



DRAFT
SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY
OP8 IMPLEMENTATION
TIMOR-LESTE





GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY SMALL GRANT PROGRAMME

SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY FOR OP8 SGP CPS OP8

**GEF SGP TIMOR-LESTE
2024 – 2028**

**UN HOUSE
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
TIMOR-LESTE, RUA KAIKOLI, DILI**

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List of Acronyms

AAP = Annual Action Plan
ABS = Access and Benefit-Sharing
CBA = Community-Based Adaptation
CBO/s = Community-Based Organization/s
CPS = Country Programme Strategy
CSO = Civil Society Organization
ENSO = El Nino Southern Oscillations
FAO = Food and Agriculture Organization
GEF = Global Environment Facility
GDP = Gross Domestic Product
GNI= Gross National Income
NAPA = National Adaptation Plan of Actions
NAMA = Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
NAP = National Action Programmes
NBSAP = National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
MC = Minamata Convention on Mercury
MTE = Ministry of Tourism and Environment
MAPFF/MALFF = Ministerio de Agricultura, Pequaria, Pescas e Floresta / Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry,
MMCS = Management, Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MSSI = Ministriu Solidaridade Sosial no inklusaun / Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion
NSC = National Steering Committee
NAPCLD = National Action Programme to Combat Land Degradation
NCSA = National Capacity Self-Assessment
NC = National Coordinator
NPFE = National Portfolio Formulation Exercise
NIP = National Implementation Plan
NGO = Non-Government Organization
NOP = National Ocean Policy
OP8 = Operational Phase 8
PA = Project Assistant
POP = Persistent Organic Pollutants
PRSP = Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
SGP= Small Grant Programme
SAPs = Strategic Action Programmes
UNDP = United Nations Development Programme
UNOPS = United Nations Office for Project Services
UNCBD = United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNFCCC = United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFCCC/COP21 = United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change/Conference of Parties
UNCCD = United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
USAID = United States Agency for International Development
WFP = World Food Programme



OP8 FINANCIAL RESOURCES - SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME (ESTIMATED US\$)¹

Total SGP Grants to date since (2013)	USD 3,255,200
OP8 GEF Core Funds:	USD \$456,818
OP8 GEF STAR Funds:	USD 642,530
Other funds (secured)	USD 0.0
Other funds (expected/to be mobilized).	USD 0.0

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 organizations (CSOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) in designing and leading community-driven initiatives that have enhanced household well-being, increased awareness and resilience regarding environmental threats, and generate global environmental benefits. With economic development pressures 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.

The objectives of the SGP OP8 are 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 reflect the key features of Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme 2.0, including new approaches to support youth, women and Indigenous Peoples, linking up with complementary 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, OP8 will facilitate opportunities for innovation and scaling up, catalyze multi-stakeholder alliances to test new approaches through CSOs, and leverage its dialogue platforms towards greater impact. OP8 will also align and contribute to the UNDP Strategic Plan (2022-2025).

Timor-Leste is a small country and the youngest country in Southeast Asia, with a coastline of 735 km and a land area of less than 16,000 km². Geographically, Timor-Leste is part of Timor Island, which is divided into 2 parts: the eastern part of the island is Timor-Leste, and the western part is part of Indonesia as one of the provinces of Indonesia. The territory of Timor-Leste includes the enclave Oe-

¹ The level of SGP OP7 resources is an estimated total of: (i) the GEF7 core grant allocation (to be reviewed annually by CPMT on the basis of performance, co-financing and strategic partnerships, demonstrated NSC commitment rates, and UNOPS delivery); (ii) approved STAR resources; as well as (iii) other sources of third-party cost sharing & co-financing (country, regional and/or global levels). SGP countries with remaining OP6 balances that have not been pipelined will be expected to use these balances in line with the OP7 strategic approach in order to be coherent in terms of SGP programming and results expected.

Cusse in the west of Timor-Leste, the Atauro Island and the small island of Jaco to the east of Timor-Leste.

Timor-Leste is located between the Australian Continent in the south and the Southeast Asian region in the north and directly borders the Indonesian archipelago. As a tropical country, Timor-Leste is only affected by two seasons, that is, the rainy season and the dry season, and the type of climate is C and E category or dry climate with a total annual rainfall ranging from 1,700 - 2000 mm. Under normal conditions the rainy season starts in November and ends in May.

In November–March, the entire territory of the country gets rain brought by the western wind (west Monsoon). In May- July, some part of the country, mostly the south coastline, gets the remaining rain from the Australian continent (east monsoon). The northern part of the country is relatively dry, while the areas in the east and south of the country are green. The middle part of the country is a mountainous area with the highest peak being Ramelau mountain, and the environment of the middle part of the country is greener, because the area is dominated by evergreen species such as casuarinas, *Eucalyptus europhyla*, *Eucalyptus deglupta* and other rainforest tree species. Meanwhile, the northern part of the country is dry due to a lack of rainfall and is an area dominated by broadleaf tree species, the tree species that shed their leaves during the dry season due to a lack of water.

Timor-Leste was restored to independence by the United Nations (UN) in 2002 and has now been independent for 22 years. The total population of Timor-Leste based census 2022 was 1.340.434 people. It is estimated that the population of Timor at the end of 2025 will be 1.42 million people with an annual growth rate of 1.8%. Based on the data from the report of Ministry of Finance in December 2022, more than 42% of the total population still live below the poverty line with a monthly income of less than one dollar. The economy of the country is heavily dependent on offshore oil and gas. Oil and gas contribute 95% of the government revenue. The technology-intensive oil industry has done little to create jobs. Until now, the economy of Timor-Leste has depended on oil, mainly offshore oil, while the non-oil sector has not developed properly. Most of the people of Timor-Leste are farmers who live in rural areas, but agriculture is still considered a job for small and uneducated people. The government opens opportunities to the youth to work in abroad agriculture production. This opportunity allows them to earn income and learn new techniques in agriculture and environmental protection. Their earnings will support their families, reducing the dependence of communities on forest resources. Although the government has made some efforts to improve the economic situation of the rural communities through social allowances such as a monthly allowance for the elderly and families with low income, these efforts have not brought significant improvement to the economic situation of the rural communities. Timor-Leste remains one of the poorest countries in Southeast Asia and is heavily dependent on foreign aid. Timor-Leste has been a recipient of the GEF SGP since 2012. Over the past 12 years, the GEF SGP has continuously provided technical and financial support to the community members, consistent with its aim to support developing countries in implementing UN environmental conventions

Timor-Leste has ratified several UN multilateral environmental agreements, such as the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Local level actions by CSOs and CBOs, indigenous peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities are recognized as essential to forming multi-stakeholder alliances to deliver global environmental benefits and contribute to the GEF-8 Programming Directions, UNDP's Strategic Plan, and national priorities to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals and other international commitments.

2. COUNTRY PROGRAMME SUMMARY: KEY RESULTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The GEF SGP has been operating in Timor-Leste since 2012 and has now been 12 years in providing technical and financial support to communities to implement environmental protection and livelihood improvement projects. Since then, GEF SGP Timor-Leste has carried out various activities aimed at environment restoration and improvement of community livelihoods, including strengthening food security and phasing out poverty, which is part of the policy strategy of the government of Timor-Leste.

During the OP7 implementation period, the GEF SGP Timor-Leste received a total of US\$1,200,000. This amount included US\$1,000,000 from GEF CORE resources and US\$200,000 from the CBA programme. At the end of December 2024, total funds allocated to the community projects were \$808,000, of which \$677,500 were GEF CORE resources and \$130,500 were CBA programme resources.

At the end of December 2024, SGP Timor-Leste still had a remaining budget of a total of \$392,000 consisting of \$322,500 of CORE resources and \$69,500 of CBA resources. The remaining funds from both CORE (OP7) and CBA sources will all be completed, and the project will be completed before the end of December 2026.

2.1. Total funds allocation

The OP7 resource was allocated to support the implementation of community projects on climate change mitigation, conservation of land degradation, conservation of biodiversity, protection and conservation of mangrove forests and wetland biodiversity. Until July 2025, the remaining funds of OP7 resources of US\$677,500 and CBA program of US\$69,500 had completed allocated to support community projects;

- **Climate change mitigation**, the total of 37 projects for climate change mitigation and were implemented. The project activities included the introduction of organic farming practices, agro-forestry and the promotion of firewood efficiency cook stoves to rural households. The total budget allocated for climate change mitigation was US\$ 640,500. At end of December 2025 the 33 projects completed, and 4 projects will be completed soon before the end of December 2026.
- **International Water Project**. During the OP7 period, there were three (3) projects implemented to conserve wetland biodiversity, two (2) projects were implemented using remaining OP6 resources, and one (1) project was supported with OP7 resources.

The total OP7 resources allocated to community projects on wetland biodiversity conservation is \$25,000 USD. The project was completed in October 2023. The activities implemented in the project were planting new seedlings around degraded land of the lagoon, establishing a community camping group and fishing point for the community members who want to catch fish in the area of the lagoon, once they do the monitoring, to ensure there are no illegal activities in and around the lagoon.

- **Land degradation**. The total number of projects for conservation land degradation was 16 projects, and the total budget allocated for the land degradation project was US\$314,500. The activities of the project also include reforestation and agroforestry farming.
- **Biodiversity project**. During OP7 period, only one local NGO applied to implement a project aimed at enriching forest biodiversity and conserving endemic species and their habitat. The total funds provided to implement the project was \$20,000 USD.

2.2. Total project beneficiaries

During GEF SGP operating in Timor-Leste, the SGP has provided opportunities to community members in rural areas to create alternative livelihoods to earn additional income and improve technical skill capacity of the rural community members in protecting and conserving their environment and sustainable agricultural practices.

At end of June 2025, all funds received during the OP7 period, including funds of the CBA program and remaining funds of OP6 resources, have been fully allocated to local NGOs and CBOs to implement projects with rural communities. At the end of December 2025, total projects implemented during OP7 operation was 55 projects implemented under OP7 resources and 9 projects under CBA programme funding and 2 project with remaining OP6 resources. At the end of December 2024, all projects are fully implemented and will be completed by the end of June 2025. There were 49 organizations or groups consisting of 33 local NGOs and 16 CBOs.

During the OP7 implementation period, the total amount of rural community members involved or have received benefits was 938 households. Rural households who receive direct project benefits are those whose household members are directly involved in implementing project activities. In the OP7 period the number of households involved in the implementation of the project is 938 households with the total household members receiving benefits from the project is 3,750 people, consisting of 1,799 men and 1,947 women.

To improve the technical skills of the youth (young boys and girls), the SGP projects also involve the youth in the project activities, such as technical training and piloting the implementation of the project in the field, with 659 youth.

2.3. Topology project implemented

During the implementation of the projects, the grantees, together with community project beneficiaries, have implemented several pilot projects as the learning center for the community, among others, are.

- **Improvement of farming practices/Organic farming.** The number of organic farms established or implemented by community members is 16 organic horticultures from 16 community groups and 4 organic farms implemented by farmers. The main objective of introducing organic horticulture or organic farming practices is to improve the technical knowledge of the community of project beneficiaries about organic fertilizers so that farmers do not always depend on synthetic or chemical fertilizers which they have to purchase in the market and also prevent or reduce the shifting cultivation practices to obtain fertile land. The results achieved are that the community project beneficiaries, especially the women, have now produced organic fertilizers using legume leaves or their kitchen scraps to be used on their vegetable garden to improve vegetable growth.
- **Introduced and Established agroforestry farming farm.** In the OP7 implementation. the grantees. together with community projects beneficiaries. have implemented 9 agroforestry farms to improve land degradation and restore forest vegetation and to improve diversification of agriculture production and farmers' income. The objective of the agroforestry farm is to restore the function of the farmland as well as to conserve degraded land by planting fruit trees and forest trees on the land. The results achieved were that 45 families had implemented agroforestry gardens on critical land with a total area of 50 hectares in the period 2022 - 2024.
- **Implement community forest.** To enrich forest vegetation and other ground cover vegetation to improve the degraded land, the community project beneficiaries establish a community forest on the community land. Total community forest established in OP6 was 2 pilots, each with a large area of 2 hectares or 4 hectares. The community forests are established by farmers on their own

land, and some of the community forests are established on springs (water sources) to protect and improve the environmental conditions around the springs. The results achieved up to 2024. The total community forest established by the project beneficiaries in 2024 is 6 springs and 4 hectares of community forest on the degraded land.

- **Rehabilitate the mangrove forest.** During operation in Timor-Leste, GEF SGP Timor-Leste has provided funds and technical assistance to community members in Ulmera, Kaitehu, Liquisa, Aibalete, Bobonaro and Suai Loro, Covalima to rehabilitate mangrove forests along the beach of the respective area. The total mangrove forest rehabilitated was 220 x 50 meters.
- **Access to fresh water.** In the operational phase of OP7 (OP7), SGP Timor-Leste provided funds to the community in the Uaruana aldeia, Biqueli suco, Atauro Island. to implement the desalination process to provide drinking water for the community in the Uaruana aldeia. Now the community with a total of 150 households in the Uaruana aldeia have accessed clean water for their family needs after years of relying on rainwater and brackish water from an old well in their aldeia. Through the SGP project, the community has access to proper drinking water. The total funds allocated to build this desalination system or process are \$25,500 USD.
- **Developed and provided improved cook stove.** During OP6 and OP7, SGP Timor-Leste provided funds to rural communities to develop and distribute firewood-efficient cookstoves to reduce excessive use of firewood for cooking in rural families. By the end of December 2024, at least 500 households have used firewood-efficient (improved) cookstoves. The result of this project is the number of bundles of firewood in the project beneficiaries' houses. Normally, the community consumes 3 bundles of firewood a week, after using an improved cook stove, only one bundle a week.

Collecting firewood is a common view for rural communities, not only for household needs but also for sale to urban communities. To reduce the need for firewood for cooking, in the OP8 period, the SGP project will also cooperate with the national directorate of Forestry and the National Directorate of Environment to improve the cooking stoves for rural households. During the OP8 period, the SGP will introduce the improved cooking stoves to the semi-urban communities to reduce the purchase of firewood from the rural communities. At least 2 projects will be implemented in introducing improved cooking stoves to the semi-urban community households.

- **Introducing alternative income generation.** Around 80 - 85% of rural communities are farmers who depend on rainfall levels (rain-fed farmers), which are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and/or any changes in rainfall patterns. Community income is highly dependent on agricultural production, such as corn, rice, and livestock. In the OP8 period, SGP Timor-Leste will continue to support the community members to explore alternative sources of income for rural communities, especially women and young girls, to earn additional income for their families, such as vegetable gardening, handicrafts, and raising small livestock and other activities to get additional income. In the OP7 periods, SGP Timor-Leste has supported women and young girls and boys involved directly in horticulture activities for cash and to improve family nutrition.
- **Provided Solar energy, In the OP6 and OP7, SGP Timor-Leste has provided support to rural communities to implement solar electrification to access energy.** At the end of December 2023, a total of 126 families in the rural areas have access to electricity. SGP Timor-Leste, through an innovative program to provide energy access for indigenous communities, has provided solar energy to rural communities in the municipalities of Manatuto, Covalima, Ainaro, Bobonaro, Viqueque and Manatuto for access to electricity. At the end of the December 2024 a total of 245 households in the mentioned municipalities have illumination at night. The school children are

able to study or do their homework at night. However, there are still many rural communities that need light to illuminate their dark nights.

1. COUNTRY PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

3.1. Alignment with National Priorities

After becoming an independent country in 2002, Timor-Leste remains one of the poorest countries in the world. Timor-Leste is a food-deficient country, importing 60 per cent of its food needs due to low agricultural productivity. The country is vulnerable to climate change and a range of natural hazards. Reflecting on the landslide incident in April 2021, Timor-Leste is still the most vulnerable country for climate-induced disasters ranking 16th on the World Risk Index in 2021. Disasters such as landslides, flash floods, tropical cyclones, earthquakes, forest fires pose a threat to the livelihoods of more than 70 percent of the population who depend on rain fed agriculture as a main source of income.

Although the country has made significant developmental progress, Timor-Leste still experiences some of the highest rates of under-nutrition in the world. Forty-seven percent of children under five years of age experience stunted growth, 8.6 percent suffer from acute malnutrition, and 23 percent of women of reproductive age (15 -49 years) are anemic.

Timor-Leste is a food deficit country with 27% of the population suffering from food deprivation (FAOSTAT; FAO et al. 2017). In 2009–2010, 58% of children under 5 were stunted, which is considered very high according to the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF Public Health Prevalence Thresholds (WHO and UNICEF 2017). The development of the agricultural sector as the main livelihood of the community is still largely carried out by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), both national and international, with funds mostly coming from international donors, while the government has not made a real contribution to agricultural development. Timor Leste is the country in Southeast Asia that imports the most rice for its citizens' needs. This is because Timor Leste farmers still do not have good technical knowledge in agricultural practices, so much of the agricultural land is unproductive, fallow land.

Timor-Leste has ratified several UN conventions on the protection and conservation of the environment and natural biodiversity. The following table is a list of several UN/International conventions approved/ratified by the Government of Timor-Leste regarding environmental protection and conservation. In OP7, GEF SGP Timor-Leste has been providing support to the community members to implement their initiatives in supporting conventions that have been ratified by the government. In OP8, the GEF SGP of Timor-Leste will coordinate with relevant government agencies in providing support to community to implement the objectives of the UN conventions, which have been ratified by the government.

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

Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
GEF-8 National Dialogues	Under planning
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	January 2007
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	February 2012, 7 th national report ongoing
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	Under process
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	January 2007
UNFCCC National Communications (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd)	1 st finish and 2 nd Finish 3 rd finished

UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	Drafted
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	December 2010
Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Paris Accord	Under Process
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	April 2006
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAPF)	February 2009
Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Under process
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	May 2017
Minamata Convention (MC) on Mercury	-
UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	September 2015
Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) for the UN SDGs	16 May 2019
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies (IW) ²	April 2023
Others (list) as relevant	
National Action Programme to Combat Land Degradation (NAPCLD)	November 2008

3.2. Gaps and Opportunities

Timor-Leste is a new country in the world that emerged in the millennium era with a lack of capacity for both human resources as well as economic resources to develop the country. The Government of Timor Leste has ratified several UN conventions on environmental protection since 2006, as shown in the table above. Implementing all these commitments requires adequate human resources with good skills and capacities. The Government of Timor-Leste, until now, still lacks human resources capacity and mostly relies upon international (bilateral and multilateral) donors and petroleum funds to develop its human resources.

During the GEF SGP operations in Timor-Leste, SGP Timor-Leste has been providing financial and technical assistance to rural communities through local NGOs and CBOs in various environmental protection and livelihood improvement projects to increase community income and food security. All the projects implemented by the local NGOs and CBOs, together with the target community members, have provided positive lessons learned that will be scaled up, replicated and/or modified in the OP8 implementation. Partnership networks and cooperation with relevant government agencies will be further strengthened during the OP8 operation.

During the OP7 period, SGP has established intensive coordination with several relevant government agencies such as the General Directorate of Environment, the General Directorate of Agriculture, the General Directorate of Forestry Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Coordination with relevant government agencies to strengthen partnership networks in project implementation facilitates SGP activities to contribute to the national plan on environmental protection and improving community livelihoods.

SGP will fill the gaps in community development that have not been reached by local government policies and other development institutions, particularly in environmental protection and improving community livelihood. SGP provides opportunities for rural communities to improve their livelihood and lives and provides job opportunities to the youth while improving their knowledge and technical capacity to address global environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation and international waters. Communication and coordination with related government

² Please also identify existing IW regional projects and the regional SAPs adopted by countries sharing international waterbodies so as to align SGP local interventions. Please check this website to find some of the SAPs: <http://iwlearn.net/publications/SAP>

agencies, such as the Directorate General of Forestry, Food and Nutrition, and the Environment, will strengthen and increase the level of involvement in community project implementation.

3.3.OP8 Strategic Priorities of the SGP Country Programme

Table 2. SGP Country Programme's alignment with SGP OP8 Strategic Initiatives and Country Priorities/Projects/Programmes.

1	2	3
SGP OP8 Strategic Initiatives – Global	SGP Country Programme's OP8 Priorities	SGP Country Programme's complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and
<i>Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species</i> 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 approach (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.) 3) Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species	1. Improve community-led biodiversity-friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, eco-tourism, infrastructure, etc.). 2. Increasing the effectiveness of protected area management using traditional mechanisms and sharing the governance with communities and local governments. 3. Enhance community-led actions for the protection of threatened species	UNDP YEES project and green transformation project and SES Project RID Project
<i>Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security</i> 1) Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems (mountains, SIDS, etc). 2) Increase diversification and livelihood improvement. 3) Remove deforestation from supply chain and expanded restoration of degraded lands.	1. Improve diversification of income sources and livelihood practices. 2. Reduce deforestation from traditional farming practices and increase restoration of degraded lands by promoting reforestation and agroforestry farming to recover land degradation and ecosystem losses . 3. Increasing food production to reduce economic disparities and protect ecosystems vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.	UNDP YEES project and green transformation project and SES Project
<i>Low-carbon energy access co-benefits</i> Support implementation of Paris Agreement and the NDCs 1) Promote renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods.	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 communities to reduce the excessive use of fossil energy. Provide improved cook stoves	UNDP Accelerating Clean Energy access (ACCESS) and Green Transformation Projects

2) Promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas.	for semi -urban household to reduce the use of firewood in an aspect of sustainable forest ecology.	
Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management 1) Reduce and promote alternative to mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining. 2) Promote plastics/solid waste management and circular economy 3) Reduce/remove use of chemicals in agriculture 4) Enhance local to global coalitions on chemicals, waste and mercury management	1. Reduce/eliminate the use of chemical substances in increasing agricultural production by promoting organic farming practices to the rural farmers to reduce and/or eliminate the use of chemicals substances to improve agriculture production.	UNDP Green Transformation Project
Community-based Adaptation (with AusAID or other funding – not eligible with GEF funding) 1) Reduce vulnerability and improve the adaptive capacity of communities 2) Provide countries with concrete ground-level experience on CCA 3) Provide clear policy lessons and mainstream CBA within national processes.	1. Reduce vulnerability and improve the adaptive capacity of communities. 2. Provide countries with concrete ground-level experience on CCA	UNDP Green Transformation Project
CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms 1) Promote/enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, strategy development related to global environment and sustainable development issues	1. Promote/enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, strategy development related to global environment and sustainable development issues	UNDP ICT Skills and Knowledge for Youth in Timor-Leste (ISKY-TL)
Enhancing social inclusion (mandatory) 1) Promote targeted initiatives 2) Mainstream social inclusion in all projects (e.g. women/girls, indigenous peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities)	Enhancing social inclusion 1. Mainstream social inclusion in all project's activities 2. Promote targeted initiatives 3. Provide assistance to women and young girls to improve their technical capacity	UNDP ICT Skills and Knowledge for Youth in Timor-Leste (ISKY-TL)
Knowledge Management (mandatory) 1) Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities 2) Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs	Knowledge Management 1) Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities 2) Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs	Accelerating Clean Energy access (ACCESS)

3) Conduct South-South Exchanges to promote technology transfer and replication of good practices		
Results Management, Monitoring & Evaluation (mandatory) 1) Administer new M&E strategy in country programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms	Results Management, Monitoring & Evaluation 1) Administer new M&E strategy in country programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms	

4. OP8 PRIORITY LANDSCAPES/SEASCAPES & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

4.1. Grantmaking Within the Priority Landscape/Seascapes³

Timor-Leste is an LDC with lower-middle income status that relies on its natural oil and gas revenue-based sovereign wealth Petroleum Fund for its annual state budget. The majority of the population lives in rural areas, as farmers on subsistence farming. Based on data available from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry (MAPFF), 80% of the population of Timor-Leste lives in rural areas with the main livelihood is farmer and practicing shifting cultivation agriculture practices. Most of these rural communities live on mountain slopes and practice shifting cultivation which leaves the slopes barren and arid. The agriculture officers of Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, fisheries and Forestry said that degraded land mostly as the result of shifting cultivation farming practices. Based on a study conducted by a team from the forest conservation program of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries together with JICA, Timor-Leste loses forest land 10,000 hectares every year. To prevent and/or reduce the land degradation, the forestry department will plant 1,000 hectares of forest land every year. To achieve this objective the government required contributions from civil society and community members.

SGP Timor-Leste has gone through 3 GEF implementation phases, from OP5 to OP7. During these periods, GEF SGP Timor-Leste has provided financial and technical support to communities to improve their agricultural practices as their main livelihood in all the efforts to protect and conserve the environment. It has produced a countable number of results for community members and the global environment.

To scale up the best practice of GEF SGP contribution, in this OP8, the SGP Timor-Leste will approach potential donors such as JICA and USAID as well as DFAT to support the community to scale up or replicate best practices. GEF SGP Timor-Leste will establish partnership networks through coordination with related institutions, especially the Ministry of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Environment and the other potential donors in Timor-Leste.

4.1.1 Process for selecting priority landscapes and seascapes.

The formulation of the CPS for OP8 for GEF SGP Timor-Leste was done through coordination with NSC members and other information obtained during consultation with relevant government agencies such as the national directorate of forestry and the national directorate of climate change and several local NGOs.

³ Refer to the various guidance documents on landscape/seascape selection and assessments.

The process of each step as follows:

Step 1; **Coordination meeting with NSC members.** The coordination meeting with National Steering Committee (NSC) members is to review the OP7 CPS.

Stage 2; **Consultation with government agencies.** To obtain an overview of the priority plan for environmental and forest conservation, consultations were conducted with the Director General of Forestry and the National Director of the Environment.

Step 3; **Country Programme Strategy Update**, the draft CPS was sent back to NSC members for their needed and/or additional information or data before sending to CPMT.

NSC meeting for reviewing the OP7 CPS for OP8 CPS development.

The meeting was to review the CPS OP7, if it is still relevant to be used in the next four-year period or need to develop a new Country Programme Strategy (CPS) for OP8 implementation.

In the meeting, the NCS members decided to stay with OP7 CPS because the strategy is still relevant to the NAP on forest and environment development. The recommendation of the NSC members in the CPS review meeting is that the implementation needs to focus on a specific geographic location to get a significant impact on the project and save time for monitoring the project implementation. Another recommendation from the NSC chair is to coordinate with relevant government agencies to discuss government policies on landscapes and seascapes that have been selected so that the CPS objectives can be aligned with government policies.

Consultation and coordination with relevant government agencies

To acquire information on the priority plan for forest conservation for environment improvement of the relevant government agencies, a coordination meeting was carried out with several related government agencies as the main partners of GEF SGP, namely the national director of Forestry, Coffee and Industrial Plantation, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the national director of the environment, the Minister of Tourism and Environment, and the national director of rural infrastructure development.

In general, the development policy of each director is to support the achievement of national development goals set by their respective ministries. The priority strategy for the environment is continuing to promote green school programmes, energy efficiency for urban and rural households, carbon footprint strategy and other environmental issues. According to the national director of fisheries, the MAP has established a national ocean policy (NOP), which is now waiting for approval by the council ministry. The main objective of the NOP is to guide MAP in controlling and monitoring all activities going on the ocean along the territory of Timor-Leste.

The national directorate of forestry, coffee and industrial forest will continue developing community forests, managing protected forests, the national Park and community nurseries programme. The objective of the community forest establishment is to protect the national parks, and the protected areas have been designated by the government such as the National Park **Nino Konis Santana** and **Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao**, and the Botanical Garden **Francisco Xavier do Amaral** has been established by the Forestry Department of Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAPF).

According to the Director General of Forestry, forest conservation has been included in the national development plan, namely reducing land degradation, managing national parks and creating community forests.

Country Programme Strategy Finalization, After CPS is drafted, then share it with the NSC members for their inputs and comments. After that, the draft CPS is sent to the CMPT regional advisor to review



and get any input, then accommodate the suggestions from the CPMT regional supervisor and then finalize the CPS and get approval from CPMT and NSC.

4.1.2. Selected Land Seascape and seascape

As described above, Timor-Leste is a mountainous country, and the landscape selected for the OP8 period consists of the mountains, lowland ecosystem, mountainous valley ecosystem and riverine; and the seascape consists of the coastal wetland ecosystem, river basins ecosystem, seagrass and corals.

Based on information gathered during consultation meetings with relevant government agencies such as the national director of environment and the director general of forestry, Timor-Leste lost its dense forest area due to agricultural practices implemented by rural farmers such as gardening, livestock grazing. These degraded lands are spread throughout Timor-Leste. If there is occurring landslide in the upstream area, it will impact the community in the downstream areas. All water sources are located in the foothills or on the slopes of mountains and hills. When landslides occur and/or the forest cover in the area is damaged, it will affect the environment and ecosystem in the area, and the low ability of the soil to capture and store rainwater will cause flooding, landslides, etc. The decision to stay on the same landscape and seascape in OP8 is to allow the communities to replicate, scale-up, modify and/or modify the results that have been achieved during OP7 project implementation, as well as to support communities that have not been reached during the OP7 Period. Thus, it will produce a significant project impact.

During OP7, the grantees implemented the GEF SGP projects and produced several best practices. In the OP8 period, the best practices will be strengthened and replicated to the other community members and involve more community members in project implementation.

Land degradation in Timor-Leste is a result of agricultural practices, livestock grazing practices, forest/grass fires, and firewood collection for income, etc.

To improve the degraded landscapes and seascapes, in addition to conducting conservation and protection activities such as reforestation, the SGP project will improve community farming practices as well as the community income to reduce number of community members depends on the forest product.

In the OP8 implementation, the SGP Timor-Leste will improve at least 1,000 hectares of degraded areas such as un-productive farmland, grass land, watershed areas etc. Improve wetland biodiversity through reforestation and/or establish community tourism and providing safe and sustainable fishing point to the rural community members etc.

Conserve and restore the 100 hectares of degraded mangrove forest along the beach and wetland areas to improve and restore marine and wetland ecosystem. During the OP8 period, SGP Timor-Leste will provide funding to youth groups interested to plant and conserve coral reefs at certain depths of the sea. Project locations will be spread throughout the municipalities of Timor-Leste, according to the conditions of the land landscape and seascape of municipalities. The large of degraded landscape and seascape will be restored varies from one municipality to another depending on the landscape and seascape conditions in the municipality.

Atauro Island has high marine biodiversity, but it is starting to be damaged due to unsustainable fishing practices of the local fishermen and needs to be protected and conserved. Atauro is an island located north of Dili, more or less 30 miles from Dili. The landscape of the island along the costal is

degraded land dry and rocky. Selected landscape and seascape selected is the mountain and marine ecosystem.

In OP8, SGP Timor-Leste will support the community in Atauro Island to improve the degraded land 50 hectares and 3 Km of mangrove forest rehabilitation. The SGP also will provide support the youth to restore seagrass and coral reef in this Island. The geographic coordinate of the target location - 8.172542, 125.637795/8°10'21.2"S 125°38'16.1"E

Covalima Municipality. The Cova-Lima municipality is the municipalities in Timor-Leste that direct borders to the nearest Indonesian province, and many farmers sometimes cross the border illegally to obtain chemical fertilizers and pesticide for agriculture. This needs to be prevented by introducing and promoting organic farming practices to improve their farm production and protecting the environment to the rural farmers in addition to increasing agricultural production and also for environmental protection. Covalima has several wetlands such as **Tilomar Reservoir/wetaba Wetland**, the geographic coordinate is -9°25'25.3"S 125°07'09.5"E, **Lagoon Bikularan** 9°25'14.4"S 125°07'12.3"E. In addition to the wetland Covalima has **mangrove forest in Belihun Lihu-Ain/Lihu-Ain bay** Geographic coordinate 9°15'30.0"S 125°24'32.9"E.

In the OP8 period SGP Timor-Leste will provide community to improve and protect the ecosystem in these wetland areas and the mangrove forest in Lihu-Ain Bay. Total areas will be conserved through SGP projects is 150 hectares

Bobonaro Municipality. The Bobonaro Municipality is a mountainous area and is the watershed area for the Loes river and other rivers that flow to the south (Cova-Lima municipality). Cova-Lima has forest biodiversity, wetland ecosystem and large mangrove forests, but all these forest ecosystems are under serious pressure and threats from communities. The pressure on natural ecosystems happened due to the lack of knowledge and awareness of the community about the importance of ecosystem services to their lives and the low income from communities' main livelihoods. The typology of the landscape is the grassland ecosystem and mountain ecosystem. **The target landscape is 100 hectares of grass land, watershed and unproductive farm to be restored/conserved in the OP8 operation.** The GPS coordinate of the target locations the Bobonaro administrative post - 9.027461, 125.289760, the Balibo administrative post -8.963843, 125.046033 and the Cailaco administrative -8.874893, 125.215755.

Lautem Municipality. The Lautem Municipality is the easternmost municipality and has a large rainforest which the government has designated as a park (Konis Santana National Park) for restoring and conserving the area's biodiversity. The area along the beach of the Lautem is an arid area so the target landscape and seascape selected is the areas along the coast to be intervention in in the OP8. The typology of the landscape and seascape is coastal or low land and the mountain/upland ecosystem. The GPS coordinate of the location is -8.406192, 126.880263.

Manufahi Municipality. The Manufahi Municipality is one of the municipalities in the southern part of the country which has wetland biodiversity but has come under pressure from several communities, so it needs to be conserved. In OP8, SGP Timor-Leste will provide technical training to improve knowledge capacity and implement a pilot on improved agricultural practices to provide a learning center to the community members. The southern part of Manufahi district has such as Welaluhu has mangrove forests such as the mangrove forest around the Modomahut lagoon. Apart to Modomahut Lagoon, there is another lagoon such Welenas Lagoon and other lagoon in this area. The geographic coordinate of Modomahut lagoon is -9.068089, 126.024963 and the Welenas lagoon is -9.021665, 125.968086 including the other lagoons around the Welenas lagoon.

Viqueque Municipality. In addition to Manufahi and Covalima Municipality, Viqueque is one of the municipalities located in the southern region of Timor-Leste. Like the Municipality of Manufahi and Covalima, the southern part of Viqueque has the wetland areas mangrove forest such as the mangrove

forest Beaco/Beasu beach, and the wetland and others coastal areas of the Viqueque. The mangrove forests in this area are threatened by unsustainable use by the community members along the coast. The geographic coordinate of the mangrove Beaco is -8.934837, 126.490127.

that The area along the **Covalima, Manufahi** and **Viqueque** have mangrove forests such as Aubeon, but is threatened by the expansion of gardens by the local community around the coast. The landscape and seascape selected in these areas is coastal ecosystem to introduce agroforestry and organic farming practices to prevent. In addition to mangrove forests, the region along the coastal area also have important biodiversity wetlands such as the Lagoon Weleda, Modomahut, Weberek, Tilomar reservoirs, and the others. In OP8, SGP Timor-Leste will provides support The GPS coordinate of these selected locations is Covalima Area Lihu-Ai -9.258402, 125.406986 and Bee Seuk -9.279314, 125.362772. Manufahi, Welaluhu -9.019738, 125.963912 and Alas -9.087286, 125.851351. **Viqueque**, wetland ecosystem of area Beasu -8.944250, 126.444719 and around bee manas Lulik -8.811237, 126.309732.

Manatuto Municipality. Manatuto municipality is the longest municipality in Timor-Leste, stretching from the north coast to the south coast. The area along the north coast of this Municipality is dry area, so the community only relies on river flows from upstream for their agriculture activities particularly for rice field. Thus, the selected landscape and seascape targets will include watershed ecosystems and coastal ecosystems to support communities to save water for rice fields and agroforestry activities for communities in mountainous areas to improve the condition of rainwater absorption. The GPS coordinate of the target landscape and seascape is the coastal ecosystem -8.549696, 126.133296 and -9.008180, 126.065972 for the upland ecosystem is -8.810542, 125.887505. In the southern part of Manatuto municipality such as Natarbora area along the coastal area has mangrove forests such as mangrove forest Nan-Kurun Mangrove Lagoon. In this OP Period 8, we will provide support to the community to restore mangrove forests in the area around Na-Kurun Lake. -9.027689, 126.091226

Oe-Cusse or RAEOA. Oe-Cusse or RAEOA is an enclave area of Timor-Leste located in the western part, approximately 204 km from Dili. The landscapes and seascapes selected are lowland and mountain ecosystems for intervention during the implementation of OP8. The GPS coordinate of RAEOA is -9.227408, 124.317541. In the middle of Pante Makassar City (Ambeno) there is a group of mangrove forests, but perhaps these mangrove forests will not last long due to efforts of development of the city and community settlements.



Legend  = Project target location of OP8

4.1.3. OP8 Strategic Initiatives in the landscapes/seascapes

The damage to forests and natural ecosystems in Timor-Leste as the results of low income and lack of alternative livelihoods for the community to meet their daily family needs. To reduce the rate of forest and ecosystem degradation caused by communities, GEF SGP Timor-Leste will continue to introduce alternative sources of income and improve community livelihood practices to improve household food security and economies.

GEF SGP Timor-Leste will continue to support the initiatives of rural communities in the conservation and protection of the landscape and seascape. The activities that will be implemented in the OP8 period include raising the community's awareness, knowledge and technical skill capacity on landscape and seascape conservation and livelihood improvement.

Improve and conserve community conserved area and biodiversity through the establishment of community forest to improve community's degraded land because of shifting cultivation practices. Farmers in rural areas adopt shifting cultivation practices and leave large unproductive lands. In OP8, the SGP Timor-Leste will support the community to develop community forest on the degraded land, which will then provide a good environment for natural biodiversity, in the long run, will provide benefits for the communities in the form of timber and other non-timber products.

Protect and conserve the coastal environment for international waters protection. In the OP8, the activities implemented were planting mangrove seedlings along the coastal area to conserve and protect the mangrove forest. SGP Timor-Leste will invite CSOs who are interested and experienced in

restoring the degraded coral reefs. SGP will conduct a pilot on the use of mangrove forest floors to establish fish farming to support the coastal communities in protecting mangrove forests as well as provide alternative income to the local community members. Mangrove forests have biodiversity, but the communities around the forest are less concerned or only as far as obligations in project implementation.

Introducing organic farming practice. To improve or increase agricultural production, the farmers use chemical materials such as various types of fertilizers and pesticides, which in turn will damage soil productivity due to damage to microorganisms in the soil that function to fertilize the soil and also other living biodiversity. The SGP Timor-Leste will always encourage farmers to use organic fertilizers to reduce their dependence on chemical materials. Therefore, in the OP8 period, the SGP Timor-Leste will continue to support farmer groups to implement organic farming practices in an effort to reduce the use of chemical materials.

Introducing environmentally friendly farming practices such as agroforestry and community forest development for landscape and seascape conservation and protection will be the main activities to be implemented, and all efforts implemented in the OP7 period, will be doubled (scaled-up) in OP8. The traditional structures for landscape and seascape protection and natural resource management will be strengthened in OP8

Improve food security to reduce food insecurity among rural communities through improving community livelihoods and introducing market-oriented agricultural products. The farmers of Timor-Leste are subsistence farmers who only focus on growing enough food for their family members needs in one planting season and implementing traditional farming practices. In the OP8 period, the SGP Timor-Leste will support the farmers groups for market orientation with local product. The Timor-Leste government has also implemented a program called one suco one product. This is a good opportunity for SGP to support local farmer groups to produce products that are in demand by the local market.

Introduce agro-tourism, eco-tourism and/or community tourism to increase rural households' income. In the OP8 period, SGP Timor-Leste will support community members or youth groups who initiated developing eco-tourism or agro-tourism if the activity will contribute to environmental protection and improving community livelihoods.

Low carbon energy access and co-benefit, to support the rural community to access electricity by providing small scale solar electrification. There are still many community members who do not have access to electricity, especially the rural communities. This is because the community members live in remote areas which is difficult to reach with conventional electricity line. Installing solar power is an option for communities to independently manage their own lighting. Solar power is cheap, easy to manage or operate and low emissions as well. Hydrology power and wind power may be an option in the future if the resources and technology are available. In return, the community will contribute to environmental conservation.

Empower women to improve livelihoods and increase household income through horticulture groups and traditional handicraft groups. In several areas, traditionally the women always stay at home waiting for their husbands. In the OP8, the SGP Timor-Leste will keep supporting the projects implemented by women groups and/or organizations led by women to mobilize rural women to increase their knowledge and skills in improving the household economy.

4.2. Grant making Outside the Priority Landscapes/Seascapes

GEF SGP Timor-Leste has provided financial support and technical assistance to community members in the rural areas to protect environment and improve community livelihoods. During this period many rural communities have benefited from project implementation and has produced some important lessons learned in improving livelihoods and protecting and preserving the environment.

In OP8, the GEF SGP Timor-Leste will support one project for organizing the SGP fair to provide an opportunity for SGP project beneficiaries to share their best practices and lessons learned to the wider community. Through this event, the best practices obtained during project implementation can be expanded and replicated by communities in other areas on a broader scale. At least one SGP fair event will be organized before the end of the OP8 period to demonstrate the results of the project achieved among the large public/community members.

4.1.1 CSO-Government-Private Sector Dialogue Platform

In the OP7 period, SGP Timor-Leste had not yet organized a dialogue between the CSOs, private sector and the government, only establishing regular coordination and communication with relevant government agencies at the project implementation level. The close coordination and partnership established during OP7 will continue and intensify in OP8 to share the lessons learned and projects best practices. At least one CSO-government-private sector dialogue platform will be conducted to review the progress of the projects, to discuss the challenges and obstacles faced by the communities and grantees during project implementation and to share the project's best practices with relevant CSOs and government counterparts.

This dialogue platform will probably be more intensified at the municipality level, and at the national level, it will be more at the departmental level. In the dialogue event, the representative of SGP grantees and project beneficiaries will deliver and discuss the project outcome and lessons learned, and challenges faced in the project implementation. In addition to discussing the obstacles and challenges, the most important issue to be raised in the dialogue forum is the customary rights to land and natural resources managed by indigenous peoples. Target participants to consider for the CSO Dialogue Platform are listed below but may not be limited to the following groups;

4.2.2 Promoting Social Inclusion, including gender equality and women's empowerment

To address the social inclusion issues including gender equality issues in Timor-Leste, there are a lot of efforts have been made by both the local government, civil society organizations (International and local organizations) in order to provide and promote equal rights, opportunities and options for live of the women in Timor-Leste. The government provides equal opportunities for both men and women to access education and job opportunities. However, women are still unable to compete in getting job opportunities. SGP will provide opportunities and encourage inclusive community groups to apply for projects.

The GEF SGP Timor-Leste in the OP8 will provide more opportunities for women and young girls to express their knowledge and skill in project implementation and also to improve household income. GEF SGP Timor-Leste will ensure that women and youth groups (CBOs or NGOs) have the same opportunity to implement the project. The youth and women focal point in NSC will make sure the project proposals consider the sense of women and youth. GEF SGP will also assign a PWD focal point in the NSC with respect to people with disabilities to apply the project.

The GEF SGP Timor-Leste will engage women networks such as the Rede feto, the Focupers and the state secretary for gender equality to provide capacity building about basic knowledge of gender equality and women's right to access to natural resources and capacity of rural women on decision–



making process on the use of natural resources. In the OP7 period, the GEF SGP Timor-Leste established good coordination with the Fokupers, a local group that works to enforce women's rights in social interaction and access to natural resources. In OP8, this partnership will be continued to ensure that all projects involve women and men equally in implementing projects to improve knowledge and skills in accessing and managing existing resources. The number of women directly involved in each project activity is at least 25% of the total direct project beneficiaries. Women's groups are more encouraged to apply for grants from SGP.

4.2.3. Knowledge Management

The GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) has been operating in Timor-Leste for almost 14 years. All the project results generated during this period are valuable lessons which need to be documented properly for future planning and decision making. In OP7, the documentation of data and information on project implementation were collected and submitted by grantees through progress reports, which were uploaded in one UNOPS system and SGP global database.

In monitoring the implementation of the SGP project, the team always involves staff from the UNDP Country Office (UNDP CO) to participate in field visits and provide back to office reports using UNDP CO format as project documentation on field visits activities. However, in the OP8 period, the UNDP CO will be the main partner in implementing the project, so that all information and data regarding project implementation will be well documented and stored properly to be accessed by other relevant partners. Through UNDP CO, if possible during the OP8 period, SGP Timor-Leste will hire an temporary staff for knowledge management such as produce literature, video of SGP best practices etc. the posted through SGP Facebook page or other social media to disseminate information about SGP projects to the public or relevant partners to be accessed.

In OP8, SGP Timor-Leste will periodically conduct workshops and meetings at the municipality (project implementation) level to share the project lessons learned. In this coming period (OP8), SGP Timor-Leste will compile projects lessons learned of SGP projects best practices such as brochures, pamphlets, and also talk shows on local TV and community radio that can be accessed by the community members to disseminate information about the programme to the wider community. The SGP database will always be updated. In addition, to increase the opportunity to share experiences between the beneficiaries of the SGP project, a sharing network will be established to provide a sharing forum for SGP project and non-project beneficiaries. In this way, the information will be accessed by a large public, including the grantees.

5. COMMUNICATION PLAN

SGP Timor-Leste has established good and strong communication partnerships with community members, community leaders and local leaders at the project implementation level. At the national level, SGP Timor-Leste also established good coordination and partnership with relevant government agencies such as the General Directorate of Environment, General Directorate of Forestry and Agriculture, Civil Society and the members of NSC, UNDP as implementing partners in the execution of project implementation in the field.

In OP8, communication will intensify with local donors, private sectors and media to promote GEF SGP to a large audience. The communication will intensify to echo the GEF SGP not only as a grant programme but will be more to as a reliable fund's delivery mechanism to the community on environmental protection and community livelihood improvement. To achieve this objective, in OP8 implementation, SGP will involve local media, either local TV or community radio, at the local level in field visits and project monitoring.



The SGP team will organize workshops and awareness raising campaigns at local/municipal level which will involve community members, local CSOs, and local government counterparts, including NSC members. The workshops or awareness campaigns, mostly on landscape and seascape conservation and other related issues, such as agro-biodiversity and ecotourism, will provide basic knowledge to larger community members. Technical capacity development relevant issues such as agro-ecological practices and the promotion of ecotourism will continue to be implemented by local NGOs, CBOs and other community groups to provide adequate skill capacity in the project implementation.

In the OP8, the GEF SGP Timor-Leste will also organize community meetings to discuss the lessons learned of the previous SGP project activities, share best practices and lessons learned and articulate the contribution of the SGP to national priorities. This meeting will be scheduled together with grantees and community members and will be implemented on a quarterly or maximum semi-annual basis. It can also be integrated into monthly Suco -level meetings, as settled by the grantee and the SGP team.

6. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND PARTNERSHIP PLAN

In the OP8, GEF SGP Timor-Leste will more intensively involve GEF OFP in the project implementation as well as other relevant partners such as local governments and the private sector to support the implementation of the activities by the SGP grantees and the community project beneficiaries. In OP8, the GEF SGP will be implemented and executed by UNDP, then it chances for additional resources for the improve GEF SGP delivery and additional resource mobilization to support the local CSOs and CBOs. In the OP8 period, the GEF Small Grant Programme will mobilize available resources to improve community knowledge and community well-being to ensure environmental sustainability.

6.1. Secured and planned cash and in-kind co-financing

The GEF SGP Timor-Leste always request each project to provide in-kind and in-cash contributions. The in-kind and in-cash contribution will martin 25% of the total budget requested in the proposal. This is very important to improve the ownership of the project results and maintain and scale it up to a larger scale.

Timor-Leste's participation in the Small Grants Program is an opportunity for the people of Timor-Leste to protect and conserve the environment and improve people's livelihoods. In addition, the presence of the SGP also supports the local government in environmental protection and sustainable development and improving community's lives.

To improve the active participation of the community in the project implementation, it is essential to have contributions from the community beneficiaries of the project and the grantees in the form of in-kind and cash. The practice of in-kind and in- cash contributions has been implemented during OP7 period; it will be maintained in OP8 and will be mandatory for local CSOs that apply for SGP funding. Meanwhile for the Community Based Organization (CBO) and the like must at least provide in-kind contributions for applying SGP Timor-Leste funding, such as land for piloting project activities, etc.

6.2. Co-financing Opportunities

Timor-Leste is a small island country which is repeatedly affected by drought due to the Elnino phenomenon. Thus, it is important to strengthen the adaptability capacity of the community members especially the farmers, to climate impact and climate variability.

In OP7, GEG SGP Timor-Leste received funding from the Community-Based adaptation (CBA) programme for adaptation to the climate change impact adaptation. In OP8 period, GEF SGP Timor-



Leste will explore possibilities for funding sources from available local donors, DFAT, JAICA and other possible donors in Timor-Leste to get additional funding for climate change impact adaptation. Another funding source possible to be explored is the local government of Timor-Leste, such as the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment.

The SGP team will conduct a socialization workshop meeting to socialize the Small Grants Program (SGP) to the wider community, especially to local NGOs, CBOs, relevant stakeholders, and potential local donors to get more applicants and support from the local government in implementing activities. In the project monitoring, SGP Timor-Leste will involve media to cover project activities at field level implementation and then disseminate information through social media such as facebook to community members and the local government. SGP will involve UNDP CO media partners in project monitoring to cover project activities and share the grantees' project progress report as part of communication apart from resource mobilization.

7. Grant maker Plus & Partnership Opportunities

GEF SGP Timor-Leste has provided technical assistance and financial support to NGOs and CBOs to implement projects. Some grantees (NGOs and CBOs) still continued with their activities with their own support after the SGP project was completed, while other community members later got funds from other donors after seeing the results of their work supported by funds from SGP Timor-Leste. This was a good opportunity to support the community in accessing funds from other donors. In the OP7, SGP Timor-Leste has provided support to some CBOs and CSOs to develop project proposals that may needed by the donor to support the community.

The SGP Timor-Leste will conduct an exchange learning and project result-based management workshop. In the workshop, the SGP grantees and SGP project beneficiaries can present their best practices and lessons learned to participants and the potential donors such as INGOs, relevant government officers and other development agencies, including the private sector. We will discuss with NSC members to add their roles and responsibilities about introducing and helping the SGP project beneficiaries and helping the community develop a proposal based on the donor's request.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

The risk associated with the project's implementation mostly climate impact associated risk and other social associated risk. Other risks associated with project implementation include socio-environmental risks and socio-economic risks. Socio-economic risks are land ownership issues. This is because the land status is unclear. In rural communities, existing land is claimed as ancestral inheritance or clan claims.

Climate- associated risks include forest/wildfire, water shortage, fame, etc. Drought has a major impact on smallholder farmers because it is related to cropping and planting season. Floods, landslides, and heavy rain have a high to low impact on the farmers.

All these associated risks identified, have different degrees on the project's implementation. To prevent or reduce the degree of risk impact on the project implementation, we need to establish a strong mechanism to solve every arise risk through regular coordination with relevant partners.

Table 3. 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
Climate associated risk			

Long and recurrent drought and climate variability	Very high	Very high	Proper schedule for planting/cropping. Coordinate with relevant government agencies on rainy season.
Forest/wildfires that occur during the dry season can risk agriculture activities, agro-forestry and reforestation activities	High	High	Proper land preparation to avoid farm damage by fire.
Heavy rains and rain-induced landslides may impede the success of buffer zones by washing away seedlings and impeding the growth of young plants	Medium	low	Proper schedule for planting/cropping. Coordinate with relevant government agencies on rainy season and rain fall.
Social-environmental associated risk			
Unclear land tenure and land use plan at risk to piloting including reforestation and agro-forestry farming	Medium	Medium	- Regular coordination with relevant government agencies to access the development plan. - Coordinate with community leaders for mediation
Accessing natural resources and access to water sources	medium	medium	Coordinate with community leaders for mediation
Social-economic associated risk			
Farming practices such as grazing livestock can damage crops, including seedlings, reforestation and mangrove forest rehabilitation	High	high	Establish a strong fence around the area to protect the young mangrove seedlings and farmer's crops. Coordinate with community leaders to enforce the Tara-Bandu Law .

9. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

All project proposals submitted by the proponent are required to include a schedule for monitoring the implementation of the project's activities at the field level implementation to ensure that work can be completed in time with the quality and quantity agreed upon in the MOU. To ensure that all activities are implemented in accordance with the procedures and plans according to the proposal approved by the committee members, regular monitoring is required at the project implementation site.

Project monitoring is also used to ensure the implementation of activities in accordance with the plan and to help the project beneficiaries and grantees solve the problems encountered in implementing the project. Project monitoring activities can be implemented from level to level.

9.1. Monitoring Approaches at Project and Country Levels

The GEF SGP Timor-Leste, for the last 4 years, has established the M&E system at the project and programme level. At the national level, monitoring activities are conducted by SGP Timor-Leste team

together with NSC members, including UNDP. The activities is conducted with the principle of participatory way to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the project by grantees and project beneficiaries. Project monitoring and evaluation activities are carried out as a process of learning during project implementation and a process of increasing the capacity of NGOs to continue activities to the end of the project.

At the local or project level, the monitoring activities will be conducted by grantee's staff members together with relevant partners such as suco chief, community leaders, relevant government agencies at project locations, and other relevant stakeholders. at project level.

To improve grantees' M&E capacity, GEF SGP Timor-Leste will organize M&E training workshops to provide basic knowledge on participatory monitoring with community project beneficiaries and other relevant stakeholders and partners.

In addition, the GEF SGP will improve NGOs and CBOs' capacities to use M&E as a tool for more efficient management of activities; on the national/programme level, the M&E system gains valuable information for programme implementation, achieving CPS goals, and project design/implementation improvement.

In OP8, the M&E will emphasize the results of the project implementation and conducted through a participatory approach with the project community beneficiaries and relevant stakeholders, including community leaders and NSC members as the main SGP partners.

Table 4. 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 annual review ⁴ to ensure OP7 CPS is on track to achieve its results and make timely and evidence-based modifications to CPS as may be needed ⁵ .
Annual Monitoring Report Survey ⁶	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF. It serves as the primary tools to record	NC/PA in close collaboration with NSC. CPMT provides technical guidance support and receives	Staff time	Once per year in June- July

⁴ 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).

⁵ Please note OP7 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. This CPS update process should be part of the Annual CPS Review.

⁶ 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
	and analytically present results to donors.	final country submission for further action.		
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 support to strategic development/ implementation of CPS.	NC, NSC	SGP planning grant to engage consultants may be used to undertake previous operational cycles impact review and utilize lessons for both OP7 CPS development and its implementation. Global technical M&E support can be expected.	Once per operational phase
SGP Database	Ensure recording of all Projects 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.	UNOPS / External Contractor. NC/ PA to provide requisite support.	Global Operating Budget	Annually for selected countries on risk-assessment basis

9.2. CPS Results Framework

Table 5: Results Framework of SGP OP7 Country Programme Strategy

Alignment with SDGs - Goal 1: End poverty in its all form everywhere, - Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture - Goal3: Gender equality and empower all women and girls - Goal 13: Take appropriated action to combat climate change and its impact - Goal 14: Conserve and sustainable use the ocean and marine ecosystem for sustainable development - Goal 15: protect and restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystem, sustainably manage forest, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation halt biodiversity loss
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Synergy with UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD):

- Improved the sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems through environment protection and conservation of degraded land and improving the livelihoods of rural communities.
- Increased the involvement of exclusive groups especially rural women, young girls and people with disabilities in project implementation to reduce gender inequity and social disparities within community.
- Strengthened community livelihood and improved diversification source of income to reduce vulnerability to poverty and improve community resilience to cope with climate impact
- Availability of optional energy access to the rural community increased and/or improved

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	2	3
OP8 SGP CPS Strategic Initiatives	OP8 CPS Indicators and Targets	Means of verification
<u>Strategic Initiative 1:</u> <i>Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species</i> 1. Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.). 2. Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species.	At the end of OP8 at least - 100 hectares of degraded land are improved at priority landscapes to benefit biodiversity. - degraded mangrove forests are rehabilitated or replanted to improve the marine environment. - 30 hectares of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity, including protected areas (GEF core indicator 5) - 5 sacred places of indigenous peoples are strengthened and enlarged to provide more living space for natural biodiversity	<i>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports)</i> <i>Baseline assessment comparison variables (use of conceptual models and partner data as appropriate)</i> <i>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</i> <i>Country Programme Review</i>

<u>Strategic Initiative 2:</u> <i>Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security</i> 1. Increase diversification and livelihood improvement. 2. Remove deforestation from supply chain and expanded restoration of degraded lands. 3. Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems (mountains, SIDS, etc).	At the end of OP8, at least; - 160 hectares (80 pilot) of agro-forestry farms have been established to increase diversification of farm products and improve landscape conservation and sustainable land management in socio-ecological production systems. - More than 160 hectares of degraded land have been improved through Agro-forestry farming to improve and restore degraded agricultural land to more favourable for environmental conservation. - Most SGP grantees linked and partnerships with relevant stakeholders for sustainable food production practices (such as diversification and sustainable intensification) and supply chain management (esp. SMEs) - Provided support to small-holder farmers towards the achievement of national Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targetsCrops harvest increased by 20% compared to the baseline	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (<i>as part of midterm and final Progress reports</i>) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Review Socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes (SEPLs)
<u>Strategic Initiative 3:</u> <i>Low-carbon energy access co-benefits</i> Promote renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods. Promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas.	At the end of OP8 at least. - 60 units of solar panels and 2 biomass energy installed to provide rural households energy. (e.g on types of renewable energy technology biomass, small hydro, solar). - 262 households have access to sustainable energy to achieve energy access, with co-benefits estimated and valued - 20 hectares of forests and non-forest lands reforested as a pilot to resort and enhance carbon stocks. - More than 200 improved cook stoves installed to rural households.	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (<i>as part of midterm and final Progress reports</i>) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)

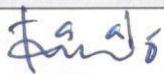
<u>Strategic Initiative 4:</u> Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management 1. Reduce/remove use of chemicals in agriculture 2. Promote plastics/solid waste management and circular economy	At the end of OP8 at least. - Promoting local organic and degradable material for tree nursery to reduce waste discharged to landscape and seascape. - Promoting organic fertilizer and organic pest management practices to prevent the use of chemical substances in farming practices. - The farmers will not use chemicals for improving their crop's growth.	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports) Strategic partnership with IPEN and Mercury GOLD country partners Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), global database Country Programme Review
<u>Strategic Initiative 5:</u> <i>Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions</i> 1. Demonstrated innovative socially-inclusive urban solutions/ approaches (including waste and chemical management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity) 2. Improved capacities to promote community-driven, socially inclusive and integrated solutions to address low-emission and resilient urban development	At the end of OP8 at least. 2 projects implemented to conserve and improve watershed areas to reduce flooding along the downstream areas and improve urban ecosystem services and biodiversity. 10 people or 10 households (women and men, especially youth) are trained and have the good capacity to promote cities with low carbon emissions activities in their households. 2 Projects implemented to introduce improved cook stoves to semi -urban households to reduce the purchase of firewood for cooking.	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Review
<u>Strategic Initiative 6:</u> <i>CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms</i> 1) Promote/enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, strategy development related to global environment and sustainable development issues.	At the end of OP8 at least. - 2 times CSO-government-private sector dialogues convened to support community voice and representation in national/ sub-national policy development. - 25-35 of representatives from social inclusion groups (indigenous people, women, youth, persons with disability, farmers, other marginalized groups) supported with meaningful participation in dialogue platforms. - 1-2 of Public-Private Partnerships on key global environmental issues promoted	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), global database Country Programme Review

<u>Strategic Initiative 7:</u> <i>Enhancing social inclusion</i> 1. Promote targeted initiatives 2. Mainstream social inclusion in all projects	At the end of OP8 implementation. young boys and young girls will be direct beneficiaries, disaggregated by gender as a co-benefit of GEF investment (GEF core indicator 11). In OP8, 1/3 or half of the projects will be implemented by women and/or organization led by women. 1 – 2 projects implemented by indigenous groups to protect and conserve marine ecosystem. 1-2 projects implemented as good model for agro-ecotourism engaging youth 1 project implemented by organization of people with disabilities and demonstrated good achievement	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Review
<u>Strategic Initiative 8:</u> <i>Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management</i> Administer new M&E strategy in country programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms	All projects submitted are reviewed participative by NSC members Frequency of updating SGP database for effective data collection, management and analysis supporting gains in programme performance and learning. At least 1 south- south exchange at global and regional levels to transfer knowledge and replicate technology, tools and 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

Note: The signature of NSC members are required as endorsement of the complete final CPS duly reviewed and agreed at the National Steering Committee meeting.

NSC members involved in OP7 CPS development, review and endorsement	Signatures
Joao Carlos Soares, GEF OFP, NSC Chairmant,	 12-5-2026
Joaninha da Silva, UNDP Focal Point	 31/03/2026
Livio Alarico Xavier. Project Manager Care International Timor-Leste	 13-04-2026
Miguel M. Soares, Project Manager, NGO Belun	
Graziela Xavier, Project Manager, Mercy Corps	 12-5-2026