



OPERATIONAL PHASE 8 (OP8)
SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY (CPS)
Antigua & Barbuda



Cover illustration: Antigua Beekeepers Co-Operative Society Ltd. Bringing Science to Beekeeping for innovation, biodiversity conservation, and food security. © JAYAR Designs

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Operational Phase 8 GEF SGP Country Programme Strategy for Antigua and Barbuda.

Mission of the GEF Small Grants Programme

Established in 1992, the year of the Rio Earth Summit, the GEF Small Grants Programme embodies the very essence of sustainable development by "thinking globally acting locally". By providing financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people's well-being and livelihoods, SGP demonstrates that community action can maintain the fine balance between human needs and environmental imperatives.

SGP recognizes that environmental degradation such as the destruction of ecosystems and the species that depend upon them, increasing levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, pollution of international waters, land degradation and the spread of persistent organic pollutants are life-threatening challenges that endanger us all. However, poor and vulnerable communities – SGP's primary stakeholders- are most at risk because they depend on access to natural resources for their livelihoods and often live in fragile ecosystems.

The programme provides grants of up to \$50,000 directly to local communities including indigenous people, community-based organizations and other non-governmental groups for projects in Conservation of Threatened Ecosystems and Species, Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries, and Food Security, Low carbon Energy Access Co-Benefits, and Local to Global coalitions for Chemicals and Waste Management.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AMR	Annual Monitoring Report
CBH	Central Board of Health
CBO	Community-based Organization
CDD	Community Development Division
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CPS	Country Programme Strategy
DOE	Department of Environment
EIMAS	Environmental Information Management and Advisory System
EPMA	Environmental Protection and Management Act
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GEF SGP	Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme
GoAB	Government of Antigua & Barbuda
IAF	Inter-American Foundation
IBA	Important Bird Area
IICA	Inter-American Institute on the Cooperation for Agriculture
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
NAPA	National Action for Protected Areas
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NC	National Coordinator
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NSC	National Steering Committee
NSWMA	National Solid Waste Management Authority
OP6	Operational Phase 6
OP7	Operational Phase 7
OP8	Operational Phase 8
POPS	Persistent Organic Pollutants
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SGP	Small Grants Programme
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SIRMZP	Sustainable Island Resources Management Zoning Plan
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDAF	United Nations Development Action Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



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

Total SGP Grants to date since Country Programme start date (year)	USD \$750,000
OP8 GEF Core Funds	USD \$500,000
OP8 GEF STAR Funds	USD \$250,000
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 organizations (CSOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) in designing and leading community driven initiatives that have enhanced household wellbeing, increased awareness and resilience regarding environmental threats, and generated 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 is 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 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).

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.



2. COUNTRY PROGRAMME SUMMARY: Key results and achievements

The GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) has been active in Antigua & Barbuda since 2013. Prior to this, operations for the country were subsumed under the Barbados and OECS Programme. Since its inception in 1994, the programme has provided 61 CSOs and NGOs with over US\$2.4 million in funding and leveraged more than US\$4.2 million in co-funding, both in-kind and cash. Currently 12 projects are under execution.

While focusing on Impact, Inclusion and Innovation, GEF SGP engaged with a wide cross-section of CSOs, strengthening their organisational capacity and their capacity to plan and manage projects. Further, GEF SGP collaboratively worked with other organisations to link grassroots organisations with key private sector and government stakeholders, giving them a voice at the decision-making table. A large percentage of the CSOs with whom GEF SGP works was featured and participated in the SIDS4 Conference, held in Antigua and Barbuda in May 2024.

Over the previous cycle, GEF SGP observed the development of some CSOs which in turn were able to provide vital mentorship to nascent and developing CSOs. Further, because of the growth, GEF SGP also observed maintained relationships and collaboration – CSO – CSO (including CSOs under different country programmes), CSO-Government, and CSO – Private Sector.

There were many pleasing advancements achieved during OP8. Through a collaborative effort with the Community Development Division (CDD), a larger number of CSOs under a wider geographic region are becoming familiar with GEF SGP and the support the programme provides. For already existing Grantee Partners, we continue to see projects addressing the GEF focal areas of Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change, Prevention of Land Degradation, Chemicals and Waste Management, and Prevention of Land Degradation with the latter being the highest demanded. Projects under implementation cover cross-cutting issues such as inclusion of vulnerable groups, capacity development, and sustainability.

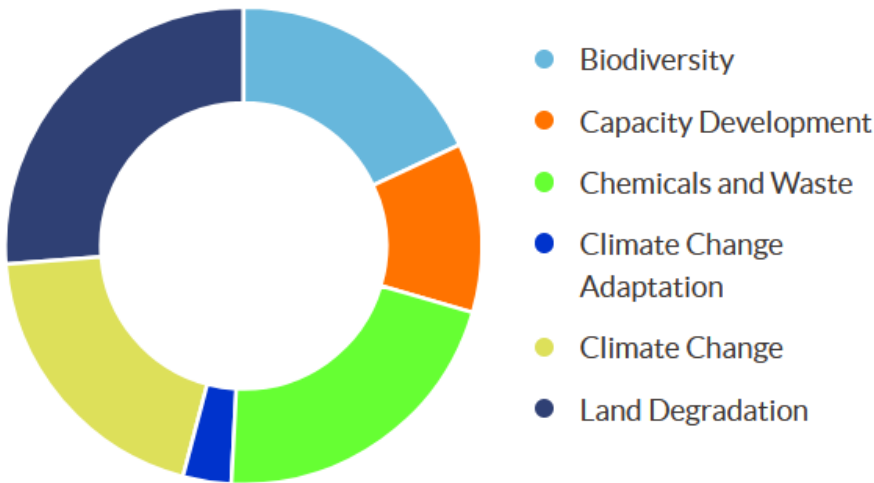
The energy among the CSOs is evident as there is a strong participation from this community in several multilateral talks, and there is regular collaboration with CSOs from different countries.

A general summary of results achieved prior to OP8 are summarized as follows:

- Improved potable water availability to vulnerable members of the community, with an increase in 50,000 gallons of harvested water in the Swetes, Tyrells and Matthews communities,
- Improved and maintained peer to peer knowledge exchanges,
- Increased management of waste and chemicals, diverting thousands of plastic and glass bottles and aluminium cans from the landfill,
- Improved forest cover and watershed rehabilitation,
- Improved habitat for endangered species of conservation concern including, *inter alia*, the Critically Endangered Antiguan Racer, migratory birds and 4 species of sea turtles,
- Improved food security for vulnerable persons including the elderly, the differently-abled and the indigent.



Pic. 1: Country Portfolio by Area of Work
Courtesy SGP



3. COUNTRY PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

3.1 Alignment with national priorities

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

Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS	30 th May, 2024
Basel Convention on the Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous wastes and its Disposal and its protocols	April 5 th 1993
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	2014
Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	23 rd November 1972
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	March 9 th 1993
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and its protocols	October 6 th 1997
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	03 rd March 1973
Convention on Wetlands of international Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat	02 nd February 1971
Environmental Protection and Management Act	Passed 2015



	Updated and passed June 2019
Escazú Agreement	Signed September 2018 Ratified March 04 th 2020
GEF-8 National Dialogues	Ongoing
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	03 rd November 2001
Minamata Convention (MC) on Mercury	Ratified on February 5, 2017
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	Signed November 2011 Ratification in September 2015
National Land Use Plan/Sustainable Island Resource Management Zoning Plan	October 2012
National Strategic Plan and Framework for Weather, Water and Climate Service	Under Review
Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Paris Accord	Communicated on 15 th October 2015
Principle 10	May, 2015
Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) Protocol to the Cartagena Convention	January 18 th 1990
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of international Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat	02 nd October 2005
Rotterdam Convention	August 23 rd 2010
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	Drafted September 2018
Sixth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity	January, 2019
Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	February 2004
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies (IW) ²	Not submitted
Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management	June 2012
UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	June 6 th 1997
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	February 2 nd 1993
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	2015 – 2020
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	
UNFCCC National Communications (1st, 2nd, 3rd)	1 st 2001; 2 nd 2009; 3 rd 2016
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	
Vienna Convention for Protection of the Ozone Layer and its protocols	December 3 rd 1992
Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) for the UN SDGs	

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>



3.2 Gaps and opportunities

Based on discussion with Government technical officers as well as NGOs, FBOs, Cooperatives, Associations, and CBOs, Table 2 summarises the gaps and opportunities which have been raised. Among the CSOs, a notable gap was the need to build capacity to prepare project proposals that adequately express the problem they intend to address, while speaking in language that clearly aligns to the GEF SGP Strategic Initiatives. Further, while some groups observe a need within their community, the expertise to address it is not found within the group, and the group displays hesitancy in seeking external support.

Table 2. Gaps and Opportunities

GAPS	OPPORTUNITIES
Consistent CSO – CSO and CSO – Government Dialogue for the effective planning and implementation of national plans and policy. It is worth noting that this gap has gotten smaller over the years as we are observing an increase in the involvement of CSOs in multi-lateral dialogues. Notwithstanding, it is important to maintain the networks and relationships already existing and to forge new ones with more government agencies. While this dialogue is particularly strong in Antigua and Barbuda, interest groups are continually being formed and/or evolving. It is imperative that all groups with that support the achievement of national, regional or international environmental targets be given the opportunity to actively participate in the discussion.	Given the ratification of the Escazú Agreement, the passing of the EPMA and the signing of Principle 10, this is not a major gap. However, this presents the opportunity for the National Coordinator to manage an updated registry of local CSOs, fostering and promoting synergies between them, between them and the private sector, and between them and the government to facilitate the achievement of national targets with strong grassroots support.
Need for capacity-building within CSOs in grant administration. While CSOs desire to address problems directly affecting communities, it has been found, while conferring with various groups and government technicians, that there exists a general lack of capacity to develop clear project proposals or to deliver results-oriented reports.	This will be addressed via the following: - Training opportunities; - Innovative ways of proposing a project and reporting;
Resource mobilization for CSOs	- In-kind funding support will be sought through private/public networking. - CSOs will be mentored to showcase their work and build relationships with potential funders.



GAPS	OPPORTUNITIES
Vulnerability to Natural Disasters, particularly protracted drought, flooding, superstorms and earthquakes.	CSOs will be encouraged to plan their projects paying careful attention to assumptions and suggesting realistic contingency plans to deal with a disaster should one arise.
Need for Capacity-Building for CSOs to properly understand the national frameworks and legislation, to include cognate targets in their workplan to successfully achieve and consistently report on the targets outlined in the same.	As CSOs are invited to plan on policy, this provides the National Coordinator with the opportunity to verify any gaps in knowledge of legislation and to address these to support maximum participation of CSOs in planning and decision-making. One completed project saw the dedication of a CSO to building the institutional skills of three maturing CSOs, including on Barbuda. Since then, two of the three groups have successfully accessed funding and implemented projects.
Knowledge Management. Many CSOs successfully implement projects. However, knowledge if not shared is useless. Some CSOs struggle to consistently share the results, lessons learnt, experiences and impact of their projects.	Through a carefully structured Communication Plan, the National Coordinator will work with CSOs, Government and the private sector to adequately store, share and transfer knowledge through the following: - Regular Use of Traditional and Social Media - Registry of project results, synergies, upscaling and replication - Conducting South-South exchanges - Workshops to facilitate sharing between CSOs. This is key because several of the CSO partners are quite strong in this area. Their mentorship and collaboration will benefit the other CSOs.



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

SGP OP8 Strategic Initiatives - Global	SGP Country Programme's OP8 Priorities	SGP Country Programme's complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and programmes
<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 approaches (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.). 3) Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species.	<i>Support the development of strategic interventions at landscape/seascape towards achieving sustainable use and management of marine and terrestrial resources.</i> <i>Support the survival of globally significant species of fauna and flora, and support the healthy functioning of ecosystem goods and services via the following means:</i> - <i>Support capacity-building, planning and implementation to promote a holistic, sustainable management of Antigua & Barbuda's land and seascapes;</i> - <i>Support innovative, low-impact forms of farming and animal husbandry that benefit sustainable livelihood and protect biodiversity;</i> - <i>Investigate, promote and support sustainable livelihood models which give rise to environmental, social and economic benefits;</i> - <i>Support community-led initiatives that result in the protection of threatened biodiversity;</i> - <i>Support the implementation of key strategies and actions outlined in existing Conservation Action Plans;</i>	<i>- Projects and initiatives being implemented by the Department of Environment:</i> • <i>Advancing the Nagoya protocol in countries of the Caribbean Region;</i> • <i>The Path to 2020 – Antigua and Barbuda Preventing COSTS of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Barbados and the OECS Countries</i> • <i>Sustainable Pathways – Protected Areas and Renewable Energy</i> • <i>The Path to 2020 – Antigua and Barbuda</i> • <i>Arbour Month, Arbour Fair and Climate Fest.</i> <i>- Projects and Initiatives being implemented by CSOs not funded by GEF SGP</i> <i>- PROCARIB+ project implemented by UNDP.</i>



	- Support awareness, implementation and development of the Nagoya Protocol/ ABS Initiative; - Support the utilisation of co-management strategies between government agencies, NGO's and CSO's particularly in protected areas management along with public education and awareness programs.	
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. 3) Remove deforestation from supply chain and expand restoration of degraded lands.	<i>The role of the SGP would be to support NGOS in:</i> - Capacity-building and implementation of sustainable, climate-smart agriculture; - The establishment of hydroponic, or aquaponic farms; - The promotion and realization of sustainable livelihood through agriculture; - The integration of agriculture, tourism and forestry best practices; - rehabilitation of degraded lands, and waterways; - Promotion of best practices in sustainable land management through project demonstration and implementation of the national physical development plan (also known as the Sustainable Island Resource Management Zoning Plan (SIRMZP). Promotion and support of local community and NGO initiatives addressing reforestation and	Areas for complementary work include: - Support of the various food security projects implemented by the Government – Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and Blue Economy; - Support the initiatives for sustainable livelihood creation of technical institutions such as the Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Center; - Promotion of the Sustainable Island Resources Zoning Plan (SIRMZP).
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.	Support CSOs to investigate and utilise transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path via: - Education, awareness and capacity building in energy-use and low-emission technologies;	Areas for complementary work include: - Educational outreach and support with private entities, government agencies, particularly the Department of Environment, and CSOs - Sustainable Energy Action Plan of Antigua & Barbuda



2) Promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas.	- <i>Supporting initiatives working towards achieving carbon zero status in public buildings;</i> - <i>Implementation of energy efficient, alternative energy and sustainable water supply projects in rural communities;</i> - <i>Support capacity-building and awareness on Low Carbon Energy (LCE) access options;</i> - <i>Support private sector - CSO partnerships which promote shifts towards energy technologies with low carbon emissions;</i>	- <i>Projects implemented by the Department of Environment:</i> • <i>Sustainability Energy Facility Program</i>
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.	<i>Support the Country's goal to Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern via the following:</i> - <i>Support of a robust education and awareness campaign of the importance of chemical and waste management (reduction, separation, disposal);</i> - <i>Recycling and upcycling of plastics;</i> - <i>Support and promotion of local clean up campaigns.</i> <i>Support the country's goal to reduce the use of Single Use Plastics.</i>	Areas for complementary work include: - <i>Projects being implemented by the Department of Environment:</i> • <i>Development and Implementation of a Sustainable Management Mechanism for POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants) in the Caribbean (Regional project)</i> <i>Other initiatives being implemented other agencies including the National Solid Waste, the Antigua & Barbuda Waste Recycling Corporation, Zero Waste Antigua Barbuda, Pesticides Control Board, Central Board of Health, including the Plastic Waste Free Island Initiative, led by the Ministry of Health, Wellness, Social Transformation and the Environment.</i>
Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions 1) Improve capacities to promote community-driven, socially inclusive and integrated solutions to	<i>Support private sector- community partnerships which promote just transition towards energy technologies with low carbon emissions.</i>	Areas for complementary work include: <i>The Department of Environment's Enhancing Direct Access (EDA) in the Eastern Caribbean project</i>



address low-emission and resilient urban development. 2) Demonstrate innovative socially inclusive urban solutions/ approaches (including waste and chemical management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity). 3) Implement public-private partnership approach for low carbon energy access for marginalized urban communities.	<i>Facilitate the development and implementation of urban solutions to waste and water management</i>	
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.	<i>Enhance capacity of civil society to contribute to implementation of MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and national and sub-national policy, planning and legal frameworks through:</i> - Stakeholder consultations and various of meetings; - Facilitation of partnerships in project development; - Utilisation of traditional and social media to maintain all parties informed; - Support of CSOs to participate in national level dialogue platforms; - Support capacity building of CSOs in negotiation, conflict resolution and good governance principles to prepare for dialogue with Government.	Areas that support this work: - Nagoya Protocol - Principle 10 - Escazú Agreement Areas for complementary work include: Various government and Statutory Corporation Advisory Boards and Committees on which CSOs have members. E.g. The Department of Environments Technical Advisory Committee. As part of its work programme, UNDP CO facilitates meetings of different stakeholders for planning and dialogue purposes. Once requested, SGP will identify civil society representation at such meetings and seek to build synergies to allow for follow up and for greater local actions.
Enhancing social inclusion (mandatory) 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 1) Promote targeted inclusive initiatives which incorporate the participation of women, men and youth, including persons from vulnerable groups; 2) Mainstream social inclusion in all projects.	Areas for complementary work include: - Social inclusion is a part of the development agenda, and is a crosscutting issue for UNDP CO. Therefore, SGP will engage in discussions to identify complementary areas and explore opportunities for synergies;



		- The SGP will also work closely with the Ministry of Social Transformation to ensure that social inclusion is included in all projects.
Knowledge Management (KM) (mandatory) 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 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. 4) Promote traditional and innovative means to capture, share and showcase knowledge and lessons from projects and activities; 5) Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs to collect usable data and support local, regional and international repositories of data such as the local Environment Information Management and Access System (EIMAS).	Areas for complementary work include: - The SGP will work closely with the nation's media house and other media to share results and lessons learnt derived from the implementation of projects. - The programme will also support national data registries by provide usable data to inform policy and decision-making. - SGP will collaborate with CSOs and government agency to jointly issue media releases.
Results Management, Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) (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. 2) Develop an M&E plan for the overall programme; 3) Ensure that a mandatory M&E mechanism is included in each project; 4) Annually report on the Country Programme M&E results.	Areas for complementary work include: Alignment with the strategies outlined in Vision 2030 for developing greater Monitoring and Evaluation in environmental work in Antigua & Barbuda



4. OP8 PRIORITY LANDSCAPES/SEASCAPES & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

4.1 Grantmaking within the priority landscape/seascapes

a) Process for selecting priority landscapes and seascapes

The country of Antigua & Barbuda is a sovereign nation found in the Eastern Caribbean (17°7'N 61°51'W). Its main, inhabited islands are Antigua and Barbuda. Additionally, there are also over 30 offshore islands, sites of outstanding biodiversity importance. Antigua and Barbuda's population, as of 2018, is 95,900 persons, with 97% of that population found on Antigua. The country's total land area covers 440 Km²/170 mi². The country is considered as one landscape and seascape given its small geographic size and the complex interconnectedness between its land and marine environments. Within this land and seascape can be found 12 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) providing critical habitat (nesting, breeding, foraging, resting) for 182 species of migratory and resident birds with 61 species of Conservation Concern and 11 species of restricted range birds. Further, according to the ecosystem profile from the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund, there are 6 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) including two described as wholly irreplaceable sites and of high priority for conservation (North East Marine Management Area & Fitches Creek Bay, and Redonda) (CANARI 2019). Within these sites are species of global conservation significance including the Critically Endangered Endemic Antiguan Racer, and four species of Endangered sea turtles (Green, Hawksbill, Leatherback and Loggerhead) (Prosper *et al* 2009). According to the World Bank (2017), only 22.27% of the country remains forested. As the government in its Conservation Action Plans determines to take a ridge to reef approach at land management and conservation, community groups have taken up the challenge to safeguard key watersheds and forested areas.

Priorities were identified for GEF 8 following a series of consultations government stakeholders, local CSOs and private sector partners in 2024. Discussions centred on conservation of biodiversity and the environment, use of traditional knowledge as information for decision-making, food and water security, waste management (particularly plastic), educational outreach and capacity building. These all align with national priorities, and synergies between CSO, the private sector and government actions will be fostered and promoted.



b) Selected landscapes/seascapes for OP8

1. Pic. 1. Map of the Antigua & Barbuda



Map of Antigua and Barbuda showing relative location in the Caribbean. Courtesy Worldometer

2. Coordinates of Antigua and Barbuda: DMS - 17° 3' 0" N, 61° 48' 0" W; Decimal - 17.05, -61.8
3. Total hectarge of the country: 44,100 ha
4. Typology:

Antigua and Barbuda is an archipelagic state located in the Caribbean Sea approximately 250 miles southeast of Puerto Rico. It is the most central of the leeward island chain that starts with the Virgin Islands in the West and ends with Dominica in the South. There are several tiny uninhabited islands surrounding Antigua; Redonda (0.6 mi² or 1.6 km²) being the largest. The precise coordinates of



Antigua are 17°10' latitude, 61°55' longitude, Barbuda is 28 miles north of Antigua at latitude 17°35' and longitude 61°48'. Antigua is roughly round and has an area of 108 mi² (280 km²) while Barbuda is 62 mi² (160 km²) (Mings 2015).

The country's primary resources include a very agreeable climate, outstanding land and seascapes, extensive areas of high ecological value, an engaging history, democratic governance, a well-educated and healthy population, and significant natural resources (beaches, agricultural lands, fish stocks etc.) (Gore-Francis 2013).

Antigua and Barbuda, like most of the other Caribbean countries, is a biodiversity hotspot. Recognized regionally and internationally, the country is home to a number of flora and fauna in various states of protection and/or threat (CANARI 2012). The importance of preserving and protecting these natural resources is well recognized by Antigua and Barbuda. A number of these species are not only important to the environment but also critical to the continued economic growth of the country.

Antigua and Barbuda's economic development is based primarily upon tourism. Consequently, the tourism sector is highly dependent upon the quality of the environment and the health of the inter-related ecological functions that comprise the country's biodiversity. These processes include, for example, the creation and preservation of soils, the storage and distribution of water including the effect on water quality, and the regulation of coastal and atmospheric conditions. They also include the storage and cycling of nutrients essential for life, e.g. carbon, nitrogen and oxygen; re-charging of groundwater, protection of catchment basins and buffering of extreme water conditions. Furthermore, they involve the production of soil and its protection from excessive erosion; absorption and breakdown of pollutants, including organic wastes, pesticides, and heavy metals. They also provide the basis for improvements to domesticated plants and animals.

In Antigua and Barbuda, the inter-relationships of these ecological functions and physical processes result in a number of plant communities and landscapes. These include:

- 1)Evergreen forests
- 2)Xerophytic (dry) forests
- 3)Watersheds
- 4)Scrubland Ecosystems
- 5)Grassland Ecosystems
- 6)Mangrove forest Ecosystem
- 7)Herbaceous swamp Ecosystems
- 8)Salt pond Ecosystems
- 9)Marine and Coastal Ecosystems -Sandy beaches, rocky shores, coastal lagoons, sea grass beds, coral reefs and oceanic islands and rocks.

Habitat types are enhanced by presence of caves in many sections of the island, and by natural seasonal drainage channels and ponds (NBSAP 2014-2020).

As in GEF 7, the GEF 8 Operation Phase will cover a continuum of related ecosystem and communities, taking a ridge to reef conservation approach as in previous years operation phases.



c) OP8 Strategic Initiatives in the landscapes/seascapes

Strategic Initiatives for OP8 were determined considering feedback from civil society, the national priorities, and opportunities (existing and anticipated) for partnerships/co-financing. Since the SIDS approach is being utilized in this CPS, the NSC will consider requests in the following OP8 GEF Focal Initiatives:

- **Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species:** SGP's targets will be strongly aligned to national and regional conservation action plans. Further, SGP will utilize co-management strategies between government agencies and CSOs particularly in protected areas, along with public education and awareness programmes.
- **Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security:** SGP will maintain its relationship with the local IICA specialist, FAO, and other agricultural agencies to support registered farming groups to develop and implement climate smart agricultural projects that use innovative techniques, taking into account the country's frequent and prolonged drought conditions, and the link of farming practices on coastal and marine health.
- **Low-carbon energy access co-benefits:** SGP will promote and support the installation and use of renewable energy technologies through public education and awareness initiatives at all levels, engaging in national level training and capacity building events, consultations, climate change festivals involving government and the private sector.

National circumstances highlight the country's exposure and vulnerability to climate impacts, and the ways in which mitigation actions, namely on and off-grid renewable energy, can increase resilience in critical sectors such as energy, water, health, and emergency services. Similarly, mitigation actions can have adaptation co-benefits. For example, expanding the protection of wetlands and watersheds to sink GHG emissions also serves as an adaptation strategy by enhancing water retention and reducing the risks of climate impacts, namely flooding and storm surge. Antigua and Barbuda recognises the co-benefits of adaptation and mitigation in the area of low carbon development as an efficient and cost-effective strategy for sustainable development (GoAB 2015).

- **Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management:** SGP will through its projects, seek to divest heavy metals, single use plastics and chemicals from the landfill. It will maintain strategic alliances with the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board, the National Solid Waste Management Authority, Central Board of Health, and other relevant public and private agencies.
- **Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions:** SGP will support the implementation of projects to address urban settlement needs, covering cross-cutting themes from the other Strategic Initiatives.
- **CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy:** SGP will increase awareness and participation of communities in national proposed developments and strategic planning initiatives undertaken by the government.



- The mandatory Strategic Initiatives of Enhancing Social inclusion, Planning Dialogue Platforms, Knowledge Management, Results Management, and Monitoring & Evaluation will be included for implementation.

To improve the chances of success for projects funded under these initiatives, SGP will maintain a strategic alliance with Government agencies, mature NGOs, and private sector agencies, that supports both GEF's strategic initiatives as well as national priorities. When necessary, the SGP will support capacity building for CSOs.

In order to achieve greater impact, the SGP will:

- Utilize the means available (social media, Technical Advisory Committee, Consultations) to inform all stakeholder agencies and entities of upcoming projects where synergies exist, and where projects support the achievement of national targets;
- Create, foster and support avenues of collaboration between communities and Government entities through project stakeholder teams as well as through consultations, knowledge fairs;
- Continue to work with potential grantees with pipeline projects from OP6, working with them to ensure that their project ideas meet the NSC, SGP and GEF requirements;
- Continue to engage community organisations, and other eligible parties, encouraging and supporting them as they develop project concepts in line with GEF SGP strategic initiatives.

d) Grantmaking outside the priority landscapes/seascapes

As a Small Island Developing State, the entire land will be considered as priority landscape. The entire territorial waters will be considered as priority seascape.

4.2 CSO-government-private sector dialogue platforms

Throughout the years of operation, SGP Antigua and Barbuda, in partnership with key government stakeholders, has built, re-established and maintained strong networks of collaboration and mentorship with NGOs, churches, associations and local community groups through regular meetings, training, and workshops. This strong interaction with the groups has strengthened the CSO-government dialogue. This has also led to influence on policy, thanks to the CSOs insights and unique perspective. Very recently, because of the collaboration between several SGP-funded projects, private sector and government, policy changes have been made on the management of and taxation on single use plastics on island.

In 2024, with the update of the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan, CSOs are making a vital contribution to this exercise. Partnerships have been built up with various government ministries that strengthens compliance and builds knowledge with the MEAs to which the country has signed, demonstrating the grassroots approach and translating these actions to high level national planners and policy-makers. With the established relationships, the mechanism is in place for CSO involvement in



national projects and programmes, collaboration with other national agencies is assured and allows for the mainstreaming with key stakeholders. This is facilitated through monthly meetings and is also used to plan for the monitoring and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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

Social inclusion will continue to be promoted as follows:

- *Empowerment and gender equality:* All SGP projects have the participation of men, woman and youth, and currently, women lead 50% of projects. Gender and Youth Focal Points both sit on the NSC.
- *Empowerment of local groups:* Based on the classification provided by the United Nations, there are no indigenous groups, but we do have groups in the local communities that face severe challenges. Therefore, they too receive attention and support that they can benefit from the SGP and other resources.
- *Involvement of youth in country portfolio planning:* Projects involving community groups including churches with strong youth representation and involvement will continue to be supported. Their voices and ideas are being heard with special emphasis being placed on youth with special needs and children with disabilities.
- *Involvement of the differently abled:* Projects that support the inclusion of the differently-abled will continue to be supported and showcased.

4.4 Knowledge Management

SGP Antigua & Barbuda has emphasized the necessity of mentorship and cross-training amongst CSO partners. SGP, once seen primarily as a funding mechanism is more commonly appreciated as a means to strengthen the capacity of CSOs. In order to demonstrate that projects and partnerships are having an impact, SGP will continue support CSO-CSO mentoring, supporting synergies between projects, and between CSO actions and those of key government agencies. These will not be limited to national actions but will transcend country borders to benefit CSOs on a regional scale.

Another key factor to support policy and decision-making is the availability and careful interpretation of data. Grantees will be encouraged to collect data which can be used to populate the national EIMAS, to support policy and decision-making.

Case studies will be produced and showcased at the completion of each implemented grant ensuring that experiences, challenges, lessons learnt are all available for preparing future grantees.

Project reports will be submitted as stipulated in each grantee's MoA and will be housed in the GEF SGP database. Further, results extracted from reports and registries will be used to support the overarching objectives of the GEF Council.



For OP8, there will be a sustained focus on capturing, sharing, and disseminating the lessons learned and good practices of SGP Antigua especially through the media involving key stakeholders to show unity and collaboration.

5. COMMUNICATION PLAN

One of the greatest means to inspire groups and to support local policy change is to communicate both the challenges and successes of the CSOs. Strong networks and partnerships have been forged and maintained among CSOs, between CSOs and the private sector, and finally between CSOs and government agencies. To ensure that the fruits of these alliances accrue to benefits such as replication, innovation and scaling up of activities, SGP intends to communicate plans, initiatives results and impact via the following means:

- Development and sharing results of internal and project evaluations;
- Development and dissemination of public awareness and information material;
- Production and showcasing of grantee case studies;
- Regular usage of traditional and social media to communicate plans, progress updates, awards, results and impacts of the programme and projects;
- Facilitation of grantee/stakeholder workshops to share and showcase work as well as further build relationships and alliances as well as to build grantee capacity where the need arises;
- Support partnerships which will bring greater visibility for GEF SGP.

6. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND PARTNERSHIP PLAN

a) Secured and planned cash and in-kind co-financing

- All SGP-funded projects are encouraged to apply a 1:1 ratio of co-financing to all projects. The co-financing may be in cash or in-kind.
- SGP has successfully secured \$250,000 in STAR funding for the OP8 operational cycle.
- SGP works along with CSO partners to raise funds from funding agencies including IAF and the Commonwealth Foundation.
- Much of the in-kind co-financing stems from alliances and collaborations forged with other CSOs and particularly with government agencies.

b) Co-financing opportunities

The OP8 resource mobilization plan remains the same as the OP7 resource mobilization plan:

- (i) Enhancing/Increasing cash and in-kind co-financing at:
 - a. The Project Level: It is expected that every project proponent shall raise at least 50% of the project budget through in-kind and cash contributions and provide evidence to the NSC and NC to that effect.



- b. The Country Programme Level: The Government has committed itself to provide assistance in raising co-financing in a sustainable way. To this end the Environmental Protection and Management Act 2019 has established an environmental fund known as the Sustainable Island Resource Framework Fund (SIRFF). The SIRFF is structured to ensure that 15% of the resources that enter the fund will be allocated to NGOs and CSOs. In addition to this the Government is committed to give in-kind and technical assistance to the NC and to CSOs.
 - (ii) Diversifying funding sources:
 - a. Private Sector Level: Local members of the private sector will be approached by the NSC, NC and individual groups for financial and technical assistance.
 - b. Helping communities and CSOs develop proposals to access other donors and funding facilities
 - c. Both NSC members and the NC have conducted and will continue to facilitate presentations on SGP. The Department of the Environment as the Focal Point for most of the MEAs has played a major role in enabling the GEFSGP to have major impact and outreach at national, regional and international in key meetings where the networking and partnerships have taken place with major outcomes impacting at the local level. Being proactive and ready to follow up opportunities is required.
 - (iii) Approaching donors and funding facilities:
 - a. Antigua and Barbuda has been awarded NIE status to the Adaptation Fund through the Department of Environment and as such co-financing and, or technical assistance will be sought for community groups requiring significant amount of funding.
 - (iv) Scaling-up:
 - a. All SGP projects within Antigua and Barbuda must consider and demonstrate both environmental and financial sustainability before approval of grants by the NSC. Once impact is made, grantee and SGP team discuss ways to replicate and upscale e.g. Community reservoir restoration projects ongoing in 10 communities.

7. PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The SGP country team including the NSC and Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) can be leveraged to assist communities and CSOs develop proposals to access other donors and funding facilities. While the funds may not go directly to SGP, this activity can be considered part of resource mobilization as there is increased flow of resources to SGP stakeholders through its support.

The SGP Antigua and Barbuda team including the NSC and Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) will be leveraged to assist communities and CSOs develop proposals to access other donors and funding facilities. While the funds may not go directly to SGP, this activity will be considered part of resource mobilization as there is increased flow of resources to SGP stakeholders through its support. Entities to be approached for partnerships will include, but not be limited to, Ministry of Health, Wealth, Social Transformation and the Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and Blue Economy, FAO, IICA, and CARDI.



8. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

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
Change in government may disrupt continuity of established National Programmes and forged partnerships.	Medium	Low	<i>SGP will continue to foster strong and regular collaboration with government. Further, the government has made several international commitments and received several international awards. Further, Antigua and Barbuda successfully hosted the 4th SIDS Conference, demonstrating their commitment to the sustainable development of SIDS. These commitments and recognition support continuity, no matter who the ruling government is.</i>
Economic Downturn	Medium	High	<i>There is currently a global economic downturn following the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic and several military exercises. CSOs benefitting from SGP's support are trained to be strategic in procurement forecasts considering the current economic climate.</i>
Financial Risk – Availability of co-financing and resources for project implementation	Medium	Medium	<i>Before a project is funded, a comprehensive assessment of their resource list is explored.</i> <i>The NC and NSC will also continue to support the grantee to leverage in-kind and cash support.</i>
Extreme Weather Events	High	High	<i>Climate risk will be screened at the project development phase and a corresponding contingency plan will be in place to address the emergence of such an event.</i>
Project Management Insufficiencies	High	Medium	<i>All approved projects must have a Project Steering Committee put in place to address implementation, compliance and M&E issues.</i> <i>There will be an updated registry of volunteer technical experts who may be</i>



Describe identified risk	Degree of risk (low, medium, high)	Probability of risk (low, medium, high)	Risk mitigation measure foreseen
			<i>used to support where project management insufficiencies exist.</i> <i>All full projects will be subject to an external evaluation at the end of project implementation. This evaluation will not only serve as a knowledge gathering and sharing exercise, but a tool to show grantees the strengths and areas for needed improvement for future projects.</i> <i>Further, the NC and Steering Committee will ensure that relevant training is provided for the CSOs and that regular external monitoring by the NC and NSC is undertaken.</i> <i>A Civil Society Tracking Tool may be used to measure the growth of an organisation by the end of the project implantation.</i>
SGP Project may potentially exploit ecosystem services and lead to biodiversity loss	Low	Low	<i>Ensure that all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services of a project is identified and addressed with assistance of experts within both the community and Government ministries.</i> <i>All project applications are accompanied by completed Environment and Social Safeguard Screenings, coupled with site visits (by NC and NSC) to proposed project activity before approval of projects.</i>

9. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

During NSC meetings, updates on all SGP project grantees will be conducted based on submitted monitoring and evaluation reports as well as site visits. NSC meetings can include face to face reports by grantees to share information and for updates. Projects deemed to have significant risk occurrence and probability will be monitored frequently to include initial risks as well as emerging risks. NSC members may vote on whether or not to intervene on projects that may potentially become high risk.



9.1 Monitoring approaches at project and country levels

Monitoring and Evaluation is necessary to ensure that the country programme can provide evidence of its positive impact on a local level. Key local results further support the overarching objectives of the GEF Council.

On the project level, the capacity of Grantees to conduct M&E will be assessed by the NC. Should there exist a deficiency in M&E capabilities among grantees, the NC and NSC will support the hosting of an M&E workshop to improve the understanding and application of such by grantees.

Projects, to be approved for funding, must have an instituted Project Steering Committee which will not only monitor the management of the implemented project, but will ensure that key performance indicators agreed upon between grantee and NC are being achieved.

Periodic site visits, programmed into the country workplan, will be made by the NC and members of the NSC to ensure that projects are in compliance with terms agreed upon in the MoA, and that key performance indicators, previously agreed upon, are being achieved.

To further support strict application of M&E, a call for proposals will be issued among CSOs to provide the services of an external evaluation.

On the programme level, a mid-cycle and end of cycle evaluation will be done by an external evaluator. The results compiled from this country level evaluation will be used to feed data to the overarching GEF Programme as well as local repositories for information, such as the EIMAS, which aid policy and decision-making.

Summarized Roles and Responsibilities are as follows:

Grantee:

- Accountable for implementing projects according to the terms agreed in the MoA;
- Accountable for reporting progress through the Project Steering committee at agreed upon intervals during the project grant cycle.
- Jointly agree with SGP country team on key indicators to be monitored in these reports.

National Coordinator:

- At project planning stage, agree with grantee on key indicators to be monitored for SGP reporting purposes.
- Monitor grantee reporting during the project.
- Undertake site visits at regular intervals.
- Unearth and promote synergies between grantees, and on the CSO/Private Partner/Government level.
- Support capacity building where deficiencies in project management and M&E exist.
- Maintain an updated project database and all additional created registries and plans.



Quality Assurance



Quality assurance is crucial in both the means of M&E as well as the quality of the data collected. As such, where applicable, independent, third party evaluators will be enlisted to support the M&E integrity.

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 OP8 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 ³
Annual Monitoring Report Survey ⁴	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF. It serves as the primary tools to record and analytically	NC/PA in close collaboration with NSC. CPMT provides technical guidance support and receives final country	Staff time	Once per year in June- July

³ 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.

⁴ 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
	present results to donors	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 OP8 CPS development and its implementation Global technical M&E support can be expected	Once per operational phase
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 5: Results Framework of SGP OP8 Country Programme Strategy

Alignment with SDGs

The following SDGs are what current and future SGP Antigua & Barbuda projects align/will align to:

- Goal 1: End Poverty in all its forms
 - Target 1.5
- Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
 - Target 2.3
- Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
 - Target 4.4
- Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
 - Targets 5.1, 5a, 5b, 5c
- Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
 - Targets 6.6, 6b
- Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
 - Target 8.6
- Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
 - Target 11.4
- Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
 - Targets 12.2, 12.4, 12.5, 12.8, 12a, 12b
- Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
 - All Targets
- Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
 - All Targets
- 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
 - All Targets
- Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development
 - Target 17.1

Synergy with UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD):

- Priority 1 — Economic resilience and shared prosperity
- Priority 2 — Resilience to climate change and sustainable natural resources management
- Priority 3 — Safety, justice and rule of law

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	20 hectares of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (GEF core indicator 4.1 and 4.3) 20 hectares of marine protected areas created or under improved management (GEF core indicator 2) 20 hectares of marine habitat under improved practices (GEF core indicator 5) 5 number of community-based protected area/ conserved area designations and/or networks strengthened 20 species of global conservation concern protected	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> Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security	10 hectares of land and ecosystems under restoration (GEF core indicator 3.1) 5 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.) 20 small-holder farmers supported towards the achievement of national Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports) 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	2 2 locally adapted solutions promoting low-carbon technologies, and that are suitable for replication At least 1 project works to support the government as the country aims to reduce GHG emissions by 30% by 2030 1 linkage made to include at-risk youth in sustainable livelihood training geared towards increase in renewable energy use.	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> <i>Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management</i>	<i>2 policy recommendations or advocacy initiatives related to land-based pollution as a result of SGP project</i> <i>1 local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management strengthened and/or established 10 tons of Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), POPs and mercury containing materials and products removed or disposed (GEF core indicator 9.6)</i> <i>1 ton of plastic material recycled/upcycled creating a circular rather than linear life cycle.</i> <i>1 project that addresses the educational gap on chemicals as and waste management.</i>	<i>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports)</i> <i>Strategic partnership with IPEN and Mercury GOLD country partners</i> <i>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), global database</i> <i>Country Programme Review</i>
<u>Strategic Initiative 5:</u> <i>Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions</i>	<i>5 community-based sustainable solutions in urban landscapes (e.g., transport, biodiversity conservation, chemical and waste management, energy efficiency, watershed protection, etc.)</i>	<i>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</i> <i>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</i> <i>Country Programme Review</i>
<u>Strategic Initiative 6:</u> <i>CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms</i>	<i>10 CSO-government-private sector dialogues formed or strengthened</i> <i>2 high-level policy changes associated with increased community participation in multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms</i> <i>30 (number of) representatives from social inclusion group (Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, persons with disability, farmers, other marginalized groups) meaningfully engaged in multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms</i>	<i>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</i> <i>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), global database</i> <i>Country Programme Review</i>
<u>Strategic Initiative 7:</u> <i>Enhancing social inclusion</i>	<i>2000 people benefitting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex (GEF core indicator 11)</i> <i>10 projects with focused interventions promoting gender equality and women's empowerment</i> <i>10 projects that demonstrate models of engaging (a) Indigenous Peoples, (b) youth, and (c) persons with disabilities.</i> <i>10 grants with targeted support for 1) women or women groups; 2) youth or youth-led groups; 3) Indigenous Peoples' groups</i>	<i>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</i> <i>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</i> <i>Country Programme Review</i>



	50% of total grant portfolio accessed by 1) women or women groups; 2) youth or youth-led groups; 3) indigenous peoples' groups	
Strategic Initiative 8: Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management	8 projects with meetings involving local CSOs/CBOs or communities to monitor project results, assess impacts, and identify lessons learned 20 (number of) knowledge exchange/sharing events with participation of local communities 50 (number of) online knowledge repository developed as a result of SGP project 2 (number of) country/cross-country impact reviews conducted with evidence of SGP impact and lessons learned. 2 (number of) 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
Mr. Andelle Trotman	DocuSigned by: <i>Mr. Andelle Trotman</i> 5AC36E23CF4E479...
Mr. Joseph Prosper	DocuSigned by: <i>Joseph Prosper</i> 5A9386D89DC4FD...
Mrs. Jenita Cuffy	Signed by: <i>Juffy</i> 0153001F2D1243D...
Ms. Sophia Punnett	Signed by: <i>Ms. Sophia Punnett</i> 993177811F4F48F...
Ms. Michelle Paige	DocuSigned by: <i>Michelle Paige</i> 79DFA57E54D44CE...
Dr. Therez Walker	DocuSigned by: <i>Therez Walker</i> 551BD4EA8F4941B...
Dr. Nneka Hull - James	Signed by: <i>Nneka Hull - James</i> D224F9D79FCC474...



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