2026

Project Implementation Report (PIR)

Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

GEF SGP 8th Operational Phase (Part 1)

Basic Data.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Key project dates.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Overall ratings.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Development Objective Progress.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Finance/Co-Finance.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Implementation Progress.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Project Governance.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Ratings and Overall Assessments.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Minor Amendments.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Gender.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Risk Management.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Knowledge Management & Communications.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Annex - Ratings Definitions.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

A. Basic Data

Project Information	
UNDP PIMS ID	9520
GEF ID	11285
Title	GEF SGP 8th Operational Phase (Part 1)
Country(ies)	New York - VFs, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Dem. Rep. of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Fiji, India, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, Palau, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Argentina, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Suriname, Saint Lucia, Uruguay, Venezuela, Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova Republic, Türkiye, Ukraine, New York - VFs, New York - SGP, Belize
UNDP Technical Team	Local Action
Management Arrangements	DIM
Project Implementing Partner	UNDP New York - VFs Country Office
Joint Agencies	*(not set or not applicable)*
Project Type	Full Size
Implementation Status	1st PIR
GEF Fiscal Year	FY26
Trust Fund	GEF Trust Fund, Management operational reserve, FW_poverty inequality_AX1

Project Description
GEF SGP 8th Operational Phase – Core (Part 1)

Project Contacts	
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UNDP Country Office Deputy Resident Representative	*(not set or not applicable)*
UNDP Regional Bureau Desk Officer	*(not set or not applicable)*
GEF Operational Focal Point	*(not set or not applicable)*
Project Implementing Partner	*(not set or not applicable)*
Other Partners	Ms. Yasu Lu (yasu.lu@undp.org)

B. Key project dates

Project duration	48 months
PIF Approval Date	Jun 29, 2023
CEO Endorsement Date	Aug 12, 2024
Project Document Signature Date (project start date):	Oct 16, 2024
Date of Inception Workshop	Nov 6, 2025
First Disbursement Date	Jun 1, 2025
Expected Date of Mid-term Review	May 31, 2027
Actual Date of Mid-term Review	*(not set or not applicable)*
Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation	Apr 16, 2029
Original Planned Closing Date	Oct 16, 2028
Revised Planned Closing Date	*(not set or not applicable)*

C. Overall ratings

Overall DO Rating	Satisfactory
Overall IP Rating	Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	substantial

D. Development Objective Progress

It is mandatory for all reported progress to be substantiated by evidence. Please upload evidence files for each objective/outcome via the DO PROGRESS section in the online PIR platform. If there is no evidence to upload, the Project Manager is required to provide an explanation.

Description					
Objective **Project Objective: Local CSOs and CBOs in landscapes-seascapes around the world access grant financing and technical assistance, including capacity development and knowledge sharing to maintain and enhance their socio-ecological resilience, well-being and socio-economic conditions for Global Environmental Benefits.**					
Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**Midterm target level**	**End of project target level**	**Level at Jun 30, 2025**	**Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2026**
Mandatory GEF Core Indicator 1: People benefitting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex (count) (GEF core indicator 11)	812,854 (449,588 female; 363,266 male) Source: 2023 AMR	150,000 (of whom 70,000 are female)	500,000 (of whom 250,000 are female	*(not set or not applicable)*	Target is ON TRACK. 94,323 people have benefitted from GEF-financed investments (62.9% of midterm target), with 56,753 of whom are female (81.1% of midterm target). Since inception, the Programme has made significant achievements with 83 countries who have submitted their OP8 Country Programme Strategies, and 82 countries have reported launching at least one Call for Proposals. During the reporting period, 17 countries contributed towards this indicator including Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras,

					Jordan, Liberia, Mongolia, State of Palestine, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zimbabwe. Examples of contributions to this indicator include meaningful advances by Burkina Faso where 30 projects have been funded under OP8, reaching 51,209 direct beneficiaries, including 31,154 women and 20,055 men, with higher participation in initiatives involving students, merchants, and miners in sanitation activities. In Guinea-Bissau, project activities reached 12,725 people, of whom 10,053 were women. In Ethiopia, project activities reached 4,500 direct beneficiaries, of whom 2,700 were women. In Sierra Leone, project activities reached 4,651 direct beneficiaries, of whom 2,407 were women. While a number of countries are

					working towards finalizing grant commitments at the local level, progress, including launched CFPs, indicates that the program is on track to achieve the mid-term target. Finalized figures for this indicator are usually reported at the end of the project cycle when grantees have completed activities and include beneficiary numbers. At this stage, a majority of projects are still in their initial phases of implementation and only have a targeted number of beneficiaries which have not been included. They are expected to contribute significantly to this indicator by midterm, maintaining the target on track for the MTR.
Mandatory GEF Core Indicator 2: Marine protected areas created or under improved management (hectare) (GEF core indicator 2)	176,955 Source: 2023 AMR	30,000 ha	90,000 ha	*(not set or not applicable)*	Target is ON TRACK. 154 ha of marine protected areas have been created or brought under improved management (0.5% of the midterm target) The current achievement is not yet indicative of expected midterm performance, as OP8 implementation is still at an early stage, with over 90% of projects in the start-up or early implementation phase.186 Biodiversity projects from 34 country programmes are still in the initial phases of implementation. Although not all of these projects address marine

					protected areas, a number of projects will contribute to this indicator as implementation progresses. Based on current implementation timelines and experience from previous reporting periods, substantial progress is expected as projects advance, with further results expected to be captured and reported by the midterm. The midterm target is considered achievable. During the reporting period, 3 countries contributed towards this indicator, including: Comoros, Honduras, and Samoa. An example of a contribution to this indicator includes Honduras, where project activities strengthened the capacity of the Caribbean Fishermen's Network (REDPESCAH) Honduras by establishing a support committee to assist with catch reporting, marine habitat monitoring, community surveillance, and sustainable management of 59 ha within the La Ceiba Wildlife Refuge. Key activities include training 80 fishers in catch monitoring, habitat protection, and surveillance, as well as developing the association's 2025–2027 strategic work plan to support management of

					the La Ceiba Marine Wildlife Site. Another project, led by the Santa Fe Artisanal Fishers Network, supports the protection of 50 ha of marine habitats, including reefs and seagrass meadows, in the Balfate Wildlife Refuge to sustain artisanal fisheries and livelihoods for five Garifuna coastal communities. Key activities include community patrols, training 60 fishers on best marine practices, establishing a fishing replenishment zone at Cayo Blanco, and conducting environmental awareness field trips with local students.
Mandatory GEF Core Indicator 3: Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (hectare) (GEF core indicator 3.1)	31,757 Source: 2023 AMR	70,000 ha	225,000 ha	*(not set or not applicable)*	Target is ON TRACK. 3,680 ha of land and ecosystems are under restoration (5% of midterm target). The current achievement is not yet indicative of expected midterm performance, as OP8 implementation is still at an early stage, with over 90% of projects in the start-up or early implementation phase. 105 Land Degradation projects from 27 country programmes are still in the initial phases of implementation. These additional projects are expected to contribute significantly to this indicator by midterm, maintaining the target on track for the MTR.

					12 countries contributed towards this indicator, including: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Mongolia, Palestine, Samoa, Sierra Leone, and Timor-Leste. Some project activities include protecting shea parklands through community reforestation, planting fruit trees in semi-urban spaces, implementation of assisted natural regeneration (ANR) to promote local tree growth and combating erosion with stone bunds. Some examples for this indicator include: Burkina Faso is currently implementing 19 projects in OP8 that are contributing to this indicator. Including, a project that restores and enhances 30 hectares of degraded land in Pô for the benefit of 30 vulnerable rural women through composting, improved agricultural practices, and the introduction of local agroforestry species such as shea, African locust bean, and acacia. As well as another project that promotes sustainable land management and ecosystem restoration in the Pilimpikou

					and Silmiougou villages through agroecological practices, including soil restoration, natural regeneration, reforestation, and organic fertilization. Key interventions include restoring 110 hectares through zaï and half-moon techniques, treating 50 hectares with stone bunds, regenerating 20 hectares of land, and strengthening local capacity for sustainable agriculture. In Ethiopia, projects promote sustainable land management and climate-smart agriculture to restore degraded land, improve soil fertility, conserve water and biodiversity, increase agricultural productivity, and strengthen communities' resilience to climate change. These initiatives support food security and sustainable livelihoods while empowering local communities through active participation, training, and capacity building to ensure long-term adoption of sustainable practices.
Mandatory GEF Core Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas; hectare) (GEF core indicator 4.1 and 4.3)	2,121,391 (4.1) 617,865 (4.3) Source: 2023 AMR	1,100,000 ha	3,800,000 ha	*(not set or not applicable)*	Target is ON TRACK. 243,964 ha of landscapes under improved practices (40% of midterm target) 15 countries contributed to this indicator including: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Comoros, Ethiopia,

					Honduras, Jordan, Liberia, Mongolia, Palestine, Samoa, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Suriname, Timor-Leste, and Togo. Some project activities include the restoration of degraded areas through planting and management of native and threatened forest species, implementation of sustainable forest and natural resource management practices by local farmers, loggers, and community groups, biodiversity monitoring and participatory environmental monitoring of these areas. An example of significant contributions to this indicator include Mongolia (237,372 ha) which is restoring degraded lands through community-based agroforestry, rehabilitating degraded rangelands and hayfields by combining traditional nomadic pasture management practices such as crop rotation and fostering ecosystem restoration with support of herder communities in the Khangai Mountains. In Ethiopia, at least 5 projects contributed to this indicator. Major

					activities included participatory watershed management; soil and water conservation measures; area closures; planting of indigenous tree species; agroforestry; climate-smart agricultural practices; and the construction of soil bunds, terraces, and stone bunds on farmlands. These interventions reduce soil erosion, improve soil moisture retention, restore degraded landscapes, enhance ecosystem resilience, and increase agricultural productivity. A total of 291 Biodiversity and Land Degradation projects from 40 country programmes are still in the initial phases of implementation and are expected to contribute significantly to this indicator by midterm, maintaining the target on track for the MTR.
Mandatory GEF Core Indicator 5: Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (hectare) (GEF core indicator 5)	77,118 Source: 2023 AMR	80,000 ha	270,000 ha	*(not set or not applicable)*	Target is ON TRACK. 35 ha of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity. (0.04% of midterm target) The current achievement is not yet indicative of expected midterm performance, as OP8 implementation is still at an early stage, with over 90% of projects in the start-up or early implementation phase. In particular,

					186 biodiversity projects from 34 country programmes and 11 International Waters projects from 5 country programmes are still in the initial phases of implementation. Although not all of these projects address marine habitat, a number of projects are expected to contribute to this indicator as implementation progresses. Based on current implementation timelines and experience from previous operational periods, substantial progress is expected as projects advance, with further results expected to be captured and reported by the midterm. The midterm target is considered achievable. For this reporting period, two countries contributed towards this indicator: Samoa and South Africa. Some project activities include empowering small-scale fishers through sustainable fishing practices and improved market access, responsible fishery management, and sustainable acqua culture and quality oyster seed production. An example of contributions towards

					this indicator is from South Africa, where the Nibela Fisheries project strengthened sustainable fisheries management in the St Lucia Estuary by improving the safety of small-scale fishing operations, promoting sustainable fishing practices, and reducing pressure on near-shore nursery habitats. The project also enhanced local livelihoods and biodiversity conservation through training, licensing support, and improved management of approximately 30 hectares of estuarine habitat.
Mandatory GEF Core Indicator 6: Greenhouse gas emission mitigated (metric tons of CO2e)	205 climate change mitigation projects completed in 2022-2023 reporting period. Source: 2023 AMR	TBD	TBD	*(not set or not applicable)*	5,258 metric tons of CO2 equivalent (CO2e) of greenhouse gas emissions were mitigated. (Target was not set). During OP7, SGP explored approaches for reporting greenhouse gas emissions reductions and determined that country-by-country estimates were too costly to implement across more than 100 country programmes. A standardized GEF-aligned methodology was therefore initiated in OP7, with a validated approach for solar methodology completed, but further development for other sectors was paused due to funding constraints— completion and rollout depend on the availability of

					non-grant funds. 4 countries contributed to this indicator, including Comoros, Honduras, Jordan, and Samoa. Some project activities included planting trees and protecting illegal logging, using solar water heaters and PV systems.
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	**On track**				
Evidence uploaded:	YES				

Outcome 1

Project Component 1 : Strategic Planning and Multi-Stakeholder Governance
Project Outcome 1.1. Enabling environment strengthened for effective community-driven integrated approaches.
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.1
Output 1.1.1. Country programme strategies developed and National Steering Committees in effective operation.

Output 1.1.2. Landscape-seascape strategies developed and implemented, and multi-stakeholder governance platforms established in relevant countries.

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at Jun 30, 2025	Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2026
Indicator 7: Number of countries with high-level policy changes associated with increased community participation in multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms.	38 countries Source: 2023 AMR	20 SGP countries	50 SGP countries (approx. 50% of the OP8 Part 1 portfolio)	*(not set or not applicable)*	Target is ON TRACK. 17 countries with high-level policy changes associated with increased community participation in multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms (85% of midterm target).

					The countries that contributed to this indicator include: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Eritrea, Ghana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mauritius, Palestine, State of, Samoa, Seychelles, Trinidad and Tobago, and Tunisia. Mauritius demonstrated high-level policy change associated with increased community participation through the integration of SGP and grantee contributions into national multi-stakeholder policy processes, including the Assises de l'Agriculture and Assises de l'Océan. Community and civil society perspectives informed government strategies on agroecology, food systems, sustainable aquaculture, blue economy development, and inclusive livelihoods, with SGP actors continuing to contribute to the review and validation of national policy frameworks such as the Mauritius Blue Economy Strategy 2026–2035. Seychelles demonstrated high-level policy and institutional change by strengthening the formal participation of community-based organizations in government-led coastal management monitoring, evaluation and planning

					processes. Through the SGP-supported Anse Kerlan Avangard project, community experiences and local knowledge informed national coastal resilience approaches, contributing to more inclusive climate adaptation decision-making and the replication of community-informed erosion-control interventions.
Indicator 8: Number of representatives from social inclusion group (indigenous people, women, youth, persons with disability, farmers, other marginalized groups) meaningfully engaged in multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms.	4,579 (total number of representatives) Source: 2023 AMR	700	1,500	*(not set or not applicable)*	Target is ON TRACK. 578 representatives from social inclusion groups have been meaningfully engaged in multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms (81% of midterm target). 21 countries supported by the programme contributed to this indicator, including Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Benin, Cambodia, Comoros, Fiji, Ghana, Honduras, Jamaica, Jordan, Lesotho, Mauritius, Palestine, Philippines, Samoa, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Thailand, Tunisia, and Trinidad and Tobago. In Tunisia, approximately 100 stakeholders participated in the national multi-stakeholder workshop on the sustainable development of the carob value chain, including farmer organizations, civil society

					organizations, local producers, nurseries, private sector actors, research institutions, government representatives, and local communities. Among them, 10 were from CSOs and CBOs working with local communities, women, and youth. Farmer groups and local community representatives were meaningfully engaged through participatory discussions, thematic sessions, and working groups, contributing their perspectives to the development of the first draft of a national roadmap for the sustainable development of the carob value chain. In Mauritius, the SGP National Coordinator and SGP-supported organisations participated in the Assises de l'Agriculture and the Assises de l'Océan, two national consultation processes organised by the Government to shape the future of Mauritius's agri-food system and blue economy. The Assises de l'Agriculture report confirms that the Government used a structured, bottom-up and participatory process to capture the perspectives of producer organisations, agri-entrepreneurs, civil-society groups, youth, public institutions and other stakeholders.

					Country teams are strongly encouraged to place deliberate emphasis on social inclusion, with particular attention to ensuring that marginalized and vulnerable groups are meaningfully involved in MSPs. The project is already at 81% of the midterm target and fully anticipates being able to report further progress in the MTR.
Indicator 9: Number of SGP countries supporting legal identity and legal empowerment issues.	New indicator	25% of the countries participating in OP8 Part 1	50% of the countries participating in OP8 Part 1	*(not set or not applicable)*	Target is ON TRACK. 3% of the SGP countries supported legal identity and legal empowerment issues (12% of midterm target) At the country level, community members without legal identity are supported to register vital events and obtain legal identity credentials, register their organizations to access funding and strengthen fund management, and access necessary services. At the global level, lessons learned from country programming are compiled and shared through webinars and other communication tools. During the reporting period, the Program also organized a webinar on the issues with SGP Country Programmes sharing challenges and

					best practices, and lessons learned. In particular, 3 countries reported towards this indicator during the reporting period including Brazil, Honduras, and Samoa. Examples include: In Brazil, support focused on strengthening the legal identity of the Groteiro-Chapadeiro communities, a traditional community present in the Upper Jequitinhonha Landscape. The project supported workshops, seminars, and meetings to strengthen local dialogue and advocacy within the State Council of Traditional Peoples and Communities of Minas Gerais. As a key outcome, the Groteiro-Chapadeiro identity was recognized by the Council, and at least three communities have been certified as Groteiro-Chapadeiro communities to date. In Honduras, a project led by Nueva Luz Community Enterprise in Cusuna, Iriona (a Garifuna region), supports the empowerment of Garifuna women and communities by strengthening their

					participation in decision-making spaces and ensuring their representation in community committees. It also promotes equal access to information and creates a safe and respectful environment for women to exercise their rights. The initiative promotes the recognition of traditional knowledge, supports at least 30 women's families through sustainable agricultural enterprises and value chains, and strengthens women's involvement in decision-making spaces within the enterprise and community structures. Through these processes, the project strengthens the capacity of marginalized community members to understand, participate in, and exercise their rights within community decision-making processes. SGP will continue to support individuals in registering vital events and obtaining legal identity credentials, while also strengthening the legal registration and fund management capacities of community organizations. Further advances in this area will be reported in the next PIR.
Indicator 10: Number of CSO-government-private sector dialogues formed or strengthened	231 Source: 2023 AMR	90 dialogues	180 dialogues	*(not set or not applicable)*	Target is ON TRACK. 42 CSO-government-private sector dialogues were formed or strengthened (47% of the midterm target).

					21 countries contributed towards this indicator including Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Benin, Cambodia, Comoros, Ghana, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Jordan, Lesotho, Mauritius, Palestine, Philippines, Samoa, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Thailand, and Trinidad and Tobago. Examples of dialogues include: In Comoros, Action pour le Développement Durable et l'Environnement (ADDE) strengthened CSO-government dialogue through technical exchanges between civil society actors, beneficiary communities, and decentralized government technical services in agriculture, environment, and water. These interactions improved coordination on sustainable natural resource management and supported stronger collaboration between civil society and public institutions for the integrated protection of Mount Ntringui. In Honduras, SGP strengthened CSO-government dialogue by building the

					organizational capacity of the Caribbean Fishermen's Network (REDPESCAH) and its 10 member fishers' associations to support the national government in coordinating catch monitoring, protection, and sustainable management of the La Ceiba Marine Wildlife Site. A workshop on Associative Governance and Collective Leadership resulted in the creation of a strategic support committee, establishing a formal mechanism for ongoing collaboration between fishers' organizations and government on marine resource management. In Lesotho, the 2026 International Day of Mountains served as a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform, bringing together local communities, SGP grantees, government institutions, civil society organizations, and development partners to discuss conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and the management of the Sehlabathebe National Park buffer zone. The platform meaningfully engaged community members by providing opportunities to showcase their initiatives, share implementation challenges, voice priorities, and engage directly with decision-makers and technical experts.

The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	**On track**
Evidence uploaded:	YES

Outcome 2

Project component 2 Demand-driven grants to CSOs/CBOs
Outcome 2.1. Landscape-seascape strategic objectives advanced through community-led grants
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.1
Output 2.1.1. Capacities of CSOs/CBOs strengthened for implementation of landscape-seascape strategies, for grant-supporting activities.

Output 2.1.2. Community level initiatives designed, financed, implemented, monitored and evaluated, under the following Strategic priorities: (i) community- based management of threatened ecosystems and species, (ii) sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security, (iii) low-carbon energy access and co-benefits,

(iv) local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management, (v) sustainable solutions in targeted urban landscapes.

Output 2.1.3. Focused interventions for advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment objectives.

Output 2.1.4 Focused interventions on leaving no one behind, including Indigenous Peoples, youth, persons with disabialities.

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at Jun 30, 2025	Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2026
Indicator 11: Number of SGP countries supporting 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.)	*(not set or not applicable)*	10 SGP countries	25 SGP countries (approx. 25% of the OP8 Part 1 portfolio)	*(not set or not applicable)*	Target is ON TRACK. 21 SGP countries (210% of the mid-term target) have supported partnerships to advance sustainable agriculture and fisheries and/or food security. This includes: Belize, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ecuador, Eritrea, Gabon, Honduras, Jordan, Liberia, Mongolia, Palestine,

					Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Zimbabwe. In Zimbabwe, the Joint Community Waste Management Project (JOCWAM) Phase 2, implemented by Community Water Alliance, is advancing sustainable agriculture, food security, and circular economy approaches by linking community-based waste management with agricultural production. The project brings together partnerships among Community Water Alliance, women and youth recyclers, smallholder farmers, the City of Harare, the Environmental Management Agency, private sector recycling companies, and other stakeholders through a multi-stakeholder platform to strengthen waste-to-resource value chains. Through these partnerships, biodegradable waste will be converted into organic fertilizer to support smallholder farmers, while recycled plastic will be transformed into irrigation products that contribute to climate-resilient agriculture, improved livelihoods, and reduced environmental pollution. In Palestine, the Hebron Community

					Center has established a long-term strategic partnership with the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture to promote the cultivation of organic red cactus (prickly pear) as a climate-resilient agricultural practice. The collaboration supports vulnerable farming communities, particularly those in areas affected by climate change and bordering the Negev Desert, by strengthening climate adaptation, sustainable land management, ecosystem restoration, and biodiversity protection through community-based agricultural initiatives. Djibouti provides evidence of progress toward strengthening partnerships for sustainable agriculture and food security, through collaboration between the SGP country programme, the Ministry of Agriculture, and community-based organisations. These partnerships have supported capacity building, climate-resilient agricultural practices, and access to resources such as improved seeds, contributing to enhanced community capacities for sustainable food production.
Indicator 12: Number of locally adapted solutions promoting low-carbon technologies (such as new/modified biogas technology, locally developed	90 Source: 2023 AMR	30 locally adapted low emission development solutions	70 locally adapted low emission development solutions	*(not set or not applicable)*	Target is ON TRACK. 16 locally adapted low emission development solutions (53% of the midterm target).

energy-efficient stoves, innovative uses of solar/wind energy, etc.)					10 countries supported by this programme contributed to this target including Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Rwanda, and Senegal. With the aforementioned countries promoting the following locally adapted solutions: - An energy efficient blast freezer, biogas systems, and waste composting systems in Bhutan; - Ecological valorization of shea residues in Burkina Faso; - Solar energy projects in Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Jordan, and Senegal; - Improved cookstoves in Guinea-Bissau and Rwanda; and - Biodigesters in Guinea-Bissau As mentioned previously, many countries are in very early project implementation phases, and others have just launched CFPs. The target is on track as projects will begin contributing towards this target ahead

					of the mid-term report.
Indicator 13: Increase in installed renewable energy capacity from community-scale systems (e.g., biomass, micro-hydro, solar, etc.)	*(not set or not applicable)*	50 kW increased renewable energy capacity	150 kW increased renewable energy capacity	*(not set or not applicable)*	3,381 kw increase in installed renewable energy capacity from community-scale systems (150kW of EOP target). 8 countries contributed to this indicator, including Cameroon, Comoros, Djibouti, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Palestine, Samoa, and Senegal. Some example projects contributing to this indicator include: In the State of Palestine, the Bioenergy Briquettes Production Project in Sammu' is establishing a clean energy system that converts agricultural, livestock, and paper waste into sustainable bioenergy briquettes, reducing pollution, improving waste management, and decreasing reliance on firewood and gas. The project is creating green jobs and providing training for women and youth in bioenergy production, entrepreneurship, and sustainable agriculture, while promoting renewable energy and circular economy practices.

					In Guinea-Bissau, four photovoltaic-powered water boreholes, each with an installed capacity of 800 kW, have a combined installed capacity of 3,200 kW. In Cameroon, a project supporting solar energy systems in the Indigenous Bagyéli village of Bidou I, which previously had no access to electricity. The project installed solar street lamps, one 100 W solar-powered phone charging station, and 20 portable solar household devices.
Indicator 14: Number of local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management strengthened and/or established	27 Source: 2023 AMR	10 coalitions	20 coalitions	*(not set or not applicable)*	Target is ON TRACK. 6 local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management have been strengthened and/or established (60% of mid-term target). 4 countries supported by the programme are contributing towards this indicator: Djibouti, Samoa, Senegal, and Zimbabwe. In the context of this indicator, coalitions refer to formal or informal partnerships and networks that bring together relevant stakeholders to address chemicals and waste management. A coalition is considered

					strengthened when there is evidence of improved collaboration, participation, knowledge sharing, joint action, or operational capacity. An example of a contribution to this indicator is in Djibouti, which strengthened local coalitions for chemicals and waste management through the establishment of the Djibouti strengthened local coalitions for chemicals and waste management through the establishment of the Collectif Antiplastique, which brings together civil society organizations, communities, local authorities and other stakeholders to coordinate advocacy on plastic pollution. The initiative has created a platform for multi-stakeholder engagement and policy dialogue, strengthening the foundation for broader collaboration on sustainable chemicals and waste management and potential links to national and global advocacy efforts. Zimbabwe also strengthened local multi-stakeholder coalitions for integrated waste management through arrangements between the City of Harare and rural local authorities and strengthening collaboration among women recyclers, local government,

					private-sector actors, microfinance institutions and smallholder farmers. These partnerships will support plastic recycling, waste-to-value chains, organic fertilizer production and circular-economy approaches linking waste management with sustainable agriculture. The indicator is on target as very few country programmes have yet to report contributions. Projects from these countries will contribute towards this indicator during the next reporting period.
Indicator 15: Number of community-based sustainable solutions in urban landscapes (e.g., transport, biodiversity conservation, chemical and waste management, energy efficiency, watershed protection, etc.)	*(not set or not applicable)*	3 urban solutions	10 urban solutions	*(not set or not applicable)*	Target is ON TRACK. 4 community-based sustainable solutions in urban landscapes (133% of midterm target) 10 countries are contributing to this indicator including: Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Honduras, Liberia, Rwanda, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Togo, and Zimbabwe. Some examples of community-based sustainable solutions in urban landscapes reported include chemicals and waste management, watershed protection, ecosystem restoration, and

					biodiversity conservation. Some examples include: In Timor-Leste, the SGP is implementing three OP8 projects to tackle urban waste, with a focus on plastic, non-biodegradable, and chemical waste management. One project is improving chemical waste disposal in hospitals and clinics while training healthcare workers in safe waste management practices. The other two projects promote responsible plastic waste disposal through public waste collection facilities and environmental education for youth and schoolchildren in Dili. In Zimbabwe, the Joint Community Waste Management Project in Glen View, Harare has strengthened community-based recycling by establishing five satellite waste collection centres that have diverted over 100 tonnes of plastic waste from illegal dumpsites while creating sustainable livelihoods for 10 women waste entrepreneurs. Building on these achievements, the next phase will complete the main recycling centre, expand waste processing through

					solar-powered recycling equipment, transport and baling facilities, and introduce Black Soldier Fly technology to convert biodegradable waste into organic fertilizer and animal feed. The project will further enhance financial sustainability by investing in value-added recycling technologies and strengthening the local circular economy. In Honduras, communities in Concepción de María, Choluteca are implementing a project to restore three micro-watersheds, improve drinking water systems, and promote agroecological practices in response to water contamination caused by poor waste management, deforestation, and unsustainable agriculture. The initiative strengthens community water governance while protecting critical recharge areas through conservation, environmental education, and sustainable farming and livestock practices. It also improves water distribution infrastructure and establishes demonstration plots and household gardens to enhance water security, public health, and food security.
Indicator 16: Number of projects with focused interventions promoting	81% of projects that involve	70% of projects by midterm	80% of projects	*(not set or not applicable)*	Target is ON TRACK. 54% of projects with focused interventions promoting

gender equality and women's empowerment	focused interventions on advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment objectives Source: AMR 2023				gender equality and women's empowerment (77% of midterm target) 27 countries supported by the programme reported a total of 248 projects, these countries include: Belize, Bhutan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Jordan, Liberia, Panama, Rwanda, Samoa Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Suriname, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zimbabwe. Some of these projects include: In Bhutan, the Upliftment of Rural Economy with Increased Milk Production project promotes gender equality by strengthening women's leadership, participation in dairy cooperatives, and access to sustainable livelihood opportunities. Through training, equitable distribution of improved Jersey cattle, and the installation of household biogas systems, the project will enhance

					women's economic empowerment, reduce their workload, and improve access to clean energy. In Brazil, the Chapada das Veredas Women's Group is strengthening women's leadership and empowerment across 11 traditional communities in the Upper Jequitinhonha Valley by promoting networking, cultural heritage, and sustainable livelihoods. Building on previous SGP support, the initiative combines ancestral environmental knowledge with sustainable innovations while advancing women's leadership in food sovereignty, land rights, cultural preservation, and the solidarity economy. In Cameroon, the Madaksons Cattle Breeders Group project advanced gender equality by ensuring the meaningful participation of Indigenous Bagyeli and local community women in project planning, decision-making, and implementation under the leadership of a woman project coordinator. The project strengthened women's leadership and technical capacity by training 40 women in solar streetlamp installation and maintenance, while improving community safety and

					access to clean energy through renewable energy infrastructure. In the State of Palestine, the Model Bonikam Cultivation Project in Saffa promotes women's and youth leadership through inclusive participation in climate-smart agriculture, sustainable fodder production, renewable energy, and water management, while strengthening community ownership and resilience. The Mawaddah Project, led by the Arab Women Union Society, advances women's economic empowerment by training 40–50 women in textile upcycling, entrepreneurship, and marketing, with priority given to marginalized women, including those from low-income households, rural communities, refugee camps, and women with disabilities.
Indicator 17: Number of SGP countries that demonstrate models of engaging (a) Indigenous Peoples, (b) youth, and (c), persons with disabilities.	a) 34 countries; b) 58 countries; c) 19 countries Source: 2023 AMR	(a) 15 countries; (b) 25 countries; (c) 7 countries	(a) 30 countries, (b) 50 countries, (c) 15 countries	*(not set or not applicable)*	Target is ON TRACK. a) 20 countries have demonstrated models of engaging Indigenous Peoples (133% of the midterm target); b) 27 countries have demonstrated models of engaging youth (108% of the midterm target); and; c) 18 countries have demonstrated models of engaging persons with disabilities (257% of the midterm target).

					a) The countries with demonstrated models of engaging Indigenous People are: Belize, Bhutan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Namibia, Panama, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago. b) The countries with demonstrated models of engaging Youth are: Belize, Bhutan, Brazil, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Namibia, Palestine, Rwanda, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Suriname, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Zimbabwe. c) The countries with demonstrated models of engaging persons with disabilities are: Belize, Bhutan, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Liberia, Palestine, Rwanda, Samoa, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Thailand, Trinidad

					and Tobago, Zimbabwe. Examples models include: Indigenous Peoples: In Belize, the Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management (SATIIM) are engaging Indigenous communities through participatory, community-led processes that involve elders, women, youth, and local knowledge holders in project design, decision-making, training, and knowledge transfer. Specifically, elders share ancestral agricultural knowledge with youth through summer camps and workshops; women lead decisions related to ancestral foods, forest gardens, and value-added products; and community members participate in seed exchanges, knowledge-sharing sessions, and the implementation of traditional farming practices. In Palestine, the project Hebron Community Center for Youth and Adult Education is supporting the establishment of 20 climate-resilient environmental farms in Al-Ramadin, southern West Bank, by engaging unemployed agricultural graduates to

					cultivate improved cactus as a sustainable livelihood opportunity and adaptation measure against desertification and climate change impacts. Youth participants are engaged as farm managers through capacity-building trainings, awareness activities, mentorship, and support to establish and manage organic cactus farms, while also connecting them with digital marketing and business development opportunities. The project further engages agriculture students through study visits to promote peer learning, knowledge exchange, and replication of sustainable farming practices in surrounding communities. In South Africa, the project iSibani The Lemp Inclusive Group NPO is empowering people with disabilities in Mbazwana through handcrafts and skills development by offering training on bamboo handicraft making as well as capacity-building programs with digital technology innovation development. In addition, through the ICCA- GSI project, funded by Germany and delivered through GEF-SGP, SGP engaged Indigenous Peoples by establishing a strategic partnership

					with BCA and strengthened its network of Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, and Afro-descendants (IPLCADs). The partnership facilitated knowledge exchange among SGP teams from 10 countries across LAC and Africa and led to two regional projects in Colombia and Kenya focused on strengthening readiness for emerging nature finance opportunities. This collaboration enhanced the knowledge and capacity of SGP partners and IPLCADs on innovative financing mechanisms, including nature credit markets, to support community-led conservation and sustainable development. While the target is currently on track, the remainder of the projects will begin contributing towards these indicators moving forward. Higher numbers are expected to be reported in the mid-term report.
Indicator 18: Amount of grant funding of total grant portfolio accessed by: (a) women and/or women's groups; (b) youth and/or youth-led groups; (c) Indigenous peoples' groups.	(a) est. 20%; (b) est. 20%; (c) est. 20%	(a) 30%; (b) 30%; (c) 30%	(a) 50%; (b) 50%; (c) 50%	*(not set or not applicable)*	Target is ON TRACK – The amount of grant funding of total grant portfolio accessed by a) women is 20% of total grant portfolio or 67% of the mid-term target; b) youth is 10% or 33% of the mid-term target; c) Indigenous People is 5% or 17% of the mid-term target.

					a) 24 countries reported 3,465,508 USD of grant funding accessed by women or 67% of the mid-term target. b) 17 countries reported 1,812,953 USD of grant-funding accessed by youth or 33% of the mid-term target. c) 9 countries reported 971,913 USD of grant funding accessed by Indigenous People or 17% of the midterm target.
Indicator 19: Number of grants supporting promotion of legal identity and legal empowerment, including the participation of Indigenous peoples and other remote/marginalized groups.	New indicator	10% of grants awarded	10% of grants awarded	*(not set or not applicable)*	Target is ON TRACK. 2% of grant awarded support promotion of legal identity and legal empowerment, including the participation of Indigenous peoples and other remote/marginalized groups. (20% of midterm target) 3 country programmes reported to this indicator, including Brazil, Honduras, and Samoa. SGP is supporting legal identity and formal recognition of Indigenous, traditional, and marginalized communities through community mobilization, advocacy, capacity building, and support for official

					registration processes. In Brazil, this includes strengthening recognition of the Groteiro-Chapadeiro identity through workshops, seminars, and engagement with the State Council of Traditional Peoples and Communities of Minas Gerais, resulting in formal recognition and certification of at least three communities. In Honduras, support focuses on empowering Garifuna women and communities to participate in decision-making, strengthen their representation, and exercise their rights. More broadly, SGP is helping individuals obtain legal identity documents and register vital events, while strengthening community organizations' capacity to secure legal registration, access services and funding, participate in governance, and implement community-led initiatives.
Indicator 20: Number of policy recommendations or advocacy initiatives related to land-based pollution as a result of SGP project.	*(not set or not applicable)*	2 policy recommendations	4 policy recommendations	*(not set or not applicable)*	Target is ON TRACK. 1 policy recommendation or advocacy initiative related to land-based pollution (50% of midterm target) 1 country programme contributed to

					this indicator (Samoa). SGP Djibouti provides an illustrative example of progress in this area. They have advanced a policy advocacy initiative on land-based pollution through the SGP-supported “Djibouti sans plastique: de la sensibilisation à l’action législative” project, which promotes the transformation of the existing plastic bag ban into a binding national law. The initiative has generated a policy recommendation, established the Collectif Antiplastique, and mobilized civil society, communities and decision-makers through dialogue platforms and awareness campaigns to support stronger national waste governance.
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	**On track**				
Evidence uploaded:	YES				

Outcome 3

Project component 3 Knowledge Management and Learning
Outcome 3.1. Sustainability and impact of community-led collective action enhanced through knowledge management and learning approaches across landscapes-seascapes and regions.
Outputs to achieve Outcome 3.1
Output 3.1.1. Local knowledge and lessons learned shared widely and systematically integrated into design of new projects with active participation of CSOs/CBOs and local communities.

Output 3.1.2. Knowledge transfer and replication of appropriate technologies, tools, and approaches on global environmental issues, including through South-South

exchanges across countries.

Output 3.1.3 Local organizations mobilized and strengthened through learning by doing and knowledge-exchanges supporting local, sub-national and national peer-to peer dialogue and stakeholder capacity development.

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at Jun 30, 2025	Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2026
Indicator 21: Number of countries undertaking South-South exchanges between communities, NGOs/CSOs, or other partners within or across countries.	30 Source: 2023 AMR	10 SGP countries	25 SGP countries (approx. 25% of the OP8 Part 1 portfolio)	*(not set or not applicable)*	Target is ON TRACK. 12 countries have undertaken South-South exchanges between communities, NGOs/CSOs, or other partners within or across countries (120% of midterm target). This indicator measures the extent to which countries engage in collaborative knowledge sharing, capacity building, and partnership activities within the South-South cooperation framework. An example contribution to this indicator is from India which is engaging in focused group discussions (FGDs) as knowledge-sharing and capacity-building activities between local communities, farmers, forest dwellers, women's groups, panchayat representatives, and relevant government departments. Through these exchanges, participants shared

					and learned from local knowledge, experiences, coping mechanisms, and practices related to natural resource management, land degradation, water scarcity, biodiversity conservation, and changing livelihood patterns, thereby strengthening collaboration and partnerships among stakeholders. In Saint Lucia, knowledge exchange was facilitated through the transfer of aquaponics expertise developed by persons with disabilities under an OP7 project to other local stakeholders. Their role as design consultants for a new SGP-supported solar-powered and rainwater harvesting aquaponics facility in the Castries–Gros Islet urban area enabled the sharing of technical knowledge and sustainable practices from a rural context to urban communities, involving local stakeholders in the application of innovative food production approaches.
Indicator 22: Number of South-South exchanges to transfer knowledge, replicate technology, tools or approaches on global environmental issues.	54 Source: 2023 AMR	20 exchanges	40 exchanges	*(not set or not applicable)*	Target is ON TRACK – 12 South-South exchanges to transfer knowledge, replicate technology, tools or approaches on global environmental issues have taken place in OP8 (60% of the mid-term target)

					12 countries supported by the programme reported organizing 1 South-South exchange each. This includes: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Cabo Verde, Colombia, Jordan, Morocco, Samoa, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Trinidad and Tobago. Some examples of South-South Exchanges that transfer knowledge, replicate technology, tools or approaches on global environmental issues include: SGP Belize coordinated and facilitated collaboration between UNDP Angola, UNDP Belize, and Belize Power Connect Limited (BPCL), enabling solar engineers from Belize to travel to Angola and deliver hands-on solar energy training to young women in rural communities. The exchange strengthened participants' technical skills, confidence, and capacity to assemble and install off-grid solar systems, demonstrating the value of South-South cooperation in advancing women's empowerment and renewable energy solutions. SGP Morocco organized and facilitated

					a major South-South exchange through its partnership with the Initiatives Climat Association. It supported the participation of four SGP grantees in the 4th Forum on Green Entrepreneurship in Francophone Africa and the 8th Initiative Climat Afrique Francophone Awards, held in Ifrane, Morocco, which brought together more than 120 participants from over 15 Francophone African countries. The exchange strengthened partnerships and peer-to-peer learning while showcasing community-based climate solutions with strong replication potential across Africa, reinforcing SGP's role in advancing South-South cooperation and community innovation. SGP Sierra Leone supported the participation of SGP grantee eWomen Sierra Leone in the Expanded Constituency Workshop (September 23–26, 2025) in Gambia, where the organization strengthened its networking, knowledge, and partnerships. eWomen Sierra Leone was able to then secure USD 25,000 in funding under the Global Plastics Innovation Program (GPIP) to expand innovative plastic waste management, promote women's leadership in the circular economy, create green livelihoods, and help reduce plastic

					pollution in Sierra Leone. GEF SGP Trinidad and Tobago supported the Second Caribbean Regional Trialogue on Integrated Approaches for Sustainable Ecosystem Management, held in Port of Spain from 2–4 December 2025, bringing together more than 60 participants from seven Caribbean countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago. The Trialogue strengthened regional collaboration on biodiversity and ecosystem management by enabling participants from science, policy, civil society, Indigenous and local knowledge systems, and community organizations to translate global knowledge into practical actions for national and regional programmes. Knowledge products from a GEF SGP-funded project were also shared for regional dissemination, contributing to the exchange and replication of community-based approaches for sustainable ecosystem management across the Caribbean.
Indicator 23: Number of knowledge exchange/sharing events with participation of local communities	462 (number of peer-to-peer exchange)	150	350	*(not set or not applicable)*	Target is ON TRACK. 100 knowledge exchange/sharing events with participation of local communities took place in OP8 (67% of the mid-term

	Source: AMR 2023				target). 33 countries supported by the programme contributed to this indicator, including: Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Jordan, Lesotho, Liberia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Palestine, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago. Some examples of Knowledge Exchanges include: In North Macedonia, SGP organized a hybrid event that brought together around 70 civil society organizations to present its new Country Programme Strategy and launch the ongoing call for project applications. The session went beyond an information meeting, providing a platform to share the programme's renewed strategic

					direction and strengthen engagement with civil society following UNDP's resumption of programme implementation. In South Africa, report-writing workshops were organized for the new OP8 grantees following the signing of their grant agreements to introduce the new reporting templates and requirements. Held in February and March 2026 across the programme's two priority landscapes, the workshops strengthened grantees' capacity for effective project reporting and successful implementation. In Tunisia, SGP convened a national multi-stakeholder workshop that brought together government institutions, civil society, farmer organizations, the private sector, researchers, and local communities to strengthen dialogue on the sustainable development of the carob value chain. The participatory process enabled stakeholders to jointly develop the first draft of a national roadmap, ensuring community perspectives were incorporated into strategic priorities. SGP participated in the Eighth GEF

					Assembly in Samarkand, Uzbekistan held from May 30 to June 6, 2026, contributing to knowledge exchange and partnership-building with civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and youth. Through the Eco-Expo, GEF Civil Society Forum, and SGP flagship and country-level events, SGP shared experiences and lessons from community-led environmental action and provided spaces for local communities and CSOs to showcase their solutions, traditional knowledge, and priorities. The participation strengthened knowledge sharing, peer learning, and partnerships between SGP country programmes, local communities, CSOs, and global environmental actors, while highlighting opportunities to scale locally led solutions.
Indicator 24: Number of countries with online knowledge repository developed as a result of SGP project	*(not set or not applicable)*	10	20	*(not set or not applicable)*	Target is ON TRACK. 11 countries have developed online knowledge repositories as a result of the SGP (110% of the midterm target). These countries include: Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Ecuador, Ghana, Jordan, Palestine, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zambia which have all created either online platforms, databases,

					portals, digital libraries, or other web-based systems used to organize, store, and share knowledge, resources, lessons learned, tools, or project information to support knowledge exchange. For example, in Palestine, the AirAware Palestine project has already demonstrated meaningful impact ahead of its public launch by driving strong community engagement through shared air quality data and fostering dialogue with national and local authorities on strengthening air quality monitoring, standards, and evidence-based decision-making. Once fully operational, the platform will provide Palestine's first AI-powered air quality forecasting system, combining real-time monitoring with calibrated low-cost sensors to support environmental governance, early warning, and the protection of public health. In Colombia, the SGP country programme developed and promoted an online knowledge repository through the SGP Colombia Toolbox, which was shared with local communities participating in the Women & Biodiversity projects through

					an online training session. In Ecuador, the SGP country programme has developed and maintained an online knowledge repository containing knowledge products from previous operational phases, including strategies, systematized reports, case studies, lessons learned, guides, manuals, publications, and multimedia materials. During OP8, the repository has been used as a reference platform for new project applicants, providing access to the call for proposals, country strategy, application formats, methodological examples, gender approaches, and other transversal themes to support knowledge sharing and strengthen the quality of new initiatives.
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	**On track**				
Evidence uploaded:	YES				

Outcome 4

Project component Monitoring & Evaluation
Outcome 4.1. Scale, durability and impact of locally-led community action strengthend through monitoring, evaluation and evidence-based learning.
Outputs to achieve Outcome 4.1
4.1.1. Participatory monitoring of project implementation, including through digital means, enabling timely adaptive measures and codification of results and lessons.

4.1.2 CSOs/ CBOs and local communities are supported in continuous learnings and improvements in analyzing opportunities, risks and drivers of success and

failures to achieve results across landscapes- seascapes and regions.

4.1.3. Evaluate impact of local initiatives to address environmental and socio-economic concerns of communities and generate evidential basis to inform project. development by CSOs/ CBOs.

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at Jun 30, 2025	Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2026
Indicator 25: Number of projects with meetings involving local CSOs/CBOs or communities to monitor project results, assess impacts, and identify lessons learned	*(not set or not applicable)*	50% of projects	80% of projects	*(not set or not applicable)*	Target is On Track - 35% projects held meetings involving local CSOs/CBOs or communities to monitor project results, assess impacts, and identify lessons learned (70% of mid-term total) . Stakeholder engagement is integrated into the project ensuring that local needs and perspectives inform implementation and strengthen project ownership, sustainability, and effectiveness. 163 projects across 17 countries contributed to this indicator including: Belize, Cameroon, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Jordan, Liberia, Namibia, Palestine, Panama, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Trinidad and Tobago.

					Some examples of activities towards this indicator include: Trinidad and Tobago held two meetings with relevant government and local partner organizations, including the Ministry of Education, NCPD and NIHERST. The meetings shared project results and successes, discussed lessons learned and the way forward, and helped secure commitments from government and other local organizations to support NCPD's continued work on 3D printing. In Belize, five project inception meetings and Project Steering Committee meetings involving local stakeholders were held to monitor progress of results for the following ongoing OP8 projects: Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary in partnership with Freetown Sibun; Home of Indigenous Arts Belize Limited; Belize Karst Habitat Conservation; Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management; Progressive Sugar Cane Producers Association. The meetings supported ongoing monitoring and strengthened coordination among project stakeholders.

Indicator 26: Number of country/cross-country impact reviews conducted with evidence of SGP impact and lessons learned.	n/a	1 impact review	4 impact reviews (one per geographic region)	*(not set or not applicable)*	Target is achieved. 1 country/cross-country impact reviews conducted with evidence of SGP impact and lessons learned (100% of midterm target) The Independent Evaluation Office of the GEF conducted a cross-country evaluation of the SGP, assessing results and impacts under OP7 and the transition to SGP 2.0 under OP8. The evaluation used a mixed-methods approach, including portfolio and document reviews, stakeholder interviews, focus group discussions, and a survey covering 102 countries. It assessed the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact of the SGP, including identifiable environmental and socioeconomic results and the likelihood of impact under SGP 2.0. The evaluation generated evidence and lessons to inform the continued implementation and strengthening of SGP under OP8. The Bhutan CO is planning to undertake a country-level impact evaluation of SGP/GEF projects. The assessment could draw on the evaluation frameworks and questions used in previous joint UNDP-GEF IEO evaluations of SGP, providing a

					structured basis for assessing project outcomes, impacts, and sustainability. This process would help establish evidence of SGP project impacts and support achievement of the indicator by the MTR.
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	**On track**				
Evidence uploaded:	YES				

E. Finance/Co-Finance

Cumulative disbursement as of Jun 30, 2026: **Disbursement for the FY 2026 period is an estimate as books for UNDP Q2 2026 are not yet closed.*	10,995,878

Key Financing Amounts

PPG Amount	*(not set or not applicable)*
GEF Grant Amount	27,803,449
Co-financing	126,187,000

F. Implementation Progress

Project Manager: Please provide comments on delays with outputs/activities during the period 1 July 2025 through 30 June 2026. If there were no delays, please indicate 'not applicable'.

Delivery under OP8 Part 1 was slower than expected during the first half of 2026 due to the transition of SGP country personnel from UNOPS to UNDP contracts, which temporarily delayed grantmaking activities. Additional time was also required for country teams to adapt to UNDP administrative procedures and Low Value Grant (LVG) policies. As these transition challenges have been resolved, implementation has accelerated in the second half of 2026, with projected annual delivery of approximately USD 27 million in grants and USD 9 million in non-grant expenditures under OP8 Part 1.

During the first half of 2026, 41 countries reported that they had signed LVGs under OP8 by the reporting cut-off date. The reasons for the absence of signed LVGs varied, including delays associated with the transition from UNOPS to UNDP, adaptation to new UNDP administrative procedures and grant management requirements, completion of legal agreements and supporting documentation, pending National Steering Committee approvals, ongoing calls for proposals and project selection processes, recruitment and onboarding delays, and pending budget revisions or system access requirements. While some countries had projects approved and were awaiting finalization of LVG agreements, others were still progressing through project identification, appraisal, or approval stages. As country teams became more familiar with UNDP processes and transition arrangements progress, LVG commitments were expected to accelerate during the second half of 2026.

Several common challenges emerged across countries:

- Transition from UNOPS to UNDP delayed grant processing and implementation.

- Delays in preparing, reviewing, and signing LVG agreements, including completion of legal annexes and supporting documentation.

- Limited staffing or delayed recruitment, including vacancies for National Coordinators and reduced operational capacity.

- Pending National Steering Committee (NSC) approvals or postponed meetings, delaying project selection and LVG issuance.

- Calls for proposals still under preparation or evaluation, meaning projects had not yet reached the LVG stage.

- Budget revisions and approval processes delaying grant disbursement.

Progress in the Arab States has been supported by strong performance in several countries, including Palestine, Djibouti, Algeria, Jordan, and Morocco, where projects are advancing through approval, signature, and disbursement stages. Key challenges remain in Lebanon due to a National Coordinator vacancy. Other delays relate mainly to administrative processes, including supplier registration, documentation requirements, budget revisions, and grantee onboarding.

In the Europe and Central Asia region implementation progress has been particularly strong in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Türkiye, and Ukraine, which have advanced grant approvals and commitments despite operational challenges. Remaining constraints include National Coordinator transitions, overlapping OP7 and OP8 implementation timelines, grant structuring across funding windows, limited Country Office support capacity, and the challenging operating environment in Ukraine.

In Africa, implementation progress has been supported by strong performance in several countries, such Senegal, Ethiopia, South Africa, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Guinea Bissau, DR Congo, Rwanda and Comoros, with grants approved for projects, LVGs signed, and disbursements made. Key implementation delays are related to administrative processes including country specific requirements on LVG procedure, budget revisions, and security issues in some countries. Key challenges remain in Central Africa Republic, Congo and Namibia due to National Coordinator positions vacancy.

In Latin America, progress is being driven by countries such as Honduras and Panama, which have advanced furthest in delivery and grant approvals, while other countries are moving through final approval and contracting stages. Key challenges include National Coordinator vacancies and recent transitions, adaptation to LVG procedures, country-specific operating constraints, delayed disbursement schedules, and limited grantee reporting capacity.

Progress has been made in the Asia and the Pacific region, with some strong-performing countries, including Cambodia, Lao, Mongolia, Samoa, and the Solomon Islands, where the first disbursements have been made to grantees. Other countries are in the process of finalizing grant agreements with grantee partners, including Bangladesh, Fiji, and Kiribati. Key challenges remain in the Pacific SIDs due to the lengthy CSO capacity assessment process for the shift of the NHIs from UNOPS to UNDP, administrative processes, and the low capacity of CSO partners.

Across OP8 programmes, teams are working closely with Country Offices and relevant partners to address identified challenges, strengthen operational readiness, and ensure that implementation bottlenecks are resolved in a timely manner to support the effective delivery of OP8 activities.

CO Programme Officer: Please include specific measures to manage the project's implementation performance.

BPPS RTA will provide support to this response, as needed.

Several measures were undertaken to support a smooth transition period to UNDP Direct Implementation and to ensure that SGP Country Teams were prepared for any administrative and operational changes. Key preparatory actions were undertaken to support programme continuity and readiness during this period. These included the OP8 Pre-Workshop held in November–December 2024 alongside UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh, which introduced OP8 strategic priorities, operational changes, the transition to UNDP DIM, updated operational guidance, and emerging partnership and financing opportunities. This was followed by the recruitment of the Global Project Manager in

September 2025 and the global inception workshop series held from November–December 2025, which brought together more than 300 participants from participating countries. The workshops provided guidance on governance arrangements, reporting structures, financial management, grant-making modalities, social and environmental safeguards, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring requirements, while supporting the development of Country Programme Strategies and preparations for country-level calls for proposals.

The technical working group meetings between the GEF Secretariat and SGP Implementing Agencies, held from February 2025 to August 2026, also supported implementation by providing regular oversight of progress and a forum to coordinate on key strategic and operational issues, including Core fund allocation, CEO endorsement, the Global Knowledge and Learning Platform, branding, and GEF-8 implementation tracking. The meetings also enabled participants to address emerging issues, consider options, and agree on follow-up actions, helping maintain coordination and support timely implementation. Together, these actions established the operational foundation for OP8 implementation, supported continuity of the SGP's community-led approach, and facilitated the transition to full implementation under the new modality.

Additional guidance and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Low-Value Grants (LVGs) have been developed by UNDP/CPMT in close collaboration with UNDP LVG technical experts and are fully aligned with the POPP. The guidance provides a practical framework for implementing LVGs within the SGP context, including clear roles and responsibilities for Country Offices (COs) and SGP teams.

In general, CPMT - Regional Focal Points/RTAs have focused on maintaining regular communication with country teams, particularly those operating in difficult circumstances, and supporting engagement with Country Offices. Peer-to-peer connections among coordinators are being encouraged to help address the absence of any formal regional training, while country teams are being connected with programme and finance colleagues to navigate Quantum and other UNDP systems. The team is also providing responsive, hands-on support through regular online meetings, frequently asked questions, and targeted discussions to address recurring issues and help countries move through administrative processes.

Additional strategies to support implementation include:

- Providing additional cash co-financing from UNDP BPPS and the UNDP Corporate Reserve to support salary adjustments for SGP National Coordinators and Programme Assistants/Associates transitioning from UNOPS to UNDP contracts. This measure helped provide stability during the transition period and supported continued staff motivation and quality of work.

- Providing targeted support to accelerate recruitment processes, complete pending administrative requirements, and strengthen grantee capacity to facilitate smooth implementation.

- Supporting countries to maintain recruitment timelines, complete budget revisions, adapt to new procedures, and accelerate the conversion of approved grant pipelines into signed agreements and disbursements during the remainder of 2026.

- Strengthening country implementation capacity through support to newly appointed coordinators, addressing country-specific operational constraints, and facilitating the transition from approved

grants to implementation and disbursement.

G. Project Governance

1) Please enter the dates of Project Board meetings during the reporting period (1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026)
2025-12-09

H. Ratings and Overall Assessments

Role	2026 Development Objective Progress Rating	2026 Implementation Progress Rating
UNDP BPPS Technical Advisor	Satisfactory	Satisfactory

Role	2026 Overall Assessment
UNDP BPPS Technical Advisor	This report marks the first PIR for the project titled “GEF SGP 8th Operational Phase – Core (Part 1)”. The objective of the project is to engage local CSOs/CBOs in landscape-seascape approaches across the 99 participating countries, 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 socioeconomic conditions and generate global environmental benefits. GEF SGP OP8 is a strategic local action flagship initiative for the GEF and UNDP supporting the implementation of the UNDP Strategic Plan by empowering local communities, civil society organizations and Indigenous Peoples to develop and implement community-led solutions that address biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, climate change and sustainable livelihoods. Through its grant-making modality, capacity development, knowledge sharing and multi-stakeholder partnerships, SGP translates global environmental commitments into practical local action while strengthening inclusive governance and community ownership. The project was CEO-endorsed on August 12, 2024, and the project document was signed on October 16, 2024. Following a period of operational set-up, an OP8 Pre-Workshop in November–December 2024 was held alongside UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh, which introduced OP8 strategic priorities, operational changes and the transition to UNDP DIM. The inception workshop was then convened a year later, on November 6, 2025, which involved more than 300 participants, and soon after the recruitment of the new SGP Global Manager. The project is executed under the Global Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) with UNDP as the Implementing Partner. DEVELOPMENT RATING (Satisfactory) The DO rating for this PIR is assessed as Satisfactory, as the project is on track to achieve its EOP targets with only minor challenges that are being addressed through adaptive management. For most of the indicators with low progress so far, the midterm targets are considered to be achievable, given that OP8 implementation is still at an early stage, with over 90% of OP8 projects currently in the start-up or early implementation phase. Based on current implementation timelines and experience from previous reporting periods, substantial progress is expected as projects advance. Regarding progress toward the project objective, implementation is gaining traction across all regions and the six core indicators remain On Track for

	achievement by the End of Project (EOP). To date, 83 countries have submitted their OP8 Country Programme Strategies, 82 have launched at least one Call for Proposals, and 459 OP8 projects are under implementation. GEF-financed investments have benefited 94,323 people, exceeding the midterm target, including 56,753 women. Environmental results include 154 ha of marine protected areas created or under improved management, 3,680 ha of land and ecosystems under restoration, and 243,964 ha of landscapes under improved practices. In addition, 35 ha of marine habitat are under improved practices, and 5,258 metric tons of CO_2 e have been mitigated across four countries. For Component 1, all four targets are On Track, with progress in strengthening strategic planning, multi-stakeholder governance, and community participation. 17 countries have reported high-level policy changes supporting greater community participation in dialogue platforms, while 578 representatives from social inclusion groups have been meaningfully engaged across 21 countries. Legal identity and empowerment issues have been supported in 3 countries, and 42 CSO-government-private sector dialogues have been established or strengthened. Examples include stronger community involvement in water governance in Costa Rica and improved collaboration between communities and government on natural resource and marine resource management in Comoros and Honduras. For Component 2, which focuses on demand-driven grants to CSOs/CBOs, progress across the 10 targets is advancing. 21 countries have supported partnerships promoting sustainable agriculture, fisheries, and food security, while 16 locally adapted low-emission solutions have been developed across 10 countries. Community-scale renewable energy has added 3,381 kW of installed capacity, surpassing the EOP target, and 6 local-to-global coalitions on chemicals and waste management have been established or strengthened. The programme has also delivered 4 community-based solutions in urban landscapes, exceeding the midterm target, and 54% of projects include focused interventions on gender equality and women's empowerment. Engagement of specific target groups is expanding, with models involving 20 countries and Indigenous Peoples, 27 countries and youth, and 18 countries and persons with disabilities. In addition, 10 projects support legal identity and legal empowerment, while grant funding continues to reach women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples, demonstrating the programme's commitment to more equitable access to resources. One policy recommendation on land-based pollution has also been advanced in Djibouti. For Component 3, focused on knowledge management and learning, all four indicators are On Track. Twelve countries have undertaken South-South exchanges between communities, exceeding the midterm target, while 12 additional exchanges have supported the transfer of knowledge, technologies, tools, and approaches on global environmental issues. The programme has also facilitated 100 knowledge-sharing events involving local communities across 33 countries, covering topics such as reporting, strategic planning, and agroecology. In addition, 11 countries have developed online knowledge repositories, exceeding the midterm target, providing practical resources and information to support SGP implementation and learning.

	For Component 4, focused on Monitoring and Evaluation, both indicators are On Track. Some 35% of projects held meetings with local CSOs/CBOs or communities to monitor results, assess impacts, and identify lessons learned, with 163 projects across 17 countries contributing. In addition, 1 country or cross-country impact review has been completed, achieving the midterm target. These reviews have generated lessons on strengthening grassroots engagement and improving project implementation, including in Mozambique and Sierra Leone. Stakeholder Engagement: Stakeholder engagement during the reporting period followed the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, with a focus on inclusive participation, collaboration, and strengthening partnerships. Engagement was supported through the SGP OP8 Pre-Workshop in November–December 2024, which brought stakeholders together to discuss strategic priorities, operational changes, partnerships, and community-led action, and through the OP8 Inception Workshop Series in November–December 2025, which supported alignment across 99 participating countries. Country-level implementation has demonstrated concrete approaches to inclusive engagement, with 20 countries showcasing models for meaningful engagement of Indigenous Peoples, 27 demonstrating approaches for youth engagement, and 18 highlighting models for the inclusion of persons with disabilities. SGP brought together civil society, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities through the Eco-Expo, GEF Civil Society Forum, and SGP flagship and country-level events at the Eighth GEF Assembly in Samarkand, Uzbekistan (30 May–6 June 2026). These platforms enabled stakeholders to showcase community-led solutions, share experiences and strengthen peer learning and partnerships. At UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh, the SGP/Local Action Pavilion brought together 15 SGP National Coordinators and grantee partners from Morocco, India, and Zambia to showcase locally led land solutions, sustainable products, and community knowledge. Through more than 16 sessions and dialogue with civil society, COP participants, and the wider public, SGP strengthened engagement with local stakeholders and facilitated knowledge exchange. Gender Mainstreaming: In terms of gender mainstreaming, the gender action plan includes gender-sensitive indicators and sex- disaggregated targets which has helped ensure that OP8 is gender responsive and focused on gender equality and women’s empowerment and are an integral part of programme interventions. To date, 20% of grants funding are accessed by women and women’s groups and across 24 countries, a total of 248 projects are implementing targeted interventions to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. In 24 countries, women have directly accessed approximately USD 3,465,508. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING (Satisfactory) The Implementation Progress rating for this year is Satisfactory. The cumulative global delivery rate is 39.71% against the total approved amount in the ProDoc and 58.06% against the expected global delivery as of this year, which is

	considered satisfactory at this stage of the project. During the reporting period, the project has been able to deliver tangible products that prove positive progress achieved by the midterm level target. In addition to the USD 35 million of co-financing specified in the original ProDoc, during the reporting period, the project mobilized a cash co-financing of USD 1,388,889 from UNDP BPPS and a cash co-financing of USD 2,084,190 from UNDP Corporate Reserve as indicated in the ProDoc amendment which took place in January 2026. Co-financing partnerships have also mobilized USD 22 million through the ICCA GSI Local-Action partnership and USD 10 million through the Adaptation Fund Global Aggregator for Locally Led Adaptation in Africa. The overall risk rating is moderate, reflecting the global nature of the programme and the diversity of national implementation contexts. Teams are working with Country Offices and relevant partners to address operational challenges and strengthen readiness for implementation. Efforts are focused on resolving bottlenecks in a timely manner and ensuring that OP8 activities can proceed effectively. In terms of project governance, the Global Project Manager was recruited in September 2025 to oversee global operations, strategic direction, and program implementation. To facilitate the Project launch, both the OP8 Pre-Workshop in November–December 2024 alongside UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh and the global inception workshop series in November–December 2025 were held, which provided guidance on OP8 priorities, the transition to UNDP DIM, governance, financial management, grant-making, safeguards, stakeholder engagement, reporting, and monitoring, while supporting Country Programme Strategies and preparations for country-level calls for proposals. Technical working group meetings between the GEF Secretariat and SGP Implementing Agencies, held from February 2025 to August 2026, provided regular oversight of implementation and a forum to address strategic and operational issues, including Core fund allocation, CEO endorsement, the Global Knowledge and Learning Platform, branding, and GEF-8 tracking, while agreeing on follow-up actions. Strategic oversight was also supported through the SGP Global Steering Committee, which met on 9 December 2025 to review OP8 implementation, including the operationalization of Tranche 1 across 99 countries, preparations for Tranche 2, and coordination among UNDP, FAO, and Conservation International. National Host Institution (NHI): NHI arrangements have progressed across eight countries—Brazil, Egypt, India, Micronesia, Nauru, the Philippines, Tonga, and Tuvalu—to support OP8 implementation, grant management, on-granting, and CSO capacity building. Progress includes establishing grant-making arrangements in Micronesia and India, launching calls for proposals in India, the Philippines, and Brazil, and strengthening institutional support in Egypt and Nauru. Tonga is working to complete requirements for transitioning to an RPA,

	while Tuvalu is reviewing options for an appropriate OP8 arrangement. Knowledge Management: On knowledge management (KM) activities, knowledge management and learning are integrated throughout project implementation. Project knowledge and lessons learned are being documented and shared through online knowledge repositories across 11 countries—far surpassing the midterm target. In addition, SGP national and regional networks support knowledge exchange and the scaling up of successful initiatives through online and in person events with the participation of local communities, including women, youth and Indigenous People. So far, 100 knowledge exchanges have taken place promoting project achievements, including progress in gender equality and the inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups. Collaboration with other GEF IAs: SGP Jamaica-UNDP and FAO. During 2025, several consultations were held with the National Steering Committee (NSC) Chairperson and members, the UNDP Country Office, and the GEF Operational Focal Point to discuss OP8 implementation arrangements in Jamaica and opportunities for collaboration between UNDP, as the OP8 Tranche 1 Implementing Agency, and FAO, as the Tranche 2 Implementing Agency. These discussions resulted in the development of a formal collaboration framework that outlines joint strategic planning and thematic alignment, coordinated stakeholder engagement, shared technical expertise, knowledge management and capacity building, monitoring and evaluation, and resource mobilization, while maintaining the respective fiduciary responsibilities of each agency. The framework also established processes for FAO participation in the existing NSC and for coordinated implementation of the Jamaica Country Programme Strategy. To further operationalize this collaboration, a dedicated meeting was facilitated in March 2026 between the UNDP Country Office, the SGP team, and FAO country representatives to identify synergies and coordinate collaborative implementation approaches under OP8. FAO was officially appointed as a member on the NSC in July 2026. The collaborative approach was also shared with other SGP Country Programmes and RFP managing UNDP+ FAO/CI. Following the introduction of FAO as an Implementing Agency under SGP Operational Phase 8 (OP8), UNDP and FAO established a collaborative framework to ensure coordinated implementation of the programme in Uganda. The two agencies adopted a "One Country Programme Strategy (CPS), One National Steering Committee (NSC)" approach, while maintaining their respective fiduciary responsibilities. During May - June 2026, UNDP, FAO and the GEF Operational Focal Point held a series of consultations to harmonize governance and implementation arrangements. This resulted in the development of a formal collaboration framework covering joint strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, technical support, monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management, and resource mobilization. The collaboration has since progressed with the establishment of a joint NSC (each Agency nominating 5 NSC members), adoption of coordinated implementation arrangements, and commencement of OP8 implementation. UNDP has since issued its first Call for Proposals under

	OP8, and the NSC has convened two meetings to review submissions and consider grant allocations. The partnership is providing a strong foundation for coordinated delivery of community-based biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, land restoration, and sustainable livelihood initiatives across Uganda. In Venezuela, SGP team reached out to FAO's Deputy Resident Coordinator to introduce SGP and propose a working meeting to explore areas of collaboration under OP8. FAO responded favorably, and the two teams are now coordinating project implementation activities. SGP Sri Lanka and Conservation International (CI). In Sri Lanka, UNDP steered the development and establishment of a coordination framework with CI. While each agency maintains fiduciary responsibility over its respective resources, the collaboration framework enabled both agencies to commit to synergistic collaboration to maximize the Programme impact and efficiency. Recommendations moving forward: i) Increase the pace of grants approval by respective NSCs and, ultimately, accelerate financial delivery; ii) Accelerate the Programme efforts to mobilize the amount of co-financing as listed in the programme document; iii) Ensure a timely completion and delivery of the MTR; and iv) Keep collaborating closely with other GEF SGP agencies wherever applicable. ---- Delivery under OP8 Part 1 was slower than expected in the first half of 2026, primarily due to the transition of SGP country personnel from UNOPS to UNDP contracts, the temporary pause in country-level payments while budget revisions were completed following approval of non-grant funding, and the time required for country teams to adapt to UNDP administrative procedures and Low Value Grant (LVG) policies. 41countries have signed LVGs. Those that did not sign experiencd delays reflecting a range of factors including the UNOPS-to-UNDP transition, adaptation to new administrative and grant management requirements, completion of legal and supporting documentation, pending National Steering Committee approvals, ongoing calls for proposals and project selection, recruitment and onboarding, and budget revisions or system access requirements. While some countries were awaiting finalization of approved LVGs, others remained at project identification, appraisal, or approval stages. As country teams gain familiarity with UNDP processes and transition arrangements progressed, LVG commitments are expected to accelerate significantly during the second half of 2026. Entering the second half of 2026, implementation is already gaining momentum. Currently, 83 countries who have submitted their Country Programme Strategies, 82 countries have launched at least one (1) CFP, and project implementation has

	already taken place across all regions. Significant efforts have been made to accelerate grant commitments and improve delivery performance. Based on information collected from participating countries, OP8 Part 1 grant delivery for 2026 is projected to reach approximately USD 27 million, while non-grant delivery is expected to reach approximately USD 9 million. Risks are detailed in depth in the specified section, but overall, the project-level risk remains moderate, reflecting the global nature of the programme and the diversity of national implementation contexts. No significant risks, grievances, or concerns were reported during the OP8 reporting period. The 15 risks registered in Quantum, including those identified through the SESP, are monitored closely by RFPs and their associated country teams. Risk oversight is undertaken across multiple levels, including National Coordinators, UNDP Country Offices and Regional Bureaus, National Steering Committees, the SGP Central Programme Management Team, and UNDP oversight teams. In addition, the project proposal template was adapted to include a dedicated annex on the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP). The revised template and approach have been rolled out and is being piloted throughout OP8. Under OP8, SGP has strengthened its safeguards and risk management processes through the mandatory use of a simplified SES Screening Template for grant proposals, which serves both as a screening and capacity-building tool covering areas such as stakeholder engagement, gender equality, biodiversity, climate change, and other social and environmental risks. The CPMT has provided guidance and training on its application, while Regional Focal Points continue to provide hands-on support to country teams and grantees. Additional guidance and SOPs for Low-Value Grants, together with targeted operational and financial support, are helping Country Offices adapt to new OP8 requirements. Grant proposals are screened for social and environmental risks before approval, with mitigation measures reviewed by the National Steering Committee and monitored during implementation. The Grievance Redress Mechanism was also introduced through the OP8 inception workshops, and 45 country programmes have so far established grievance and feedback mechanisms. Together, these measures strengthen the identification, management, and monitoring of project risks while building the capacity of country teams and grantees to apply safeguards effectively.
UNDP Country Office Programme Officer	*(not set or not applicable)*
Project Manager/Coordinator	During the first half of 2026, the project has established the key systems, partnerships, and country-level processes required for implementation. To date, 83 countries have submitted their Country Programme Strategies, 82 have launched at least one Call for Proposals, and 459 projects are under implementation. Progress against the project objective is encouraging, with all six core indicators assessed as On Track for achievement by the end of the project. Implementation is also generating tangible results across the programme. GEF-financed investments have reached 94,323 people, including 56,753 women, while results have been recorded across marine and terrestrial ecosystems, including 3,680 ha of land and ecosystems under restoration and 243,964 ha of

	landscapes under improved practices. Community participation and inclusive governance have strengthened, with 17 countries reporting policy changes supporting community participation and 578 representatives from social inclusion groups engaged across 21 countries. Grant-making is supporting sustainable agriculture, fisheries, food security, low-emission solutions, renewable energy, and urban initiatives, while 54% of projects include focused interventions on gender equality and women's empowerment. Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities is also expanding across participating countries. The current level of achievement is not yet indicative of the overall results expected from OP8, as implementation is still at an early stage, with many projects remaining in the start-up or early implementation phase. As these projects progress through implementation, they are expected to contribute significantly to the relevant indicators. Project governance and operational readiness have continued to develop during the reporting period. The OP8 Pre-Workshop and global inception workshop series provided countries with guidance on the transition to UNDP DIM, governance, financial management, grant-making, safeguards, monitoring, and reporting. The SGP Global Steering Committee also provided strategic oversight of implementation. National Host Institution arrangements have progressed in eight countries, supporting grant management, on-granting, and CSO capacity development. Stakeholder engagement has remained central to implementation, including through the global workshops, the SGP Pavilion, South-South exchanges, and country-level approaches involving Indigenous Peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities. Delivery was slower than anticipated during the first half of 2026 due primarily to the transition of country personnel from UNOPS to UNDP contracts, temporary pauses in country-level payments while budget revisions were completed, and the time required for teams to adapt to UNDP administrative and LVG procedures. However, the project remains on track to achieve its end-of-project targets, with risk management, stakeholder engagement, gender mainstreaming, and adaptive management continuing to support implementation.
GEF Operational Focal point	*(not set or not applicable)*
Project Implementing Partner	*(not set or not applicable)*
Other Partners	*(not set or not applicable)*

I. Minor Amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines.

CO Programme Officer: Please mark each category for which a minor amendment occurred during this reporting period (1 July 2025- 30 June 2026).

For each category that is marked, please provide a brief description of the change that occurred in the associated text box. You may attach supporting documentation, as appropriate.

The purpose of this section is to capture adaptive management and measure project proactiveness, an indicator outlined in paragraph 70 of the GEF-8 Policy Directions available here.

A) Results Framework
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to the 'Results framework'
(not set or not applicable)
B) Components and cost
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Components and cost'
(not set or not applicable)
C) Institutional and implementation arrangements
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Institutional and implementation arrangements'
(not set or not applicable)
D) Financial management
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Financial Management'
(not set or not applicable)
E) Implementation schedule
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Implementation schedule'
(not set or not applicable)
F) Executing Entity

No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Executing Entity'
(not set or not applicable)
G) Executing Entity Category
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Executing Entity Category'
(not set or not applicable)
H) Minor project objective change
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'minor project objective change'
(not set or not applicable)
I) Safeguards
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Safeguards'
(not set or not applicable)
J) Risk Analysis
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Risk Analysis'
(not set or not applicable)
K) Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%
No
Provide a description of the change to GEF project financing up to 5%
(not set or not applicable)
L) Co-financing
Yes
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Co-financing'
In line with the exceptional approval by the UNDP Administrator of discretionary funds to support the GEF SGP transition to DIM, Management Operational Reserve resources were secured as co-financing to limit potential loss of salary for SGP personnel transitioning to UNDP NPSA contracts to ensure talent retention and programme continuity during a critical transition period to safeguards the progress made and lay the foundation for a local action GEF SGP infrastructure that is scalable,

efficient and effective, ensuring the continuing strong operation of the SGP, implemented by UNDP.
M) Location of project activity
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to project location activity
(not set or not applicable)
Other
No
Please provide a description of other types of minor amendments that do not fall under any of the above categories. For example, minor changes to the project's Gender Action Plan and/or gender activities can be captured here.
(not set or not applicable)

J. Gender

Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

1) Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.
(not set or not applicable)
Quantum Gender Marker Rating
GEN2: Gender equality as significant objective
2) Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):
Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: Yes
Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes
Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes
Not applicable: No
3) Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women. **Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.**
The Gender Analysis and Action Plan under OP8 is committed to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment through the achievement of indicators laid out in the GEF Gender Policy and to the UNDP Gender Equality Strategy (2022-2025). This includes mainstreaming gender at the project, country and global levels, as well as specifically supporting women and girls through access to financial and technical resources and the promotion of women-led projects. CSPs are required to include a gender mainstreaming section in OP8 which ensures that gender equality is an essential component of project planning and strategy. SGP integrates gender considerations across the programme cycle, from the development of Country Programme Strategies and participation of gender focal points in National Steering Committees to project design, grant approval, and implementation. This helps ensure that nature-based solutions reflect the different needs, knowledge, and capacities of women and men, strengthening the relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability of interventions in areas such as ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture and fisheries, climate resilience, and natural resource management. During OP8 the results achieved that focus on gender equality and women's empowerment are as

follows:

- 56,753 of women are benefitting from GEF-financed investments.

- 27 countries reported a total of 248 projects with focused interventions promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

- 24 countries reported approximately 3,465,508 USD accessed by women representing 19% of the grant portfolio.

82 countries have already launched at least one (1) CFP with gender as a main consideration for grant approval which will significantly contribute to these indicators in the upcoming mid-term report.

During the reporting period, results are increasing gender equality by supporting women-led projects and ensuring the equal distribution of project benefit among men and women. It is also contributing to the transformation of entrenched norms around women's roles in conservation by providing training and supporting initiatives that foster opportunities for leadership.

For example, in Palestine, the Mawaddah Project is an extension of the Arab Union Society of Nablus—a women's association established in 1921—which boasts a 100% female leadership and 56% female staff. Women are in all of the supervisory and management roles in the Mawaddah Project, which will create a training programme to teach participants how to upcycle textiles into sellable products. Priority will be given to women, especially female heads of households, who have limited income opportunities. This project encourages female leadership in both project management and staff as well as household leadership for project beneficiaries.

In Cameroon, a woman-led solar energy project is training community members in in the installation, use, and maintenance of solar streetlamps. Women were considered throughout the design process and encouraged to take a leading role in guiding the priorities of the initiative. As a result of their key role in decision making, priority was given to improving public lighting in order to increase safety and mobility for women and girls during evening hours. The goal is to enable women to more easily and safely participate in socio-economic, educational, and community activities after dark.

In Bhutan, a project focused on sustainable milk production has committed to creating women's groups to participate in the management of the new milk production cooperative. This intervention is aimed at changing power structures in the rural economy by enhancing women's roles in leadership and resource management.

By placing women at the forefront of project leadership, SGP country programmes are contributing to broader societal change around women's roles and challenging traditional power structures. They are also contributing to economic resilience for sectors of the population that may not traditionally have as much access to resources as men.

4) Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.

Creating environmentally sustainable economic opportunities for both men and women can support landscape resilience by shifting local communities away from harmful practices towards climate-friendly activities. By building gender equality into the OP8 strategy, SGP is ensuring that these economic benefits support gender and women's economic independence. A number of projects in OP8 stand out for their work combining landscape resilience with women's economic empowerment.

The Palestinian Mawaddah Project, is not only women-led but seeks to bolster support for women-led households by providing training for income-generating activities. In Honduras, a project is focused on promoting economic autonomy for Garifuna women through agricultural initiatives that prices and market key plant resources. In Guinea Bissau, women were given canoes in order to more actively participate in artisanal fishing, improving their access to fishery resources and increasing their productive capacity.

These interventions are contributing to enhancing women's economic autonomy, increasing their participation in household and community decision-making processes, improving the living conditions of their families, all while supporting landscape resilience.

K. Risk Management

A) Overall Risk Management

BPPS RTA: Please provide an assessment of project risk management undertaken during the reporting period. Document actions, agreed with the CO, to address all project risks in the coming year.

The overall project-level risk remains assessed as Moderate, reflecting the global nature of the programme and the diversity of national implementation contexts. Risk management activities have therefore focused on measures applied at both the global and national levels.

The CPMT manages the global SGP and provides overall supervision, technical guidance, quality oversight, and ESMF supervision. UNDP Country Offices provide operational oversight and country-level support, while National Steering Committees approve projects, oversee their quality and risks, and support resource mobilization and sharing of lessons learned. SGP Country Programme Teams, led by the National Coordinator, manage day-to-day implementation, partnerships, monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management, and environmental and social risk screening and compliance. This reporting period, the template of calls for proposal has been adapted to ensure that projects are designed with SES in mind. Grant proposals are then screened for social and environmental risks using the SESP methodology to assess complicance with UNDP's SES requirements, with proposed mitigation measures and management plans reviewed before approval by the National Steering Committee. During implementation, Country Programme Teams monitor compliance with safeguards requirements, while the CPMT oversees ESMF implementation, consolidates reporting on risks, grievances and lessons learned, and provides technical guidance and capacity building. These arrangements support consistent screening, management and monitoring of environmental and social risks throughout implementation.

Additional guidance and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Low-Value Grants (LVGs) have been developed by UNDP/CPMT in close collaboration with UNDP LVG technical experts and are fully aligned with the POPP. The guidance provides a practical framework for implementing LVGs within the SGP context, including clear roles and responsibilities for Country Offices (COs) and SGP teams. Recognizing the diversity of country contexts and operational arrangements, the framework is designed to be adaptable rather than prescriptive, allowing each CO to tailor implementation modalities to national realities. To support this transition, Regional Focal Points (RFPs) have been providing continuous guidance and hands-on support to SGP teams and COs on both operational and administrative issues. In addition, the CPMT Financial Associate has provided extensive assistance on budgeting, Quantum-related processes, and financial management questions. These measures are helping to mitigate implementation risks and address the inevitable learning curve associated with the significant and rapid changes to systems and procedures introduced under OP8.

No significant risks, grievances, or concerns were reported during the OP8 reporting period. Both identified and unidentified risks at the design stage continue to be monitored through monthly follow-up calls, regular engagement with programme stakeholders, and field visits where needed. Monitoring takes place at multiple levels, including SGP National Coordinators, UNDP Country Offices and Regional Bureaus, National Steering Committees, the SGP Central Programme Management Team,

and UNDP oversight teams.

There are 15 risk events registered in Quantum, including those identified in the SESP: 1) Potential low country ownership; 2) Limited engagement or competing priorities among national and local government officials and private sector partners; 3) Failure to adopt the integrated approaches promoted under the GEF OP8 strategy; 4) Community-driven initiatives not being implemented as planned; 5) Integrated landscape-seascape initiatives not being implemented as planned; 6) Failure to achieve planned SGP OP8 results; 7) Country programmes and landscape-seascape strategies not being developed or implemented as planned; 8) Programme design and activities not fully reflecting the views, priorities, and constraints of women and girls or ensuring equitable opportunities for their participation and access to benefits; 9) Exclusion of Indigenous Peoples and marginalized groups from decision-making processes, potentially resulting in grievances or objections from affected stakeholders; 10) Poorly designed or implemented activities affecting critical habitats, environmentally sensitive areas, biodiversity, or ecosystem services; 11) Micro hydropower activities potentially altering environmental flows and negatively affecting local ecosystems; 12) Climate change and natural disasters affecting project beneficiaries, activities, implementation processes, and expected results; 13) Programme activities potentially affecting tangible or intangible cultural heritage; 14) Activities potentially resulting in working conditions that do not meet national labour laws or international commitments; 15) Use of agrochemicals potentially causing environmental pollution, hazardous waste generation, or risks to worker health and safety.

To address these risks, the project has adopted a multi-pronged approach:

1. Potential Low Country Ownership

To address the risk that national stakeholders may have limited ownership or engagement, SGP strengthens country ownership through the involvement of National Steering Committees (NSCs), which include senior government representatives, civil society, and other key stakeholders. Landscape-seascape governance platforms further support collaboration with local authorities and communities. Country Programme Strategies and landscape-seascape approaches are developed through participatory processes to ensure alignment with national priorities, sustainable development goals, and multilateral environmental agreements. Contingency measures and communication strategies are also established to manage potential changes in political or institutional conditions.

2. Limited Engagement of Government Officials and Private Sector Partners

To address the risk of reduced engagement from government officials or private sector partners, SGP monitors macroeconomic and national conditions that may affect implementation and identifies mitigation measures through UNDP Country Offices and programme teams. Regular reporting mechanisms, contingency planning, and efforts to diversify partnerships and financing sources help maintain stakeholder engagement and programme continuity.

3. Limited Adoption of Integrated Landscape-Seascape Approaches

To address the risk that the integrated approaches promoted under the GEF OP8 strategy are not adopted, SGP ensures that implementation follows GEF-8 programming directions, SGP Operational Guidelines, and UNDP procedures. Country programmes are implemented only where governments agree to comply with these frameworks. Participatory Country Programme Strategies and landscape-seascape strategies allow activities to adapt to changing national and local priorities while maintaining alignment with programme objectives.

4. Community-Driven Initiatives Not Being Implemented as Planned

To address the risk that community-led initiatives may face implementation challenges, SGP provides capacity-building support to CSOs/CBOs through preparation grants, technical assistance, mentoring, and learning exchanges. National Coordinators, UNDP Country Offices, and National Steering Committees provide ongoing quality assurance, monitor implementation progress, identify challenges, and support corrective actions where needed.

5. Landscape-Seascape Initiatives Not Being Implemented as Planned

To address risks affecting the implementation of integrated landscape-seascape initiatives, SGP strengthens local institutional capacity through participation in multi-stakeholder governance platforms, partnerships, mentoring, and knowledge exchange. CSOs/CBOs are engaged in both the design and implementation of initiatives, while NSCs and UNDP provide oversight and guidance to support effective delivery and long-term sustainability.

6. Failure to Achieve Planned SGP OP8 Results

To address risks related to achieving OP8 results, SGP applies robust grant management, procurement, and oversight procedures. Low-value grants follow SGP Operational Guidelines and UNDP policies, while CSO/CBO partners undergo capacity assessments to ensure adequate fiduciary management. Training, transparent documentation, monitoring, and quality assurance measures support effective implementation and accountability.

7. Delays in Developing and Implementing Country Programmes and Landscape-Seascape Strategies

To address risks affecting the development and implementation of Country Programme Strategies and landscape-seascape strategies, SGP ensures that these processes are participatory and overseen by NSCs and multi-stakeholder governance platforms. UNDP provides programme assurance through monitoring, oversight, and compliance checks related to operational, fiduciary, and social and environmental standards.

8. Gender Inequality and Limited Participation of Women and Girls

To address the risk that programme activities may not fully reflect the needs and priorities of women and girls or provide equitable access to benefits, OP8 integrates a programme-wide Gender Action Plan informed by a Gender Analysis. Gender considerations are incorporated into Country Programme Strategies, landscape-seascape approaches, and grant proposals. The programme prioritizes engagement with women's groups, vulnerable women, girls, and youth, while NSCs review proposals and monitor gender-related results. Women and girls also have access to a multi-tiered Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM).

9. Exclusion of Indigenous Peoples and Marginalized Groups

To address the risk that Indigenous Peoples and marginalized groups may be excluded from decision-making, SGP promotes inclusive stakeholder engagement through landscape-seascape governance platforms and participatory planning processes. Indigenous Peoples and marginalized communities are involved in assessments, strategy development, and decision-making, with Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) applied where required. Grant proposals are screened for potential impacts and include mitigation measures where necessary.

10. Impacts on Biodiversity and Environmentally Sensitive Areas

To address the risk that poorly designed activities may negatively affect biodiversity, ecosystems, or natural resources, SGP requires grant proposals to assess potential environmental impacts and identify mitigation measures. Country Programme teams and NSCs review proposals for compliance with UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES) and national legislation. Landscape-seascape assessments identify critical ecosystems and guide sustainable interventions.

11. Potential Impacts from Micro-Hydropower Activities

To address risks associated with micro-hydropower installations, proposed activities must include assessments of potential environmental and social impacts and mitigation measures. Designs and environmental assessments are reviewed and approved before implementation, with expert support provided where needed to ensure compliance with UNDP SES and relevant regulations.

12. Climate Change and Disaster Risks

To address risks that climate change and natural disasters may affect project outcomes, SGP integrates climate and disaster risk assessments into landscape-seascape planning and grant proposal processes. Local stakeholders contribute to identifying risks and developing mitigation

measures, while coordination among grantees and local actors supports disaster preparedness, resilience, and early warning efforts.

13. Potential Impacts on Cultural Heritage

To address risks to tangible and intangible cultural heritage, SGP incorporates cultural heritage considerations into landscape-seascape assessments and grant proposal reviews. Projects are screened for potential impacts, and mitigation measures are included where required. Activities involving Indigenous Peoples apply FPIC requirements where relevant, and grantees monitor compliance with cultural heritage regulations.

14. Labour and Working Conditions Risks

To address risks related to labour conditions, grant applicants are required to conduct due diligence to ensure that project workers and third parties comply with UNDP Standard 7 on Labour and Working Conditions and national legislation. Grant agreements include compliance requirements and remedies for non-compliance, while workers have access to the GRM and Country Programme teams conduct periodic monitoring.

15. Risks Associated with Agrochemicals and Hazardous Waste

To address risks related to agrochemical use, pollution, and hazardous waste, grant proposals must comply with UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES) and relevant environmental and health regulations. SGP promotes non-chemical alternatives where possible and requires training on safe handling and management of agrochemicals when their use is necessary. Waste management measures are implemented to ensure safe disposal of containers and hazardous materials in accordance with applicable standards.

B) SES Implementation

2b) Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent documentation submitted at CEO Endorsement/Approval.

During the reporting period, stakeholder engagement was implemented in line with the Stakeholder Engagement Plan for SGP OP8-Part 1, with a focus on inclusive participation, collaboration, and strengthening partnerships across programme countries. Initial consultations conducted during the preparation phase (June–November 2023) involved National Coordinators, UNDP Country Offices, and National Steering Committees (NSCs) across participating countries. These engagements established a foundation for continued collaboration with government institutions, CSOs/CBOs, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, academic institutions, development partners, and other stakeholders involved in programme implementation.

Two key stakeholder engagement milestones supported the transition and implementation of OP8. The SGP OP8 Pre-Workshop, held on 30 November–1 December 2024 alongside UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh, launched the OP8 phase and brought together SGP stakeholders to discuss strategic priorities, operational changes, partnerships, and opportunities for scaling community-led action. The workshop strengthened understanding of the transition to the UNDP Direct Implementation Modality (DIM), reaffirmed the role of NSCs and country teams, and advanced discussions on landscape-seascape approaches, ecosystem restoration, Indigenous Peoples and local community engagement, and future financing opportunities. The event also facilitated knowledge sharing through the SGP Pavilion, which showcased community initiatives, sustainable products, and local solutions through more than 16 sessions involving National Coordinators and grantee organizations.

The GEF-SGP OP8 Inception Workshop Series, conducted from November–December 2025 and reported in February 2026, further supported stakeholder alignment for OP8 implementation across 99 participating countries. The workshop series provided guidance on programme priorities, operational procedures, and the transition to UNDP DIM while reinforcing commitments to social inclusion, gender equality, youth engagement, Indigenous Peoples' participation, innovation, and partnerships. Through OP8 implementation, countries have continued to demonstrate inclusive stakeholder engagement approaches, with 20 countries showcasing models for meaningful engagement of Indigenous Peoples, 27 countries demonstrating approaches for youth engagement, and 18 countries highlighting models for the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Many countries have also participated in South-South exchanges and knowledge-sharing initiatives to promote learning, replication of successful approaches, and the dissemination of community-led solutions.

Key challenges include managing the institutional transition, maintaining efficient approval and implementation processes, and strengthening stakeholder capacities. To address these challenges, the programme continues to support capacity development, knowledge platforms, multi-stakeholder collaboration, and adaptive management approaches to strengthen participation and achieve sustainable environmental and community outcomes.

L. Knowledge Management & Communications

The **Project Manager** must complete the three questions below.

1) Please provide progress on the implementation of the project's Knowledge Management approach approved at CEO Endorsement/Approval. If there is no KM approach/strategy, please comment on how the project is capturing and disseminating best practices and lessons learned.
SGP implements a structured, multi-level Communication and Knowledge Management (KM) approach designed to systematically capture, analyze, share, and scale community-driven solutions that generate global environmental benefits. At the project level, all grant initiatives include dedicated provisions for knowledge capture and learning, enabling communities and civil society organizations (CSOs) to document experiences, innovations, challenges, and lessons learned. These experiences are captured through project reports, case studies, videos, photo essays, beneficiary stories, and other knowledge products that facilitate peer-to-peer learning and replication. At the national level, SGP Country Programmes, led by National Coordinators and National Steering Committees (NSCs), serve as knowledge brokers that aggregate local experiences and transform them into practical knowledge products, including fact sheets, lessons learned briefs, case studies, policy notes, toolkits, and how-to guides. Country Programmes also facilitate knowledge exchange through stakeholder workshops, knowledge fairs, learning events, field exchanges, and CSO-Government-Private Sector Dialogue Platforms. These mechanisms enable successful community-based approaches to inform national development priorities, environmental policies, and investment decisions. At the global level, SGP consolidates knowledge generated across its portfolio to identify emerging trends, best practices, and scalable solutions. The programme provides guidance, templates, and quality assurance mechanisms to ensure consistency in knowledge capture and reporting across countries. Lessons and experiences are synthesized into global reports, thematic publications, policy briefs, blogs, webinars, and knowledge products that contribute to broader discussions on biodiversity conservation, climate action, land restoration, chemicals and waste management, international waters, and locally led development. Under Operational Phase 8 (OP8), SGP is further strengthening its KM approach by positioning knowledge as a strategic asset for visibility, thought leadership, and scaling impact. A key priority is amplifying the voices and experiences of communities through storytelling, including stories featured on the SGP website, UNDP platforms, GEF channels, photo essays, videos, newsletters, and social media. This approach not only documents results, but also demonstrates how locally-led action contributes to achieving global environmental benefits. SGP also actively promotes knowledge exchange and replication through South-South and triangular cooperation, inter-regional learning exchanges, communities of practice, and partnerships with UN

agencies, research institutions, and other strategic partners. Knowledge generated through more than three decades of implementation is made accessible through global platforms such as the SGP Innovation Library and the forthcoming SGP Global Learning Platform, which provide repositories of proven approaches, tools, publications, and lessons learned from across the programme portfolio.

Through this integrated Comms and KM system, SGP ensures that knowledge generated by local communities is systematically captured, transformed into actionable learning, broadly disseminated, and applied to influence policy, strengthen capacities, mobilize partnerships, and scale successful community-based solutions from the local to the global level.

Illustration of SGP's KM and communications work include:

SGP Branding Guidelines 2026 https://sgp.undp.org/innovation-library/item/2674-gef-sgp-undp-branding-guidelines-2026.html

In close collaboration with the GEF Secretariat and UNDP KM and Comms, SGP at UNDP launched updated Branding Guidelines for 2026 to ensure a consistent and recognizable visual identity across all countries, projects, and communication products. The guidelines introduce the new integrated GEF SGP logo, updated naming conventions, revised logo placement requirements, refreshed boilerplate text, and new branding templates for publications, presentations, digital products, and visibility materials. All SGP country teams, partners, grantees, and project teams are encouraged to use these guidelines when developing new knowledge management, communications, outreach, and visibility products. By applying a unified brand, the visibility and impact of SGP's work is strengthened and reinforces SGP shared message of Local Action, Global Impact.

SGP Participation in the 8th GEF Assembly, Samarkand, Uzbekistan 2026: https://sgp.undp.org/resources-155/event-flyer/826-sgp-at-the-eight-gef-assembly-samarkand-uzbekistan.html

SGP played an active role in the 8th GEF Assembly and associated meetings held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan (30 May to 6 June 2026), using the event as a platform to showcase more than three decades of community-led environmental action and to promote the role of civil society organizations (CSOs), Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, and local communities in delivering global environmental benefits.

Throughout the Assembly, SGP highlighted UNDP's Local Action Offer through a dedicated pavilion at the Eco-Expo, featuring community products, knowledge resources, and interactive discussions on inclusive environmental action and the GEF's Whole-of-Society approach.

SGP also contributed to several high-profile events, including the GEF Civil Society Forum, a national side event launching Operational Phase 8 (OP8) in Uzbekistan, and its flagship global event, "Advancing Locally Led Solutions Through Innovation, Inclusion, and Partnership." This flagship event

showcased lessons and experiences from SGP country programmes worldwide, highlighted new partnerships under SGP 2.0, and officially launched the GEF SGP Global Knowledge and Learning Platform in partnership with UNDP, FAO, and Conservation International.

In addition, SGP participated in Assembly discussions on advancing the GEF's "Leave No One Behind" agenda and strengthening support for Indigenous Peoples and local communities under GEF-9, while also supporting the launch of the new SGP CSO Challenge Programme, designed to recognize and scale innovative CSO-led environmental solutions globally.

Overall, the Assembly provided SGP with an important opportunity to share knowledge, strengthen partnerships, influence global environmental discussions, and promote the scaling up of locally led solutions as a critical pathway for achieving global environmental and sustainable development goals.

SGP at UNCCD COP17, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 2026: https://sgp.undp.org/resources-155/event-flyer/831-unccd-cop17.html

At UNCCD COP17, the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) used the global platform to highlight the critical role of local communities, civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples, and pastoralists in combating land degradation, restoring ecosystems, and building resilience in dryland landscapes. SGP showcased over three decades of experience supporting community-led land restoration and sustainable land management initiatives across more than 120 countries.

A key contribution was the presentation of new evidence and knowledge products demonstrating SGP's support to rangeland and pastoralist communities. In preparation for COP17, SGP conducted a portfolio-wide analysis that identified more than 2,000 community projects across 121 countries addressing sustainable grazing, rangeland restoration, biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation, water management, and natural resource governance.

Through its participation in COP17 events and knowledge-sharing activities, SGP promoted locally led solutions as essential for achieving Land Degradation Neutrality, strengthening pastoral livelihoods, restoring ecosystems, and advancing inclusive, community-based approaches to sustainable land management. The conference also provided an opportunity to showcase lessons learned, strengthen partnerships, and contribute to global dialogue on scaling effective community-driven responses to land degradation and climate challenges.

International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2026 Campaign Summary

To mark the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2026, SGP implemented a 23-day global social media campaign under the theme Local Action, Global Impact, aligning SGP's core message with the official IDB theme, "Acting locally for global impact." The campaign ran from 30 April to 22 May 2026 and was designed to raise awareness of the contributions of local communities and civil society organizations to global biodiversity conservation while increasing SGP's visibility ahead of

both IDB and the 8th GEF Assembly.

The campaign featured 23 stories from SGP-supported initiatives, each linked to one of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). Through engaging social media cards, photo essays, and storytelling content, the campaign translated global biodiversity commitments into inspiring examples of community-led action and demonstrated SGP's direct contribution to biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, climate resilience, sustainable livelihoods, and social inclusion.

The selected stories showcased a geographically diverse portfolio spanning all SGP regions, including a strong representation of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which accounted for 26 percent of featured stories. The campaign also highlighted SGP's commitment to inclusion, with 70 percent of stories featuring women's empowerment, 35 percent highlighting Indigenous Peoples, 35 percent featuring youth engagement, and several stories showcasing work with persons with disabilities.

Overall, the campaign successfully demonstrated how local communities are advancing global biodiversity goals, amplified the voices of SGP grantee-partners, and reinforced SGP's position as a leading platform for community-driven environmental action.

The campaign concept was designed to reinforce SGP’s core message: Local Action = Global Impact. By showcasing diverse community-led initiatives, SGP provided concrete evidence of how SGP empowers vulnerable groups to translate ambitious global policies into tangible results on the ground. This countdown clearly positioned SGP as a vital delivery mechanism for the KMGBF within the broader GEF and UNDP structures.

Select posts:

https://x.com/GEF_SGP/status/2049474051572478451

https://x.com/GEF_SGP/status/2049855802136309945

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1ChhMXjpRP/

https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1443779697789151&set=pb.100064714027002.-2207520000

https://www.instagram.com/p/DXt45myDjYJ/

https://www.instagram.com/p/DXwqlM1Dv7d/

https://bsky.app/profile/gef-sgp.bsky.social

https://www.threads.com/@localactionglobalimpact

SGP at RAMSAR COP 15 2025: https://sgp.undp.org/resources-155/event-flyer/801-

wetlandscop15.html

At the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP15), the SGP highlighted the importance of youth leadership and capacity development in wetland conservation and sustainable development. Through its side event, "Empowering Youth: Capacity Development and Youth Engagement in Wetland Conservation and Sustainable Development," SGP showcased how young people are contributing to the protection, restoration, and sustainable management of wetland ecosystems through community-led action.

The event provided a platform for sharing experiences, lessons learned, and successful approaches from SGP-supported initiatives, while fostering dialogue among stakeholders on strengthening youth participation in environmental decision-making. SGP used the opportunity to demonstrate how investing in youth leadership can accelerate local action, support wetland conservation objectives, and contribute to broader biodiversity, climate, and sustainable development goals.

This engagement reinforced SGP's commitment to empowering young people as key agents of change and to promoting inclusive, community-driven solutions for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

SGP is currently working on a detailed Communication and KM strategy for OP8 and 9. An overview of the strategy is currently available to support PIR submission.

2) Please provide URLs specific to this project in the relevant field below. Please categorize the URLs appropriately (for example: project websites, social media sites, media coverage, etc.)

SGP Global Website https://sgp.undp.org/

Instagram https://www.instagram.com/localactionglobalimpact/

Facebook https://www.facebook.com/GEFSmallGrantsProgramme/

X https://x.com/gef_sgp

YOUTUBE https://www.youtube.com/user/smallgrantsprogramme

FLICKR https://www.flickr.com/photos/160133712@N07/

Newsletters https://sgp.undp.org/resources-155/newsletters.html

EXPOSURE Photo-stories https://undp-nature.exposure.co/categories/gef-small-grants-programme

Key Publication shttps://sgp.undp.org/resources-155/key-resource.html

Innovation library https://sgp.undp.org/innovation-library.html

Global events page https://sgp.undp.org/resources-155/event-flyer.html

3) In the PIR platform, please upload any supporting files, including the project's Communications Strategy, photos, videos, stories and other communication/knowledge materials.

2025-SGP-Comms-Stats final.pptx
OP8 Comms and KM PPT- Aug 2026.pptx
OP8 SGP Communication KM Strategy - overview.pdf

M. Annex - Ratings Definitions

Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure and any minor challenges are being addressed through an adaptive management plan. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure and minor challenges can be addressed if an adaptive management plan is promptly put in place.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to only partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might still be achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to only partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure and adaptive management is not expected to materialize.

Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Implementation of all outputs/activities is fully on track, proceeding as planned, The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor challenges that are being addressed. Implementation of all outputs/activities is on track with minor deviations The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor challenges that have not yet been addressed. Implementation of most outputs/activities is on track with minor deviations.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces implementation challenges. Implementation of many outputs/activities is off track Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation challenges. Implementation of most outputs/activities is off track.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under-performing. Implementation of all outputs/activities is severely off track.