



## THE GEF SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

# FIJI

# FACTSHEET



### What is GEF?

**T**he Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a financial mechanism structured as a trust fund that operates in collaboration and partnership with three international implementing agencies, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank.

The GEF'S mission is to ensure the safeguard and protection of the global environment. It facilitates international cooperation and finances actions to address critical threats to the global environment. GEF brings together 173 member governments, working in partnership with the private sector, NGOs, and international institutions to address complex environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives.

### The GEF Small Grants Programme

The Small Grants Programme (SGP) which was launched in 1992, is funded by GEF as a corporate Programme. SGP is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of the GEF partnership, and is executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

The UNDP GEF-SGP supports activities of non-governmental and community-based organizations in developing countries towards climate change abatement, conservation of biodiversity, protection of international waters, reduction of the impact of persistent organic pollutants and prevention of land degradation whilst generating sustainable livelihoods.

In 2006, NZAID signed a three year partnership with the GEF Small Grants Programme in the Pacific and is known as the Small Grants Programme Pacific Environment Fund (SGP PEF). These funds are also aligned with existing GEF SGP systems, focal areas and processes and are similarly accessible to NGO's and CBO's, with the additional extension to Fiji Government agencies working with local communities with conditional provisions.

## The SGP Approach ACT LOCALLY, THINK GLOBALLY

SGP is rooted in the belief that global environmental problems can best be addressed if local people worldwide are involved and there are direct community benefits and ownership from their actions.

SGP is convinced that with small amounts of funding, members of local communities in Fiji can undertake activities that will make a significant difference in their lives and environments, with global benefits, in contrast with top-down, expert-reliant development interventions.

The key components that SGP strives towards encouraging and enabling with communities in Fiji are:

- Environmental Protection and Natural Resource Conservation
- Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Livelihoods
- Community Empowerment for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources.



Forest Restoration, Ono-i-Lau Island, Lau Province

## GEF-SGP- FIJI FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

### WHAT TYPE OF PROJECTS DO WE FUND IN FIJI?

SGP makes grants to NGO's, CBO's and Government Departments and funding is restricted to the following thematic areas-

#### 1. BIODIVERSITY

Projects designed to support or promote the conservation and sustainable use and management of biodiversity in ecosystems. The focal areas include

- Globally and Nationally significant Species and Habitats
- Agro-biodiversity and Agro-ecological Systems
- Marine and Freshwater Ecosystem Conservation and Protection
- Forest Conservation and Protection
- Conserving Genetic Variability of Wild relatives of Domesticated Species

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## CORE PRINCIPLES IN ITS APPROACH PARTICIPATORY, DEMOCRATIC, FLEXIBLE AND TRANSPARENT

SGP advocates, encourages and supports the participation of communities, local people, non-government and community-based organizations, and other stakeholders in all aspects of programme planning, design and implementation of projects it funds.

The flexible decentralized structure of SGP encourages maximum country and community-level ownership and initiative. At the heart of the SGP model, funding decisions are informed, owned and implemented by local people.

### The GEF-SGP Fiji Office

The Fiji SGP Office is located in Suva and has been operational since 2005. A locally recruited National Coordinator (NC) and two support staff are responsible for the overall administration and management of the Programme and acts as Secretariat to the Fiji SGP National Steering Committee (NSC).

The NSC is the central element of SGP and provides the major substantive contribution to and oversight of the Fiji Programme. Fiji's NSC membership is voluntary and comprises of representatives from local NGOs, government, academia and UNDP. Membership may also include on occasion co-funding donors, indigenous peoples' organizations, the private sector and the media. The NSC is responsible for developing Fiji's Country Programme Strategy, considers whether proposals for grants are feasible and meet SGP criteria, and what kind of technical support is needed for implementation. It is also tasked with making final approval of grants, undertake site visits and review, advises on design of grant proposals, ensures monitoring and evaluation, and champions SGP in the national arena.

Both the Fiji SGP Team and the NSC collaborate closely to reach out to the NGO's, government departments and communities to advise and inform them of the availability of funds, and to receive and screen their proposals.

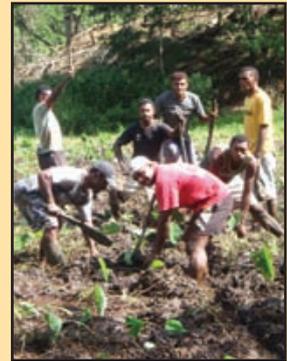
## 2. CLIMATE CHANGE

Project activities must either demonstrate the removal of local barriers to energy conservation and energy efficiency, or promote the adoption of renewable energy. Focal areas include:

- Renewable Energy Innovations
- Enabling Energy Efficiency & Low Green House Gas Emitting Technology
- Adaptation



*Traditional Salt Making, Tikina Wai, Nadroga Province*



*Revival of traditional Taro cultivation, Biausevu, Nadroga Province*

## 3. INTERNATIONAL WATERS

Project design must address environmental concerns in a specific water body shared by two or more countries (for instance a large marine ecosystem shared by Fiji and Tonga), or address land-based threats to international waters. SGP acknowledges that the design requirement for this type of project is beyond the scope of its funding ability, and therefore generally funds projects with complementary activities with an on-going large or medium-sized funded project. Focal areas include:

- Mitigating Contaminants & Pollution that threaten species and ecosystems
- Addressing overexploitation of marine resources and resource extraction
- Prevention and Control of critical habitat degradation

## 4. LAND DEGRADATION

Project design must consider improving land management systems and greatly reducing deforestation. Focal areas include:

- Sustainable agriculture (agro-forestry)
- Sustainable Land Management and Ground Water Conservation
- Forest Management (Reforestation, Rehabilitation, Fuel wood)

## 5. PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPs)

Projects design must compliment Fiji's national commitment to the Stockholm Convention to eradicate the use and presence of persistent organic pollutants, primarily the cause of health defects in humans and disruption in natural ecosystems. Focus for the projects may include:

- Environmentally sound technologies as alternatives to POP's
- Composting and organic farming
- Non- POP's alternatives to vector borne disease control

## SOME CONSIDERATIONS FOR A SUCCESSFUL SGP APPLICATION

To increase your chances of obtaining a grant for your project, try and consider some of the following questions when designing your project

1. Is it participatory and inclusive of majority members of your community
2. Will it improve community livelihoods and create income- employment opportunities
3. Will it enhance women and youth participation and leadership
4. Will it enhance, revive or preserve traditional knowledge and generate new ideas for development
5. Does it address your community needs and priorities
6. Will it improve the management of your resources and promote sustainable practices
7. What can your community do or fund for themselves and use the project to compliment your ongoing activities
8. How will you organize yourselves to implement the project
9. Are your community members responsible and will they support the project
10. How will you keep the activities going once the funding from SGP ends

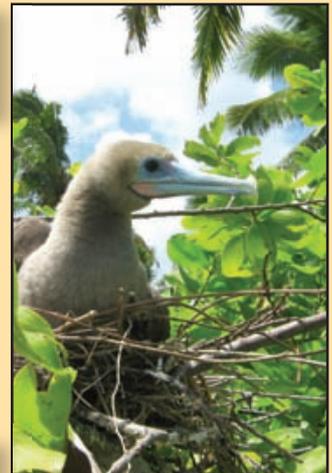


## HOW MUCH FUNDING DOES THE SGP ALLOW FOR PROJECTS?

The maximum grant amount per project is US\$50,000, but averages around US\$20,000.

Small amounts of grant funds (typically no more than US\$2,000) are also available to support pre-project participatory assessment and planning activities designed to strengthen community participation in project identification and development.

Grants are made directly to community-based organizations (CBOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government departments in recognition of the key role they play as a resource and constituency for environment and development concerns.



*Biodiversity Protection - Bird colony, Ono-i- Lau, Lau Province*

## HOW TO APPLY FOR A SGP GRANT?

### Step 1

You will need to contact the SGP National Coordinator (NC) indicating your interest who will then advise and provide you with Guidelines and a Concept Project Application Form.

### Step 2

On completing the Concept Project Application Form, this is officially submitted to the NC who will then review its contents to determine whether the contents align to GEF-SGP's priorities and criteria for funding. Two things may happen

- i.) If your concept is sound, you will be provided with and asked to fill out a Full Grant Proposal Form.
- ii.) If the NC still thinks your concept lacks certain elements and requires more information, you will be advised to undertake more groundwork and consulta-

tion with your community, and may be provided with a Planning Grant to undertake this. On completing this, your concept should be in order and may be asked to fill out a Full Grant Proposal Form.

### Step 3

Your Full Grant Proposal once reviewed and seen to be in order by the NC, will then be submitted to the National Steering Committee (NSC). The NSC will then collectively review it and then either accept, reject or recommend amendments to your submission at their discretion.

### Step 4

If your proposal is successful it will enter the national SGP Work Programme. You will be required to sign a Memorandum of Agreement between your NGO/CBO and UNDP-GEF SGP. Funds will be then disbursed to your project account for you to initiate your project activities.

## HOW IS FUNDING DISBURSED TO SUCCEFUL APPLICANTS?

SGP grants are disbursed directly to a designated project account. Project funds are usually paid in four installments: an up-front payment to initiate the project (30%); two mid-term payments upon receipt of satisfactory progress reports (60%); and a final payment (10%) on receipt of a satisfactory project completion and final report.

## HOW YOU CAN GET MORE INFORMATION

1. Visit our website: <http://sgp.undp.org>
2. Contact us via letter or email:
3. Visit our Office

**Letter:** The National Coordinator,  
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**Email:** [sgpfiji@kidanet.net.fj](mailto:sgpfiji@kidanet.net.fj)

**Address:** Peace Embassy Building,  
8 Mitchell Street,  
Suva.  
**Phone:** (679) 3310541  
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If you do intend on visiting our office, we advise you to please contact us first via phone and make an appointment to schedule a meeting.