

Overview of the
GEF Small Grants Programme
(GEF SGP)



UNDP-GEF CBA Mid Course Workshop
Knutsford Court Hotel,
Kingston, Jamaica
June 29, 2009



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**SGP Goal: Secure global environmental
benefits through community action**

Objectives:

- Build awareness and capacity of communities, CBOs, NGOs and CSOs
- Promote a positive working relationship between civil society and various stakeholders especially government
- Develop and disseminate knowledge to improve sustainable development practice and policy

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I. The GEF SGP Defined-Global Perspective

- The Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) is funded by the GEF as a corporate programme, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of the GEF partners. 
- The Programme is executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). 
- Launched in 1992, SGP supports activities of non-governmental and community-based organizations in developing countries in five focal areas.
- Namely: climate change abatement (mitigation), conservation of biological diversity, protection of international waters, reduction of the impact of persistent organic pollutants and prevention of land degradation, while generating sustainable livelihoods



The GEF SGP Defined-Global Perspective

- There are 101 participating countries, having ratified the United Nations Conventions on Biological Diversity and Climate Change.
- The funding to date comprises US\$247.2 million from GEF and US\$242.8 million from other partners in cash or in-kind equivalents.
- Every \$1 of GEF funds has to be matched with \$1 co-financing, in cash or kind.
- More than 10,000 grants have been awarded worldwide, with many benefiting multiple communities.
- The overall SGP project portfolio comprises 60% biodiversity, 20% climate change, 6% international waters, and 14% multi-focal



SGP as a global programme

- 2009 - with 101 participating countries;
 - 84 individual country programmes,
 - 2 Regional and 2 Sub-regional programmes

Regional/Subregional modalities:

- Barbados and OECS (9 SIDS)
- Micronesia (3 SIDS)
- Polynesia (3 SIDS)
- Micronesia 2 (4 SIDS)

20 LDCs, 2 LDCs/SIDS, 30 SIDS



SGP's "small grants" means:

- Level of grant: up to \$50,000 (average at \$25,000); with limited, selected "strategic projects" – up to \$150,000
- The maximum grant amount per project is US\$50,000, but averages around US\$25,000. Grants are channelled directly to CBOs and NGOs.
- Fast delivery mechanism – "shortest distance from idea into action"
- To build capacity, provide access to GEF of the poorest, most vulnerable communities/CBOs/NGOs; SGP support is thus partly "venture capital" and risk taking



SGP Global Management

- Central Programme Management Team (CPMT); all National/Subregional Coordinators report to the Global Manager
- UNDP as lead IA (in behalf of all other IAs) and UNOPS as Executing Agency
- All Country Programme Strategies must fit GEF strategic priorities and deliverables are according to GEF Council approved SGP Operational Phase Project Documents
- SGP reports to GEF Council on progress on deliverables in its Annual Replenishment Proposal
- Strategically guided by GEFSEC in previous phases, then by an Operations Consultation group, now by a GEF SGP Steering Committee



SGP: Highly decentralized and country-driven operation

Country Team:

- **National/
Subregional
Coordinator and
Programme
Assistant**
- **National Steering
Committee/National
Focal Group**



SGP = Institution Building

- **Multi-sectoral network through the National and Sub-regional Steering Committees**
- **Network of grantees**
- **Networks through partners and strategic projects**
- **Global network of the SGP countries and partners**



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Partner Meetings

- Meetings with Key Government Officials and Agencies to assess commitment – especially to support community-based approaches, civil society participation – “sharing power to increase power for sustainable development”



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SGP Projects: Link to Poverty Reduction and MDGs

- *“Reconciling environmental goals with poverty reduction is clearly a priority for almost all countries ... This is an arena where SGP is already demonstrating what is possible.*
- *SGP is clearly operating at the cutting edge of international efforts exploring the synergies – and sometimes even the incompatibilities – between environmental conservation and sustainable use and poverty alleviation at the local level.”*

SGP Third Independent Evaluation



Critical GEF Council Requirements

- Must raise co-financing, *reckoned at global levels* at 1:1 (half in cash, half in-kind)
- Cannot use more than 25% of the total of GEF funds approved plus cash cofinancing committed to be raised for global and country operating costs
- Annual reporting of progress on deliverables and submission of replenishment proposal to GEF Council



SGP Projects



- Total of more than 10,000 projects; more than 3,500 active
- Must be community-based; only local CBOs/NGOs can be grantees; but many international NGOs are cofinancing partners



SGP Projects

- SGP's niche is working with even the weakest communities and CBOs/NGOs if their area or theme of work is a GEF priority; in SGP OP2, 76% of funds went to CBOs
- Strong and committed country team is required for proactive assistance



SGP Projects: Community empowerment



- A list of names and the contribution given to the SGP project activity



- Community members displaying posters depicting the success of their efforts

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SGP Projects: Linking to business and sustainability



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SGP Projects: Women and gender concerns



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SGP Projects: Inputting into Global Knowledge Management



SGP community grantees
as SD and GEF
“promoters” – sharing
lessons learned,
influencing policy

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SGP Partnerships for Co-financing

- UNDP
- UNEP
- World Bank
- European Commission
- New Zealand Aid
- United Nations Foundation
- UNV
- Dutch Government
- National Governments
- State/Local Governments
- Regional Governments (NRG4SD and CPMR)
- Grantees
- National Environmental Funds
- International NGOs (RSBP/Birdlife, etc.)
- ICRAN
- IPEN
- British Petroleum, Coca-Cola, Expedia
- Development Bank of Southern Africa, HSBC
- Hotel Associations



SGP Outcomes: Capacity Building



- Indigenous community members involved in developing their video proposal



- SGP grantees learning to protect their biodiversity through Traditional Knowledge Journals



SGP Outcomes: Institution-building

- *Getting stakeholders from civil society and government to work together:*
- CPS validation
- NSC formation and strengthening



NSC meeting
"Discussing strategic directions of GEP/SGP Viet Nam"

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SGP Outcomes: Towards Achieving Global Benefits

- Setting foundations (e.g capacity building, trust building, new approaches and innovations) for scaling up and replication
- National, regional and global networking
- Influencing policy and practice through lessons learned, improved capacity and credibility of participants, NSC and networks

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SGP Outcomes: Towards Achieving Global Benefits



- **COMPACT (Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation)** for focused landscape approach in World Heritage Sites in partnerships with UNF and UNESCO



- Partners from Peregrine Fund working on protecting the Harpy Eagle

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SGP Outcomes: Effective delivery mechanism



- Delivery mechanism and cofinancing with **NZAID (Pacific Environment Fund)**
- and the **EC Promotion of Tropical Forest**

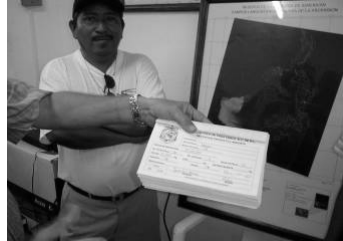


- Partnerships to be *delivery mechanism* for GEF FSPs and others:
 - with **PEMSEA**
 - with **WB NTEAP** microgrants
 - with **Niger River Basin Project**
 - with **UNEP NEPAD Project**
 - with **EASE** proposal

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SGP Outcomes: Knowledge generation

- Fisherfolks in coastal Yucatan have developed a monitoring and database system for fishing ground management. Project is now a learning center for other fisherfolk organizations from other countries.
- Community members in the peri-urban areas of Bamako experiment with a new biogas installation. An SGP project implemented by the Malifolkecenter has established 5 test sites. The community is involved in helping adapt this technology to the specific needs of this region.



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SGP Outcomes: Knowledge sharing and management

- Global Database and Web Page developed
- Publications and other communication materials in all languages available
- Active knowledge sharing in local and international fora



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