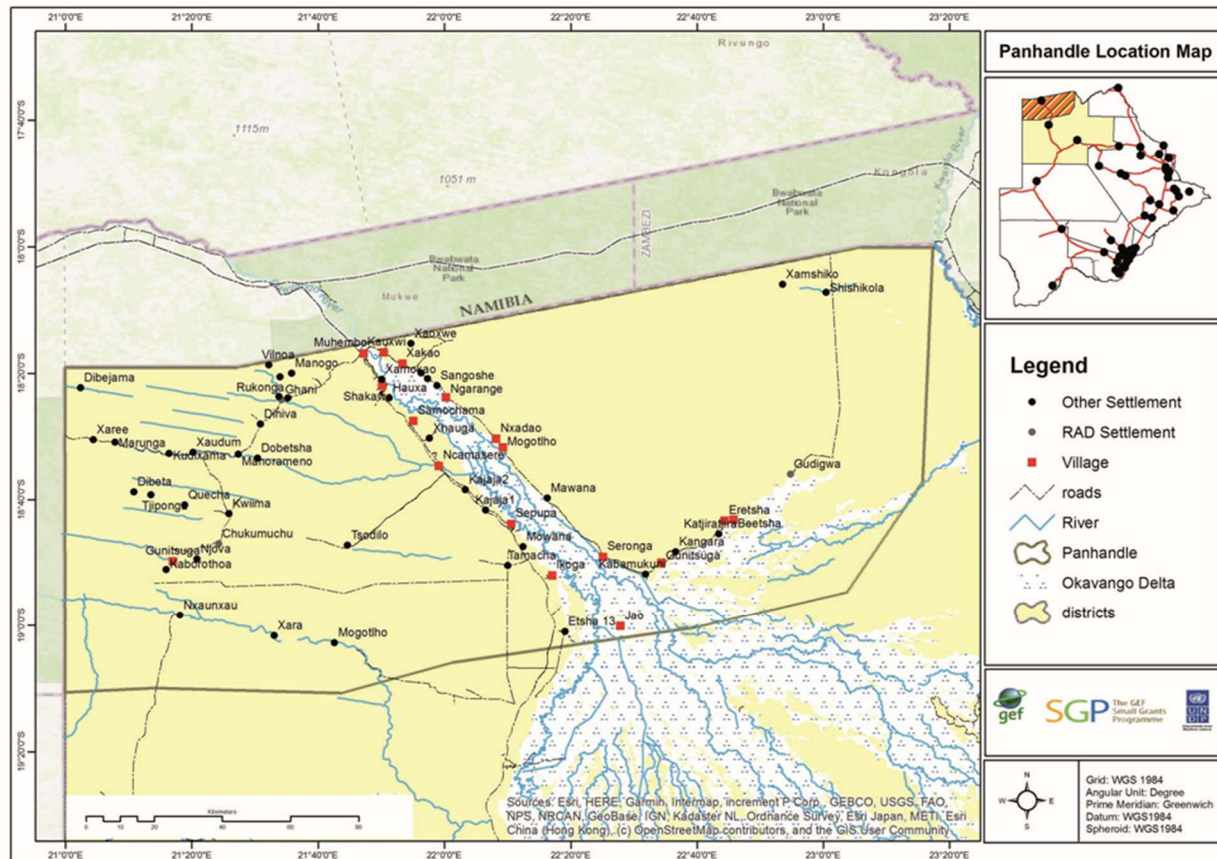


Figure 4: Location Map of Panhandle of the Okavango Delta.



Bobirwa District

Bobirwa District is located on the eastern part of Botswana in the Central District, adjoining Zimbabwe to the North East and South Africa to South East at the confluence of the Shashe and Limpopo Rivers. The District consists of two constituencies being Mmadinare and Bobonong. These constituencies consist of 17 villages. The 7 villages within the Mmadinare constituency are Mmadinare Service Centre, Lepokole, Tshokwe, Robelela, Tobane, Damuchojenaa and Sefhophe. The 10 villages within the Bobonong constituency consist of Bobonong Rural Administration Centre, Semolale, Mabolwe, Gobojango, Tsetsebjwe, Mathathane, Molalatau, Moletemane, Mothabaneng, Lentswe-Le-Moriti (Figure 5 below). The area experience cold winters and hot summers. There is little to no rain during the entire winter and humidity is low. Rains generally start in October or November and persist through to March or April. According to the climate projects for the country, Bobirwa area will be most hard hit by impacts of climate.

Therefore, there is a need to support initiatives geared towards cubing the impacts of climate change by providing adaptation and mitigation initiatives. The area was reliant on the operation of the Bamangwato Commission Limited (BCL) mine that was mining copper and nickel. However, due to the closure of the mine in 2017, this has resulted increased poverty levels. The majority of the inhabitants now rely on agriculture as the major economic activity in the area. The majority of the local community is involved in subsistence crop farming. However, limited access to markets is the greatest challenge in optimising benefits. Farmers go through a challenge of selling their livestock to a higher price because of the Foot and Mouth and measles diseases in their area. This makes it difficult for livestock keepers to find secure markets outside Bobirwa District. The area has plenty of mopane worms during the rainy season which the community harvest for income generation. To this end, there is a need to support initiatives that will promote tapping into other avenues such as tourism as an income generating initiative.

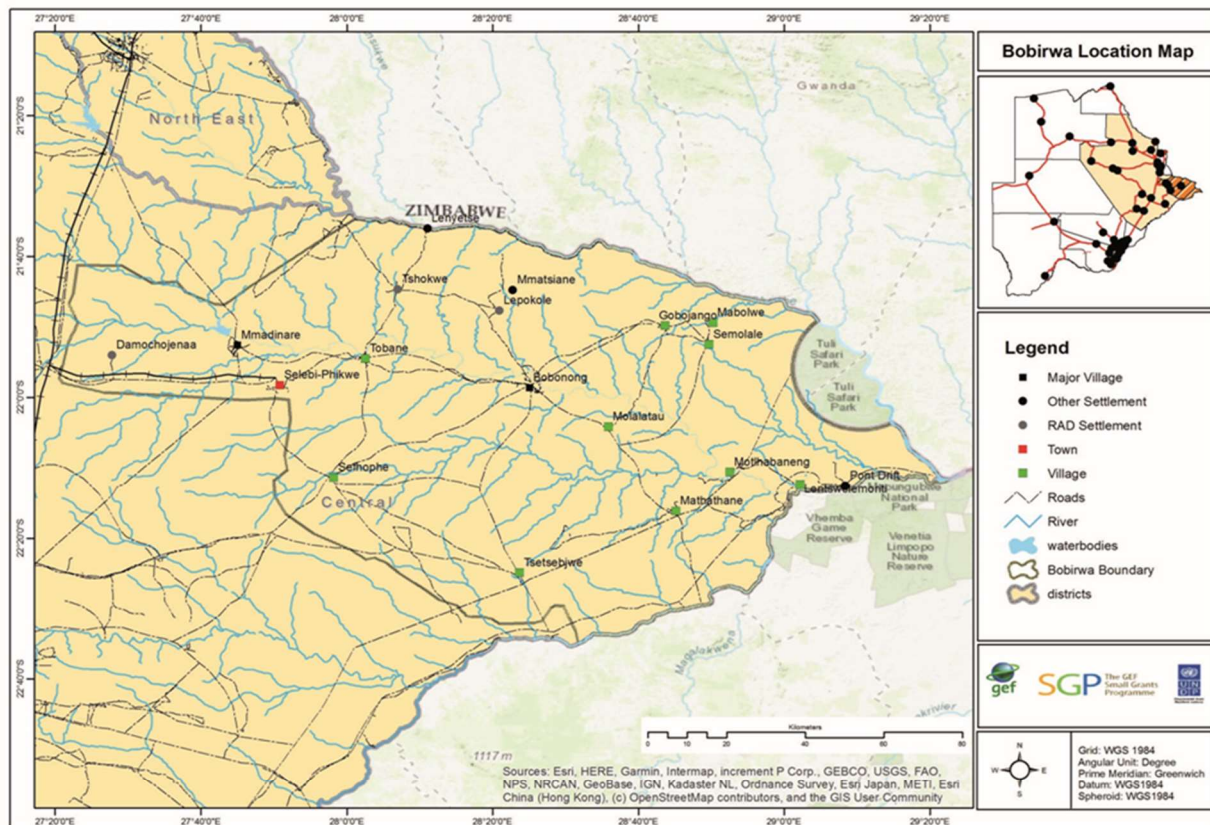


Figure 5: Location Map of Bobirwa Area.

In terms of opportunities for partnerships, Bobirwa area falls within the geographical areas selected for Selebi Phikwe Economic Diversification Unit (SPEDU). SPEDU is an investment promotion company owned by Government of Botswana tasked to coordinate investment promotion and economic diversification in the SPEDU economic region. The region is found in central Botswana comprising four (4) geographical areas of Bobirwa, Tswapong North, Sefophe, Mmadinare and Selebi Phikwe town. The program has been set to promote business efficiency and competitiveness in the region, promote employment creation, enhance the development and application of skills relevant to employment in the region and to further economic development and regeneration of the Selebi Phikwe region. The GEF SGP aims to further catalyse sustainable urban solutions as part of their initiative to contribute to the country's economic development. The programme encourages community participation to improve people's livelihood through community led projects.

c) OP8 Strategic Initiatives in the landscapes/seascapes

In prioritising the strategic initiatives for OP8 programming, the programme based the choices on the input from the consultation process with communities and stakeholders undertaken for the OP7 programming. Coupled with desktop analysis, the Programme selected initiatives as per the area management plans of ODMP and MFMP activities as well as the Transitional National Development Plan (TNDP) and associated District Development Plans (DDPs) for the respective landscapes. In the scoping exercise undertaken for OP7, the local communities ranked the projects in the following strategic initiatives; Community based conservation of threatened ecosystems and food security at 33%, Low-carbon coalitions for chemicals and waste management at 11%. In the OP8 strategy development consultations, there was emphasis on land degradation within Makgadikgadi Wetland landscape whilst in the Bobirwa landscape Elephant – Human Conflict, deforestation and wild bush fires were emphasised as pertinent to the landscape. These additional issues emphasised are already subsumed within the four strategic initiatives that were identified during OP7 programming. To this end, OP8 programming will focus on the same 4 prioritised strategic initiatives identified under OP7 both within the 3 selected landscapes and to the rest of the country.

Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species

- Promotion of sustainable use of biodiversity hotspots within the boundaries of the 3 selected landscapes;
- Protection of bird breeding sites for increased recruitment of bird species;
- Support community based fire management approaches for management of wild fires
- Explore sustainable use of natural resources and value chain activities through viable development of fishing and veld products;
- Support communities in utilisation of pans, archaeological sites and birds for ecotourism ventures;
- Capacity building of communities to enhance sustainable and profitable resource utilisation;
- Promote veld product development and value addition to improve livelihoods;
- Promotion of human – wildlife coexistence measures;
- Capacity building and community awareness on human-wildlife conflict mitigation strategies;
- Support improved rangeland management and livestock husbandry through rotational grazing, reduced stocking rates and increased herding.
- Combat illegal sand mining.

Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security

- Diversification of cropping systems through fodder production and agro-forestry;
- Introduction of new crop farming techniques that enhance crop productivity and resilience such as Climate Smart Agriculture technologies;
- Use of early maturing crops, i.e. those that take too long before harvesting
- Support land reclamation initiatives that enhances resilience to climate change.



Low carbon energy access co-benefits

- Promotion of energy saving and efficient use of renewable resources;
- Enhance resilience to climate change through water harvesting, conservation farming and drought resistant crops.
- Promotion of biogas use in rural area especially where fuel wood is heavily used.

An equitable funds allocation criteria will be setup for the distribution of funds to selected landscapes depending on the number of registered CSOs in the landscape, strategic initiatives to be addressed and focal areas relevant to the landscape. This will avoid a situation where a particular landscape is allocated all the funds at the expense of the others. Furthermore, SGP will initiate structured collaboration with other Grant Facilities (NEF, CTF, TTF, RDC) to co-fund different phases of the same projects for greater impact and sustainability.

A two-step process for project proposal assessment will be introduced. The first step will be a Call for Expression of Interest (EOI) by potential grantees. The EOI will contain a brief project concept (1 page) and compliance documents for the potential grantee. The second step will then be to invite CSOs with successful EOIs to proceed with fully fledged proposals.

The first Call for Proposals under OP8 should be for CSOs that can provide mentoring and guided project identification and Proposal writing for potential grantees. Each one of the selected landscapes should have a mentoring CSO to assist and support CBOs within the landscape. There should be another Mentoring CSO to support CBOs outside selected landscapes.

Ideally, OP8 projects should start within the first two years of the Operational Phase, so that the focus for years 3,4 & 5 is implementation, monitoring and project completion.

d) Grant making outside the priority landscapes/seascapes

In OP8, a total of 30% of total resources will be reserved by the Programme to support CSOs outside the selected landscape of Makgadikgadi, Panhandle of the Okavango Delta and Bobirwa areas. Projects will be supported aligned to any of the 4 selected strategic initiatives based as presented by proposals submitted by the CSOs. Furthermore, through the grant maker+ role, CSOs will be assisted to develop high quality proposals that are innovative, inclusive and impactful. Furthermore, through the capacity building platforms, potential grantees will be empowered to develop feasible and bankable proposals with a potential to establish industries at the local community levels. Furthermore, to explore scaling up activities undertaken outside the landscape through synergy with those within the landscape. Dialogue workshops, peer learning and exchanges will be used to share best practices for both outside and within the landscape. In line with the national Transformational agenda of Value Chain Development, opportunities for new, high-growth enterprises with particular focus on minerals, tourism, food, and education will be unlocked. This area also entails identification of new sectors in the global export product space, which sectors have potential to grow in Botswana, resulting in significant job creation for youth while also driving much-needed export diversification and increase in international trade.



4.2 CSO-government-private sector dialogue platforms

The two Area Management Plan Implementation Committee; Makgadikgadi Wetlands Management Committee (MWMC), the Okavango Wetland Management Committee that implements the Okavango Delta Management Plan will be strengthened and used as a platform for engagement in ensuring that the capacity building especially training of communities in governance and leadership, management, business, financial management and knowledge management as a priority geared towards human development for CSOs. In the Bobirwa area, partnerships will be forged to establish and strengthen a structure for the SPEDU region aimed at promoting natural resources management and livelihoods improvement.

In the areas both inside and outside the landscapes, the programme will work towards strengthening the District Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) Forum together with the National CBNRM Forum as existing platforms that bring together CBOs, communities and stakeholders with the common interest in sustainable management of natural resources. In attaining this, the Programme will strengthen the partnerships with the Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) at the district levels. The TAC is a Government structure comprised of various departments and has the primary mandate of; providing oversight technical assistance to the CBO's and ensuring that the CBOs abides by the CBNRM policy and its requirements. The programme will also forge partnerships with private sector, NGO Council, BOCONGO and BOCOBONET forums around the country so as to facilitate dialogue between all stakeholders and in ensuring the voice of the CSO's is captured. The platforms are recognised as an avenue for capacity building workshops and facilitation of sharing experiences, lessons learnt and good practice. In addition, the NBSAP was updated in in 2020 and some of the goals of the updated NBSAP include:

- Conserving ecosystem integrity in all of Botswana's ecoregions by 2025
- Domesticating and operationalizing the Nagoya Protocol by 2025
- Documenting, assessing, and legally protecting the indigenous knowledge of Botswana's communities by 2025
- Ensuring that information and techniques relating to biodiversity are efficiently documented, stored, shared, and used by all sectors and levels of society by 2025.

SGP has played a role in the realization of the above stated goals by providing funding to the selected landscapes for the conservation of ecosystem integrity in Botswana's ecoregions.

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

Within and outside the landscape, vulnerable groups such as women, youth, people living with disability and remote area dweller groups will be targeted for support in accessing financial resources for their projects. The programme will adopt the use of alternative methods of proposal development such as; audio and video recordings targeting remote area dwellers. Capacity building initiatives will be designed to ensure participation of the vulnerable groups (women, youths, PLWDs and the remote area dwellers). Groups such as the Women's Basketry Weavers, Climate Change Youth Groups and Association for the Deaf will be deliberately targeted to help them develop bankable projects that can be supported by SGP. The programme will also ensure that vulnerable groups actively participate in project implementation by advocating for vulnerable groups to be elected in the project management teams. In reporting, gender and age



disaggregated data will be collected through progress and final reports, monitoring tools, meetings and training to gauge the level of vulnerable groups.

Women make up 51% of the population in Botswana and the same female to male ratio is also observed in the selected landscapes. Furthermore, the selected landscapes which are in rural Botswana still depend on agrarian livelihoods with a patriarchal societal system. Therefore, there are still gender based roles being practiced. For instance, cattle rearing is a male dominated livelihood whilst basketry weaving is exclusively a woman's vocation. Deliberate efforts will be made to support women's groups and capacitate them to gain confidence and take up leadership roles in CSOs.

4.4 Knowledge Management

In the endeavour to document and manage knowledge generation, grantees will be encouraged to capture their lessons and experiences during project implementation through photos and video footages. As part of promoting knowledge generation, funds will be allocated to enable grantees to acquire equipment to generate information for use in production of knowledge products. These shall also include acquisition of router and or modems in order to be able to access the internet. The NSC will agree on the percentage of the projects budget to be allocated for knowledge management. Partnerships with academic and research institutions will be initiated as part of enhancing and fast-tracking documentation and analysis of project results. A portfolio review exercise will be undertaken as part of documentation and preparing a knowledge product that will share grantee, committees and programme stories. The exercise will also enable collation, analysis, synthesis and packaging of information and results from individual projects will be compiled into a booklet showcasing the initiatives, lessons learnt, experiences and best practices. Grantees will also be able to share their stories online and also learn from other projects from the internet. Virtual peer-to-peer and south-to-south exchanges will be undertaken for greater impact to foster replication and scaling up of innovations.

5. COMMUNICATION PLAN

Programme and individual projects documentaries, videos, photo stories, posters, brochures and pamphlets will be shared with wider audiences through both print and electronic media, public meetings, workshops and consultation forums. The use of other media platforms such as; TV and radio will be utilised as well as the use of arts and theatre to reach out to the schools and other stakeholders. The SGP in OP8 will forge partnerships with Ministry of Basic Education through such platforms such as; the clubs at the schools, for example, wildlife and environmental education clubs aimed at sharing and disseminating lessons and best practices as well as support other platforms such as; exhibitions, trade fairs and education programmes. The description of project updates, frequency of communication, mode of communication, communication product and the target audience are outlined in the communication plan table below.

Communication Plan

Description	Frequency	Channel	Product	Audience	Owner
Project status update	Monthly	Email WhatsApp	Written report Photos Video Voice Notes	SGP Secretariat TAC	Grantee
Project status update	Quarterly	Email WhatsApp	Written report Photos	SGP Secretariat TAG NSC	Grantee
External Stakeholder Project updates	Biannually	Email Webpage	Written report Photos Video Brochure	SGP-Secretariat TAC TAG NSC Other SGP Grantees Global community	Grantee SGP-Secretariat
Milestone and deliverable update	As needed	Email WhatsApp Webpage Facebook X	Written report Photos Video Brochure Poster Newspaper article Radio TV Documentary	SGP-Secretariat TAC TAG NSC Other SGP Grantees DDC MENT / MBE Other Donors Botswana Global community	Grantee SGP-Secretariat

6. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND PARTNERSHIP PLAN

The Botswana programme will continue to mobilize resources as a way of meeting the 1:1 ratio required at global level and to ensure sustainability of the initiatives supported. This will be through the following strategies;

i) Project level

With the assistance of the programme and through their own initiatives, grantees will continue to leverage additional funding from the government (NEF, CTF, Tourism fund etc) and other development partners. The project results have been used to motivate for continuation of the initiatives as programme funds would have provided a foundation with visible results.

ii) Landscape level

The MFMP and ODMP are very crucial management plans developed in efforts to mobilise resources for the Makgadikgadi Wetlands and Okavango Delta landscapes respectively. Having been developed by full funding by the government, they have been designed to be tools to motivate partners to support conservation and guide development efforts within the Makgadikgadi and Okavango Delta landscapes. For Bobirwa landscape,



efforts will be made to mobilise additional resources from SPEDU as they are a key stakeholder within the Bobirwa area. Furthermore, Government financial resources (National Environment Fund, Conservation Trust Fund, Tourism Trust Fund and the Rural Development Council) together with private sector especially the mines (Debswana (Orapa, Letlhakane and Damtshaa mines and Lucara mine and Botswana Soda Ash) and tourism companies (Wilderness Safaris, Chobe Holdings) will be crucial in resourcing and partnering in the implementation of the plans.

iii) Country level

The programme will continue to explore possibilities of partnering with the government, private sector and development partners to raise resources for the programme. Linkages with the United Nations Development Programme Environment Unit will be pursued especially working with the GEF Large Scale projects in facilitating the community initiatives and tapping also into the opportunities presented by the Green Climate Fund.

The Government of Botswana through the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture in partnership with Conservation International (CI Botswana) is implementing the Green Climate Fund Ecosystem-Based Adaptation and Mitigation in Botswana's Communal Rangelands Project in the three target project areas of Ngamiland, Kgalagadi and Bobirwa (covering Okavango, North West, Hukuntsi, Tsabong, Mabutsane and Bobirwa Administrative Districts) to restore vegetation in communal rangelands that are severely impacted by climate change and, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over 8.5 years. The project finance is \$97.6M in total

Other on-going GEF projects include: Integrated sustainable and adaptive management of natural resources to support land degradation neutrality and livelihoods in the Miombo-Mopane landscapes of North-east Botswana at USD 5,354,587 (GEF STAR Resources).

iv) Diversifying funding sources to achieve greater impact

The programme has identified programmes under other government ministries that are not considered environmental related but have a bearing on the women empowerment programme, poverty eradication and enhancing productivity of the agriculture sector that present an opportunity for matching funds for

environmental initiatives. The quest by the Gender Affairs Department to empower women economically and improve their livelihoods avails an opportunity for women and environment interface. In enhancing food security through arable production and improving range resources for the livestock sector through ISPAAD and LIMID programmes in the Ministry of Lands and Agricultural present opportunities for supporting climate smart agro-ecology. The packages identified and supported by the Poverty Eradication Unit under the Ministry of Presidential Affairs are complimentary to initiatives supported by the programme; providing room for synergy and complementarity. The Levy on technical devices under CIPA supporting the creative



industries can be accessed by entities producing crafts from veld products to leverage financial support by the programme.

v) Opportunities for SGP to serve as a delivery mechanism

With a long-standing experience in grant making and working with community based organisations, GEF/SGP has potential to serve as a delivery mechanism for community components for the GEF MSP and FSP implemented by UNDP including other development partners. The programme has governance structures (Technical Advisory Group and National Steering Committee) to fast track decision making and has a long shelf life compared to projects that are time bound to GEF funding cycles. Bringing on board the programme as a delivery mechanism for the community/CSO components ensures that projects have a follow through beyond the funding life of the projects.

7. PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The SGP team including NSC and TAG members will work with communities and CSOs that have implemented projects with interesting results and potential for upscaling and replication to develop proposals to be submitted to other development partners for funding. In addition, the programme can group a conglomeration of CSOs to access funds as a consortium in order to tap on their individual capabilities/strengths and leverage more resources.

Through the use of the stakeholder workshops and knowledge fairs, the programme will continue to bring on board other development partners and government as a way of marketing the grantees and establishing linkages for further execution of the grant maker+ role. Apart from sharing information on availability of additional financial resources, the programme will run proposal development clinics to further guide CSOs and communities through one-in-one interactions. Stakeholder workshops and partner meetings will also be used to advertise the grant maker+ role of SGP.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

During the implementation of the OP8 CPS, the country programme will ensure tracking of key risks. A risk log will be updated and closely monitored by the programme team. The frequency of risk monitoring will be dependent on the likelihood and severity of risk log. A status report will be presented to the programme committees (NSC and TAG) during the CPS annual review meetings. Identified depending on their relevance and likelihood of occurrence, risks may be down-graded, removed, or added in the risk monitoring tool.

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
Global instability caused by war, economic depression or disease pandemic	Medium	Medium	Leverage resources from other sources to promote peace and security advocacy, implement poverty eradication strategies and public health interventions.
Due to upper middle income status of the Botswana, the implications are that there is/are: Limited funds to meet financial demands of grantee projects	High	Medium	To leverage resources from other sources such as development partners, government and private sectors in order to augment the country programme financial envelope. This will be done through implementation of the programme's resource mobilization strategy/plan to forge partnerships with other stakeholders for resource mobilization and funding diversification.
Insufficient funds to conduct comprehensive continuous capacity building, mentoring and monitoring of grantee projects.	High	Medium	Train and equip TAC members to monitor grantee projects.
Fraud or misuse of projects funds by project staff	High	Medium	Train grantee staff on financial management and accountability, fraud prevention and ethics. Ensure strict adherence to financial rules as guided by the GEF SGP legal frameworks Share examples which demonstrate action (litigation) was taken against offenders
Technical Capacity Risk	High	medium	Poor quality submissions due to inadequate technical capacity on proposal development. This will cause delays in appraisals and award of grants. High turnover of CSO trained staff which may negatively impact project implementation. Capacity constraints to implement and manage the projects by the grantees.
Partnership risk	High	High	Lack of buy-in from the critical stakeholders. Abandonment by critical stakeholders.

			Non-participation of key stakeholders.
Environment and Climate Change	High	Medium	Impact of drought and floods on the project gains (e.g. loss of agric yield and consequently loss of income)
Impact of wild bush fires on the natural resources that communities depend on for their projects	High	Medium	Facilitate training and awareness on fire management strategies and provide fire-fighting equipment. Provide information on early warning system
Human-Wildlife Conflict	High	High	Facilitate training and awareness raising of human – wildlife conflict management strategies. To pilot mitigation strategies, share best practices to avert/ management HWC.
Non-delivery of expected results	High	Low	Adhering to both UN and Government transparency and ethical principles during programming and implementation.
Critical policies or legislation fails to pass or progress in the legislative process Un-harmonised / conflicting policies impacting the communities within the landscapes. Absence and old (irrelevant) policies and legislation that negatively impact on communities.	High	High	Advocate for policy and legislative approvals and updates.
New Government that was voted in October 2024 not prioritising conservation and environmental management	Low	Low	Engage the new policy makers and lobby for continued prioritization of conservation of natural resources and environmental management

9. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

9.1 Monitoring approaches at project and country levels

To ensure that the programme delivers the required results and impacts, it is crucial to have a system/plan in place with tools to use in progress tracking of projects throughout the implementation period. Monitoring and evaluation ensures that the planned actions are delivered within budget and on time; minimises risk impacts, facilitates impacts/results achievement; enabling learning and interventions in case of setbacks.



The projects will be required to have a budget on M&E activities and also subjected to monitoring and evaluation for at least 3 times during their lifespan.

Strategies to Strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation of Projects

At project level, grantees will be expected to monitor their own projects to enhance ownership and tracking progress by adhering to approved implementation. Through self-monitoring grantee will timely produce progress in line with the reporting requirements of the programme. In OP8, all projects supported by the programme will be required to have a project board /project implementation committee established who will be in-charge of implementing all the different components of the project. The project board will be encouraged to host meetings monthly to gauge and evaluate progress enabling them to come up with interventions in case there are delays.

The programme has established synergy and working relationships with various departments in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and other government extension agents through the District Technical Advisory Committees and NGOs as partners at grass root level to fast track monitoring of projects. As part of promoting monitoring and evaluation by other partners at local level, upon approval of project the programme sends a formal notification and invite the entities to a partnership in project implementation. The arrangement has been fruitful as the partners' avails technical expertise and other resources to fast track project implementation. In OP8, this will be strengthened and more strategic partnerships such as academic and research institutions will be forged so as to intensify M&E efforts for the projects.

Apart from the grantees and partners, the programme takes a lead in monitoring and evaluation of projects through field missions and engagement of both the TAC and programme committees (Technical Advisory Group and National Steering Committee) members. The field monitoring missions will be done, at a minimum, once a year to ensure continued coaching and mentoring for grantees. The monitoring and evaluation arrangements include review of project implementation plans, production of progress reports field monitoring missions, updating of the database; and constant review of the disbursement table to ensure timely availability of financial resources to grantees. The programme uses the proposal templates, disbursement tables, baseline reports and stakeholder reports as tools for monitoring and evaluation of projects.

In addition to the monitoring visits, the programme will also focus in building capacity of grantees on effective M&E of their individual projects. This will be through facilitating grantees workshops aimed at equipping the grantees with the necessary skills to conduct M&E such as; report writing, M&E tools and proper documentation. This platform will also offer an opportunity for grantees to share knowledge and experiences, network and forge partnerships amongst the grantees themselves for twinning arrangements. The programme will also conduct exchange visits with other countries in Southern Africa so as to share knowledge and experiences.

Stakeholders and Community Participation in Setting Project Objectives and Outputs

Communities participate in setting of project objectives and outputs at the initial stages of proposal development with facilitation by government departments through TAC, relevant stakeholders as identified in the project document. Through consensus, project objectives, outputs, budgets and timelines are set and



used in future for monitoring and evaluating the project in a participatory manner. Since government extension agents and NGOs visit communities periodically, the programme takes advantage of the set district timelines and use such for project monitoring. Stakeholders will be expected to interface with the project at least every six months.

Strategy for aggregating individual projects at country level

The data generated and results attained from the individual projects will be collated, analysed and synthesized to produce knowledge products showcasing the initiatives, lessons learnt, experiences and best practices. The documentation will be available for dissemination to stakeholders and grantees as part of a knowledge management product for use in advocating for community-based interventions that contribute to environmental protection and improvement of livelihoods. In addition, annual country reports showcasing the work done by the grantees will be produced and shared with NSC, TAG, UNDP, government and other stakeholders. Through AMR, the programme the programme will showcase the consolidated efforts for the country programme. This data will be used in reporting of efforts by SGP at global level on the different GEF focal areas and this will be shared with all the relevant stakeholders. The strategies for aggregating results of SGP individual projects for the country programme are outlined in Table below.

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, TAG, 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, TAG, 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	NC/PA in close collaboration with NSC. CPMT	Staff time	Once per year in June- July

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
	serves as the primary tools to record and analytically present results to donors	provides technical guidance support and receives final country submission for further action		
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, TAG, 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 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

9.2 CPS Results Framework

Table 5: Results Framework of SGP OP8 Country Programme Strategy

Alignment with SDGs GOAL 1: No Poverty GOAL, 2: Zero Hunger, GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-Being, GOAL 5: Gender Equality, GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, GOAL 10: Reduced Inequalities, GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, GOAL 12: Responsible consumption and production, GOAL 13: Climate action, GOAL 14: Life below water GOAL 15: Life on land, GOAL 16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions and GOAL 17: Partnerships for the goals		
Synergy with UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD): Output 2.1. National capacities to implement appropriate climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies strengthened Output 2.2: Capacities of departments and communities strengthened to develop and implement innovative and sustainable rangeland and agricultural management strategies. Output 2.3. National institutions and local communities have strengthened technical capacities to conserve and manage biodiversity and wildlife in line with international conventions.		
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.		
1 OP8 SGP CPS Strategic Initiatives	2 CPS Indicators and Targets	3 Means of Verification
<u>Strategic Initiative 1:</u> Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species <u>Objective</u> Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy	20,000 hectares of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (GEF core indicator 4.1 and 4.3) 20 CSOs supported to access financial and technical resources 3 Best practice profiled projects piloted through community led actions	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports) Baseline assessment comparison variables (use of conceptual models and partner data as appropriate) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Review



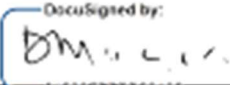
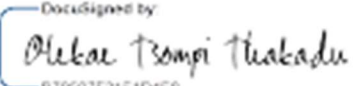
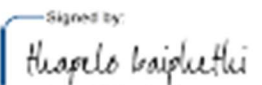
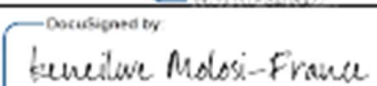
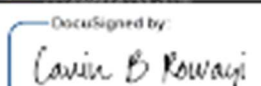
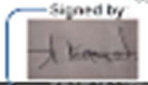
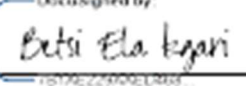
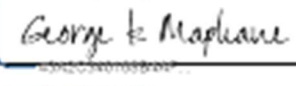
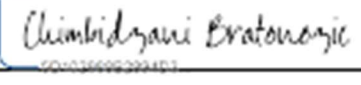
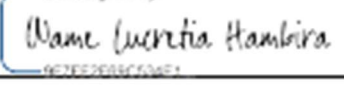
<u>Strategic Initiative 2:</u> Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security <u>Objective</u> Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain including in vulnerable ecosystems	2,500 hectares of land and ecosystems under restoration (GEF core indicator 3.1) 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.)	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Review Socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes (SEPLs)
<u>Strategic Initiative 3:</u> Low-carbon energy access co-benefits <u>Objective</u> Promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas	100 kW increase in installed renewable energy capacity from community-scale systems (e.g., biomass, micro-hydro, solar, etc.) 3 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.)	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)
<u>Strategic Initiative 4:</u> Enhancing social inclusion <u>Objective</u> Promote targeted initiatives Mainstream social inclusion in all projects	200 people benefitting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex (GEF core indicator 11) 10 projects with focused interventions promoting gender equality and women's empowerment 3 projects that demonstrate models of engaging (a) Indigenous Peoples, (b) youth, and (c) persons with disabilities. 5 grants with targeted support for 1) women or women groups; 2) youth or youth-led groups; 3) Indigenous Peoples' groups 20% (amount of grant funding) of total grant portfolio accessed by 1) women or women groups; 2) youth or youth-led groups; 3) indigenous peoples' groups	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Review



Strategic Initiative 5: Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management <u>Objective</u> Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities Improved capacities of CSOs / CBOs on knowledge management	20 (number of) projects with meetings involving local CSOs/CBOs or communities to monitor project results, assess impacts, and identify lessons learned 10 knowledge exchange/sharing events with participation of local communities 20 online knowledge repository developed as a result of SGP project 5 country/cross-country impact reviews conducted with evidence of SGP impact and lessons learned. 2 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	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Review
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10. NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT

NSC Members involved in OP8 CPS Development, Review and Endorsement	Signatures
Douglas Machacha (Mr)	DocuSigned by:  5728572E8852482...
Olekae T. Thakadu (Prof)	DocuSigned by:  B76607E3E51F4E8...
Thapelo T. Baiphethi (Mr)	Signed by:  023357F03C33685...
Samson K. K. Kaunda (Mr)	Signed by:  7877F03E8403422...
Keneilwe Molosi-France (Dr)	DocuSigned by:  FE767F066570CE...
Pheto O. Dintwe (Mr)	DocuSigned by:  1111CB736F233487...
Cavin B. Rowayi (Mr)	DocuSigned by:  80321081F09DE41B...
Kandondi Kandondi (Mr)	Signed by:  F3C3A7445742516...
Betsi Ela Kgari (Ms)	DocuSigned by:  7579E22900E1D85...
George K. Maphane (Mr)	DocuSigned by:  E582C380108B88F...
Chimbidzani Bratonozić (Ms)	DocuSigned by:  C0403660053934D3...
Wame L. Hambira (Prof) - TAG Chairperson	DocuSigned by:  9E7EE2088F534E1...



ANNEXES (optional)



Annex 1: Landscape baseline assessment process (i.e. supporting materials, including updates from OP7)

Annex 2: Supporting details for specific country co-financing partnerships and delivery mechanisms

Annex 3: Country strategy description for participation in the global co-financing partnership with the Global ICCA Support Initiative (GSI) Phase 2 funded by the German BMUV IKI in line with the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Targets 3, 21, 22 and 23 (2023-2028).

Annex 4: Landscape strategy description for participation in the global co-financing partnership with Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS) Phase 4 funded by the Government of Japan (2023-2027).

Annex 5: Country strategy description for participation in the global co-financing partnership with Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) programme Phase 3 funded by the Government of Australia DFAT (2022-2027).