



THE GEF SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME
Results Report 2020-2021

The Small Grants Programme (SGP)

Results Report 2020-2021

INTRODUCTION

The Small Grants Programme (SGP), a corporate programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) that is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), supports community-led initiatives that address global environmental issues. SGP empowers local civil society and community-based organizations (CSOs and CBOs), including women, Indigenous Peoples, youth and persons with disabilities, to design and lead actions to address global environmental issues. The programme implements effective and efficient projects that aim to achieve global environmental benefits while improving livelihoods and reducing poverty. SGP operates in a decentralized and country-driven manner through a Country Programme Team and National Steering Committee in each country.

As a GEF Corporate Programme with dedicated GEF resources and co-financing from communities, governments and other donors, SGP plays an important role in meeting the objectives of the multilateral environment agreements that the GEF serves. SGP also contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda by ensuring social inclusion and local stakeholder involvement in initiatives that promote multisectoral and integrated solutions to environmental and livelihood challenges.

Since its inception in 1992, SGP has implemented 26,429 projects in 136 countries, providing grants totaling US\$724.9 million. Currently, the SGP is active in 128 countries.

SGP's Seventh Operational Phase, with GEF-7 and other finance, officially started on July 2020 with the signing of the project document. In GEF-7, SGP undertakes a triple approach of impact, innovation and inclusion to promote strategic and innovative community investments that identify, nurture and replicate scalable local solutions to conserve the global environment. With focused investment in priority landscapes and seascapes, SGP supports community-led projects that serve as incubators of innovation, with the potential to influence policy and for broader adoption of successful approaches through larger programmes and projects.

METHODOLOGY

This summary report presents SGP's results for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, based on information received from 115 SGP Country Programmes. For this Results Report that mainly targets GEF stakeholders, a conservative methodological approach is used to calculate results by covering only GEF-funded projects that were completed during the reporting year.

A total of 930 GEF-funded projects were completed in this reporting period and their results are presented in this summary document. The full report can be found on the [SGP global website](#).



PORTFOLIO

1 JULY 2020 – 30 JUNE 2021

1001

NEW
PROJECTS

930

COMPLETED
PROJECTS

2,152

ONGOING
PROJECTS



FUNDING

ACTIVE PORTFOLIO OF
GEF-FUNDED GRANT PROJECTS

US\$76

GRANT PROJECT FUNDING
(IN \$ MILLIONS)

US\$72

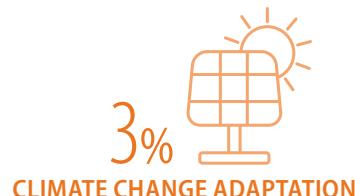
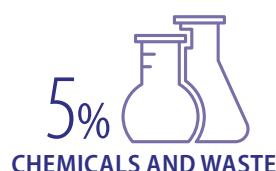
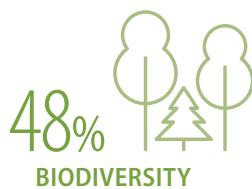
GRANT PROJECT LEVEL
CO-FINANCING (IN \$ MILLIONS)

Geographic coverage



Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) account for over 60% of SGP Global Country Programmes (40 LDCs and 37 SIDS) area of each project.

Focal area distribution*



* While most SGP projects benefit multi-focal area results, for reporting purposes we have reported based on the primary focal area of each project.

Progress Towards

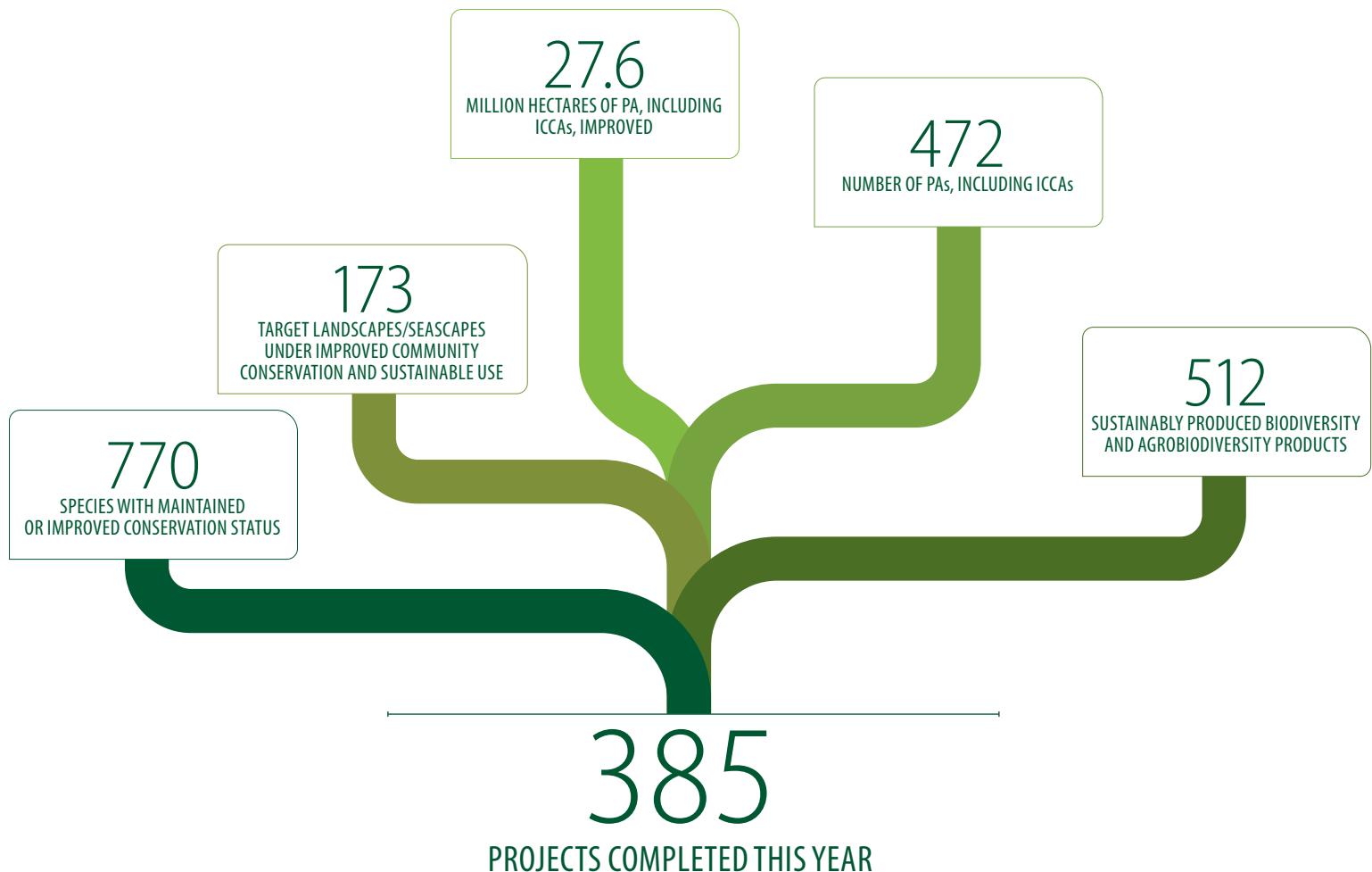
Focal area objectives

In alignment with the overall GEF programming, SGP focuses its efforts on targeted strategic initiatives that promote integrated approaches in addressing key global environmental issues by covering all GEF focal areas. Most SGP projects continue to have multiple benefits and integrated approaches that are relevant to more than one focal area. However, for reporting purposes projects were categorized under one primary focal area.



BIODIVERSITY

Under the Biodiversity focal area, SGP supports improvements in management effectiveness of protected area (PA) systems, mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes and seascapes, and other related sectors. Support towards creation and management of Indigenous Peoples and Communities Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCAs) are a key part of SGP's biodiversity portfolio.



Spotlight on Central African Republic

In the **Central African Republic**, SGP supported the Association Femme Enfant Vert to conserve biodiversity in the Dzanga-Sangha Dense Forest Special Reserve, close to Dzanga-Ndoki National Park. Women from the Bayanga Village in the forest reserve benefitted from this project, which restored more than six hectares of degraded land by cultivating moringa plants, fruit trees such as papaya and citrus, and woody trees that host protein-rich edible caterpillars. Besides enhancing the biodiversity in the special reserve, key results also included several sustainably produced agrobiodiversity products that supported communities' well-being and income generation. For example, moringa oil was extracted and used in soaps, while its leaves with known health benefits were processed for sale. Papaya seeds were used as insect repellants by local households, while the fruit itself was used to produce vitamin-rich jam. As caterpillars are a source of food, having them available closer to the village reduced the need for long-distance travel during the caterpillar collection season and provided an alternative food source, consequently reducing hunting of local fauna. These income generating activities also had a visible impact on reducing natural resource exploitation by local community members.





CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

SGP's climate change projects support low-carbon energy transformation at the community level through the introduction of low-greenhouse gas (GHG) technologies, with livelihood co-benefits. These technologies include energy production from micro hydro, wind, solar and biomass.

RESULTS

234
PROJECTS COMPLETED
THIS YEAR

25,627
HOUSEHOLDS SUPPORTED WITH
ENERGY ACCESS CO-BENEFITS

82
TYPOLOGIES OF ENERGY SOLUTIONS
WITH SUCCESSFUL DEMONSTRATIONS
OR SCALING UP AND REPPLICATION

39
COUNTRY PROGRAMMES THAT
DEPLOYED LOW-GHG
TECHNOLOGIES

Spotlight on Morocco

In **Morocco**, SGP supported Association Initiatives Climat to innovate and promote low-carbon solutions to address energy access issues impacting local communities. Green charcoal, also referred to as organic coal or vegetal coal,



can partly solve this problem. Made with plant waste or agricultural residues, it serves as an alternative to charcoal, which requires large quantities of wood to produce. Green charcoal provides multiple benefits: social benefits, such as reduction of women's unpaid work for collecting firewood and, consequently, more time available for other productive uses; health benefits with less exposure to pollution; economic benefits, as green charcoal is cheaper than regular charcoal; and environmental benefits with reduced GHG emissions. In addition, its highly decentralized production provided income-generating activities for grassroots community organizations and young green entrepreneurs. The association also initiated a South-South cooperation programme among Francophone African countries, which is operating across 15 countries to identify and replicate transferable solutions that can contribute to the realization of Nationally Determined Contributions to reduce GHG emissions. To advance related technical knowledge and entrepreneurship, the project supported the establishment of an African green charcoal cluster that brought together experienced charcoal producers to provide tailored advice to community stakeholders for green charcoal production. Two new technologies were also developed to produce green charcoal: a prototype of an improved furnace for ecological and secure carbonization of the raw material, and a prototype of a press for the compaction and production of green charcoal. A technical manual and an e-training module have also been developed, supporting 60 African producers to embark on the sustainable production of green charcoal.



LAND DEGRADATION

The projects under land degradation support prevention and restoration of degraded land by promoting sustainable land and forest management practices. Activities focus on rural communities that are highly dependent on agriculture and forest ecosystems for their livelihoods.

RESULTS

164

PROJECTS COMPLETED
THIS YEAR

86,515

HECTARES OF LAND UNDER
IMPROVED MANAGEMENT
PRACTICES

40,052

COMMUNITY MEMBERS
DEMONSTRATING SUSTAINABLE
LAND MANAGEMENT

5,042

FARMER LEADERS
DEMONSTRATING
AGROECOLOGICAL
PRACTICES

563

FARMER NETWORKS
DISSEMINATING IMPROVED
AGROECOLOGY PRACTICES

Spotlight on Maldives

In **Maldives**, SGP supported the FAAM Foundation to promote alternative farming methods to commercial and chemical-driven farming practices. The island of Kihaadho is one of the most agriculturally productive islands in Baa Atoll. However, like elsewhere in Maldives, farmers are heavily reliant on chemical inputs that have led to several issues, including freshwater contamination, and land and soil degradation. FAAM Foundation worked to minimize the use of harmful chemical fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture through the introduction of alternative methods such as hydroponics and organic farming. This was primarily done through training and awareness-raising activities, establishment of model farms with hydroponics and organic inputs, and experimenting with the use of kitchen waste to make compost. The project designed, developed and installed 15 hydroponic systems, placed compost barrels in the Foundation's waste management centre to collect food waste and provided agricultural inputs such as seeds to 30 farmers on the island.

Beneficiaries also completed a seven-day hydroponic training workshop. While the project targeted the entire population of Kihaadho, it prioritized female farmers as a way of recognizing and overcoming some of the challenges that prevent women from growing their subsistence agricultural activities into commercial farming.





SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

SGP's sustainable forest management portfolio supports sustainable land use, land use change and forestry management interventions for both forest and non-forest land use types to ensure that restoration activities are well suited to the transformed ecosystems.

RESULTS

18

PROJECTS COMPLETED
THIS YEAR

78,668

HECTARES OF FOREST AND NON-FOREST
LANDS RESTORED OR WITH ENHANCED
CARBON STOCKS

Spotlight on The Gambia



In **The Gambia**, SGP supported the Jurunku Village Development Committee (VDC) to implement a project aimed at managing the village's threatened community forest reserve to improve and sustain its ecosystem goods and services for boosting sustainable livelihood and biodiversity conservation. Although VDC was originally established to spearhead village development, it remained inactive for many years. SGP project activities included: revitalizing VDC through a training programme to make it more efficient and functional; establishing a tree nursery for forest regeneration and seedling stocking; hiring and training a nursery attendant; establishing a borehole powered by two solar-powered pumps to supply two elevated water tanks of 2,000 liters capacity each, as well as water distribution systems; and procuring tools such as rakes, wheelbarrows, spades, polythene bags and machetes.

The intervention was complemented by the promotion of apiculture within the forest, providing training on skills, marketing and value-added honey products for community members. Due to these interventions, over 552 hectares of community forest were brought under improved management, which addressed various threats such as logging, forest fires, illegal hunting for wild animals and honey, and land clearing for farms, among others.



INTERNATIONAL WATERS

Under the international waters portfolio, SGP supports the sustainable management of transboundary water bodies, such as river basins and large marine ecosystems, through the development and demonstration of effective community-based actions and practices to implement the Strategic Action Plans developed by countries in various regions.

RESULTS

26

PROJECTS COMPLETED
THIS YEAR

370,211

HECTARES OF MARINE AND
COASTAL AREAS UNDER
SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

89,595

HECTARES OF SEASCAPES
UNDER SUSTAINABLE
MANAGEMENT

491

TONS OF LAND-BASED
POLLUTION REDUCED
OR PREVENTED

21

SEASCAPES/INLAND
FRESHWATER
LANDSCAPES
SUPPORTED

Spotlight on Honduras

In Honduras, SGP supported Mi Esperanza No. 2 on a project entitled "Network of women involved in the collection and management of solid waste for the protection of coastal marine resources". The project was implemented in the coastal municipality of Balfate, with a focus on the importance of proper solid waste management and the impact that waste can have on mangrove and marine ecosystems. The project conducted mangrove restoration and educational sessions with youth and community members. It also engaged over 200 families in waste collection initiatives, including beach and mangrove clean-up campaigns and dialogues with local leaders to identify waste management alternatives.

As key results, the project prevented at least 288,000 kilograms of solid waste from entering the sea and encouraged four communities to reduce waste. This also benefitted the Cayos Cochinos Marine Natural Monument, which is part of the marine protected area off the coast of Balfate. Moreover, approximately 4,000 mangrove plants were grown to conserve an area of 40 hectares.

The members of Mi Esperanza No. 2 also undertook trainings in administrative matters and organizational strengthening, which helped to build internal capacity and allowed the organization to become self-sustaining and capable of managing its own resources. Another project component focused on employment, with the association generating income through the collection of solid waste in the communities of Río Esteban, Bambú, La Colonia and Lucinda. Community members were also paid for their waste collection and transport services.

Due to isolation and social distancing restrictions prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the community was gravely affected by food shortage. As part of COVID adaptation efforts, Mi Esperanza No. 2 redirected part of the project resources to establish 50 family gardens, which partially solved the immediate food crisis of 50 households. Training was also provided on composting and production of organic fertilizers. The gardens yielded at least 60 kilograms of compost (bokashi), 120 liters of fertilizers and two types of liquid biofertilizers, providing additional alternate sources of income during the pandemic.





CHEMICALS AND WASTE

SGP's chemicals and waste management portfolio supports control and reduction of the use of harmful chemicals through sound management of chemicals and waste, including persistent organic pollutants and mercury, to minimize adverse effects on human health and the global environment.

RESULTS

38

PROJECTS COMPLETED
THIS YEAR (INCLUDING
MERCURY PROJECTS)

27,340

KILOGRAMS OF PESTICIDES
AVOIDED, REDUCED
OR PREVENTED

26,376

KILOGRAMS OF HARMFUL
CHEMICALS AVOIDED FROM
UTILIZATION OR RELEASE

29

NATIONAL COALITIONS AND
NETWORKS ON CHEMICALS
AND WASTE MANAGEMENT
ESTABLISHED OR STRENGTHENED

8

MERCURY
MANAGEMENT
PROJECTS
COMPLETED

Spotlight on Samoa



In **Samoa**, SGP supported the Savai'i Samoa Tourism Association (SSTA) on a waste management and awareness-raising project. Littering is still prevalent in some Samoan rural communities, where adequate waste collection and storage facilities are not available. This has health and environmental (marine and terrestrial) impacts and is affecting the local tourism industry.

SSTA worked with at least five districts on Samoa's largest island, Savai'i, to launch a national waste campaign, install 250 waste stands for household garbage collection and train residents on waste separation and composting. As most houses are located close to the shoreline, increased awareness and improved waste collection infrastructure resulted in significant reduction of waste entering the marine environment. In addition, improved waste management at local hospitals and schools was supported by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Natural Resources. The by-laws of the village governance systems were amended and subsequently endorsed to properly manage waste throughout the sub villages of Satupaitea. Nearly 2,000 people benefitted from the project, including 900 children. As a result, waste management in these areas has improved drastically, with close to zero waste currently being dumped in the environment and the elimination of open burning of solid waste, which emits persistent organic pollutants.



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

SGP's capacity development portfolio enhances and strengthens the capacity of communities and civil society organizations to address global environmental challenges.

RESULTS

65

PROJECTS COMPLETED
THIS YEAR

10,967

PEOPLE WHOSE
CAPACITIES WERE IMPROVED

870

CSOs WHOSE CAPACITIES
WERE DEVELOPED OR IMPROVED

529

CBOs WHOSE CAPACITIES WERE
DEVELOPED OR IMPROVED

Spotlight on Kazakhstan

In **Kazakhstan**, SGP supported the Zubr Social Corporate Foundation to build the capacities of SGP grantees and address lessons learned from earlier SGP operational phases to improve synergies and promote knowledge sharing and replication among SGP grantee partners. The project conducted workshops, trainings and exchange visits, using the methods of participatory analysis, reflection and application, with an emphasis on project management, communication with stakeholders, project risk management and financial management. It organized seven exchange visits with SGP grantees, which promoted wider dissemination of successful project results and supported their potential replication beyond their initial landscape.

The initiative also developed an online course on project development, which can now be used by potential grantees to create high quality project proposals. Finally, the project has benefitted 45 organizations and 433 people, including 285 women, besides strengthening grantee project management capacities to address gender issues, community involvement in decision-making processes and overall cooperation with local authorities.



Kazakhstan



CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



1 NO
POVERTY



2 ZERO
HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



15 LIFE
ON LAND



Social inclusion

SGP undertakes targeted efforts to support greater social inclusion of marginalized groups, including women, Indigenous Peoples, youth and persons with disabilities.



34% PROJECTS WERE LED BY WOMEN OR WOMEN'S GROUPS



86% COUNTRIES WITH A GENDER FOCAL POINT ON THE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEES



78% PROJECTS INCLUDING GENDER CONSIDERATIONS



392 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES



22% PROJECTS INVOLVED INDIGENOUS PEOPLES



39% COUNTRIES WITH AN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FOCAL POINT ON THE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE



889 INDIGENOUS LEADERS WITH STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES



209 YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES





Livelihoods and sustainability

Improving livelihoods is a core element of SGP's approach in addressing global environmental issues, with 694 completed projects (75%) improving the livelihoods of communities around the world through the following strategies:

71% INCREASED AND/OR DIVERSIFIED INCOME

70% INCREASED FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITIONAL VALUE

50% INCREASED ACCESS TO MARKETS

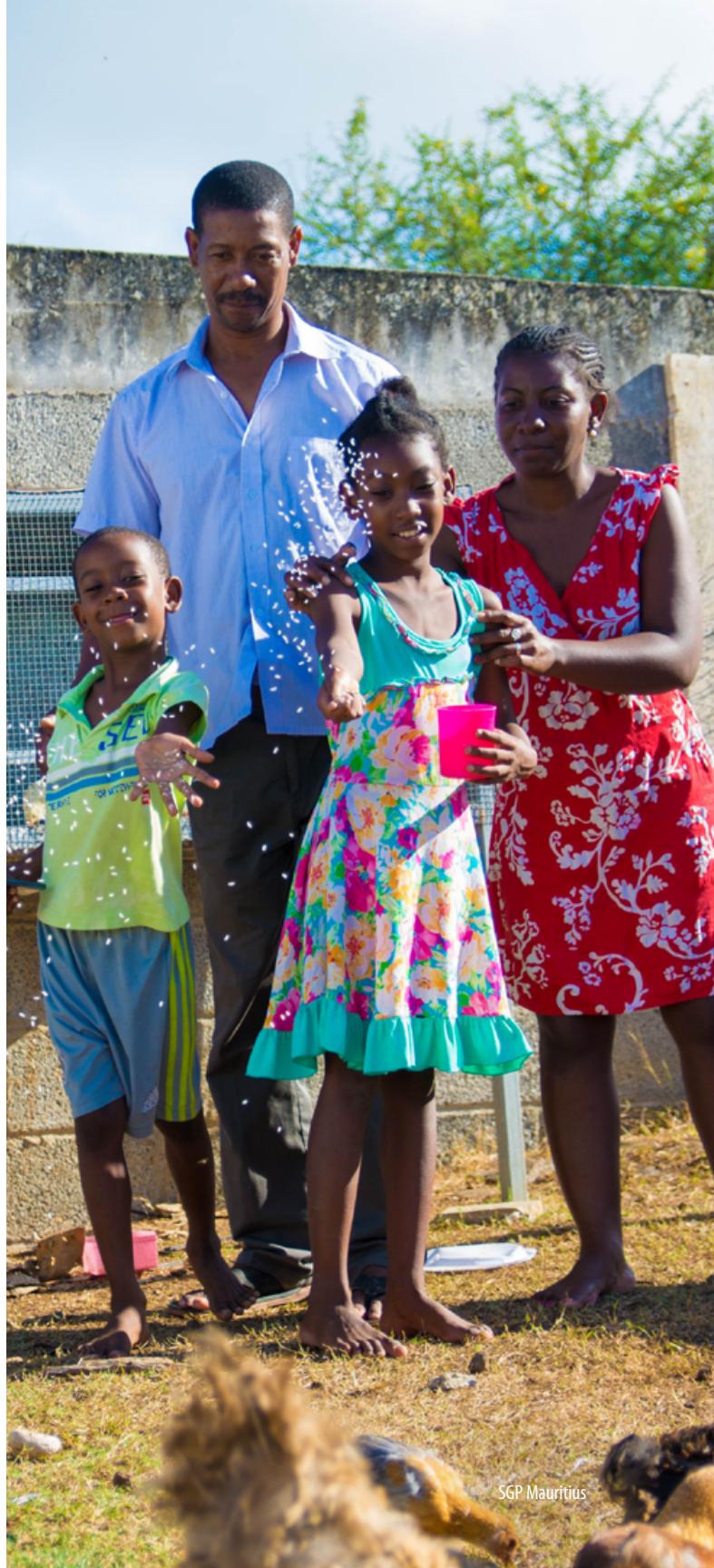
50% INCREASED ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

38% INCREASED ACCESS TO INFRASTRUCTURE

37% INCREASED ACCESS TO FINANCE

35% INCREASED ACCESS TO EDUCATION

23% IMPROVED HEALTH OR ACCESS TO HEALTH FACILITIES





Broader adoption

Scaling up and replication

SGP encourages replication and scaling up of good results and measures that have a strong impact, including influencing of relevant policies at the national, regional and global levels. policies at the national, regional, and global levels.

16% OF PROJECTS REPLICATED AND SCALED UP

17% OF PROJECTS INFLUENCED POLICY

SGP APPROACHES FOR BROADER ADOPTION



72% CONNECTED GRANTEES WITH NGOs/INGOs



72% PROMOTED PEER-TO-PEER EXCHANGES



69% CONNECTED GRANTEES WITH GOVERNMENT SERVICES



70% ORGANIZED TRAINING FOR SGP GRANTEES ON DIFFERENT SUBJECTS TO IMPROVE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION



52% CONNECTED GRANTEES WITH THE ACADEMIA OR RESEARCH CENTERS



70% ORGANIZED TRAINING WITHIN PROJECT GRANTS ON SPECIFIC TECHNICAL ISSUES



49% CONNECTED GRANTEES WITH DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES/PRACTITIONERS



70% STRENGTHENED GRANTEE NETWORKS



48% CONNECTED GRANTEES WITH PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES



SGP Yemen



SGP Armenia

175
PROJECTS
ON POLICY DIALOGUE
PLATFORMS INITIATED AND
CSO AND/OR CBO NETWORKS
STRENGTHENED TO MANAGE
SUCH DIALOGUES

57
PROJECTS
ON SOUTH-SOUTH EXCHANGES
THAT SUPPORTED CAPACITY
TRANSFER ON NEW COMMUNITY
INNOVATIONS BETWEEN
COMMUNITIES, CSOS AND OTHER
PARTNERS ACROSS COUNTRIES

Below are some examples of scaling up or policy influence achieved by SGP projects completed during this reporting year.

In **Armenia**, the Association for Sustainable Human Development successfully replicated and upscaled the experience of a previous SGP project to expand access to affordable and clean energy through innovative low-carbon energy solutions in the Mrgashen community. The project aimed to use the region's high solar energy potential to create enabling conditions for adoption and commercialization of low-carbon technology in the community. The project supported the installation of photovoltaic systems with an overall capacity of 25 kilowatts and two solar heating systems with 300 liters capacity each, and also replaced 250 streetlights with energy efficient LED lamps. It also improved the energy efficiency of the apartment building that housed community members by insulating the entrance and roof, as well as replacing windows and doors. These low-carbon energy solutions were estimated to result in a reduction of 14 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per year, generating annual savings of around \$5,000 that will be used to expand renewable energy use and efficiency in the community.

In **Malaysia**, the Malaysian Agroecology Society for Sustainable Resource Intensification (SRI-Mas) completed a project to conserve and promote agrobiodiversity through an ecosystem-based method of rice cultivation known as System of Rice Intensification (SRI). Agrobiodiversity-based SRI production systems adopt an agroecological approach that promotes ecosystem services to enhance soil and plant health. The SRI practices promoted by SRI-Mas are applicable to numerous rice varieties, using less water and without any synthetic chemicals. Considering the project's successful experience, SRI-Mas made strategic recommendations on the National Agrofood Policy 2.0 that were submitted for consideration by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries. In addressing the issues related to the adoption of modern technologies, SRI-Mas advocated for the integration of agroecology and sustainable agricultural practices into Malaysia's National Food Security Policy as a supporting strategy to achieve national targets and resilient food systems under SDG 2.



Moreover, an SRI-Mas representative was appointed as a member of the National Food Security Committee. Agroecology is also being considered under further research and development as a new approach for enhancing food security in the country.

In **Zimbabwe**, a project completed by SCOPE Zimbabwe continued to grow as the concept it introduced in schools was replicated both within and outside the country to regenerate school yards into food production zones through the Integrated Land Use Design (ILUD) approach. SCOPE is a vibrant and practical environmental education programme that helps schools to redesign and rationalize land use for sustainable resource use. ILUD is a whole landscape approach that brings together different agriculture systems, demonstrating ecological good practices that include crop diversification, organic soil fertility management and reclaiming of degraded landscapes. The establishment of nurseries at schools and livestock integration generated income for the schools. The school gardens also provided fresh vegetables and fruits, saving significant money on produce and crops for school-based feeding programmes. The improved access to clean water from boreholes, coupled with rainwater harvesting, contributed to replenishing the schools' clean water supplies. The free-range chicken rearing as part of the agroecology project design generated income and provided manure for the garden and field production, hence increasing productivity. Within Zimbabwe, the SCOPE approach was replicated in over 200 schools and attracted the attention of the government through the Environmental

Management Agency (EMA) and the Ministry of Education, leading to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between these authorities and SCOPE Zimbabwe. At the international level, other countries have adopted this approach through other SCOPE country chapters, including Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, and Zambia. The work was also shared through the Global Ecovillage Network, of which SCOPE Zimbabwe is an active member.

In **Yemen**, two projects respectively operated by the Al-Husaniah Canal Water Users Society and the Ra's Eirh Community Group were replicated from previous projects in other areas, assisting local communities to acquire solar systems for home electrification. The replication was achieved via information dissemination from one community to another. The projects reduced CO₂ emission and raised local awareness about environmental sustainability and climate change mitigation. The project completed by the Al-Husaniah Canal Water Users Society enabled 137 households to access solar energy for lighting. The other project by the Ra's Eirh Community Group provided solar energy to 72 households and raised local awareness through two workshops. Both projects were able to benefit 70 additional beneficiaries due to savings in local community financial resources that had previously been used to purchase conventional fuel. To ensure the sustainability of the projects, revolving fund mechanisms were established through a monthly subscription.

SGP innovation programmes

During the reporting year, SGP continued to grow its Innovation Programmes- dedicated investments to address emerging issues aligned to the SGP's Strategic Initiatives in a portfolio of selected countries. The following SGP Innovation Programmes were implemented globally in close relation to relevant GEF and other partner programmes and projects: Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining, Big Cats Conservation, Women-Led Enterprises, Persons with Disabilities and Responsive Development, Indigenous Peoples and Energy Access, Youth and Climate Change, and Sustainable Land Management in the Sahel Region. Projects are currently under implementation in alignment with overall country programme priorities and utilizes innovative approaches and tools to promote knowledge sharing and replication.

Knowledge and communications



4,980

FACT SHEETS, BROCHURES,
CASE STUDIES, PUBLICATIONS
AND VIDEOS DEVELOPED



2,365

SGP MENTIONS
IN THE MEDIA



1,255

TRAININGS
CONDUCTED



251

HOW-TO TOOLKITS
DEVELOPED



39

AWARD WINNING
PROJECTS

Monitoring and evaluation



1,439

PROJECTS (56% OF THE ACTIVE
PORTFOLIO) WERE VISITED
TO TRACK PROGRESS

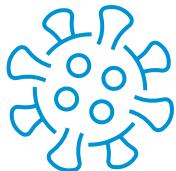


ANNUAL MONITORING REPORTS
PRODUCED FOR PARTNER
REQUIREMENTS



SGP Response to COVID-19

Examples of COVID-19 response



During the reporting year, SGP continued to align efforts with the UNDP and GEF strategies to address the effects of the pandemic and served as their local community action window. With an emphasis on “green recovery and building forward better” (i.e., economic recovery by integrating environmental consideration or generating benefits to environment), SGP had an important role in reducing and preventing environmental stresses, while creating jobs and supporting community level wellbeing. Adaptation in how SGP worked during this time was also a noteworthy result. The following represents the various measures taken by Country Programmes and areas of innovation.



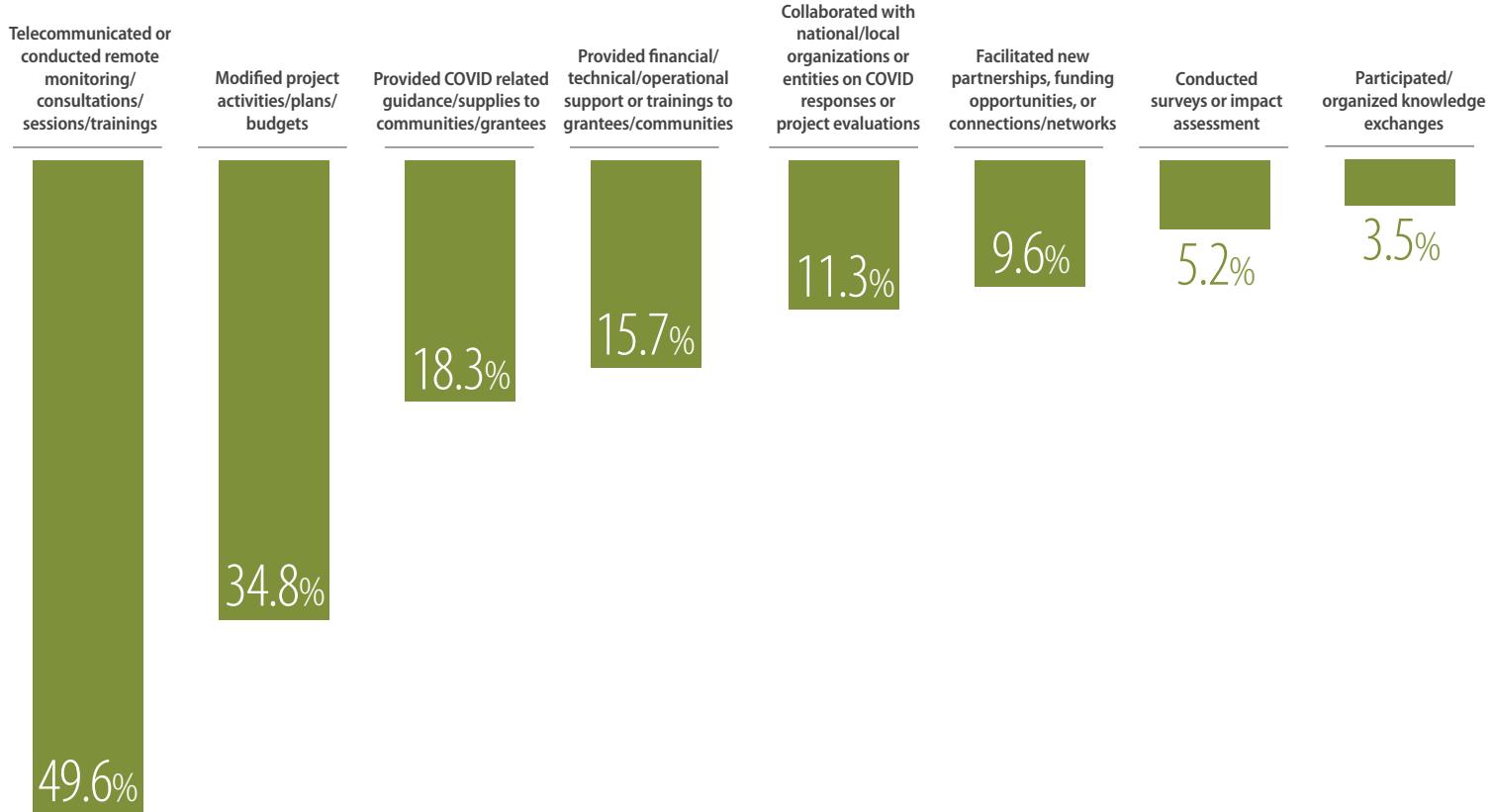
EXAMPLES OF COVID-19 RESPONSE

In **Turkey**, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic SGP supported BisiKoop, a cyclists’ cooperative in Izmir, to expand and reorganize their CitiesOnBike-Izmir project to deliver food to the marginalized and elderly, in coordination with the Izmir Metropolitan and Bayraklı and Karşıyaka municipalities. BisiKoop is the only cyclist’s cooperative organization in Turkey with a mission of reducing carbon emissions to mitigate climate change and promote sustainable cities. Under the new BisiDestek (bike support) initiative, they mobilized and trained cyclist volunteers and created an action plan of national scale for monitoring and delivering daily shopping needs and medicines to people over 65 years old, as well as persons with disabilities and disadvantaged groups with mobility challenges. In addition, the project developed collaborative educational and awareness-raising activities with BUGEP, the largest civil platform of all cycling communities in Izmir. The project also organized official permissions and geographical planning with local authorities to implement cycling transportation plans with trained volunteers, while adhering to the rules and routes that were safe and aligned to local COVID-19 precautions. This COVID-19 response also created an opportunity to highlight the importance of bicycles as an eco-friendly urban transport alternative.

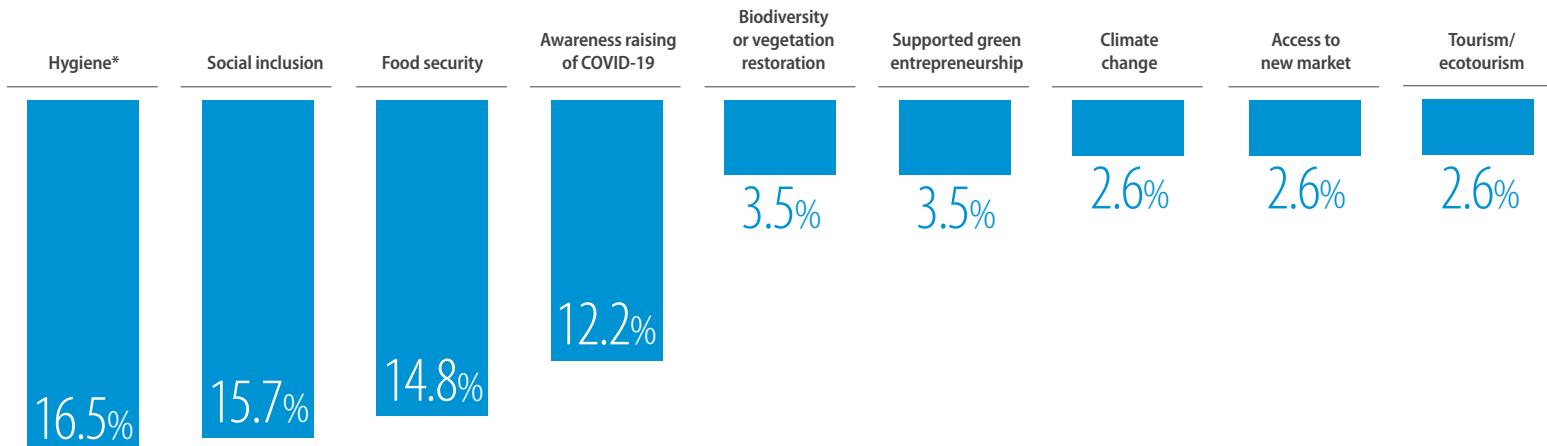
In **Jamaica**, lack of access to piped water in many rural communities gravely impacted marginalized populations, such as the elderly and persons with disabilities, who relied on rainfall or water pipes miles away to meet basic sanitation needs, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. With SGP support, Sawyers Local Forest Management Committee Benevolent Society reoriented some of its activities to address these needs by installing a water tank in the Sawyers community centre that was frequently used for hand washing, ensuring compliance with national health and sanitation protocols. Most notably, the project improved potable water access to more than 50 community members.



COVID-19 RESPONSE MEASURES TAKEN BY COUNTRY TEAMS



COVID-19 RESPONSE AND INTERVENTION AREAS



* Hygiene (safe water, vaccination, sanitation products or PPEs produced/distributed)



Partnerships

During the reporting year, several new partnerships were established and matured with significant additional resources for which SGP serves as a delivery platform through many of its country programmes, including: a) Global Support Initiative for Indigenous Peoples and Community-Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCA-GSI) Phase 2, supported by the government of Germany; b) MAVA Foundation- SGP partnership in the Mediterranean and West Africa; c) joint initiative with Project 15 from Microsoft; d) Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS) Phase 3, funded by the Japan Biodiversity Fund of the Convention on Biological Diversity; e) the partnership with the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) and the Micronesia Conservation Trust, funded by the government of Italy; and f) the joint initiative with the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF). The partnerships with SOS SAHEL and the Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWECO) Project continued to progress.

Supported by:



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation,
Building and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the German Bundestag



Japan Biodiversity Fund



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation





The Small Grants Programme (SGP) is a corporate programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Established in 1992, SGP's grantmaking in over 125 countries promotes community-based innovation, capacity development, and empowerment through sustainable development projects of local civil society organizations with special consideration for indigenous peoples, women, and youth. SGP has supported over 24,000 community-based projects on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, climate change mitigation and adaption, sustainable land management, conservation of international waters, and chemicals and waste management, while generating sustainable livelihoods.



The Global Environment Facility (GEF), established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, is a catalyst for action on the environment — and much more. Through its strategic investments, the GEF works with partners to tackle the planet's biggest environmental issues. Our funding also helps reduce poverty, strengthen governance and achieve greater equality between women and men. As such, we occupy a unique space in the global partnership for a more sustainable planet.



UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in 177 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations. www.undp.org



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