



OPERATIONAL PHASE 8 (OP8)

SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY (CPS)

THE GAMBIA





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List of acronyms and abbreviations

BBWR	-	Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve
CBD	-	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	-	Community-Based Organizations
CCAs	-	Community Conserved Areas
CPMT	-	Central Programme Management Team
CPS	-	Country Programme Strategy
CSA	-	Climate-Smart Agriculture
CSO	-	Civil Society Organizations
FAO	-	Food and Agriculture Organization
GBF	-	Global Biodiversity Framework
GCF	-	Green Climate Fund
GEF	-	Global Environment Facility
ICCAs	-	indigenous and Community Conserve Areas
IP	-	Indigenous Peoples
IPEN	-	International Pollutants Elimination Network
IPLCs	-	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
JNP	-	Jokadou National Park
KM	-	Knowledge Management
KWNP	-	Kiang West National Park
LEMCS	-	Local Environment Management Committees
MEAs	-	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MECCNAR	-	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources
NAMA	-	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
NAPA	-	National Adaptation Program of Action
NBSAP	-	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NC/PA	-	National Coordinator / Programme Assistant
NDCs	-	Nationally Determined Contribution
NGOs	-	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSC	-	National Steering Committee
OP8	-	Eighth Operational Phase
PWD	-	Persons With Disabilities
RICAR	-	The Rural Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resilience Building Project
ROOTS	-	The Resilience of Organizations for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture Project
SDGs	-	Sustainable Development Goals
SEPLs	-	Socio-Economic Production Landscape
SGP	-	Small Grants Programme
SMART	-	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time Bound
STAR	-	System for Transparent Allocation of Resources
TAGs	-	Technical Advisory Groups
UNDP's CPD	-	United Nations Development Programme, Country Programme Document
UNFCCC	-	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNSDCF	-	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
WASH	-	Water Sanitation and Hygiene



OP8 Financial Resources - SGP Country Programme (estimated US\$)¹

Total SGP Grants to date since Country Programme start date (2009)	USD4.47 Million
OP8 GEF Core Funds	USD 500,000 TBC
OP8 GEF STAR Funds	USD1 Million
Other funds (secured)	USD
Other funds (expected/to be mobilized)	USD

1. INTRODUCTION

The Eighth Operational Phase of the Small Grants Programme (SGP OP8) builds on 30 years of successful experience in empowering local civil society and community-based organizations in designing and leading community driven initiatives. These efforts have improved household wellbeing, raised awareness of environmental threats, and generated global environmental benefits. Amid increasing economic pressures and inequalities in developing countries, intensifying in many parts of the developing world and the associated rising inequalities, local communities, particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged groups are becoming more and more marginalized, unable to cope with threats associated with ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change. Lessons learned and experience gained in previous SGP Operational Phases have demonstrated that integrated, landscape-seascape approaches are effective in mobilizing multiple stakeholder collaboration, linking local CSOs/CBOs with enabling partners and achieving mutually supportive livelihood and environmental outcomes at scale.

SGP OP8 aims to engage local CSOs/CBOs in landscape-seascape approaches across the world, providing them access to knowledge and information, capacitating them through learning-by-doing, skills development, and delivering technical and grant assistance for interventions that enhance wellbeing and socioeconomic conditions and generate global environmental benefits.

The OP8 objectives highlight key features of GEF Small Grants Programme 2.0, including support youth, women and Indigenous Peoples, and integration with mechanisms such as the Microfinance Initiative and CSO Challenge Programme, cooperating with other GEF Agencies, and leveraging opportunities with GEF strategies, including the delivery of the GEF-8 Integrated Programmes. In addition, it fosters innovation, scaling up, catalyze multi-stakeholder cooperation through CSOs, while aligning with GEF strategies and UNDP Strategic Plan (2022-2025) to maximise impact.

2. COUNTRY PROGRAMME SUMMARY: Key results and achievements

The **Gambia's Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Small Grant Programme (SGP)**, was launch in 2008 and started operation in 2009 aims to empower local communities to address environmental challenges and promote sustainable development through community-based environmental management and conservation efforts across the country. The programme has successfully implemented **169 projects**, with

¹ The level of SGP OP8 resources is an estimated total of: (a) the GEF8 core grant allocation; (b) approved STAR resources; as well as (c) other sources of cost sharing & co-financing (country, regional and/or global levels). SGP countries with remaining OP7 balances that have not been pipelined will be expected to use these balances in line with the OP8 strategic approach in order to be coherent in terms of SGP programming and results expected.



a total grant amounting approximately **USD 4.47 Million**. This funding, complimented by co-financing from national and international partners, supports initiatives targeting key environmental areas including biodiversity, climate change, adaptation, chemicals and waste, capacity development, and land degradation, delivering local environmental benefits and advancing global goals.

The thematic focus of The Gambia Country Programme is aligned with the country's environmental priorities and global sustainable development goals, focusing on six key focal areas: **biodiversity, Climate Change, climate change adaptation, land degradation, Capacity Development and Chemicals and Waste**. These areas reflect the critical challenges including vulnerability to climate change, loss of biodiversity, and land degradation. Significant environmental outcomes include mangrove restoration improved soil health through sustainable agricultural practices, and adoption of climate-resilient farming techniques. Globally the programme has made substantial progress in biodiversity conservation resulting in the restoration of critical ecosystems, benefiting both endangered species and local communities. The programme's climate change adaptation strategies, such as renewable energy and sustainable farming, have reduced greenhouse gas emissions and improved resilience to climate impacts. It has promoted sustainable land management, enhanced soil productivity and local communities' livelihood, while fostering innovation, building capacity, engaging communities and schools in conservation, and enhancing collaboration and advocacy for eco-friendly practices.

The Gambia's Country Programme has significantly impacted socio-economic development benefiting over **30,000 individuals**, particularly women and youth, through community-based environmental initiatives. It has partnered with more than 102 Organisations including both **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)**, providing support and resources for sustainable development projects. These collaborations have also enhanced the well-being of local communities while fostering ownership and responsibility for environmental stewardship. The programme has achieved remarkable success in scaling up, replication, and mainstreaming its initiatives, particularly in climate-resilient agriculture and renewable energy. These projects have been successfully implemented across various regions influencing national policy development by integrating sustainable practices into national agricultural policies and development strategies.

Key lessons learnt from the programme emphasised the importance of community engagement, partnerships and capacity building. Projects involving local communities in planning, execution, and monitoring have proven more successful and sustainable. Collaborations with local organizations, government agencies, and international donors have been instrumental in achieving scalable results, while capacity-building efforts have equipped stakeholders with the knowledge and skills to sustain projects independently. Overall, the programme has addressed environmental and socio-economic challenges, empowered communities, and laid the groundwork for broader adoption of sustainable practices across The Gambia.

Ultimately, the Gambia Country Programme has effectively contributed to addressing environmental and socio-economic challenges, through its community-driven approach, strong partnerships, and focus on local solutions. the programme empowered communities, and foster sustainable practices across the country.



3. COUNTRY PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

3.1 Alignment with national priorities

The Gambia's national priorities align with its international commitments and its domestic development goals ensuring the country's environmental and sustainable development efforts are consistent with global frameworks while addressing local needs and challenges. The country's sustainable development approach is reflected in its ratification of several international conventions and its commitment to domestic development strategies focusing on resilience, social inclusion, and economic sustainability. GEF programme implementation is handled by line ministries and agencies including the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and forestry, The Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs and departments such as The Department of Water Resources (UNFCCC Focal Point), The Department of Forestry (UNCCD Focal Point), The Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (UNCBD Focal Point) and The National Environment Agency (Stockholm, Minamata and Abidjan Conventions). Below is an overview of the key conventions ratified by The Gambia and its national planning frameworks.

Table 1. List of relevant conventions and national/regional plans or programmes

Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
GEF-8 National Dialogues	19 December, 2022
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)	June 1994
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	1999, 2015 – 2020 (updated)
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	July 2014
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	June 1994
UNFCCC National Communications (first, second and third)	2003, 2011, 2020
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	2015
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	December 2007
Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the Paris Accord	September 2016
Second Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Paris Accord)	September 2021
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	1996
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	2000
Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	2002
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	2005, 3 rd review in progress
Minamata Convention (MC) on Mercury	May 2014
UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	2018
Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) for the UN SDGs	2018
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international waterbodies (IW)	1984
The Gambia National Development Plan (2018 – 2021)	January 2018
Recovery-focused National Development Plan (2023 – 2027)	2023



3.2 Gaps and opportunities

The Gambia faces gaps in addressing environmental challenges, such as financial constraints, capacity limitations, and insufficient integration of sustainability in economic sectors. However, there are opportunities to address these through enhanced climate financing, capacity building, better data systems, and inclusive governance. Community and CSO involvement is key to promoting climate adaptation, local ownership, and sustainable solutions. Engaging communities, facilitating partnerships, and integrating traditional knowledge will be essential for achieving long-term environmental and socio-economic outcomes. These gaps and opportunities are shaped by past achievements and the country's ongoing environmental goals.

Table 2. Gaps in previous OPs and opportunities for OP8

NO	GAPS	OPPORTUNITIES
1	Limited Financial Resources and Access to Climate Financing Although The Gambia has implemented successful projects through the GEF Small Grants Programme and other funds, access to large-scale, long-term financial resources for environmental projects remains a challenge, limiting the full scale of efforts in climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and land management.	The Gambia has the opportunity to enhance its access to international climate financing by leveraging its involvement in the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), and other climate financing mechanisms. Establishing stronger partnerships with international donors and development agencies can secure additional funding for large-scale projects.
2	Capacity Gaps in Local Governance and Implementation Despite progress, local government institutions and CSO's in The Gambia lack the technical capacity to effectively implement and monitor environmental policies, with national strategies often weakly implemented at the local level due to limited expertise in environmental governance.	Capacity-building programs in project management, climate resilience, and monitoring can enhance the skills of local authorities, community leaders, and CSOs, improving environmental governance. Collaborative training, technical assistance, and knowledge exchange can further strengthen stakeholders' ability to implement policies effectively.
3	Weak Integration of Environmental Sustainability into Key Economic Sectors While national planning documents highlight environmental sustainability in sectors like agriculture, energy, and land management, but there is often a disconnect between policy objectives and sectoral practices. For instance, traditional agricultural practices and unsustainable land use continue to degrade natural resources, and sustainable agricultural techniques often insufficiently promoted or mainstreamed.	There is an opportunity to mainstream environmental sustainability more effectively within key economic sectors by promoting sustainable agricultural practices, renewable energy solutions, and ecosystem-based approaches to land management. For example, climate-smart agriculture (CSA) under the Department of Agriculture can be strengthened and promoted to reduce the country's vulnerability to climate change, while renewable energy technologies such as solar and wind power can be integrated into the energy sector to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and improve energy access.
4	Inadequate Data and Information Systems for Environmental Monitoring The availability of reliable data for monitoring environmental indicators, including biodiversity, land degradation, and climate impacts, remains limited. Inadequate data systems hinder effective decision-making and policy implementation, making it difficult to track progress toward national and global environmental goals.	There is an opportunity to enhance data collection, monitoring, and reporting systems for environmental indicators. With the establishment of Climate Change Secretariat, at the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources, The Gambia can invest in digital tools, remote sensing technologies, and geographic information systems (GIS) to improve the accuracy and accessibility of environmental data. Involving local communities in data collection processes (e.g., citizen science) could also improve the accuracy and relevance of environmental data.

5	Environmental Awareness and Education Gaps Despite the increasing focus on environmental sustainability, there is still a significant gap in environmental education and awareness at the community level. Many communities remain unaware of the long-term impacts of unsustainable practices and the importance of preserving biodiversity and ecosystems.	The Gambia can enhance public awareness and environmental education programs targeting communities, environment and conservation clubs in schools, and local businesses focusing on climate change adaptation, sustainable agriculture, and natural resource protection. Collaboration with local CSOs, schools, and youth groups could amplify the impact of such campaigns and foster broader community engagement.
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3.3 OP8 strategic priorities of the SGP Country Programme

Table 2 summarises The Gambia's OP8 Strategic Priorities for the SGP Country Programme aligning with global OP8 Strategic Initiatives. It outlines the country's priorities based on its needs and opportunities, and identifying potential areas for complementarity and synergy with GEF, UNDP, government, and other donor-funded projects to promote co-financing, and avoid duplication.

Table 3. SGP Country Programme's alignment with SGP OP8 Strategic Initiatives and country priorities/projects/programmes

SGP OP8 Strategic Initiatives – Global	SGP Country Programme's OP8 Priorities	SGP Country Programme's complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and programmes
Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species 1) Improve the effectiveness of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and management through equitable governance systems by recognizing and respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. 2) Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy approaches (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.). 3) Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species.	1. Strengthen community-led conservation of threatened ecosystems and species, focusing on Community Conserved Areas (CCAs). 2. Promote the management of protected areas and biodiversity corridors to enhance ecological connectivity. 3. Address human-wildlife conflict through community-driven solutions and integrating biodiversity into key production sectors. • Community eco-tourism for biodiversity conservation • Including farmland restoration, community forest reserve protection, wetland conservation and mangrove conservation	- GEF's Biodiversity Program: Collaboration on protected area management, biodiversity corridors, and ecosystem conservation. - UNDP's CDP output 1.1.1: Natural Resources protected and managed to enhance sustainable productivity, livelihoods and mitigate effects of climate change and respond to disasters. - Partnership with local CBOs and or promote synergy with government agencies and projects for ecosystem restoration.
Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security 1. Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems (mountains, island ecosystems, etc.). 2. Increase diversification and livelihood improvement.	1. Promote sustainable agricultural practices (including agroecology) to reduce land degradation and promote biodiversity. 2. Support sustainable fisheries management, including the restoration of degraded mangrove ecosystems for fish breeding and coastal protection. 3. Improve livelihoods by empowering local communities in water harvesting, post-harvest	- GEF-7's Sustainable Agriculture Program: Co-financing for agroecology and sustainable fisheries practices. - UNDP's CDP output 1.1.1: Natural Resources protected and managed to enhance sustainable productivity, livelihoods and mitigate effects of climate change and respond to disasters: - FAO support for sustainable



3. Remove deforestation from supply chain and expand restoration of degraded lands.	<i>management, and promoting sustainable practices in agriculture, fisheries and apiculture</i>	fisheries, beekeeping and agriculture initiatives.
Low-carbon energy access co-benefits Support implementation of Paris Agreement and the NDCs 1. Promote renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods. 2. Promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas.	1. <i>Promote renewable energy solutions (e.g., solar and wind) for rural communities, such as Mini grid solar electrification and Use of solar cookers and dryers in schools</i> 2. <i>Increase energy efficiency and access to affordable energy services, with a focus on climate resilience, gender equality, and poverty reduction. E.g. use of energy savings / efficient cooking stoves and biogas</i> 3. <i>Support small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with low-cost, bottom-up energy solutions.</i>	- GEF-7's Low-carbon Energy Program: Support for market-based renewable energy solutions and energy access for rural communities. - UNDP's CDP Activity Result 1.1.2.1: Access to Clean and Renewable Energy. - World Bank's Energy Access Initiative: Partnership on energy projects for rural communities.
Enhancing social inclusion 1. Promote inclusive targeted initiatives. 2. Mainstream social inclusion in all projects. (e.g. women/girls, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities).	Enhancing social inclusion • Promote targeted inclusive initiatives. • Mainstream social inclusion in all projects. • <i>Give priority to women-led projects.</i> • <i>Ensure all projects mainstream gender.</i> • <i>Accord high priority and attention to projects targeting persons with disabilities.</i> • <i>Support projects led by women and youth.</i>	-Support the goal of "The Gender and Women -Empowerment Policy 2010 – 2020".
Knowledge Management (KM) 1. Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities. 2. Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs. 3. Conduct South-South Exchanges to promote technology transfer and replication of good practices.	Knowledge Management Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities. Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs. Conduct South-South Exchanges to promote technology transfer and replication of good practices. <i>Support projects aimed at promoting new innovations and knowledge sharing.</i> <i>Ensure that all projects have a KM plan to capture, analyze and disseminate results.</i> <i>Support projects that aim at building the capacity of CSOs on all aspects of project management.</i> <i>Support at last on KM fair that brings together SGP grantees to share experiences.</i> <i>Strengthen GEF CSO network as a platform for information and experience sharing.</i>	SGP reports feed into reporting systems of the MEAs.
Results Management, Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) 1. Administer new M&E strategy in Country Programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms.	Results Management, Monitoring & Evaluation Administer new M&E strategy in Country Programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms. Involve stakeholder institutions in the project monitoring and supervisions of projects related to their areas	Contribute to national budget formulation by lobbying for greater CSO support.



	Strengthen capacity building of key stakeholders by engaging training institutes in the area of procurement, report writing, financial management and project implementation	
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4. OP8 PRIORITY LANDSCAPES/SEASCAPES & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

4.1 Grantmaking within the priority landscape/seascapes

The OP8 SGP Country Programme, align with the GEF-7 priorities, will focus on priority landscapes and seascapes with significant ecological value degraded by unsustainable practices. The strategic assessments is guided by these efforts to ensure long-term environmental and socio-economic benefits.

a) Process for selecting priority landscapes and seascapes

For OP8, SGP in The Gambia will maintain its focus on the same **landscapes/seascapes** as OP7, having operated in these areas from 2020 to 2024. Despite progress further efforts are needed to consolidate and strengthen environmental and community outcomes ensuring the momentum from OP6 and OP7 is maintained and expanded.

Rationale for Continuing in the Same Landscapes/Seascapes:

1. Ecological and Biodiversity Significance

The three selected landscapes/seascapes from OP7 are globally significant **biodiversity-rich ecosystem** in The Gambia. These critical **biodiversity hotspots** face significant threats. The focus on these landscapes will contribute to preserving and restoring these environments to support biodiversity conservation locally and globally.

2. Synergy and Complementarity with Ongoing National Projects

SGP's work will continue to complement and enhance other GEF and national initiatives that are being implemented within the three landscapes/seascapes. Some of these initiatives include:

- **The Resilience of Organizations for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture Project (ROOTS)**, launched on February 9, 2021, aims to improve food security, nutrition, and resilience to climate change for smallholder farmers in The Gambia. Co-funded by IFAD, OFID, the GEF LDCF, AFD, the Government of The Gambia, and project beneficiaries, ROOTS seeks to enhance agricultural productivity, market access, and the resilience of family farms and farming organizations. The project focuses on investments in infrastructure and capacity-building for farmers' organizations, with a special emphasis on youth and women.
- **The Rural Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resilience Building Project (RICAR)** is a 5-year initiative funded by the Adaptation Fund, with the World Food Programme as the implementing entity and the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources (MECCNAR) as the executing entity. With a total budget of USD10,000,000, the project addresses environmental



degradation, unsustainable land use, and climate risks that impact agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods in The Gambia. It aims to enhance the adaptive capacity of rural populations by promoting climate-resilient and diversified livelihoods, with a particular focus on addressing gender inequalities that exacerbate vulnerabilities, particularly for women. The project seeks to reduce climate-related risks, improve food security, and support sustainable land management practices in rural communities.

3. Building on Existing Relationships and Progress

While significant progress has been made in conserving biodiversity and managing resources in these key landscapes/seascapes, further time is needed to ensure long-term sustainability. This includes consolidating partnerships with local communities and stakeholders, expanding capacity-building for civil society organizations (CSOs) and local entities to effectively use allocated funds, and ensuring the full implementation and monitoring of local regulations and by-laws related to natural resource management.

Challenges Encountered During OP7 in the Selected Landscapes/Seascapes

While there has been considerable progress, there were several **constraints and challenges** during the implementation of OP7 that need to be addressed moving forward into OP8:

1. Limited Capacity of CSOs to Fully Manage Funds

Despite selecting appropriately sized landscapes/seascapes, some Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and local communities remain under-utilized and undervalued in addressing global environmental and sustainable development challenges. Therefore, capacity building for CSOs is a key priority for OP8, with enhanced training and support needed to enable local CSOs to effectively design and implement projects, improving their ability to access and manage conservation and sustainable development funds.

2. Local Governance Committees' Capacity

Local **governance committees** that were established to monitor the implementation of local regulations regarding the utilization of natural resources have faced challenges in building their capacities to perform effectively. The **Local Government Act of 2012** established **Local Environment Management Committees (LEMCs)** as part of The Gambia's decentralization policy. However, many of these committees have become redundant over time. For OP8, it is critical that **SGP continues to support** these committees to enhance their capacity for environmental stewardship and resource management. Strengthening local governance is crucial for **sustainable development** and **conservation efforts** in these landscapes.

Consolidating Gains and Promoting Synergy in OP8

Based on successes and challenges from GEF-7 and alignment with national priorities, stakeholders have agreed that SGP should remain in the same landscapes/seascapes for GEF-8. This will allow the program to **build on existing progress, promote synergy between interventions, and enhance partnerships with national and international projects** for greater environmental impact. Staying in these areas will help ensure long-term impacts in biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and climate resilience, while addressing challenges like CSO capacity building and local governance.

b) Selected landscapes/seascapes for OP8

The Gambia will continue to operate in three identified priority landscapes and seascapes that will serve as the focus of grant-making: **Kiang West National Park (KWNP)**, **Jokadou National Park (JNP)**, and **Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve (BBWR)** (Figure 1). These areas have been carefully selected based on their global environmental significance, socio-economic characteristics, and the potential for meaningful interventions to enhance biodiversity conservation, improve community livelihoods, and promote sustainable development.

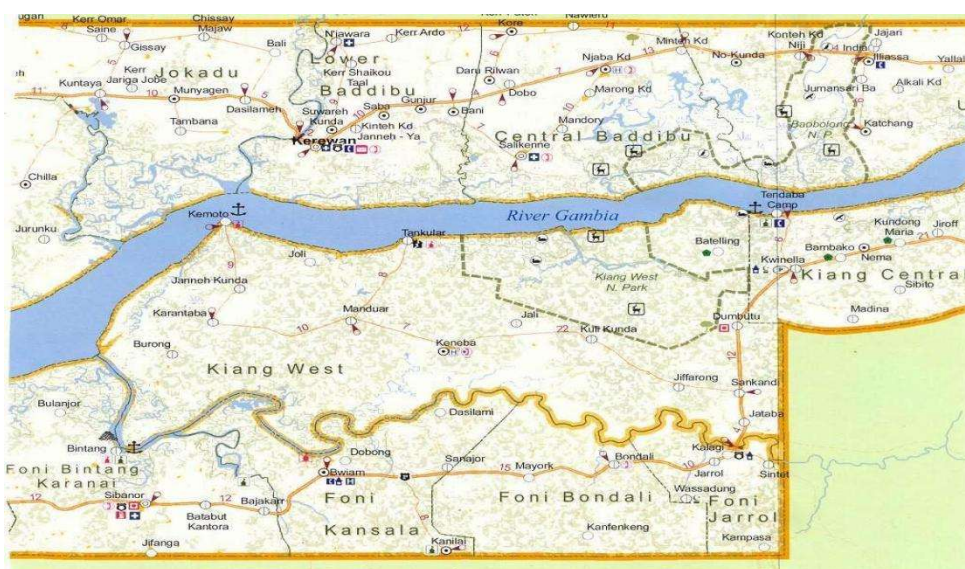


Figure 1. Map showing the 3 landscapes/seascapes for OP 8

Source: OP 7 CPS

1. Kiang West National Park (KWNP)

Kiang West National Park (KWNP), located in the Lower River Region, covers 11,526 hectares and lies between coordinates 16°15' to 16°30' West and 13°30' to 13°50' North. Approximately 12,754 people live in the surrounding area. KWNP is a biodiversity-rich ecosystem facing threats such as deforestation, illegal logging, poaching, and the impacts of climate change. Despite these challenges, the park has significant potential for community-based conservation, supported by traditional governance systems and local CSOs, which need further capacity building to enhance their effectiveness.

2. Jokadou National Park (JNP)

Jokadou National Park (JNP), a newly established protected area in the North Bank Region, spans 15,028 hectares and lies between coordinates 16°15' to 16°30' West and 15°45' to 13°30' North, covering three administrative districts. Renowned for its pristine mangrove forests and rich aquatic biodiversity, JNP is ecologically significant for conserving marine life and protecting mangrove ecosystems. However, it faces threats from illegal fishing, habitat destruction, and climate change impacts, such as rising sea levels and storm surges. Local communities, reliant on fishing and marine resources, struggle with poverty and require greater involvement in sustainable management practices. JNP presents opportunities for capacity building, particularly in mangrove restoration, eco-tourism development, and strengthening local governance systems to enhance conservation and livelihoods.



3. Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve (BBWR)

Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve (BBWR), located in the North Bank Region at approximately 13°15' to 13°30' North and 15°45' to 16°00' West, spans 22,000 hectares and extends into Senegal. Recognized as a RAMSAR site, the wetland is of international significance, hosting migratory bird species and a diverse range of fauna and flora. It faces significant pressures from illegal hunting, unsustainable agricultural practices, and pollution, which threaten its ecological integrity. Like other regions, BBWR is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, particularly flooding and coastal erosion. The local population, predominantly dependent on the wetland for agriculture and fishing and experiences high levels of poverty. Traditional governance structures and community-based resource management play a central role in the region, providing opportunities for sustainable interventions. The landscape also presents considerable potential for large-scale collaboration with international conservation efforts, especially given its cross-border importance.

In terms of socio-economic characteristics, all three landscapes are situated in areas with high poverty rates and low human development indexes. The surrounding communities are highly dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods, and there is a pressing need to improve local capacity to manage and conserve these critical ecosystems. Each landscape also offers significant opportunities to engage vulnerable groups, including youth, women, and indigenous communities, in conservation efforts. Additionally, these areas have the potential to serve as models for scaling up sustainable practices in other parts of the country.

The selection of these landscapes for OP8 is guided by their ecological importance, the challenges they face, and the opportunities they present for community-based conservation. Despite the high poverty rate and low human development indexes, these landscape/seascapes are vital biodiversity hotspots where communities depend on for its natural resources for their livelihoods. The interventions in these landscapes will focus on enhancing local governance structures, building capacity among stakeholders, and implementing innovative, sustainable solutions that will promote long-term resilience for both the ecosystems and the communities that depend on them. Through these efforts, SGP aims to strengthen the link between conservation and sustainable development, ensuring that the benefits of biodiversity are preserved for future generations while improving the quality of life for local populations.

Challenges Identified in OP7 and Key Considerations for OP8

Challenges Identified in OP7:

1. **Capacity Limitations in Some Landscapes/Seascapes:** During the implementation of OP7, it was observed that interventions were heavily concentrated in only one of the selected landscapes/seascapes, namely Kiang West National Park (KWNP). This was primarily due to the limited capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) in the other two areas—Jokadou National Park (JNP) and Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve (BBWR). The limited number and capacity of local organizations hindered their ability to fully participate in conservation efforts and benefit from the funds allocated.
2. **Weak Local Governance Structures:** Local environmental governance committees, intended to monitor the implementation of local regulations and by-laws regarding natural resource use, faced challenges in becoming fully functional. Despite efforts to create these committees, many of them lacked the required capacity to effectively carry out their roles. This weak governance structure undermined the overall effectiveness of community-based conservation interventions.



Additionally, while the Local Government Act of 2012 calls for the establishment of Local Environment Management Committees, several committees had become redundant due to lack of capacity and support.

3. **Inadequate Attention to Seascapes:** While OP7 focused on landscapes, there was insufficient emphasis on seascapes, especially in mangrove restoration. Mangrove ecosystems, critical for coastal resilience and biodiversity, were not given the same attention as terrestrial landscapes. This gap highlighted the need for more targeted interventions in seascapes, particularly for the restoration of mangroves and sustainable management of marine resources.
4. **Youth Migration Crisis:** Rural Gambia faces a significant youth migration crisis, with a large number of young people seeking opportunities in Europe. Many of these youth eventually return after unsuccessful attempts or deportation. While OP7 included youth-targeted programs to stem this migration, more focused efforts are needed to address the challenges faced by young people, especially in terms of providing alternative livelihoods and opportunities in their home country.
5. **Limited Integration of Gender and Vulnerable Groups:** While there was some consideration for gender and vulnerable groups in OP7, these elements were not as fully integrated across all projects. There is a clear need to enhance gender-transformative approaches and ensure that vulnerable groups, including women, youth, and indigenous communities, are more actively engaged in conservation and development activities.
6. **Pressure on Protected Areas:** The **Protected Areas** (Kiang West, Jokadou, and Bao Bolong) continue to face pressure from local communities seeking access to resources. GEF 8 will continue to focus on **community-driven conservation** and **sustainable livelihoods**, such as **agroforestry**, **bee-keeping**, and **community-based forest management**, to reduce human-wildlife conflicts and pressure on protected area resources.

Landscape/Seascape Typology for OP8

In OP8, a clear and structured landscape/seascape typology is critical to guide the identification, categorization, and management of diverse ecosystems within The Gambia. This typology will assist in prioritizing interventions based on ecological, socio-economic, and governance factors, ensuring targeted and effective conservation and sustainable development efforts. The following typology outlines key landscape and seascape units based on ecological characteristics, land-use patterns, and community involvement.

1. **Farmlands:** Farmlands key typologies in The Gambia, constituting a significant portion of rural livelihoods through agriculture, including subsistence farming and small-scale commercial crops. Intervention in these areas critical for food security, will focus on promoting sustainable agricultural practices, soil conservation, agroforestry, and enhancing biodiversity-friendly farming techniques.
2. **Wildlife Protected Areas (PAs):** Protected areas such as Kiang West National Park, Jokadou National Park, and Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve are essential for conserving critical biodiversity, maintaining ecosystem services and supporting key wildlife habitats for global and national significant species. Key interventions will aim to strengthen conservation management, enhance community participation, and reduce pressures from unsustainable resource use within these areas.
3. **Community Forest Reserves:** Community-managed forest reserves are integral to rural livelihoods, providing timber, non-timber forest products, and supporting local biodiversity. However, overharvesting and land-use changes pose threats to these ecosystems. Interventions will focus on strengthening local



forest management, promoting sustainable harvesting practices, and enhancing community ownership and stewardship.

4. State Forest Parks: State forest parks, typically managed by the government or with public-private partnerships, are significant for both conservation and recreation. These areas are often home to valuable forest resources and serve as important recreational spaces for the local population and tourists. Interventions in state forest parks will focus on sustainable management, rehabilitation of degraded areas, and increasing awareness of the importance of these areas for both biodiversity and tourism.

5. Floodplains (Lowland Rice Fields): Floodplains and lowland rice fields are vital ecosystems for food production, particularly rice farming. These areas provide critical wetland services such as water filtration and flood mitigation but are increasingly threatened by encroachment, soil degradation, and changes in water availability due to climate change. Interventions will include sustainable water management practices, floodplain restoration, and increasing community resilience to changing environmental conditions.

6. Tributary Inland Valleys: Inland valleys, which are important for agriculture and water storage, are sensitive ecosystems prone to flooding and soil erosion. These areas provide critical resources for smallholder farmers, particularly in the context of irrigation. However, unsustainable agricultural practices, deforestation, and lack of proper land management exacerbate their vulnerability. Interventions in this typology will focus on enhancing soil conservation, water management, and sustainable agricultural practices to ensure the long-term health and productivity of these ecosystems.

7. Hills: Hills and upland areas are vital for water catchment, biodiversity, and provide natural barriers to soil erosion. These areas are particularly important for watershed management, and they are often under threat from agricultural expansion, deforestation, and mining. Interventions in these landscapes will focus on watershed conservation, erosion control, and the restoration of degraded uplands to ensure the sustainable management of natural resources. Establishment old abandoned quarries as hotspots for key biodiversity species like dragonflies, butterflies, birds for ecotourism development

8. Mangrove Wetlands: Mangrove ecosystems are crucial for coastal protection, providing habitat for numerous species of fish, crabs, and birds. They also protect coastal communities from storm surges and flooding. However, mangrove ecosystems are increasingly threatened by deforestation, land reclamation, and unsustainable harvesting practices. OP8 will prioritize mangrove restoration, establishment of community wetlands protected areas, and the sustainable management of coastal areas, focusing on community-based restoration, sustainable mangrove harvesting, and the creation of protected coastal zones.

9. Fallow Fields: Fallow fields, typically left unused for a period to regenerate, are common in agricultural landscapes. These fields provide an opportunity for soil recovery and biodiversity regeneration but are at risk of becoming degraded through improper land management practices. Interventions in fallow fields will focus on promoting agroecological practices that support biodiversity conservation while maintaining soil fertility and preventing further land degradation.

Each of these typologies will undergo a resilience assessment using indicators from the Socio-Economic Production Landscape (SEPLs) toolkit, to measure their economic, ecological, and socio-cultural functions.



The resilience score of each typology will be based on factors like biodiversity value, ecosystem services, community dependence, and vulnerability to environmental stressors. This will guide **prioritization of** interventions to allocate resources effectively to the most vulnerable landscapes/seascapes.

In OP8, the priority will be to build on the achievements of the previous phase while addressing the remaining gaps and challenges in the selected landscapes/seascapes. Key strategic focus areas include:

1. **Building Capacity and skills:** A key consideration for OP8 will be to strengthen the capacity of NGOs, CSOs and CBOs, particularly in Jokadou National Park and Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, to ensure that they can fully engage in conservation efforts and utilize available funding. This will involve targeted training, capacity-building initiatives, and the creation of strong local networks to ensure that all landscapes and seascapes benefit equally from grant-making opportunities.
2. **Strengthening Local Governance:** The capacity of local governance structures, especially environmental management committees, must be enhanced in OP8. Building on lessons learned from OP7, SGP will focus on providing additional support to these committees to ensure they are fully functional and capable of implementing local regulations effectively. This will be crucial for ensuring sustainable natural resource management and community-driven conservation.
3. **Increased Focus on Seascapes and Mangrove Ecosystems:** OP8 should prioritize seascapes, particularly mangrove restoration, which was an underemphasized area during OP7. Given the importance of mangrove ecosystems for coastal protection, biodiversity, and local livelihoods, SGP should expand its interventions in these critical areas. This could include community-based mangrove restoration, sustainable fisheries management, and eco-tourism development to improve both environmental and socio-economic outcomes.
4. **Addressing the Youth Migration Challenge:** Youth migration remains a critical issue in rural Gambia. In OP8, SGP should strengthen its focus on providing alternative livelihoods and opportunities for youth, particularly through sustainable agriculture, eco-tourism, and other green jobs. Engaging the youth in conservation and sustainable development projects can help reduce migration pressures and provide a positive future within their communities.
5. **Integration of Gender and Vulnerable Groups:** A more robust and inclusive gender approach should be central to OP8. This means ensuring that women, youth, and indigenous groups are not only beneficiaries of the projects but are also empowered as active participants in decision-making processes. Gender-sensitive approaches will be critical in creating equitable opportunities for community involvement in conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and capacity building.
6. **Linking with Larger Scale Initiatives:** OP8 should aim to build on the successes of previous phases by expanding partnerships with other large-scale conservation initiatives, including those supported by international donors, multilateral agencies like UNDP, and private sector actors. By leveraging these partnerships, SGP can co-finance projects, scale up successful interventions, and increase the broader impact of its work.
7. **Innovation and Knowledge Sharing:** OP 8 should focus on incorporating innovative approaches to conservation and sustainable development. This might include using digital tools for community engagement, monitoring biodiversity, and promoting knowledge-sharing among local communities, NGOs, and governments. Leveraging new technologies will help maximize the efficiency and impact of conservation efforts.
8. **Logistical Considerations:** While the landscapes and seascapes selected for OP 8 are ecologically significant, logistical challenges such as geographic accessibility and infrastructure limitations must be carefully considered. This may require the development of more accessible approaches to reach remote communities and enhance project implementation.



In summary, OP8 offers an opportunity to address the challenges faced in OP7 by focusing on capacity building, governance strengthening, and the integration of gender and vulnerable groups. By expanding its focus on seascapes and addressing the migration crisis, SGP can contribute to long-term ecological and socio-economic sustainability.

c) OP8 Strategic Initiatives in the landscapes/seascapes

SGP in The Gambia will build on the strategic initiatives from GEF-7, with a focus on scaling up successful approaches and achieving greater impact through integrated and multi-focal strategies. The programme will prioritize three global strategic initiatives within the three key landscapes/seascapes: community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species, sustainable agriculture and fisheries for food security, and low-carbon energy access co-benefits. These will be complemented with the three mandatory initiatives including enhancing social inclusion, knowledge management (KM), and results management, monitoring & evaluation (M&E) to enhance greater impact.

The first strategic initiative focuses on **community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species**. Key ecosystems such as mangroves, wetlands, forests, and protected areas like Kiang West National Park, Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, and Jokadou National Park will be the focal points for conservation work. Local environmental committees (LECs) will be strengthened to enhance their role in managing protected areas, and community-based conservation efforts will include species protection programs for threatened species. Additionally, sustainable livelihoods aligned with conservation efforts, such as eco-tourism, beekeeping, and sustainable forest management, will be promoted to reduce human pressure on natural resources. Collaboration with the government, NGOs, and local communities will ensure that these conservation activities are deeply integrated with national strategies, including the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

The second strategic initiative will address **sustainable agriculture, fisheries, and food security, promoting agroecology and agroforestry**, to increase agricultural productivity while maintaining ecological balance. It also aims at sustainable fisheries management, particularly in the coastal and wetland areas of Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve and Jokadou National Park to protect marine biodiversity and improve food security in rural areas. Partnerships with the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries and Water Resources, and various international and local stakeholders will be key to aligning agricultural and fisheries policies with conservation efforts.

The third strategic initiative **low-carbon energy access co-benefits** supports low carbon emission technologies and renewable energy solutions to meet increasing energy demands by local communities. It will promote market-based access to affordable modern energy services, provide sustainable financing of small and medium size enterprises aimed at reducing poverty, increasing climate resilience, enhancing gender equality and contribute to sustainable development goals. The initiative will support the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the NDCs by promoting the use of solar cookers and driers in rural communities, biogas and conservation of carbon sequestration at the community level.



In terms of resource allocation, 70% of SGP's resources during OP8 will continue to be directed toward these three priority landscapes/seascapes, where the majority of the country's critical biodiversity and conservation efforts are concentrated. The remaining 30% will be distributed to other regions of the country, focusing on emerging opportunities for conservation and sustainable development. This strategic allocation will allow for the scaling up and replication of successful interventions, ensuring that the lessons learned from these priority areas benefit the broader national context.

Through these strategic initiatives, OP8 will not only deepen the impact in key landscapes/seascapes but also ensure that the efforts are coordinated across sectors, creating synergies between conservation, livelihoods, and sustainable development. This integrated approach will maximize the long-term impact of SGP's work and help build a more resilient, sustainable future for the people and ecosystems of The Gambia.

d) Grantmaking outside the priority landscapes/seascapes

For OP8, in addition to the global strategic initiatives, SGP will extend its grant-making efforts beyond the three priority landscapes/seascapes to include the three mandatory strategic initiatives that align with broader national and global environmental goals. These initiatives will address critical challenges in sustainable development, while fostering partnerships between civil society, government, and the private sector.

Given that funding for these initiatives is limited to 30% of the total country allocation for OP8, each project will receive depending on the scope and priority focal areas. Efforts will be made to ensure that interventions are spread equitably across regions and communities to avoid marginalization, with a particular focus on areas outside the priority landscapes/seascapes. These initiatives will complement the work being done in the landscapes and seascapes, creating a cohesive and integrated approach to sustainable development and environmental protection throughout The Gambia.

4.2 CSO-government-private sector dialogue platforms

The GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) in The Gambia will actively support and sustain CSO-Government-Private Sector Dialogue Platforms to enhance collaboration, influence policy, and drive sustainable environmental practices at all levels. These platforms will aim to foster greater engagement between civil society organizations (CSOs), government agencies, and the private sector, facilitating a two-way communication flow that ensures grassroots voices are heard in national policy discussions and that successful, locally driven solutions can be scaled up.

Key Objectives of the CSO-Government-Private Sector Dialogue Platforms:

The CSO-Government-Private Sector Dialogue Platforms aim to strengthen the role of CSOs in advocating for policy changes and participating in environmental governance by representing community concerns and proposing grassroots solutions. Linking grassroots to national/local policymakers by bridging the gap



between grassroots communities and national/local policymakers and facilitate the uptake of good practices to ensure policies reflect local realities and prioritize marginalized groups. The platforms will enhance communication and collaboration to facilitate sharing of successful local practices to influence national and regional policies and promote their replication. Additionally, enhancing communication and collaboration among stakeholders across sectors, will foster an integrated approach to sustainable development and addressing complex issues like climate change, land degradation, and biodiversity conservation.

Proposed Themes for the Dialogue Platforms:

The proposed themes for the Dialogue Platforms include **joint CSO-Government preparations for international environmental conventions** like COPs where CSOs, government, and the private sector will collectively plan national positions and advocate for Gambian interests at the global level. They also aim to accelerate the **achievement of UN SDGs**, particularly Goal 13 (Climate Action), Goal 14 (Life Below Water), and Goal 15 (Life on Land). The platforms will support local to global chemical coalitions focused on hazardous waste and ensure alignment with global frameworks such as Basel and Stockholm conventions. It will also enhance Agro-ecology farmer networks and producer organisations to promote sustainable agriculture and strengthen the capacity of farmer organizations to advocate for policy changes that support Agro-ecological practices. Additionally, they will promote **National federations of indigenous and community conserve areas (ICCAs)** to help Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) strengthen dialogue platforms around Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs), advocating for the recognition of traditional land management in national policy.

Involvement in Policy Processes:

SGP's work with these dialogues will directly inform national and regional policy processes, including **Updates to the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)** to ensure that local priorities and biodiversity conservation practices are reflected in national policy incorporating feedback from CSOs and local communities. Furthermore, the SGP will support dialogues to inform updates to The Gambia's **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs)**, particularly focusing on locally-driven climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, as well as community-based resilience practices. In addition, **National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA)** process will curb inputs into NAPA processes by ensuring that the experiences of vulnerable communities, especially those in rural and coastal regions, are integrated into national adaptation strategies. The dialogues will also focus on supporting the government to develop **Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)** that are inclusive of community-driven mitigation measures, particularly in sectors such as agriculture, forestry, and energy. The SGP through these platforms will strengthen CSOs and local communities to engage in meaningful dialogues with government and the private sector, influencing policies to promote sustainability, equity, and resilience.

4.3 Promoting social Inclusion, including gender equality and women's empowerment

The SGP Country Programme in The Gambia will adopt a comprehensive and inclusive approach to promoting social inclusion, with a focus on gender equality, youth empowerment, Indigenous Peoples



(IP), and persons with disabilities. These efforts will be embedded across all programming and projects in the priority landscapes/seascapes, ensuring that the most marginalized groups are central to sustainable development efforts. The programme will also engage key stakeholders and establish focal points within the National Steering Committee (NSC) to monitor, implement, and mainstream these approaches across all relevant initiatives. The key strategies and approaches to promoting social inclusion in OP8 are outlined below:

(a) Promoting Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality:

The Gambia’s SGP will prioritize gender equality and women’s empowerment by ensuring that women are actively engaged in decision-making processes and have equal access to resources and opportunities. The situation of women in the selected landscapes/seascapes is often characterized by limited access to land, resources, and decision-making roles. In rural areas, where agriculture and natural resource management are key sources of livelihood, women are often the primary caregivers and resource managers but are excluded from leadership roles.

Strategies and Actions:

The SGP will prioritize **gender-focused building initiatives** by conducting capacity-building programs to empower women in sustainable agriculture, resource management, and entrepreneurship, fostering leadership in conservation efforts. It aims to ensure that projects mostly benefit **women** or emphasize women’s empowerment, supporting livelihoods like agroecology, beekeeping, and community-based tourism. **Gender-sensitive resource allocation** will be implemented through responsive budgeting to adequately fund women’s initiatives. Additionally, the program will **strengthen women’s networks** in rural communities to facilitate knowledge-sharing, rights advocacy, and influence on local and national policies.

(b) Empowering Indigenous Peoples:

Indigenous Peoples and local communities play a key role in conserving biodiversity and managing natural resources sustainably. The SGP will support the recognition and empowerment of Indigenous Peoples, in the communities.

Strategies and Actions:

Promote the recognition and formalization of Indigenous Peoples’ and local communities’ territories as **Recognition of ICCAs** (ICCAs), ensuring that their traditional conservation practices are integrated into national biodiversity strategies and policies. **Collaboration with IP Organizations** including Indigenous Peoples’ organizations and networks to promote their rights and ensure their voices are included in dialogues on biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation, and sustainable development.

(c) Empowering Youth in The Gambia, especially in rural areas, face limited access to education, employment, and opportunities for leadership. However, they represent a critical resource for future sustainability and change.

Strategies and Actions:

The SGP will prioritize **youth-led projects**, empowering young people to take leadership roles in sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and biodiversity conservation, with at least **30% of projects** focusing on youth engagement in sectors like sustainable farming, reforestation, and clean energy. Targeted **training and capacity-building** programs will equip youth with essential skills for green



entrepreneurship, environmental stewardship, and climate resilience efforts. Additionally, the program dialogues and forums to **enable youth to actively engage** in environmental policy dialogues with policymakers, government officials, and the private sector, advocating for policies that address critical challenges such as youth migration, unemployment, and climate change.

(d) Promoting Participation of Persons with Disabilities:

Persons with disabilities (PWDs) are often marginalized and excluded from development processes. The SGP will ensure that persons with disabilities are fully included in its programmes and projects.

Strategies and Actions:

SGP will ensure **accessibility in projects** by making activities accessible to persons with disabilities (PWDs), including those with physical, sensory, or intellectual disabilities. **Awareness and sensitisation campaigns** will challenge stereotypes and promote the participation of PWDs in conservation and sustainable development. **Capacity-building for PWDs** will empower them with skills in sustainable agriculture, conservation, and leadership, enabling them to lead and contribute to community and environmental projects.

Focal Points and Monitoring:

The SGP Country Programme will designate gender focal points within the National Steering Committee (NSC) to oversee the integration of gender equality, youth, IP, and disability inclusion in all activities. These focal points will ensure that these principles are reflected in project proposals, monitoring frameworks, and reporting.

Additionally, the Country Programme will engage in regular monitoring and evaluation to assess the impact of these initiatives on social inclusion and adjust strategies accordingly. A gender-sensitive monitoring framework will be developed to track the participation of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and persons with disabilities in all projects.

In summary, the SGP Country Programme in The Gambia is committed to promoting social inclusion and fostering gender equality, youth empowerment, and the recognition of Indigenous Peoples. By embedding these principles into its strategic initiatives and project implementation, the programme will contribute to building more equitable and sustainable communities in the selected landscapes and seascapes.

4.4 Knowledge Management

The SGP Country Programme in The Gambia will prioritize knowledge management (KM) to capture, share, and disseminate lessons learned and good practices from SGP projects, ensuring broad access and fostering greater impact, replication, and scaling up of innovations. The programme will employ a comprehensive approach to knowledge generation and dissemination, including **Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Products, Knowledge Sharing Platforms, Knowledge Fairs and Peer-to-Peer Exchanges, Demonstration Sites, Policy Engagement.**

The SGP will focus on **generating and sharing knowledge** through systematic documentation of lessons learned and best practices in areas like sustainable agriculture, conservation, and renewable energy,



supported by regular evaluations. **Knowledge products** such as case studies, manuals, and visual tools will be developed to highlight innovations and provide guidance for replication. A digital platform will enable **Knowledge Sharing Platforms** among stakeholders, complemented by **knowledge fairs**, **peer-to-peer exchanges**, and South-South learning initiatives to foster collaboration. **Demonstration sites** within selected landscapes will serve as practical models for stakeholders to adopt sustainable practices. Additionally, with **policy engagements**, insights from these efforts will inform national and regional policy processes, integrating grassroots innovations into broader development and environmental strategies.

Through these strategies, the SGP Country Programme will create an ecosystem of knowledge that fosters innovation, scales up successful interventions, and influences policy decisions, driving long-term sustainable development in The Gambia. SGP will also contribute to the Digital Library where innovations and How-to-do manuals will be offloaded to promote replication of innovations and success stories.

5. COMMUNICATION PLAN

The communication strategy for the SGP Country Programme in The Gambia during OP8 will focus on fostering active participation, building strong relationships, and promoting partnerships among key stakeholders, including civil society organizations (CSOs), government bodies, the private sector, and local communities in the selected landscapes and seascapes. The overarching goal is to raise awareness about global environmental challenges and sustainable development issues, while articulating the programme's contributions to national priorities, GEF programming, and UNDP strategies. Epecifically, it will help to enhance understanding of global environmental challenges, such as biodiversity conservation, climate change, and poverty reduction, while highlighting their connections to local livelihoods. It seeks to build partnerships and advocacy efforts for sustainable solutions, particularly in biodiversity, climate resilience, and gender equality. Additionally, the programme will mobilize resources and actions from stakeholders and raise awareness about the SGP's contributions and impacts at local, national, and global levels. Key messages emphasize the role of community-led efforts, including contributions from CSOs, women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples, in advancing sustainable development, while showcasing how SGP initiatives align with global frameworks like the SDGs, NBSAP, and NDCs to address poverty, environmental protection, and climate change adaptation.

Target Audiences:

The target audiences for the program include local communities and CSOs to involve them in environmental protection and empower them through knowledge sharing and resource mobilization; government and policy-makers to influence policy decisions and integrate sustainable development lessons; the private sector to foster collaboration on sustainable business practices and investments in green technologies; grantees to discuss achievements and challenges while offering recommendations; donors and development partners to ensure ongoing funding and partnerships; and the NSC to provide updates on program delivery through meetings and field visit reports highlighting achievements and constraints.



Communication Activities:

The communication activities involve using **storytelling and visual media** to highlight community-driven success stories, particularly in women's empowerment, youth participation, and biodiversity conservation, shared through **social media, website, and** School Conservation and Environment clubs. Regular updates on success stories, project progress, policy advocacy, and knowledge products will be posted on **social media platforms** and the **website**. **Publications such as reports**, newsletters, and policy briefs will provide updates on SGP initiatives and their impact on environmental goals. **Events and workshops**, knowledge fairs, and public dialogues will promote learning and partnerships, while participation in local and international **collaborative platforms**, such as policy dialogues and conventions, will position SGP as a leader in sustainable development.

By utilizing various communication tools and strategies, the SGP Country Programme will ensure that its initiatives are well-understood and supported by key stakeholders, while strengthening partnerships and advocating for integrated, sustainable solutions to environmental challenges in The Gambia.

6. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND PARTNERSHIP PLAN

The Resource Mobilization and Partnership Plan for the SGP Country Programme in The Gambia is designed to enhance the impact and sustainability of grantmaking efforts by leveraging co-financing and establishing strategic partnerships across multiple sectors. This plan focuses on securing both cash and in-kind contributions at the project, landscape/seascape, and country levels, as well as identifying opportunities for co-financing from a wide array of stakeholders.

Secured and Planned Cash and In-kind Co-financing

- **Secured Co-financing:** The SGP Country Programme in The Gambia has secured co-financing from a variety of sources for some ongoing projects. These include in-kind contributions from local communities, including labor and land, and financial contributions from government agencies and national institutions. For example, the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Natural Resources has committed resources for joint conservation projects in the selected landscapes and seascapes. Additionally, some regional and international donors have pledged funding for specific thematic areas such as biodiversity conservation and sustainable agriculture. Plans are in place to actively pursue co-financing opportunities from multilateral and bilateral donors, such as the European Union, USAID, and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), for upcoming projects in key sectors like climate resilience, biodiversity protection, and sustainable livelihoods. In-kind co-financing will also be sought from local government entities and the private sector, particularly for initiatives that focus on renewable energy, youth employment, and sustainable business practices.

Co-financing Opportunities

- **1. GEF and Non-GEF Resources:** The Country Programme will engage with both GEF and non-GEF donors to co-finance the strategic initiatives of the CPS, focusing on areas aligned with the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By targeting key priorities such as biodiversity



conservation, sustainable energy, and climate change adaptation, the programme will approach a range of multilateral and bilateral donors, including the EU, the World Bank, and international foundations, to secure co-financing. These resources will help expand the reach of the SGP's initiatives, particularly in the three priority landscapes/seascapes, and scale up successful projects with global environmental benefits.

- **2. Recovery of Costs to Co-finance Non-grant Costs:** To support the operational costs of the SGP Country Programme, the plan includes strategies for recovering costs through a combination of government contributions, UNDP resources, and collaboration with National Host Institutions. These funds will be used to cover the non-grant operational costs of the programme, ensuring that it remains sustainable in the long term. Additionally, collaboration with other development partners will be explored to contribute to the administrative costs of implementing the programme and managing its portfolio.
- **3. Serving as a Delivery Mechanism for Other Projects:** The SGP Country Programme will explore the opportunity to serve as a delivery mechanism for other donor-funded projects, especially in the areas of biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, and climate change mitigation. By working with donors such as GEF, the European Union, and other international agencies, SGP can leverage its local networks and community-based approach to help deliver larger-scale, multi-donor programs. This will not only enhance the effectiveness of the Country Programme but also attract additional resources and partnerships.
- **4. Potential Private Sector Funding:** The SGP Country Programme will also explore opportunities for private sector engagement, particularly in supporting successful sustainable enterprises that align with the programme's goals. By focusing on sectors such as agroforestry, sustainable agriculture, and renewable energy, the Country Programme will seek to develop partnerships with local businesses and international corporations that are committed to corporate social responsibility and sustainable development. These partnerships could include funding for scaling up successful projects or providing in-kind support through technologies, expertise, or market access for local communities.

The Resource Mobilization and Partnership Plan aims to enhance the sustainability of the SGP Country Programme by actively pursuing diverse co-financing sources and fostering strong partnerships with a broad range of stakeholders. By securing financial resources from international donors, leveraging local government and private sector contributions, and exploring opportunities to serve as a delivery mechanism for other programs, the SGP Country Programme will be able to maximize its impact in The Gambia while contributing to the achievement of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

7. PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The SGP Country Programme in The Gambia recognizes the importance of leveraging strategic partnerships to broaden funding opportunities and enhance the overall impact of its initiatives. While not all funds will go directly to SGP, the programme aims to facilitate access to additional financial resources



for its stakeholders—particularly local communities and civil society organizations (CSOs)—through its extensive networks and technical expertise.

Activities and Approaches for Leveraging Partnership Opportunities

1. Strengthening NSC and TAG Engagement: The National Steering Committee (NSC) and Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) will be central to facilitating partnerships with other donors and funding mechanisms. These bodies, with their extensive experience and local knowledge, will help guide communities and CSOs in preparing proposals that align with the priorities of other donor agencies, both national and international. Their involvement will ensure that proposals meet the criteria and requirements of external funding sources, increasing the chances of successful funding applications. TAGs, with their specialized expertise, will also provide targeted technical support to project design, enhancing the quality and feasibility of proposals.

2. Capacity Building for CSOs and Local Communities: To enable communities and CSOs to access a broader range of donor funding, the SGP Country Programme will conduct capacity-building activities, including training workshops on proposal writing, financial management, and monitoring and evaluation. These activities will equip local organizations with the skills necessary to engage with external funding sources and manage funds effectively. Additionally, SGP will provide support in identifying appropriate funding opportunities and creating partnerships with donors whose objectives align with those of the country programme.

3. Facilitating Linkages with Donors and Funding Agencies: SGP will actively facilitate connections between local communities, CSOs, and key donor institutions. This will involve organizing networking events, donor roundtables, and collaborative platforms that bring together funding agencies with community representatives and civil society actors. Through these events, SGP will help raise awareness of the various funding opportunities available, enabling stakeholders to access additional resources for their environmental and community development projects.

4. Promoting Collaborative Proposals and Joint Initiatives: SGP will encourage collaborative proposals and joint initiatives that bring together multiple stakeholders—including local communities, CSOs, government bodies, and private sector actors. By supporting multi-stakeholder partnerships, SGP will increase the likelihood of attracting co-financing from larger donor institutions and foundations. These collaborative efforts will also enhance the scalability and sustainability of the projects, as they draw on diverse resources and expertise.

5. Identifying Alternative Funding Mechanisms: In addition to traditional donors, SGP will explore non-traditional funding sources, including private sector funding, impact investors, and social enterprises. By connecting local initiatives with sustainable businesses and impact-driven investors, SGP can expand its resource mobilization efforts. For instance, the Country Programme will identify sectors where private sector actors are already engaged, such as renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and ecotourism, to develop joint proposals or public-private partnerships.

The strategy for partnership opportunities emphasizes collaboration, capacity building, and networking to enable SGP stakeholders to access a wider range of funding sources. By leveraging the expertise of the NSC, TAGs, and local organizations, SGP will facilitate the development of high-quality proposals, connect



stakeholders with donors, and build sustainable partnerships that increase the flow of resources to environmental and community projects. Through these efforts, the programme will maximize its impact, scaling up successful initiatives and fostering long-term sustainability for local communities.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

The implementation of the Country Programme Strategy (CPS) during OP8 will face several potential risks that could affect the achievement of its objectives. It is essential to identify these risks early, assess their probability and impact, and establish effective mitigation measures to ensure successful project delivery. The key risks identified for the OP8 implementation in The Gambia are social and environmental, climate-related, and broader risks such as political instability and natural disasters.

Table 4. Description of risks identified in OP8

Describe identified risk	Degree of risk (low, medium, high)	Probability of risk (low, medium, high)	Risk mitigation measure foreseen
Social & Environmental Risks Projects may unintentionally harm local communities or ecosystems, especially if social and environmental safeguards are not properly adhered to.	Medium	High	- Strict adherence to UNDP's Social and Environmental Safeguards. - Conduct comprehensive Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs). - Regular consultations with local communities and stakeholders.
Climatic Risks Climate-related hazards such as flooding, droughts, and rising temperatures could disrupt project activities, particularly in agriculture and water resources.	High	High	- Develop and integrate climate resilience strategies into project design. - Implement early warning systems for climate-related disasters. - Use of biological species such as birds/plants to monitor climate conditions - Promote climate-smart practices.
Political Risks Changes in government, political instability, or weak governance structures could affect project continuity or create challenges in implementing policies.	Medium	High	- Ensure political neutrality in project activities. - Foster dialogue and partnerships with political stakeholders and civil society to promote stability. - Build strong relationships with local government bodies.
Natural Disasters Natural disasters (such as flooding, drought, or extreme weather events) could damage infrastructure or disrupt project implementation, especially in vulnerable areas.	Medium	Medium	- Design projects with disaster resilience features. - Establish disaster response and recovery plans. - Ensure the flexibility of projects to adapt to changing conditions.
Economic Risks Economic downturns or shifts in the global or local economy could reduce funding or resources for key initiatives.	Medium	High	- Diversify funding sources through co-financing from national and international donors. - Prioritize cost-effective and high-impact interventions.



These identified potential risks will be monitored regularly at the project level during implementation and will be reviewed annually during the CPS review process and the Annual Monitoring Report preparation. Based on the outcomes of the regular reviews, the identified risks may be adjusted or removed and new ones added as necessary.

9. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan for OP8 is designed to ensure that the Gambia Small Grants Programme (SGP) achieves its intended outcomes and impacts, while aligning with the strategic goals of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the SGP Country Programme Guidelines (2019). This plan outlines the M&E approach, budget allocation, key performance indicators, and strategies for assessing the progress and impact of the SGP projects during OP8. The M&E system will focus on results-based tracking, continuous learning, and evidence-based decision-making to enhance the effectiveness of interventions

1. Synergizing with Indicators

The SGP OP8 will utilize the Project Roster of Indicators guided by the SGP Country Programme M&E guidelines specifically designed to measure the economic, environmental, and social outcomes of the projects, as well as the contributions towards broader national and global environmental goals, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Key indicators will be aligned with the objectives of the strategic initiatives under OP8, including **Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries, Community-based Conservation, Climate Resilience, Social Inclusion and Gender Equality**.

At project conclusion, grantees will report on these indicators in their mid-term and final progress reports, ensuring that results are tracked and shared transparently.

2. M&E Budget

Each SGP project will allocate 4-6% of its total grant to project-level monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities, covering regular **project progress reporting** of regular activities and on indicators and milestones, **evaluations and impact assessments** to be funded through the projects M&E budget including mid-term or final evaluations, and reporting on **GEF-8 indicators** to track the contributions to GEF'S global objectives. The M&E budget will be flexible enough to accommodate changes in monitoring needs over the course of the project and will be used to facilitate data collection, analysis, and reporting.

3. Impact Reviews

As part of the OP8 M&E plan, an **Impact Review** will evaluate the overall impact of the country programme, with emphasis on **evidence-based knowledge production** to collect and analyse data on the result of the programme especially on social inclusion, scaling up, and policy influence. It will examine programme strengths and challenges, such as community engagement and gender equality promotion, alongside challenges like scaling up, resource mobilization, and policy engagement. The review will also track the **Broader Adoption and Replication** of successful projects and integration of best practices into policies, as well as assess the programme's **Delivery Mechanisms** of the effectiveness of the GEF's strategic initiatives and other funding sources. The **Impact Review** will be done by an independent team



of evaluators by engaging key stakeholders and beneficiaries to assess the real-world effects of SGP's interventions.

4. M&E Process and Activities

The M&E process for OP8 will involve continuous tracking and reporting using both qualitative and quantitative data, beginning with **baseline assessments** to establish reference points for measuring progress covering environmental, social, and economic factors. **Regular monitoring** will include six-month progress report to be submitted by grantees with specific information on site visits, and stakeholder feedback. **Mid-term evaluations** will assess progress and enable course corrections, while **final evaluation and impact assessment** by the end of the project will assess the outcomes, impact and sustainability of the project. Additionally, **Knowledge Sharing** of products such as case studies, lesson learnt and best practices will be generated and shared through knowledge fairs, online platforms and peer-to-peer exchanges, and South-South collaborations

5. Stakeholder Involvement in M&E

Stakeholder engagement will be central to the M&E process, with **Community Involvement** by engaging local communities and beneficiaries in data collection and progress monitoring to ensure the system addresses their needs. **CSO and Government Engagement** will enhance collaboration with civil society organizations and government agencies to promote transparency, participation, and alignment with national development priorities.

6. Lessons Learned and Adaptive Management

The M&E plan will be design to enhance learning and adaptation by documenting and sharing key lessons across the country programme and international networks. This will promote **scaling up successful innovations** through regional replication and policy advocacy, while also supporting **adaptive management** by using monitoring data to refine project activities and enhance future project designs.

9.1 Monitoring approaches at project and country levels

The OP8 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) approach for The Gambia's Small Grants Programme (SGP) aims to track progress at project and country programme levels, with grantees using SMART indicators to monitor activities and report progress. At country programmes level, data from individual projects will be aggregated and analyzed to assess cumulative impact, stored in the SGP database, and regularly updated to ensure data quality. A standardized data collection framework will be implemented, including baseline data and regular reviews, ensures data quality. This will be supported by an M&E inception workshop to build grantee capacity in monitoring and reporting complemented with monitoring visits conducted at least once per project, with potential joint-monitoring partnerships with other organizations. Participatory monitoring, a key feature of M&E systems will involve vulnerable groups like women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples, following ethical guidelines such as free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC), with communities actively contributing to the process. The SGP database will centralize all project data, enabling real-time tracking of indicators such as environmental sustainability and social inclusion.



Regular portfolio evaluations will assess the overall impact, and the system will allow for adaptive management to improve project outcomes and ensure the sustainability of interventions.

Table 5. M&E Plan at the Country Programme level

M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible Parties	Budget Source	Timing
Country Programme Strategy elaboration	Framework for action including identification of community projects	NC, NSC, country stakeholders, grantees	A SGP planning grant to engage consultants may be used to update OP7 CPS	At start of OP8
As part of NSC meetings, ongoing review of project results and analysis. This includes an Annual CPS Review	Assess effectiveness of projects, country portfolio; learning; adaptive management	NC, NSC, UNDP Country Office. Final deliberations shared/ analyzed with CPMT colleagues	Staff time, Country Operating Budget	At least one annual CPS review to ensure OP8 CPS is on track to achieve its results and make timely and evidence-based modifications to CPS as may be needed ²
Annual Monitoring Report Survey ³	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF. It serves as the primary tools to record and analytically present results to donors	NC/PA in close collaboration with NSC. CPMT provides technical guidance support and receives final country submission for further action	Staff time	Once per year in June-July
Country Portfolio Review	Methodological results capture of the portfolio at a given point to note impact level change as well as broader adoption. The goal is to support reporting to stakeholders, learning, and	NC, NSC	SGP planning grant to engage consultants may be used to undertake previous operational cycles impact review and utilize lessons for both OP8 CPS development and its implementation	Once per operational phase

² It is recommended that the Annual CPS review is done close to AMR submissions for both processes to benefit from each other (suggested timeframe is May- July). Note that OP8 CPS will be regarded as a dynamic document and can be updated by the SGP country team and NSC on a periodic basis to reflect any necessary adjustments to ensure maximum impact.

³ Timely and quality country level submissions to Annual Monitoring Process are mandatory. As a Global Programme, it enables aggregated reporting by CPMT to GEF, UNDP and other stakeholders.



M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible Parties	Budget Source	Timing
	support to strategic development/ implementation of CPS		Global technical M&E support can be expected	
SGP Database	Ensure recording of all Project and Country Programme inputs in SGP database	NCs, PAs,	Staff time	Throughout the operational phase. Ensure quality assurance and completion of data prior to annual monitoring cycle (May- June of every year)
Audit	Ensure compliance with project implementation/management standards and norms	External/independent auditors. NC/ PA to provide requisite support.	Global Operating Budget	Annually for selected countries on risk-assessment basis



9.2 CPS Results Framework

Table 6: Results Framework of SGP OP8 Country Programme Strategy

Alignment with SDGs The CPS will contribute to the attainment of the following Sustainable Development Goals: - Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere. - Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture - Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages - Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls - Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all - Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable - Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts* - Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development - Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss		
Synergy with UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD): The purpose is to support synergy for broader adoption and provide a mechanism for improved coordination and joint work. Output 1.1.1: Natural resources protected and managed to enhance sustainable productivity, livelihood and mitigate effects of climate change and respond to disasters Output 1.1.2: Solutions adopted for chemicals and water management, and to achieve universal access to clean, affordable, and sustainable energy and clean cooking		
OP8 SGP Programme Goal: Engage local CSOs/CBOs in landscape-seascape approaches across the world, providing them access to knowledge and information, capacitating them through learning-by-doing, skills development, and delivering technical and grant assistance for interventions that enhance wellbeing and socioeconomic conditions and generate global environmental benefits.		
1 OP8 SGP CPS Strategic Initiatives	2 CPS Indicators and Targets	3 Means of Verification
<u>Strategic Initiative 1:</u> Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species	• 2,655 hectares of terrestrial protection areas newly created or under improved management effectiveness (GEF core indicator 1) • 200 hectares of marine protected areas created or under improved management (GEF core indicator 2) • 50 hectares of land and ecosystems under restoration (GEF core indicator 3) • 30 hectares of marine habitats (OECMs) under improved practices (GEF core indicator 5)	-Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports) -Baseline assessment comparison variables (use of conceptual models and partner data as appropriate) -Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database - Country Programme Review
<u>Strategic Initiative 2:</u>	• 25 hectares of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (GEF core indicator 4.1, 4.3 and 5.5)	-Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports)



Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security	• 12 partnerships to advance sustainable agriculture and fisheries and/or food security (such as diversification, sustainable intensification, sustainable fisheries management, agroecological farming practices, climate-smart agriculture, certification programmes, local sourcing initiatives, waste reduction and circular economy, etc.). • 300 tons of food products harvested from improved agricultural land and or practices	-Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database -Country Programme Review -Socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes (SEPLs)
<u>Strategic Initiative 3:</u> Low-carbon energy access co-benefits	• Carbon Sequestered or tons of greenhouse gas emissions mitigated/avoided (GEF core indicator 6) • kW increase in installed renewable energy capacity from community-scale systems (e.g., biomass, micro-hydro, solar, etc.) • number of locally adapted solutions promoting low-carbon technologies (such as new/modified biogas technology, locally developed energy-efficient stoves, innovative uses of solar/wind energy, etc.)	-Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports) -Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database -Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)
<u>Strategic Initiative 4:</u> Enhancing social inclusion	• 30,000 people benefitting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex (GEF core indicator 11) • 30 projects with focused interventions promoting gender equality and women's empowerment • 10 projects that demonstrate models of engaging (a) Indigenous Peoples, (b) youth, and (c) persons with disabilities. • 40 grants with targeted support for 1) women or women groups; 2) youth or youth-led groups; 3) Indigenous Peoples' groups • 70 - 80% (amount of grant funding) of total grant portfolio accessed by 1) women or women groups; 2) youth or youth-led groups; 3) indigenous peoples' groups	-Individual project reporting by SGP country teams -Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database -Country Programme Review
<u>Strategic Initiative 5:</u> Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management	• 25 projects with meetings involving local CSOs/CBOs or communities to monitor project results, assess impacts, and identify lessons learned • 2 knowledge exchange/sharing events with participation of local communities • 1 online knowledge repository developed as a result of SGP project • 1 country/cross-country impact reviews conducted with evidence of SGP impact and lessons learned. • 2 South-South exchanges between communities, NGOs/CSOs, or other partners within or across countries to transfer knowledge, replicate technology, tools or approaches on global environmental issues	- Individual project reporting by SGP country teams - Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database - Country Programme Review



10. NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT

NSC members involved in OP8 CPS development, review and endorsement	Signatures
Sambou Nget	
ABDOULIE FYE	
DR. DAWDA BANGIE	
Ismaïla Jangou	
Fafa O. Cham	
JOE BONGA	



Annex 1: Landscape baseline assessment process (i.e. supporting materials, including updates from OP7)

Annex 2: Supporting details for specific country co-financing partnerships and delivery mechanisms

Annex 3: Country strategy description for participation in the global co-financing partnership with the Global ICCA Support Initiative (GSI) Phase 2 funded by the German BMUV IKI in line with the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Targets 3, 21, 22 and 23 (2023-2028).

Annex 4: Landscape strategy description for participation in the global co-financing partnership with Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS) Phase 4 funded by the Government of Japan (2023-2027).

Annex 5: Country strategy description for participation in the global co-financing partnership with Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) programme Phase 3 funded by the Government of Australia DFAT (2022-2027).