



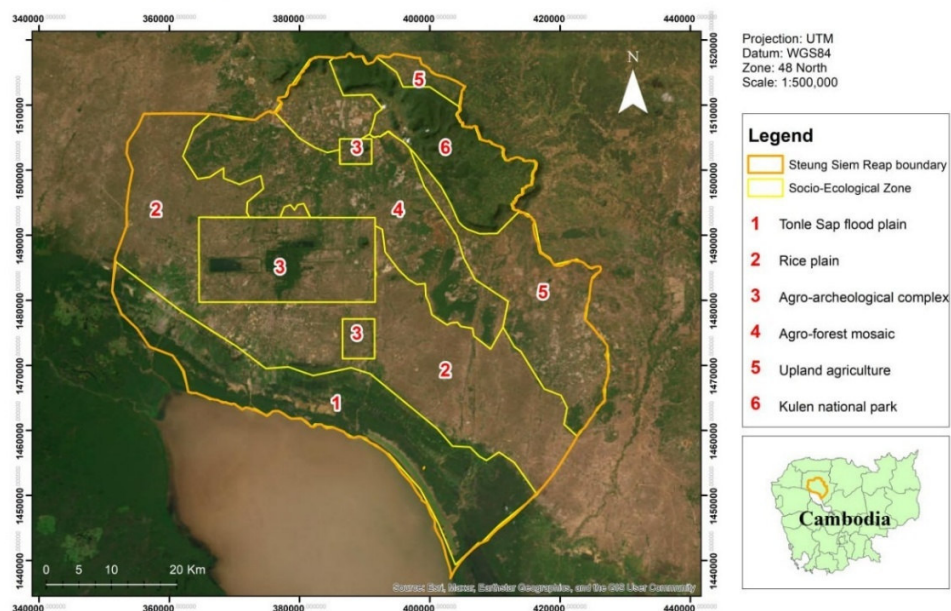
GEF OPERATIONAL PHASE 8 (OP8)

SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY (CPS)

CAMBODIA



Socio-ecological zoning of Steung Siem Reap Watershed area



January 2025



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List of Acronym

ACNCIPO	Civil Society Organization ACNCIPO
BESD	Building an Enabling Environment for Sustainable Development
CBO	Community Based Organization
CBA	Community Based Adaption
CBR+	Community-Based REDD+
CCBAP	Cambodia Community Based Adaptation Programme
CCA	Climate Change Alliance
CDPO	Cambodian Disabled People's Organization (CDPO)
CDP	Commune Development Plan
CF	Community Forestry
CFi	Community Fisheries
CFPF II	Carbon Forest Partnership Facility Phase II
CPD	Cambodia Country Programme Document
COCD	Cambodian Organization for Children and Development
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CI	Conservation International
CIP	Commune Investment Programme
CLUP	Communal Land Use Planning
CSO	Civil Society Organization
COMDEKS	Community Development and Knowledge Management of the Satoyama Initiative
CPA	Community Protected Area
CPS	Country Programme Strategy
CSOs	Civil Society Organization
CSDGs	Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals
FFI	Flora and Fauna International
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GAP	Gender Action Plan
ICCAs	Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Territories and Areas
ICCA-GSI	Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Territories and Areas-Global Support Initiative
IPs	Indigenous Peoples
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KM	Knowledge Management
LNGO	Local Non-Governmental Organization
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MEF	Ministry of Economics and Finance
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries
MoWA	Ministry of Women's Affaires
Mol	Ministry of Interior



MoME	Ministry of Mines and Energy
NC	National Coordinator
NCSD	National Council for Sustainable Development
NSC	National Steering Committee
NSDP	National Strategic Development Plan
NPASMP	National Protected Areas Strategic Management Plan
NP	National Park
NTFPs	Non-Timber Forest Products
OP7	Operational Plan Phase 7 th
PACT	USA-based international development NGO
SEPL	Socio-Ecological Production Landscape
SGP	Small Grant Programme
STAR	System for Transparent Allocation of Resources
SRL	Reducing the Vulnerability of Cambodian Rural Livelihoods through Enhanced Sub-National Climate Change Planning and Execution of Priority Actions”, coined “SRL”
UNEP	United Nation Environmental Programme
UNDP	United National Development Programme
UNREDD+	United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
WS	Wildlife Sanctuary
WWF	Worldwide Fund for Nature
WWT	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust



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

Total SGP Grants to date since Country Programme start in 2005	USD 9,716,806.00
OP8 GEF Core Funds	USD 500,000.00
OP8 GEF STAR Funds	USD 90,020.00
Other funds (secured) COMDEKS IV	USD 300,000.00
ICCA-GSI phase II	USD 200K to 300K (TBC)
OP7 balance including IP access to energy innovative programme USD 100,000.00 (OP7 top-up funding)	189,234.48
Other funds (expected/to be mobilized)	USD 200,000 (tentative)

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 well-being, increased awareness and resilience regarding environmental threats, restoring degraded ecosystem and biodiversity, 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 experiences 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 are to engage local CSOs/CBOs in landscape-seascape approaches worldwide, provide them with access to knowledge and information, capacitate them through learning-by-doing and skills development, and deliver 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 (IPs), 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 toward more significant impact. OP8 will also align and contribute to the UNDP Global Strategic Plan (2022-2025), UNDP Cambodia Country Programme Document (2024-2028), and National Strategies and Priorities such as Pentagonal Strategy

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.



Phase I (2024-2028), National Strategic Development Plan (2024-2028), National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016, National Protected Area Strategic Management Framework, National Protected Area Strategic Management Plan (2017-2031), Circular Strategy for Environmental Sector (2023-2028), Local Community Development Strategic Plan (2024-2028), and many others relevant to environmental management and conservation. At watershed scales, this strategy also aligns with and supports two subnational priority Plan and Program for Siem Reap province: 1) Tourism Development Master Plan for Siem Reap 2021-2035, and 2) Preah Jayavarman-Norodom National Park Management Program "Phnom Kulen" (2018-2027).

2. COUNTRY PROGRAMME SUMMARY: Key results and achievements

Cambodia joined the GEF SGP programme in 2004 and fully operated the SGP projects in late 2005. Since then, the programme has funded 269 projects including four projects of South-China-Sea/UNEP partnership programme, five projects on Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative, 71 Cambodia Community -Based Adaptation Projects through MAP CBA/Australian AID funding and Sida/Swedish funding, 10 CBR+ projects under UNREDD+ partnership funding, four projects of OP6, 32 projects of OP7 initiative Programme on Blue Economy and one CBA KM/workshop project. Alongside meeting the global objective, the GEF SGP Cambodia has an additional focus on poverty alleviation through mobilizing resources in the country to build adaptive and capable community members by raising awareness of climate change impacts and implementing integrated adaptation approaches. The country programme is governed by a competent National Steering Committee (NSC) composed of multi-sectoral specialists, which assures a "country-driven and transparent" approach to GEF SGP implementation.

Since the beginning of the programme, the GEF SGP Cambodia has supported many small innovative projects related to biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation/mitigation and promotion of sustainable land management, conservation of international waters and several projects on chemicals and persistent organic pollutants. The programme has funded a total of 269 projects during the last 19 years (i.e. 2004-2024). Through this period, the programme has attracted an increased number of civil society organizations (CSOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) joining the GEF SGP programme, and the amounts of grants and co-financing have increased exponentially over the programme period (Table 1).

Table 1: Cambodia GEF SGP grant delivered in different operational phases (OP3-OP7)

GEF Operational Phase	Duration	Number of projects funded	Grant amount (USD)				Remark
			GEF CORE fund	RAF fund	Other Partnership fund	Project level Co-funding	
OP3	2004-2007	19	666,446	0	0	757,060	GEF CORE
OP4	2007-2010	40	516336	320,000	120,000	2,568,977	GEF CORE, RAF and SCS/UNEP
OP4 UNDP CBA	2007-2008	21	0	0	483,500	89,769	UNDP TRAC
OP5 CCBAP	2010-2015	63	0	0	4,269,208	0	Sida/Swedish and UNDP TRACT



OP5	2010-2015	59	1,200,000	0	955,000	1,323,473	GEF CORE, COMDEKS, CBR+, MAP-CBA
OP6	2015-2019	22	1,000,000	0	283,000	1,085,167	GEF CORE (BE, IPs Access to energy) and CBA KM
OP7	2020-2024	45	750,000		733,000	500,000	GEF Core, Blue Economic, COMDEKS 3, ICCA COVID-19 respond, CBA phase 3, UNDP Climate Promise IP grants, Other Funds
Total	2004-2024	269	4,032,782	320,000	6,843,708	6,324,446	

The GEF SGP projects in Cambodia have successfully addressed the global environmental concerns and needs of local communities regarding the improvement of livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, international waters, networking and capacity of CSO and CBO, and chemical and organic pollutants. The remarkable success factors of the past GEF SGP projects were: (a) the innovative nature of the projects, (b) community-driven needs (ownership by the local communities), (c) strong support and alignment with national policies and strategic priorities, and (d) fast grant delivery and transparency mechanisms successfully implemented along several partnership programmes such as SCS/UNEP, COMDEKS Satoyama initiatives, MAP CBA and CCBAP Sida/Swedish and UNDP TRAC funding, CBR+/UNREDD initiative programme, and UNDP Climate Promise-IP grants funding.

Generally, the GEF SGP has been a vital force in Cambodia since its inception in 2005. Over the past 19 years, it has empowered local communities and civil society organizations to address critical environmental challenges and threats while improving the local livelihoods and CBO capacity and networking. Here are brief socio-economic and environmental achievements, key lessons and good practices that have emerged from its implementation:

1. Concrete socio-economic and environmental derived from GEF SGP Implementation

- Socio-Economic Benefits to Communities:** Since its inception in 2005, the GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) has funded 269 projects, directly benefiting 59,394 individuals, including 31,795 women. These projects have supported various community-based initiatives, enhancing livelihoods through activities such as organic farming, ecotourism, conservation incentives, non-timber forest product (NTFP) collection, firewood collection, and sustainable fishing. Specifically, the program has benefited 23,659 individuals (12,653 women) from Community Forestry (CF), 4,319 individuals (2,118 women) from Community Fisheries (CFi), and 31,416 individuals (17,024 women) from Community Protected Areas (CPA). These initiatives have provided critical support through, patrol, restoration, training, meetings, and workshops, further strengthening community capacities and resilience.



- **Ecosystem Protection and Restoration:** Through the implementation of these projects, approximately 84,255 hectares of land within community-based organization areas, including CPAs, CFs, CFis, and coastal zones, have been protected and restored. This effort has significantly contributed to increasing forest cover and biodiversity. Specifically, 34,747 hectares have been restored within CPA areas, 34,119 hectares in CF areas, and 15,389 hectares in CFi areas. These conservation efforts have played a crucial role in sustaining natural ecosystems while improving the long-term sustainability of community livelihoods.
- **Coastal Zone Protection:** Out of the 269 projects financed by the GEF SGP since 2005, only eight projects, with a total funding amount of USD 313,447, have been dedicated to coastal zone protection under the GEF category of International Waters. These projects have supported local communities, particularly in CPA and CFi areas, to restore coastal resources and enhance their resilience against environmental threats. In addition, these projects have focused on improving livelihoods and capacity-building for community-based organization (CBO) members in Koh Kong, Preah Sihanouk, Kampot, and Kep provinces. The interventions have strengthened community participation in coastal conservation, fostering sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems.
- **Solid Waste Management:** To address the growing concern of solid waste management, the GEF SGP has financed three projects with a total budget of USD 109,990. These projects have supported local communities in Phnom Penh and Kampong Speu provinces in establishing community-driven waste management initiatives aimed at improving environmental sustainability and livelihoods. Additionally, in Prey Nup District of Preah Sihanouk Province, the program has provided support for community capacity strengthening in mangrove conservation and waste management. Another initiative has focused on improving agricultural productivity while reducing dependency on chemical pesticides and fertilizers, thereby promoting healthier and more sustainable farming practices at local communities.

2. Community Ownership and Empowerment

- **Local Leadership:** SGP has consistently emphasized the importance of involving local communities in project design, implementation, and monitoring. This approach ensures that projects are relevant to local needs and priorities.
- **Addressing the national priorities:** The SGP has consistently supported the Royal Government of Cambodia's (RGC) priorities on protecting and conserving biodiversity and ecosystems while supporting the poverty eradication of the government strategies at the grassroots level, which is the key foundation of democratic society.
- **Capacity Building:** Investing in capacity building for local organizations and communities is crucial for long-term sustainability. SGP has provided training on project management, financial management, organizational management, environmental sustainability, and other relevant skills



needed by the CSO/CBO in order to run the project smoothly.

- **Mentoring and Coaching:** Mentorship and coaching programs can help project implementers overcome challenges and achieve their goals throughout the project implementation, especially the support given by the SGP team through various means of communication with grantees and partners, especially the creation of the telegram group for each grantee to share the progress of project implementation, good practices, key changes, and risks that might affect the project implementation.

2. Innovative Solutions and Adaptive Management

- **Grassroots Innovation:** SGP has supported various innovative projects, from agroforestry and sustainable agriculture to climate change adaptation, toxic chemical management, community-based conservation and renewable energy.
- **Adaptive Management:** Recognizing the dynamic nature of environmental challenges, SGP has encouraged adaptive management approaches, allowing for flexibility and adjustments as needed by the project implementers.

3. Partnership and Collaboration

- **Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships:** SGP has fostered strong partnerships between government agencies, development partners, NGOs, community-based organizations, and the private sector. These collaborations have led to more effective and impactful projects in the long run.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** Regular knowledge sharing and learning exchanges among project implementers have facilitated the dissemination of best practices and lessons learned for the grant recipients of SGP.

4. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

- **Empowering Women:** SGP has actively promoted gender equality and women's empowerment by targeting women-led organizations and initiatives. Gender consideration in a project works best with a gender mainstreaming action plan provided to guide the implementation of the SGP projects. This has contributed to more equitable and sustainable development outcomes in Cambodia.
- **Inclusive Development:** The programme has also focused on including marginalized groups, such as Indigenous peoples, older people, and youth, in decision-making and project implementation.

5. Rigorous Project Selection and Monitoring

- **Transparent Selection Process:** A transparent and competitive selection process ensures that the most promising projects are funded.
- **Robust Monitoring and Evaluation:** Regular monitoring and evaluation help track project progress, identify challenges, and make necessary adjustments.

6. Financial Sustainability

- **Sustainable Financing Mechanisms:** SGP has encouraged project implementers to explore



sustainable financing mechanisms, such as income-generating activities and partnerships with local businesses.

- **Cost-Effective Approaches:** Promoting cost-effective and locally appropriate solutions can help ensure the long-term viability of projects.

By continuing to learn from past experiences and adopting innovative approaches, the GEF Small Grants Programme can continue to make a significant contribution to Cambodia's sustainable development goals.

3. COUNTRY PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

3.1 Alignment with national priorities

At the national level, GEF focal area strategies and SGP strategic objectives have clear alignment with country priorities and strategies. This CPS is well aligned with the key national priorities such as the CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP), Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan 2014- 2023, National Policy on Green Growth, Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), National Policy on Rural Electrification by Renewable Energy, National Protected Area Strategic Management Framework (2015) and the National Protected Area Strategic Management Plan (2017-2031), Local Community Development Strategic Plan (2024-2028), and Circular Strategy for Environmental Sector (2023-2028) of the government to provide the foundation for planning, designating and managing protected areas that are representative of major ecosystems and well connected. This strategy also aligns with and supports two subnational priority Plan and Program for Siem Reap province: 1) the recently developed and adopted Tourism Development Master Plan for Siem Reap 2021-2035 supports the commitment of RGC that considers "Tourism as Green Gold", contributing towards socio-economic development, national cultural promotion, and effective environmental protection. And 2) Preah Jayavarman-Norodom National Park Management Program "Phnom Kulen" (2018-2027) focuses on the protection of remaining forest resources, development of cultural heritage, expansion and enhancement of livelihood options in local communities, strengthening institutional capacity for protection, cooperation with a vision for the sustainable management of natural and cultural heritage in Phnom Kulen National Park aims to reduce forest loss and degradation. An understanding of wildlife, habitats, and ecosystems to be conserved forms the core of this knowledge base, while social, economic, and political considerations, along with traditional and local community knowledge, provide additional layers of valuable information.

Table 2. 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)	Signed in 1992, ratified in 1995
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	2016
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	25 January 2012



UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	signed in 1992, ratified in 1995
UNFCCC National Communications (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd)	1st completed in 1993 2nd assessment in 2010 and 3 rd completed in Nov 2015
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	The feasibility study was conducted in 2014
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	25 December 2006
Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the Paris Agreement	INDC in Sep 2015 Updated NDC in Dec 2020
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	Signed in 1994 and ratified in 1997
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	In the process of development
Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Adopted on 22 May 2001, entered into force 17 May 2004
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international Waterbodies (IW) ²	2002
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	02 June 2006
Minamata Convention (MC) on Mercury	10 October 2013
Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was adopted at Doha on 8 December 2012	07 October 2015
UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	2015
Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) for the UN SDGs	2019
National Policies	
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	05 February 2016
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	02 June 2006
Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	22 December 2005
National Policy on Green Growth	01 March 2013
Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan 2014-2023	2013
Climate Change Strategic Plan for Manufacturing, and Energy Sector	2013
Pentagonal Strategy Phase I (2024-2028)	2023
National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2024 -2028	2023
National Action Program to combat land degradation/desertification 2018-2027	2018
National Protected Area Strategic Management Framework (2015)	2015
National Policy on Rural Electrification by Renewable Energy	Jan 2007
Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2021	29 June 2021
Circular Strategy for Environmental Sector (2023-2028)	15 November 2023
Local Community Development Strategic Plan (2024-2028)	January 2024
Code on Environment and Natural Resources	29 June 2023

² Existing IW regional projects and the regional SAPs adopted by countries sharing international waterbodies so as to align SGP local interventions. Please check this website to find some of the SAPs: <http://iwlearn.net/publications/SAP>



Tourism Development Master Plan Siem Reap 2021-2035	30 March 2021
Preah Jayavarman-Norodom National Park Management Program "Phnom Kulen" (2018-2027)	2017
Protected Areas Law	15 Feb 2008
Forestry Law	31 August 2002
Fisheries Law	2006
Land Law	2001
Law on Water Resource Management	29 June 2007
Long-Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality	December 2021
Agricultural Sector Master Plan 2030	February 2020
Agriculture Sector Strategic Development Plan 2019–2023	02 January 2020
Master Plan for Crop Production in Cambodia to 2030	26 May 2016
Law on Plants Protection and Sanitary and Phytosanitary	01 April 2022
Sub-degree on Contract Farming	24 February 2011
Law on Animal Health and Production	28 January 2016
Strategic Planning Framework for Livestock Development 2016–2025	10 September 2015
National Agricultural Development Policy 2022-2030	09 September 2022
Cambodia's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution	2020
Power Development Masterplan 2022-2040	September 2022

3.2 Gaps and opportunities

The GEF Small Grants Program (SGP) has significantly contributed to environmental conservation and sustainable development in Cambodia by supporting local initiatives and ownership projects. There is a growing number of CBOs and CSOs supporting conservation and livelihood improvements for local communities. This successful evidence can be seen in the establishment of Community Forests (CF), Community Fisheries (CFi), Community Protected Areas (CPA), Farmer Water User Group, Agriculture Cooperative, and Community Based Ecotourism (CBET). Thus, the strength of GEF SGP is its model of working and partnering with community-based organizations (CBOs), academic institutions and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The Cambodia GEF SGP can collaborate with community-based organizations, Local NGOs and academic institutions directly to achieve the national and GEF-SGP strategic priorities. However, there are also challenges in working with CBOs and CSOs, specifically from the capacity of these formal and informal entities. More than 2000 NGOs and CBOs are established in the country and several small business groups such as Saving, Rice Bank, Cow Bank, and NTFPs enterprise groups. Although there are substantial contributions provided by the GEF SGP, the full protection and conservation of biodiversity and natural resources, addressing concerns on climate change, international waters, and chemical pollutants in Cambodia has been facing considerable challenges. These may be due to limited funding by the government, lack of technical capacity and project management and administration of CBO and CSOs in the country. Through consultations with local communities, NGOs, private sector, and government agencies, CBOs in Stung Siem Reap Watershed Areas have encountered several challenges such as funding, technical capacity, and project management that limit them to access funding opportunities.

Based on desk review of previous phases of SGP projects, consultations with relevant stakeholders at national and sub-national levels, including targeted communities, and Cambodia's environmental sector



priorities, key gaps and opportunities identified for OP8 Country Programme Strategy are mentioned in the following:

Gaps and Challenges:

- Forest cover and wetlands have still been under increasing threats due to land encroachment, especially CPA, CF, and CFI areas. Protected areas in general, and especially Stung Siem Reap Watershed Areas, have been under increasing threat due to the increase in croplands, settlement areas, infrastructure development, illegal logging, and hunting, which causes forest fires.
- As Cambodia is still a developing country, a large amount of the national budget has been specifically allocated for socio-economic development, especially road infrastructure, and there is a bad dearth of national budget allocated for biodiversity conservation and natural resource management. There is a high dependency on financial resources from donors and development partners for this purpose.
- Livelihoods of rural communities, especially those who are residing around and inside biodiversity-rich areas (for instance, PA, Community areas, wetlands), are highly reliant upon biodiversity and ecosystem services. More than 90% of farmers are in debt with loans from banks and microfinance institutions that are considered the bloodsuckers of the farmers and local communities.
- Illegal logging for timber, forest fire and wildlife hunting inside CPA, CF, and CFI areas are still happening.
- Forest fires are frequent; some are for purposes like hunting, bee harvesting, clearing forests for farmland or settlement, and then for sale to Chinese-linked businesses, etc.
- In some Community Forestry areas visited, a lack of potable water and water for irrigation during the dry season has been reported. This may be largely due to the loss of forest cover to keep water for recharging the underground, and wetland areas within each community have been removed or filled up for settlement or cultivation purposes.
- The wetland areas, especially Tonle Sap Lake, have been under threat due to the increased application of pesticides, chemical fertilizers, and imported seeds for cropping (imported seeds for rice farming in the Tonle Sap flood plain).
- The rampant disposal of plastic bags and related materials has been the major issue of solid waste management in Cambodia, and tons of plastic materials are discharged into Tonle Sap Lake, making microplastic materials enter the food webs of aquatic animals, then humans. The increase in plastic use is observed, above all ecotourist sites in Protected areas and CPA that have proper handling and management.
- The Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction appropriated land in CPA, CF and CFI areas for social land concessions, which caused a noticeable reduction in forest cover in the watershed areas of Stung Siem Reap and elsewhere in Cambodia.
- Political interventions for those who commit illegal activities in the community areas because some members are ruling party members.
- Many community members admitted that they had limited benefits from being community members, including rights to fish, harvest NTFPs, timber, and agricultural products.



- Community Committee members' (leader team) capacity is still limited, leading to poor implementation of their roles and responsibilities and community actions and management.
- 3 to 5 years of Management Plan for CFI and CPA is so short, which could not be enough to produce tangible impacts of community development and management of biodiversity and ecosystem services, especially the restoration to reach the climax community of ecosystems.
- Poor enforcement of CBO internal rules and regulations by members and non-members in villages and poor implementation of Community (CF, CFI and CPA) Management Plan due to budget lack.
- There is still limited support from local authorities and a limitation of technical support and follow-up by technical institutions to support the CBO in developing and implementing CBO management plans.
- IP Communal land titling registration, which is under the UNDP Climate Promise IP grant partnership funding in Northeastern provinces of Cambodia like Mondulhiri, Ratanakiri, has caused some adverse problems from this communal land titling activity because approximately 10% to 20% IP people don't want to continue as the members of IP community for register their land as part of the communal land titling, as they cannot use the IP Communal land titling for loan with bank. The duration of the supported project is relatively short, lasting for about one or two years, so communal land titling takes more time to get the process and implementation done properly.
- Some IP land areas are located inside the Protected Areas, and they cannot obtain the land title without having approval from MoE.
- Local communities have limited awareness of CPA, CF and CFI- related legislations/legal frameworks, and many of them do not understand the benefits of being members of CBO.

Opportunities:

- Active involvement of local communities and CBOs are the key success factors to any programmes and projects concerning the conservation and protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services, climate change adaption and mitigation at the local level, and solid waste management because the 7th Term of RGC has given priorities as set in Pentagonal Strategies (Pentagon 4 focusing on resilient, sustainable and inclusive development where community and economic development, and human resource development complement the GEF OP8 CPS.
- Stung Siem Reap Watershed Areas have been considered the priority area of SGP interventions as they are intricately linked to COMDEKS-4 CPS and various conservation projects supporting Angkor Water prevention and restoration of surrounding wetlands.
- Phase 2 of the Global Support Initiative to territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (ICCA-GSI) was launched to continue improving the recognition and overall effectiveness for biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and resilience to climate change effects of ICCAs. ICCA-GSI Phase 2 further supports Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPs and LCs) living in ICCAs by focusing on their role in achieving Global Biodiversity Framework targets by 2030, in ecosystem conservation, knowledge-sharing of traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of IPs and LCs to guide biodiversity action, Indigenous participation in decision-making, and gender equality. It will also explore the role of IPs and LCs and nature-based solutions towards Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Paris Agreement. ICCA-Phase 2 operates in 50 countries



including Cambodia, providing financial, legal, policy, and knowledge-sharing support across local, national, and global levels.

- The SGP projects have high achievements when they complement existing projects of related sectors like NGOs or government agencies and development partners. Standalone projects supported by GEF SGP were ineffective in the long run. For best complementary, the current projects implemented by the RGC, GEF FSP and development partners in the northern plain, like Stung Siem Reap watershed areas, are good opportunities to synergize with one another. These include:
 - o Integrated Natural Resource Management of MoE/UNDP being implemented in northern plain.
 - o USAID Conserve is being implemented in Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary and also extended to Northern Plain.
 - o Public-Social-Private Partnerships for Ecologically Sound Agriculture and Resilient Livelihoods in the Northern Tonle Sap Basin (PEARL), funded by Green Climate Fund, and implemented by FAO, MoE and MAFF over 5 years. The project area covers four provinces of Oddar Meanchey, Kampong Thom, Preah Vihear, and Siem Reap.
 - o Projects in a pipeline like Promoting conservation and climate change resilience in the Kulen landscape-Ecosystem restoration (2025-2030) submitted to GEF of 16 mil \$, which includes the component of resilience to ecosystems and livelihoods consisting of 8 mil \$ (by MOE); Promoting Climate Change rice based livelihoods in Tonle Sap for five provinces (Siem Reap, Kampong Thom, Pursat, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey) (by MOE and MAFF).
- In support of community livelihoods and combating climate change, some sectors like adaptation in water: restoring the wetlands and ponds, checking dams for water supplies of domestic use, and irrigation at household and community levels
- Promoting agroforestry at home and community forest areas (like CPA, CF) with fruit crops and greening home premises is still needed.
- Promoting Environmentally friendly cropping practices: Ibis rice farming, Sarus crane rice in Boeng Prek Lpov and Anlung Pring Protected landscapes (no hunting, no forest clearance, no chemical fertilizer, no herbicide/pesticide used for farming). The rice cultivation in rice fields in Tonle Sap Lake shoreline areas should adopt environmentally friendly and climate-friendly farming techniques, which help reduce the utilization of chemical fertilizers and pesticides/herbicides.
- Introducing post-harvest technology to local communities in support of NTFPs and crops. One such technology is Charcoal production with farmed trees. To avoid cutting trees directly from natural forests like CPA and CF, find alternatives to replace charcoal production in these CPA and CF above. Promote the production of biodegradable bags from tree leaves in support of the zero-plastic campaign of RGC's MoE circular strategy, which tries to eliminate plastic use in household activities.
- Capacity building for newly elected committee members of CPA, CF, and CFI and promoting a new generation of future leaders because current leaders will be retired in the coming years. The capacity building should include the development of a Management Plan and Law enforcement support by engaging with local authorities and National Park rangers for CBOs to be supported by SGP.



- 30% of SGP allocated outside the selected landscape (Stung Siem Reap watershed) has remained applicable, and it is good for vulnerable areas and groups to climate change and disaster, networking, capacity building, circular economy (solid waste management), etc. In addition, the Geographic area for 30% of SGP should be supported in the biodiversity hotspots and the areas that are vulnerable to climate change and disaster risks inside Cambodia. This will also contribute to the Strategic Initiatives 1, 2, 6, and 7.
- Through the support of RGC and various development partners, the important mechanisms for effective management of natural resources were established, such as:
 - Federation Union of Community Conservation of Natural Resources at the national level
 - Network of Community Conservation of Natural Resources at regional levels (Southern of Tonle Sap Lake, Northern of Tonle Sap Lake, and Eastern Mekong River).
 - Union of Community Conservation of Natural Resources at protected area level.

3.3 OP8 Strategic Priorities of the SGP Country Programme

The OP8 strategic priorities are well aligned and complemented with the National Priorities of RGC like CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP), Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (2014- 2023), National Policy on Green Growth, Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), National Policy on Rural Electrification by Renewable Energy, National Protected Area Strategic Management Framework (2015), the National Protected Area Strategic Management Plan (2017-2031), Local Community Development Strategic Plan (2024-2028), Circular Strategy for Environmental Sector (2023-2028), Preah Jayavarman-Norodom National Park Management Program "Phnom Kulen" (2018-2027), and Tourism Development Master Plan for Siem Reap (2021-2035). Moreover, the OP8 priorities highly synergize with other development partners like USAID, GIZ, and especially UNDP Cambodia Country Programme Document (2024-2028) with three key interlinked shifts such as 1) the first shift is toward a more sustainable and green economic development model for accelerating inclusive growth, economic diversification, and human development. 2) The second shift involves championing a just energy transition, climate action and nature-based solutions as the foundation for national wealth, well-being, and resilience to shocks. And 3) The third shift is strengthening institutions, civic space, and participation as enablers for inclusive growth and access to rights and equal opportunities for all. At the same time, ensuring members of society can capitalize on the full potential of national digital transformation.

The Global Support Initiative to territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities (ICCA-GSI) is a multi-partner program supporting (IPs and LCs) in conserving biodiversity. It is funded by the German government through its Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) and implemented by UN Development Programme (UNDP) through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme delivery mechanism. Key partners include the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), IUCN GPAP, UNEP WCMC, and the ICCA Consortium. Studies show that territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities or ICCAs for short, account for 21-32% of global land, with most in good ecological condition and containing key biodiversity areas. Following the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in 2022, ICCAs are increasingly recognized as essential to biodiversity conservation beyond the framework of formal protected areas.



ICCA-GSI Phase 2 focuses on biodiversity conservation in relation to the role of ICCAs as part of GBF 2030 Targets, specifically on: Target 3: conservation and protection of ecosystems and ensure that 30 percent of global land and sea areas are conserved/maintained by 2030; Target 21: biodiversity information and knowledge-sharing including the traditional knowledge, innovations, practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPs and LCs), and based on their free, prior and informed consent; Target 22: participation of IPs and LCs in decision-making related to biodiversity; and Target 23: gender equality. It will also explore the role of IPs and LCs and nature-based solutions towards Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Paris Agreement. ICCA-Phase 2 operates in 50 countries including Cambodia, providing financial, legal, policy, and knowledge-sharing support across local, national, and global levels

Phase 2 operates in 50 countries include Cambodia, providing financial, legal, policy, and knowledge-sharing support across local, national, and global levels through three work packages:

1. **Local Level:** Direct financial aid for sustainable livelihoods and ecosystem protection.
2. **National Level:** Legal, Policy and other forms of support for ICCA recognition and conservation (including governance assessments of protected areas and landscapes).
3. **Global Level:** Networking and knowledge exchange for broader conservation impact.

Table 3 below shows the summaries of SGP OP8 strategic priorities, SGP Country Programme's Priorities, UNDP Cambodia and other projects of government.

Table 3. 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 (Choose priorities among the SGP OP8 Strategic Initiatives on the left column. Some are mandatory and already included.)	SGP Country Programme's complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and programmes (identified related projects/programmes for cooperation)
#1: 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.	Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species 1) Improve the effectiveness of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and management through equitable governance systems (legalization and supporting management plan preparation) by recognizing and respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (CPA, Community Forestry and Community Fisheries) 2) Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting	UNDP CPD's Output 3.1: Natural resources are sustainably managed, protected and restored with indicator 3.1.1: Number of hectares (ha) of terrestrial and water ecosystems under improved management practices. (IRRF indicator 4.1.2:), and indicator 3.1.2: Number of gender-informed and inclusive regulatory, planning and policy instruments for sustainable natural resource management. The selected landscape of Stung Siem Reap Watershed areas is an important National landmark for Cambodia, which consists of the Angkor Wat



agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.). 3) Enhance community- led actions for protection of threatened species.	blue economy approaches (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, eco-tourism, basic infrastructure, etc.). 3) Enhance community-led actions for protection of threatened species.	World Heritage Site, Phnom Kulen National Park, and biodiversity conservation areas. The current projects like Integrated Natural Resource Management of MOE/UNDP being implemented in northern plain; Public-Social-Private Partnerships for Ecologically Sound Agriculture and Resilient Livelihoods in the Northern Tonle Sap Basin (PEARL), which is being funded by Green Climate Fund, and implemented by FAO, MOE and MAFF over 5 years; Building resilient livelihoods through nature-based solutions in the Tonle Sap Basin and Siem Reap/Phnom Kulen landscape; and Promoting conservation and climate change resilience in the Kulen landscape-Ecosystem restoration (2025-2030).
#2: Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security 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 the supply chain and expand restoration of degraded lands.	Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security 1) Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including vulnerable ecosystems (mountains and wetland ecosystems of Tonle Sap Lake). 2) Increase diversification and livelihood improvement through promoting Climate Smart Agriculture, agro-forestry and diversifying incomes by skill training, development of sustainable financial mechanisms such as saving group/revolving funds, Community -Based Ecotourism and small enterprises. 3) Remove deforestation from the supply chain and expand the restoration of degraded lands.	GEF SGP will work closely with UNDP projects like INRM, building resilient livelihoods through nature-based solutions in the Tonle Sap Basin and Siem Reap/Phnom Kulen landscape, promoting conservation and climate change resilience in the Kulen landscape-Ecosystem restoration, and FAO PEARL project to share good practices and lessons learnt to influence policy and programme development. Some IOs/LNGOs implement various environmental and natural resources management-related projects in the same landscapes, such as Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), FFI, USAID Conserve, Conservation International, and many local NGOs working in Siem Reap province.
#3: Low-carbon energy access co-benefits Support implementation of the Paris Agreement and the NDCs	Low-carbon energy access co-benefits Support implementation of the Paris Agreement and the NDCs 1) Support energy access	This also supports the UNDP CPD's output 3.3: Climate change action and transparency are strengthened with the involvement of various socio-



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.	initiatives at the local level, including demonstrations and piloting of renewable options (such as Pico-hydro power, solar power, Biogas, biomass) 2) Promote the efficiency of energy at the local level including demonstration and piloting of improved cook stove and other innovative technology 3) Support the initiatives led by the local communities for green energy production such as alternatives to charcoal production from natural forests and farm trees.	economic actors with indicator 3.3.1: Extent to which gender responsive and inclusive climate change measures are integrated into regulatory, planning and policy instruments and implemented in line with the Paris Agreement. (IRRF 1.1.2) Indicator 3.3.2: Number of people with access to clean, affordable, and sustainable energy, including: (IRRF 5.1.1, 5.1.2). • People with new access to energy. • People who benefit from clean energy services.
#4: Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management 1) Reduce and promote alternatives to mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining. 2) Promote plastics/solid waste management and circular economy. 3) Reduce/remove the use of chemicals in agriculture. 4) Enhance local to global coalitions on chemicals, waste and mercury management.	Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management 1) Promote plastics/solid waste management and circular economy for ecotourism sites, public buildings and wetlands, and promote the application of 3Rs, and awareness raising on plastics. 2) Reduce/remove the use of chemicals in agriculture, including chemical fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides, and promote the use of organic fertilizers, IPM, etc.	Aligned with UNDP's CPD's Output 3.2: Circular economy promoted to reduce pollution and improve consumption behaviours and production practices with Indicator 3.2.1: Tons of pollutants reduced or phased out (IRRF indicator 4.1.2.F) Indicator 3.2.2: Number of regulatory, planning and policy instruments to promote circular economy with gender and inclusion considerations as per Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Indicator 3.2.3: Number of people reached out through awareness raising to promote sustainable consumption behaviors.
#5: Community-Based Adaptation (CBA Phase 3) (only applicable to CBA Phase 3 participating countries) (with DFAT funding) 1. Reduce vulnerability and improve the adaptive capacity of communities. 2. Provide countries with concrete ground-level experience in Climate Change Adaptation and CBA.	Community-Based Adaptation 1. Reduce vulnerability and improve the adaptive capacity of communities and CSOs through adopting the effective CBA and LLA (Locally Lead Adaptation) implementation, knowledge sharing, and policy representation at sub-national and national levels. 2. Enhance socio-economic and climate resilience in the select	Aligned with UNDP CPD's Output 3.4: The adaptive capacity of systems and communities to climate change and disasters is strengthened with Indicator 3.4.1: Number of public institutions with capacities strengthened to enhance adaptive capacities to climate change and disasters factoring in gender and inclusion considerations, and Indicator 3.4.2: Number of people benefited and increased resilience



3. Provide clear policy lessons and mainstream CBA within national processes.	landscape through the implementation of locally driven CBA solutions. 3. Promote the replication and scaling up of CBA solutions and innovations and mainstream them at the local and national levels. 4. CBA and LLA approaches integrate principles of 'leaving no one behind' with an emphasis on inclusion of women and girls, Indigenous Peoples, youth and PWD (People with Disabilities).	from sustainable natural resources management. (IRRF 4.2.1, IRRF 4.2.2) And pipeline projects such as Promoting conservation and climate change resilience in the Kulen landscape-Ecosystem restoration (2025-2030) submitted to GEF of 16 mil \$, which includes the component of resilience to ecosystems and livelihoods consisting of 8 mil \$ (by MOE); Promoting Climate Change rice-based livelihoods in Tonle Sap for five provinces (Siem Reap, Kampong Thom, Pursat, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey) (by MOE and MAFF). SGP will work closely with MoE and CCCA team to share experiences and find opportunity to mobilize resources for implementing CBA projects in Cambodia.
#6: Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS Phase 4) (only applicable to COMDEKS Phase 4 participating countries) (with Ministry of Environment, Japan and Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund funding) 1) Sustainable landscape and seascape management and restoration. 2) Knowledge Management for capacity building, replication, and up-scaling.	Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS Phase 4) 1) Degraded biodiversity ecosystems and services are restored through multi-functional land use systems. 2) Livelihoods of people in the landscape are improved through the development of ecologically sound and community- owned income generating activities. 3) Ecologically sound agricultural production system is strengthened for sustainable increase of crop yield and productivity. 4) A robust governance system is established and strengthened for CSOs in Stung Siem Reap Watershed Areas.	As mentioned in the above Strategic Initiatives, this OP8 will complement COMDEKS-4, whose project area is located in Stung Siem Reap Watershed Areas. It is well aligned with government priorities to protect Phnom Kulen National Park, and the Angkor Wat protected landscapes as world heritage site.
1) Work Package 1: Provide national level ICCA small grants. 2) Work Package 2: Provide legal and governance assistance to ICCAs.	1) Work Package 1: Provide national level ICCA small grants.	Aligned with UNDP CPD's Output 4.1.1 Number of people directly benefitting from initiatives to protect nature and promote sustainable use of resources (disaggregated by sex). 4.1.2 Natural resources that are managed under a sustainable use,



3) Work Package 3: Network exchange and knowledge management for ICCAs.		conservation, access, and benefit-sharing regime.
#7: CSO-government-private sector policy and planning dialogue platforms 1) Promote/enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, strategy development related to global environment and sustainable development issues.	CSO-government-private sector policy and planning dialogue platforms SGP will allocate 10% of the total grant allocation for the Capacity Development fund to promote/enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, and strategy development related to the global environment and sustainable development issues.	Aligned with UNDP's CPD Output 4.2: Increased civic participation, including women and marginalized groups in decision-making at all levels with key Indicator 4.2.1: Percentage of target civil society organizations including women and marginalized groups reporting availability of an enabling environment for public decision-making and Indicator 4.2.2: Number of subnational initiatives and strategies to promote civil society engagement and inclusive spaces for public dialogue and service delivery (IRRF 2.4.5). GEF SGP will work closely with UNDP GEF and government projects (INRM, PEARL of FAO, Building Resilient Livelihoods through Nature-based Solutions in Cambodia's Tonle Sap Basin and Siem Reap/Phnom Kulen Landscape, Promoting Climate-Resilient Livelihoods in Rice-Based Communities in the Tonle Sap Region, etc.), NGO Forum of Cambodia, NGO networks and relevant ministries to organize a number of CSO-Government- Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms on natural resources management and other related topics. CBO members, including IP and LC representatives will be supported to enhance their voices through sharing their concerns and good practices to influence policy/ programme development.
#8: Enhancing social inclusion 1) Promote inclusive targeted initiatives. 2) Mainstream social inclusion in all projects.	Enhancing social inclusion 1) Promote targeted inclusive initiatives. 2) Mainstream social inclusion in all projects.	Aligned with UNDP's CPD Output 4.2: Increased civic participation, including women and marginalized groups in decision-making at all levels with key Indicator 4.2.1: Percentage of target civil society organizations including



(e.g. women/girls, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities).	Through the implementation of IPs access to energy innovative programme and UNDP Clime Promise IP grant funding, as well as in strategic direction for funding, project selection criteria will be clearly stated. NSC members were designated to be a focal person of Gender, Children and Youth, IPs and PWD in order to ensure that all the GEF SGP funded projects have highlighted in the project proposal on how the project promote social inclusion and mainstreaming gender. The social inclusion should also be indicated the promotion of women or PWD led projects that ensure that their concerns and needs are included in the project design and implementation of every SGP funded project.	women and marginalized groups reporting availability of an enabling environment for public decision making, and Indicator 4.2.2: Number of subnational initiatives and strategies to promote civil society engagement and inclusive spaces for public dialogue and service delivery (IRRF 2.4.5). Projects and activities concerned UNDP, UN WOEN, MOWA, NGOs/IOs, (CDPO) will contribute to achieving this strategic initiative. It will consider all RGC policy and programmes that response and support to promote social inclusion and gender mainstreaming. The RGC, especially MOWA, has been working to address gender and social inclusion into the government policy and program at both national and sub-national level. The government organizes Disability Day event, Nearyratanak policy, etc.
#9: 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 in documentation of good practices and lessons learned. 3) Conduct South-South Exchanges to promote technology transfer and replication of good practices. All GEF SGP-funded projects need to have an output to document learned lessons and good practices either in the case study form or/and a video/photo story. The final KM products will be shared on YouTube, Facebook and other social media channels as well as SGP website. The SGP and UNDP programme should prepare the guidelines of knowledge	GEF SGP will work closely with UNDP related projects such as SRL, INRM, PEARL of FAO, Promoting conservation and climate change resilience in the Kulen Landscape-Ecosystem restoration and Promoting Climate Change rice-based livelihoods in Tonle Sap to share good practices and lessons learnt to influence policy/programme development. SGP and UNDP should hire a competent consultant to develop the guidelines of knowledge management, including contents and methods to document short video, writing case studies, brochures, leaflets, flies, etc. to document the best practices and good lessons learnt from project implementation.



	management for each project to use when documenting the good practices and lessons from their project implementation.	This strategic priority is well aligned with the key principle of the National Protected Area Strategic Management Plan (2017-2031), and the Local Community Development Strategic Plan (2024-2028) of the government to provide the foundation for planning, designating and managing protected areas, and improving the local livelihoods that are representative of major ecosystems and well connected. The key awareness of local communities on wildlife, habitats, and ecosystems to be conserved and protected forms the core of this knowledge base, while social, economic, and political considerations, along with traditional and local community knowledge, provide additional layers of important information.
#10: Results Management, Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Administer new M&E strategy in the Country Programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms.	Results Management, Monitoring & Evaluation 1) Administer new M&E strategy in the Country Programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms. 2) Develop M & E framework at the GEF SGP level to track the progress of the CPS implementation. At the project level, with NC support, each project has developed Annex 2: project work plan and monitoring schedule with clear project indicators for monitoring the project progress. Each SGP recipient like CSOs and CBOs should assign M&E staff to take over the roles and responsibilities of monitoring and evaluation internally in order to keep the project progress and consequences for appropriate solutions.	GEF SGP will work with the UNDP project team to conduct a joint M&E visit of the projects funded by the SGP of OP8, especially projects being implemented within the Stung Siem Reap Watershed Areas. This M&E will monitor the progress of the grantees' activities, which would contribute to achieving the UNDP CPD outputs 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, and 4.2, and Indicator 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.2.1, 3.2.2 3.2.3, 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.4.1, 3.4.2, 4.2.1 and 4.2.2, respectively.



4. OP8 PRIORITY LANDSCAPES/SEASCAPES & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

4.1 Grant making within the priority landscape/seascapes

Based on the OP8 and COMDEKS-4 Guidelines on selecting and assessing the landscape for Country Programme Strategies, Stung Siem Reap Watershed Areas was selected for project implementation which contribute to achieve a number of national strategic priorities.

a) Process for selecting priority landscapes and seascapes

The landscape selection process was guided by the CPS Consultation and Scoping Exercise (update of OP7 and COMDEKS Phase 1) in the country, laying out the consensus on priorities and planning for delivering GEF OP8 SGP outcomes. The Landscape/Seascape Strategy developed for Cambodia's Country Programme described the landscape approach for supporting global environmental activities in line with the selected strategic initiatives in the SGP Country Programme Strategy that contribute to sustainable development at the community level. As for both CPS, the Stung Siem Reap watershed area is the key focus area for the next four years, but areas of priority outside the selected landscape were also identified based on consultations with relevant stakeholders and decision of the UNDP and GEF SGP team of Cambodia. There are several chief reasons for selecting Stung Siem Reap watershed areas for these CPS, which include the following:

- 1) Environmental Significance: The watershed is crucial for maintaining the ecological balance of the region, including wetlands in Angkor Wat Protected Landscape and the Tonle Sap Lake, a vital source of food and livelihoods for millions of people. It also supports biodiversity hotspots and contributes to the water volumes of Tonle Sap and flow of the Mekong River.
- 2) Socio-geographic Diversity: The unique and exceptionally socio-cultural landscape for Cambodia, this watershed encompasses a wide range of ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, agricultural lands, ancient complex, and human settlement areas, offering opportunities for diverse conservation and development interventions, which support the national economic growth of Cambodia.
- 3) Socioeconomic Importance: The watershed area is home to a significant population that relies on natural resources for their livelihoods, including agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and ecotourism. Sustainable management of the watershed is essential for ensuring the well-being and livelihoods of these communities. This watershed is one of international and national tourism destination priorities which support the national economic development.
- 4) Cultural Heritage: The area encompasses the Angkor Wat temple complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and other important cultural and historical sites within the watershed areas like Banteay Srey temples. Protecting the watershed is crucial for preserving these cultural treasures for the future generations of Cambodia as well as the world.
- 5) Existing initiatives: Existing initiatives and on-going conservation projects by development partners as well as RGC in the selected landscape, such as COMDEKS-1, UNDP and GEF projects, CPA, CFI, CF programs and watershed management plans, were already underway in the area, providing a foundation for further collaboration and development.



In addition to the significance of the selected Stung Siem Reap Watershed area, COMDEKS Phase I has generated significant achievements and best practices to fulfil its four outcomes for which the Stung Siem Reap landscape is still of continued interest for OP8 Phase.

Based on the Ex-post baseline assessment of COMDEKS projects conducted by Live and Learn Cambodia in 2021, the COMDEKS grants supported 8 projects implemented by 7 CSOs and CBOs through the SGP mechanism with a primary on the management of protected areas while also improving livelihood options and promoting sustainable landscapes in Stung Siem Reap watershed areas. The COMDEKS projects supported key priority areas such as Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity Conservation, Agroecology and Food Security, Sustainable Livelihoods, and Strengthening of Institutional and Governance Systems at the Landscape Level. Over the project period, there were a total of 8,394 direct beneficiaries, of which 6,487 (78%) were women. Based on the four outcomes, protected area management includes formalizing management plans, restructuring and increasing the capacity of management committees (community forestry, fisheries, and protected areas), protecting land through patrolling, demarcation, fire roads, and education, and replanting trees. A focus on water included water user group strengthening and water supply to households. Agriculture biodiversity included working with resilient crops and organic farming methods to regenerate the soil. Livelihood options were recognized as an important foundation for conservation; activities included savings group support, small livestock support, rice banks, and a cow bank. Strengthening community committees occurred through training, visits, and backstopping support.

Livelihood enhancement includes integrating livelihood support for conservation by allocating grants to CF members for livelihood activities, motivating communities to become involved in conservation activities through an understanding of long-term impacts where no mitigating efforts are made, and increasing communication and coordination between communities and government bodies to achieve shared objectives. Collective community work for forest conservation practice has been a good success, as have complementary activities of income generation and conservation. Giving grants directly to community groups (as in the case of Kampong Phluk Community Based Ecotourism) and allowing them to take responsibility for financial allocation and reporting allows them to improve their management capacity.

However, some challenges have emerged for COMDEKS implementation due to several reasons. Firstly, the budget (250,000\$) for COMDEKS Phase 1 was relatively small to address all the issues and needs across the large landscape of the Stung Seim Reap watershed landscape. Secondly, the timeframe is too short (reportedly 2 years) to set up sustainable projects, particularly in terms of capacity building and management for protected area management (and NGOs who, in some cases, are working in new themes); success has not been independent but a result of working concurrently with complementary projects and/or projects that have laid the groundwork already; some COMDEKS projects at the close of phase 1 were handed over to other projects working in similar areas. Thirdly, communities were willing to dedicate resources to patrolling and protecting areas; time dedicated to patrolling meant an opportunity loss to be earning money through other means; sustainable patrolling was a challenge without some form of direct or indirect compensation. Finally, their main sources of livelihood come from forests, and illegal logging is common as



fast making money. Low education of community members on protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services, which their understanding from neighbouring communities hindered their efforts.

In addition, the selection process involves several stages of literature review and synthesis, data collection, and analysis in support of the preparation of COMDEKS-4 and SGP OP8 Country Programme Strategies.

According to the COMDEKS-1 Country Programme Strategy, the Stung Siem Reap watershed areas are classified into six zones largely based on the socio-ecological settings of the area, which covers the shoreline of Tonle Sap Lake, Angkor Wat temples, farmland, settlement areas, deciduous forest, and Kulen mountain. These zones are 1. Tonle Sap flood plain, 2. Rice plain, 3. Agro-archaeological complex, 4. Agro-forest mosaic, 5. Upland agriculture, and 6. Phnom Kulen National Park (Figure 1: Map of socio-ecological zones of Stung Siem Reap Watershed Areas).

Based on the availability of GIS data like forest cover and land use cover (SERVIR-Mekong), we developed three maps for forest cover changes for 2000, 2010 and 2023 for discussion with sub-national government and local communities. We also updated areas as well as boundaries of each zone due to changes of land use cover since 2012 once the first COMDEKS Country Programme Strategy was prepared (Figure 2: Maps of forest cover changes).

b) Selected landscapes/seascapes for OP8

In connection to COMDEKS-1 and predefined guidance of landscape selection, Stung Siem Reap Watershed Area was selected for both COMDEKS-4 and OP8 Country Programme Strategies. The watershed areas cover 361,911 ha (approximately 3,611 Km²) across five districts namely Puok, Siem Reap, Prasat Bakong, Sout Nikom, Chi Kraeng district, and 23 Communes. This landscape is located in Northwestern Cambodia in the province of Siem Reap, home to the world-famous historic temple of Angkor Wat. It extends from the mountain range of Phnom Kulen to the Tonle Sap Lake (Figure 1). The elevations in the upstream area of Phnom Kulen reach 500 m above sea level, whereas the town of Siem Reap in the downstream area is located only at 15 m above sea level.

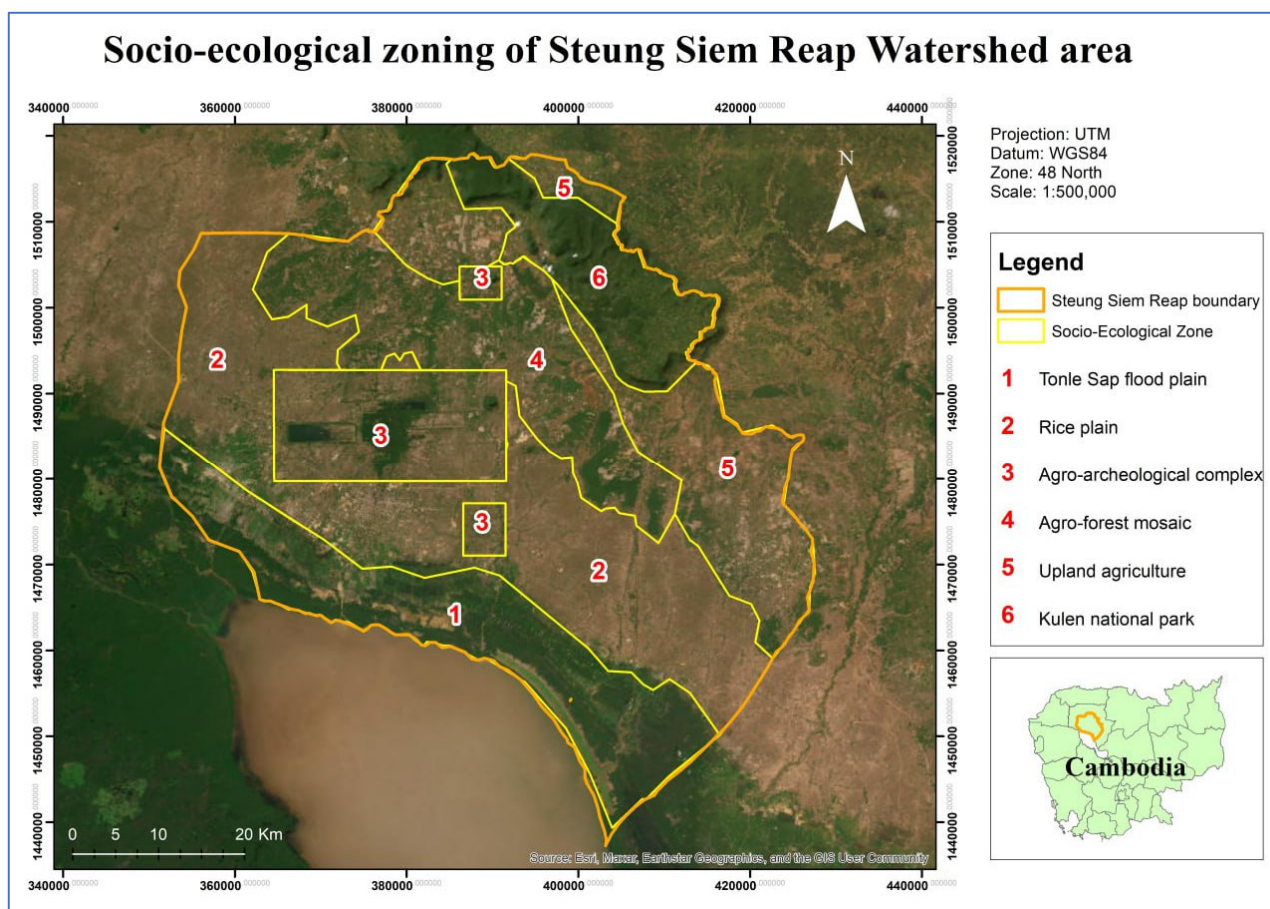


Figure 1. Map of socio-ecological zones of Stung Siem Reap Watershed Areas

Source: COMDEKS-1 and GIS data from SERVIR-Mekong, 2024 (<https://servir.adpc.net/>).

The landscape of the Stung Siem Reap watershed is highly diverse. This watershed is subdivided into four topographical zones (Figure 1), with the downstream plain being seasonally flooded due to the reversal of Tonle Sap Lake water. Generally, the downstream plain has an elevation below or around 3 meters, while the highest elevations are found in Phnom Kulen National Park. These topographical differences result in soils that reflect the geological setup, topography, and the interaction between surface water and groundwater.

Local communities have adapted their use of land and natural resources to this diverse landscape, with household farming (mainly rice) being predominant on agricultural land. These maps also illustrate forest cover changes for 2000, 2010, and 2023, overlaid with district and commune boundaries. Various land uses are shown, including rice fields, crop plantations, cropland, flooded forests, evergreen and deciduous forests, shrubs, and urban areas. significant changes occurred from 2000 to 2010, with the substantial conversion of deciduous forests to crop plantations. From 2010 to 2023, the most momentous change in the Stung Siem Reap watershed was the conversion of deciduous forests to cropland, with additional transitions from deciduous forests to rice fields.



Land Cover Map in Steung Siem Reap Watershed Area 2023

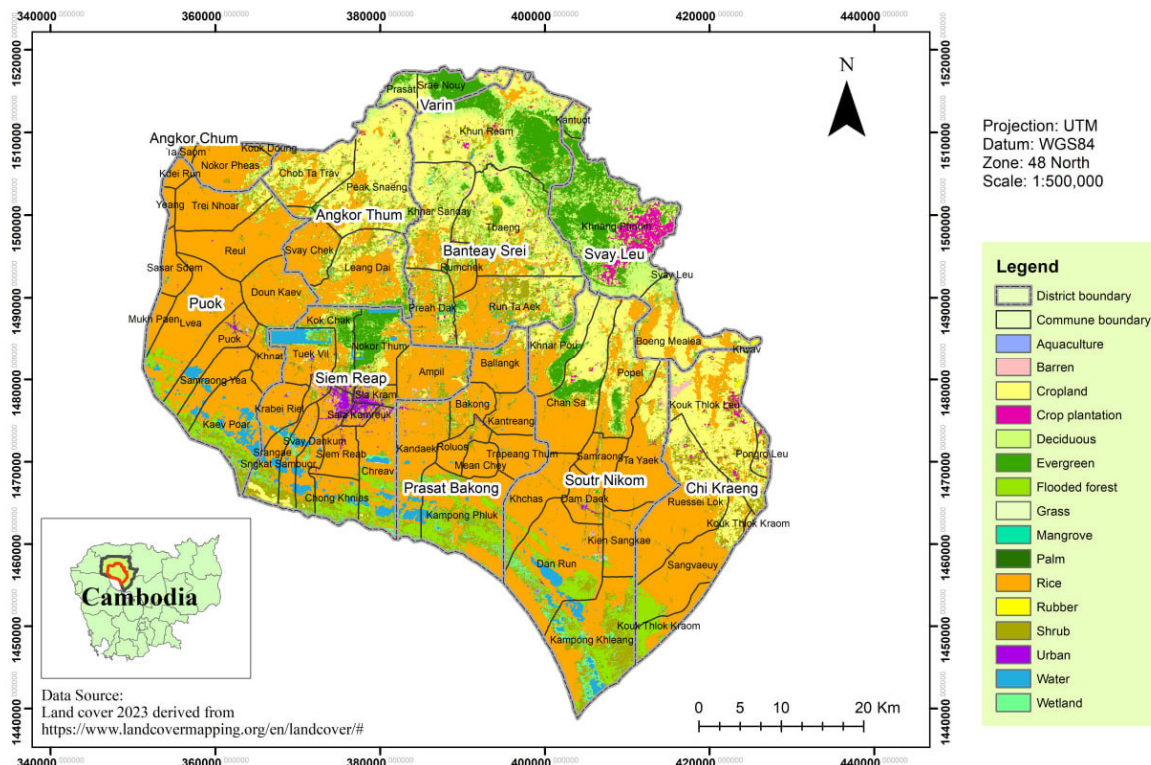


Figure 2: Maps of forest cover changes (2023)

Source: GIS data from SERVIR-Mekong, 2024 (<https://servir.adpc.net/>).

The Stung Siem Reap watershed features seven types of soils: Acid Lithosols, Alluvial Lithosols, Cultural Hydromorphics, Grey Hydromorphics, Lacustrine Alluvial Soils, Plinthite Podzols, and Red-Yellow Podzols. Public land tenure arrangements are diverse, including three main protected areas: Phnom Kulen National Park, the Angkor Wat Protected Landscape, and the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve. Natural resource management is primarily conducted through co-management schemes between communities and relevant government administrations, encompassing Community Forestry, Community Fisheries, and Community Protected Areas in the Phnom Kulen region.

To address the ecological and social diversity of the watershed, a socio-ecological zoning exercise was performed using geographic information systems (GIS). This exercise aimed to differentiate the watershed into six specific socio-ecological zones, with relatively homogeneous relationships between land/natural resources, local communities, and management practices. Below is brief description of these zones:



- Zone 1: Tonle Sap Plain – Features varied land uses and is seasonally flooded by the Tonle Sap River. It includes grasslands, shrublands, forests, ponds, lakes, important fishing grounds managed mainly through community fisheries schemes, deep-water rice plots, and dry season rice farming.
- Zone 2: Agricultural Plain – Primarily used for rain-fed rice production, with low levels of agricultural intensification and crop diversification, mainly managed through household farming. More intensive commercial agriculture is practiced where water storage infrastructure is available.
- Zone 3: Agricultural and Forest Area around Angkor Wat – This zone surrounds the archaeological park of Angkor Wat, where family farming is predominant, but overall management is under the APSARA National Authority.
- Zone 4: Agriculture-Forest Mosaic Area – Characterized by highly fragmented forests due to recent deforestation, with remaining forests managed through community forestry and CPA schemes.
- Zone 5: Upland Agricultural Area – In the last decade, forest cover has been entirely cleared and replaced with upland cropping systems (rice and other annual and perennial crops like casava and cashew).
- Zone 6: Phnom Kulen National Park (Protected Area) – Managed by the Ministry of Environment and partly in co-management with local communities (Community Protected Area - CPA). It is the last remaining forest area with high biodiversity and ecosystem services which provide water to stabilize the Angkor temple foundations and people livelihoods at downstream.

**Table 4. Forest cover changes from 2000, 2010 and 2023 in Stung Siem Reap Watershed Areas**

No.	Description	2000	2010		2023	
		Area (ha)	Area (ha)	Per cent change (+/-)	Area (ha)	Per cent change (+/-)
1	Aquaculture	479.00	444.00	(7.31)	442.92	(0.24)
2	Baren land	360.52	885.89	145.73	2,499.76	182.17
3	Cropland	6,429.85	22,220.67	245.59	56,939.53	156.25
4	Crop plantation	1,616.38	2,248.92	39.13	4,343.64	93.14
5	Deciduous forest	79,961.45	71,730.90	(10.29)	33,330.80	(53.53)
6	Evergreen forest	43,778.43	33,201.64	(24.16)	22,742.90	(31.50)
7	Flooded forest	13,461.99	16,054.71	19.26	13,191.50	(17.83)
8	Grass	2.58	2.46	(4.63)	4.44	80.87
9	Mangrove	3,804.59	4,312.39	13.35	637.31	(85.22)
10	Palm tree	1.14	2.74	141.43	2.43	(11.44)
11	Rice field	165,224.90	167,708.20	1.50	171,348.00	2.17
12	Rubber plantation	1.97	4.75	140.98	444.61	9,259.50
13	Shrubland	25,524.99	27,879.39	9.22	40,795.50	46.33
14	Urban area	47.25	433.00	816.46	1,917.60	342.87
15	Water	9,981.65	9,039.60	(9.44)	8,308.31	(8.09)
16	Wetlands	11,234.51	5,741.94	(48.89)	4,961.93	(13.58)
	Total	361,911.19	361,911.19	1,467.92	361,911.19	9,941.86

Note: + meaning the increase of area, - (in bracket) meaning the Decrease of area based on the immediately previous year slot. E.g. per cent change of area in 2010 is based on 2000 area, per cent change of area in 2023 is based on 2010 area.

Source: GIS data from SERVIR-Mekong, 2024 (<https://servir.adpc.net/>).

c) OP8 Strategic Initiatives in the landscapes

From Table 3, about 10 Strategic Initiatives were discussed and aligned with UNDP's CPD and National Priorities, and they are well fit with OP8 strategic initiatives identified to promote strategic programming and clustering of small grant projects with the aim to achieve greater impacts and lead to synergies and opportunities for replicating and scaling up. As mentioned above, 70% of the available GEF resources for OP8 will be used to fund projects in the selected landscapes of Stung Siem Reap watershed areas, and 30% of SGP fund will be utilized for priority areas outside the selected landscape. Of 10 Strategic Initiatives of OP8, COMDEKS-4 strategic initiatives will also be implemented in the selected landscape with specific objectives and outputs under each OP8 strategy initiative as listed in the Table 3 above and COMDEKS-4 Country Programme Strategy (separate document). Based on results of regional and national consultation workshops in Siem Reap town and Phnom Penh, and comments from NSC members, the project interventions for Stung Siem Reap Watershed Areas should be prioritised by Socio-ecological zones, which are summarised in Table 5 below.



Table 5. Ideas of project interventions based on Zones proposed by Participants of Regional and National Consultation Workshops, and NSC members

SGP Country Programme's OP8 Priorities	Project Interventions by Zones (proposed by communities and participants)
#1: Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species 1) Improve the effectiveness of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and management through equitable governance systems (legalization and supporting management plan preparation) by recognizing and respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (CPA, Community Forestry and Community Fisheries). 2) Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy approaches (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.). 3) Enhance community-led actions for protection of threatened species.	1) Building Capacity for community members and concerned rangers on organizational management, including administration, reporting, team building, engagement, leadership skills, patrol, conservation and protection techniques by training, and study tour to best practices-led communities (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5, 6). 2) Developing and promoting community learning-hub and enhancing capacity of community's model trainers which will train the key skills (mentioned in Point 1 above) to other communities within the watershed areas (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5, 6). 3) Introducing simple digital technology like map reading, reporting crimes or illegal activities, best practices and problem-solving inquiries by using the appropriate applications built on smart phone (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5, 6). 4) Promoting awareness raising on laws and regulations relating to conservation and protection of fishery resources, forest, and wildlife; and by-laws and internal regulations for CPA, CF, CFI, and IP communities (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5, 6). 5) Supporting the integration of CPA, CF and CFI management plan into Commune Development Plan (CDP), and Commune Investment Program (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5, 6). 6) Enhancing the enforcement of laws and regulations by local communities in close cooperation with local competent authorities (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5, 6). 7) Supporting the boundary demarcation of CBOs (CF, CFI and CPA) areas for legal protection and conservation (Zones 1, 4, 5 and 6). 8) Supporting the interventions of protecting the biodiversity and ecosystem services in CPA, CFI and CF areas like fire break route, tree replanting, building check dams and restoring ponds for wildlife, development of community center, etc. (Zones 1, 4, 5 and 6) 9) Supporting the update of committee structure for CPA, CF, and CFI include Internal Rules and Regulations (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5, 6). 10) Supporting the legalization of CF, CFI and CPA for registration with relevant government ministries (MoE and MAFF) (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5, 6). 11) Supporting the development of nature-based tourism which can be linked to Strategic Priority 2 (zones 1, 4, 5 and 6). 12) Promote research on crop protection and genomic advances in seeds and highlight the challenges faced with regards to the availability, effectiveness, and costs of the proposed bio-pesticide (Zones 1, 2, 4, and 5). 13) Conduct research on threatened ecosystems and species, and



	update biodiversity status (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5, 6).
#2: Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security 1) Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems (mountains, and wetland ecosystems of Tonle Sap Lake). 2) Increase diversification and livelihood improvement through promoting Climate Smart Agriculture, Agro-forestry and diversifying incomes by skill training, development of sustainable financial mechanisms such as saving group/revolving funds, community-based ecotourism and small enterprises. 3) Remove deforestation from the supply chain and expand restoration of degraded lands.	1) Promoting livelihood diversification, including training on post-harvest technologies for fishery products, NTFPs, medicinal plants, honey collected from CPA, CF and CFI, and on ecotourism hospitality including homestay, food preparation, tour guide, etc (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5, 6). 2) Supporting the environmentally friendly and Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices (innovation and new updated technology) for farmers-fishers throughout the landscape, by providing training on farming techniques like organic farming, crop diversification, Integrated Pest Management-IPM, horticulture, animal husbandry, aquaculture (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5, 6). 3) Promoting private partnership in agriculture sector by securing the sustainable agricultural market by contract farming, product labelling and packaging; supporting small-holder farmers with low interest rate (loan); and promoting "saving group" and supporting "agriculture cooperative" for livelihood improvement (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5, 6).
#3: Low-carbon energy access co-benefits Support implementation of Paris Agreement and the NDCs 1) Support energy access initiatives at the local level, including demonstrations and piloting of renewable options (such as Pico-hydro power, solar power, Biogas, biomass). 2) Promote the efficiency of energy at the local level including demonstration and piloting of improved cook stove and other innovative technology. 3) Support the initiatives led by the local communities for green energy production such as alternatives of charcoal production from natural forest.	1) Constructing the check dams for Pico hydropower generation and domestic use and irrigation of local garden at community villages and use to protect forest fire during dry periods (Zones 4, 5, 6). 2) Promoting and supporting the efficiency of energy uses at the local level including demonstration and piloting of improved cook stove and other innovative technology (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5, 6). 3) Promoting the production of charcoal from biproducts of forest like leaves, bark, branches, etc., and farmed forest with fast growing tree species in order to reduce the deforestation practices in PA, and CBO management areas (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5, 6). 4) Promoting solar farms and other renewable energy sources (like biogas, bi-products of forest) to the communities for farming activities and household consumption (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5, 6). 5) Supporting research and production on renewable energy (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5, 6).
#4: Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management 1) Promote plastics/solid waste management and circular economy for ecotourism sites, public buildings, wetlands, and promote the application of 3Rs, and awareness raising on plastics. 2) Reduce/remove use of chemicals in agriculture including chemical fertilizer,	1) Promoting the community-based solid waste management by applying 5Rs (Refusing, Reducing, Reusing, Recycling and Recovery) at the community areas, especially ecotourism sites in CPA, CF and CFI areas (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5, 6). 2) Supporting the awareness raise on proper and standard use of chemicals, pesticide/herbicide and fertilizer inside the landscape (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6). 3) Promoting agricultural production by using organic fertilizers and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5, 6).



herbicides, pesticide; and promoting the use of organic fertilizers, IPM, etc.	4) Promoting campaigns on solid waste management and integrate chemical and solid waste management into Management Plans of CPA, CF and CFI, and Commune Development Plan and Commune Investment Program, and school curriculum (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5, 6). 5) Promoting the private partnership for waste management and collecting system by local private companies (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5, 6).
#5: Community-Based Adaptation 1) Reduce vulnerability and improve the adaptive capacity of communities and CSOs through adopting the effective CBA and LLA (Locally Lead Adaptation) implementation, knowledge sharing, and policy representation at sub-national and national levels. 2) Enhance socio-economic and climate resilience in select landscape through implementation of locally driven CBA solution. 3) Promote the replication and scaling up of CBA solutions and innovations and mainstreamed at the local and national levels. 4) CBA and LLA approaches integrate principles of 'leaving no one behind' with an emphasis on inclusion of women and girls, Indigenous Peoples, youth and PWD (People with Disabilities).	1) Increasing the adaptive capacity for local communities in response to climate change impacts caused by floods, droughts, and windstorms for their livelihood by promoting awareness on adaptation measures for local community (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5, 6). 2) Supporting the restoration of forest by replanting appropriate trees in degraded land, CPA, CF and CFI areas (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6). 3) Promoting nature-based solution practices for local livelihood improvement, like restoring dams, and wetlands (Zones 1, 4, 5 and 6). 4) Supporting sustainable water management practices that promote water resources efficiently to support agricultural and environmental needs (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6). 5) Promoting effective broadcasting through social media of good practices and lessons learnt on community led adaptation projects and programs to communities within the watershed areas (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6).
#6: Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS Phase 4) 1) Degraded biodiversity ecosystem and services are restored through multi-functional land use systems. 2) Livelihoods of people in the landscape are improved through the development of ecologically sound and community owned income generating activities. 3) Ecologically sound agricultural production system is strengthened for sustainable increased of crop yield and productivity. 4) Robust governance system is established and strengthened for CSOs in Stung Siem Reap Watershed Areas.	<i>See COMDEKS-4 CPS for more details, but key potential project interventions are summarized below:</i> 1) The potential project interventions for Outcome 1 will include efforts to protect natural resources within the socio-ecological zones while increasing ecosystem services. 2) The potential project interventions to support Outcome 2 will include efforts to address the lack of farmer-to-market linkages while enhancing income opportunities for local people for various mechanisms like ecotourism, and NTFP collection and processing. 3) The potential project interventions to support Outcome 3 will include efforts to reinforce eco-friendly farming and cropping methods to increase soil and crop productivity and maintain and enhance livestock production by applying climate smart farming, organic farming, etc. 4) The potential efforts to support Outcome 4 are to ensure efficient coordination of community conservation activities that



	include strengthening CBOs organizations like structure, management plan, by-laws, networking, etc.
#7: CSO-government-private sector policy and planning dialogue platforms SGP will allocate 10% of total grant allocation for Capacity Development fund promote/enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, strategy development related to global environment and sustainable development issues.	1) Promoting network building and supporting the community dialogues and workshops on sharing best practices and challenges of SGP funded projects at regional and national levels (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6). 2) Supporting the dialogue platform between government, NGOs, CBOs and private sector on environment and natural resource issues (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6). 3) Strengthening capacity of the existing network on environment and natural resource issues (understanding needs from community, private, and government) (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6). 4) Promoting coordination mechanism on investment and marketplaces for Private sector-and community that supports the initiatives of biodiversity and ecosystem management (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6).
#8: Enhancing social inclusion 1) Promote targeted inclusive initiatives. 2) Mainstream social inclusion in all projects. Through the implementation of IPs access to energy innovative programme, as well as in strategic direction for funding, project selection criteria will be clearly stated. NSC members were designated to be a focal person of Gender, Children and Youth, IPs and PWD in order to ensure that all the GEF SGP funded projects have highlighted in the project proposal on how the project promote social inclusion and mainstreaming gender. The social inclusion should also be indicated the promotion of women or PWD led projects that ensure that their concerns and needs are included in the project design and implementation of every SGP funded project.	1) Promoting women and People With Disabilities (PWD) led projects that ensure that their concerns and needs are included in the project design and implementation of every SGP funded project (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6). 2) Addressing the policy and regulation of gender inclusion in the NGO, CSO, and CBO internal regulations and by-laws (statutes) (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6). 3) Promoting social inclusion and safeguard policy into development plan, and investment program of commune, and management plan of CPA, CF, and CFi (developing social inclusion checklist) (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6). 4) Providing awareness raising on gender for community people who are the key members of CPA, CF, CFi, IP and related people so that they are fully aware of the importance of gender in the projects (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6). 5) Supporting the activities that promote the participation of women, Indigenous minorities, and vulnerable groups in the conservation of natural resources, as well as in economic and social development (Zones 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6).
#9: Knowledge Management 1) Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities. 2) Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs.	This should be included in all projects proposed by the CSO or CBO. Suggestions and key activities are already discussed in the Table above.



3) Conduct South-South Exchanges to promote technology transfer and replication of good practices. All GEF SGP-funded projects need to have an output to document learned lessons and good practices either in the case study form or a video/photo story. The final KM products will be shared on YouTube, Facebook and other social media channels. The SGP and UNDP program should prepare the guidelines of knowledge management for each project to use when documenting the good practices and lessons from their project implementation.	
#10: Results Management, Monitoring & Evaluation 1) Administer new M&E strategy in the Country Programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms. Develop M & E framework at the GEF SGP level to track the progress of the CPS implementation. At the project level, with NC support, each project has developed Annex 2: project work plan and monitoring schedule with clear project indicators for monitoring the project progress. Each SGP recipient like CSOs and CBOs should assign M&E staff to take over the role and responsibility of monitoring and evaluation internally to keep the project progress and consequences for appropriate solutions.	This should be included in all projects proposed by the CSO or CBO. Suggestions and key activities are already discussed in the Table above.

d) Grantmaking outside the priority landscapes/seascapes

In compliance with GEF SGP guidance, around 30% of the available GEF funds for OP8 will be used to fund projects outside the selected landscapes (Stung Siem Reap Watershed Area), which will also contribute to the Strategic Initiatives 1, 2, 6, and 7. Those projects will aim at increasing the ability of local populations, especially women and indigenous people, youths, and People With Disability (PWD), to benefit from participating in designing and implementing SGP funded projects for contributing to the sustainable use and management of natural resources. They will also address problems related to the loss of biodiversity

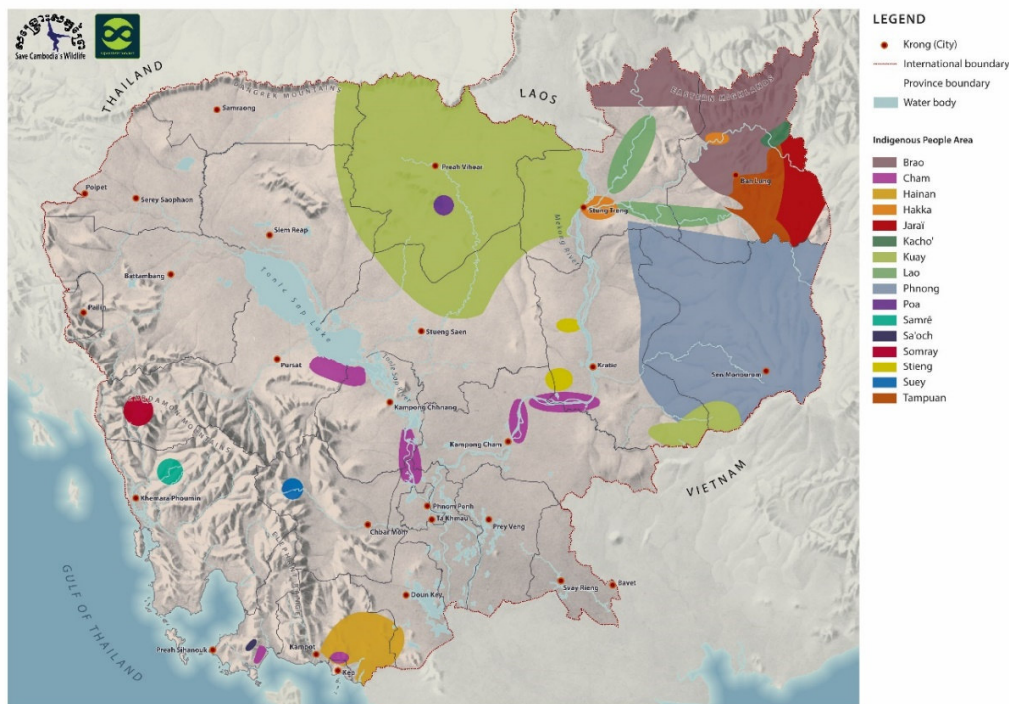


caused by the destruction of habitat and over-exploitation of natural resources and mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change by undertaking activities aimed at reducing GHG emissions, removing barriers to energy efficiency and energy conservation, addressing the chemical uses in agriculture, and promoting alternative renewable sources of energy. Based on consultation with key stakeholders from government, UNDP Cambodia, and NGOs, grants for outside selected landscape should be supported the local NGOs/CBOs including IP Communities/organizations and PWD organizations inside the biodiversity hotspots areas and the areas that are vulnerable to climate changes and disaster risks.

[Geographical Location for ICCAs phase II](#)

GEF SGP UNDP Cambodia invites IPOs, local NGOs and CBOs working directly with indigenous communities on the ICCAs phase II in all villages, communes, districts, provinces that are home of IPs in Cambodia to submit their project proposal for the grants. Please see Annex 1.b for a detailed list of provinces and communes with indigenous communities.

Figure 3: Indigenous People Areas in Cambodia (Dataset OD Mekong Datahub)



4.2 CSO-government-private sector dialogue platforms

As with the OP7 phase, some networks and platforms were mentioned, and these are still applicable for OP8 phase projects, that need high attention. The CSO government-private sector dialogue platforms are useful for creating a space of engagement for IPs and Local Community (LC) with government ministries and the



private sector. The dialogue platforms should be organized regularly until it becomes a routine practice for all stakeholders to address their concerns. This will contribute to the creation of a “space of engagement” for government and civil society to practice the culture of dialogue in addressing the issues of access and rights to natural resources for local people's livelihoods. These are:

- Reactivating existing platforms like CSO-government policy dialogues by enabling the participation of grantee partners in government advisory bodies, connecting policymakers with grassroots-level sustainable development issues.
- Strengthening cooperation with local authority in systematic settings, not just based on project or activity aspects.
- Link local practice to policy level, visit local initiatives/innovation/practice so it can be mainstreamed into policy level.
- Support LNGOs/CBOs staff to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends.
- Tap global grantees for knowledge and lessons learned.
- Enhancing social inclusion and resilience.

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

Cambodia has made significant efforts in recent years to promote social inclusion, gender equality, and women's empowerment in every corner of the Cambodian society. These are included in the national strategies like Pentagonal Strategy Phase I, and the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP), gender equity and empowerment of women are key national development objectives in Cambodia and are viewed as cornerstones to achieve conservation and sustainable development. Furthermore, the promotion of gender equality in the emerging context of digital transformation in response to global uncertainties, environmental sustainability, and climate change is highlighted in the Pentagonal Strategy-Phase I. Other government initiatives include (1) the National Policy Framework on Digital Economy and Society 2021-2035, which focuses on women's participation in the digital sector, alongside Cambodia Digital Government Policy 2022-2035 which aims at “reducing the gender gap in digital skills”, (2) the National Financial Inclusion Strategy 2019-2025 to increase a gender-responsive environment that promotes gender equality and empowerment of women in terms of financial inclusion, and (3) the Five-Year Strategic Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 2019-20231 by the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA) to promote gender responsiveness and inclusion in the national policy frameworks, strategic plans, and national programs related to the economic sector. In general term, Cambodia has relatively good statistics for gender equality at the aggregate level. At the household level, there is an unequal sharing of household responsibilities between women and men, and this continues to put a heavy burden on women to balance family and work.

GEF SGP projects should consider the high involvement of women and men in the strategies and actions to ensure that women and the most vulnerable groups are empowered to participate in planning, management and decision-making processes related to natural resources management and share equitably in the benefits from the provision of livelihood opportunities. The Strategies and actions will include:

- Update the Protected Area zoning guidelines that incorporate the equal engagement of



- women and men in the planning process, decision- making, and management of CPA and community-based natural resources management arrangements related, and commune/sangkat development plan and investment programme.
- Incorporating gender aspects in the training and capacity building to CBOs, especially active committee members of CPA, CF, CFI, and related organizations.
 - Incorporating gender aspects into the communication materials, including awareness raising, training, policy guidance and related guidelines on biodiversity, ecosystem services, climate change, solid waste management, water conservation.
 - Developing livelihood opportunities that recognize the capabilities and strengths of women (e.g. micro-credit schemes/saving groups, community-based tourism enterprises, NTFPs handicrafts).
 - Promote the access to Finance like microfinance and other financial services to enable women to start and grow businesses related to biodiversity and ecosystem services in CBO areas
 - Skill Development: Provide training and skill development programs to enhance women's employability.
 - Support Women-Led Businesses: Create supportive policies and programs to encourage entrepreneurship among women.

The GEF SGP should create the assessment and evaluation criteria that incorporate the scores on gender involvement in the project selection criteria. For instance, 20% out of 100% of the total score in project concept note selection criteria will be provided during concept note selection. As mentioned in the OP7 CPS, three NSC members were designated as one Gender person, one as IPs focal person and one youth focal person to closely review the proposal during NSC meeting for reviewing and approving proposals.

4.4 Knowledge Management

As mentioned in the Table 3 of Strategic Initiatives of GEF SGP, the knowledge management is a key mandatory of the projects supported by GEF SGP, which will promote citizen-based global knowledge management platforms. It is crucial for the success and sustainability of GEF SGP projects in Cambodia. By effectively capturing, sharing, and utilizing knowledge, GEF SGP can enhance its impact, improve project outcomes, and inform future initiatives. The knowledge management essentially contributes to disseminating best practices and local evidence-based information and data, images of GEF SGP to society, upscale or replication to other CBOs/NGOs, policy influence, academic research, and curriculum developments.

Key Components of Knowledge Management for GEF SGP in Cambodia may include:

1. Knowledge Identification and Capture:

- Documenting Project Activities: document project activities, including planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation with best practices for scaling up to other interested stakeholders. These should be conducted during the project implementation and/or end of the project.
- Capturing Lessons Learned: Identify and document lessons learned from project successes and failures.



- Collecting Best Practices: Collect and document best practices from different project activities.

2. Knowledge Sharing and Dissemination:

- Establishing a Knowledge Repository: Create a centralized repository for storing project documents, reports, case studies, and other relevant information.
- Organizing Knowledge Sharing Workshops: Facilitate regular workshops and seminars to share knowledge and experiences among project implementers, stakeholders, and communities. This can be integrated with on-going projects with similar objectives and outcomes being implemented by NGOs, Government agencies, development partners, etc.
- Utilizing Digital Platforms: Utilize online platforms and social media to share information and connect with a wider audience and stakeholders who are interested in biodiversity, ecosystems, climate change and disaster risk management.
- Developing Communication Materials: Create informative materials, such as brochures, newsletters, and videos, to disseminate knowledge to a broader audience.

3. Knowledge Utilization:

- Informing Decision-Making: Use knowledge to inform decision-making processes, such as project design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.
- Improving Project Performance: Apply lessons learned to improve project performance and outcomes.
- Building Capacity: Share knowledge to build the capacity of project implementers and communities in the selected landscape or areas outside.

Furthermore, the GEF Small Grant Program Secretariat in Cambodia should organize the Annual Reflection Workshops to reflect what we have learned and to ensure that lessons learnt and good practices are effectively communicated to a range of audiences including the SGP networks and NSC members, relevant government ministries and DPs and NGOs/CSOs and CBOs to promote scaling up of best practices and influence national and subnational policies and strategies. The specific Strategies for GEF SGP in Cambodia will include:

- Community-Based Knowledge Management: Empower communities to document their traditional knowledge and practices, and to share their experiences with their networks, and others interested.
- Partnerships with Academic Institutions: Collaborate with universities and research institutions to conduct research, analyse data, and disseminate knowledge.
- Capacity Building for Knowledge Management: Provide training to project implementers (NGOs and CBOs) on knowledge management skills, such as documentation, report writing, and presentation.
- Digital Tools and Platforms: Utilize digital tools to facilitate knowledge sharing, such as online databases, social media, and mobile applications (UNDP SGP webpage and UNDP social media to post updates on issues or progress related to programme implementation, as well as specific articles or case studies of SGP projects).
- Learning Networks: Create learning networks to connect project implementers, researchers, and policymakers to share experiences and lessons learned, support community forest and community protected area management, and link groups to small enterprise development and strengthen cooperation with local authorities.



By implementing effective knowledge management practices, GEF SGP in Cambodia can maximize its impact, ensure the sustainability of its projects, and contribute to the long-term development of Cambodia.

5. COMMUNICATION PLAN

The primary goal of this CPS Communication Plan is to foster a better understanding of the challenges and issues and to build relationships and partnerships with all stakeholders by promoting the SGP results to its stakeholders for enhanced coordination, partnership building and resource mobilization. This also includes demonstrating the contributions and positive impacts of the SGP towards national priorities, GEF programming, and UNDP's country strategies. Specific communication objectives are:

- a) To raise and increase awareness and knowledge to targeted stakeholders on the UNDP GEF-SGP in Cambodia.
- b) To promote the exchange of lessons learned and good practices from SGP project interventions in order to enhance policy dialogue, upscaling of positive interventions and improve decision making on issues related to the global environment and sustainable development (i.e. biodiversity conservation, livelihoods, poverty reduction and gender).
- c) To promote the resource mobilisation actions for support of SGP interventions at the country and local levels.
- d) To address the key development challenges, highlight results and impact of the project interventions at local levels.
- e) To encourage stakeholder participation among civil society organizations (CSOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), researchers, policy makers, academia, technical specialists, NGOs, and local communities.

Target Audiences

- **Primary audiences:** include the direct and local stakeholders such as CSOs and CBOs, Community members, Indigenous peoples, Local authorities, and Media.
- **Secondary audiences:** which could include Government agencies (e.g., Ministry of Environment, MAFF), Donors, academic institutions, and international organizations that are interested in the results and outcomes of SGP interventions.

Key Messages

- **What is the GEF SGP?** A community-based grant program that supports local environmental solutions covering the key priority areas of GEF SGP such as biodiversity conservation and restoration, climate change mitigation and adaptation, land degradation, international waters, and toxic chemicals and solid waste, while supporting improving local livelihoods, social inclusion, policy dialogue, and networking.
- **Benefits of the SGP:** Provides financial and technical support for grassroots projects, especially community led interventions. Empowers local communities to address environmental challenges and promotes sustainable livelihoods and improves quality of life of local community, including PWD, IPs, and vulnerable groups. Sharing of best practices, case studies, and lessons learned from the SGP projects.

Communication Channels



- **Website:** A dedicated website or webpage with information on the SGP, eligibility criteria, application process, news, success stories, and contact information.
- **Social media:** Utilizing platforms like Facebook, Telegram, X/Twitter, and Instagram to share updates, news, success stories, and engage with the target audience, and promote SGP activities widely.
- **Mainstream Media:** Utilizing TV shows, newspapers, magazines, and newsletters to disseminate information about the SGP and its projects.
- **Workshops and Trainings:** Conducting workshops and training sessions to inform potential grantees about the SGP, its application process, and project development, and sharing best practices, lessons learnt, challenges, etc.
- **Events and Outreach:** Participating in events and outreach activities to promote the SGP and interact with grantees and partners.
- **Networking:** Building and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, community leaders, local media and academic institutions for broader impacts. This also includes the existing networks like the National Climate Change Network, renewable energy network, UN and UNDP Cambodia projects (INRM, PEARL, Building resilient livelihoods through nature-based solutions in the Tonle Sap Basin and Siem Reap/Phnom Kulen landscape, etc) and GEF adaptation Fund. These networks will provide forums for sharing information and lessons learned, raising community concerns on relevant policies, and advocating for CSO work in environmental areas.

Communication Activities may include organizing a public launch event to officially introduce the SGP in Cambodia, conducting targeted information campaigns in key areas and among priority groups such as CBOs, CSOs, IP, PWD, etc; organizing visits to successful SGP projects to showcase their impact; and carrying out press conferences, media briefings, and interviews to share SGP news and engage with mainstream media journalists. Capacity- building workshops are organized for CSOs and CBOs, local community, IPs, etc, on project development, proposal writing, and financial management.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Track key performance indicators by monitoring the reach and effectiveness of communication activities through website traffic, social media engagement, media coverage, and feedback from stakeholders. Regular evaluations could be conducted to evaluate the communication plan to identify areas for improvement and adjust strategies as needed. Regularly gather feedback from stakeholders through surveys, focus group discussions, and informal channels.

6. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND PARTNERSHIP PLAN

Total grant fund pledged for OP8 amounts to USD 1,590,020, which comes from several sources, including USD 500,000 from the OP8 GEF-SGP core fund, USD 90,020.00 from OP8 GEF STAR Funds, USD 200,000.00 for COMDEKS-4 and USD 189,324.48 remaining balance of OP7, and USD 700,000.00 is expected to be mobilized from other sources. 70% of total grant fund will be used for selected landscape of Stung Siem Reap Watershed Areas, where 30% of total GEF core funding is used for outside the landscape grant making. Therefore, additional resource for SGP OP8 should be mobilized from other sources or promoted the culture of fund sharing as in cash co-financing from other donors and projects, and in-kind contribution from the project level.



6.1 Secured and planned cash and in-kind co-financing

a) Co-financing at Project Level

The existing mechanisms and practices of SGP projects share the fund at 1:1 in form at in-kind and/or in cash co-financing from the CSOs/CBOs/NGOs and community. These mechanisms are expected to continue for the OP8 projects. All grantees are required to use the mechanism so as to indicate their ownership to the project, and increase the wider impacts derived from the project implementation. The co-financing may be sought from various active donors from the EU, USAID Conserve, OXFAM in Cambodia, INRM, PEARL, Building resilient livelihoods through nature-based solutions in the Tonle Sap Basin and Siem Reap/Phnom Kulen landscape, and other GEF funded projects in the pipeline, including from private sector, financial institutions, and foundations.

b) Co-financing at Landscape and Country Levels

Stung Siem Reap Watershed Areas have received considerable interests of RGC as well as donor communities, private sectors, and businesses enterprises because of world heritage sites. Thus far, RGC has invested in many projects to protect and conserve the biodiversity and ecosystems within the watershed areas in line with Strategies and Development Plans. For instance, the National Protected Area Strategic Management Plan (2017- 2031), and Local Community Development Strategic Plan (2024-2028) are more recent policies of RGC aimed at sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems. In this regard, SGP will seek to build a substantial partnership with sub-national and Local Government development funding, INGOs, Community and key Partners to provide further in-kind and in-cash support through existing arrangements and cooperations. Based on field consultation and discussion with key stakeholders at central level, the number of donors and organizations is implementing identical projects within the watershed areas of Stung Siem Reap. Table 6 summarizes key information on donors/organizations and primary activities being carried out inside the selected landscape.

Table 6: Name of existing organizations, or potential partners/donors in Watershed Areas of Stung Siem Reap

Name of existing organizations, or potential partners donors	Sector Addressed by the Organizations
APSARA National Authority	The RGC agency is responsible for management and conservation of Angkor Wat Temple Complex. Its key tasks are concerned about the material well-being of Angkor Wat temples, supporting the people living in the protected zone areas, protecting and restoring the natural resources within the site. APSARA National Authority has worked extensively with concerned government agencies, NGOs, development partners, and private sectors on protection, conservation, and development of Angkor Wat.
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	WCS has long term work in northern landscape including Prek Toal of Tonle Sap Lake. Its current projects deal with the protection of endangered wildlife species such as Banteng, gibbon, etc. and support livelihoods of local communities residing inside and around the PA.



Conservation International (CI)	Work on conservation of fisheries in Tonle Sap Lake, carbon storage inside flooded forest, reduce deforestation of flooded forest, livelihood improvement of local fishers.
Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT)	Supporting conservation of fisheries, and livelihood improvement in ecotourism, tour guide, homestay, post harvest technologies of fishery products, and floating market in CPA in Tonle Sap Lake.
Sam Veasna Center	The aim of providing alternative livelihoods to local communities who live in the protected areas by joining the conservation and protection of wildlife and bird. Tour guides for bird watching, education, and signing the agreements on no hunting and land use degradation.
Human Resource and Rural Economic Development Organisation (HERREDO)	Supporting local communities in come generations with smart agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and climate change. Currently supports Changkran Roy CPA in Zone 6 of Stung Siem Reap watershed areas.
FLD (Farmer Livelihood Development)	Improving productivity in agriculture (fish farming), promoting and creating jobs, and improving Micro and Small Enterprise (MSE) practices for greater food security, and better livelihoods, health, and quality of life.
Khmer Angkor Development Organizations (KADO)	Production of traditional handicrafts in rattan, traditional Khmer practice outfits.
Angkor Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity (ACCB)	Rescued from the illegal wildlife trade, treatment of wounded wildlife species, quarantine, prevent disease transmission, recovery, the animals are released into suitable and safe habitats according to international recognised standards.
Rural Economic & Agriculture Development Agency (READA)	Improve livelihoods by using the Needs Based Approach, smart farming, animal husbandry.
Cambodian Child's Dream Organization (CCDO)	Promoting Agroforestry for Smallholder farmers in rural Angkor Thom District are vulnerable to crop losses from heat and insects. Support seedlings & saplings to communities.
Live and Learn Cambodia	Promoting the climate resilience, environmental protection, water, sanitation & hygiene, equality & inclusion, disaster risk reduction & response and food resilience for local communities. Its current project on Angkor Water Resilience is supporting about 600 households residing with Angkor Water heritage site from 29 villages of 4 Sangkat and communes of 3 districts in Siem Reap province.
NGO Forum on Cambodia	Coordinating the several NGO and CBO networks in Cambodia, especially networks on natural resource management, climate change, land rights for IP people.



FAO PEARL Project (Public-Social-Private Partnerships for Ecologically Sound Agriculture and Resilient Livelihoods in the Northern Tonle Sap Basin)	With funding support from Green Climate Fund, the PEARL project project aims to enhance the resilience of communities in the Northern Tonle Sap Basin to the impacts of climate change by increasing their access to climate advisory services, climate-resilient technologies and practices, financing options and prospective premium markets. It is six years project from 2023 to 2029 with execution by MAFF, MoE, and FAO. It targets 450 000 farmers directly and 1 000 000 other value chain actors in the Northern Tonle Sap Basin indirectly, covering 24 districts in the four provinces of Oddar Meanchey, Kampong Thom, Preah Vihear, and Siem Reap.
MoE INRM Project from GEF	This project aims to promote integrated natural resource management to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, natural resources, and ecosystems in the northern region of Cambodia, including Stung Siem Reap watershed areas. It is also five years project (2021-2025) and implemented by MOE with UNDP. The project has three Outputs: 1) Systemic and institutional capacity for integrated landscape management; improved national frameworks and enhances institutional capacity as foundations for an integrated landscape approach to conserving biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources, 2) Effective integration of Protected Areas and surrounding riparian and multiple-use production landscapes in Northern Cambodia, and 3) Knowledge Management, gender mainstreaming, learning, M&E.
MoE Project from GEF8 Programme	The project: Restoring ecosystems for Sustainable Development in the Tonle Sap Basin and Siem Reap/ Phnom Kulen Landscape, is under the pipeline with funding support form GEF (about 7.8 mil USD) and implemented by MOE and UNDP over five years. It is a child project under the Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program (ER-IP). The objective is to generate multiple climate, environmental, and socio-economic benefits at scale by enabling integrated collaborative management (restoration/rehabilitation/ conservation) of the TSB degraded watershed. The project has three components namely: 1) Capacity development for integrated watershed management, 2) Advancing investment to strengthen SSR watershed management, and 3) Knowledge (KM), communications, coordination, gender, and monitoring.
MoE Project from GEF8 Programme	The project entitles as Building Resilient Livelihoods through Nature-based Solutions in Cambodia's Tonle Sap Basin and Siem Reap/Phnom Kulen Landscape. It is a five-year project (2025-2030) and implemented by MOE and UNDP, with five Outcomes: Outcome 1. Strengthened capacity for coordination, planning and implementation of integrated watershed management at the national and provincial levels. Outcome 2. Strengthened resilience of communities in the Siem Reap/Phnom Kulen landscape through scalable Nature-based Solutions and sustainable finance. Outcome 3. Increased adoption of climate-resilient natural resource-based livelihoods incentivised through training, market development and innovative finance mechanisms. Outcome 4. Innovation in the management of watersheds across Cambodia enabled through high-quality knowledge, research and learning. Outcome 5. Lessons learned curated through project M&E and disseminated both nationally and internationally to promote the scaling of interventions to other



	watersheds across Cambodia and the surrounding region.
Promoting Climate-Resilient Livelihoods in Rice-Based Communities in the Tonle Sap Region	The project is five years and covers five provinces (Siem Reap, Kampong Thom, Pursat, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey) which is implemented by FAO, MOE and MAFF with four components: Component 1: Improving the environment enabling climate change adaptation in the rice and related priority sectors through integrated policies and planning. Component 2: Supporting resilient production systems in rice-based communities for improved livelihoods. Component 3: Scaling up adaptation technologies and practices in selected value chains through partnerships, markets and investments. Component 4: Building effective knowledge management, innovations and monitoring & evaluation systems.
MoE project loan from World Bank and GEF FSP	World Bank Cambodia is designed and already approved a new project "Cambodia Sustainable Landscape and Ecotourism Project (P165344)" in March 2019. The project will be implemented by MoE and MRD by targeting Cardamom Mountain ranges and Tonle Sap areas and that extended to several provinces such Pursat, Koh Kong, Battambang, Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang, Siem Reap and Kampong Thom. The project is designed with 5 components (i) Strengthen Capacity for Protected Areas (PA) Landscape Planning and Management, (ii) Strengthen Opportunities for Ecotourism and Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) Value Chains, (iii) Improve Access and Connectivity, (iv) Project Management, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation, and (v) Contingent Emergency Response.

6.2 Co-financing opportunities

The GEF SGP OP8 is designed in line with COMDEKS-4 country program strategies with same selected landscape (Stung Siem Reap Watershed Areas) to capture the financial resources available from various donors and development partners whose primary goal is to conserve and protect the world scarce resources while addressing the environmental concerns. For this OP8 CPS, the resource mobilization and partnership plan should be prepared to enhance the impact and sustainability of the SGP Country Programme grantmaking and grant-makers and roles of concerned in-country agencies and institutions which could help address the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The approaches to co-financing should be envisioned with reference to:

- Integrating SGP projects with RGC projects/programs, especially environmental and natural resource management sector.
- Mainstreaming the SGP projects with UN agencies and GEF-FSP projects in Siem Reap provinces which are under the pipeline.
- Aligning with interests/priorities of donor and development agencies
- Promoting and supporting projects that have strong ownership to ensure higher



- efficiency and impacts.
- Cost-sharing by CBOs, CSOs, NGOs and concerned stakeholders who are the recipients of SGP.
- Encouraging the private-sector financing in line with its business objectives and priorities.

7. PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Because the OP8 CPS is developed in support of national programs and UNDP's CPD, there are a lot of existing opportunities to leverage the OP8 strategic initiatives with other UN agencies, development partners, government agencies, and interested private sector. These can be achieved with the technical support of NC, NSC, Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs), and interested academic research institutions in Cambodia. Key benefits of partnerships that GEF SGP should focus on include:

- Increased Impact: Partnerships can help to scale up projects and achieve greater environmental benefits and achieve the program goal and project objectives.
- Shared Expertise: Collaborating with diverse partners can bring together a wealth of knowledge and experiences to upscale and replicate the best practices to other landscapes and seascapes.
- Resource Mobilization: Partnerships can help to secure additional funding and resources for GEF SGP projects for long term sustainability.
- Enhanced Sustainability: Strong partnerships can contribute to the long-term sustainability of project outcomes to a wider community, including national level.
- Improved Communication and Coordination: Effective partnerships can facilitate information sharing and coordination among stakeholders by sharing gaps, challenges, best practices and lessons learnt so that other recipients or stakeholders are able to avoid the unsuccessfulness or failure of project implementation.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Although the GEF SGP has been implemented in Cambodia since its inception in 2004, experiences of its implementation have given us some clear guidance to identify and mitigate the risks. The primary risks are identified in the implementation of the CPS during OP8, with reference to (i) social and environmental risks; (ii) climate risks; and (iii) other possible risks occurring during the CPS implementation. The risk mitigation measures are developed to track these risks during the exercise of the OP8 CPS, and to review during the annual CPS review and AMR preparation.

The government and MoE acknowledge that the recent transfer of conservation areas from MAFF to MoE has increased the size of protected area estate under MOE's jurisdiction, covering more than 40% of Cambodia total land area. This rapid change causes significant challenges for the Ministry, which is constrained by limited financial and human resources. Furthermore, protected areas have been under severe threats due to encroachment, illegal activities, climate change, and economic growth, posing concerns about their effectiveness in safeguarding globally and nationally important conservation values and providing sustainable livelihood opportunities. These risks will be minimized through continuous monitoring and support in project implementation by SGP-NC, facilitated by ongoing assistance from NSC members.



Table 7. 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
Limited capacity of the local community and local government units related to implement the SGP projects	Medium	Medium	Provide training and capacity building for community members and local government; engage local leaders in project planning and implementation.
The community structure is relatively poorly organized, leading to a loss of interest in meetings, activities, and other engagements.	Medium	Medium	Develop engaging and relevant activities; regularly consult with community members to organize structure, maintain interest and participation; provide incentives for involvement.
Community land is being encroached upon for personal farming and housing purposes.	High	High	Establish and enforce land use regulations; conduct community awareness campaigns; set up conflict resolution mechanisms; provide legal recognition of community land ownership; establish monitoring and reporting systems.
Rapid transfer of conservation areas from MAFF to MoE leading to limited resources for MoE	Medium	Medium	Strengthen MoE capacity through additional funding and HR development; collaborate with international partners and NGOs, and local authorities
Overlapping or unclear roles and responsibilities of key ministries (MoE and MAFF)	Medium	Medium	Organize Government and CSO dialogues to clarify roles and responsibilities; identify policy support for Community-based natural resources management.
Quality of project formulation/ design/implementation/monitoring and evaluation (capacity of CBOs or NGOs)	Medium	Low	Provide support to LNGOs/CBOs in participatory proposal development; recommendations during project appraisal; use landscape and seascape approaches for regular risk monitoring and mitigation.



Landscape stakeholders may not fully understand the mainstreaming Landscape approach	Low-Medium	Low	Risks will be mitigated through capacity building, awareness raising and oversight of the project portfolio by SGP NSC/NC.
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To minimize risks and manage them effectively, project proposals must include a detailed risk analysis and mitigation strategy. Specific risk identification leads to better solutions. Based on individual project risk management frameworks, SGP will develop a comprehensive risk monitoring and mitigation framework. A risk management report for the entire project should be prepared quarterly. Based on these reports, the NC will report any emerging risks or issues to the NSC meeting for appropriate action and solution.

These risks will be tracked during the implementation of the OP8 CPS and reviewed during the annual CPS review and AMR preparation. The degree and probability of risk may be adjusted as necessary, and identified risks may be removed or new risks added, with appropriate mitigation measures identified during the CPS review process. By implementing these strategies, the CPS aims to effectively manage the complexities of environmental conservation, climate change adaptation, and socio-economic development in Cambodia, ensuring successful project implementation and contribution to national priorities, GEF programming, and UNDP's country programme strategies.

9. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

9.1 Monitoring approaches at project and country levels

The Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) employs a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system to track project progress, assess impact, and inform decision-making. The system operates at both the project and country levels, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the program's effectiveness and efficiency. The M&E system at all levels, the GEF SGP can ensure that its investments are delivering tangible environmental and social benefits, and that lessons learned are shared to inform future programming.

For the project level, the monitoring needs to be conducted in all stages of project cycle, if possible, in order to ensure the project implementation going smoothly to achieve the desire outcome and impact. The monitoring should start from project design, implementation, and phasing out. Each project proposal is required to provide the baseline information of project target areas, project expected outputs/results and targeted indicators. The project design should be participatory as much as possible in order to give the equal opportunity to all concerned stakeholders (local community people affected, authorities) to identify the existing problems, proposed solutions, project objectives and outputs, which will contribute to the achieve the overall objectives of country programme.

As required by GEF SGP guidelines, the participatory monitoring and evaluation plan have been developed and will be conducted by grantee partners together with local stakeholders especially the project



beneficiaries during project implementation. Moreover, SGP team has provided the support to all shortlisted LNGOs/CBOs to prepare project proposal based on proposal template and three annexes such as Annex 1: Project log frame with clear baseline, indicators selected from the list of GEF OP8 indicators in M&E guidelines, key milestones and risks; Annex 2: Project work plan and monitoring schedule with clear timeline to achieve each milestone and report submission timeline; and Annex 3: project budget plan. In compliance with guideline, the orientation workshop is conducted for all new grantees to inform them on grant MoA, project implementation guidelines, financial management and report writing requirements.

Before releasing each grant payment, NC/NSC members have conducted M&E visit to grantee to verify project implementation status and key outputs against project budget expenditure to ensure that it is efficiency and transparency. Before each M&E visit, grantee is required to complete M&E record along with the project progress report and financial report. During M&E visit, NC/NSC members and the grantee organizes the M&E activity through community meeting, door-to-door interviews, participants marking, project implementation review and other methods to discuss and decide how this project brought about changes and whether it improved their ecological environment and their livelihood. The results generated by these activities will be incorporated into the project M&E record and M&E Back To Office Report (BTOR).

At the project level, SGP grantees are responsible for implementing their own M&E plans. There will be an M&E record which will be used to collect and record information that will be analyzed to produce periodic progress reports and final reports to be submitted to the GEF-SGP Country Programme by the grantees. These plans typically include:

- **Baseline data collection:** This involves gathering information on the initial environmental conditions, social factors, and economic activities in the project area as defined in the project proposal.
- **Indicator development:** Key performance indicators (KPIs) are identified to measure progress towards project objectives which are prepared in the project proposal. These indicators can be quantitative (e.g., number of trees planted, hectares of land restored) or qualitative (e.g., increased community awareness, improved livelihoods).
- **Data collection methods:** A variety of participatory methods are used, including surveys, interviews, focus group discussions, field observations, and document reviews.
- **Progress reporting:** Grantees are required to submit regular progress reports every 3 months to the National Coordinator (NC), which detail their activities, achievements, challenges, and lessons learned.
- **Financial tracking:** Grantees are expected to maintain accurate financial records and submit financial reports to the National Coordinator (NC) and Programme Assistant (PA). The periodic progress reports and financial report are requested based on the agreed disbursement schedule.



- **Final project evaluation:** Each project will be concluded with a final evaluation of project evaluation, a final financial report and a final report with an assessment of lessons learned, one or a few case studies and a video documentary of best practices and successful stories. The participatory M&E will be encouraged at community level to allow for the adaptive management for projects.

Table 8. M&E Plan at the Country Programme level

M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible Parties	Budget Source	Timing
Country Programme Strategy elaboration	Framework for action including identification of community projects	NC, NSC, UNDP CO, country stakeholders, grantees	SGP planning grant for consultants	At start of OP8
Ongoing review of project results and analysis	Assess effectiveness of projects, country portfolio; learning; adaptive management	NC, NSC, UNDP Country Office	Staff time, Country Operating Budget	Annual CPS review; ongoing
Annual Monitoring Report Survey	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF; primary tool to present results to donors	NC/PA in close collaboration with NSC, CPMT support	Staff time	Once per year in June-July
Country Portfolio Review	Capture portfolio results to note impact level change; support strategic development	NC, NSC	SGP planning grant for consultants	Once per operational phase
SGP Database	Ensure recording of all project and Country Programme inputs	NCs, PAs	Staff time	Throughout the operational phase
Audit	Ensure compliance with project implementation/management standards	External/independent auditors, NC/PA support	Global Operating Budget	Annually for selected countries
Gender and Social Inclusion Monitoring	Ensure projects equitably benefit marginalized groups, including women and Indigenous communities	NC, NSC, gender specialists	Country Operating Budget or grants	Periodically during project reviews
Capacity-Building Impact Evaluation	Measure how training and capacity-building activities improve skills and empower stakeholders	NC, consultants, community leaders	SGP planning grants or external funding	Mid-term and end of operational phases



Stakeholder Satisfaction Surveys	Gather feedback from beneficiaries and partners to improve project relevance and implementation	NC, NSC, independent evaluators	Country Operating Budget	Annually or after major project milestones
Climate Resilience Impact Metrics	Assess the contribution of projects to enhancing community resilience to climate change	NC, NSC, UNDP experts	Country Programme or UNDP funds	Throughout the operational cycle
Knowledge Sharing and Dissemination Reviews	Evaluate the effectiveness of knowledge dissemination to influence policy and replication	NC, CPMT, communication specialists	Country Programme communication budget	End of operational phases, after major events
Innovation and Scalability Assessments	Identify innovative practices and evaluate their potential for scalability across the country	NC, NSC, technical advisors	SGP operational funds	Mid-phase reviews and post-implementation

9.2 CPS Results Framework

Table 9: Results Framework of SGP OP8 Country Programme Strategy

Alignment with SDGs

The OP8 CPS goals are well aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The goals directly addressed by this programme include:

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.

1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social, and environmental shocks, disasters.

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

12.2 By 2030, achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.



13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters.
13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.
13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.

Synergy with UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD):

The GEF SGP OP8 is aligned with the UNDP CPD in several Outputs which include:

Output 3.1: Natural resources are sustainably managed, protected and restored

Output 3.2: Circular economy promoted to reduce pollution and improve consumption behaviours and production practices

output 3.3: Climate change action and transparency are strengthened with involvement of various socio-economic actors

Output 3.4: The adaptive capacity of systems and communities to climate change and disasters is strengthened

Output 4.2: Increased civic participation including women and marginalized groups in decision-making at all levels.

OP8 SGP Programme Goal: Engage local CSOs/CBOs in landscape 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	15,000 hectares of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (GEF core indicator 4.1 and 4.3) 3,000 hectares of marine protected areas created or under improved management (GEF core indicator 2) 3,000 hectares of marine habitat under improved practices (GEF core indicator 5) 20 community-based protected area/ conserved area designations and/or networks strengthened	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



	At least 10 CPA, CF and CFi management plans will be developed and approved by MoE and MAFF. At least 15,000 people directly benefited from SGP projects in terms of knowledge/skills, conservation awareness and income generation, etc.	
<u>Strategic Initiative 2:</u> Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security	15,000 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.) At least 10 CPAs targeted for livelihood enhancements At least 10 CPAs facilitated access to microcredit opportunities (including women entrepreneurs). At least 5 projects supported the development of Community Based Ecotourism within targeted CPAs, CF and CFi At least 30% of communities and families in targeted CPAs, CF and CFi areas practiced sustainable agriculture and fisheries and food security and agro-forestry techniques. 5 linkages and partnerships for sustainable food production practices (such as diversification and sustainable intensification) and supply chain management (esp. SMEs) 10 small-holder farmers (casava, cashew, mango) supported towards the achievement of national Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets.	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	10,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions mitigated/avoided (GEF core indicator 6)	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports)



	15 kW increase in installed renewable energy capacity from community-scale systems (e.g., biomass, micro-hydro, solar, etc.) 10 (number of) locally adapted solutions promoting low-carbon technologies (such as new/modified biogas technology, locally developed energy-efficient stoves, innovative uses of solar/wind energy, etc.) At least 30 % of community and sustainable use zones established to promote enhanced carbon stock through forest restoration efforts. At least 50,000 hectares of forests and non-forest lands for alternative land use with restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks initiated. Current number is zero.	Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)
<u>Strategic Initiative 4:</u> Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management	5 policy recommendations or advocacy initiatives related to land-based pollution as a result of SGP project 4 local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management strengthened and/or established	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports) Strategic partnership with IPEN and Mercury GOLD country partners Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), global database Country Programme Review
<u>Strategic Initiative 6:</u> CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms	4 CSO-government-private sector dialogues formed or strengthened 3 high-level policy changes associated with increased community participation in multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms 600 representatives from social inclusion group (Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, persons with disability, farmers, other marginalized groups) meaningfully engaged in multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms. At least 4 Public-Private Partnerships on key global environmental issues promoted	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), global database Country Programme Review



<u>Strategic Initiative 7:</u> Enhancing social inclusion	At least 30,000 people benefitting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex (GEF core indicator 11) At least 6 projects with focused interventions promoting gender equality and women's empowerment At least 10 projects that demonstrate models of engaging (a) Indigenous Peoples, (b) youth, and (c) persons with disabilities. At least 5 grants with targeted support for 1) IP women or women groups; 2) IP youth or youth-led groups; 3) Indigenous Peoples' groups/Communities At least 20% of grant funding of total grant portfolio accessed by 1) women or women groups; and 2) youth or youth-led groups.	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Review
Strategic Initiative 8: Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management	15 projects with meetings involving local CSOs/CBOs or communities to monitor project results, assess impacts, and identify lessons learned At least 3 knowledge exchange/sharing events with participation of local communities At least 1 online knowledge repository developed as a result of SGP project At least 2 country/cross-country impact reviews conducted with evidence of SGP impact and lessons learned. At least 1 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



10. National Steering Committee Endorsement

Note: The signatures of NSC members are required as endorsement of the complete final CPS duly reviewed and agreed at the National Steering Committee meeting.

NSC members involved in OP8 CPS development, review and endorsement	Signatures
H.E. Kim Nong	
H.E. Pho Pharith	
Dr. Prum Somany	
Ms. Chhan Ratha	
Mr. Kean Narin	
Mr. Ahmed Shifaz	
Mr. Hou Sereyvathana	
Ms. Khorn Dinravy	
Mr. Vann Piseth	
Mr. Kong Chanthan	
Ms. Hun Boramey	
Mr. Khun Bunnath	
Mr. Sano AKHTERUZZAMAN	

Signed by:

Ahmed Shifaz

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ANNEXES:

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

Annex 2: 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 3: COMDEKS phase IV Country Programme Strategy

Annex 4: ICCAs phase II Country Programme Strategy (To be developed)