

**Reporting Agency: UNDP**  
**Country: Armenia**

## **MONITORING ACTION AND STANDARD PROGRESS REPORT**

**No. and title: 00054966 - The GEF Small Grants Programme**  
**Reporting period: January-March 2020**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The UNDP-implemented Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) supports grassroots initiatives in the GEF focal areas of biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, protection of international waters, prevention of land degradation and safe management of POPs and other harmful chemicals. The SGP is implemented in decentralized, democratic, transparent and country-driven manner.

The National Steering Committee (NSC), the central element of the programme, is composed of a national government representative, UNDP Country Office, donor partners and civil society members representing NGOs, academia and science, with a majority of them coming from non-governmental sector.

### **II. RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

	Total Project Budget	Current Year (2019)			All Years Delivery as of SPR date (USD)	All Years Delivery rate as of SPR date (%)
		Annual Budget	Delivery as of SPR date (USD)	Delivery rate as of SPR date (%)		
Donor 1 GEF (CORE)	TBD*					
Donor 3 UNDP (TRAC)	TBD*					
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

\*Allocation of the GEF CORE funds for the 7<sup>th</sup> Operational Phase of the GEF is expected in June 2020 and TRAC funds under discussion.

### **III. RESULTS, PROGRESS, INNOVATIVE AND TRANSFORMATIVE ASPECTS**

In 2020, the SGP will continue contributing to the objectives related to poverty reduction and local empowerment as integral aspects of sustainable development and environmental protection. Conforming to the Country Programme Document strategic results and UNDAF Outcomes 7, the SGP focuses on introduction and application of SD principles and good practices for environmental sustainability resilience building, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and green economy.

The SGP Country Programme Strategy for the GEF-7 cycle is officially endorsed, all sectoral comments are addressed and duly incorporated. Translation of the document into Armenian is in process, upon completion of which the new GEF cycle will be officially announced.

Seven new projects were successfully launched, among them 2 strategic projects funded within the OP6 Innovation Programmes on Youth and Climate Change and Women-led enterprises.

During the reporting period, one of 22 ongoing projects was successfully completed.

Performance and Results Assessment for 2019 was completed by the SGP National Coordinator and Assistant; respective feedback on contract extension was received from the SGP Headquarters.

UNDP TRAC resources allocation for administrative support to the SGP country programme during 2020 in the amount of 8,000 USD is under discussion.

SGP filed works are stopped due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Discussions with grantees over the projects' status are underway, possible COVID response actions are considered with individual project.

			Current Year (2019)					
			Planned				Actual	
Activity/Output	Expected Results	Amount (\$)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Status	Comments
1. Availability of institutional and organizational set-up for Small Grants Programme.	The Country Programme Strategy for the 7th Operational Phase of the Global Environmental Finance 2018-2022 is operational			X			In progress	The strategy is being translated into Armenian
2. Number of environmental activities conducted by non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations.	4 projects commenced				X	X	Not started yet	

#### IV. GENDER MAINSTREAMING, CROSSCUTTING RESULTS, TARGETING

##### *SGP gender marker (GEN 2)*

As one of mandatory cross-cutting requirements in the SGP Armenia grant-making criteria, gender is mainstreamed throughout the SGP portfolio of projects and incorporated within the project cycle. SGP has a specific focus on engagement and empowerment of women and strives to support projects benefitting both men and women within the same communities.

In the reporting period 100% of SGP projects addressed gender equity issues as a mandatory cross-cutting requirement, which was verified by a designated gender focal point on the National Steering Committee.

Among ongoing 22 projects, 9 are implemented by woman-led NGOs and 3 represent youth organizations.

Based on applications, SGP-Armenia was among the ten (10) country programmes globally selected to join the OP6 Innovation Programme on Women-led Enterprises, which allowed to launch a \$150,000 worth strategic project on “Open Source Nature-based Entrepreneurship” supporting women-led green startups.

#### V. RISKS AND CHALLENGES

Allocation of GEF-7 STAR funds to the SGP by the Government (GEF OPF) is still pending.

Management response: Involve UNDP in negotiating with the Government on possible GEF-7 STAR funds allocation to SGP while demonstrating best practices and the impact generated by the SGP which is recognized nationally and globally.

#### VI. PRODOC CHANGES, HORIZON SCANNING

The SGP Country Programme Strategy (CPS) for the GEF 7<sup>th</sup> Operational Phase (2018-2022) is in place. The translation of the document into Armenian is underway. The SGP Strategy is a dynamic document and may be updated during the SGP Country Programme Annual Review, as needed.

#### VII. PARTNERSHIPS, COMMUNICATION, KNOWLEDGE MATERIALS

SGP National Coordinator held negotiations with donors, state agencies and public organizations for potential complementarities and partnerships for SGP projects. Regular consultations on proposal formulation were conducted with potential proponents jointly with the National Steering Committee (NSC) members. Negotiation with different donor organizations and local governments of Lori ensured co-financing of the SGP initiatives on use of subventions through revolving fund mechanism for community actions.

Global and national SGP websites were regularly updated. SGP ensured frequent knowledge sharing among the grantees, partners and other stakeholders.

## **VIII. EVALUATIONS**

N/A

## **IX. DONOR REPORTS**

July 2020 – Annual Monitoring Record submitted to the SGP Central Programme Management Team

## **X. VALIDATION OF RESULTS (FIELD VISITS) AND QUALITY ASSURANCE**

## **XI. FUTURE ACTIONS, WORK PLAN**

- Disbursement of GEF-7 grant funds (~\$500,000 TBD)
- Regular monitoring of the ongoing projects and assessment of proposed project sites

## Results Framework

	<b>UNDAF Outcome 7/CPD Outcome 4 (13):</b> By 2020 Sustainable Development principles and good practices for environmental sustainability resilience building, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and green economy are introduced and applied.							
	<b>Outcome indicator 4.5:</b> Number of people or enterprises benefitting from application of ‘green’ technologies and ‘green’ jobs							
	<b>Output 4.5:</b> New production and consumption patterns are introduced; New “green” jobs are created. <b>Indicator 4.5.1</b> New patterns introduced. Number of ‘green’ jobs created.							
	<b>Project title and Atlas Project Number:</b> The GEF Small Grants Programme 00054966							
EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)			DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
					2020			
			Value	Year	Planned	Actual	Final	
The GEF Small Grants Programme	1.1. Availability of institutional and organizational set-up for Small Grants Programme.	NSC meeting minutes; Annual Monitoring Records to SGP CPMT	Institutional and organizational set-up for Small Grants Programme is nonexistent	2007	The Country Programme Strategy for the 7th Operational Phase of the Global Environmental Finance 2018-2022 is operational.	The Country Programme Strategy for the 7th Operational Phase of the Global Environmental Finance 2018-2022 is operational.	The Country Programme Strategy for the 7th Operational Phase of the Global Environmental Finance 2018-2022 is operational.	Approved Country Programme Strategy
	1.2 Number of environmental initiatives implemented by non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations.	NSC meeting minutes; Annual Monitoring Records to SGP CPMT; field visit reports	0	2007	4	0	4	Monitoring visits

## OFFLINE RISK LOG

#		Description	Risk Category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
	<b>GUIDANCE:</b>	Enter a brief description of the risk. Risk description should include future event and cause.  Risks identified through HACT, SES, Private Sector Due Diligence, and other assessments should be included.	Social and Environmental Financial Operational Organizational Political Regulatory Strategic Other Subcategories for each risk type should be consulted to understand each risk type (see Enterprise Risk Management Policy)	Describe the potential <b>effect</b> on the project if the future event were to occur.  Enter <b>probability</b> based on 1-5 scale (1 = Not likely; 5 = Expected)  Enter <b>impact</b> based on 1-5 scale (1 = Low; 5 = Critical)	What actions have been taken/will be taken to manage this risk.	The person or entity with the responsibility to manage the risk.
1		CSO applicants' capacities and expertise are insufficient for proposal development in line with GEF-SGP requirements	Social and Environmental Financial <b>Operational</b> Organizational Political Regulatory Strategic Other	Low participation of rural NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) in the SGP country programme for regular GEF funding  P=3 I=3	Risk remains unchanged.	Hovhannes Ghazaryan
2		Reduction of UNDP TRAC funds allocated in support of the programme administration and projects co-financing may affect smooth operation of the SGP.	Social and Environmental <b>Financial</b> Operational Organizational Political Regulatory Strategic Other	1. Reduced support to the SGP country programme administration; 2. Limited support to the local initiatives in need of cash co-financing. P=3 I=3	Risk remains unchanged.	Hovhannes Ghazaryan
3		GEF-7 STAR funds are not allocated to the SGP country programme	Social and Environmental Financial Operational Organizational <b>Political</b> Regulatory Strategic Other	Number of pipelined projects cannot be commenced and synchronized with other donor initiatives.  P=3 P=3	Risk remains unchanged. Involve UNDP in negotiating with the Government on possible GEF-7 STAR funds allocation to SGP while demonstrating best practices and the impact generated by the SGP which is recognized nationally and globally.	Hovhannes Ghazaryan
4		Grant projects are delayed and activities are re-considered as a result of COVID-19	<b>Social and Environmental</b> Financial Operational Organizational Political Regulatory Strategic Other	Grant projects cannot meet the set deadlines and have to re-consider project activities as a result of COVID-19	Risk remains unchanged. Hold consultations with individual projects to assess the impact caused by the pandemic and re-arrange the project activities	Hovhannes Ghazaryan

## ANNUAL/MULTIYEAR WORK PLAN AND BUDGET FROM PRODOC

Activities		Y2020 Budget												
		Q I			QII			Q III			QIV			
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Activity 1. The GEF Small Grants Programme														
1.1	Revision of the SGP Country Programme Strategy document in line with GEF-7 strategic priorities, national environmental and development plans													\$ 0
1.2	Supporting NGOs/ CBOs in new project concepts development and formulation													
1.3	Oversight and monitoring of the SGP projects with NSC involvement													
Total														\$ 0

# Output Verification Template

**Date of visit:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Subject and venue of visit:** 00054966 - The GEF Small Grants Programme

**Purpose of the field visit:**

Outcomes	Update on outcomes	Outputs	Update on outputs	Reasons if progress below target	Update on partnership strategies	Recommendations and proposed action
By 2020 Sustainable Development principles and good practices for environmental sustainability resilience building, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and green economy are introduced and applied.	New technologies and practices introduced within the approved projects contribute to environmental sustainability at the local level	New production and consumption patterns are introduced; new “green” jobs are created	11 new projects commenced and are committed through MOAs; 2 SGP good practices are replicated and scaled-up	N/A	Serving as a delivery mechanism for GEF FS SLM/SFM project; resource mobilization from partner organizations and businesses to replicate and scale-up SGP successful initiatives through a range of strategic partnerships	The OP7 portfolio planning exercise should consider Climate Change, Chemicals and Land Degradation thematic areas of GEF STAR funds (avoiding Biodiversity Conservation FA). This is conditioned by the upcoming EUR 23 mln grant allocation for biodiversity conservation from KfW Bank to be utilized through an 8-year project.

## PROJECT PERFORMANCE—IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

The project is implemented in line with its workplan; no implementation issues are observed.

## PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS

During the reporting period the SGP managed to achieve the set targets.

## LESSONS LEARNED

The practice of involving UNDP colleagues/experts, community heads/administration and partners proved to be very efficient for identifying and addressing project implementation issues and enhancing synergism with the UNDP implemented and pipelined projects.

**Participants in the field visit:**

**Prepared by (Project Coordinator):** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Hovhannes Ghazaryan)

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Armen Martirosyan)