WHO CAN APPLY?

CSOs, including Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), scientific and technological organizations and Community Based Organizations can all apply.

Priority is given to environmental projects which address concerns of youth and gender, people with disabilities (PWD), indigenous people, support to sustainable livelihoods and improved quality of life.

Map: showing the Samoa SGP projects (2005-2018) on the islands of Savaii, Upolu, Apolima and Manono, Samoa.
Established in 1992, the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) embodies the very essence of sustainable development by "thinking globally, acting locally". SGP demonstrates that community action can maintain the fine balance between human needs and environmental imperatives, by providing financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people's well-being and livelihoods.

The programme provides grants of up to 50,000 USD directly to local communities (including community-based organizations and other non-governmental groups) since these primary stakeholders are most at risk due to their strong dependency on access to natural resources for their livelihoods and often live in fragile ecosystems.

Since its creation, SGP has provided more than 18,500 grants in 131 developing countries. Funded by the Global Environment Facility (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).

SGP Samoa is a sub-regional programme that covers Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau. Since joining in 2003, over US$ 4 million has been committed to 214 projects covering a variety of Focal Areas (FAs).

**WHO ARE WE?**

**GEF FOCAL AREAS**

- **Biodiversity (BD)** - protecting forests, mangroves and marine ecosystems that support biodiversity whilst promoting sustainable livelihoods for local people.

- **Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation (CCM)** - adaptive measures to support resilient communities/environments during natural disasters (e.g. cyclones/drought SLR).

- **International Waters (IW)** - reducing land based pollution and ocean dumping, promoting sustainable management practices for rivers/river basins/mangroves/fishing grounds.

- **Land Degradation (LD) + Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)** - sustainable community management of forests/agriculture/water resources, with degraded lands being rehabilitated.

- **Chemicals (POPs)** - alternative solid waste disposal practise to reduce burning of waste as well as creating new management plans for the disposal of harmful chemicals.

- **Capacity Development (CD)** - projects which empower civil society organisations (CSOs) to network with partners and/or engage in policy dialogue, develop management skills, conduct community-based monitoring and evaluation, whilst diffusing best practices/new technologies.

**HOW TO APPLY**

**STEP 1:**

Proponent devises a concept proposal (with assistance from SGP) which is then submitted to the GEF SGP Secretariat.

**STEP 2:**

Pre-screening takes place to meet criteria adopted by National Steering Committees (NSCs) and/or Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs).

**STEP 3:**

If the project is judged eligible, a full proposal is prepared, which is submitted to the NSC by the SGP Secretariat for a final review.

**OUTCOME:**

Proposal is approved and enters the national GEF SGP programme and an official contract is signed. GEF SGP grants are usually paid in three instalments: an upfront payment to initiate the project; a mid-term payment; and a final payment (the final two are subject to progress reports submitted by grantees).