

Guyana

SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY FOR OP6



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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACR	Annual Country Report
AMR	Annual Monitoring Report
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	Community Based Organisations
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
GEF	Global Environment Facility
LCDS	Low Carbon Development Strategy
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution
NAP	National Action Plan
NAREI	National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute
NC	National Coordinator
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NIP	National Implementation Plan
NSC	National Steering Committee
OP6	Operational Phase 6
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
SGP	Small Grants Programme
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas & Wildlife
SRM	Stakeholder Response Mechanism
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
UNCCD	UN Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
US	United States

COUNTRY [GUYANA]

OP6 resources (estimated US)¹

- a. Core funds: US\$400,000
- b. OP5 remaining balance: USD322,490

Background

As a GEF corporate programme, SGP OP6 aligns its operational phase strategies to that of the GEF, and provides a series of demonstration projects for further scaling up, replication and mainstreaming. Action at the local level by civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities is deemed a vital component of the GEF 20/20 Strategy (i.e. convening multi-stakeholder alliances to deliver global environmental benefits and contribute to UNDP's Strategic Plan and focus on sustainable development).² At the global level, the SGP OP6 programme goal is to “effectively support the creation of global environmental benefits and the safeguarding of the global environment through community and local solutions that complement and add value to national and global level action.”

1. SGP Country Programme - Summary Background

1.1. National Results

- (a) The most important national results and accomplishments achieved by the country programme during OP5 are as follows:
 - Establishment of a National Steering Committee to oversee approval of projects and programme implementation;
 - Adoption of the SGP global strategic framework by the Country Programme Strategy, taking into account national environmental strategies and plans, and national development plans and poverty alleviation strategy;
 - Establishment of an NGO grantee network to facilitate information sharing between project organizers and beneficiaries; and
 - Approval of thirteen (13) projects by the NSC since SGP became operational in Guyana in 2013, for an overall total of USD427, 509. These projects were located in Regions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9.
 - Development of capacity to disburse grant funds to CSO organisations in all parts of the country, inclusive of remote locations.
 - Inclusion of gender considerations in approved projects, and ensuring that there was gender balance at the NSC level, along with a gender specialist

(b) Link to helping achieve global environmental benefits.

¹ The level of SGP OP6 resources is an estimated total of: (i) the GEF6 core grant allocation (to be reviewed annually by CPMT on the basis of performance, co-financing and strategic partnerships, demonstrated NSC commitment rates, and UNOPS delivery); (ii) approved STAR resources; as well as (iii) other sources of third party cost sharing & co-financing (country, regional and/or global levels). Note that countries with remaining OP5 balances that have not been pipelined, will be expected to use these balances in line with the OP6 strategic approach in order to be coherent in terms of SGP programming and results expected.

² The initial SGP OP6 concept was incorporated into the strategic directions for the overall GEF-6 replenishment, and subsequently approved by the GEF Council paper “GEF Small Grants Programme: Implementation Arrangements for GEF-6” (GEF/C.46/13) in May 2014.

Table 1 GEF Focal areas and Key Outcomes

Focal Areas	Key Outcomes
Biodiversity	Biodiversity conserved through community actions while simultaneously used to support community livelihoods
Climate Change	Communities embraced mainstream renewable energy and low carbon technology thereby supporting the maintenance of carbon stock
Land Degradation & Sustainable Forest Management	Land degradation is reduced as communities adopted sustainable forest management and integrated agricultural practices
Elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Awareness on POPs is generated, its generation reduced and incidence of its proper disposal is increased
International Waters	Marine ecosystems sustainably managed
Capacity Development	NGOs and CBOs have improved capacity for funding, implement projects, participate in environmental policy-making and manage natural resources
Cross-Cutting	Poverty reduced and the youth/women empowered in participating communities

Sustainable livelihood utilizing a community-based approach was promoted through SIDS Community Based Adaptation funds. Other projects contributed to biodiversity conservation, co-management of key conservation areas, climate change and sustainable forest management. However, as some projects are still on-going and the overall programme is in its infancy, lessons learned are mainly in the areas of project management. A number of the beneficiaries were unable to compile adequate project reports, long time lapse between application and approval of funding, weak monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and lack of knowledge transfer within the community projects were among the key lessons learnt.

1.2 Overall Situation Analysis for the SGP Country Programme in OP6

From the landscape and NSC perspectives, the stakeholders identified a number of strengths that could benefit OP6 project implementation. These include the commitment of residents to face challenges, large and diverse pools of skilled labour, interest showed by communities to apply for project funds, linkage with national conservation priorities, application of the bottom-up approach, open and transparent process, supportive Town Council and Business community, functional NGOs, exiting public-private partnerships and ability to connect with NGOs, CBOs and other groups. These elements have the potential to establish strong partnerships in support of project implementation with respect to the development of green urban economies pursued by the Municipal and Central Government. Project areas include development of a mechanism to facilitate improved drainage, solid waste management and proposals to introduce renewable energy through wind farm projects.

On the other hand, these communities suffer from lack of cooperation, low level of awareness of environmental issues, limited capacity to implement project ideas and develop project concepts and proposals, lack of evidence of knowledge transfer, co-financing potential and limited capacity to generate project reports.

Despite these weaknesses, the communities have potential to introduce innovative techniques for resource utilization, develop open spaces and parks, collaboration with sector agencies, sharing of lessons learnt, capacity building and establishment of partnerships. Nevertheless, there are some external issues that could threaten the successful implementation of projects in these landscapes. These include insufficient co-financing, lack of benefit sharing, accountability, communication barrier, duplication of efforts due to lack of coordination, lack of togetherness and cooperation among NGOs, lack of infrastructure maintenance, political interference and indifference in attitude to environmental change.

The NSC consists of a number of technical agencies, both CSO and government, that provide technical support to the projects and communities through both formal and informal partnerships. SGP has formed and maintained several key partnerships with technical agencies like the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI), Guyana Energy Agency, Ministry of Communities, Guyana Water Incorporated and the Guyana Fisheries Department among others.

It is estimated that to date approximately 15% of contributions were made by grants from government and international donors to complement the GEF-SGP grants on projects related to the focal areas. Some of these projects include coastal mangroves replanting implemented through NAREI (EU-funded), and an indigenous communities solar project implemented through the Office of the Prime Minister (government-funded).

1.3. How the experience and resources of past projects can serve as a foundation for the effective implementation of SGP initiatives in OP6

The past projects types (OP5) are as follows:

- a) Fisheries monitoring and management in the North Rupununi Wetlands in Region 9;
- b) Protection of Red Siskins in South Rupununi in Region 9;
- c) Community led Mangrove Restoration, Towards Sustainable Management of Guyana's Mangrove Forest in Region 3 and 4;
- d) Capacity Building and Protected Agriculture Demonstration for Farmers in Regions 5 and 6; and
- e) Building Climate Change Resilience Amongst the 21 Communities of the KMPA

The experience and resources of the previous projects can serve as a foundation for the effective implementation of SGP initiatives in OP6 in the areas of climate smart innovative agro-ecology, low carbon energy access co-benefits and promoting social inclusion. Further, lessons learned during the implementation of these projects can serve to SGP operations for effective implementation. More specifically, lessons learned from the SGP 5 projects relevant to those from SGP 6 include:

- a. The need to strengthen the relatively weak NSC which meets infrequently as a full committee to provide guidance to stakeholders;
- b. The need to build capacity among grantees for project proposal development, management and monitoring and implementation;
- c. The need to put in place proper mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation, especially for those projects that were located in hinterland communities;
- d. The need to ensure that there are links made with supportive networks;
- e. The need for proper evaluation guidelines to be put in place for project review;
- f. The need to ensure that there is transfer of knowledge among the projects, so that best practices could be replicated, and limitations/weaknesses averted/minimized; and

- g. The need to facilitate better collaboration with the various sector agencies as project implementing partners.
- h. The need to develop knowledge management products for the various projects.

2. SGP Country Programme Niche

2.1. Alignment with national priorities

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

Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification/completion
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	August 1994
Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits	April 2014
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	August 1994
UNFCCC National Communications (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd)	May 2002 (1 st), September, 2012 (2 nd)
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	June 1997 (a)
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	May 2006
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	September 2007 (a)
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	2010
Minamata Convention on Mercury	September, 2014
Others	
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biodiversity	March, 2008 (a)
Kyoto Protocol	August 2003
Specially Protected Areas & Wildlife (SPAW)	2010
RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands	Adopted 1971. Entered into force 1975
Rio Declaration on Environment and Development	(1992)
Montreal Protocol	1993 (a) 16 th September, 1987 (b)
Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer	1993
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	1997
International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution (MARPOL 73/78)	1997
Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent for Certain Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade	2007 (a)
Minamata Convention on Mercury	2013 (sig.)
National Planning Frameworks	
Low Carbon Development Strategy	2010
National Development Strategy	2001-2010
Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers	2004; 2011
Guyana Climate Change Action Plan	2001
National IDRM Plan and Implementation Strategy	2013
Fifth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity	May 2015

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2012-2020	May 2015
National Forest Plan	2011
Millennium Development Goals	2011
Urban Development Plans	Ongoing
National Action Programme to Combat Degradation	2006
SC National Implémentation Plan (NIP)	2009

2.2. Opportunities to promote the meaningful Involvement of Communities and Civil Society Organizations in their Further Development

Communities and civil society organizations have opportunities to meaningfully participate in further development of Guyana’s environmental priorities through capacity building, information sharing and skills transfer via interactions and collaborative engagements with partners in the environmental sector, lessons learned from participation in past projects and funding prospects through national, regional and international agencies with similar objectives and strategies. Also, there is potential for collaboration between the OP6 grantees and government agencies with respect to the implementation of key national, regional and local environmental policies and programmes such as the CDB Action Plan, coastal mangrove rehabilitation and solid waste management. These collaborative actions have the potential to upscale the potential benefits.

The broad priority areas identified by stakeholders for OP 6 are bio-energy, food security, sustainable livelihoods (ecotourism, agro-forestry, mangrove projects and combined ecological restoration projects), integrated water resources management, integrated natural resources management, integrated coastal zone management, sustainable utilization of rice waste products, wildlife management, captive breeding, archaeological sites, climate change adaptation, traditional knowledge and local area profiles among others. These areas do not all provide specific project ideas even though they have linkages to existing and planned projects.

On the other hand, an analysis of the data provided from the stakeholder consultation process indicate that some there are some priority projects that need immediate preparation and capacity building are imbedded within the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) and given national priority. The priority projects under the LCDS for instance include are micro and small enterprise development and building alternative livelihoods for vulnerable groups some of which are on-going projects. There is also institutional strengthening as well as adaptation projects (Cunha Canal rehabilitation). The canal rehabilitation project has provisions for addressing flooding in urban and non-urban areas through funding for sea defence and drainage canals. This strategy has wide-ranging impacts on Guyana’s environment and is now in implementation stage; it also requires much technical inputs in areas of project planning and management, environmental education and awareness and flood control and management (civil engineers, community participation in local area flood control prevention among others). This situation makes it opportune for community and CSO involvement. Furthermore, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2012 -2020) identifies within its priority actions for the period, implementation of new models to combine ecological restoration and small businesses in mangrove areas, as well as integrating biodiversity concerns in hinterland ecotourism development. National Protected Area Management Plans inclusive of the Shell Beach Management Plan and Kanuku Protected Areas Management Plan and the draft Kaieteur Protected Area Management Plan include management programmes that prescribe education and awareness activities and conservation compatible livelihood projects for communities located in an around Protected Areas to reduce pressure on biodiversity and natural resources therein.

2.3. Potential for Complementary and Synergy of selected OP6 Strategic Initiatives

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

SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	Briefly describe the SGP Country Programme niche ³ relevant to national priorities/other agencies ⁴	Briefly describe the complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
<p>SGP OP6 Strategic Initiatives:</p> <p>1. Community Landscape/Seascape Conservation</p>	<p>Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society</p>	<p>With respect to Community Landscape/Seascape Conservation, the SGP will facilitate CBOs/NGOs involvement at the community level in in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated solid waste management; • Soil conservation; • Ecosystem, including mangrove ecosystem restoration; • Land management; and • Public awareness, training and education. <p>Specifically, the SGP projects align with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Mangrove Project (February, 2010) which best serves to reduce cost of coastal protection from saline intrusion from the Atlantic Ocean, reduce land degradation through salinization and protect lives and livelihoods among coastal communities. • National Development Strategy, Chapter 18); (1997).Policy that addresses sustainable management of natural resources and a healthy 	<p>The NMP complements the UNDP Assessment Land Degradation Project (2008) - in collaboration with GLSC. Also National Action Plan Alignment Project (2008 – 2018). Supports alignment of Guyana’s National Action Plan on land degradation (Linked UNCCD</p> <p>Amerindian Land Titling project - Emphasizes protecting indigenous land rights and opening windows of opportunity for Amerindians</p> <p>The UNDP Country Framework Programme is relevant to a number of the projects in column 3. These are listed below.</p> <p>UNDP’s work on energy and environment focuses on 6 priority areas: access to energy services:</p> <p>a. Frameworks and</p>

³ “Niche” refers to the role or contribution that the Country Programme is best fitted to perform and for which the other stakeholders agree with

⁴ Describe only for those OP6 strategic initiatives which will be programmed by the SGP country programme.

	<p>Promotion of collective management of trans-boundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services</p>	<p>environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCDS (Cunha Canal rehabilitation project; • Sea and River Defence Resilience Projects • Government’s green city/smart city development • Community composting pilot project • Support for training and business development opportunities for vulnerable groups Habitat Humanity-Guyana Healthy Housing and Climate Change Adaptation Strategy • National policy ban on the importation of Styrofoam products. • New public policy to up-grade and provide recreational facilities , for example, Urban Sewerage and Water Programme; (Guyana’s National Environmental Policy); Urban Renewal Programme <p>Protection and Restoration of Mangroves Habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Mangrove Project (February, 2010) which best serves to reduce cost of coastal protection from saline intrusion from the Atlantic Ocean, reduce land degradation through salinization and protect lives and 	<p>strategy for sustainable development;</p> <p>b. Effective water governance;</p> <p>c. Access to sustainable energy services;</p> <p>d. Sustainable land management to combat desertification and land degradation; Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity</p> <p>e. National/sectoral policy and planning to control emission of ODS and POPs</p> <p>HCFC Phased –out management Plan – Phase I Project to phase out HCFCs by 2030 complementing green city-smart development</p> <p>Not applicable</p>
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		livelihoods among coastal communities.	
<p>2. Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology ; Community landscape/seascape conservation</p>	<p>Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)</p>	<p>The role of the SGP in innovation climate-smart agro-ecology and community landscape/seascape will be to support the work of civil society groups in respect of Guyana’s agricultural policy that focuses on value-added in food crop production and food security</p> <p>Some specific projects that complement the SGP in this thematic are include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015 – 2016 National Budget, LCDS and builds UN FAO agricultural policy • Micro and Small Enterprise Development 	<p>Support for improved functional capacity of key natural resources and disaster risk management institutions</p> <p>Project activity will complement initiatives of UNDP CO on LCDS</p>
<p>3. Low carbon energy access co-benefits</p>	<p>Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path</p>	<p>With respect to the Low carbon energy access co-benefits, the SGP will facilitate CBOs/NGOs involvement in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Guyana’s renewable energy policies and LCDS (particularly the provision of solar panels for indigenous communities) <p>The SGP therefore complements the Amaila hydro-project that is currently being considered by the Government of Guyana.</p>	<p>Supports UNDP CO sustainable energy project; UNDP CO supported studies</p> <p>UNDP policy on renewable energy and reduced carbon emission and builds on the work of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change UNDP CP does mention sustainable energy as one of its priority areas (in other words it implicitly refers to wind, water as alternatives)</p>

<p>4. Social inclusion (gender, youth)</p>	<p>GEF Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Gender Equality Action Plan and GEF Principles for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples</p>	<p>With respect to Social Conclusion, the SGP will facilitate CBOs/NGOs involvement in initiatives related all of the above mentioned goals and specific projects related to integrated solid waste management, climate smart agriculture, ecosystem restoration etc.</p>	<p>UNDP CO 2012 – 2016 CPD document and its links to various national sector plans</p> <p>Project related to UNDP CO and IBSA partnership on waste management in urban and rural areas.</p>
<p>5. Contribution to global knowledge management platforms</p>	<p>Contribute to GEF KM efforts</p>	<p>Capturing of case studies and success stories from projects</p>	<p>-</p>

3. OP6 strategies

3.1. Cross-cutting OP6 grant-making strategies

At present a number of projects linked to those identified for OP6 implementation are in different stages of development and are closely aligned to the government’s programmes outside of the selected landscape. The cross-cutting OP6 projects that can be supported at national level outside of the selected landscape are as follows:

- a) Shell Beach Protected Areas Conservation and Management – This national initiative supports biodiversity conservation with respect to sustainable livelihood, marine turtle and mangrove protection
- b) Tree planting – this initiative complements national efforts at replanting mangroves to combat the effects sea level rise from climate change
- c) Compost, biodegradable alternative and solid waste management- These cross-cutting initiatives are linked to several national efforts/policies aimed at developing a green Guyana
- d) Alternative energy (solar panel) – Coincides with the national efforts/policies to address issues pertaining to fossil fuel use, climate change

3.2 *Landscape/seascape-based OP6 grant-making strategies*⁵

The selection of the landscape/seascape was done using the following processes:

Review of all the guidance documents related to SGP landscape/seascape selection and assessments, as well as the policy documents prepared by SGP Guyana and those of various government departments and agencies. The landscapes/seascapes were selected from the two sources; Stakeholder Meetings and Policy documents provided by UNDP, EPA and other institutions. There were twelve (12) geographical areas of importance were identified by the stakeholders and corroborated in the documents). The Policy documents were used in support of the project identification.

The criteria identified for the selection of project activities were drawn from the OP6 documents and presented for discussions with stakeholders. The stakeholder discussion was used to ascertain the relevance of the criteria to the local situation. There were fourteen (14) key criteria identified (Annex 1). While in reality the criteria may have different weightings, for the purpose of this exercise all fourteen criteria were equally weighted to reduce complexity.

Annex 1 identifies the relationships between the landscapes/seascapes and the criteria. The relationships are denoted by 'X' and blank. The Xs represent reference to the criteria in the documents and by the stakeholders. On the other hand, the blanks indicate that there was no reference to the criteria in the documents or by stakeholders. The ranking of the landscape/seascapes indicates the number of criteria associated with each of the landscapes/seascapes. Four categories of landscape/seascape have been designated. These are:

- i. Most important- Rank 4
- ii. Very important – Rank 3
- iii. Important – Rank 2
- iv. Least Important- Rank 1

The determination of the level of importance of the landscape/seascape is based on the number of criteria identified by the number of Xs associated with each landscape/seascape in Annex 1. The ranking of the landscape/seascape is based on the following:

- i. Most important- above 10
- ii. Very important – 7-10
- iii. Important – 3 to 6
- iv. Least important- less than 3

⁵ Refer to the various guidance documents on landscape/seascape selection and assessments.

The GEF SGP National Steering Committee, upon review of the landscape selected and the baseline assessment report of the five urban areas, and based on experiences in OP5 of CSOs capacity to absorb funds, has decided that more than one landscape be selected for OP6. The results of the selection criteria were used to determine the additional landscapes. While funds and time do not allow for baseline assessments in these additional landscapes, these are landscapes from OP5, which initiatives in OP6 can strengthen and replicate. **The selected landscapes are urban areas (5 traditional towns identified as Anna Regina, Corriverton, Linden, New Amsterdam, and Rose Hall), multiple use mangrove areas, North Rupununi Wetlands and communities within and around National Protected Areas.**

Step 6: Categorization of the Landscape/Seascape

Traditional Urban Areas

Baseline Assessment Methodology

The baseline assessment for 5 urban areas was undertaken during the period January 14 to January 31, 2016 and comprised three principal data collection methods: (i) field observations and collection of samples from water bodies and terrestrial habitats for laboratory experiments, analysis and identification, respectively; (ii) focus group meetings with members of the Interim Management Council in each of the targeted towns; and (iii) land use mapping of the key socio-economic and cultural activities of each town.

Water Sampling

This exercise entailed the collection of water from drains and canals in the five traditional towns. In order to adequately characterize the quality of surface water, samples were collected from various areas in the towns. The drains were selected because they adequately represented the variety of land use activity (e.g. private residents, commercial areas, wash bays, farming areas) that were found in the towns. Due to the time and resource constraints only a few water quality parameters were determined. In terms of microbial parameters samples were tested for *Escherichia coli*, *Bacillus sp.* and *Staphylococcus aureus*.

The following water quality parameters determined:

- (i) pH
- (ii) Electrical Conductivity (EC)
- (iii) Total Dissolved Solids
- (iv) Salinity
- (v) Turbidity
- (vi) Microbial composition

Focus Group Meetings

At each focus group meeting stakeholders were given a presentation of the SGP OP 6 and were then asked to undertake the following tasks using the format of a plenary:

- The main environmental challenges in light of the strategic initiatives that were outlined during the presentation; and
- A SWOT Analysis of the town.

The use of SWOT analysis was adopted to better understand positive points (strengths), weaknesses, opportunities and threats that would enable or constrain the implementation of the strategy for the landscape.

Multiple Uses of Mangroves and Mangroves Habitat (also referred to as mangrove areas)

Baseline Assessment Methodology

A comprehensive desk review of available literature, including national reports on mangrove utilisation, was conducted and a questionnaire was developed and piloted prior to surveys conducted in the communities within Administrative Regions that were identified by the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI). Thus, 300 questionnaires were administered across Regions 2, 3, 5 and 6 based the following weighting: 48% of respondents who resided in Region ; 20% in Region 3; 28% in Region 5; and finally 4% in Region 6.

Within each administrative Region, various communities were targeted for surveys, as indicated in **Error! Reference source not found.** In Region 2, 93 questionnaires were administered in Lima and 51 in Devonshire Castle. Sixty (60) were done in Zeeburg, Region 3. A total 12 questionnaires were administered in Region 6 of which 9 were done in Kilmarnock and 3 in Wellington Park. The remaining questionnaires were administered the communities of Abary, Bel Air, Willemstaad and Inverness in Region 5.

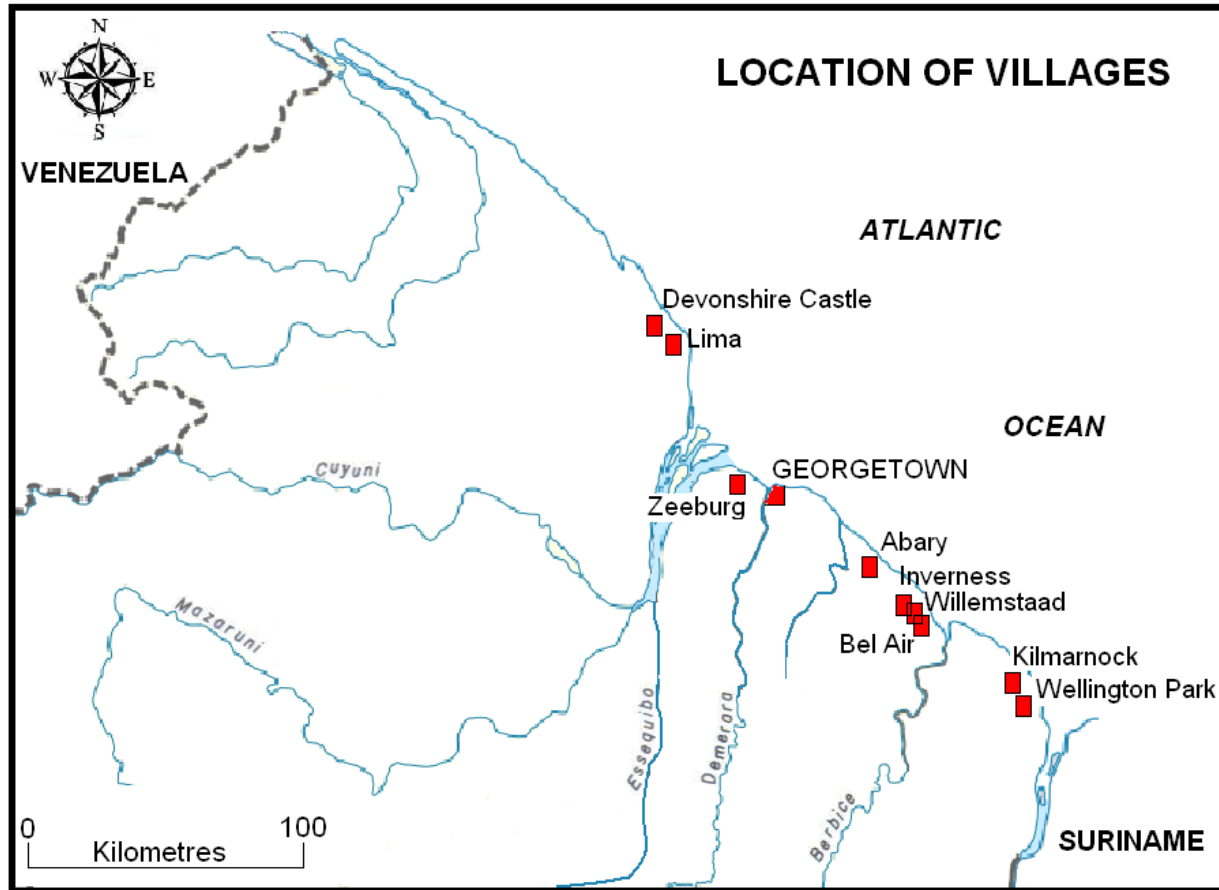


Figure 1 Map of Coastal Guyana showing villages targeted for Mangrove Baseline Study

A questionnaire comprising two sections was developed with the aim to obtaining data on: (a) the demographic profile of households within the targeted communities; (2) households' use of mangroves and mangrove habitats; (c) respondents' perceptions of the ecosystem value of the resource, current threats, effectiveness of management practices; and local interventions to address the issues that would have been highlighted by the respondents. The data were coded and the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) was used to conduct the analysis.

OP6 strategic initiatives to be prioritized for support in the Traditional Urban Areas and Multiple Uses of Mangroves and Mangroves Habitat

The OP6 strategic initiatives that have been initially prioritized for support in the selected landscapes/seascapes are presented in the Table 3 below.

Table 4 Links between OP6 Strategic Initiatives and Selected Landscape/Seascape

OP6 Strategic Initiative	Community Landscape/Seascape Conservation;	Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology;	Low carbon energy access co-benefits	Social inclusion (gender and youth)
Traditional Urban Areas	❖	❖	❖	❖
Multiple Uses of Mangroves and Mangrove Habitat	❖			❖

Note: Detailed Baseline Reports are contained in Annex 2 and Annex 3.

3.3. *Grant-maker plus Strategies*⁶

3.3.1. *CSO-Government Dialogue Platform*

The country programme Coordinator will work the Ministry of Communities to coordinate dialogue platforms and their sustainability will include:

- Formation of a CSO-government body comprising of representatives from both groups to identify areas of needs, collaboration and support with respect to project activities;
- Providing support the implementation of SGP projects e.g. Sharing of expertise for outreach programmes, demonstration projects, education and awareness;
- Providing a draft framework for the evaluation of SGP projects since there is no such body at present to undertake this activity;
- Creating linkages between SGP projects and government policies and programmes for the creation of synergies, upscaling and magnification of project benefits; and
- Creating a data base and information sharing platform (use of technology) for the retrieval and dissemination of baseline and other forms of information to enhance project implementation.

3.3.2. *Policy influence*

The CSO-government dialogue platform will influence policy ant the three levels (local, regional and national) in the following ways:

- By organizing different forums with stakeholders so that issues relating to both parties can be clearly adumbrated
- By aligning SGP projects with government policies, plans projects and programmes

⁶ The OP6 Grant-maker+ strategies and related activities may either be outside of the selected landscape/seascapes, or promote partnership building, networking and policy development within the target areas.

- c) By using SGP and government best practices to inform policies and initiatives from each other's perspective
- d) By sharing successes and failures in the implementation of SGP and government led projects
- e) By organizing regular interactions between SGP project implementers and government officers and preparing guideline documents for dissemination
- f) identifying ways in which there is a linkage between SGP projects and government policies
- g) Organizing project exchanges at different levels among SGP implementers and government so that there could be shared experiences
- h) Providing environments for the conduct of research and sharing of data to inform policies

3.3.3. *Promoting social inclusion*

The SGP country programme plans and strategies will promote (as practicable as possible) women's empowerment and gender equality, youth and children and indigenous people⁷ in the following ways:

- a) By ensuring that all three groups are incorporated at all levels of the decision-making process with respect to the administration and implementation of the SGP country programme;
- b) By ensuring that SGP projects are conceptualized and implemented with the needs of women, youth and indigenous peoples taken into consideration;
- c) By ensuring that the projects directly support the livelihood needs of women, youths and children and indigenous peoples;
- d) By ensuring that leadership roles and functions are performed by members of all three groups in policy formulation and implementation of the SGP projects;
- e) By ensuring that needs assessments are undertaken at the project development stage and utilized to define the roles of the three groups early in the project;
- f) By documenting the contributions of women to project activities in key areas where women, youth and children and indigenous peoples already figure prominently e.g. Biodiversity management, solid waste management and agro-processing;
- g) By ensuring that the SGP national steering committee employs check list and criteria to assess and screen projects for how the three groups are mainstreamed;
- h) By making oral presentations to the NSC;
- i) By encouraging women stand-alone projects in line with the GEF focal areas; and
- j) By ensuring that the national steering committee continues to have at least one gender specialist.

3.3.4. *Knowledge management plan*

Plans to capture, share and disseminate lessons learned include the following:

- a) Conducting monitoring and evaluation of project activities;
- b) Capturing best practices and successes in the forms of case studies;
- c) By providing templates for identifying the type of data to be gathered;
- d) By organizing frequent interaction forms among project implementers;

⁷ Indigenous people may only be involved in the multiple uses of mangroves and mangroves habitat in Region 2.

- e) By creating access to digital information technology;
- f) By encouraging open access to project information and documentation; and
- g) By organizing project demonstration sessions for SGP partners.

3.3.5. Communications Strategy

Communication will be done in the following ways:

- a) Preparing a timetable, work plan and work programme on exchanges between the stakeholders, especially the EPA, GFC, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and Ministry of Communities;
- b) Preparing and disseminating all relevant background documents and information to stakeholders;
- c) Organizing regular meetings between CSOs and key stakeholders;
- d) Establishing on-line communications network wherever possible;
- e) Providing structured opportunities for local inputs in information gathering and sharing;
- f) Organizing regular exchange programmes and creating opportunities/platforms for review and feedback; and
- g) Organizing exchanges and discussion sessions at various forums.

4. Expected results framework

4.1. OP6 Global Project Components and Global Targets (See Table 5below).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Preparation of plots for shaded agriculture for about 5 hectares by the end of 2017. <p>4. All typologies of landscape targeted in the CPS</p> <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 25% increase in public (youth, women etc.) awareness of proper solid waste management and the importance of public involvement by 2018 	in each town	<p>Increase in awareness and knowledge of proper solid waste management</p> <p>Increase in number of households that demonstrate proper solid waste management practices</p>	<p>Baseline assessment of comparison variables (level of awareness and knowledge, as well as households' involvement in re-sue and recycling of waste materials)</p> <p>Visual impact (aesthetics)</p>
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 2:</u> <i>Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology:</i></p> <p>2.1 Agro-ecology practices incorporating measures to reduce CO2 emissions and enhancing resilience to climate change tried and tested in protected area buffer zones and forest corridors and disseminated widely in at least 30 priority countries</p>	<p>1. Valley and Riverine areas</p> <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 125 farmers (women and men) receive training on climate-smart agricultural practices by 2017 	5 training workshops on soil carbon management through manure management, soil erosion control and	<p>Number of farmers trained</p> <p>No. of hectares of farmlands being managed</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes (SEPLs)</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p>

<p>SGP OP6 Component 3: <i>Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits:</i></p> <p>3.1 Low carbon community energy access solutions successfully deployed in 50 countries with alignment and integration of these approaches within larger frameworks such as SE4ALL initiated in at least 12 countries</p>	<p>1. Riverine Community</p> <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Establishing solar panels on 200 households by 2018 	<p>Approx. # of projects</p> <p>Two projects</p>	<p>Number of typologies of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations for scaling up and replication</p> <p>Number of households achieving energy access with locally adapted community solutions, with co-benefits estimated and valued⁸</p>	<p>AMR, country reports AMR, global database, country reports Special country studies⁹</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p>
<p>SGP OP6 Component 6: <i>Promoting Social Inclusion (Grant-makers+):</i></p> <p>6.1 Gender mainstreaming considerations applied by all SGP country programmes; Gender training utilized by SGP staff, grantees, NSC members, partners</p> <p>6.2 IP Fellowship programme awards at least 12 fellowships to build capacity of IPs; implementation of projects by IPs is supported in relevant countries</p> <p>6.3 Involvement of youth and disabled</p>	<p><i>See details under other components above</i></p>	<p><i>See details under other components above</i></p>	<p><i>See details under other components above</i></p>	<p><i>See details under other components above</i></p>

⁸ Only applies to lead countries in this strategic initiative

⁹ Only applies to lead countries in this strategic initiative

<p>is further supported in SGP projects and guidelines and best practices are widely shared with countries</p>				
<p><i>Multiple Uses of Mangroves and Mangroves Habitat</i></p>				
<p>1 OP6 project components</p>	<p>2 CPS targets</p>	<p>3 Activities</p>	<p>4 Indicators</p>	<p>5 Means of verification</p>
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 1:</u> <i>Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation:</i></p> <p>1.1 SGP country programmes improve conservation and sustainable use, and management of important terrestrial and coastal/marine ecosystems through implementation of community based landscape/seascape approaches in approximately 50 countries</p>	<p>1. Riverine areas</p> <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 25% of community residents have enhanced knowledge, attitude and practice in respect of mangroves and their habitats improved by 2017. <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ At least 2 hectares of mangrove forests have been replanted for conservation and 	<p>15 Knowledge, Attitude and KAP surveys (ante and post) (2 surveys in each of the regions: 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.</p> <p>5 Awareness and Training seminars targeting men, women, youth</p>	<p>% increase in level of knowledge, attitude and practice of residents in selected communities with respect to mangrove and mangroves habitat.</p> <p>Number of hectares of replanted mangrove</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Baseline assessment comparison variables</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p>

	<p>restoration purposes by 2018</p> <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ At least one major research project aimed at mangrove species, resilience and ecological adaptability will be conducted by 2017 	(1 in each coastal region)	Degree of resilience and ecological adaptability of species utilised in mangrove replanting initiative.	
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5. Monitoring & Evaluation Plan

5.1. M & E Plan

The M&E Plan to monitor the implementation of the CPS is as follows:

- a) Collection of baseline data (informed by indicators identified in Table 3) on the profile of targeted areas and communities, as well as the status of the environmental problem in the GEF focal area prior to the commencement of and corresponding operational program, before the commencement of any project activities;
- b) Monitoring of progress and accomplishment of project activities using indicators to compare status with baseline situation in order to evaluate the different project accomplishments and results based on the targets and indicators set out in Table 3;
- c) Involvement of various stakeholders (members of local communities, NSC members, independent consultants in the monitoring and evaluation process;
- d) Facilitation of training workshops on participatory monitoring and evaluation to develop capacity for local community members (e.g. in CBOs or NGOs) to participate in the M & E of project activities. Training sessions will focus on writing indicators, collecting, analysing and communicating information, among other things. The GEF Work Plan and Monitoring Schedule will be used as a reference material; and
- e) Application of mixed method involving via surveys, key informant interviews, and direct observations during site visits to collect data.
- f) Early determination and agreement on periodicity of monitoring activities and allocation of responsibilities.

5.2 Strengthening of Monitoring and Evaluation

M&E will be strengthened by:

- a) Establishing partnerships with local communities and CBOs/NGOs in the targeted landscape/seascape areas to promote participate monitoring and evaluation;
- b) Creating a framework to be used as a tool;
- c) Organizing at least one visit per month to the project site;
- d) Ensuring that reporting protocols are maintained;
- e) Ensuring that resources (financial and manpower) are in place to conduct monitoring visits;
- f) Establishing mechanisms for feedback among stakeholders;
- g) Utilizing the expertise of individuals and institutions in the monitoring and evaluation procedures; and
- h) Establishing robust monitoring and evaluation procedures.

5.3 Participation of Local Stakeholders, Community Members and/or Indigenous Peoples in Setting Project Objectives and Outputs

- a) Participation in the setting of project objectives and outputs by different groups of stakeholders will be undertaken by identifying stakeholder groups, engaging in bottom-up participatory meetings so that all their views are considered. This also includes workshops where groups list their problems and priorities and determine outputs. Minutes of meetings and records of discussions are kept as the baseline for the formulation of the objectives and outputs.

- b) Local stakeholders will participate in participatory M & E in respect of collection of baseline data, observing, recording and helping to communicate progress or lack therefore with the use of simple, user friendly template based on the GEF Work Plan and monitoring Schedule for project activities. This would be adapted, if necessary.

5.4 Strategy for aggregating Results of SGP individual projects at the Country Programme Portfolio level.

Table 6 provides the key country programme level M&E tools and templates.

Table 6 M&E Plan at the Country Programme Level

M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible parties	Budget source	Timing
Country Programme Strategy elaboration To “effectively support the creation of global environmental benefits and the safeguarding of the global environment through community and local solutions that complement and add value to national and global level action.”	Framework for identification of community projects Guidelines provided in the OP6 Framework – Stakeholder meetings, use of baseline data	NC, NSC, country stakeholders, grantee UNDP CO NGOs/CBOs, National Steering Committee (NSC)	Covered under preparatory grant GEF/SGP	At start of operational phase November, 2015
Annual Country Programme Strategy Review	Learning; adaptive management	NC, NSC, CPMT	Covered under country programme operating costs	Reviews will be conducted on annual basis ¹⁰ 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	Assess effectiveness of projects, portfolios,	NC, NSC, UNDP	Covered under country programme operating	Minimum twice per year, one dedicated to M&E and adaptive

¹⁰ The CPS is a living document, and should be reviewed and updated as deemed necessary by the NSC on a periodic basis as part of the annual strategy review.

analysis	approaches; learning; adaptive management		costs	management at end of grant year
Annual Country Report (ACR) ¹¹	Enable efficient reporting to NSC	NC presenting to NSC	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per year in June
Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) ¹² Survey (based on ACR)	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF; presentation of results to donor	NC submission to CPMT	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per year in July
Strategic Country Portfolio Review	Learning; adaptive management for strategic development of Country Programme	NSC	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per operational phase

6. Resource Mobilisation Plan

6.1 *Enhancing the sustainability of the SGP Country Programme grant-making and grant-makers+ roles*

(i) *Ways to enhance or increase cash and in-kind co-financing*

- a) Project level – Fund-raising activities from other donor organizations undertaking similar projects, volunteer work on project activities;
- b) Landscape/seascape level – Collaborating with other partners in fundraising and sharing of knowledge and expertise; and
- c) Country level – Collaborating with government and other agencies in joint project activities, cost-sharing in areas of transportation, equipment, etc.

¹¹ The country programme should be reviewed in consultation with the NSC members, national Rio Convention focal points, and the associated reporting requirements. The Annual Country Report should be presented at a dedicated NSC meeting in June each year to review progress and results and take decisions on key adaptive measures and targets for the following year.

¹² The AMR Survey will essentially draw upon information presented by the country in the Annual Country Report (ACR) with few additional questions. It will enable aggregation of country inputs by CPMT for global reporting.

- (ii) **Diversifying funding sources to achieve greater impact** (i.e. non-GEF resources that help address post-2015 UN Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs):

Integrating project activities with similar or complementary goals, objectives and activities e.g. WWF, CI, UNICEF and national agencies e.g. Women and Gender equality Commission, Ministry of Indigenous Peoples etc.

- (iii) An approach to recover costs to co-finance a share of the SGP country programme non-grant costs

Sharing of cost of project activities with the Ministry of Communities and the Town Councils with regard to urban areas; plus the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Guyana Forestry Commission, and Food and Agriculture Organisation-all of which have various interests in the GEF focal areas and project concepts that have been identified in the CPS.

- (iv) Opportunities for SGP to serve as a delivery mechanism.

Work Programmes of the government ministries and agencies and the project activities may have synergies; hence the need for the local stakeholders to carefully align their projects with the GEF focal areas as well as national environmentally related policies, strategies and plans.

- (v) In the “Grant-maker+” role, the SGP team including the NSC and TAGs can 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, this activity can be considered part of resource mobilization as there is increased flow of resources to SGP stakeholders through its support.*
- How can this role be effectively performed?
 - a) By conducting outreach activities to understand the needs and aspirations of communities;
 - b) By creating an enabling environment for stakeholders to effectively articulate their needs;
 - c) By ensuring that women and gender, youths and indigenous peoples are mainstreamed in various stages of the project formulation processes; and
 - d) By streamlining and aligning the needs of the stakeholders with the goals and objectives of donors.
 - What are the possible proposals that can be developed and donors and funding facilities (i.e. perhaps the Green Climate Fund) that can be approached?
 - a) Agro-processing for value added and sustainable livelihood (FAO, IICA, UNIDO)
 - b) Greening of open spaces and parks (UN Habitat);
 - c) Micro solar energy projects (UNESCO renewable project, French Fund for Global Environment); and
 - d) Coastal mangrove protection (EU, Kfw).

- What are the potential for private sector funding (i.e. in support of successful sustainable enterprises for scaling up)?

The potential for private sector funding of projects (by national banks, mining companies, manufacturing companies as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility) is realistic as some of the projects coincide with private sector interests. Private sector for instance is interested in projects that assist in reducing their production costs e.g. energy costs, organic products for manufacturing etc. Solar energy can feed into the national electricity grid and assist in reducing costs.

7. Risk Management Plan

7.1 Key risks related to the implementation of the CPS during OP6,

Table 7 has the details.

Table 7 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
1. Any change in the political landscape that can impact the SGP	Medium	medium	Stakeholders' buy in to ensure strong advocacy role
2. Low level or non-participation of, or change in membership of NSC	High	high	Identify alternates within institutions to avoid problem of absenteeism
3. Unwillingness of co-financiers (e.g. private sector) to support community based projects	Medium	medium	Regular dialogues, joint visits to targeted areas, development of MOUs, use of media to ensure visibility of altruistic actions.
4. Political interference in selection of beneficiaries	Medium	medium	Stakeholders' buy in to ensure strong advocacy role

7.2 Tracking of Risks

Risks will be tracked by means of a robust monitoring and feedback mechanism that will be established by the NSC members, as well as co-financiers. Urgent actions will be taken as a pre-cautionary approach.

8. National Steering Committee Endorsement

Note: 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 Programme.

NSC members involved in OP6 CPS development, review and endorsement	Signatures
Maxine Parris-Aaron – Chair	
Peter Persaud	
Indarjit Ramdass/ Bibi Asma Sharief	
Jason Fraser	
Damian Fernandes/Mahendra Saywack	
Sophie Makonnen	
Rene Edwards	
Luanna Goldie Scott	
Parbattie Ranglall	
Khadija Musa	

Annex 1: Criteria of Selection of Landscape

Annex 2: OP6 landscape/seascape baseline assessment

OP6 landscape/seascape baseline assessment Report

Annex 3: OP6 donor partner strategy annexes