

GEF-SGP/ERITRIA



GEF SGP Country Program Strategy for OP6

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List of acronyms

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	Community Based Organization
UNCCD	Convention to Combat Desertification
CPS	Country Program Strategy
DoE	Department of Environment
MoLWE	Ministry of Land Water and Environment
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GoE	Government of Eritrea
I-PRSP	Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Process
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoLG	Ministry of Local Government
MoLWE	Ministry of Land Water and Environment
MoME	Ministry of Mines and Energy
MoMR	Ministry of Marine Resources
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCSA	National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment
NEAPG	National Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines and Procedures
NEMP-E	National Environmental Management Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSC	National Steering Committee
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
SGP	Small Grant Program
SGP/CPS	Small Grant Program/Country Program Strategy
SWC	Soil and Water Conservation
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
TAG	Technical Advisory Group

ERITRIA - SGP Country Program Strategy for OP6

OP6 resources (estimated 2,900,000.⁰⁰US\$)

- a. Core funds: 400,000.⁰⁰
- b. OP5 remaining balance: 00.⁰⁰
- c. STAR funds: 1,000,000.⁰⁰
- d. Other Funds to be mobilized: 1,500,000.⁰⁰¹ (in cash and kind)

1. SGP country program summary

1.1. Background

The Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Program (GEF/SGP) is a corporate program of the GEF implemented by UNDP and executed by United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). The program was launched in 1992 with the objective to find innovative actions to protect the global environment. SGP supports conservation activities of non-governmental and community-based organizations in developing countries with an additional focus on poverty alleviation and good governance. The program provides NGOs and CBOs with technical assistance and funds of up projects of up to USD 50,000 for their activities. It supports community-based initiatives addresses environmental concerns within GEF focal areas.

In 2009, the SGP was introduced in Eritrea to facilitate innovative approaches in community-based environmental programs. The program has become a mechanism to scale-up tested and known approaches to community based environmental improvements, particularly those witnessed through the Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and to some extent through mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

SGP is one of the most relevant initiatives in Eritrea; owing to its ability to improve the technical capacity of local communities as it enable them to continue similar activities in adjacent areas (GEF-IEO, 2014). The program has supported 33 community-based activities in the operation phases (OP) 3 and 4 of the SGP. The GEF/SGP in Eritrea has received a total financial support of USD 1, 524,100.00. The SGP projects also attracted co-financing of USD 264,073.86 in cash and USD 202, 7626.45 in-kind (GEF 2012). The SGP activities executed in Eritrea are focused mainly in land degradation, climate change mitigation, and biodiversity.

A National Steering Committee (NSC) composed of voluntary representatives from NGOs/CBOs, government ministries, academic researchers, private sector, and UNDP office approves all projects and guides the programme's implementation. The National Coordinator manages the programme and Central Programme Management Team based in New York gives strategic direction to SGP country office.

SGP Eritrea operates within the framework of UNDP under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Land Water and Environment (MoLWE). The Department of Environment (DoE) is political focal point for the two Rio conventions namely Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change. The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) is the focal point for Land Degradation. The major stakeholders of SGP in the country include line ministries, civil society organizations, institutions of higher education, and the local communities. The government ministries which have direct relevance to SGP are the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG), Land Water and Environment (MoLWE), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Marine Resources (MoMR), and

Ministry of Energy and Mines (MoEM). The National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) and National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW) the two civil society organizations which are active in the country. Eritrea Institute of Technology (EIT), Hamelmalo Agricultural College (HAC), and Massawa College of Marine Science and Technology (MCOMSAT) have programs and research areas related to SGP activities. Beneficiary of SGP support in country are NGOs/CBOs, research institutions, and kebab/sub-zoba administrations as municipalities.

Results and accomplishments achieved by the country program

The SGP projects have contributed in raising awareness of communities on local and global environmental issues in general and on the significance of sustainable management of natural resources. It contributed to improvement of the livelihoods and health of the communities at large, and women and children in particular. In projects related to energy, 75 women were trained on the construction of energy saving stoves. Moreover, SGP projects enabled local communities to integrate traditional knowledge in the construction of well-designed and appropriate technologies. According to GEF country evaluation a number of projects were successfully completed and handed over to the local communities (SGP annual report, 2012). Detailed information on the projects is provided in Annex 1.

GEF/SGP funded 33 projects during the OP4 and OP5. These include USD 300,000 during OP4 covering 9 projects; and USD 1,152,000 during OP5 covering a total of 24 projects. The level of co-financing for both phases was 1:1.12 (GEF-IEO, 2014). This suggests that the contribution of local communities and other development partners was significant compared with the total funds allocated by GEF during the specified period. Such arrangement was stipulated right from the inception and preparation of the project in which the contribution of the local communities was clearly articulated in the project proposal itself. Contribution of local communities, in most cases, was in the form of labour and provision of raw materials needed for the construction of soil and water conservation structures or other supplies deemed necessary for successful completion of the projects.

Most of the activities funded by GEF/SGP on community based projects focused on land degradation (Table 1). This is in line with the major environmental problems facing the country, which include deforestation, desertification, and soil erosion. Implemented projects involved afforestation and soil conservation, water conservation, rehabilitation of degraded catchments, community-based watershed management, community-based afforestation, and sustainable land management. Although the above projects are categorized as land degradation projects, their outcomes were multifocal by nature contributing to land degradation, biodiversity and climate change activities. In projects related to land degradation and biodiversity conservation 111 members of the community of which 23 women followed training for trainer's course on forest management, indigenous seed/tree collection, seed propagation, tree nursery management, construction of soil and water structures and planting techniques.

Six activities related to mitigation of the effect of climate change were executed during the same two phases. These projects targeted the use of environmentally sound energy sources thereby reducing dependence on fossil fuel for household energy demand (e.g. modified-energy saving stoves and introduction of bio-gas) or using alternative energy (e.g. solar lanterns in one town and solar powered IT classes in two schools). Closer look at the Climate Change projects reveals that most of such projects were also multifocal embracing land degradation with biodiversity and climate change.

While the above background explains the overall situations on the extent of thematic converge, it is evident that there were no projects pertinent to persistent obsolete pesticides and international waters. Concerning geographical coverage, SGP projects implemented in five of the six administrative regions of Eritrea with 39.4% in the Maekel and 27.2% in Dehub administrative regions (Table 1).

1.1.1. Contribution of national SGP/GEF to Global Environmental Benefits

In Eritrea, the GEF/SGP supported projects have been able to contribute towards the Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) in a number of ways. First, it assisted in building the capacity of local institutions to understand the global challenges and opportunities through organized workshops and seminars. Through the GEF/SGP projects, local communities were empowered to identify, prioritize and implement environmental projects that improved their livelihoods while conserving biodiversity, mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change as well as addressing land degradation.

Table 1: SGP/GEF projects implemented during GEF operational phases 4 and 5 (2009-2015).

Administrative Region (Zoba)	Focal Area	GEF Operational Phase		Grand Total	% of Total
		OP-4	OP-5		
Maekel	Climate Change	1	1	2	6.1
	Land Degradation		7	7	21.2
	Multi Focal	2		2	12.2
	Capacity Building		2	2	12.2
<i>Sub Total</i>		3	10	13	39.4
Semenawi Keih Bahri	Biodiversity	2		2	6.1
	Climate change		1	1	3.0
	Land Degradation		2	2	6.1
<i>Sub Total</i>		2	3	5	15.2
Debub	Climate Change	1	1	2	6.1
	Land Degradation	1	6	7	21.2
<i>Sub Total</i>		2	7	9	27.3
Anseba	Land Degradation	2	3	5	15.2
<i>Sub Total</i>		2	3	5	15.2
Gash-Barka	Land Degradation		1	1	3.0
<i>Sub Total</i>			1	1	3.0
Grand Total		9	24	33	100.0

As indicated in table 2, rehabilitation of degraded land and restoration of indigenous forests and woodlands were key elements in SGP supported activities in Eritrea. Forest restoration requires protection of the vegetation against livestock grazing. Area closures and enrichment planting of multipurpose trees and shrubs has yielded promising results in not only restoring the environment but also providing economic benefits to the communities. In addition to protecting soils from erosion, it also results in maintenance of unique ecosystems with endangered species such as *Juniperus procera* and *Olea africana*. Hence, the GEF/SGP projects, thus far implemented in the five administrative regions projects have significant Global Environmental Benefits.

As mentioned above a number of the projects carried out in OP4 and OP5 have components related to land degradation, biodiversity, and climate change. Although these projects were developed to tackle local environmental problems, their outcome will have far-reaching global benefits, in the longer term. For example reducing dependence on fossil fuel for household energy demand will curb emission of carbon dioxide to the environment. Rehabilitation of degraded land will result in greening the environment and

hence increase not only its productivity but also mitigate climate change through the reduction of carbon emission to the atmosphere. The permanent enclosures established through these projects provide favorable environmental conditions for the regeneration (germination of seeds, establishment of seedlings, growth and development of saplings) of the known endangered species as well as others whose seed banks are still available in the soil. Tree planting in Anseba region particularly in the villages of Deki-Gebbru and Wara had a positive impact in enabling the local people to improve their livelihoods. In addition to restoring the local ecosystem, regeneration of indigenous threatened evergreen highland species (e.g., *Olea africana* and *Dodonaea angustifolia*) had a direct impact on the global environmental benefit. If such endeavors are further replicated, up-scaled, and adapted by other adjacent communities and beyond it will contribute to the mitigation of climate change.

The traditional energy saving stove locally known as Adhanet is an improved version of the traditional highland stove 'Eton'. The improved traditional stove project enabled local communities to integrate traditional knowledge in the construction of well-designed technologies. This adaptation of the technology requires further improvement to enhance its efficiency. Nonetheless, it has been a significant step forward towards the right direction.

1.2. Situation analysis of SGP country program

Environmental Sustainability is one of government of Eritrea's priorities all along with basic Social Services, National Capacity Development, Food Security, Sustainable Livelihoods, Gender Equity and Advancement of Women. In support of the government's strategy, various agencies, the most visible of which is the UNDP, have shown commitment to assist in reaching these goals in accordance with the development outcomes adopted in the country's first, second and most recent United Nations Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework for the period 2013-2016 (CPE 2014).

The GEF Agencies working in Eritrea (e.g. UNDP, UNFAO, and IFAD) also assist in strengthening the capacity of the national institutions to manage the environment and natural resources; in integrate environmental dimensions into poverty reduction strategies and national development frameworks; and in strengthening the role of communities and of women in promoting sustainable development.

As an indicator of ownership, co-financing can signal the level of the commitment of beneficiaries, implementing agencies and executing agencies. Furthermore, it helps to ensure the success and local acceptance of projects by linking them to sustainable development. In the GEF country portfolio evaluation (GEF-IEO, 2014) it was concluded that Eritrea has been successful in mobilizing its own resources as well as co-financing from other organizations. Furthermore, GEF Projects in Eritrea are initiated by, have full support of national agencies such as the DoE, MoA, MoME, MoMR, and other national agencies suggesting that they are relevant to the national needs, and enjoy government support (GEF-IEO 2014).

The following full-size projects are expected to contribute to GEF/SGP in OP6:

- Prevention and Disposal of POPs and Obsolete Pesticides, supported by FAO throughout the country,
- Operationalization of Protected Areas Management Systems of Eritrea,
- SIP PROGRAM: Strategic Investment Program for SLM in Sub-Saharan Africa (SIP), WB/UNDP/UNEP/AfDB/IFAD/FAO in gash Barka and Debub regions,
- Climate and Agriculture in Hamelmalo and Habero in Anseba region and
- Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in Tslma in Debub region,
- Fisheries Development Project (funded by IFAD and implemented by MMR).

2. SGP country program niche

2.1. Alignment of OP6 with national priorities

Eritrea is a signatory to a number of international conventions and protocols, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the United Nations Convention for Combating Desertification (UNCCD). International conventions related to environment to which Eritrea is signatory are listed in Table 2. Eritrea has produced a number of national reports related to the environment as stipulated in the conventions. The participation of Eritrea in the implementation of national and regional environmental programs and projects reflects the extent to which the country views itself vulnerable to various environmental hazards: the adverse effects of climate change, depletion of biodiversity, and land degradation. The international conventions and protocols provide the forum for the country to express issues and grievances, on top of accessing to technical and financial resources to support the implementation of programs and project in three focal points.

Table 2: List of relevant conventions and national/regional plans and programmes

Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	May 21, 1996
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	2000, 2014
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	2012
Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)	February 01, 2005
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	October 24, 1994
Kyoto Protocol of the Climate Change Convention	July 28, 2005
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	April 10, 2002
Vienna Convention for the protection of the Ozone Layer	March 2, 2005
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	24 April 1995
UNFCCC National Communications (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd)	2001, 2011, 2014
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	2012
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	2007
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	14 August, 1999
UNCCD National Action Programs (NAP)	Jan, 2002
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	March 1, 2005
Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	Feb 2003
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	1999

2.2. Involvement of local communities

Local communities and civil society organizations are involved in implementing a number of the national environmental priorities. For example, under the promotion of afforestation and land reclamation GEF/SGP project in Adi-Tekelezan Sub region, local communities were involved in combating soil erosion and in conserving water resources through reforestation. The project activities included protecting areas from animal grazing and other human activities, land terracing, tree planting, and awareness raising on the importance of vegetation cover in conserving water and soil from erosion. As a result, 30 ha of land were protected from grazing and 59,990 seedlings planted. The project site is now covered with vegetation and

could be used as demonstration site for replication and up scaling to other places in the neighboring villages and other administrative regions.

Mangrove forests are threatened as a result of a number of pressures coming from various directions. Mangrove is used as firewood by coastal communities, as feed to camels, for construction of boats, and for building shelter for humans and animals. In recognition of these challenges, GEF/SGP implemented a project in Hirgigo, a coastal village in Northern Red Sea region. In the process, the local communities participated in a number of activities that had direct bearing on the restoration and protection of the mangroves in general and the local habitat in particular. Communities were trained on the collection of seeds from established mangrove forests and on planting mangrove trees. Through awareness raising seminars, utilization of mangrove as fodder for animals was demonstrated. Because of the project, 22.5 ha of seacoast was covered with 30,000 mangrove seedlings (CPI 2014ⁱ). This project clearly demonstrated that it is possible to use local resources to restore and protect coastal ecosystems and replicated as an example in the seascape projects during the OP6 phase.

Although Eritrea is not significant contributor to the greenhouse gases (GHG), it is a victim of climate change. There are clear indicators that climate of the country is changing. In recognition to these threats, the country has prepared a National Adaption Plan for Action in 2007 to mitigate and adapt the adverse effects of climate change (NAPA, 2007ⁱⁱ). Under the 'Improved Traditional Stoves in three villages of Adi-Tekelezan Sub-zone' local community participated in reduction to GHG emissions. Activities of the project included collection of gravel and selected soils for stove making, training of women masons to construct the stoves, and planting trees in homesteads. A key result was that 400 improved traditional stoves were constructed and are now under efficient use, cutting of trees for firewood has been reduced, and health of women has been improved. In 2016, the baseline assessment on the use of improved stove revealed that invariably almost all households own improved stoves constructed through the project or as a spill of effects of such projects implemented during the last twenty years.

As stated above, nowadays, the local communities are aware about the environmental problems and they have been involved in the past and eagerly awaiting to be involved in projects that would solve their local problems. Water conservation through various means remains one of the top priorities in the landscape and seascape projects for the near future. Nonetheless, there is a need to streamline their needs to encompass broader environmental issues through articulation of the causes, consequences and solutions to environmental problems at the local, regional and national levels. These could be done through various means, *inter alia*, organizing workshops and raising awareness of administrators and leaders of the communities.

Continuous community sensitization and awareness raising about environmental problems should be conducted by arranging seminars facilitated by environmentalists. Furthermore, exchange of experience could be done by arranging communities' visits (study tours) to successful project sites in the country.

2.3. Potential for complementary and synergy with other projects

As part of the OP6 strategic directions at the national level, the potential for complementary and synergy of the selected OP6 strategic initiatives with other projects is indicated in Table 3. GEF/SGP OP6 activities will complement larger environmental initiatives. While some of the initiatives have phased out others are still in progress.

Community landscape/seascape conservation projects will complement with activities implemented by the Semenawi-Bahri, Debubawi-Bahri, Burri, Irorri Barasolie protected area. Eritrea with 121,320km² land area is located at the northern part of the Horn of Africa. It has 2,234km of Red Sea coastline and an estimated 354 islands, primarily in the Dahlak

The Eritrea Coastal Marine and Island Biodiversity (ECMIB), funded by GEF and implemented by the MoMR, assessed the biodiversity marine ecosystems along the Eritrean coast. Results from investigations conducted by the project show that the Eritrean coast is rich in coral reef, mangrove and seagrass biodiversity. The coast is home to a number of endangered and threatened species including turtles, dugongs, whales, seabirds, fish, corals and other invertebrates. The coastal area is subject to anthropogenic and natural effects (Grissac and Negussie 2007). Currently the MoMR is running IFAD funded 'Fisheries Development Project' aimed at strengthening the capacity of local fishers based on environmental sustainability.

Other project which have potential of complementarity with the SGP OP6 include SIP of catchments in Gash-Barka and Debub (IFAD and EU), SLM in SerejekaZoba Maekel, Climate and Agriculture in Habero and, HamelmaloinAnseba region, and Tslmain Debub region Alternative energy project of the EU GEF Energy project, small projects funded by the Eritrea Research Funds, and Fisheries Development Project funded by IFAD and executed by the Ministry of Fisheries.

OP6 strategies

2.4. Cross-cutting OP6 grant-making strategies

In the Assessments and scoping exercise, two crosscutting OP6 grant making strategies have been identified at the national level. There two sets of strategies activities that require support within the landscape/seascape area and those outside of the selected landscape and seascape. Outside the landscape/seascape area, these activities, basically, fall under two major categories: capacity building, and sensitization of local communities.

- Capacity building of community leaders (e.g. model farmers and fishermen), administrators, and civil society in identifying key environmental problems as well as developing proposals and in implementing projects; and
- Sensitizing local and regional civil society organizations on environmental problems and their solutions; The National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) and National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW) by organizing seminars and workshops ;

Table 3: SGP contribution to national priorities GEF-6 corporate results

1 SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	2 GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	3 SGP Country Program niche relevant to national priorities/other agencies	4 Complementation between the SGP Country Program and UNDP CO strategic programming
Community landscape/seascape conservation	Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation and protection of critically endangered animal and plant species • Promotion of in-Situ and ex-Situ conservation • Rehabilitation and afforestation of degraded land 	Semenawi and DehubawiBahri, BuriErrori, Barasole protected area Eritrea Coastal Marine and Island Biodiversity Project
Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology	Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, forest landscapes, and aquaculture)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of climate smart agriculture and aquaculture 	SIP of catchments in Gash-Barka and Dehub (IFAD and EU), SLM in SerejekaZoba Maekel, Climate and Agriculture in Habero and, HamelmaloAnseba region, and Tslmain Dehub region
Energy access co-benefits	Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing dependence on fossil fuel and firewood by promotion of use of alternative energy for household and other energy demands 	Alternative energy project of the EU GEF Energy project
Local to global chemicals coalitions	Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community based management of pesticides and reduction of in-flux of pesticide and other pollutants to the sea 	DoE project
CSO-Government dialogue platforms	Enhance capacity of civil society to contribute to implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) and national and sub-national policy, planning and legal frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building of leaders and administrators civil society in developing proposals and in implementing SGP OP6 projects • Promotion of dialogue between line ministries and local communities on sustainable utilization of natural resources 	Fisheries Cooperatives Projects implemented by IHE (HAC, EIT and COMSAT) funded by Eritrea Research Fund s

<p>Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)</p>	<p>GEF Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Gender Equality Action Plan and GEF Principles for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of livelihood of women by up grading their capacity in utilizing natural resources on a sustainable manner 	<p>NUEYS and NUEW sensitization projects, Ecosystem- based fisheries management, Piloting of smart agriculture</p>
<p>Contribution to global knowledge management platforms</p>	<p>Contribute to GEF KM efforts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation and popularization of success stories from previous SGP portfolio 	<p>National Documentation Center Development of National and Digital Library</p>

2.5. Landscape/seascape-based OP6 grant-making strategies

The OP6 grant making exercise strategies was based on series of consultative processes in which the various stakeholders were involved. First, an assessment and scoping exercises were undertaken to take stock and description of the results so far achieved since 2009. This helped to identify the priority directions for programming in OP6 in line with the SGP OP6 project document, the country's national priorities, GEF 6 programming directions, and potential for synergy with UNDP and other partner agencies. This exercise involved the National Steering Committee, civil societies, UNDP country office, sector agencies and other partners. The scoping process helped to identify the niche of SGP for programming in OP6 in order to focus the program to deliver the strategic impact expected in terms of the OP6 directions and initiatives in three steps:

Step 1: Communications, outreach and capacity development about OP6 and its strategic initiatives. Such communications explained the need to focus SGP on landscape/seascape areas for the achievement of greater strategic impact through clustering of projects and achievement of synergies.

Step 2: Multi-stakeholder consultations in which consultation with the National Steering Committee (NSC), Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and other relevant partners from government, civil society, UNDP, partner agencies etc. carried out to build a consensus on the country program's new approach.

Step 3: Selection of the landscape/seascape area(s) of focus in made with consideration given to SGP's niche, opportunities, challenges, and potential for synergies, for greater impact. The process ended up with a selection of one landscape and one seascape, and the identification of the thematic focus or niche to ensure that SGP grant making is strategic and achieves greater impact.

In the OP6, up to 30% of grant resources will be allocated outside the selected landscape and seascape areas. It proposes to utilize funds to promote innovative methods and approaches that fall within the three GEF focal areas: Land degradation, biodiversity conservation and climate change. The projects outside the selected area will mainly focus on community conservation, innovative climate smart agro-ecology, and energy access co-benefits. Priorities given to grants outside the landscape/seascape area(s), for projects that:

- i) promote innovation of new approaches ,
- ii) provide new opportunities for partnerships and replication,
- iii) help translate landscape/seascape lessons into policy or promote-uptake;
- iv) Promote (CSO) non-government-government dialogue platforms that promote civil society engagement with government in the context of multilateral environmental agreements such as operationalization of protected areas systems in Eritrea.

The Country Program Strategy (CPS), Consultation and Scoping Exercise guided the Landscape/Seascape Baseline assessment process. This laid out the consensus for the priorities and planning for delivering OP6 outcomes in Eritrea. The Landscape/Seascape Strategy describes the landscape/seascape approach for supporting global environmental activities in line with the selected strategic initiatives in the GEF/SGP Country Program that contribute to sustainable development at the community level. The objective of the baseline assessment will assist GEF/SGP National Coordinators and National Steering Committees (NSC) to:

- Map out a landscape/seascape-wide baseline information including ecological and socioeconomic reference data;
- Develop a landscape/seascape strategy to guide grant-making with typology of projects proposed, and identify sets of indicators for selected GEF/SGP strategic initiatives;

- Provide information about the current state of the landscapes/seascapes, through consultations with local communities and stakeholders for setting goals and the desired level of outputs and outcomes.

Following the national consultative meeting held in the Department of Environment of the MoLWE the DoE, which is the national GEF poetical focal point and other relevant stakeholders agreed and decided to select one landscape and anther seascape. This was done after a thorough consultation process of representatives of the five administrative zones of Eritrea. The selected landscape and seascape have unique flora and fauna (biodiversity) that deserve special attention for the protection and sustainable use of resources.

In the baseline assessment, combination tools and methods including Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) were used. Baseline data establishes sustainability benchmark information: environmental, economic, and socio-cultural aspects, against which future change can be measured and monitored. These studies involved investigation into the environmental settings and socioeconomic parameters of the **Anker-Balwa** landscape and **Gelalo-Arata (Bahri)** seascape where the OP6 GEF/SGP projects are planned. Using satellite imagery and Geographic information tool (GIS), the habitats were mapped. These will be useful for planning of development activities as well as natural resource management by the local communities. The objectives of the baseline assessment are therefore to:

- Produce a knowledge base-for rural livelihood (analysis of status) at the start of the project in the selected landscape/ seascape.
- Construct data that can serve as a basis for future monitoring (e.g. detecting dynamics and trends in the landscape and seascape); and provide stakeholders with recommendations for further actions to promote sustainable development in the landscape and seascape.

In the baseline assessment, two consecutive steps were involved: baseline analyses and on site data collection.

Step 1: Baseline Analysis: This included identification of the landscape context and background including threats to the global environment, sustainable development and key actions and plans that are underway in the implementation process in the country. It identified the relevant stakeholders within and outside the landscape/seascape who are involved and play a role in the conservation and sustainable use of the natural resources. Moreover, the boundaries of the landscape and seascape were identified and mapped. It also analyzed the baseline activities that the GEF/SGP country program was built during OP4 and OP5 phases on top of identification of gaps addressed during the SGP/GEF/OP6 phase. Key baseline indicators developed at the Landscape and Seascape(s) levels were included. These indicators are reference points/benchmarks for measuring the expected impact at the Landscape and Seascape(s) level (Annex 1).

Step 2: On-site data collection: Stakeholder engagement and participated through a consultative workshop and series of meetings with stakeholders at various levels: national sub-zoba and villages levels. Participatory Rural Appraisal involving open ended group discussions and transect walks were carried out to identify the major features of the seascape and landscape. Detailed information about the socio-economic conditions were gathered using questionnaires (Annex 1).

Three categories of baseline indicators that will be assessed are the following: a) physical/environment, b) socio-economic and c) external factors. As outcome of the process following three sets of data are collected.

Category 1

Using satellite images the boundary(s) of the Landscape and Seascape(s) defined. Using GIS tools the physical attributes, such as state of natural resources base, of the selected Landscape and Seascape(s) as described through narrated observations and map/pictures of the area were defined.

Category 2:

In order to elaborate on the baseline information, primary data through structured questionnaire and secondary data obtained from stakeholders (Ministry of local Government, Ministry of Agriculture, and Ministry of Land Water and Environment) as well as outputs from the community consultation workshops. The socio-economic information based on livelihood systems, the cultural backdrop and the strength of the social services and infrastructure of the selected Landscape and Seascape(s).

Category 3:

This was an expansive category (policymaking process) with multiple and varied possible external influencers. It extends from the national (such as national policy environment) to the conditions/activities of localities adjacent or proximal to the selected Landscape and Seascape(s) (e.g. resource competition and conflict for resources uses).

The Landscape/Seascape Baseline Assessment has documented the key challenges (e.g. social factors, economic, physical factors), environmental and global environmental issues (e.g. biodiversity, climatic change, and land degradation). It also identified opportunities for community and civil societies' actions. The baseline assessment process include community consultations, and ensured participation of the range of stakeholders (e.g. local administration, farming and fishing communities) in the landscape/seascape, including local authorities, civil societies, community organizations, and other relevant partners.

Based on the information gathered from the baseline assessment the following measures are recommended as areas of focus for intervention: Rehabilitation of degraded landscape; Promotion of water harvesting technologies for crop and livestock production; expansion of community-based closures for forest regeneration and support to livelihoods; promotion of alternative energy resources and energy saving stoves to arrest deforestation to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change; introduction of protected areas in the landscape and seascape for biodiversity conservation; piloting of efficient irrigation technologies; and introduction of smart-agriculture (drought/diseases resistant land race crop varieties)

2.5.1. Location of the landscape

The landscape approach provides a unique opportunity to mainstreaming conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into production of landscape. Ecological system approach is preferable to strike a balance between resources utilization and environmental protection.

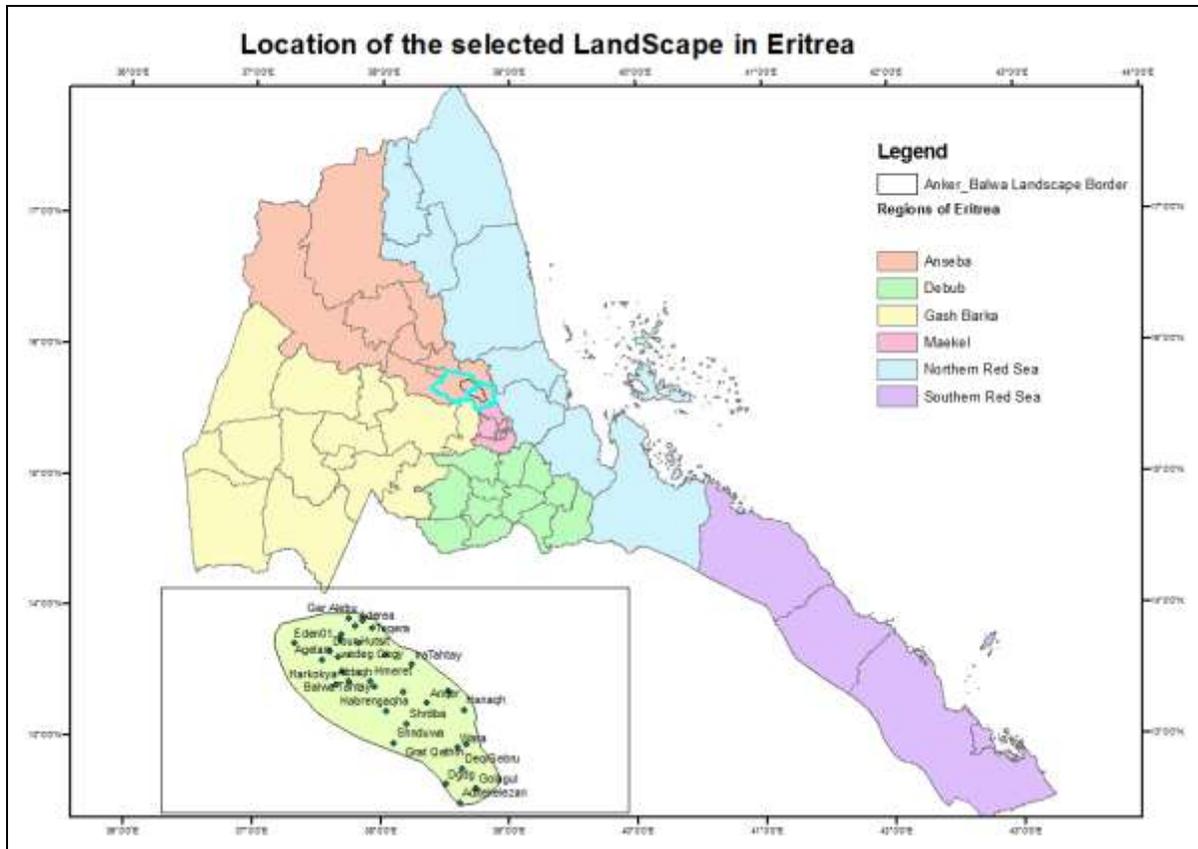


Figure 1: Geographical location of the Anker Balwa landscape

The Anker-Balwa Landscape is located at 15 °34'0'' and 15 °44'5'' latitude (north), and 38 °36'32'' and 38°48'15'' longitude (east). It covers a total area of 20,704 hectare (ha) of land (Figure 1). The landscape occupies northwestern part of Adi-Tekelezan Sub-zone. It occupies 10,217 ha of land, which covers 30.4% of the Sub-Zone. The landscape also extends to the northeastern part of Sub-zone Elabered and covers 10,487 ha of land, which accounts for 16.5% of the sub-zone. The landscape elevation ranges from 1400 meters in the mid Anseba River around Elabered up to 2578 in Era-Laelay.

Anker-Balwa landscape is located on the fringes of Semienawi-Bahri (Protected area) and Moist Highland Agro-Ecological Zones. The landscape hosts endemic and endangered plant species including *Oxythentera abyssinica* arkay (Bamboo), *Juniperus procera* (Tshdi), *Olea Africana* (Awlie) and number of regionally endemic evergreen plant species. Moreover, the land is highly degraded and populated in relation to other Sub-Zones of Anseba Region. Furthermore, this area is a place where successful community-based Afforestation; energy-saving stoves successfully implemented during the OP5 phase in the villages of Wara and Deki-Gebru.

2.5.2. Location of the Bahri Seascape

Gelalo-Arata (Bahri) Seascape is located at 14°34'30'' and 15°17'45'' latitude (north), and 39°58'12'' and 31°07'50'' longitude (east). The seascape occupies northeastern coastal area and continental shelf of Gel'alo and Arata Sub-Zones. The seascape extends up-to 20 kilometers from the coast including the Irori plains where the regionally endemic endangered wild ass is found.

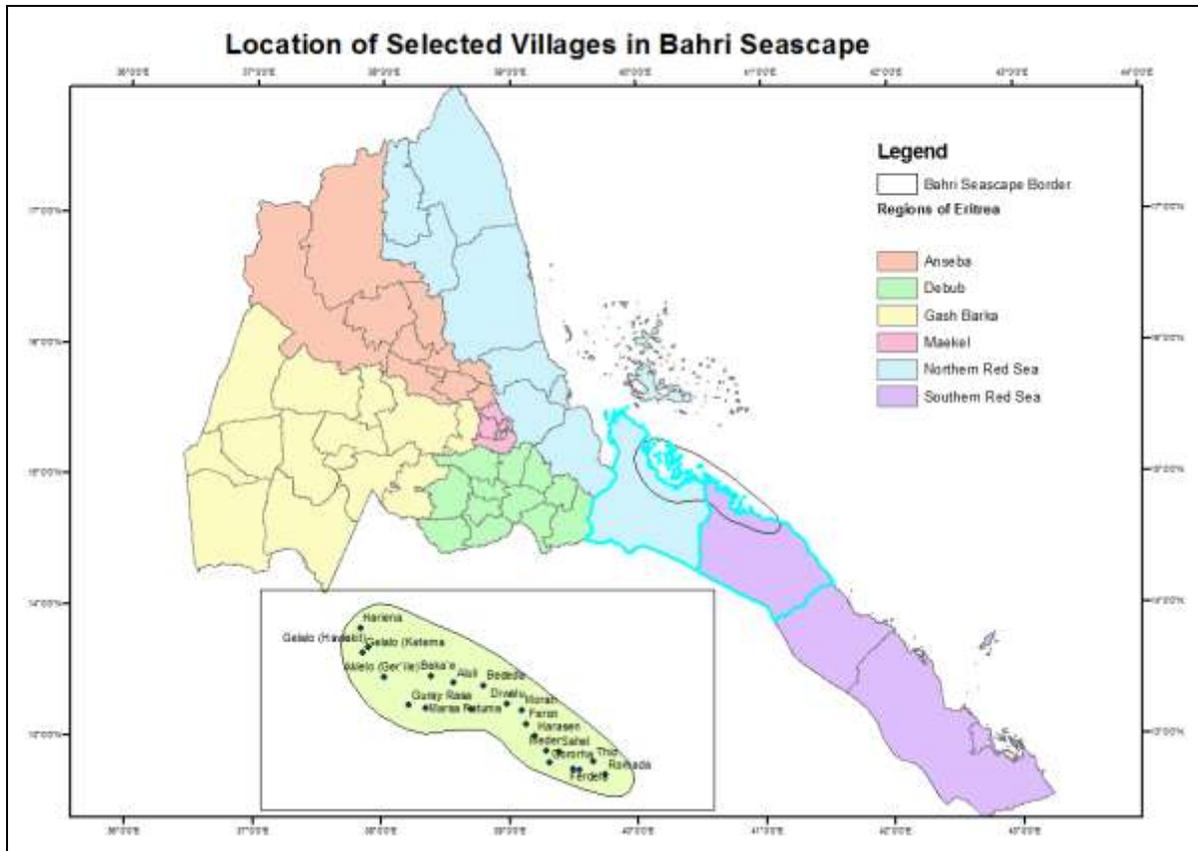


Figure 2: Geographical location of Bahri Seascape

Bahri seascape covers an area of 436,077 ha in which 183, 497 ha (42%) in sub-zone Araeta and 252, 580 ha (58%) in Gel'alo sub-zone. Elevation of the seascape ranges between sea level and 400 meters with some spots (Bada) located below sea level. The Bahri Seascape selected for two important reasons: firstly, the seascape hosts an array of endangered marine animals (e.g. sea cow (dugong), sea turtles, sea grasses and mangrove species). Secondly, the area is habitat for a number of terrestrial wild animals such as wild Ass, ostriches and gazelles. The government has also delineated the areas as national park to conserve these species.

2.6. Landscape/seascape-based OP6 grant-making strategies

Based on the results of the CPS consultation and scoping process, the country has identified four strategic priorities for grant making for which typology of projects identified and budget allocated (Table 4). The amount of budget allocated for the landscape/seascape grant making is seventy percent of the total GEF/SGP budget allocated for the country. List of typologies under the four strategic areas are in the following sections.

2.6.1. Grant making strategies within landscape/seascape

List of proposed projects, which will be implemented outside the landscape/seascape (SGP OP6 Strategic Initiatives), is given in table 4a. These are

1. Community landscape/seascape conservation (Rehabilitation/restoration of degraded landscapes and seascape)
 - Community-based soil and water conservation
 - Community-based coastal protection using mangrove
 - Water harvesting from roofs and rock outcrops
2. Community landscape/seascape biodiversity conservation (Biodiversity conservation and protection of endangered or threatened species from extinction)
 - Promotion of community-based area closure
 - Protection of sensitive landscape and seascape areas
 - Ex-situ and in-Situ conservation of genetic resources
3. Community landscape/seascape conservation (Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology and aquaculture)
 - Piloting community based climate smart agriculture
 - Piloting community based aquaculture
4. Energy access co-benefits
 - Introduction and promotion of energy saving alternative technologies (modified stoves, tandoors, solar lamps, etc.)
 - Introduction and promotion of alternative sources of energy using locally available materials (such as biogas)
5. Local to global chemicals coalitions
 - Community-based management of pesticides
 - Development and promotion of environmentally friendly biodegradable pesticides

2.6.2. SGP OP6 Strategic initiatives outside landscape/seascape

The following section outlines, the major projects to be implemented outside the landscape/seascape during the SGP OP6 Strategic initiatives (Table 4).

1. **Community landscape/seascape conservation (Rehabilitation/restoration of degraded landscapes and seascape).**
 - Optimizing tillage and rain water conservation in the soils of Hamelmalo region of Eritrea for arresting soil degradation and achieving sustainable high crop yields
 - Tekondae afforestation project
2. **Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology and aquaculture; Community landscape/seascape conservation.**
 - Smart Agriculture (training of Farmers in the Aker Balwa Landscape particularly in Eden areas: Terenqua and Gabgabo villages; and
 - Smart Aquaculture (training of Fishers in the Seascape in the consultation with the Ministry of Marine resources).
3. **Energy access co-benefits**
 - Improvement of livelihood of rural community through provision of PV solar system and digital library resources for remote area schools e.g. Adiseaguagie sub-town

- Reducing dependence on firewood for processing sea cucumber and piloting water harvesting (desalination) using solar energy.

2.6.3. Grant making ⁺

In order to ensure sustainability and hence strengthen the sense of ownership of project outcomes, the following activities are proposed during the SGP OP6 period. The details of these projects are shown in Table 6.

1. CSO-Government dialogue

- Capacity building of administrators, community leaders, model farmers & fishers, and civil society in identifying key environmental problems and in finding community based solutions
- Raising awareness of stakeholders on landscape/seascape approach of OP6 and its implementation modalities; training CBO and CSO leaders on SGP project cycle
- Promotion of dialogue between line ministries and local communities on sustainable utilization of natural resources.

2. Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)

- Promoting sustainable utilization of agricultural resources by creating of alternative livelihood for women (basketry, mat production etc.)
- Reducing dependence on intensively exploited fish stocks by creating alternative fisheries activities for women
- Improving the livelihood of internally displaced people due to volcanic eruption (e.g. Piloting of forage and backyard home gardening in Wadie in central Dankalia of the Southern Red Sea Zone)

4. Knowledge management plan

This includes documentation and popularization of success stories from previous SGP portfolio (OP4 and OP5).

Table 5: Proposed projects within the landscape/seascape

SGP OP6 Strategic Initiatives	Type of Project	Stakeholders	Duration (months)	Budget Allocated
1. (Rehabilitation/restoration of degraded landscapes)	1.1Community-based soil and water conservation	MoLG, MoLWE, NUEYS, NUEW, NGO/CBO, MoA, FWA	18	500,000.00
	1.2Community-based coastal protection using mangrove	MoLG, MoLWE, NUEYS, NUEW, IHES, NGO/CBO, MoA, MoMM, FWA	18	
2. Community landscape/seascape biodiversity conservation (Biodiversity conservation and protection of endangered or threatened species from extinction)	2.1Promotion of community-based area closure	MoLG, MoLWE, NUEYS, NUEW, NGO/CBOMoA, FWA	24	500,000.00
	2.2 Protection of sensitive landscape and seascape areas	MoLG, MoLWE, NUEYS, NUEW, IHES, NGO/CBO, MoMM, FWA, national museum	24	
	2.3 Ex-situ and in-Situ conservation of genetic resources	MoLG, MoLWE, NUEYS, NUEW, IHES, NGO/CBO, MoA, FWA	12	
3. Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology and aquaculture	3.1. Piloting community based smart agriculture	MoLG, MoLWE, NUEYS, NUEW, IHES, NGO/CBOMoA,	24	250,000.00
	3.2. Piloting community based aquaculture	MoLG, MoLWE, NUEYS, NUEW, IHES, NGO/CBO MoRM,	24	
	3.3. Water harvesting from roofs and rock outcrops	MoLG, MoLWE, NUEYS, NUEW, IHES, NGO/CBO, MoA	18	
4. Energy access co-benefits	4.1 Introduction and promotion of energy saving alternative technologies (modified stoves, Tandors, solar lamps, etc)	MoLG, MoLWE, NUEYS, NUEW, IHES, NGO/CBO, MoA, MoMR, MoME	12	450,000.00

SGP OP6 Strategic Initiatives	Type of Project	Stakeholders	Duration (months)	Budget Allocated
	4.2 Introduction and promotion of alternative sources of energy using locally available materials (such as biogas)	MoLG, MoLWE, NUEYS, NUEW, IHEs, NGO/CBO, MoA, MoMR, MoME	24	
5. Local to global chemicals coalitions	5.1 Community-based management of pesticides	MoLG, MoLWE, NUEYS, NUEW, IHEs, NGO/CBO, MoA,	12	150,000.00
	5.2 Development and promotion of environmentally friendly biodegradable pesticides	MoLG, MoLWE, NUEYS, NUEW, IHEs, NGO/CBOMoA,	12	
6. Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)	6.1 Promoting sustainable utilization of agricultural resources by creating of alternative livelihood for women (basketry, mat production etc.)	MoLG, MoLWE, NUEYS, NUEW, IHEs, NGO/CBO, MoA,	12	150,000.00
	6.2 Reducing dependence on intensively exploited fish stokes by creating alternative fisheries activities for women.	MoLG, MoLWE, NUEYS, NUEW, IHEs, NGO/CBO, MoMR,	24	
Sub Total (within landscape/seascape)				2,000,000.00

Table 6: Proposed projects outside the

landscape/seascape (SGP

OP6 Strategic Initiatives)

SGP OP6 Strategic Initiatives	Type of Project	Stakeholders	Duration (months)	Estimated Budget
7. Rehabilitation/restoration of degraded landscapes	7.1 Optimizing tillage and rain water conservation in the soils of Hamelmalo region of Eritrea for arresting soil degradation and achieving sustainable high crop yields	MoLG, MoLWE, NUEYS, NUEW, NGO/CBO, MoA, FWA	12	90,000.00
	7.2 Tekondae afforestation project	MoLG, MoLWE, NUEYS, NUEW, NGO/CBO, MoA, FWA	12	
8. Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology and aquaculture; Community landscape/seascape conservation	8.1. Smart Agriculture (training of Farmers)	MoLG, MoLWE, NUEYS, NUEW, IHEs, NGO/CBO, MoA,	6	60,000.00
	8.2. Smart Aquaculture (training of Fishers)	MoLG, MoLWE, NUEYS, NUEW, IHEs, NGO/CBO, MoMM,	12	
9. Energy access co-benefits	9.1 Improvement of livelihood of rural community through provision of PV solar system and digital library resources for remote area schools e.g. Adiseguagie sub-town	MoLG, MoLWE, NUEYS, NUEW, IHEs, NGO/CBO, MoA, MoME	12	300,000.00
	9.2 Reducing dependence on firewood for processing sea cucumber and piloting water harvesting (desalination) using solar energy	MoLG, MoLWE, NUEYS, NUEW, IHEs, NGO/CBO, MoA, MoMR, MoME	18	

Table 7: Grant making+ projects outside the landscape/seascape during the OP6 phase

10. CSO-Government dialogue platforms	10.1 Capacity building of administrators, community leaders, model farmers & fishers, and civil society in identifying key environmental problems and in finding community based solutions	MoLG, MoLWE, NUEYS, NUEW, IHEs, NGO/CBO, MoA, MoMR, MoME	12	90,000.00
	10.2 Raising awareness of stakeholders on landscape/seascape approach of OP6 and its implementation modalities; training CBO and CSO leaders on SGP project cycle	MoLG, IHEs, NGO/CBO	12	
	10.3 Promotion of dialogue between line ministries and local communities on sustainable utilization of natural resources	MoLG, MoLWE, NUEYS, NUEW, IHEs, NGO/CBO, MoA, MoMR, MoME	12	
11. Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)	11.1 Improvement of livelihood of indigenous people affected by environmental hazard (volcanic eruption)	MoLG, MoLWE, NUEYS, NUEW, IHEs, NGO/CBO, MoA, MoMMR, MoLHW	18	300,000.00
12. Contribution to global knowledge management platforms	12.1 Documentation and popularization of success stories from previous SGP portfolio	MoLG, IHE, MoA, MoMR	12	60,000.00
Sub Total (outside landscape/seascape)				900,000.00
Grand Total				2,900,000.00

2.6.4. Grant-maker+ strategies

a) CSO-Government Dialogue Platform

CSO-government dialogue promotes the role of civil Society Organization (CSOs), creates a “bridge” to link the grassroots to high-level national planners and policy-makers, facilitate the uptake of good practices, and enhance communications. In this regards, thematic examples may include joint CSO-Government preparations for environmental convention (COPs), SDG country implementation, networks of agro-ecology farmer leaders (model farmers) and producer organizations e.g. fisheries cooperative; national, south-south development exchange solutions etc when the need arises.

b) Policy Influence

Aside from the CSO-Government Dialogue Platform initiative, the SGP country program will use experiences and lessons learnt from SGP to inform and influence policy as part of its role as ‘Grant-makers+’ in OP6 at the local, regional and national levels.

At the national level, it will identify key policy issues of Eritrea. These includes, among others, updates of the National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan of Eritrea (NBSAP, 2000, 2014), NAMA 2012, National Action Plan of Action (NAPA, 2007), National Action Plan to Combat Desertification (NAP 2002) etc. that SFP can be involved with and relevant networks that can be tapped as partners.

c) Promoting social inclusion

The GEF/SGP country programs includes plans and strategies that emphasizes on the following:

- i) Promote women’s empowerment and gender equality (in particular for the selected OP6 landscape/seascape) initiatives;
- ii) Empower indigenous people (in particular through the appropriate recognition of indigenous peoples and community conserved territories and areas. This involves youth and children in country portfolio programming. In addition, government funds pledged on the needs of people with disabilities as a sector especially vulnerable to disasters (people affected by volcanic eruption in Southern Red Sea (e.g. resettlement programme in Wadie) and climate change.

d) Knowledge management plan

During the OP6, GEF/SGP plans to capture, share, and disseminate the lessons learned and good practices identified through the country portfolio of SGP projects carried out in collaboration with the civil society, government, and other relevant stakeholders. These encompass a wide-range of options including generating of knowledge and technologies; exchange of experiences through piloting of innovative technologies (e.g. smart agriculture) the use of demonstration sites at community level. This will bring about greater impact, and foster replication and scaling-up of community innovations. In this regards, GEF/SGP can contribute to soliciting funds and creating platform. It can support workshops, seminars, and digital library in schools and Institutions of Higher Education.

e) Communications Strategy

CPS in OP6 envisages clear communication strategy. It will communicate and engage with key stakeholders and CSO’s in the country and selected Anker-Balwa landscape and Gelalo-Araeta (Bahri). These will promote the active participation among stakeholders, build viable relationships, and foster partnerships among beneficiaries. This will further articulate the contribution of the GEF/SGP to the national priorities, GEF programming, and UNDP strategies.

3. Expected results framework

4.1. OP6 global project components and global targets

Table 8 provides SGP/GEF OP6 project components and global targets. In this Table, Column 2, 3, and 4, indicate the national-level CPS targets, activities, and indicators for each of the relevant integrated (multi-focal area) OP6 selected strategic initiatives.

Eritrea plans to work on land degradation, climate change and biodiversity conservations. The indicators and targets identified in the CPS include focal areas that contribute to the global portfolio-level indicators of SGP OP6 as identified in the OP6 CEO Endorsement Document's Results Framework, while including others that are specific to the national or landscape/seascape context.

Table 8 Consistency with SGP OP6 global program components

SGP OP6 project components	CPS targets	Activities	Indicators	Means of verification
SGP OP6 Component 1: Community landscape/seascape conservation (Rehabilitation/restoration of degraded landscapes and seascape) 1.1 SGP country program improve conservation and sustainable use, and management of important terrestrial and coastal/marine ecosystems through implementation of community based landscape/seascape approaches	Two typologies:	1.1 Community-based soil and water conservation (5 projects)	500 hectares of land conserved	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams, Baseline assessment comparison variables (use of conceptual models and partner data as appropriate), Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) Country Program Strategy Review (NSC inputs)
	Anker Balwa Landscape, and	1.2 Community-based coastal protection using mangrove (4 projects)	70 hectares of mangrove area protected	
	Bahri Seascape	1.3 Water harvesting from roofs and rock outcrops, construction of five cisterns (3 projects)	Five cisterns with a capacity of 30m ³ each (50 households beneficiaries)	
		1.4 Promotion of community-based area closure (5 projects)	800 hectars of closure protected	
		1.5 Protection of sensitive landscape and seascape areas (3 projects)	200 hectares of land protected	
		1.6 Ex-situ and in-Situ conservation of genetic resources, accessions of cereals and pulses collected, cleaned and stored and planted in farmers. (1 project)	500 accessions of cereals and pulses collected, cleaned and stored and planted in farmers.	

SGP OP6 project components	CPS targets	Activities	Indicators	Means of verification
SGP OP6 Component 2: Climate-Smart Innovative Agro-ecology: 2.1 Agro-ecology practices incorporating measures to reduce CO ₂ emissions and enhancing resilience to climate change tried and tested in protected area buffer zones and forest corridors and disseminated widely	Promotion utilization of climate smart practices including utilization of drought resistant crops, reduced tillage, mulching, utilization of organic pesticides, intercropping and multiple cropping. Community based aquaculture will also be promoted.	2.1 Piloting community based smart agriculture (use of drought resistant crops, reduced tillage, mulching, organic pesticides, intercropping, multiple cropping, et.)	Seven projects each comprising 7 households. The total area is 49 hectares of land under smart agriculture (involving 49 families beneficiaries)	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams, Socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes (SEPLs), Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) , Country Program Strategy Review (NSC inputs)
	3.2. Piloting community based aquaculture	2.2 Piloting community based aquaculture (promotion extensive mari-culture by selecting species, site and production system)	construction of three ponds each with a capacity of 400m ³ (involving 20 beneficiaries)	
SGP OP6 Component 3: Energy access co-benefits	Provision of energy saving adhanet stoves to 15 women in the landscape and energy saving tandoors to 15 families in the seaside. These stoves will decrease cutting of trees for firewood production.	3.1 Introduction and promotion of energy saving alternative technologies (modified stoves, tandoors, solar lamps, etc.)	Two training sessions of two weeks on construction of energy saving stoves for 15 women, construction of 50 energy-saving tandoors and the same number of adhanet stove.	Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), country reports AMR, global database, country reports Special country studies, Country Program Strategy Review , (NSC inputs)
	Construction of biogas units to four families. The biogas in the landscape will use animal dung, while biogas in the seascape will use seaweeds as sources of	3.2 Introduction and promotion of alternative sources of energy using locally available materials (such as biogas)	Construction of four biogas units in four representative villages and training the communities of the villages	

SGP OP6 project components	CPS targets	Activities	Indicators	Means of verification
	energy.			
SGP OP6 Component 4: Local to global chemicals coalitions	Train farmers on management of pesticides and raise their awareness on persistent organic pesticides	4.1 Community-based management of pesticides. Conduct training on pesticide management to farmers.	Two trainings offered to 20 farmers from the landscape villages.	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams, Strategic partnership with IPEN country partners, Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), Country Program Strategy Review, Evaluation by panel of experts in plant protection.
	Train farmers to use locally available biodegradable pesticides from neem trees and other leaves	4.2 Development and promotion of environmentally friendly biodegradable pesticides	On farm trial on the efficacy of the biodegradable pesticides in 3 representative villages in the landscape villages	
Outside the landscape				
SGP OP6 Component 1: Community landscape/seascape conservation (Rehabilitation/restoration of degraded landscapes and seascape)	Up-scaling of optimizing tillage and rainwater conservation developed in the fourth SGP phase	5.1 Optimizing tillage and rainwater conservation in the soils of Hamelmalo region of Eritrea for arresting soil degradation and achieving sustainable high crop yields	10 hectares of additional land tilled using optimized tillage; and SWC practices implemented to arrest rainwater conserved	
	Follow-up afforestation project in Tekonade area which was successful during the fourth SGP phase	5.2 Tekondae afforestation project	20 hectares of land afforested	

SGP OP6 project components	CPS targets	Activities	Indicators	Means of verification
SGP OP6 Component 2: Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology and aquaculture; Community landscape/seascape conservation	Provide training to 25 farmers outside the landscape area on smart agro ecological practices mentioned above (see 3.1 above)	6.1 Smart Agriculture (training of Farmers) - Training on smart agro-ecology for 25 farmers for two weeks	Two training manuals produced in local languages (Tigrigna and Tigre); Use of two demonstration sites for smart agriculture	r
	Provide training to 25 fishers outside the landscape area on extensive aquaculture practices (see 3.1 above)	6.2 Smart Aquaculture (training of Fishers) - Training on aquaculture for 25 fishers	One training manuals produced in Afar languages	
SGP OP6 Component 3: Energy access co-benefits Energy access co-benefits	Up-scaling of improvement of livelihood of rural community by following up the provision of PV solar systems and digital library resources in Adisegeie kebabi	7.1 Improvement of livelihood of rural community through provision of PV solar system and digital library resources for remote area schools e.g. Adiseguagie sub-town	20 new PV solar installed and 20 inventers repaired	Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), country reports AMR, Country Program Strategy Review , (NSC inputs), Demonstration to NSC and TAG
	Develop two sets of sea cucumber boiling solar units and demonstrate the units to the fishers in the area and outside the seascape. The units are expected to reduce cutting of mangrove for firewood.	7.2 Reducing dependence on firewood for processing sea cucumber and piloting water harvesting (desalination) using solar energy	2 sets of solar powered sea cucumber cookers produced and demonstrated to 20 fishers; and Three solar desalinators produced and demonstrated at community level.	
SGP OP6 Component 5: CSO-Government dialogue platforms		8.1 Capacity building of administrators, community leaders, model farmers &	Two workshops; one in the landscape and the second in the seascape area;	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams, SGP Global Database, Annual Monitoring Report

SGP OP6 project components	CPS targets	Activities	Indicators	Means of verification
		fishers, and civil society in identifying key environmental problems and in finding community based solutions	conducted to 23 individuals representing the various stakeholders	(AMR), Country Program Strategy Review
		8.2 Raising awareness of stakeholders on landscape/seascape approach of OP6 and its implementation modalities; training CBO and CSO leaders on SGP project cycle	Two workshops; one in the landscape and the second in the seascape area; conducted to 23 individuals representing the various stakeholders	
		8.3 Promotion of dialogue between line ministries and local communities on indigenous resources management practices	Two meeting conducted among farmers and between farmers and extension workers to share experiences. 25 individuals participated in the meetings.	
SGP OP6 Component 6: Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)		9.1 Improvement of livelihood of indigenous people affected by volcanic eruption in Wade (southern red Sea Zone of Eritrea) to enable the community to cope with degradation of their farmland.	4 hectares of irrigated field planted with date palm intercropped with vegetables and Alfa Alfa as animal feed.	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams, Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), Country Program Strategy Review

SGP OP6 project components	CPS targets	Activities	Indicators	Means of verification
		9.1 Promoting sustainable utilization of agricultural resources by creating of alternative livelihood for women (basketry, mat production etc.)	Training on value addition of non-wood forest products for 25 women from the landscape villages, Collection processing and manufacturing of one tone of sisal fibers and doum-palm leaves.	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams, Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), Country Program Strategy Review
		9.2 Reducing dependence on intensively exploited fish stokes by creating alternative fisheries activities for women.		
Component 7: Contribution to global knowledge management platforms		10.1 Documentation and popularization of success stories from previous and current of SGP portfolio	3 manuals published; one on aquaculture, one on climate smart agriculture and one on alternative energy. 2 publications of research outcomes, production of 3 documentary videos. Uploading of outcome of the projects on SGP websites.	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams, Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), Country Program Strategy Review

4. Monitoring & Evaluation plan

4.1. The M&E Plan at the country program level

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will be conducted at project, country and global levels. At global level, SGP will track the indicators and results outlined in the Results framework of the CEO Endorsement document. M&E tools and comprehensive guidance are expected to be provided to Country Programmes prior to the start of grantmaking in OP6. At the country level, the M&E plan will be based on the indicators and targets set (Table 7) in the CPS. This M&E indicators will be tracked and reported through Annual Country Reports (ACR). When progress towards the CPS outcomes is assessed, appropriate adaptive management measures will be identified as and when necessary.

At project level M&E will track progress of individual projects. The grantee partners will report the results of the projects at the project level. The M&E activities appropriate to the size and scope of the projects will be planned. If needed guidance and capacity development will be provided to grantees so that participatory M&E and adaptive management could be undertaken. (Table 8).

Community and strategic projects are expected to contribute not only to specific landscape/Country Programme targets but also to Global Programme targets. Specific indicators will be identified that are consistent across the three levels so that these targets are specific, measurable, attributable, relevant and time-bound (SMART). In addition to the use of this small set of shared specific indicators (common across the three levels) the M&E will identify other indicators of particular relevance to community projects, strategic projects or Country Programme Strategies.

4.2. The M&E Plan at the project level

At the project level, the M&E will be conducted jointly with individual SGP grantee partners: the national NGOs such as the national Union of Eritrean women (NUEW), the national union of Youth and Students (NUEYS), Local associations and academia (CBOs). These intermediary organizations will be strengthened and adaptive management measures promoted.

For each proposed project, a separate M&E section will be prepared clearly indicating the frequency and the modalities of implementation. Details on the frequency of monitoring visits and plans for project/portfolio evaluations will be provided in the annual country plans.

Partnerships with other grant-makers, foundations and academic institutions (e.g. Eritrea Institute of Technology (EIT), Hamelmalo Agricultural College (HAC) and Massawa College of Marine Sciences and Technology (COMSAT) will assist to help enhance the participatory M&E and adaptive management. For that purposes, individual projects should allocate separate budget line for M&E.

4.3. The role of Stakeholders in M&E

Local stakeholders (Ministries of Local administration, Agriculture, and Land Water, and Environment and community members) should participate in setting project objectives and outputs. These institutions have significant role not only in monitoring of project outputs and outcomes but also in defining the method and periodicity of monitoring and how progress will be documented and reported. This is a key element not only in enhancing the sense of ownership but also encourage to take the lead in setting the criteria for M&E. Table 9 provides the key country program level M&E tools and templates.

Table 9: M&E Plan at the Country Program Level

M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible parties	Budget source	Timing
Country Program Strategy elaboration	Framework for identification of community projects	NC, NSC, country stakeholders, grantee	Covered under preparatory grant In addition, budget from the project M&E (5%)	At start of operational phase
Annual Country Program Strategy Review	Learning; adaptive management	NC, NSC, CPMT	Covered under country program operating costs	Reviews will be conducted on annual basis to ensure CPS is on track in achieving its outcomes and targets, and to take decisions on any revisions or adaptive management needs
NSC meetings for ongoing review of project results and analysis	Assess effectiveness of projects, portfolios, approaches; learning; adaptive management	NC, NSC, UNDP	Covered under country program operating costs	Minimum twice per year, one dedicated to M&E and adaptive management at end of grant year
Annual Country Report (ACR)	Enable efficient reporting to NSC	NC presenting to NSC	Covered under country program operating costs	Once per year in June
Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) Survey (based on ACR)	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF; presentation of results to donor	NC submission to CPMT	Covered under country program operating costs	Once per year in July
Strategic Country Portfolio Review	Learning; adaptive management for strategic development of Country Program	NSC	Covered under country program operating costs	Once per operational phase

5. Resource mobilization plan

During the OP6, various resource mobilization plans that enhance the sustainability of the SGP Country Programme grant making and grant-makers+ roles will be promoted. These include the following major arrangements:

- i) In order to enhance or increase cash and in-kind co-financing at the project at the landscape/seascape) level, resources from implementing grantees will be expected to mobilize resources from, target communities, local government bodies and other stakeholders.
- ii) At the Country level, resources mobilized from development partners: line ministries of the government, and NGOs.
- iii) Diversify funding sources to achieve greater impact from non-GEF resources that help address post-2015 UNSDG (UN-Sustainable Development Goals);
- iv) It is also possible to develop a cost-recovery mechanism in which grantees pledge to recuperate disbursed funds for subsequent community-based development projects e.g. the community can be asked to recover the cost of desalinization of seawater by buying water at reasonable price. .
- v) Opportunities for SGP to serve as a delivery mechanism (GEF/SGP can mobilize funds for co-financing to implement key projects that require higher amount of financial mobilization. This involves either of the following arrangements:
 - Certain development partners e.g. UNDP could be asked to solicit funds for communities
 - The partners could co-finance demonstrative projects of SGP.
- vi) In the “Grant maker+” role, the SGP team including the NSC and TAGs will be tapped to help communities and CSOs develop proposals to access other donors and funding facilities. While the funds may not go directly to SGP (parallel funding), this activity is considered as part of resource mobilization as there will be an increased flow of resources to SGP stakeholders (grantees) through its support.

6. Risk management plan

6.1. Possible risks, assumptions and mitigation measures

Largely, previous SGP OP4 and OP5 experience show that the likelihood of successful implementation is high with successfully implemented with credible outputs and outcomes. Nonetheless, the key risks that are anticipate in the implementation of the CPS during OP6 with reference to the following aspects:

- i) Social risks - lack of cooperation of local communities
- ii) Change national and local priorities
- iii) Low capacity to implement projects
- iv) Unexpected droughts
- v) Change of government policy

Table 9 shows an estimation of the degree and probability of risk, as well as the relevant risk mitigation measures.

Table 10: Description of risks identified in OP6

Describe identified risk	Degree of risk (low, medium, high)	Probability of risk (low, medium, high)	Risk mitigation measure foreseen
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1. Lack of cooperation with local communities	low	Low	Sensitization and awareness raising
2. Changing national and local priorities	High	Low	Awareness raising
3. Low capacity to implement project activities	High	Low	Capacity building to extension, farmers and collaboration with national academic and research institutions
4. climate risks:- Unexpected drought, climatic change	High	Medium	Information from the national meteorological agency; early warning systems, smart agriculture: use of drought tolerant species, Soil and water conservation interventions
5. Change of policy	low	low	

6.2. Risk management strategy

The risk management strategy involves three levels: the GEF/SGP secretariat, project and local communities' levels using tracking tools, during the implementation of the OP6 CPS and review during the CPS Annual review. During these phases, the degree of risk or probability of risk should be adjusted to reflect the situation on the ground. At each stage, already identified risks that have less impact will be removed; and new unforeseen risks will be identified and taken care of in the course of time.

At the center of the risk, management strategy laid the mitigation and adaptation to climate change land rehabilitation, and conservation and protection of biodiversity. The idea is to improve the livelihoods of communities without compromising the integrity of the environment. In this context, risks will be managed through either or combinations of the following interventions:

- capacity building (e.g. training of beneficiaries),
- development of agricultural infrastructure (e.g. construction of water points, water harvesting structures),
- conservation and protection of the natural resource base (e.g. soil erosion control,
- establishment of area closure for endangered species promoting income generating activities (e.g. smart agriculture i.e. irrigation, fodder production, beekeeping), and
- strengthening cooperation among community members through collective endeavors in the construction of soil and water conservation structures

The above listed activities and interventions will significantly reduce the vulnerability of communities against unexpected environmental hazards, thereby enhancing the resilience of the ecosystem.

Specifically, risk management strategies focusing on increasing community resilience and adaptive capacity to environmental hazards through an integrated development package within the landscape and seascape. Once this strategy proves to be effective, these approaches and methodologies could be up scaling to adjacent areas, in the short-term and long-term perspectives.

7. National Steering Committee Endorsement

The signature of endorsement at this point is for the complete and final CPS duly reviewed by the NSC and agreed as the guide to the implementation of OP6 by the SGP Country Program.

NSC members involved in OP6 CPS development, review and endorsement	Signatures
1. Mogos Woldeyohannes (MoLWE)	
2. Mr. Tedors Demoz, GEF/SGP Eritrea	
3. Mr. Adam Habteab, UNDP Eritrea	
4. Mr. Aman Saleh, DoE	
5. Mr. Sammy Mahmoud, MoMR	
6. Dr. Woldeselassie Ogbazghi, HAC, (Academia)	
7. Ms. Senait Mehari, NUEW (NGO)	
8. Dr. Semere Habtestion, Energy Consultant (Private)	
9. Mr. Hadgu Gebreendrias, TOKER (NGO)	

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NBSAP (2014) National Biodiversity Action Plan, Department of Environment, Ministry of Land Water and Environment, Eritrea

Annex

Annexes 1: Report of Baseline Assessment