OPERATIONAL PHASE 8 (OP8)

SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY (CPS)

ZIMBABWE

2024 - 2028



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OP8 Financial Resources - SGP Country Program (estimated US$)[1]

Total SGP Grants to date since Country Program (2024)	USD 8,145,794.67
OP8 GEF Core Funds	USD 500,000.00
OP8 GEF STAR Funds	USD1,000,000.00
Other funds (secured)	Nil
Other funds (expected/to be mobilized)	USD200,000.00

1. INTRODUCTION

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

The objectives of the SGP OP8 are to engage local CSOs/CBOs in landscape approaches worldwide, provide them with access to knowledge and information, capacitate them through learning-by-doing and skills development, and deliver technical and grant assistance for interventions that enhance wellbeing and socioeconomic conditions and generate global environmental benefits.

The OP8 objectives reflect the key features of GEF Small Grants Program 2.0, including new approaches to support youth, women, and Indigenous Peoples, linking up with complementary mechanisms, such as the Microfinance Initiative and CSO Challenge Program, cooperating with other GEF Agencies, and leveraging opportunities with GEF strategies, including the delivery of the GEF-8 Integrated Programs. In addition, OP8 will facilitate opportunities for innovation and scaling up, catalyze multi-stakeholder alliances to test new approaches through CSOs, and leverage its dialogue platforms towards greater impact. OP8 will also align and contribute to the UNDP Strategic Plan (2022-2025).

The SGP OP8 collaborates closely with the Government of Zimbabwe, particularly through the Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism, and Hospitality Industry. This partnership ensures that GEF SGP projects are aligned with national environmental policies and development priorities. The Ministry provides strategic oversight and facilitates the integration of community-based initiatives into broader national frameworks. By working together, the GEF SGP and the Government enhance

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

the effectiveness of environmental conservation efforts, promote sustainable development, and ensure that local actions contribute to the country's overall environmental and socio-economic goals.

1 COUNTRY PROGRAM SUMMARY: Key results and achievements

1.1 The GEF Small Grants Program in Zimbabwe

The SGP OP8 aligns with Zimbabwe's Vision 2030 by fostering sustainable development and community resilience through grassroots initiatives. Vision 2030 aims to transform Zimbabwe into an upper-middle-income country, emphasizing sustainable economic growth, environmental protection, and social inclusion. GEF SGP supports these goals by funding community-based projects that promote biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and sustainable land management. These projects empower local communities, enhance livelihoods, and contribute to the country's environmental sustainability, directly supporting the vision of a prosperous and environmentally resilient Zimbabwe.

As a corporate programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), aligns its Operational Phase strategies with those of the GEF and co-financing partners and provides a global portfolio of innovative, inclusive, and impactful projects that address global environmental and sustainable development issues.

Action at the local level by civil society and community-based organizations, including women groups, indigenous peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities, is recognized as essential to forming multi-stakeholder alliances to deliver global environmental benefits and contribute to the GEF-8 Programming Directions, UNDP Strategic Document (2022 – 2026) and national priorities to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals and other international commitments. Building on over 30 years of successful implementation of the GEFSGP in over 127 countries, the 8th Operational Phase of the SGP aims “to promote and support innovative, inclusive and scalable initiatives, and foster multi-stakeholder partnerships at the local level to tackle global environmental issues in priority landscapes.”

SUMMARY: KEY RESULTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEFSGP) in Zimbabwe was launched in 1993 and operated through seven successive operational phases. The programme focuses on investments in five thematic areas: biodiversity, Sustainable Forest Management, Climate Change, Chemicals, Land Degradation, and International Waters. The other cross-cutting elements include Capacity Building and Knowledge Management. Since inception, GEFSGP has allocated USD 8,145,794.67 to 215 projects disaggregated among the 1st to the 7th operational phases under (Table 1) and corresponding co-financing resources under (Table 2).

Table 1: Total Projects Funded for each Thematic Area per Operational Phase

Operational Phase	Projects supported per Thematic Area							Total projects	Total Funds Committed (USD)
	BD	CC	CH	LD	IW	CB	KM		
Pilot and OP1	23	3	-	-	3	1	2	32	878,266.69
OP2	17	9	1	4	5	2	1	39	1,355,527.98
OP3	17	3	3	4	2	-	1	30	950,000.00
OP4	8	3	6	19	1	-	-	37	1,200,000.00
OP5	15	5	3	8	-	1	1	33	1,614.000.00
OP6	4	4	5	2	-	3	0	18	923,000.00
OP7	8	7	3	6	0	2	0	26	1,225,000.00
TOTAL	**92**	**34**	**21**	**43**	**11**	**9**	**5**	**215**	**8,145,794.67**

Key: BD – Biodiversity, CC – Climate Change, LD – Land Degradation, IW – International Waters, CB – Capacity Building, KM – Knowledge Management

Thematic allocation of resources

The USD 8,145,794.67 was allocated to the seven thematic areas as follows: Biodiversity 44%, Land Degradation 21%, Climate Change 17%, Chemicals 7%, International Waters 6%, Capacity Building 3%, and Knowledge Management 2%. The actual figures are shown in Figure 1.

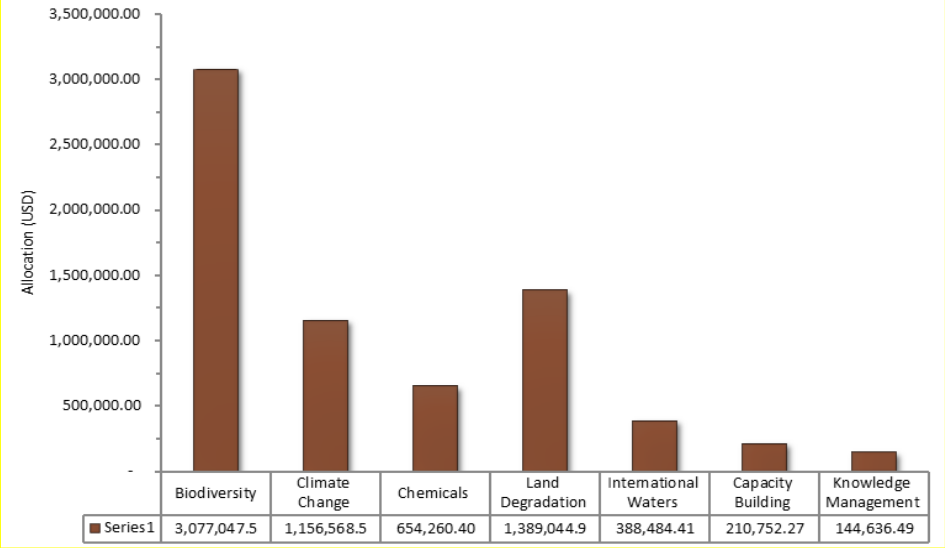


Figure 1: The GEF SGP OP1-7 financial resource allocation disintegrated by thematic area

Since inception, the projects mobilized USD18,020,131 in terms of co-financing. Specifically, USD2,943,232.85 (14%) was in cash while USD15,092,943.94 was in kind (Table 2).

Table 2: Co-finance contributions to the SGP grant from OP1 to OP7

Operational Phases	CASH - USD	IN-KIND – USD	TOTAL
Pilot and OP1	245,563.96	659,901.25	911,465.21
OP2	400,152.76	6,831,213.81	7,231,366.57
OP3	942,198.13	2,588,278.61	3,530,476.74
OP4	500,230.00	1,719,469.22	2,219,699.22
OP5	380,891.00	1,722,285.73	2,103,176.73
OP6	274,111.00	759,786.00	1,017,852.00
OP7	194,086.00	812,009.32	1,006,095.32
TOTAL	**2,943,232.85**	**15,092,943.94**	**18,020,131.79**

1.2 Linkages of the key national results/accomplishments with the achievement of global environmental benefits and key lessons learnt:

1.2.1 Key global environmental benefits achieved per Thematic Area and in line with Strategic Objectives

Biodiversity: Strategic Objective 1: Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species using the landscape approach

Ninety-two projects under the Biodiversity thematic area received the support of USD3,375,162.78 towards Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species. Some of the activities that were implemented include the protection of biodiversity hotspots and Important Bird Areas (IBAs), protection of threatened plant species, Sustainable Forest management, development of fisheries projects, forest fire prevention and control, afforestation and reforestation, beneficiation of Non-timber forest products (NTFs) and wetlands protection. The projects for OP6 and OP7 were in the Binga, Chimanimani and Shurugwi landscapes (Fig 2). Specifically, the Shurugwi District landscape received USD400,000 under OP6. The six organizations that were funded in the Shurugwi landscape include Women in Communities (WICO), Local Initiatives & Development Agency (LID) Strategic project, Shurugwi Organic Farmers (SOFA), Caritas Gweru Diocese, Vambai Green Cooperative and Zimbabwe Institute of Permaculture (SCOPE).

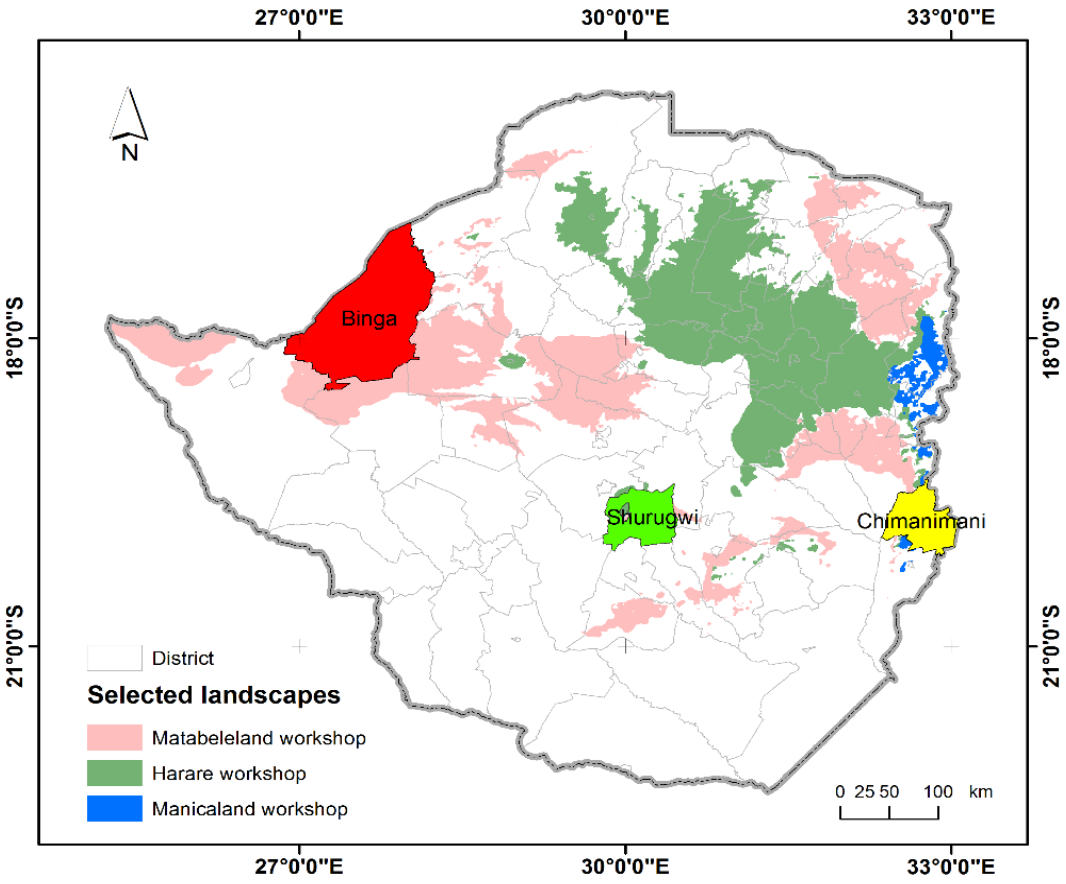


Figure 2: Map showing the 3 landscapes supported under OP6 and OP7 and project locations

1.2.2 Results achieved under the three landscapes

(i) Shurugwi Landscape

An end-of-project evaluation of the interventions in the landscape showed the following:

- ✓ Shurugwi landscape projects have 2284 beneficiaries including 244 men, 411 women, 658 boys, and 971 girls.
- ✓ 4 land use plans were developed for the wetlands at Musavadha, Reskelf 1, Faquar and Chiriya;
- ✓ 9 wetlands which cover 237 hectares, were protected;
- ✓ 11 solar-powered pumps were installed with a total capacity of 5000 watts;
- ✓ 5 masonry tanks and 4 pump houses were constructed;
- ✓ 124 hectares of natural forests were protected;
- ✓ 6 gullies were reclaimed;
- ✓ Water harvesting structures were constructed at Musavadha and Faquar 2;
- ✓ Firefighting teams were established;
- ✓ 7 consolidated gardens practicing climate-smart agriculture were established; and,

- ✓ Market linkages for the landscape supported by two market centres at Chitora and Chachacha.



Figure 3: Typical projects in the Shurugwi landscape top left: wetland reclamation, top right, and bottom left: nutrition gardens, and bottom right: organic farming

ii) Sustainable Tourism Agenda

Sustainable Tourism Agenda (STAGE) worked with 7 CBOs in Honde Valley, conserved 49.5 hectares of natural forests with ~49 trees, ~15 animals, and ~30 bird species, planted 7 hectares of bamboo, set up 778 beehives producing ~7t/year of organic honey, and had 2,800 beneficiaries. The project explored international markets by exporting honey to Malaysia and selling crafts to Botswana and Cape Town. Some of the products are shown in Figure 4.



Figure 4: Protection of natural forests, honey production, and production of crafts using the Sustainable Tourism Agenda approach

iii) Kuumba Arts Trust

The Project supports sustainable livelihoods by empowering women to cultivate Kalahari Melon and Amaranth as cash crops and drought-resistant food crops in Buhera District. The following has been achieved and some of the products are shown in Figure 5:

- ✓ Training and support for women's groups to cultivate, harvest, and extract seeds from organic indigenous Kalahari Melons and Amaranth as cash crops.
- ✓ Cultivation of Kalahari Melon covers 22 hectares. Since the project started in 2021, 25,035 kg of Kalahari melon seed has been produced and sold for USD 25,035.
- ✓ Harvested 1,724 kgs of *Ximenia Caffra* since 2021 and raised USD1724. *Ximenia caffra* and Marula trees are being conserved within the community as community members increasingly appreciate the economic benefit of the trees. Women's incomes have doubled, which has led to improved livelihoods.
- ✓ Harvested 900 kgs of Amaranth that are used as flour for baking and making porridge.
- ✓ Harvested one tonne of millet, three tonnes of ground nuts, and one tonne of cowpeas.
- ✓ Harvested – an average of 200 – 1,000kgs of millet per member per year.
- ✓ Total beneficiaries - 130 – (5 men, 100 women, 21 Youth and 4 PWDs).
- ✓ Kuumba Arts Trust entered into research partnerships with the Botanical Gardens and the Gene Bank of Zimbabwe to examine the taxonomy of indigenous Kalahari Melon and Amaranth. The results of this research will inform communities and buyers about the best varieties of Kalahari Melon to grow.
- ✓ Creating Circular Economies—'Black Soldier Fly' farming was introduced in 2023 to facilitate the decomposition of fruit pulp following melon seed extraction.



Figure 5: From left to right: Kalahari melon seed for export, project member in an Amaranth plot, and Aramanth flour used for baking

iv) Youth Development Initiative Trust (YDIT)

- ✓ Has a membership of 50 women implementing aquaculture programme - (50 fish ponds were constructed and stocked with 75,000 fingerlings (Figure 6).
- ✓ Project improved nutrition and income by USD400 per year per member.
- ✓ Project developed and deployed an Android and I.O.S fish farming mobile application, "Hove Dzedu – Our Fish". This is an offline/online mobile application with comprehensive and interactive content on fish farming.



Figure 6: Fish farming at ARDA Transau in Odzi, Zimbabwe. From left to right: Some of the fish ponds, and harvested fish.

Climate Change – Low-carbon energy access co-benefits

Thirty-four projects were supported under Climate Change thematic area and received USD1,505,103.66.

- ✓ The Fombe Irrigation Scheme in Nyanga North installed a solar pump to harness water from the Kairezi River to irrigate a 3.5-hectare nutrition garden, benefitting 63 people (25 males, 38 females, and eight youths). Vegetable sales increased the average household income from USD10 to USD100 per month.
- ✓ Methodist Development and Relief Agency (MEDRA) in Muzarabani District established a 3.5-hectare garden with solar-pumped groundwater and protected 17 hectares of natural woodlands.
- ✓ Lutheran Development Association (LDS) constructed 248 fuel-saving stoves.
- ✓ Juru Environment Protection Association constructed 61 wood fuel-saving stoves and CHIDA has 74 wood-saving stoves. Tag a Life International (TALI) is establishing an 80m3 biogas digester - water Jacket-overflow system that is 90% complete. The digester is going to benefit 42 households.

Land Degradation – Sustainable Land Management

Forty-three projects were supported with USD 1,662,394.66 for land degradation interventions.

i) SCOPE project

- ✓ SCOPE is working with three schools and transforming bare grounds into productive landscapes.
- ✓ Beneficiaries include 39 teachers (14 males and 25 females) 929 pupils, including 465 boys and 464 girls.
- ✓ Five nurseries were established, and three woodlots were set up.
- ✓ Bareness in the schools, estimated at 70%-90% at the beginning of the project, has been reduced to 30%. All three schools have implemented soil and water management techniques by establishing in-field rainwater harvesting facilities in swales, pits, and banana circles and planting bananas at the back of their classrooms.

- ✓ three consolidated gardens were established for out-of-school youths in the three villages. There is increased food production, and 80% of the vegetables harvested are used to support the school feeding program.
- ✓ The provision of solar-powered boreholes has improved access to clean water for the pupils who previously collected water from unprotected water sources.

ii) Silveira House

- ✓ Silveira House is re-greening urban spaces in Harare at Kuwadzana Major Park, approximately 18 km from the Central Business District.
- ✓ Beneficiaries include 16 youths (eight females and eight males) currently running and maintaining the project activities within Kuwadzana Park.
- ✓ Two hectares of wetlands were protected, and 72 plant species are now protected, three ponds were constructed, a nursery and horticulture garden were established, the borehole was drilled, and a solar-powered pump was installed.
- ✓ Youth also set up an aquaponic system, and awareness of climate-smart technologies has improved.

iii) Biohub Trust

- ✓ Established five Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) Sites covering 1,907 hectares and planted 5.3 hectares of bamboo, benefiting 740 people (380 women and 360 men).

iv) CHIDA

- ✓ Reclaimed 10 gullies, established seven woodlots, and constructed four weirs and 11 reservoirs for harvesting water from the Nyangani mountain range for horticultural activities.

Chemicals: Circular Economy – Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management

Twenty-one projects were supported under the Chemicals thematic area with USD 804,260.40. For the Plastics and Waste thematic area, three projects were supported, including Zimbabwe Sunshine Group (ZSG), Save Our Environment Trust (SOET), and Community Water Alliance (CWA).

i) Plastics and Waste - Zimbabwe Sunshine Group (ZSG)

- ✓ Implemented the "Catalyst for zero single-use" project, and two waste demonstration sites were operationalized and equipped with machinery that included two plastic crushers and one washer.
- ✓ 24 clean-up events/campaigns were conducted, and the project has recovered 89 tonnes of recyclable waste.
- ✓ The project adds value through plastic crushing and has raised USD 16,000 in income from this initiative.
- ✓ The project benefits 25 people, including 19 women, youths, and 6 men. 300 people also benefit from the project by selling recovered materials at the waste transfer centers.
- ✓ 20 training sessions and 22 knowledge fairs were conducted for 15 partner organizations working with ZSG.
- ✓ A 5 KVA solar system was installed to power the 10 electrical machines used at the centre to sew fabric carrier bags using old clothes. Over five months, 200 fabric reusable bags were produced and distributed, and 12000 plastic bags were avoided.

- ✓ In terms of scaling up, ZSG signed a USD6 million Memorandum of Agreement with UN-Habitat, which will cover the entire Harare Sustainable Cities Initiatives project.

ii) Chemicals: Reducing Mercury in Mining

Four projects were supported under Artisanal Small Scale Gold Mining (ASGM), including Institute of Mining Research (IMR), Gingie West, Prospect Mining Syndicate and Mthandazo.

- ✓ Different methodologies for reducing mercury in mining are being used, including cyanidation by Mthandazo and Prospect, shaking tables by Gingie West, and icon concentrators by IMR.
- ✓ Total of 140 000 kgs of mercury have been avoided through these interventions
- ✓ Gingie West was supported with one crusher, conveyor belt, jaw crusher, 40-beater hammer mill and platform, 1 x 10 000 litre water tank and stand, four solar lights, drilled borehole, and fitted solar pump. A perimeter fence was established around the milling centre covering 12,000m2.
- ✓ Mthandazo set up three cyanidation tanks, distributed 20 retorts, conducted four workshops on safety and health, built one reserve tank, repaired a stamp mill, and bought protective clothing for women miners. Have reduced use of mercury by 6 kgs.
- ✓ Prospect Mining Syndicate procured an Atlas Copco Compressor XAS97, 20 horse-power Jaw crusher, Hammer Mill, and Ball mill. Constructed three cyanidation tanks and drilled a borehole that was equipped with a solar pump. Have rehabilitated the area by closing 160 pits.

Social Inclusion: Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities

Previous SGP Operational Phases were gender sensitive and responsive, conducting gender analysis during project design and ensuring that women played an active role in decision-making. Since its inception, SGP has supported women and youth-led projects (Table 3).

Table 3: Summary of projects led by women, youth, Indigenous people, and persons with disabilities

Operational Phase (OP)	Women-Led Projects	Youth-Led Projects	Indigenous People	Persons With Disabilities (PWDs)
Pilot and OP 1	8	1	Not Applicable	PWDs is mainstreamed in SGP projects. Under OP6, 2 projects were supported under innovation programme on PWDs.
OP 2	6	3		
OP 3	5	2		
OP 4	12	3		
OP 5	16	2		
OP 6	5	4		
OP7	5	7		
TOTAL	57	22		

The total number of CBOs and CSOs supported from Pilot Phase up to Operational Phase 7 are indicated on Table 4.

Table 1: Number of CBOs and CSOS funded from Pilot to Operational Phase 7

OPERATIONAL PHASE	CSOs	CBOs	TOTAL
PILOT and OP1	9	23	32
OP2	24	15	39
OP3	15	15	30
OP4	31	6	37
OP5	22	11	33
OP6	5	10	15
OP7	23	3	**26**
Total	**129**	**83**	**212**

Key achievements in broader adoption - scaling up of SGP-funded projects

- ✓ Under O.P6, there was scaling up of Local Initiatives & Development Agency (LID Agency) formally known under OP5 as Shurugwi Partners. Project coverage increased from 3 villages under OP5 to 8 villages under OP6 using the landscape approach. The rehabilitated wetland area increased from 3 hectares, covering 57.45 hectares, to 9 wetlands, covering 237 hectares. Market linkages were strengthened by setting up market centers at Chitora and Chachacha to support farmers in marketing their produce.
- ✓ The SCOPE project has continued to grow as the concept they introduced in 3 schools in Shurugwi of regenerating the schoolyards into various food production zones through the Integrated Land Use Design (ILUD) approach has been replicated both within and outside the country. In Zimbabwe, the SCOPE approach has been replicated in over 200 schools and has attracted the attention of the Government through the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) and the Ministry of Education. At the international level, countries have adopted this approach through the other SCOPE country chapters, namely SCOPE Malawi, SCOPE Kenya, SCOPE Uganda, and SCOPE Zambia. This work is also being shared through the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN), of which SCOPE Zimbabwe is active.
- ✓ Zimbabwe Sunshine Group (ZSG) has scaled up its coverage by reaching out and training 15 other Organisations on waste management. They also shared knowledge through conducting 18 knowledge fairs. Through the SGP grant, the project focused on 2 waste transfers at the Harare Showgrounds and Tafara but will be scaled up through the additional USD6 million grant from UN-Habitat. This grant will cover the entire Harare Sustainable Cities Initiatives project. Also, ZSG scaled up its participation at global-level events.

National And International Awards

a) ZimSunshine Group won the following awards:

- ✓ Harare Metropolitan Province Excellence Awards: Environment Protection Award of the year Contribution to the Recovery of Waste from the Environment (December 2022)
- ✓ Diplomat Award of Excellence: Outstanding Contribution to Environment, Climate Action and Youth Development Award: Contribution to the Recovery of Waste from the Environment (December 2022)

- ✓ Youth4Climate competition: Focus on the management of organic household waste using a smart fermentation technology (October 2023)

b) SCOPE won:

- ✓ The 2023 UNESCO-Japan Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Excellence Award with a cash gift of USD20,000 (2023)

1.2.3 Lessons learned

- ✓ Acknowledging local community ideas and experiences and allowing them to spearhead their development processes enhances ownership and sustainability of the projects.
- ✓ Conducting pre-project site visits and Social Environmental Safeguards screening before disbursement of funds helps to identify the levels of risk per each project and ensure necessary safeguards are put in place to manage these risks.
- ✓ When NGOs facilitate projects on behalf of communities, they should have contractual agreements that clearly outline their roles and responsibilities as well as the exit strategy.
- ✓ Capacity building of communities is a key programming requirement which should be tailor-made to meet the specific needs of each group or community.
- ✓ There is need to support SGP projects to grow from entirely conservation projects to enterprise development through livelihood diversification and beneficiation of products for income generation and enhance project sustainability.
- ✓ Communities need to certify their products with nationally and internationally accredited certification boards to enhance competitiveness locally and internationally.
- ✓ Respect for basic human rights and gender equality needs to be entrenched in all projects.
- ✓ The building of strong partnerships between SGP projects and other partner programs needs to be strongly pursued to help in raising co-financing for scaling up or replicating the activities.
- ✓ Projects need to be registered with relevant government departments and work closely with these agencies to harness technical support in areas like irrigation, crop and animal husbandry.

2 COUNTRY PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

2.1 Alignment with National Priorities

Table 5. List of relevant conventions and national/regional plans or programs

Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
GEF-8 National Dialogues	2022
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)	1993
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	2014
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	2017
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	1992
UNFCCC National Communications	1998
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	2013
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	2013
Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the Paris Accord	2016
UN Convention to Combat Désertification (UNCCD)	1997
UNCCD National Action Programs (NAP)	2000
Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	2002
SC National Implémentation Plan (NIP)	
Minamata Convention (MC) on Mercury	2017
UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	2015
Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) for the UN SDGs	2017
Strategic Action Programs (SAPs) for shared international waterbodies (IW)	
Others (list) as relevant	

2.2 Gaps and opportunities

Gaps continue to exist in the following areas:

- ✓ Local development partners have helped implement UN Conventions-linked frameworks, including NBSAP, NAP, NIP, and Nagoya Protocol. There are opportunities for engagement in the following areas:

Convention on Biological Diversity

- ✓ Develop strategies and programs for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

- ✓ Identify components of biodiversity that are important for conservation, e.g., biological hotspots under the new landscape in Chiredzi as well as scale up the work in Shurugwi, Binga and Chimanimani.
- ✓ Erosion and invasive alien species control in the Chiredzi landscape.

Zimbabwe's National Climate Change Response Strategy (adapted from the UNFCCC)

- ✓ Promote clean and renewable energy, e.g., solar, micro-hydro, biogas, etc.
- ✓ Promotion of energy-saving innovations in cooking, e.g., fuel-saving stoves.
- ✓ Capacity development for adaptation and building resilience to climate change shocks.

UN Convention to Combat Désertification (UNCCD)

- ✓ Support for integrated Natural Resources Management and Integrated Watershed Management to reduce pressure on landscapes.
- ✓ Support sustainable land-use farming methods and livestock management, e.g., agroecology.
- ✓ Capacity building in adaptive management tools for sustainable land management (SLM).

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

- ✓ Support the reduction of exposure to POPs by humans and wildlife through safe disposal.
- ✓ Support initiatives on waste management and prevention of open waste burning.
- ✓ Support initiatives on organic farming.

Zimbabwe Vision 2030

- ✓ The Zimbabwe Transitionary Stabilisation Program 2 is the socioeconomic Blueprint that guides and directs all Government policies and programs between 2018 and 2030. It is a National Plan that cuts across all sectors of the economy, seeking to address poverty and economic development.

2.3 OP8 Strategic Priorities of the SGP Country Program

Table 6: SGP Country Program's alignment with SGP OP8 Strategic Initiatives and country **priorities**/projects/programs

SGP OP8 Strategic Initiatives – Global	SGP Country Program's OP8 Priorities	SGP Country Program's complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and programs
Strategic Initiative 1: ***Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species***	**i) Chimanimani Landscape** - Protect biodiversity hotspots e.g., Afromontane landscape with about 859 vascular plant species and IBAs	**SGP contributes to the following:** **- GEF 8 Integrated programmes** on Ecosystem Restoration and support for Food systems.

[2] https://t792ae.c2.acecdn.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Transitional-Stabilisation-Program-Final.pdf

SGP OP8 Strategic Initiatives – Global	SGP Country Program's OP8 Priorities	SGP Country Program's complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and programs
1) Improve the effectiveness of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and management through equitable governance systems that recognize and respect the rights of local communities. 2) Improve community-led biodiversity-friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy approaches (e.g., agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.). 3) Enhance community-led actions for protection of threatened species.	- Protect threatened plant species e.g., *Encephalartos chimanimaniensis* and, *Syzygium guinense* - Protect headwaters of key tributaries of Save international river - Partner with private foresters in honey and fruit projects. - Develop fisheries projects - Forest fire prevention and control - Development and implementation of appropriate conservation framework for wetlands and steep slopes **ii) Binga Landscape** - Protect species that include *Berchemia discolour, Strychnos madagascariensis, Hyphaene petersiana* and*, Vangueria infausta. Hyphaene petersiana* is widely used in making crafts and the bark of Berchemia discolor is particularly useful in colouring the crafts. - Support Integrated River Basin planning and implementation. Reduce stream bank and river bed cultivation **iii) Shurugwi Landscape** - Protection of freshwater ecosystems (wetlands) which are habitats for important bird species - Reduce veld fires - Work towards wetlands in Shurugwi becoming a RAMSAR Site - Reduce pollution through waste management - Support projects in climate-smart agroecology to enhance effectiveness and efficiency in food production. **iv) Chiredzi Landscape**	**<u>Contributes to the following SDGs</u>** **- Goal 1:** No poverty **- Goal 2:** Zero hunger **- Goal 3:** Good health and well-being **- Goal 5:** Gender equality **- Goal 6:** Clean water and sanitation **- Goal 15:** life on land - **UNDAF outcome 1**: Key institutions are better able to formulate and implement poverty reduction strategies and programmes for improved livelihoods and reduced poverty of communities. - **CPD Output 2** under UNDAF outcome 1: Productive base of target communities strengthened. - **United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF:** **i) People** - at the centre of development with focus on the marginalized. **ii) Planet** - environmental protection, climate resilience and NRM. **iii) Prosperity:** lifting people out of poverty. - **NBSAP Target 1** (at least 75% of the population is aware of the values of biodiversity, conservation, and its sustainable use). - **NDS 1 2021-2025** – Contributing to Pillar 2 on Food and Nutrition Security and Pillar 3 on Envi protection, Climate Resilience and NRM. - **Constitution of Zimbabwe (2013)** that gives every person environmental rights to secure ecologically sustainable development and use of

SGP OP8 Strategic Initiatives – Global	SGP Country Program's OP8 Priorities	SGP Country Program's complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and programs
	- Protection of natural forests and working with communities in the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) - Protection of mature Gibourtia (mopane woodlands), Combretum and Strychnos sp. as well as Androstahcys (ironwood) and miombo woodlands (Brachystegia spiciformis, B. tamarindoides subsp. torrei and Julbernardia globiflora). - Addressing issues of HWC being faced by communities on the southern edge of Zimbabwe's Gonarezhou National Park - Opportunities for beneficiation of NTFs. Control Invasive Plant and insect Species that relaces native vegetation and eat crops, e.g., Lantana camara, Chromolaena odorata (Siam weed), Opuntia spp. (Prickly pear), Prosopis juliflora (Mesquite), and Parthenium hysterophorus (Famine weed) - Promote Sustainable Land Management Practices (SLM) to reduce degradation of productive landscapes **v) Outside landscapes** - Support for value addition of agro-biodiversity products, honey, crafts, juices and ginger. - Support of diversification of livelihood options to improve food security through integrating crop and animal husbandry, fish farming, apiculture and small grain production.	natural resources while promoting economic and social development.
<u>Strategic Initiative 2:</u> ***Low-carbon energy access co-benefits*** 1) Support implementation of the Paris Agreement and the NDCs 2) Promote renewable and energy-efficient technologies	- Support the promotion and use of clean energy, e.g., solar and biogas, as well as energy-saving technologies. - Scale up efficient burning biomass/fuel-saving stoves for household cooking. - Support the use of solar energy	**SGP contributes to:** **GEF 8 Integrated Program** on Net-Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator Integrated Program - **Goal 7:** Affordable and Clean Energy - **Goal 13:** Climate Action - **UNDAF outcome 3**: Vulnerable communities are equipped to cope

SGP OP8 Strategic Initiatives – Global	SGP Country Program's OP8 Priorities	SGP Country Program's complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and programs
providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods. 3) Promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas.		with climate change and build resilience for household food and nutrition security. - **CPD Output 1 under UNDAF Outcome 3:** Scaled up action on climate change adaptation and mitigation in vulnerable districts is funded and implemented. **SGP complements Principle #3** underpinning the National Climate Policy that supports the adoption of a low carbon development pathway. - SGP contributes to Zimbabwe INDC's goal of limiting temperature rise to below 1.5 degrees Celsius.
<u>Strategic Initiative 3:</u> ***Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management*** 1) Promote plastics/solid waste management and circular economy. 2) Reduce/remove use of chemicals in agriculture.	- Plastics, solid waste management and circular economy - Material engineering and product design to promote 3Rs. - Consumer use and behaviour shift due to campaigns, awareness raising and capacity development. - Waste collection and management to avoid open burning of solid waste. Chemicals in sustainable agriculture - The production and use of organic manure, including organic waste collection and composting, to reduce the use of chemical fertilizer. - Production and application of organic and natural pesticides to replace the use of pesticide. - Innovation and technologies to reduce pesticides use in agriculture.	**<u>- SGP contributes to</u>**: - **Environmental Management Act [Chapter 20:07]** that provides for sustainable management of natural resources. - **UN Treaty on Plastics (2024)** - addressing the world's plastic pollution crisis through the entire lifecycle - from when they are produced, to how they are used and then disposed of. **-Zimbabwe Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan** - anchored on waste reduction, waste separation at source, compositing of biodegradables, recycling as well as the establishment of energy plants. - **UNDAF/CP Outcome** - By 2020, there will be increased access to income and decent work opportunities in key value chains and economic sectors, particularly for young people and women. - **UNDP Strategic Plan**: Signature solution 1 Keeping people out of poverty.

3 OP8 PRIORITY LANDSCAPES & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

3.1 Grant-making within the priority landscape

3.1.1 Process for selecting priority landscapes

One workshop was conducted in Harare on 17 July 2024 to select one landscape for OP8. The workshop participants were drawn from various CSOs and government institutions that represent the key stakeholders of the GEF SGP. The selection of priority landscapes was made using the Borda Count method, where the landscape with the highest frequency of priority ranks was identified. The landscape selection process results showed that Lowveld flat/hilly/dry was the most popular. See Annex 1 for a full description of the landscape selection process. Under OP8, SGP will continue to consolidate work in the previous 3 landscapes that include Shurugwi, Binga and Chimanimani, and pilot work in the newly selected landscape under Chiredzi district as indicated on the map below: (Fig 7).

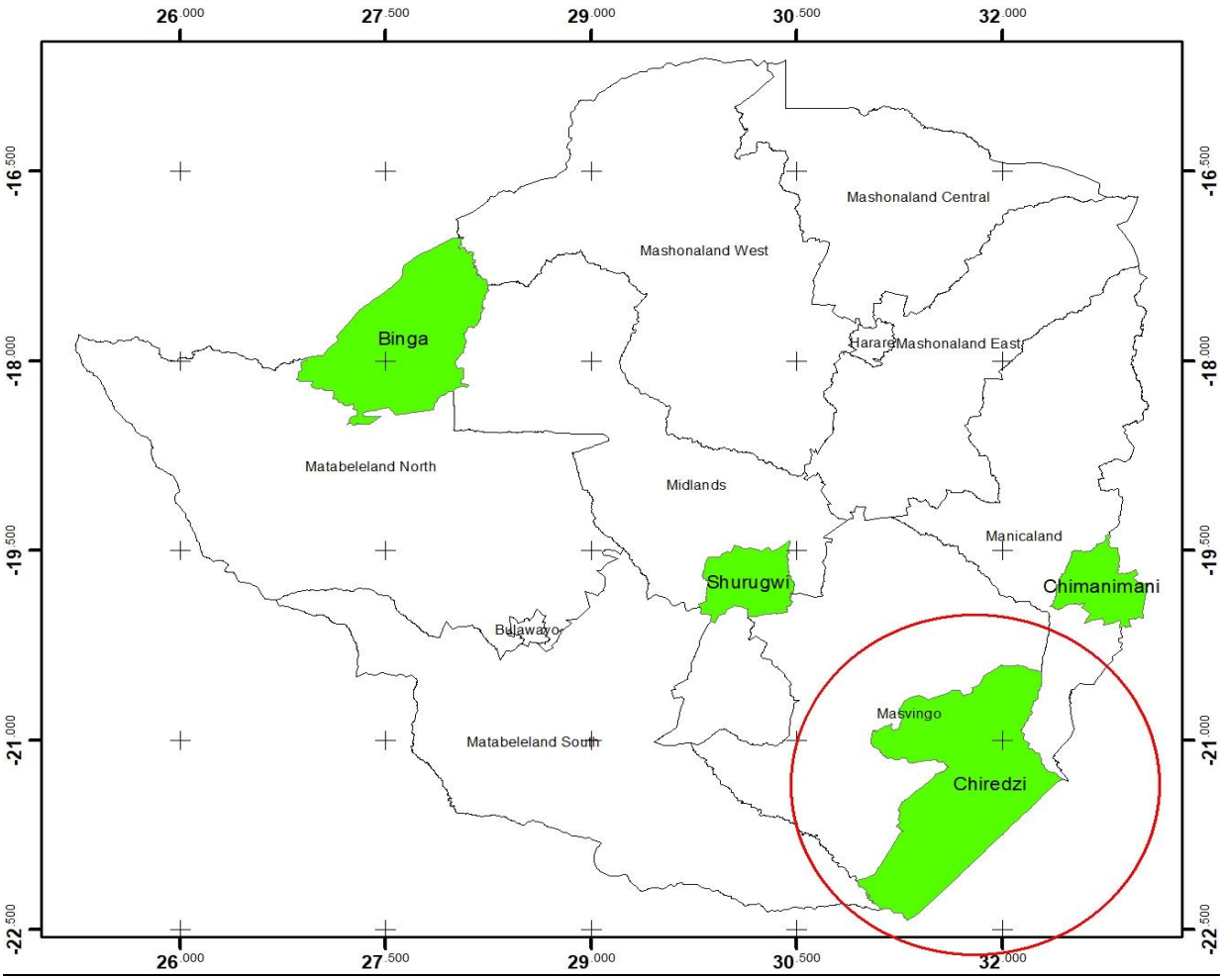


Figure 7: The location of Chiredzi district, the Operation Phase OP8 selected landscape relative to the location of Binga, Chimanimani, and Shurugwi districts supported under OP6 and OP7.

3.1.2 Justification of the landscapes selected for OP8

OP8 selected the Chiredzi landscape. The Chiredzi landscape provides intervention opportunities in biodiversity, e.g., invasive species, wildlife management, sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products (e.g., mopane worms), tourism (e.g., areas adjacent to Save Valley Conservancies, climate change adaptation, agriculture, waste management, fisheries, etc.

Table 7: Justification of the selection of the Chiredzi landscape for OP8

JUSTIFICATION
Chiredzi rates very highly in indicators of poverty, e.g., open defecation = 64%, and food insecurity = 55%[3].
-The district is among the areas most affected by climate variability, particularly drought (Figure 8).
- The area lies in the buffer zone of Protected areas e.g., Gona Ezhou National Park and Save Valley Conservancies.
It has opportunities for the management of transboundary water systems – many tributaries to the Save River.
- The district has high incidences of fire.
The area also falls under the International Waters portfolio as many tributaries of the Save River flow through the Chiredzi district, e.g., the Chiredzi River, Runde River, and Mwenezi River.
- Opportunities for building Synergy with other programs like the UNDP's Coping with Drought and Climate Change (CwDCC) project, which aims to enhance the capacity of smallholder farmers in Chiredzi to manage drought risks and adapt to climate change. It involves demonstration sites in the Matibi II communal lands. - There is also the Enhancing Community Resilience and Sustainability (ECRAS) and Enhancing Community Resilience and Inclusive Market Systems (ECRIMS) projects managed by CARE International with support from the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF) in Chiredzi.

[3]https://www.unicef.org/zimbabwe/media/11516/file/2024%20ZimLAC%20Rural%20Livelihoods%20Assessment%20Report.pdf.pdf

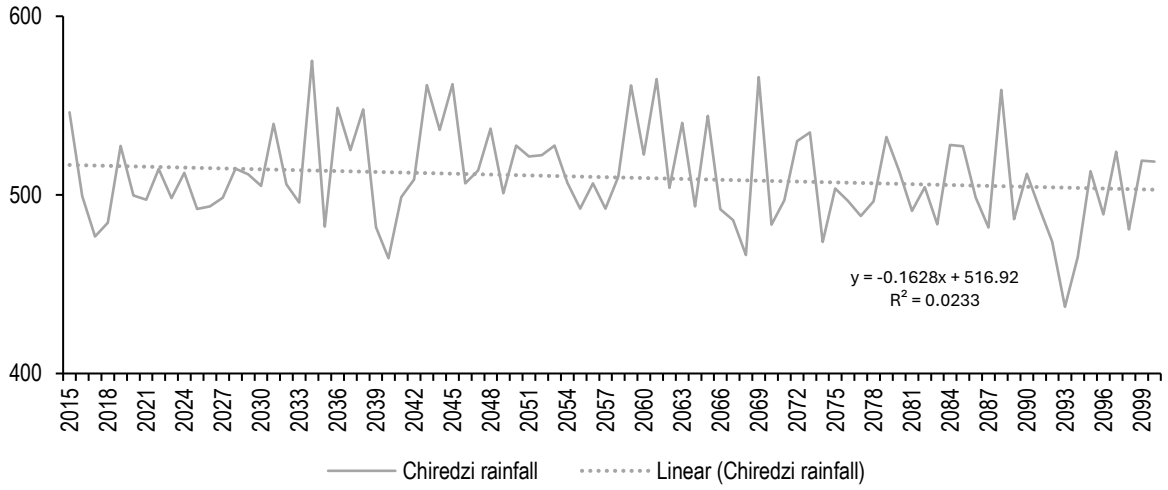


Figure 8 Past and projected annual rainfall for Chiredzi district demonstrating a declining trend in rainfall for the district. The projection is based on CP8.5 data

Intervention challenges and opportunities in Chiredzi District

In addition to the justification points in Table 8, Chiredzi district has the following intervention challenges and opportunities:

- ✓ Limited knowledge of climate change-related issues, especially regarding mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management plans in programming at the community level. The occurrence of natural disasters has not spared our projects. For example, in 2023, the El Niño event resulted in prolonged dry spells, reduced rainfall, and increased temperatures. These conditions led to drought, water shortages, and crop failures, posing significant challenges to health, agriculture, and food insecurity for beneficiaries.
- ✓ Gaps still exist in how to deal with these disasters, which contribute to the increased capacity of at-risk individuals, households, and communities to protect development gains and achieve improved well-being in the face of shocks and stresses.
- ✓ Provision of substandard products and equipment for technology transfer projects, especially solar equipment and installations. The market now has many suppliers, and some of the products are cheap and not durable. So, if the grantees do not exercise due diligence checks in selecting suppliers, they end up with substandard equipment that does not perform efficiently.
- ✓ Donor fatigue: Resource mobilization for scaling up the SGP work continues to be a challenge due to limited funding from donor agencies.

3.1.3 Methods used for baseline updates

The OP7 baseline findings continue to be used for Binga, Shurugwi, and Chimanimani under OP8. The biodiversity data was collected within 600*10-m belt transects selected randomly in a GIS. The climate change data was collected through key informant interviews, FGDs, and analysis of historical rainfall records. Land degradation data was gathered via the belt transects and satellite image analysis based on visual indicators of soil and plant indicator species of land degradation. The data

was also complemented using fire data collected through remote sensing, showing the size of the burnt area in the two districts. The overall methods were guided by the Driving Force-Pressure-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) framework.

a) OP8 Strategic Initiatives in the landscapes

The strategic initiatives to be implemented under OP8 are as follows:

- ✓ Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species
- ✓ Low-carbon energy access co-benefits
- ✓ Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management

b) Grantmaking outside the priority landscapes

Thirty percent (30%) of the resources will be allocated to the following projects outside the Chiredzi landscape:

- ✓ Integrated Solid Waste management in urban areas and creating green jobs.
- ✓ Innovations targeting youth-only, and persons with disability-only projects.
- ✓ Support innovations in enterprise development and the creation of market linkages and value chains.
- ✓ Climate Change Adaptation strategies and beneficiation of NTFs.

3.1.4 CSO-government-private sector dialogue platforms

The CSO-government dialogue platforms seek to cover the following:

- ✓ Organize workshops linking the grassroots and high-level planners and policymakers in preparation for environmental conventions.
- ✓ OP8 will co-finance CSO government policy dialogues, e.g., OP7 supported preparations for COP28.

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

i) Access to natural resources (forests, land, and other resources), their use, and control of the resources.

Forest resources in the communal areas are described as common property, although in practice, communal resources are managed under state property rules. Communities need to seek permission from the village head to utilize forest products, such as firewood. Men dominate ownership and control high-value productive assets such as land, cattle, ploughs, and scotch carts. Communal land is generally owned by men and inherited by sons upon the father's death. Ownership of land is registered under the men's name. To this end, women have limited access to resources such as land, livestock, and finance in the selected landscapes. However, in projects supported under SGP that include afforestation, wetlands protection, and sustainable forest management through beekeeping, women have equal access to these resources and their use as project members. The issue of access, use and control is governed by the Constitution of the project.

Youth in rural Chiredzi district, Zimbabwe, face significant challenges in accessing natural resources and land ownership, crucial for their economic and social development. Traditional land tenure systems often prioritize older generations, leaving young people with limited access to arable land. Additionally, bureaucratic hurdles and the high costs associated with land registration and acquisition further impede their ability to secure land. The depletion of natural resources, exacerbated by climate change and over-exploitation, limits the opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. These constraints hinder the youth's ability to engage in agriculture, forestry, and other natural resource-based activities, ultimately affecting their economic stability and community development.

ii) Patterns of power and decision-making

In the selected landscapes, household power and decision-making are influenced by cultural and religious beliefs and practices. The dominant view in both women and men focus group discussions was that social norms and religion ascribe men as heads of households and women as having subordinate roles. Men exhibited patriarchal attitudes and justified gender inequality on the basis of culture and religion.

From the focus group discussions, men felt that since they control most of the assets in the home, they should have a final say on major decisions. Another view expressed by men was that because men pay lobola for women, this gives them superiority in decision-making.

The OP7 baseline study showed that women still face several constraints that limit them from taking up leadership positions. The major constraints cited in both Key Informant interviews and FGD discussions included:

- ✓ Cultural beliefs that assign leadership roles to men and women taking subordinate roles. Traditional leadership positions are male-dominated and culturally inherited, such as appointing chiefs.
- ✓ Religious practices, for example, the Apostolic sect that put restrictions on public participation by their women.
- ✓ Positions are too demanding and time-consuming when women are already burdened with family and household responsibilities. Thus, women find it difficult to balance their gender roles and work demands, and they end up not standing for office positions.
- ✓ Generally, women were reported to (a) have low levels of education, (b) lack of experience, and (c) lack of confidence, which makes it difficult for them to compete with men for key positions.
- ✓ Lack of female role models in communities who take positions of leadership. Therefore, the young women grow up seeing top positions occupied by men and therefore there would be no fellow women to emulate.
- ✓ Lack of information and education: Some women reported that their lack of education and lack of information on climate adaptation and resilience activities sometimes inhibits them from engaging in them. For example, current channels of climate information are extension workers and the radio. Men tend to access these channels more than women.

iii) Gender Roles, Responsibilities/Division of Labour and Time Use

Like in the Binga, Chimanimani, and Shurugwi districts, men and women in Chiredzi have defined roles. The gender-based division of labour is rooted in gendered social norms. Men are perceived to

be biologically stronger than women, so they are involved in labour-demanding activities, and women, as the 'weaker sex,' are expected to engage in less demanding work.

iv) Time Use

Women suffer from "time poverty." Women work more hours during and after the farming season. This can be attributed to women being involved in both productive and reproductive/care activities. Women spend almost 75% of their time on work and only about 25% relaxing. Men, on the other hand, spend about 43% of their time working and 57% relaxing and socializing. Women wake up earlier than men in the morning to attend to household care activities and join men in productive roles. They still must attend to more reproductive/care roles as men relax. Women have little and sometimes no time to rest during the day, while men have more time for socialization and relaxation.

v) Lack of profitable markets

Another constraint women face is the lack of markets for their produce. They sell most of the vegetables they produce locally and often experience market gluts, which result in losses. Women also noted that they do not have access to labour-saving equipment, which would lessen their work burden.

vi) Financial Resources

Access to loans from financial institutions that require collateral security was difficult for women when they did not have high-value assets to offer as security. Women also realize less income than men because they market low-value crops. In Binga and Shurugwi, women reported being part of the Village Savings and Lending Associations (VSLAs). The average membership size of the VSLAs ranges from 9 - 20. Average individual savings range from $5 - $30 per month. Throughout rural Zimbabwe, VSALs are among the best ways farmers can build their resources. One major challenge facing VSALs highlighted was the depreciation of the local currency due to the current economic environment.

vii) Women's skills and capacity

Like in the OP7 landscapes, more men are literate than women. Data gathered from respondents who participated in this review revealed that one major cause of this gap was the traditional cultural and religious beliefs that negatively impacted the education of the girl child. Other factors were early forced marriages of girl children associated with the apostolic religious sects and polygamous marriages prevalent in rural Zimbabwe. As such, there is a long list of training needs:

- ✓ Gender Sensitization and Awareness (Gender Concepts)
- ✓ Gender Training Needs Analysis
- ✓ Gender Analysis Tools and Techniques and their Application
- ✓ Identification of Sectoral Gender Issues
- ✓ Gender Mainstreaming
- ✓ How To Develop Gender Policies
- ✓ Gender and the Project Cycle
- ✓ Gender Impact Evaluation
- ✓ Gender Audits/Assessments

- ✓ Other capacity needs included networking and learning from gender institutions

b) Gender Issues in Persons Living with Disability

The following gender issues are common within the persons with disability sector in rural Zimbabwe.

- ✓ **Education** -Women and girls with disabilities have poor access to quality education and suffer from discrimination and social exclusion. The literacy rate among people with disabilities is very low, and the situation is even worse with women and girls with disabilities.
- ✓ **Work & Employment** -People with disabilities, in general, face difficulties in getting employment. They face stronger barriers to accessing vocational training, leisure facilities, and justice.
- ✓ **Poverty**- poverty hits harder on women and girls with disability due to patriarchal property ownership structures.
- ✓ **Gender-based Violence** - Disabled women and girls are more vulnerable to gender-based violence than their able-bodied counterparts. Girl children with disabilities suffer from social isolation propagated by shame and stigma and are vulnerable to sexual abuse. domestic violence.
- ✓ **Access to Water & Sanitation as a Gendered Issue** - Responsibilities for household water collection and other care work responsibilities, e.g., cooking, cleaning, laundry, childcare, and care of the sick and elderly, can be a significant source of chronic stress for disabled women and girls as they are expected to perform these roles like able-bodied women.
- ✓ **Decision-making** - Women and girls with disabilities rarely participate in decision-making in families or development processes.

3.1.6 Mainstreaming gender under OP8

Supporting women's improved access, use, and control of resources, including land, water, forest, and fisheries by:

- ✓ Providing targeted support to raise awareness and assist women in exercising their legal rights
- ✓ Enhancing women's decision-making capabilities regarding land, forests, water, and other biological resources they use.

Enhancing women's participation and role in natural resources decision-making processes, with women as agents of change at all levels by:

- ✓ Promoting women's voice in decision-making and policy in national planning and decision-making bodies
- ✓ Supporting women's engagement in producer organizations, cooperatives, and outgrow schemes to support their value chains.
- ✓ Legal training under ASGM focusing on women's rights, non-discrimination policies, anti-sexual harassment policies, and equal participation of women in decision-making processes and economic empowerment.

Targeting women as specific beneficiaries by:

- ✓ Increasing awareness of the roles of women and men in the sustainable management and use of natural resources
- ✓ Creating opportunities from (alternative) sustainable livelihoods and income-generation opportunities such as conservation, rehabilitation, and restoration actions for women
- ✓ Engaging women in processes for making commodities and supply chains
- ✓ Supporting clean technology and energy solutions that also offer women the possibility to reduce their environmental footprint
- ✓ Supporting women entrepreneurs and access to credit and finance.

Investing in women's skills and capacity by:

- ✓ Supporting capacity development of different groups, including communities, women's organizations, and government, and mobilizing people for collective action in forest regeneration, biodiversity conservation, and watershed protection
- ✓ Support timely access to knowledge and information.
- ✓ Targeted grant-making to women's organizations and women-led projects
- ✓ Enhancing capacities of women through training, workshops, peer-to-peer learning, participating in stakeholder workshops and knowledge fairs
- ✓ Support partnerships and networking by connecting women groups with regional and global networks and connecting them with other key stakeholders.

SGP plans to involve youth and children in country portfolio programming through:

- ✓ Targeted funding of youth projects.
- ✓ Promote youth leadership in projects.
- ✓ Support youth networks and link them up with other networks locally and globally.
- ✓ Produce publications specifically for the youth, e.g., "Youth for SGP".
- ✓ Have a youth focal point in the NSC.

SGP will promote the participation of persons with disabilities through:

- ✓ Implementing pilot projects targeting People with Disabilities.
- ✓ Produce documentaries for PWD projects.

3.1.7 Knowledge Management

Capturing lessons

All SGP OP8-funded projects will have funds allocated for documenting lessons. A comprehensive template for recording this information will be provided to ensure consistency in reporting. A grant will be allocated for knowledge management under OP8 at the country level. There will be an end-of-OP8 evaluation that will capture the lessons learned during the process.

Sharing and disseminating the lessons learned and good practices

i) **National Level**

- ✓ SGP will work directly with the communities in capturing their lessons, conducting knowledge exchanges, organizing training workshops, and working with the government in achieving national environmental priorities to help scale up and replicate best practices and lessons learned.

- ✓ Production of knowledge materials in local languages, including project fact sheets, informational brochures, and case studies.
- ✓ Conduct knowledge fairs and stakeholder workshops to allow communities to connect with key stakeholders like the academia, other NGOs, the government, and other development practitioners for replication, upscaling, and policy influence, as well as technical support and knowledge transfer.
- ✓ Creating or strengthening networks for fostering knowledge through strengthening of existing networks of CSOs around environmental and sustainable development issues.
- ✓ Support centres of excellent or demonstration sites showing different innovations.
- ✓ Production of how-to manuals on different methods of processing gold without using mercury.
- ✓ Acting as a broker between grantees and other key partners by connecting grantees with government services, with other NGOs/INGOs, academia or research centres, development agencies/practitioners, and private sector companies.
- ✓ Training grantees on climate change, sustainable agriculture, biodiversity conservation, project management, accounting, and marketing.
- ✓ Establishing centres of excellence or demonstration sites – having projects that are demonstration sites and training centres for the local community where knowledge is exchanged within the community and other neighbouring communities under the landscapes e.g., Local Initiatives Development (LID) in Shurugwi.
- ✓ National Steering Committees (NSC) contribute to the knowledge exchange of community practices between civil society and the government, UNDP, and other key stakeholders and help identify projects for replication and scaling up.

ii) Project Level

- ✓ At the project level, each project needs to include a knowledge management plan with a corresponding budget that allows the program to capture their experience as well as to access the training needed to carry out the projects.
- ✓ Peer-to-peer learning between local communities and SGP grantees to share knowledge, help communities learn from each other and as a tool for replication and up scaling of best practices.
- ✓ Conducting knowledge exchange visits, forums, training workshops, and dialogues between communities and other key stakeholders. Given the nature of SGP, these learning exchanges can be on technical issues related to the nature of its environmental work (i.e. testing a technology or new approach) or on social or livelihoods issues.
- ✓ Training on climate change, sustainable agriculture, and biodiversity conservation, project management, accounting, marketing, governance among others.
- ✓ Each project has to include budget for their training and knowledge sharing needs.

4 COMMUNICATION PLAN

The OP8's strategies for communicating and engaging key stakeholders and CSO's at country and landscape level are as follows:

- ✓ Organize meetings with all the RDCs for previously selected landscapes, as well as Chiredzi, to ensure that all funded projects in the landscape are part of the District Development Plan.
- ✓ Conduct Stakeholder workshops in each landscape and with all strategic NGOs and Environmental Sub-Committees at RDCs.
- ✓ Conduct field days and exchange visits among projects in the landscapes.
- ✓ SGP to participate in meetings organized by the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate Change, and other line Ministries where policy issues are discussed. SGP is a member of different networks such as the Climate Change Working Group, the Strengthening National Capacity for Climate Change Program Steering Committee, the Biodiversity Forum, the UNCCD Taskforce, the UNDAF, and NCE under UNDP.

The key messages for SGP are:

- ✓ SGP is a global incubator of innovative ideas and solutions developed by civil society organizations to achieve the SDGs and global environmental benefits.
- ✓ SGP is a social inclusion platform with more than 30 years of experience working to empower and improve the skills of women, Indigenous people, youth, and people with disabilities.
- ✓ SGP is a unique mechanism that brings the voices and knowledge of civil society to national and international platforms.

The channels used to reach the different stakeholders include:

- ✓ For grantees, it is done through meetings, workshops, training, knowledge fairs, mass emails, WhatsApp chat groups, and other social networking sites.
- ✓ For Government, UNDP, and partners through meetings, workshops, newsletters, knowledge fairs, websites, and social media.

5 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND PARTNERSHIP PLAN

5.1 Secured and planned cash and in-kind co-financing

Each project supported under OP8 must provide either cash or in-kind co-financing. At the country level, efforts will be made to seek additional support from other funding partners and the private sector.

5.2 Co-financing opportunities

There is a collaboration between GEF/SGP and other partners that include the Global Green Grants and PISSCA funding under the French Embassy to mobilize additional resources for scaling up projects. There are opportunities for developing partnerships with the private sector through collaboration with FBC. Meetings were held with FBC, and the following has been agreed:

FBCH support to GEFSGP

- Provide capacity-building and financial advisory services to GEFSGP grantees to strengthen civil CSOs' and CBOs' financial capacity and management integrity and leverage more grant and non-grant funding instruments.

- Support in the review and appraisal of grant applications submitted to GEFSGP based on Social and Environmental Safeguards (SES) criteria. This shall include assessing potential social and environmental impact, mitigation measures, and compliance with relevant national and international standards.
- Support GEFSGP grantees on entrepreneurship, business development, market linkages, financial inclusion and various trainings that enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of CSOs and CBOs in organizational, project and enterprise development.
- Offer FBC Holdings Limited's financial products and services that are tailored to GEF SGP grantees' needs.
- Participate in GEFSGP advocacy events and commemoration UN International Days in the area of Environment e.g. World Environment Day, World Wetlands Day as well as Clean up events as part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

5.3 Partnership Opportunities

The SGP office in Zimbabwe will offer technical support in proposal development to leverage financial resources from other sources, such as Global Green Grants and Innovative Projects of Civil Society and Coalitions of Actors under French Embassy.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Table 8: Description of risks identified in OP7

Describe identified risk	Degree of risk (low, medium, high)	Probability of risk (low, medium, high)	Risk mitigation measure is foreseen
Limited technical capacity among stakeholders	Low	Low	Training and capacity building.
Drought	Medium	Medium	Water harvesting, irrigation and Sustainable Land Management.
Poor gender mainstreaming	Medium	Medium	Use the Social and Environmental Standards (SES) set up by UNDP and SGP Gender Strategy to guide gender mainstreaming. Conduct trainings for grantees on gender mainstreaming and budgeting.

7 MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

7.1 Monitoring approaches at project and country levels

- ✓ Grantees are held accountable for implementing projects as per terms agreed in the joint Memorandum of Agreement.
- ✓ Grantees are held accountable for reporting progress during project implementation and the conclusion of the project grant cycle.
- ✓ Grantees jointly agree with the SGP country team on key indicators to be monitored in these reports (using the SGP roster of indicators). These can be further added to and adapted for each Project context.
- ✓ Grantees must maintain records that serve as evidence for reported data.
- ✓ Monitoring at the project level is the responsibility of each project member and the project committees. After every quarter, the project members and committees will meet to produce progress reports that will be submitted to the SGP office for funds replenishment. The mid-term and end-of-term evaluations of projects will then be conducted.

ii) SGP COUNTRY TEAM LEVEL: SGP NATIONAL COORDINATOR/ PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Support at the project level:

- ✓ At the project inception stage, jointly agree with the project grantee on key indicators to be monitored for SGP reporting purposes. Monitor their reporting during the project.
- ✓ At the project level, SGP conducts process training in situ at project sites, which is targeted towards empowerment and building the capacity of grantees to manage their projects.
- ✓ Undertake site visits to ensure project funds are being used as planned and activities are producing expected and quality-assured results.
- ✓ Promote learning amongst grantees through the organization of learning workshops/ other exchange mechanisms.
- ✓ Use lessons from projects to inform decisions about similar projects during new project selection.
- ✓ The country office is primarily responsible for entering all project information in the SGP database. This includes (i) inputting all project data (within two weeks of project selection); (ii) approving the final report, (iii) registering the conclusion of the project in the SGP database along with completion of project-specific details needed there (within two weeks of project completion).

Support Country Portfolio Level:

- ✓ Held accountable for the implementation of the SGP country program strategy.
- ✓ Obligated to address all project and country-level financial requirements for UNOPS.
- ✓ Regularly aggregate project grantee level results to track progress against targets outlined in the SGP country program strategy.
- ✓ Track all country program-level grant makers plus elements and report these during the annual monitoring exercise.
- ✓ Provide country-level annual monitoring contributions. With the NSC and other stakeholders, use the opportunity to reflect on annual CPS progress and other portfolio-level adaptive management issues.

iii) National Steering Committee (NSC)

- ✓ Closely works with the NC/PA team on strategic planning and implementation of the SGP CPS.
- ✓ Participate in project site visits for monitoring and evaluation.
- ✓ Work with the SGP team to guide project management, undertaking site visits to projects.
- ✓ Support broader adoption of SGP results through working with the SGP team at consultative events and workshops with grantees and partners.
- ✓ Support NC PRA process and resource mobilization.

iv) Monitoring by facilitating NGO and government extension staff

The NGOs and government extension staff will help the project by offering technical support and training. Their visits will be necessary and frequent since they will need to check whether the project is being properly implemented, especially if there are elements of technology transfer. The monitoring can be weekly or bi-weekly during actual project implementation but will change after the project completes its activities.

Table 2: Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan at the Country Program Level

M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible Parties	Budget Source	Timing
Country Program Strategy Elaboration	Framework for action, including identification of community projects.	NC, NSC, country stakeholders, Grantees	An SGP planning grant to engage consultants may be used to update OP8 CPS.	At the start of OP8
Project results and analysis are reviewed and analyzed continuously as part of NSC meetings, including an Annual CPS Review.	Assess the effectiveness of projects, country portfolios, learning, and adaptive management.	NC, NSC, UNDP Country Office. Final deliberations shared/ analyzed with CPMT colleagues.	Staff time, Country Operating Budget	At least an annual review is needed to ensure OP7 CPS is on track to achieve its results and to make timely, evidence-based modifications to CPS as needed.
Annual Monitoring Report Survey	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF. It is the primary tool for recording and analytically presenting results to donors.	NC/PA in close collaboration with NSC. CPMT provides technical guidance support.	Staff time	Once per year in June- July
Country Portfolio Review	Methodological results capture the portfolio at a given point to note impact level change and broader adoption to support strategic development/ implementation of CPS.	NC and NSC	An SGP planning grant to engage consultants may be used to review the impact of previous operational cycles and utilize lessons for both OP7 CPS development and its implementation. Global technical M&E support can be expected.	Once per operational phase
SGP Database	Ensure the recording of all Project and Country Program inputs in the SGP database.	NCs, PAs,	Staff time	Throughout the operational phase, ensure quality assurance and completion of data before the annual monitoring cycle (May- June of every year).
Audit	Ensure compliance with project implementation/management standards and norms.	UNOPS / External Contractor. NC/ PA to provide the requisite support.	Global Operating Budget	Annually for selected countries on a risk-assessment basis

8 CPS RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Alignment with SDGs

OP8 will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

- ✓ SDG 1: No poverty- supporting livelihood diversification and income generation of the vulnerable groups.
- ✓ SDG 2: Zero hunger- diversifying agricultural options and sustainable land use for enhancing food security.
- ✓ SDG 3: Good health and well-being- promoting organic farming and mercury abatement in gold mining.
- ✓ SDG 5: Gender equality- gender mainstreaming approaches to reduce inequality between men and women.
- ✓ SGD 6: Clean water and sanitation- preservation of water sources like wetlands, ensuring sustainable domestic water supply, and providing clean water through solar-powered boreholes.
- ✓ SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy – through the promotion of renewable energy technologies that include solar and biogas.
- ✓ SDG 13: Climate Action- support programs on climate change mitigation and building resilience against climate change impacts.
- ✓ SDG 15: Life on Land – support projects that result in the conservation of biodiversity.
- ✓ Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals – SGP will continue to build and strengthen partnerships with government, Civil Society organizations, UN agencies, and donor partners.

Synergy with the UNDP Country Program Document (CPD):

The SGP OP7 Program Goal is to promote and support innovative, inclusive, and impactful initiatives and foster multi-stakeholder partnerships at the local level to tackle global environmental issues in priority landscapes.

VI. PROGRAMME RESULTS FRAMEWORK Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goal (s): SDG 1, SDG 5, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15, SDG 16 and SDG 17

Intended Outcome as stated in the UNSDCF/Country [or Regional] Programme Results and Resource Framework: *multiple*

Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan: 4.1, 4.2

Project title and Quantum Project Number: Eighth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme (Tranche 1and 2) – SGP OP8 (Quantum Project Number 9799)

Objective and Outcome Indicators	Data Source	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Data Collection Methods	Risks/Assumptions
Project Objective: Local CSOs and CBOs in landscapes around Zimbabwe 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.						
Mandatory GEF Core Indicator 1: People benefitting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex (count) (GEF core indicator 11)	Annual monitoring report (AMR)	1350 (1084 female; 266 male) Source: 2024-2025 AMR	2000 beneficiaries are supported (of which 1500 are female)	4000 beneficiaries are supported in the 4 landscapes, with at least 75% being women, 9% PWDs, and 60% youth	Grantee monitoring reports; Progress and Final reports; Evaluation reports and SGP database	Projects are designed in a gender-responsive manner. Monitoring and evaluation processes are designed to systematically disaggregate data by gender.
Mandatory GEF Core Indicator 3: Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (hectare) (GEF core indicator 3.1)	AMR	23 hectares Source: 2024-2025 AMR	50 hectares	100 hectares	Grantee monitoring reports; Progress and Final reports; Evaluation reports and SGP database	Restoration plans are adaptable to changing environmental and socio-economic conditions
Mandatory GEF Core Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas; hectare) (GEF core indicator 4.1 and 4.3)	AMR	32 hectares Source: 2024-2025 AMR	100 hectares	200 hectares	Grantee monitoring reports; Progress and Final reports; Evaluation reports and SGP database	Collaboration among stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and local communities. Adequate technical knowledge and information on improved land management practices are accessible to communities

Mandatory GEF Core Indicator 6: Greenhouse gas emission mitigated (metric tons of CO2e)	AMR	1 climate change mitigation project completed in 2024-2025 reporting period. Source: 2025 AMR	3 projects promoting low carbon technologies	5 projects promoting low carbon technologies	Grantee monitoring reports; Progress and Final reports; Evaluation reports and SGP database	Mitigation benefits are expected to be achieved in the AFOLU sector (e.g., improved landscape management, restoration) and through deployment of low-GHG emission community technologies.
Project component 1	**Strategic Planning and Multi-Stakeholder Governance**					
Indicator 7: Number of projects supporting policy changes associated with increased community participation in multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms.	AMR	0 projects Source: 2024-2025 AMR	1	2 projects	Records of policy dialogues, policy briefs	Government and stakeholders are actively engaged. Stakeholders have the capacity to generate clear outcomes and lessons
Indicator 8: Number of representatives from social inclusion group (women, youth, persons with disability, farmers, other marginalized groups) meaningfully engaged in multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms.	AMR	0 Source: 2024-2025 AMR	150	300	Terms of reference of multi-stakeholder governance and dialogue platforms under Chiredzi landscape and outside	
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.1	**Output 1.1.1. Country Programme Strategy developed and National Steering Committee in effective operation.** **Output 1.1.2. Chiredzi Landscape Strategy developed and implemented, and multi-stakeholder governance platform established under the landscape.**					
Project component 2	**Demand-driven grants to CSOs/CBOs**					

Outcome 2.1. Landscape strategic objectives advanced through community-led grants	**Indicator 11:** Number of projects 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, local sourcing initiatives, waste reduction and circular economy, etc.)	10 projects supported under previous Operational Phase 7 - SGP database	4 projects approved and allocated and supported	8 projects approved and supported	Grantee monitoring reports; Progress and Final reports; Evaluation reports and SGP database	Existing policies in SGP countries are aligned with sustainable agriculture and fisheries goals.
Outcome 2.1. Landscape strategic objectives advanced through community-led grants	**Indicator 12**: Number of locally adapted solutions promoting low-carbon technologies (such as biogas technology, locally developed energy-efficient stoves, innovative uses of solar energy, etc.)	6 projects supported under OP7 – SGP database	4 projects	8 locally adapted low emission development solutions	Grantee monitoring reports; Progress and Final reports; Evaluation reports and SGP database	Local communities are actively engaged and participate in the identification, development, and adoption of low-carbon technologies.
	Indicator 13: Increase in installed renewable energy capacity from community-scale systems (e.g., biomass,	50 kW increased renewable energy capacity under Operational Phase 7	40kW	80 kW increased renewable energy capacity	Grantee monitoring reports; Progress and Final reports; Evaluation reports and SGP database	Local communities and stakeholders have the necessary capacity and skills to engage with and adopt low-carbon technologies.

	Indicator 14: Number of local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management strengthened and/or established.	3 Coalitions under OP7	1 Coalition	2 coalitions	Grantee monitoring reports; Progress and Final reports; Evaluation reports and SGP database	Stakeholders share common goals and objectives related to the management of chemicals and waste.
	Indicator 15: Number of community-based sustainable solutions in urban landscapes (e.g., biodiversity conservation, chemical and waste management, etc.)	5 projects supporting sustainable solutions in urban landscapes under OP7	2 projects in urban landscapes	3 urban solutions	Grantee monitoring reports; Progress and Final reports; Evaluation reports and SGP database	Effective collaboration among various stakeholders, including local government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, businesses, and residents. Supportive policies and regulations are in place at the local level
	Indicator 16: Number of projects with focused interventions promoting gender equality and women's empowerment	25 projects supported under OP7 supported gender equality	70% of projects by midterm	90 % of projects	Grantee monitoring reports; Progress and Final reports; Evaluation reports and SGP database	Stakeholders involved in project planning and implementation are committed to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, and inclusion of youth and socially marginalized groups.
	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;	53% of funds under OP7 accessed by women and youth led projects	30% accessed by women and youth led groups	50 % accessed by women and youth led groups	Grantee monitoring reports; Progress and Final reports; Evaluation reports and SGP database	
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.1	**Output 2.1.1. Capacities of CSOs/CBOs strengthened for implementation of landscape 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, youth and PWDs.**					
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.	**Indicator 23**: Number of knowledge exchange/sharing events with participation of local communities	Source: AMR 2024 - 2025	150 beneficiaries participate in capacity building and knowledge exchange/sharing events	350 beneficiaries participate in capacity building and knowledge exchange/sharing events	Grantee monitoring reports; Impact reviews	Effective communication channels are established to disseminate information.	**Indicator 23**: Number of knowledge exchange/sharing events with participation of local communities
	Indicator 24: Number of knowledge products developed as a result of SGP project	7 case studies, 6 Fact Sheets and 2 videos AMR 2024 - 2025	Publication on GEF SGP, Impact stories, 2 SGP Banners for exhibition, 200 Brochures, 4 GEF SGP canvas gazebos measuring 3 x 3m and	Publication on GEF SGP, Impact stories, 2 SGP Banners for exhibition, 200 Brochures, 4 GEF SGP canvas gazebos measuring 3 x 3m, 5 Feather Flag banners and 4 pull up Banners	AMR, Fact Sheets	Knowledge materials produced for raising SGP Visibility	**Indicator 24**: Number and type of knowledge materials produced
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 3.1.3 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.**						
Project component Monitoring & Evaluation	**Project component Monitoring & Evaluation**						
Outcome 4.1. Scale, durability and impact of locally-led community action strengthend through monitoring, evaluation and evidence-based learning.	**Indicator 25**: Number of projects with meetings involving local CSOs/CBOs or communities to monitor project results, assess impacts, and identify lessons learned	Grantee Monitoring Report and Impact reviews	50% of projects	80% of projects	Grantee monitoring reports; Impact reviews	Local stakeholders are open to adapting based on the lessons identified during meetings.	
Outputs to achieve Outcome 4.1	**4.1.1. Participatory monitoring of project implementation, enabling timely adaptive measures and documentation of results and lessons.** **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 and regions.**						


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