

Reporting Agency: UNDP
Country: Armenia

MONITORING ACTION AND STANDARD PROGRESS REPORT

No. and title: 00054966 - The GEF Small Grants Programme
Reporting period: January-September 2019

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 STAR	552,499	552,499	552,499	100%	552,499	100%
Donor 2 GEF CORE (Innovation Programme)	350,000	350,000	350,000	100%	350,000	100%
Donor 3 UNDP TRAC	17,600	17,600	11,567	73%	11,567	73%
Total	920,099	920,099	403,972	46%	403,972	46%

In the reporting period against \$920,099 committed, the SGP managed to mobilize \$815,900 out of which \$508,632 in cash and \$307,268 in-kind.

III. RESULTS, PROGRESS, INNOVATIVE AND TRANSFORMATIVE ASPECTS

In 2019, 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 National Steering Committee approved 11 grant projects during two meetings of March 13 and May 24. Among them 10 projects were approved through GEF SGP funding and one – through GEF-funded Mainstreaming Sustainable Land and Forest Management in Mountain Landscapes of North-eastern Armenia (SLM/SFM) project, for which the SGP serves as a delivery mechanism. The projects address the following OP-6 strategic initiatives: Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions, Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation, and Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits.

During the reporting period, eight projects were successfully completed.

Performance and Results Assessment for 2018 was completed by the SGP National Coordinator and Assistant to the SGP Headquarters for final review.

Annual Programme Report for July 2018-June 2019 time period was submitted to the SGP Central Programme Management Team.

In September 2019, SGP Armenia was selected to join the OP6 Innovation Programmes on Youth and Climate Change and Women-led enterprises, as a result of submitted applications. The allocation to the country programme makes up \$200,000 and \$150,000 per Innovation Programme respectively.

In November 2019, the National Steering Committee approved seven grant projects, that address the OP-6 strategic initiatives on Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation, and Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits, as well as support the SGP interventions within the Innovations Programs on Youth and Climate change and Nature-based Women-led entrepreneurship.

SGP was provided additional TRAC resources for promoting its activities within the "Recycle It!" initiative at the Prime Minister's office and other government agencies, based on the signed Statement of Intent. The funds were allocated for installation of waste separation bins and service provision till December 2019.

The SGP has completed the development of the Country Programme Strategy for the GEF-7 cycle as per the provided guidelines. The first draft is approved at the NSC meeting of November 5, 2019; the finalized version is submitted to the SGP Headquarters for clearance.

			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 under revision.					X	Draft document is approved at the NSC meeting and submitted to the CPMT for final endorsement.			
2. Number of environmental activities conducted by non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations.	8 new projects commenced		X	X	X	X	In progress	17 new projects commenced		

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 the newly-launched 17 projects, 7 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 – expected by spring 2020.

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;
- Further compete for SGP top-up funds for additional allocations from the global CORE funds

VI. PRODOC CHANGES, HORIZON SCANNING

The SGP Country Programme Strategy (CPS) is revised in line with the strategic directions of the GEF 7th Operational Phase (2018-2022). The final version of the document is to be approved by the SGP Headquarters by February 2020. 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 Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation WWF-Armenia and local governments of Lori ensured co-financing of the SGP initiatives on promoting biking culture in Vanadzor, forest conservation project in CNF eco-corridor and innovative climate-smart farming projects in Gogaran, Katnajor and Lernansk.

Global and national SGP websites were regularly updated. SGP ensured frequent knowledge sharing among the grantees, partners and other stakeholders. Project infographic development is in process.

During the reporting period the SGP National Coordinator participated in a number of missions and study tours: in particular, SGP regional workshop in Bangkok where programming and operation directions of the SGP in GEF-7 were discussed; a study tour to the Republic of Moldova to get experience introducing secure, competitive, and sustainable energy production in the country from biomass sources, including agricultural waste; inter-country learning and sharing mission to SGP Ukraine to present signature projects and approaches from SGP Armenia, as well as to discuss an idea of triangle cooperation with Belarus on future CD project in GEF 7.

SGP Assistant participated in the Green Days Conference in Montenegro to share knowledge and experience of the country programme on local-level innovative solutions.

SGP-funded initiative on waste management practices was included in the global publication on Circular Economy, which was presented at the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions Conference of Parties in Geneva (April 2019) and at the GEF Council Meeting in Washington (June 2019).

VIII. EVALUATIONS

N/A

IX. DONOR REPORTS

July 8, 2019 – 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

- Regular monitoring of the ongoing projects and assessment of proposed project sites
- Finalization of the SGP Country Programme Strategy for the 7th Operation Phase of GEF
- Negotiate for additional GEF STAR funds (with involvement of UNDP management)
- Completion of Performance and Results Assessment for 2019 by the SGP National Coordinator and Assistant.

Results Framework

UNDAF Outcome 7/CPD Outcome 4 (13): 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.								
Outcome indicator 4.5: Number of people or enterprises benefiting from application of ‘green’ technologies and ‘green’ jobs								
Output 4.5: New production and consumption patterns are introduced; New “green” jobs are created.								
Indicator 4.5.1 New patterns introduced. Number of ‘green’ jobs created.								
Project title and Atlas Project Number: The GEF Small Grants Programme 00054966								
EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)			DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			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 under revision.	First draft is to be discussed at the upcoming NSC meeting	The Country Programme Strategy for the 7th Operational Phase of the Global Environmental Finance 2018-2022 is operational.	Country Programme Strategy development
	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	8	17	17	Monitoring visits

OFFLINE RISK LOG

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
	<p>GUIDANCE:</p> <p>Enter a brief description of the risk. Risk description should include future event and cause.</p> <p>Risks identified through HACT, SES, Private Sector Due Diligence, and other assessments should be included.</p>	<p>Social and Environmental</p> <p>Financial</p> <p>Operational</p> <p>Organizational</p> <p>Political</p> <p>Regulatory</p> <p>Strategic</p> <p>Other</p> <p>Subcategories for each risk type should be consulted to understand each risk type (see Enterprise Risk Management Policy)</p>	<p>Describe the potential effect on the project if the future event were to occur.</p> <p>Enter probability based on 1-5 scale (1 = Not likely; 5 = Expected)</p> <p>Enter impact based on 1-5 scale (1 = Low; 5 = Critical)</p>	<p>What actions have been taken/will be taken to manage this risk.</p>	<p>The person or entity with the responsibility to manage the risk.</p>
1	CSO applicants' capacities and expertise are insufficient for proposal development in line with GEF-SGP requirements	<p>Social and Environmental</p> <p>Financial</p> <p>Operational</p> <p>Organizational</p> <p>Political</p> <p>Regulatory</p> <p>Strategic</p> <p>Other</p>	<p>Low participation of rural NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) in the SGP country programme for regular GEF funding</p> <p>P=3</p> <p>I=3</p>	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.	<p>Social and Environmental</p> <p>Financial</p> <p>Operational</p> <p>Organizational</p> <p>Political</p> <p>Regulatory</p> <p>Strategic</p> <p>Other</p>	<p>1. Reduced support to the SGP country programme administration;</p> <p>2. Limited support to the local initiatives in need of cash co-financing.</p> <p>P=3</p> <p>I=3</p>	Risk remains unchanged.	Hovhannes Ghazaryan
3	GEF-7 STAR funds are not allocated to the SGP country programme	<p>Social and Environmental</p> <p>Financial</p> <p>Operational</p> <p>Organizational</p> <p>Political</p> <p>Regulatory</p> <p>Strategic</p> <p>Other</p>	<p>Number of pipelined projects cannot be commenced and synchronized with other donor initiatives.</p> <p>P=3</p> <p>P=3</p>	<p>Risk remains unchanged.</p> <p>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.</p>	Hovhannes Ghazaryan

ANNUAL/MULTIYEAR WORK PLAN AND BUDGET FROM PRODOC

Activities		Y2019 Budget											
		Q I			Q II			Q III			Q IV		
		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												
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	
												\$ 920,099.00	

Output Verification Template

Date of visit: 23.12.19.

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	17 new projects commenced and are committed through MOAs; 2 SGP good practices are replicated and scaled-up	N/A	As an innovative move the SGP has been serving as a delivery mechanism for GEF FS SLM/SFM project. SGP has become a knowledge and experience pool for other UNDP projects. SGP best practices have been replicated through a range of new strategic partnerships and resource mobilization actions.	SGP may derive more partnerships with innovative and scientific institutions.

PROJECT PERFORMANCE—IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

The project is implemented in line with its workplan; no implementations 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 synergies with the UNDP implemented and pipelined projects.

Participants in the field visit:

Prepared by (Project Coordinator): _____
(Hovhannes Ghazaryan)

Approved by: _____
(Armen Martirosyan)