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Global Environment Facility (GEF)
Small Grants Programme (SGP)

Implementing by

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP)

GEFSGP PAL Country Programme Strategy
Fifth Operational Phase
(March 2011- Feb. 2014)

Palestinian Authority

March 2012

SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme

List of Acronyms:

ADB's	Asian Development Bank
AFDB's	African Development Bank
ARIJ	Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem
CBOs	Community-based organizations
CC	Climate Change
CFCs	Chlorofluorocarbons
CPAP	country Programme Action Plan
CPS	Country Programme Strategy
CSO's	Civil Society Organizations
EBRD	European bank for Reconstruction and Development
EQA	Environmental Quality Authority
ESS	Environmental Sector Strategy
FAO's	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	Growth domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Green House Gases
GoI	Government of Israel
IADB's	Inter-American Development Bank
IFAD's	International Fund for Agricultural Development
LACS	Local Aid Coordination Secretariat
MAP	Mediterranean action Plan
MCSD	Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
MEAs	Multilateral environmental agreements
NEAP	National Environment Action Plan
NFG	National Focal Group
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
OP4	Operational Programme Phase 4
OP5	Operational Programme Phase 5
OP6	Operatioanl Programme Phase 6
oPt	occupied Palestinian territory
PAPP	Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People
PEF	Palestinian Environmental Friends
PNA	Palestinian National Authority
POPS	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PT	Palestinian Territory
SGP	Small Grants Programme
UNCTAD	United Nation Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP's	United Nation Development Programme
UNEP's	United Nations Environment Programme
UNIDO's	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WB	World Bank's
WBGS	West Bank and Gaza Strip
WHO	World Health Organization

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1 THE SGP IN THE COUNTRY

1.1 Introduction to GEF and the SGP

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a unique international entity set up since 1991. The GEF's mission is to contribute to the global environment protection. It was created to secure global environmental benefits in four focal areas — biodiversity, climate change, international waters, and ozone layer depletion — and activities that combat land degradation, desertification, and deforestation as they relate to the focal areas. The designated Implementing Agencies of the GEF are Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s, African Development Bank (AFDB)'s, European bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)'s, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)'s, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)'s, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)'s, United Nation Development Programme (UNDP)'s, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)'s, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)'s, The World Bank's (WB).

There are different funding Programmes under GEF; the regular GEF programs, medium and full-sized projects, and the corporate programme of it, the GEF/SGP. Governments and other entities are eligible to apply for regular GEF grants. Regular The GEF medium and full-sized projects are available to be accessed by different qualifying categories: governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, national and international institutions, local communities, and private sector entities. GEF/SGP funds are entirely committed for projects put forth by NGOs, CSO's Civil Society Organization and community-based organizations (CBOs).

The GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP) is administered and implemented by UNDP, and is currently operational in over 122 countries. The SGP implementation is decentralized, country driven and complements the regular and medium and full-sized GEF projects funding by providing a window for the direct participation of NGOs, CSOs, local communities, and other grassroots organizations. The GEF/SGP is rooted in the belief that global environmental problems can be addressed more effectively and adequately if local people are involved in concert with other actors, and that with small amounts of funding (maximum US\$50,000 per project) local communities can undertake activities which will make a significant difference in their lives and their environment.

Participation, democracy, flexibility, and transparency are cornerstones of the SGP approach. The Programme, therefore, encourages and fosters local community involvement in all stages of the Programme operation. The central objectives of the Small Grants Programme are to:

- Develop community-level strategies and implement projects that could reduce threats to the global environment;
- Build partnerships and networks of stakeholders to support and strengthen community, NGO and national capacities to address global environmental problems and promote sustainable development.

- Ensure that conservation and sustainable development strategies and projects that protect the global environment are understood and practiced by communities and other key stakeholders.

1.2 History of the GEF and SGP in the country

In August 1998, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) / Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP) formally launched the Small Grants Programme (SGP) in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with the support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). In practice, the launching coincided with the incoming of the Second Operational Phase of the global GEF/SGP.

Prior to this initiative, in October 1996, a GEF identification mission to the Palestinian Territories (PT) was conducted, for the purpose of briefing the UNDP and the Palestinian partners on GEF, its modality and eligibility criteria in addition to identifying possibilities for future programming options. This initiative gave rise to priority identification and further development of the five main project areas in:

1. Biodiversity national strategy and action planning.
2. Conservation of wetland and coastal ecosystems in the Mediterranean region.
3. Conservation of agriculture biodiversity
4. Energy efficiency improvements, and
5. NGOs Small Grants Programme in biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and international waters protection.

The first four priorities were implemented under different full and medium size GEF regional projects with the partnership of and joint implementation with the concerned institution of the Palestinian Authority (Environmental Quality Authority, Energy and Natural resources Authority, and Ministry of Agriculture). To facilitate the process of initiating the GEF/SGP in the Palestinian Authority Territories, another start up mission was conducted in 1998. The mission aimed at seeking possible options of Programme structuring and identifying potential areas for GEF/SGP support to the Palestinian NGOs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The fourth operational phase (OP4) was officially launched in the Palestinian Authority "PA" in July 2008 one year after the official start of the same phase in other countries. At the time of preparing this CPS, the activation and continuation of SGP activities in the PA required the establishment of a regional agreement with the National programme in Egypt. Moreover SGP Palestine relied on a grant of 500,000 USD from the UNDP/PAPP programme budget (TRAC), which corresponds to about half of the overall SGP funding during the latest phase.

Since the start of OP4, GEF/SGP in Palestine is under the umbrella of the GEF/SGP Egypt programme, it is legally binding by this cover to allow SGP operations in Palestine.

Egypt is expected to be upgraded in OP6. Taking into consideration that oPt can not be treated as Egypt (SGP opt total budget from the GEF SGP core budget is approximately 4.5 Million USD) since, a suitable arrangement for Palestine will be explored. One of the options could be to move the program under another country till oPt have a sustainable programme of its own. Internal discussions have been taking place on country level among related institutions including the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Planning, UNDP-PAPP.

Currently, GEF/SGP is based at the UNDP premises in Ramallah and works in close partnership with the Environmental Quality Authority (EQA). It is managed by the National Coordinator Officer in Charge and directly supported by the Head of the UNDP/ PAPP Natural Unit focal point in the UNDP Jerusalem main office. There is one National Focal Group (NFG) in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, The National Focal Group voluntarily provides technical support for the Programme as well as decision body for projects' selection. Also, NFG influences the direction of the Programme in determining its eligibility criteria and national priorities. The NFG is composed of five members, 2 of whom are women, of diverse professional calibers and with particular specialty in most of the GEF/SGP focuses.

1.3 Previous Operational context

The primary objective of the forth operational phase of the GEF/SGP was to secure global environment benefits in the areas of biodiversity, climate change, and international waters — three of the five GEF focal areas — through community-based approaches that also generated local benefits. During SGP fourth operational phase, February 2009–February 2011, a total of 21 projects were implemented with main focus on the following strategic areas:

- Encouraging the local community initiatives in, *in-situ* conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity in Arid, semi- arid, marine and coastal ecosystems including agro-biodiversity;
- Contributing both to removing barriers to energy conservation/energy efficiency activities including those related to land degradation issues and promoting the adaptation of renewable energy technologies.
- Supporting community initiatives addressing the management of unsustainable use of marine resources, the degradation of international waters and the abatement of international waters contamination.

1.4 Overview of results achieved in last operational phase

During OP4, the GEF/SGP in the Palestinians Territories promoted outreach and awareness regarding global environmental concerns; built capacities of communities and NGOs to address these concerns; and provided a mechanism for demonstrating and disseminating community-level and community-led solutions to

global environmental problems on biodiversity conservation, mitigation of climate change and international water protection. The key results are:

- Sustainable protection and restoration of threatened and demolished native species in some strategically targeted areas achieved;
- Demonstration projects aimed at promoting sustainable development and environmental conservation implemented mainly in the areas of biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation
- More use of innovative renewable energy applications among the neediest communities and the remote areas
- Promotion of GEF SGP among potential donors and the Palestinians.
- Local community capacity enhanced

In this sense, the GEF/SGP offers the environment and development sector as whole, field-tested approaches that can be replicated and expanded to benefit the global and local environments.

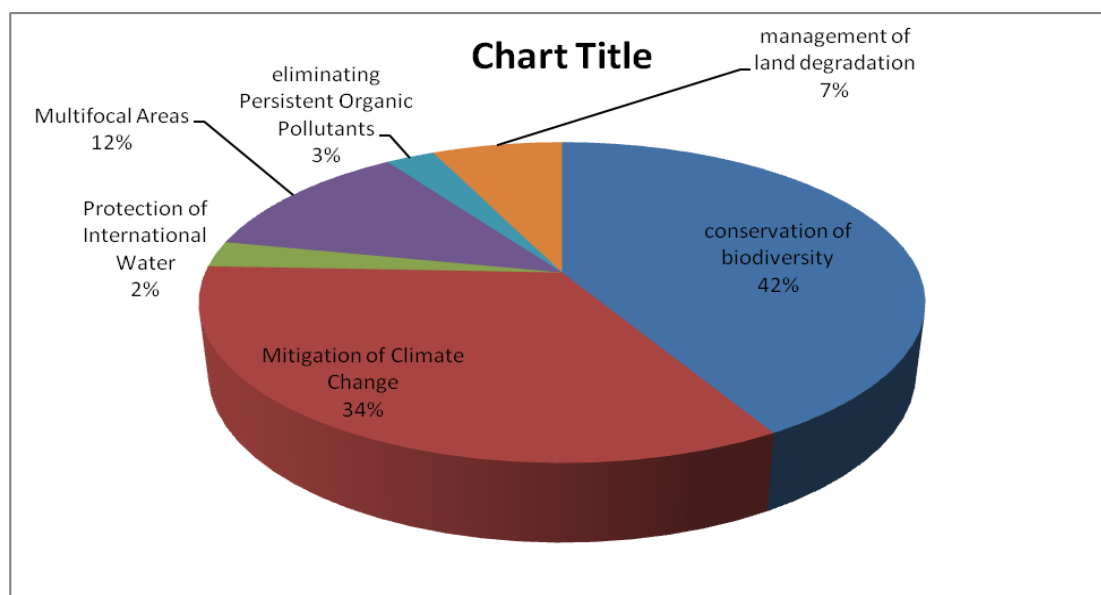


Figure 1: Distribution of Projects over the different thematic focal areas during OP1 through OP4

1.5 Key lessons learned from previous operational phase

GEF/SGP PAL joined the global GEF/SGP at the beginning of the Second Operational Phase and the most important lessons learnt since then are outlined as follows:

Most of issues that projects came from through the local communities are related to biodiversity conservation, reducing barriers to energy efficiency and demonstrating renewable energy applications. Hence, NGOs should be encouraged to explore newer project ideas addressing other local and national priorities in protection of

international water bodies, preventing land degradation and reducing release of POPs to the environment.

There is urgent need to strengthen the technical and developmental capacities of the NGOs / CBOs in several areas that are related to proactive assessment of community needs, and integration of sustainable development within environment conservation efforts. In this respect, they need to receive assistance for project designing and planning, results-based framework management, and adopt impact oriented strategies.

There are also further needs for up-scaling and replicating best practices through co-finance and partnership with other donors or participating in other GEF Programmes. Similarly, it is important to build strategic alliance with neighboring countries to mainstreaming efforts on controlling spill of POPs and developing national strategies and plans.

Alongside the above, the need to educate local community, build pressure groups, participation in setting environmental policies, strategies and national plans at the national level remains wanting. The NGOs/ CBOs specialized in environment will need to get together in a professional forum or a network to exchange experiences and information on conserving environment at the community and national levels.

Two workshops will be conducted on July 2012 , in which the OP4 lessons learned will be discussed between the NGOs/CBOs, Ministry of Environment Affairs, , Water Authority and relevant institutions.

The results of these workshops will be published through the regional booklet that will be published on August 2012

2 BASELINE SITUATION AND CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

2.1 Physical

The Palestinian Territories consist of two separate geographical regions; the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The West Bank is located in the central highlands of the territories extending east towards the Jordan River, whereas the Gaza Strip is located in the Western side of the territories and extends along the southeastern shore of the Mediterranean Basin (see attached Map). This diversity engenders five different geological regions that can be easily defined as follows; Jordan Valley, eastern slopes, central highlands, semi-coastal and coastal region (ARIJ, 1997). The West Bank is mostly composed of limestone hills that are between 700 to 900 meters high. The lowest point of the area is the Dead Sea at 410 meters below sea level, and the highest the Tall Asur at 1,022 meters above sea level. The Gaza Strip is a narrow, low-lying stretch of sand dunes along the eastern Mediterranean Sea. It forms a foreshore plain that slopes gently up to an elevation of 90 meters. Thus, the area enjoys different characteristics in terms of topography, soil structure and climatic conditions.

2.2 Economic/Political

According to the Country Programme (CPAP) 2010 – 2013, the socio-political context in 2010 presents a contradictory picture composed of continuing progress along a development continuum yet also a chronic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and areas of the West Bank. The oPt has also witnessed acute humanitarian crisis most recently following the Israeli military offensive against Gaza in December 2008 – January 2009 (Operation Cast Lead). Progress was made in some areas, notably a number of development indicators and institution-building successes in the West bank, as well as improved movement between urban centers in the West Bank and the increased flow of certain goods into the Gaza Strip, yet serious setbacks occurred elsewhere, such as the further isolation of East Jerusalem and Area C within the West Bank and on-going restrictions on the movement of people, exports and a range of imports in Gaza. The response remains constrained by various obstacles and by deteriorating funding levels.

2.3 Environmental analysis and key challenges

This part copied from the Development For Freedom “Empowered lives. Resilient Nation consolidated plan of Assistance:2012-2014 published by the UNDP/PAPP: The lack of control by Palestinian Authority over most of its natural resources, including water, land (Area C) and mineral resources considerably restrain the ability of the PA to design and plan for sound responses to environmental challenges. Thus, the water sector is one of the highest priority areas listed in the Palestinian Authority’s National Plan for 2011-2013.

The Palestinian people experience a continuous depletion of natural resources as a result of the occupation. Water supply and sanitation services in the oPt are characterized by severe shortage. The current average domestic water consumption rate in the West Bank is estimated at 65 liters/capita/day (l/c/d) and between 50 and 70 l/c/d in the Gaza Strip, which falls below the minimum 100-150 l/c/d recommended by WHO.

The coastal aquifer of the Gaza Strip is affected by unsustainable use and over abstraction of more than 120 MCM of water per year. This has resulted in seawater intrusion leading to salinity and chlorides levels unsuitable for human consumption. This problem is compounded by infiltration of wastewater, pesticides and landfill leachate that have increased nitrates concentration to dangerous levels. Marine and coastal pollution in the Gaza Strip has increased to become a regional issue.

Furthermore, stone quarrying and marble industries in the West Bank, as well as sand dunes quarrying in the Gaza Strip, deplete natural resources and threaten biodiversity. The unregulated use of internationally banned pesticides and the abuse of fertilizers and herbicides pollute the subsoil and the water, deplete biodiversity and constitute a serious public health issue.

Further details of the opportunities as well as challenges facing environmental protection and sustainable development specifically in relation GEF focal areas: biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, protection of international waters, prevention of land degradation and reduction or elimination of persistent organic pollutants are presented in the following sections.

2.3.1 On GEF focal areas

Biodiversity

With its geographical location, oPt is a region with rich biodiversity in terms of ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity due to the location of Palestine as a significant point of convergence between the three continents; Europe, Asia and Africa.

There are 2,780 species of natural plants, of which 162 are endemic, are recorded in oPt¹; these studies have also established the 2002 "Red list of Threatened Plants" of the West Bank and Gaza. The list comprises 334 plant species belonging to 222 genera and 81 families. The percentage of threatened plants (12%) is higher than the average in other countries. Forty seven of the threatened species (14.1 %) are endemic and belong to 19 families and 35 genera. The Red List was later updated in 2006 and 45 species were included in it². Recently, a GEF/SGP supported project on medicinal plants has revealed that 323 plant species are still in use in the Traditional Palestinian Herbal Medicine to treat various human ailments in the oPt . Sixty seven of these plants were found to be threatened, and were included in the "Red List of Threatened Medicinal Plants in Palestine: Palestinian West Bank and Gaza, 2006"³.

About 511 species of birds, 116 mammals, 97 reptiles, 7 amphibians, 6 marine tortoises, 32 indigenous fresh water fish species, and a large number of invertebrates live in the oPt³.

Soil and fresh water mycobiota, a few hundreds of mainly saprophytic fungi have been recorded from soil in the oPt, some of which have potential environmental, agricultural, and industrial biotechnology applications⁴.

The total area of the nature reserves (48) in the Palestinian West Bank is about 330.7 km² (about 5.7 % of the total area of the West Bank). They are located mainly in the eastern slopes and Jordan River area. The Palestinians do not have the ability to use or access them, which demonstrates that the Israelis policy of nature protection has political aims rather than those of protecting biodiversity. Apportion of these reserves have converted to Israeli, settlements and military bases and a large part was included within the wall of Annexation and expansion. There are also about 93 forests in the West Bank and 13 in Gaza Strip, covering an area of 232 Km² (Environment Sector Strategy March 2010).

Climate Change:

Climate change presents a unique threat to the global environment. It is global in its causes and sequences. Thus it requires international collective actions to response to the scale of challenge. Scientific evidence now clearly indicates that the earth's climate is rapidly changing mainly as a result of increases in greenhouse gases caused

1 Study supported by the SGP/GEF (2001-2006): Ali-Shtayeh & Jamous, 2002 a,b, 2003.

2 Ali-Shtayeh & Jamous, 2006

3 Ali-Shtayeh & Hamad, 1995, Ali-Shtayeh & Jamous, 2002 a.

4 Ali-Shtayeh & Jamous, 2002 a.

by human activities (Stern's Review Report, 2006). Human activities are changing the composition of the atmosphere and its properties. Many human activities are affecting the climate through increasing emissions of heat trapping gases, green house gases- GHG (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen oxides, and sulfur oxides and CFCs). Increased fossil energy use, agricultural activity and deforestation leads to increase level of atmospheric GHG, which trap portion of Infra Red radiation from earth. As it is known, the increasing of earth surface temperature leads to: Increased weather variability; rise in sea level; spread of diseases, and enhanced air pollution. Since pre-industrial times, carbon dioxide concentrations have increased by just over one third, predominantly as a result of burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and other change in land-use.

In the Palestinian territories, by and large, there is lack of data and information concerning concentrations of greenhouse emissions because monitoring stations and program do not exist anymore. Human activities that contributed to greenhouses emissions are mainly resulting from transportation and electricity generation. Recent study (PEF, 2003) indicated that concentrations of GHG are within accepted world's mean level due to undeveloped industrial sector. However, there is environmental concern that gas emissions will be increased as Palestine, like any other developing countries follows the footsteps of industrialized countries- depends to great extend on oil as the main source of energy. Charcoal is scarcely used as a source of energy for winter heating and cooking. Solar energy has also limited utilization. Yet it is mainly used for heating water for domestic use.

Decreasing Land Degradation

Land degradation in the eastern slopes in the West Bank presents major threat on the environment in the Palestinian territories due to overgrazing and unsustainable rangeland management practices. Overgrazing causes the increasing number of degraded habitats and reducing the vegetative cover which leads to the decrease of infiltration and recharge of rainwater into the ground water aquifer and consequently increase soil erosion. In the coastal zone, contamination of soil results from overuse of agro-chemicals and poses a serious environmental threat. Currently, there are more than 160 types of pesticides, herbicides, fungicides and insecticides being used by the Palestinian farmers. There are 14 types of them that have been banned by WHO on the basis of health and environmental reasons. It is estimated that 1,800 tons of agrochemicals are used annually in the Palestinian territories. Soil fumigants constitute around 1,200 tons of them. The amount of pesticides used in the West Bank is about 502.7 tons/year. The process of importing the agrochemicals lacks the proper administration and registration (NEAP, 2004). The excessive use of pesticides and fertilizers has a detrimental impact on the environment manifested in the groundwater contamination, plant damage, and accumulation of salt in the soil.

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) mishandling and disposal presents serious threat and damage to human health and the environment as well. In the Palestinian Authority there is lack of national inventory on importing, use and disposal of POPs. Recent study in the Gaza Strip indicated that 43 % of Gaza farmers reported the usage of two

POPs – DDT and Toxaphene for pest control in agricultural practices. Farmers and rural women are particularly at risk from POPs and other chemicals as they do most of the agricultural work without awareness and information on how to handle chemicals and dispose of them safely. In addition, there is no internal capacity to deal with the issues of POPs neither are there any regulatory framework to enforce the use of banned chemical in vegetable production.

Interventions on POPs in Palestinian territories will initially focus on DDT and Toxaphene and will include inventories on use, awareness campaigns on dangers and correct usage, research on alternatives and incentives to promote sound management of POPs.

The third operation program will focus on building the civil society to elimination of the usage of Persistent toxic agricultural pesticides in producing vegetables and contaminating of water-bodies from Agriculture run-off

2.3.2 On MEAs – Multilateral Environment Agreements

Pending further progress of the peace process and final status negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, the Palestinian Authority has not been able to become a signatory to the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). However, in view of its observer status the United Nations General Assembly, the Palestinian Authority has participated in MEA conferences and meetings.

Although the Palestinian Authority is not eligible to ratify such treaties because of political issues, there are clear environmental benefits from participation, not only for the Occupied Palestinian Territories, but for the region as a whole, as well as for the global community.

The PA is attending the meetings on climate change (CC) as an observer. For the last two years starting from COP15 in Copenhagen, PA is doing hard efforts to ensure better representation in UNFCCC, this was continued in COP16 in Cancun last year and the successor meetings in Thailand, Bonn and Panama in April, June and October 2011.

These efforts was in full coordination and support from Arab Group and the G77 & and China, which is composed of 131 country and supported by other regional groups especially the African group and Small Islands States.

The main aim for these efforts was to ensure effective participation of PA in the convention and its bodies, and to secure direct access to CC funds. During the above mentioned meetings this request was continuously reiterated by G77 and China. In order to succeed in this, a decision should have been taken from the COP17 in Durban in that regard. As such, a draft "Political Declaration" was prepared by EQA and circulated with Argentina as Chair of G77 and Egypt as Chair of Arab group to lobby on it before Durban. However, the Palestinian endeavor did not succeed to be a member due to political reasons (decisions at the COP are taken unanimously).

2.4 Institutional and governance context

EQA acts as the national counterpart of the GEF Small Grants Programme in the Palestinian Authority. EQA, as the official agency for environmental issues lead the national efforts for developing a strategy and action plan for the environmental sector along with other 22 sectoral strategies. The Environment Sector Strategy (ESS) and its action plan are targeting the period 2012-2014. The action plan consist of 67 interventions that are considered essential for the fulfillment of the objectives of the ESS.

In this regard, EQA is heading the National Committee on Climate Change and is the vice president of the national Committee for Combating Desertification. Several Documents were produced in the past year under the umbrella of EQA including Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, The National Strategy, Action Programme and Integrated Financing Strategy to Combat Desertification in the OPT, and a report on Palestine Forest and Natural Reserves Assessment.

Generally, the oPt is facing critical situation concerning the achievement of sustainable environment conservation and development. Several constrains have contributed to the continuous deterioration of the environmental conditions thus, rendered development initiatives difficult to achieve. On the top of these constrains are; limited sovereignty over land use, geographical discontinuity and restrictions on movements, the increasing pressure on the natural resources due to the accelerated population growth, growing Palestinian urbanization requirements and the expansion of the Israeli settlements and military infrastructure in the West Bank, restricted access to water and other natural resources, weakness of Palestinian Authority institutions to enforce environment-friendly regulations, and the substantial imbalance between developmental plans and conservation of environmental resources.

NGO/CBO analysis

Despite having a high credibility among the Palestinian community, NGOs/ CBOs are not known to be proactive to met the community needs and priorities. Also, they have shortfall of strong technical capabilities and expertise particularly in relation to the GEF/SGP focal areas. Mostly, NGOs perceive environment in correlation with infrastructure and rehabilitation of water and sewage systems. Another group of NGOs, look at environment conservation in its relation with agriculture, water protection, and land rehabilitation. Their emphasis has been translated in forms of research, training, public awareness and demonstration activities.

Moreover, national universities, being an additional part to the non-governmental community, are mainly specialized in developing academic and applied research mainly in water, agriculture and energy applications, hence they are well staffed with national expertise. However, having a very limited understanding of environment protection, CBOs are mainly experienced in managing cleaning, greening and solid waste management activities.

2.5 Gender issues and concerns

The Millennium Development Goals report (2005) indicted very positive trends in reducing gender disparity in the Palestinian education system and forecast figures suggest that the positive trend is likely to continue. However the Palestinian Human Development Report 2004 indicated that despite the increase in women's education levels, there is no corresponding increase in women's participation in professional occupations. Although women constitute roughly half of all university and higher education institution graduates, women's participation in the job market reached 12.8 percent in 2003. The GEF/SGP strategic plan is aiming at increasing women's participation in biodiversity conservation related business, thus making the women strategic investors in rural areas.

2.6 Poverty related issues and concerns

The occurrence of poverty in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) has been increased significantly since September, 2000. In 2005, more than 53.7 percent of the household were living below national poverty line compared to 23.3 percent in 1998 (MDGs, progress report, 2005). The rising of unemployment and poverty led to decreasing financial access to food. While the situation slightly improved in the West Bank after 2007, it further deteriorated in Gaza since.

Thus GEF/SGP Country strategic plan is aiming at contributing to poverty alleviation through improving livelihood conditions of local community while securing global environmental benefits.

2.7 Donor Support

The Palestinian economy is highly dependent on the donors support. More recently, with many stressing that the lack of clear political horizon made it increasingly difficult to argue for sustained high levels of donor assistance to the PA. This is actually putting more pressure on the GEF-SGP in the oPt since the PA is facing difficulties in meeting its obligations for the program. UNDP-PAPP which adopted the program and covered the PA obligation during OP4 working keenly to secure it for the coming OP5.

3. GEF/SGP Country Program Strategy

3.1 Introduction to GEF/SGP OP5 and CPS

The fifth Operational Program (OP5) of the GEF small grant programme (SGP) was approved by the GEF Council in November 2010. The development goal of GEF SGP is to secure global environmental benefits in the areas of biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, protection of international waters, prevention of land degradation, and phasing out of persistent organic pollutants through community-based initiatives and actions. In responding to recommendations in the report of the *Third Independent Evaluation of the GEF SGP*, the programme will continue to focus on achieving the following principle objectives: increasing the global reach of the program, especially to address global environmental problems in vulnerable countries; implementation of well-designed project portfolios that incorporate new GEF focal areas and themes; strengthening of existing Country Programmes; demonstration of local and global benefits of the programme and application of lessons learned and good practices; enhancing sustainability of SGP-funded projects, and; realization of SGP's potential as a GEF corporate programme.

OP5 was officially started in March 2011. Accordingly, GEF SGP PAL carried out series of stakeholder discussions through e-mails, telephones and meeting with 2 NFG members to incorporate the OP5 objectives in the PAL CPS. Therefore this document defines the country's priorities within the operational Programmes and the allocation of required resources.

3.2 Rationale and justification for the selection of thematic focus

The National Focal Group recommended that all thematic focal areas of the GEF-SGP should be considered during the OP5 as they are all ranked as important areas of intervention in the oPt. However, climate change will have special attention since this issue is considered as national priority. The PA together with UNDP-PAPP managed to secure an amount of 300,000 USD of donor contribution to the GEF-SGP.

3.3 SGP Programming "Niche"

GEF/SGP PAL has played a vital role during previous phases in building the capacity of local community to contribute to global environmental protection while improving their livelihood. The good practices of local community in the GEF focal areas have been developed and tested during the previous phase. These practices need to be applied widely and in a consolidated manner to generate concrete environmental impacts in the GEF focal areas.

The OP5 strategy was formulated in close cooperation with EQA and other PA institution to reflect to the maximum extent national priorities while keeping in mind the GEF-SGP thematic focal areas. The table below describes the GEF-SGP niche compared to the national priorities as stated in the Environmental Sector Strategy .

Table 1. GEF-SGP niche consistency to national priorities

OP5 project objectives	National priorities	SGP niche
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1:</u> Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas through community-based actions	(ESS Goal # 2 policy # 1): Rehabilitation of Protected Areas, National Reserves, and Coast	Biodiversity conservation plan for endangered species Management plans for protected areas, natural parks and coast
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2:</u> Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions	(ESS Goal # 1 policy # 2): Promotion of conservation behavior and public awareness	Plans for eco-friendly initiatives
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3:</u> Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level	(ESS Goal # 1 policy # 2): Promotion of conservation behavior and public awareness	Plans for eco-friendly initiatives
	(ESS Goal # 4 policy # 2): Adaptation measures to climate change	Use of unconventional water sources
	(ESS Goal # 5 policy # 3): Capacity development of environmental institutions	Technology transfer
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4:</u> Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level	(ESS Goal # 5 policy # 3): Capacity development of environmental institutions	Technology transfer
	(ESS Goal # 1 policy # 1): Control of pollution sources	Promotion of clean energy
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 5:</u> Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry	(ESS Goal # 3 policy # 1): Organized use of natural resources	Management plans for natural resources
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6:</u> Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities	(ESS Goal # 2 policy # 2): Organized use of natural resources	Management plans for natural resources
	(ESS Goal # 3 policy # 1): Protection of landscape and cultural heritage	Promotion of ecotourism
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7:</u> Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes)	ESS Goal # 3 policy # 2): Organize the land use patterns	Ecological hot spots
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8:</u> Support transboundary water body management with community-based	ESS Goal # 4 policy # 2): Climate change adaptation measures	Unconventional water sources
		Water harvesting

initiatives		
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9:</u> Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level	ESS Goal # 1 policy # 1): Control of pollution sources	Pesticides, POPs, ODSs
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10:</u> Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations and those of indigenous peoples) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends	(ESS Goal # 1 policy # 2): Promotion of conservation behavior and public awareness	Public awareness campaigns
	(ESS Goal # 6 policy # 1): Support Palestinian participation in international environmental agreements	Documentation of environmental violations Localization of international agreements
<u>Cross-Cutting Results:</u> Poverty reduction, livelihoods and gender	(ESS Goal # 4 policy # 2): Climate change adaptation measures	Unconventional water sources Water harvesting
	(ESS Goal # 2): Sustainable management of natural environment	Water harvesting Biosafety

3.4 Program Goal and Results

The overall goal of the country program is to consolidate the community-based interventions to address global environmental problems and promote sustainable development whilst meeting the livelihood needs.

The **Overall impact of the CPS will be to** conserve and provide sustainable development strategies to protect the global environment are understood and practiced by local communities and other stakeholders. Therefore, the strategy is outlined in a results table as provided below;

3.5 Country Programme Strategy Results table detailing Impacts, outcomes and Outputs

Based on the environmental situation analysis, coupled with the institutional challenges, the expected impacts, outcomes and outputs of the program interventions of the fifth phase covering February 2011-February 2014 on the GEF focal areas are as follows:

Table 2 Results framework for GEF SGP OP5.

CPS Outcomes	CPS Outputs	CPS Impacts
Community	- Endangered agro-biodiversity native species restored in	Increased

practices in Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity/ agro-biodiversity promoted, and up-scaled in the mountain and coastal ecosystems	<p>the coastal area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preservation and application of traditional and indigenous knowledge and practices relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity/ Agro-biodiversity promoted - Enhanced local capacity to conserve the turtle beaches - Enhanced local capacity to conserve medicinal, herbal and aromatic plants in the mountain eco-system - Increased domestication and sustainable use of wild edible plants - Improved biodiversity based handicrafts - Increased usage of native species and expanding of organic farming 	biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and realization of its values in food and medicine
Local community best practices in utilizing renewable energy forms; and adaptation of less polluting transport modalities upgraded and replicated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced utilization of solar energy for water heating in urban areas - Increased utilization of solar in generating electricity in remote communities - Increased awareness and use of alternative energy resources and energy efficiency and conservation - Increased local community capacity to monitor ground transport emissions <p>Improved capacity of local community and government to plan; operate and maintain sustainable transport system in main cities</p>	Increased access to sustainable, climate-friendly energy technologies through removal of culture, institutional, technical and economic barriers
Local community capacity to implement sustainable land and watershed management developed for minimizing land degradation impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced local community capacity in monitoring seawater quality - Increased local community awareness on risks associated of discharge of raw sewage into the sea - Improved local capacity in applying integrated water and land use management practices in the coastal 	Minimizing pollutants effects on quality of international waters and Tran-boundary aquifers
Local community capacity in applying integrated and shared resources management developed for protection of international water bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduced heavy usage of agro-chemicals and fertilizers in agriculture practices - Enhanced management and utilization of agriculture waste in agriculture practices - Optimized irrigation use and Improved water quality for irrigation - Enhanced quality of rangeland management system in the Eastern Slopes in the West Bank - Encouraged adopting livelihood alternatives by local communities - Increased local community capacity in production of land degradation maps for limited area in Gaza and West Bank 	Minimization of land degradation potential in limited areas in the West Bank and Gaza
Local community capacity for environmentally sound management of POPs developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved community capacity for identifying and management of POPs contamination - Improved Knowledge and skills in handling and use of POPs - Increased community awareness on danger of POPs - Integrated Pest Management in Agriculture practices promoted 	Environmentally sound management of POPs promoted to reduce posed risks

4. Program implementation arrangement

4.1 GEF/SGP operational arrangement

The GEF/SGP operates in a highly decentralized and country-driven manner through a National Coordinator (NC) and National Focal Group (NFG), with support from UNDP Country Office.

The National Coordinator takes the lead in managing country programme implementation. Major tasks performed by the National Coordinator include raising awareness of the GEF/SGP's objectives and procedures among key stakeholders, assisting NGOs and CBOs in the formulation of proposals, pre-screening project proposals, facilitating the work of the National Selection Committee, assisting NGOs and CBOs with access to technical support services, ensuring sound programme monitoring and evaluation, and laying the foundation for programme sustainability.

The NFG - consisting of voluntary members from the NGO sector, government, academic, scientific and technical institutions, and UNDP - provides overall guidance to the country programme and is responsible for selecting projects. NFG members may also be involved in pre-selection, and project monitoring and evaluation. Each NFG will be reviewed with the aim of ensuring adequate technical capacity on GEF focal areas, and to encourage greater representation from community-based organizations. While the core activity of the NFGs is allocation of grant funds, more emphasis will be placed on overall policy guidance and outreach role of the committees, including with respect to developing and implementing strategies for country programme sustainability.

The UNDP Country Office provides overall programmatic and management support to operations in each of the GEF/SGP country programmes. The Resident Representative and the country office environment focal point are both members of the NSC. The Country Office helps to monitor programme activities; facilitate interaction with the host government; and develop links with other in-country financial and administrative arrangements for the GEF/SGP. The Resident Representative also signs the Memoranda of Agreement (MoA), on behalf of UNOPS, with NGO/CBO grantees. The Country Office facilitates the disbursement of grant payments.

The GEF/SGP Coordination Unit (also known as New York Coordination Unit - NYCU) is responsible for overall programme management and support of the country programmes. The Coordination Unit focuses more intensively on providing strategic and operational guidance, on coordinating and supporting the ongoing country programmes, and on documenting and disseminating lessons from the programme's community-based experiences.

The UN Office of Project Services (UNOPS) provides programme execution support services in the following areas: (1) personnel recruitment and contract administration for national project staff and consultants; (2) subcontracts for host NGOs and country

programme grant allocations; (3) budget administration, including monitoring of expenditures; (4) guidance on the above to country-level staff; and (5) supporting initiation of the programme in new countries

4.2 Monitoring and Reporting

GEF/SGP PAL will adopt the logical framework approach as planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting tool for implementation of the fifth operational Program. The LFA facilitates results-oriented project implementation and sound monitoring and evaluation. This approach establishes the links between goals, objectives, outputs, and inputs through verifiable indicators. A simple matrix that outlined the CPS drafted and annexed to the strategy document. The SGP PAL will further develop the LFA matrix for all CPS results expected from the program.

Monitoring and evaluation system

Monitoring and evaluation is an integral component of the GEF/SGP project and programme life cycle which can be incorporated in every stage of the cycle. M&E allows GEF/SGP to assess progress made, results achieved and examine the impact of the funded-projects on solving environmental problems related to the GEF/SGP focuses. Also, M&E aims at assessing the extent to which the projects assist in improving the community conditions from the economic and social standing points. GEF/SGP intends to develop the following plans regarding the evaluation and monitoring of the projects funded under this scheme

- GEF/SGP will closely work in the project design phase with the grantees to develop a work-plan and logical framework that demonstrating the objectives, outputs and activities with the implementation timeframe. The grantees will also be trained to establish base line and list of indicators for the results expected to be achieved during the project implementation cycle.
- GEF/SGP will guide the process of collecting sufficient information and data necessary for designing indicators and providing a comparative base between the conditions before and after project implementation. Two contributing actions have been taken to achieve this; First, the simplified “Project Design Format” is already prepared, as mentioned earlier, and based on systematic reasoning process providing a proper analysis of the environment and community conditions before the project start. Second, this format is incorporated in the proposal preparation document in order to provide a simple mechanism to encourage NGOs getting more acquainted with the real environment problems as well as the social, economic and health conditions of the project community. Methods such as Rapid Participatory Appraisal or SWOT analysis will be employed to facilitate the data collection process.
- GEF/SGP will arrange, with the help of local consultant, trainings on results-based management to help NGOs and CBOs formulate activity and result indicators based on the baseline data accumulated in the project development phase.
- GEF/SGP will promote participatory, objective-oriented process of evaluation for funded projects built on the principles of what is widely known as “Social Audit” process. This process fosters the engagement of all the project’s partners in the

project evaluation i.e. community leaders, women activists, granted organization, NSCs, government representatives. It encourages all stakeholders to get into a reciprocal and reflective learning process to question the extent to which the project influenced people's life and solve environment problems from an indigenous perspective of the local beneficiaries.

- GEF/SGP will encourage the recipients organization to engage in a self-assessment sessions involving the benefited communities, women in particular, as an ongoing process of assuring that the project course is on the right track and adjusting it, if need arises.
- GEF/SGP will encourage the documentation of the project experience i.e obstacles, successes, and challenges throughout the project development. Thus, progress and final reports will be required and a special format is to be developed to facilitate this process.
- GEF/SGP will foster a regular site visits to the supported- projects involving the NSCs, government representatives, environmental specialists and other interested NGOs

5. Resources Mobilization Strategy:

The GEF/SGP PAL will continue to rely on GEF global fund for projects that can provide global environmental benefits related to GEF focal areas. Meanwhile, the programme will mobilize any other potential resources available.

Experience in the ground from previous phase, demonstrate that GEF/SGP should keep it's funding to GEF/SGP/ Palestine in order to be attractive to other donors at least 50% from the total admin and grant fund and UNDP/PAPP has strong level of commitment in cost sharing for GEF/SGP.

UNDP strategy

UNDP is working towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This project will contribute to the achievement of Goal #7 that aims to "ensure environmental sustainability".

In addition, UNDP has been strengthening its organizational effort to provide assistance to countries in post conflict and or in a crisis situation. The role of UNDP in post conflict and crisis stricken countries is widely acknowledged, as the Brahimi Report identifies UNDP as "*best placed to take the lead in implementing peace building activities*" in cooperation with the other United Nations Organizations.⁵

UNDP/PAPP is supporting GEF/SGP programme because GEF-SGP has been operating in the OPTOPT for more than 12 years with very successful results. With very small seeds funds it has a multiplier effect in the communities and improves the quality of life of those participating, while improving the environmental management. The indicative fund to be mobilized for the fifth Operational Program in the Palestinian Authority is summarized in the following table.

Programme cost estimate for years 2011-2014

	Budget item description	Op5/Yr.2 2012	OP5/Yr.3 2013	OP5/yr.4 2014	OP5 Total 2011-2014
A	Grants	500,000	500,000*	500,000*	1,500.000
	Subtotal Grants				1,500.000
B	Personal	135,000	135,000	135,000	405000
C	Programme operation	43950	42450	38,200	124600
		178,950	177,450	173,200	529600
	Subtotal management and operation	???			
	Total cost estimate \$US A+B+C	678,950	677,450	673,200	2,029.600

- Figures are "planned" based on 2012 commitments

Programme projected finance for years 2011-2014

⁵ UNGA and Security Council, "Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations." New York, August 2000. (A/55/305-S/2000/809) Par. 46.

	Source of Fund	OP5/yr.2 2012	OP5/yr.3 2013	OP5/yr.4 2014	OP5 Total 2011-2014
D.	Cost sharing	256,950	605,450	351,200	1,213,600
E	GEF SGP Core Fund	422,000	322,000	72,000	816,000
	Total				2,029,600

The GEF/SGP PAL will seek to implement the following strategies to increase the number, size and impacts of its projects while continuing to pursue GEF objectives in increasing cost sharing to reach SGP co-finance target.

Empowering NGO/CBO to strengthening their ability to seek fund for non-GEF component:

As stated in the GEF/SGP Strategic Framework and as stressed in the fifth operational phase, one of the guiding principles of the programme will continue to be reaching marginal communities and economically disadvantage population, especially when there are no other donors or NGOs present, and where basic development goals and needs are neglected or unmet. In these conditions, resources mobilization and securing co-financing to fund non-GEF/SGP components that may be necessary for achieving project success, national and/or community benefits, is the challenging task for the global GEF/SGP just like it will be for GEF/SGP PAL at the programme level. Discussed strategies and those that will be explored during the phase shall be used to meet the shortfall.

Seeking partnership or cost sharing with other donors

GEF/SGP PAL currently works to strengthen partnership and linkages with different potential partners in Gaza Strip and West Bank, particularly those sharing similar development and environment concerns at the community level. In this regards, GEF/SGP Palestine is planning to launch awareness and education workshop for potential donors in (july 2012).

The GEF-SGP started managing the “Every Drop Matters” program sponsored by Coca Cola through the UNDP. This program which started in 2011 is expected to have a five year cycle up to 2016. The budget allocated for Palestine is 75,000 USD per year and expected to reach up to 100,000 USD next year.

The Belgium Aid is implementing a project on climate change in the oPt. Out of this project an amount of 300,000 USD was allocated for the GEF-SGP program through the UNDP-PAPP and with the endorsement and support of the Ministry of Environment Affairs.

In 2012, the GEF-SGP and the Ministry of Environment Affairs are organizing national initiative to celebrate the World Environment Day for 2012 under the logo set by UNEP “Green Economy, Does it include You” which is inline of the thematic focal areas of GEF. The funding was mainly from private sector and local NGOs with total costs for planned activities estimated at about 60,000 USD.

Maximize community contribution

To reinforce community ownership to the GEF/SGP project intervention and sustainability, it has been agreed by the two NSC and NFG in the West Bank and Gaza that each project proponent should mobilize community resources either in cash or in kind. The percentage of the community additional share should not be less than 5% of the total project budget. NGOs have concluded that community contribution will only be in-kind in form of labor providing, venues for training etc. Municipalities and village councils should also provide contribution in the form of technical expertise, land, service equipment etc.

Maximize grantees contribution

GEF/SGP Palestine also needs to maximize partnership and ownership which was requested by its grantees to contribute to the projects budget by not less than 30 % in the form of providing in-kind contribution; e.g. technical support, venue, project supervision personnel and etc. Few others, however, may offer in cash contribution out of their core operational budget.

6. Sustainability strategy

As stated in the GEF/SGP Strategic Framework, securing the sustainability of GEF/SGP beyond the project grant cycle is considered as one of the challenges for the third operational phase. It depends to a great extent on community commitment and ownership of the project idea. Project sustainability is also determined by the degree to which the concerned NGO will institutionalize the community approaches towards conserving global and local environment, into the daily practices of the organization. Strengthening the programme implementation is considered as a key factor in the program sustainability strategy. GEF/SGP Palestine will adopt the following strategies at both the project and program level.

6.1 Project level

Strengthening the capacity of the environment-focused community organizations:

GEF/SGP should be perceived as an empowering mechanism to help potential partners, grantees of NGOs/ CBOs, and community members to meet their development needs. The underlying assumption of this strategy conveys the conditional relation between building the capacity of the local partners and achieving effective implementation and sustainability of the project, consequently the entire programme. To put this into practice, a number of interventions will be employed by GEF/SGP PAL as follows,

- a) **Arranging cross-organizational training activities** in issues of common technical and development-related priorities to NGOs and CBOs working in environment. Defining these needs are the out-come of individual consultations with potential grantees, recommendations of the stakeholder workshops, the follow up meetings with grantees and the NSCs reflection on the weaknesses of the submitted concept papers and proposals.
- b) **Providing on-the-job technical consultation** in areas related to specific GEF/SGP project focal points. NSCs would be one of the main sources for providing technical consultations. Planning grants awarded to potential grantees, will mainly be geared to provide technical consultations in particular project theme either in the design and/or in the proposal development phase. This will eventually pave the way for strengthening the implementation capacities of the entire project team/ organization and building project sustainability.
- c) **Promoting and providing training on results-based management framework** for community members aiming at empowering them to maximize impacts and sustain projects beyond the GEF/SGP funding cycle.

- d) **Encouraging exchange visits** among project communities to share information and experiences in different project components i.e. community involvement, project design, alternative livelihood etc.
- e) **Ensuring the planning of dissemination workshop** in every GEF/SGP approved projects in order to mainstream new trends of environment conservation and community development approaches. Such workshops will contribute to the replication of project ideas beyond the borders of the direct benefiting community.

Addressing sustainable and viable livelihood alternatives

- GEF/SGP PAL encourages communities to explore viable alternatives to their economic and cultural practices which may contribute to one or more of the programme focal areas and Operational Programmes. Such examples may focus on income-generation or livelihood possibilities that reduce the pressure on fragile ecosystems as it is the case of exploring income generating activities for fishermen communities to relieve the pressure on marine resources due to excessive fishing practices in Gaza, thus protecting marine biodiversity.
- GEF/SGP PAL eagerly works to link GEF focal areas and Operational Programmes with enhancing the livelihood conditions of the benefiting community i.e. linking solid waste management with conserving native species at risk in aid and semi-arid ecosystems or linking agricultural productivity with limiting contamination of international waters.

Replication and up-scaling for best practices

GEF/SGP PAL encourages the representation of the NSC members working in international agencies to facilitate orchestrating the programme among international donors.

GEF/SGP PAL fosters the participation of potential donors in programme activities i.e. Stakeholder, experience dissemination workshops and site visits

GEF/SGP PAL arranges individual meetings with other potential donors, supported by the Head of Gaza UNDP office and the GEF/SGP focal point in the UNDP Jerusalem.

GEF/SGP PAL explores partnership with other UNDP Programmes i.e. gender and development, poverty alleviation, social reintegration of youth and other Programmes particularly those working on the principles of sustainable human development that aims at improving the living conditions of the poorest people, applying environmentally sustainable and gender equitable economic growth as means of improving the well-being of human beings.

6.2 Programme level

GEF/SGP PAL currently works to strengthen partnership and linkages with different potential partners in Gaza Strip and West Bank, particularly those sharing similar development and environment concerns at the community level. Initial negotiations demonstrated that GEF/SGP may be co-financed by international and local donors (governments & NGOs), local community, UNDP Programmes, or GEF/SGP grantees

- **Linking GEF/SGP with other UNDP supported projects:** The UNDP/PAPP provides several opportunities and niches to the GEF small grants Programme. The GEF Programme of the UNDP emphasizes the same goals and Objectives of the SGP in terms of biodiversity and climate change in areas related to Wetland, agro-biodiversity, energy efficiency and biodiversity strategic planning. However, since these are implemented through the Palestinian Authority, GEF/SGP may complement the activities of the GEF projects and include opportunities to NGOs and CBOs to effectively contribute to the macro projects.
- **Seek partnership with other donors:** There are many donors carrying out many infrastructure and rural development projects that may lack emphasis on environmental consideration particularly those related to GEF/SGP. GEF/SGP may work side by side with these projects to make them more sustainable and environment friendly at the community level by adding community awareness component. On the other hand, NGOs and CBOs could benefit from the facilities e.g. training or technical assistance, that larger projects may contribute to the GEF/SGP projects.
- **Integrate program priorities with the national priorities**

7. Knowledge Management System

- GEF/SGP Strategic Framework has strongly highlighted communication, knowledge generation and sharing as one of the key goals of the fifth operational phase. This goal soundly contributes to strengthen programme implementation and ensure its sustainability. Therefore GEF/SGP PAL will continue promoting communication, knowledge dissemination and out-reach activities at both programme and projects level through;

- GEF/SGP PAL is planning to prepare a nicely designed and informative regional booklet highlighting the main GEF SGP OP4 results in addition to the priorities and criteria of community- based projects to be distributed among potential organizations, community groups, government entities and others.

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GEF/SGP PAL will encourage all project grantees to facilitate dissemination workshops at both the community and the national level where all project partners will be invited to share lessons learnt in the course of the funded projects and contribute similar experiences in an accumulative manner.

- GEF/SGP will prepare case studies for successful and replicable project and published to GEF/SGP PAL website.
- GEF/SGP will promote establishing of networking among NGOs to ensure exchange of information and mainstreaming of efforts.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Conceptualization of causes and effects of key environmental problems in relation to GEF focal Areas

Key environmental problem related to GEF Focal areas	Causes	Threat	Focused Area in the Country
1. Increasing loss of biodiversity in both inlands and coastal zones regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest and farm fields clearing; lands' fragmentation and restriction on movement due to security measures imposed by occupation - Policy failure; demographic and economic pressures - Unsustainable agriculture practices and poor soil and water management - Intensive use of pesticides - Lack of seeds stock for preservation due to deterioration of economic situation - Lack of community participation, awareness and transfer of indigenous know-how to use and rehabilitate biodiversity resources - Illegal mining sand and quarrying - Illegal and uncontrolled hunting and mistreatment of wildlife - Lack of controlling regulation and involvement of civil society in law enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changing in vegetation cover and Deforestation - Loss of critical habitat for wildlife, medicinal plants; and economic species needed for development - Erosion of traditional knowledge and skills of sustainable use of biodiversity resources in traditional medication - Uncontrolled alien of invasive species - Narrowing diversity on generic resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - West Bank Mountains - Gaza Strip (Rafah and Khan Younis)
2. Deterioration of Marine resources quality and degradation of Wadi Gaza Wetland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discharge of partially treated wastewater into the sea - Discharge of untreated wastewater into Wadi Gaza - Urban and agriculture run-off pollutants - Over-fishing and inappropriate fishing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loss of critical habitat for wildlife and ecosystem diversities including wetlands for migratory species and marine resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marine ecosystem - Wadi Gaza Wetland

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> techniques and gear - Poach of marine turtle - Poor regulation enforcement and lack of involvement of civil society 		
3. Poor adoption of alternative energy sources technologies and practices that ensure large energy saving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lack of knowledge, training and capital to implement energy efficient options in domestic and industrial process - low application and , implementation and dissemination of renewable energy and biogas technologies - Higher emissions of pollutants resulted from ineffective burning and increased numbers of vehicles - Uncontrolled burning of solid waste - Lack of public awareness and involvement of civil society in monitoring ground emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing risks to physical climate change due to increase in greenhouse gases at unacceptable level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Industrial zones, urban areas and Central cities in the West Bank , east Jerusalem, area C and Gaza
4. Increasing land degradation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overgrazing in natural grazing areas in eastern slopes at the West Bank due to imposed restrictions on movement - Increase soil salinity due to poor water quality for irrigation - Extensive use of pesticides and agrochemical - Inappropriate land use practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loss of biodiversity - Increasing poverty in dry land degraded areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - So uth Slopes in the West Bank - Almwasi Area of Rafah and Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip
5. Lack of sound management of handling and disposal of wastes contain POPs in agricultural and industrial activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of data/information on the state of POPs in the country - Lack of data national plans and monitoring system on how to use, handle and release POPs in the country - Lack of human capacity to conduct inventory of stock piles of POPs and waste in industrial and agricultural sectors - Weak monitoring and enforcement capacity to addressing illegal traffic of POPs through borders - Lack of public awareness, environmental 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Persistent toxic agricultural pesticides being used to produce vegetables - Contamination of water-bodies from Agriculture run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beit Lahia, Beit Hanoun and Mawasi area in Gaza Strip - Northern area in West Bank

	education programs on POPs and poor public participation		

Annex 2: CPS Results: Impacts, Outcomes, and Outputs

Activities / interventions/ opportunities	Outputs	Outcomes	Impacts
1. Conservation of endangered biodiversity			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support restoration of Palm, Acacia, Olive, Guava in Area of Rafah ,Khan younis and West Bank - Encourage capacity-building efforts to promote application of traditional and indigenous knowledge and practices related to conservation of medicinal, herbal and aromatic plants - Promote establishment of community seeds-bank to conserve drought-hardy landraces of cereal grains, vegetables and wild edibles - Promote the adoption of sustainable practices to reduce over-grazing, intensive use of agro-chemicals and over-fishing - Promote and support Integrated wetland management practices - Encourage establishment of in-situ conservation programs for endangered species - Support and promote biodiversity-based handicrafts - Strengthening local authorities to enforce regulation on illegal hunting of wild birds, sea turtles and mammals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Endangered agro-biodiversity native species restored in the coastal area - Preservation and application of traditional and indigenous knowledge and practices relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity/ Agro-biodiversity promoted - Enhanced local capacity to conserve the turtle beaches - Enhanced local capacity to conserve medicinal, herbal and aromatic plants in the mountain eco-system - Increased domestication and sustainable use of wild edible plants - Improved biodiversity based handicrafts - Increased usage of native species and expanding of organic farming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community practices in Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity/ agro-biodiversity promoted, and up-scaled in the mountain and coastal ecosystems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and realization of its values in food and medicine
2. Mitigation of climate change threats			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support promotion of efficient utilization of traditional energy recourses - Support promotion of utilization of alternative energy resources for generating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased utilization of solar and wind energy in generating electricity in border localities - Increased awareness and use of alternative energy resources and energy efficiency and conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local community best practices in utilizing renewable energy forms; and adaptation of less polluting transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased access to sustainable, climate-friendly energy technologies through removal of culture,

<p>electricity for community and municipal needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assist demonstration projects involving introduction of renewable solar technologies on solar pumps for water desalination and ground water abstraction, as well as solar energy for cooking, water heating - Support collaborative community/academic research and development in order to produce low-cost , sustainable energy options - support and advocate implanting environmentally sound traffic management ions in central cities and monitoring ground emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased local community capacity to monitor ground transport emissions - Improved capacity of local community and government to plan; operate and maintain sustainable transport system in main cities 	<p>modalities upgraded and replicated</p>	<p>institutional, technical and economic barriers</p>
<p>3. Reduction of pollution into international water body</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote and support establishing of seawater quality monitoring and impact assessment of discharge raw wastewater on marine biodiversity - Support community initiatives on raising awareness on the Tran- boundary groundwater effect on shared aquifer with Egypt and Israel and the impact of dead-read sea canal on the neighboring communities - Promote and support developing and implementation of integrated water and land-use management plans in the coastal area - Support community activities to reduce wastewater pollution on Wadi Gaza wetland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced local community capacity in monitoring seawater quality - Increased local community awareness on risks associated of discharge of raw sewage into the sea - Improved local capacity in applying integrated water and land use management practices in the coastal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local community capacity in applying integrated and shared resources management developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimizing pollutants effects on quality of international waters and Tran-boundary aquifers

4. Minimizing land degradation effects and control desertification			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote and support activities addressing land degradation and deforestation including mapping out affected areas - Support interventions to improve both livelihood and economic well-being of local people to preserve and restore ecosystem stability through sustainable land management - Support activities in utilization and management of agriculture waste - Promote sustainable rangeland management practices - Support activities to improve quality of water for irrigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduced heavy usage of agro-chemicals and fertilizers in agriculture practices - Enhanced management and utilization of agriculture waste in agriculture practices - Optimized irrigation use and Improved water quality for irrigation - Increase in adapting Integrated Pest Management in Agriculture practices - Enhanced quality of rangeland management system in the Eastern Slopes in the West Bank - Encouraged adopting livelihood alternatives by local communities - Increased local community capacity in production of land degradation maps for limited area in Gaza and West Bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local community capacity to implement sustainable land and watershed management developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimization of land degradation potential in limited areas in the West Bank and Gaza
5. Reduction of release of persistent organic pollutants			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support community launching efforts to inventory the import, sources, release, usage and release of POPs and wastes that contain POPs - Participate in development of management options - Promote and support usage of alternatives of POPs in agriculture practices - Support community efforts to facilitate awareness raising initiatives on POPs and their impacts on human health, economic and environment - Strengthening of monitoring and enforcement capacity to control and address illegal traffic of POPs through borders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved community capacity for identifying and management of POPs contamination - Improved Knowledge and skills in handling and use of POPs - Increased community awareness on danger of POPs - Integrated Pest Management in Agriculture practices promoted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local community capacity for environmentally sound management of POPs developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmentally sound management of POPs promoted to reduce posed risks

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Annex 3: the Program Planning Matrix

Program strategy Outcomes	Objective verifiable indicators			Source of verification	Assumption
	Indicator	Baseline	Target		
Development Goal Consolidating the community-based interventions to address global environmental problems and promote sustainable development whilst meeting the livelihood needs	demonstration of global benefits (environment, livelihood, empowerment) resulted from SGP projects	Global environmental benefits are being secured through link of SGP projects	Knowledge and best practices scaled up and replicated in large initiatives	Country annual reports	- Commitment of the civil society and government as well as donors maintained - Conflict ended and peace realized
Overall Impact Conservation and sustainable development strategies to protect the global environment are understood and practiced by local communities and other stakeholders	No. of communities adoption sustainable environmental and natural resources management practices		community report significantly to global environment and local benefits	Program review and evaluation report	NGO/CBOs commitment and involvement in SGP at all levels
Outcome 1: Community practices in Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity/ agro-biodiversity promoted, and up-scaled in the mountain and coastal ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Certification standards for organic-agricultural products - Rate of loss of genes, species, habitats, and ecosystem - % of public and users acting in using biodiversity - % of people support biodiversity conservation - No. of NGOs and specialist trained in specific knowledge and skills in biodiversity related initiatives - No. of developed local industries related to 		Yr.1: NGOs/CBOs capacity built on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use through awareness and education on Yr.2: inventory and application of demonstration projects Yr.3: up-scaling and replication and marketing of biodiversity related products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maps and vegetation cover record - Survey reports - NGOs/CBOs documentations - SGP data base - Program annual reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accessibility for restricted area due security measures permitted - Willingness and cooperation of local authorities to enforce regulation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> biodiversity - No. of in-situ conservation site established - Change in fishery practices - Gender participation in income generation activities 				
Outcome 2: Local community best practices in utilizing renewable energy forms; and adopting of less polluting transport modalities upgraded and replicated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electricity generation and installed capacities (equipment installed by beneficiaries) - Electricity saving made by project beneficiaries as a result of energy efficiency measures (electricity consumption records) - Alternatives energy options currently in use by communities (number) - Level of implementation of environmentally-sound transport modalities by local authorities 		<p>Yr.1: NGOs/CBOs capacity built to implement alternative energy resources through awareness and education on</p> <p>Yr.2: application and demonstration projects</p> <p>Yr.3: up-scaling and replication of best practices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Survey reports - NGOs/CBOs documentations - SGP data base - Program annual reports - MoM and MoU with local 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feasibility of energy alternatives - Willingness of local authorities to up-scale successful initiatives - Willingness of local authorities to provide regular maintenance - Enforcement capacity of local authorities to control pollution and implement new transport modalities
Outcome3: Local community capacity to implement sustainable land and watershed management developed for minimizing land degradation impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area of land recovered by applying sustainable agricultural practices - Quantity of agro-chemicals usage - Quantity of produced compost - No. of application used thermal sterilization 		<p>Yr. 1: training and awareness raised on sustainable Agr. Practices</p> <p>Yr2: demonstration projects implemented</p> <p>Yr.3: up-scaling and replication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Projects reports - SGP database - Program annual reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Willingness of farmers to adopt sustainable Agr. Practices - Successful marketing of safe vegetables and crops - Willingness of

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - % of area where IPM applied - No. of supported indigenous people in alternative livelihood 				Bedouin people to cooperate in applying sustainable rangeland management
Outcome4: Local community capacity for environmentally sound management of POPs developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No. of educational program initiated - No. of NGOs/CBO trained - List of POPs pollutants documented and their impact assist - Alternatives POPs usage in agriculture made function 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yr.2: Inventory established and awareness raised - Yr3: capacity to reduce POPs and alternatives means developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Projects reports - SGP database - Survey results - Program reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Willingness of suppliers and farmers to cooperate in identifying POPs sources - Willingness of NGO/CBO to absorb and apply new alternatives

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