

**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY  
SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME**

**COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY FOR OP6**

**GEORGIA**

**2016-2018**

Tbilisi 2016

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACR - Annual Country Report  
AMR - Annual Monitoring Report  
BMZ – German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development  
CBD - Convention on Biological Diversity  
CENN- Caucasus Environmental NGO Network  
CNF - Caucasus Nature Fund  
CPMT - Central programme management team  
CPS - Country Programme Strategy of the GEF SGP  
CSO - Civil Society Organizations  
EC-LEDS - Enhancing Capacity for Low Emission Development Strategies  
ENPI FLEG II – European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument – Forest Law Enforcement and Governance Programme  
FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN  
GEF - Global Environment Facility  
GIZ - German Corporation for International Cooperation  
ICCAs - Indigenous peoples and community conserved territories and areas  
IUCN – International Union for the Conservation of Nature  
M&E - Monitoring & Evaluation  
MoENRP - Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia  
NBSAP – National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan  
NC - National Coordinator of the GEF SGP  
NEAP – National Environment Action Plan  
NGO - Non-Governmental Organizations  
NSC - National Steering Committee of the GEF SGP  
OP - Operational Phase of the GEF SGP  
POPs - Persistent Organic Pollutants  
PRA - Performance and Results Assessment  
SAP - Strategic Action Programme  
SEPLs - Socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes  
SES - UNDP’s Social and Environmental Standards  
SGP - Small Grants Programme of the GEF  
UNCCD - UN Convention to Combat Desertification  
UNDP - United Nations Development Programme  
UNEP - United Nations Environment Program  
UNFCCC - UN Framework Convention on Climate Change  
USAID - United States Agency for International Development  
WB - World Bank  
WWF – Worldwide Fund for Nature

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## **OP6 resources (estimated US\$)<sup>1</sup>**

- a. Core funds: USD 600,000**
- b. OP5 remaining balance: USD 137.28**
- c. STAR funds: USD 287,151**
- d. Other Funds to be mobilized: TBD**
- e. Global ICCA Support Initiative: USD 350,000 (Approximate)**

The purpose of this document is to provide a Country Programme Strategy (CPS) for the implementation of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) Operational Phase 6 (OP6) in Georgia in a period of 3 years, starting from 2016 and ending in 2018. The CPS is a dynamic document and will be subject of regular review and update, change or adjustments in line with the GEF SGP strategic objective and achievements of the outcomes and targets.

### Background:

As a GEF corporate programme, SGP aligns its operational phase strategies to those of the GEF, and provides a series of demonstration projects for further scaling up, replication and mainstreaming. Action at the local level by civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities is deemed a vital component of the GEF 20/20 Strategy (i.e. convening multi-stakeholder alliances to deliver global environmental benefits and contribute to UNDP's Strategic Plan and focus on sustainable development).<sup>2</sup> At the global level, the SGP OP6 programme goal is to “effectively support the creation of global environmental benefits and the safeguarding of the global environment through community and local solutions that complement and add value to national and global level action.”

Since its start in 1992, the programme has grown from a pilot initiative with 33 participating countries to one that has provided support to over 130 GEF countries, and in its current phase supports 119 participating countries. Currently, participating countries of the GEF SGP cover five regions of the world: Africa, Asia/Pacific, Arab States, Europe/CIS and Latin America/Caribbean.

## **1. SGP country programme - summary background**

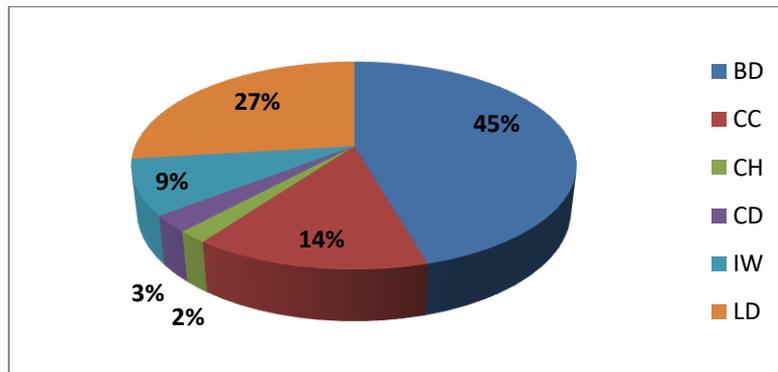
1.1. SGP was officially launched in Georgia with the appointment of the National Coordinator in November 2012. In 2013 the National Steering Committee was established and the Country Programme Strategy for the GEF-5 Operational Phase (OP) was developed and approved. Becoming operational,

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<sup>1</sup> The level of SGP OP6 resources is an estimated total of: (i) the GEF6 core grant allocation (to be reviewed annually by CPMT on the basis of performance, co-financing and strategic partnerships, demonstrated NSC commitment rates, and UNOPS delivery); (ii) approved STAR resources; as well as (iii) other sources of third party cost sharing & co-financing (country, regional and/or global levels). Note that countries with remaining OP5 balances that have not been pipelined, will be expected to use these balances in line with the OP6 strategic approach in order to be coherent in terms of SGP programming and results expected.

<sup>2</sup> The initial SGP OP6 concept was incorporated into the strategic directions for the overall GEF-6 replenishment, and subsequently approved by the GEF Council paper “GEF Small Grants Programme: Implementation Arrangements for GEF-6” (GEF/C.46/13) in May 2014.

US\$750,000 was allocated to SGP Georgia. The allocated funds were committed to a total of 33 grant projects in all GEF SGP thematic areas. The figure below shows the distribution of funds by thematic area.



**Figure 1. Distribution of SGP OP 5 funds by thematic area** (BD – biodiversity; CC – climate Change; CH – chemicals; CD – capacity development; IW- international waters; LD- land degradation)

SGP Georgia generated over USD 930,000 as co-financing, which included USD 444,000 USD cash contribution from a number of international donors, private sector and local governments.

SGP Georgia projects in OP5 had concrete achievements generating the global environmental benefits and contributing to the fulfilment of the GEF’s mandate. The highest number of projects (15 i.e. about 16%) with a total budget of 45% of all grant funds were supported in the field of biodiversity. Most significant results were also achieved in this area. Biodiversity-related projects were focused on (i) protected areas management, their capacity building and biodiversity monitoring systems by introducing innovative approaches and new technologies that were later successfully replicated in other PAs, (ii) the conservation of threatened/or endangered species, (iii) promotion of ecotourism and the introduction of new community based ecotourism services, (iv) diversification of income generation practices for both PAs and local communities. One particular project is noteworthy as an example of upscaling: *Zugdidi Botanical Garden Rehabilitation* was followed up by the Government of Georgia and 3 million GEL was invested for the full rehabilitation of that botanical garden.

Projects in the area of land degradation supported community actions for land restoration, establishment of small scale nurseries, and application of smart agricultural practices, which enabled farmers to cultivate previously abandoned cropland and generate additional income.

In the area of climate change, energy efficient and renewable energy projects were supported aiming at the reduction of CO<sup>2</sup> emissions and improvement of the indoor environment for kids at kindergartens.

A sustainable waste management practice focussing on plastic bottles and bags was successfully implemented and replicated elsewhere in Georgia.

Capacity raising initiatives and demonstration of community based water management initiatives were also supported.

The SGP country programme contributed to women and youth empowerment and the capacity building of small CBOs (Several projects were led by women or youth; several CBOs were formed as a result of

SGP projects). In addition, through EU NGO project assistance, GEF SGP also contributed to national policy formulation and advocacy initiatives in areas of waste management, sustainable forestry, and the implementation of Aarhus convention.

The SGP OP5 clearly demonstrated the value of participation of civil society groups and their cooperation with local government units in achieving success and making a difference on the ground as well as the role of the youth as effective role models, messengers, advocates and change agents.

1.2 All of the SGP OP 6 focal areas and major challenges in each of them are largely recognised as priorities and are addressed by governmental or donor funded programmes and projects. A number of large scale and long-term programmes are in progress in the field of biodiversity conservation with the support of the German government. European Programme Supporting Agriculture and Rural development (ENPARD) is also noteworthy. Initiatives dedicated to sustainable land management, sustainable forestry, climate change mitigation, energy efficiency and alternative energy sources, safe management and phasing out of global concern chemicals are supported by a number of major international organisations and donors (such as UNDP, EU, WB, KfW, GIZ, ADA etc.). All of this coupled with the existence of active and competent NGO sector create overall favourable conditions for partnerships, co-financing opportunities and successful contribution of SGP OP6.

In the light of the recently adopted law on the Development of High Mountain Regions (2015) along with the expected investment for business development in the mountainous areas, the intervention of GEF SGP OP6 would be highly beneficial for mainstreaming of environmental issues into development. The EU-Georgia Association Agreement which came into effect in 2015 also sets a favourable scene for initiatives dedicated to improvements in all SGP OP 6 focal areas.

1.3. The huge experience and numerous outputs that resulted from SGP initiatives in OP5 will be used as a road map for the next phase of SGP. Strong networks and partnerships were established with and among NGOs, donor organisations, major programmes and projects and local governmental units, which will facilitate the successful implementation of SGP OP6. Because of the wide geography of SGP OP5 – projects were supported in almost all parts of the country – the programme presently enjoys much publicity and recognition. This will serve as a good foundation for involving of even wider spectrum of stakeholders as future project implementers or partners in any region (target landscape/seascape) of the country. Among the supported projects, there were several that can be used as model projects for any future grantees of SGP OP6.

## 2. SGP country programme niche

2.1. Georgia has ratified all three Rio conventions and other relevant protocols, which are directly or indirectly related to the GEF strategic priorities. Table 1. below lists international conventions ratified by Georgia and national planning frameworks.

**Table 1.** List of relevant conventions and national/regional plans or programmes

<b>Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks</b>	<b>Year of ratification / completion</b>
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	1994
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	2014

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	1994
UNFCCC National Communications (1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> )	First National Communication 1999 Second National communication 2009 Third National Communication 2016
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	2010
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	1999
National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (NAP)	2014
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	2007
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	2002
The Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution	1994
Strategic Action Plan for the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea	1996
Strategic Action Plan for the Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea	2009
Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol to the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution	2009
Protocol on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Black Sea from Land-Based Sources and Activities	2009
Minamata Convention on Mercury	2013
Social-economic Development Strategy of Georgia "GEORGIA 2020"	2014
Government Programme "For Strong, Democratic and Unified Georgia"	2015
Strategy for Agricultural Development in Georgia (2015-2020)	2015
National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP, 2012-2016)	2012
National Waste Management Strategy	2016

2.2. The involvement of civil society is key to successful implementation of the Rio conventions and relevant national plans at both national and local level. Numerous actions outlined in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), National Action Programme to Combat Desertification and other strategic documents directly rely on active participation of NGOs and local communities. The recognition of the importance of public involvement is growing among all segments of the society including local and central governments and decision makers. While the opportunities are also growing for the public to get involved in environmental decision making and management issues, the overall interest in such matters remain low among the general public and particularly local communities. Local communities as well as specific groups (such as women) need to be empowered for them to play a greater role in achieving local and global environmental objectives.

2.3. SGP Georgia country programme niches by SGP OP6 strategic initiatives are as following:

Community landscape/seascape conservation:

- Support the conservation and sustainable management of inland water ecosystems in the selected landscapes.
- Support the conservation of agro-biodiversity, promote Best Agricultural Practices (incl. livestock farming) and integrated pest management, use of endemic varieties, organic farming, and sustainable harvesting of wild plants.
- Promote sustainable use of pastures (natural grasslands).
- Support the increase of the effectiveness of protected areas management, especially improvement of site protection, biodiversity monitoring and nature-based tourism with active involvement of local communities.

- Enhance the role of local communities in PA management and pilot community managed protected sites.
- Support the enhancement of ecological services provided by protected areas and key ecosystems within the selected landscapes, including sustainable use of natural resources.
- Support the development of the protected areas network and its connectivity (including through sustainable management of biological corridors, supporting the establishment of new protected areas and emerald sites).
- Promote traditional knowledge related to biodiversity (incl. agricultural biodiversity) conservation and sustainable use.
- Support raising awareness of biodiversity values and ecosystem services.

Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology; Community landscape/seascape conservation:

- Support the restoration of degraded ecosystems in the areas that are most vulnerable to climate change (arid and semi-arid, high mountain, coastal and forest ecosystems).
- Support the restoration of specific elements of natural ecosystems – such as forest stands and habitats with water purification and water regulation functions – and promote sustainable agricultural practices in the buffer/supporting zones of protected areas.
- Support the restoration of vegetation and soils, and the increasing of soil productivity in natural grasslands both in the mountains and lowlands.
- Promote sustainable grazing practices such as pasture rotation, setting up hay meadow, and pasture improvement including mowing, environmentally friendly fertilisation, seed dissemination, improved access to water, etc.
- Support agro-forestry initiatives.
- Promote application of agro-ecological approaches for erosion control especially in mountain areas including the protection of river banks.
- Conduct local awareness-raising on the impact of climate change.

Community landscape/seascape conservation (international waters):

- Support integrated management of water resources and watersheds in transboundary river basins.
- Promote community based water resource management initiatives and application of innovative approaches.
- Support public awareness raising and public participation in water management issues and governance and integrated watershed management.
- Support the reduction of pollution of inland water and marine ecosystems.
- Support conservation and integrated management of coastal and marine ecosystems (restoration of coastline through bioengineering, rehabilitation of coastal habitats etc. ).

Energy access co-benefits:

- Support application of sustainable energy technologies at the municipal and local level.
- Support knowledge management, awareness raising and skills development initiatives for the promotion of alternative energy sources.
- Support energy efficient initiatives and small-scale initiatives for the use of renewable energy sources at the local level, especially in the construction sector.

Local to global chemicals coalitions:

- Support the improvement of the legal basis for hazardous waste management (POPs, ODS, Mercury, e-waste) and its harmonisation with the EU legislation.

- Support communities in their use of environmentally friendly alternatives to chemicals and products containing heavy metals.
- Support the phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern in selected landscapes.
- Support awareness raising and trainings in POPs, ODSs, harmful chemicals and other pollutants, especially focussing on women as main users and decision makers on the use of those substances or products containing them.
- Support e-waste recycling initiatives.

#### CSO-Government dialogue platforms

- Strategic, political and legal initiatives and their impact analysis for the improvement of environmental governance;
- Dialogue platform initiatives to influence central, regional and local government policy-making processes;
- Capacity strengthening of decision makers, municipalities and community organizations for their effective involvement in environmental issues, and their awareness raising in concepts of green economy and ecosystems services;
- Empowering local communities to become more involved in environmental decision making processes, and implementation of local policies (such as environmental impact assessment initiatives, municipalities' sustainable energy development action plans, etc.)

#### Social inclusion (gender, youth)

- Ensure the involvement/participation of women and youth of different social and cultural groups in income generation activities and development of social enterprises that are based on sustainable use of resources and environmentally friendly technologies.
- Support involvement of the women and youth in the awareness raising and advocacy promotion activities, especially those, which positively affect people's attitudes and behaviour and society's perceived role in solving environmental problems

#### Contribution to global knowledge management platforms

- Involvement of public education resource centres and other relevant institutions to promote wider experience and knowledge sharing;
- Support to the replication of tested (piloted) innovative environmental approaches or green/clean technologies in other regions;
- Promote public-private partnerships (PPPs) and multi-sectorial dialogue on sustainable environment at the local level.
- Encourage partnerships with private sector.

SGP Georgia country programme niche is in full compliance with Georgia's national strategies in the field of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, climate change adaptation and mitigation, land degradation, chemicals management, Black Sea protection and reducing degradation in the Kura river basin, agriculture development as well as with UN Strategic Plans. It will also contribute to the SDGs National Profile and the national goal set by the UN Country Programme Document for Georgia (2016-2020).

The expected contribution of SGP to national priorities is summarized in a Table 2.

**Table 2.** SGP contribution to national priorities / GEF-6 corporate results

SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	Relevant national priorities/other agencies <sup>3</sup>	Complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
Community landscape/seascape conservation	<i>Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society</i>	<p><b>Government Programme "For Strong, Democratic and Unified Georgia" (2015)</b>            “The network of protected areas will be expanded and their management will be improved. Measures aimed at promoting conservation activities in the protected areas, as well as at encouraging ecotourism will be intensified”.</p> <p><b>Social-economic Development Strategy of Georgia “GEORGIA 2020”</b>            Protection of forests and the introduction rational practices for their exploitation will significantly improve the population’s socio-economic standing, particularly as the development of agriculture, hydro-electric power generation, tourism and other sectors of the economy is directly linked to the health of the country’s forest ecosystems. The introduction of modern models of forest management and innovative technologies (taking into consideration the need to preserve forest biodiversity, its recreational, water regulatory and soil protection functions) will reduce the negative consequences of forest degradation and will increase economic benefits through the improvement of forest ecosystem services.</p> <p><b>NBSAP2014-2020:</b>  <b>B.4 - o2.</b> Develop programs aimed at promoting sustainable management practices, certification and labelling schemes such as Best Agricultural Practices, organic farming and sustainable harvesting of wild plants  <b>B.4-o3.</b> Assess the status of Georgia’s agricultural ecosystems (including soils and ecosystem services provided) and natural grasslands  <b>C.4-o2.</b> Plan the national protected areas network</p>	Expansion and Improved Management Effectiveness of the Achara Protected Areas UNDP/GEF 2014-2018

<sup>3</sup> Describe only for those OP6 strategic initiatives which will be programmed by the SGP country programme.

SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	Relevant national priorities/other agencies <sup>3</sup>	Complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
		<p><b>C.4-o3.</b> Increase total protected areas coverage  <b>C.4-o4.</b> Initiate development of the protected areas network  <b>C.4-o5.</b> Increase the effectiveness of protected areas management  <b>C.4-o6.</b> Create support mechanisms for biodiversity protection and sustainable use with the participation of local communities and the private sector  <b>C.4-o7.</b> Develop transboundary cooperation with protected areas of neighbouring countries  <b>C.6-o2.</b> Restore the integrity of inland water ecosystems and species diversity  <b>E.3- o1.</b> Restore the traditional knowledge related to biodiversity (incl. agricultural biodiversity) conservation and sustainable use  <b>A.1-o2.</b> Develop key messages for the general public as well as for specific target groups for raising awareness of biodiversity (including agrarian biodiversity) values and ecosystem services; launch campaigns using diverse media.</p> <p><b>Strategy for Agricultural Development in Georgia (2015-2020):</b>  “Conduct activities for biodiversity conservation and improved management of natural grasslands/pastures.  Promote organic farming and establish a system of certification for organic production.”</p> <p><b>Integrated Biodiversity Management, South Caucasus (IBiS), BMZ, ADA, GIZ:</b></p> <p>Conditions for sustainable forest management addressing the needs of rural communities are improved in pilot areas.</p> <p>Mechanisms for integrated biodiversity management and conflict resolution on local and regional level are improved.</p> <p>The perception of the general public towards the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services is more positive.</p> <p><b>Draft Forest Code of Georgia:</b></p>	

SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	Relevant national priorities/other agencies <sup>3</sup>	Complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
		<p>“Conduct forest tending, protection, and restoration with the purpose of conserving and improving climate-regulating, recreational, and other useful natural properties of forests;</p> <p>“Conserve and protect unique natural and cultural environment and its specific components - flora and fauna inclusive, biodiversity, landscape, cultural and natural monuments located in forests, and the endangered plant species; regulating harmonized interrelations between these components;</p> <p>“Meet environmental, economic, social, and cultural needs of population through providing access to the forest resources in the scope compatible with scientifically defined allowable norms”.</p> <p><b>Sustainable Forest Governance in Georgia: Phase II, ADC, CENN:</b></p> <p>Support forest management decentralization via capacity building of local authorities and fostering good governance and public engagement in the forestry sector.</p> <p><b>ENPI FLEG II in Georgia, EU, World Bank, IUCN, WWF:</b></p> <p>Supporting dialogue on forest policy issues between governments, businesses and NGOs; Promoting sustainable income opportunities for forest dependent communities.</p> <p><b>Caucasus Nature Fund:</b></p> <p>CNF supports selected protected areas and encourages cooperation among governments, local communities and park authorities to promote sustainable development and nature protection. CNF funds support pasture use planning in traditional use zones in protected areas, and ensures that sustainable tourism plans are developed as part of the overall management planning for the protected areas which can provide alternative and mores sustainable economic opportunities to local people.</p> <p><b>Promotion of Eco-corridors Programme in the Southern Caucasus, KfW, WWF-Caucasus;</b></p>	

SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	Relevant national priorities/other agencies <sup>3</sup>	Complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
		<p>Contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity without reducing the income of the local rural population.</p> <p><b>The Transboundary Joint Secretariat 3rd Phase (TJS-III), BMZ, KfW, WWF-Caucasus:</b> A participatory approach to support the socio-economic development of adjacent communities of protected areas is further developed and promoted. Protected areas are promoted as destinations for eco-tourism and integrated into economically profitable tourism products.</p> <p><b>Support Programme for Protected Areas in the Caucasus, KfW</b> Improvement of natural resources and protected areas management, while at the same time improving the socio-economic situation of adjacent local rural communities.</p> <p><b>Strategic Action Program for Reducing Transboundary Degradation in the Kura River Basin (2014):</b> “To achieve and maintain ecosystem status whereby they provide essential environmental and socio-economic services in a sustainable manner in the Kura River Basin”</p>	
<p>Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology; Community landscape/seascape conservation</p>	<p><i>Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)</i></p>	<p><b>Government Programme For Strong, Democratic and Unified Georgia (2015)</b> “The Government aims to introduce the principles of green economy and promote the development of green business”.</p> <p>“Based on the commitments and obligations under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, mechanisms for the sustainable use of land resources will be developed to reduce soil erosion, prevent desertification and preserve soil fertility.”</p> <p><b>NEAP (2012-2016):</b> “To reduce degraded land areas, improve the soil quality and minimize soil contamination”.</p>	<p>The Agricultural Modernization, Market Access and Resilience (AMMAR) IFAD/GEF 2014-2018</p> <p>Enhancing Resilience of Agricultural Sector in Georgia (ERASIG) IFAD/GEF</p> <p>Applying Landscape and Sustainable Land Management</p>

SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	Relevant national priorities/other agencies <sup>3</sup>	Complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
		<p><b>Third National Communication to the UNFCCC:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Building local capacity in Georgia for the efficient implementation for the efficient implementation of the principles of the UNFCCC and ensuring participation to global processes on parity basis;</li> <li>– Strengthening the promotion of the climate change adaptation activities inside the country;</li> <li>– Alleviation of the anthropogenic pressure, especially through replacing agricultural practices on degraded soils with more soil friendly practices, reducing forest degradation, designing populated areas and infrastructure projects by using sustainable principles.”</li> <li>– Rehabilitation and maintenance of high risk degraded areas/soil;</li> <li>– Increasing the role of local self-government in the process of sustaining local land resources;</li> <li>– Integration of climate change issues in learning programs;</li> <li>– Attracting investments and promoting the implementation of adaptation strategy to climate change for Adjara and upper Svaneti and agriculture adaptation strategy for Kakheti region.</li> </ul> <p><b>Georgia’s intended nationally determined contribution Submission to the UNFCCC:</b></p> <p>“For the adaptation of agricultural sector to the expected climate change, wide range of measures is planned. Those include, but are not limited to the following: (a) research and development of emergency response plans for agriculture dealing with droughts, floods, etc.; (b) Introduction of innovative irrigation management and water application techniques; (c) implementation of various site specific anti-erosion measures; (d) establishment of information centres for farmers that provides guidance on adaptive management of agriculture; etc. “</p> <p><b>NBSAP (2014-2020):</b></p>	<p>(L-SLM) for Mitigating Land Degradation and Contributing to Poverty Reduction in Rural Areas UNEP/GEF</p> <p>Clima East: Sustainable Management of Pastures in Georgia – UNDP/EU 2013-2016</p> <p>GCP/GEO/003/AUS - National programme for rehabilitation of seed production system in Georgia – FAO Georgia 2013-2016 - Ministry Of Agriculture of Austria</p>

SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	Relevant national priorities/other agencies <sup>3</sup>	Complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
		<p><b>B.1-02.3.</b> Establish fast growing forest plantations in forest clearances so that timber and fuel wood can be produced and provided primarily to local communities;</p> <p><b>B.1-02.6.</b> Conduct pilot projects that demonstrate sustainable grazing methods and modern approaches that help reduce grazing pressure on the forest; promote the replication of successful approaches;</p> <p><b>B.3-02.3.</b> Conduct three restoration pilot projects in the most contaminated/degraded pastures and six pilot projects in the areas with the most contaminated/degraded soils in selected municipalities;</p> <p><b>B.4-02.1.</b> Implement pilot projects on the sustainable management of natural grasslands in at least six municipalities using specially designed certification and labelling schemes;</p> <p><b>B.4-02.2</b> Implement pilot projects on organic farming in at least six municipalities, including high mountain regions;</p> <p><b>A.1-03.2.</b> Conduct a national awareness campaign on the issue of climate change as a threat to biodiversity.</p> <p><b>Strategy for Agricultural Development in Georgia (2015-2020):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Productive but sustainable farming methods will be encouraged by ensuring best agricultural practices, crop rotation for soil structure and quality improvement and promoting low level or appropriate chemical applications;</li> <li>– For the purpose of maintenance and improvement of the bio agro-diversity, the measures for increase of efficiency of management of agro-ecosystems and natural pastures and meadows will be conducted;</li> <li>– It is important to promote Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) approach that simultaneously addresses three intertwined challenges: ensuring food security through increased productivity and income, adapting to climate change and contributing to mitigation of climate change.</li> </ul> <p><b>Integrated Biodiversity Management, South Caucasus (IBiS), BMZ, ADA, GIZ:</b> Conditions for sustainable pasture management and agriculture with emphasis on the needs</p>	

SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	Relevant national priorities/other agencies <sup>3</sup>	Complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
		<p>of rural communities and biodiversity are improved in pilot areas.</p> <p><b>Empowering Poor Communities and Micro-Entrepreneurs in the Georgia Tourism Sector (World Bank, Elkana):</b> The grant facility will fund community driven initiatives that engage neighbourhood groups in protecting their own heritage through maintenance initiatives such as cleaning, access to sites, signage and interpretation,</p>	
<p>Community landscape/seascape conservation</p>	<p><i>Promotion of collective management of trans-boundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services</i></p>	<p><b>NBSAP (2014-2020):</b>  <b>B.3-01.</b> Assess the feasibility of reducing Black Sea eutrophication and implement relevant effective measures  <b>B.3-02.</b> Significantly reduce pollution from agriculture by improving the institutional framework and restoring degraded agricultural lands and natural grasslands  <b>B.3-03.</b> Reduce the level of pollution of inland waters to ecologically acceptable levels  <b>C.6-01.</b> Restore the integrity of the Black Sea ecosystems and the diversity of species; set up 25 artificial reefs</p> <p><b>NEAP (2012-2016):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– To establish an effective water management system;</li> <li>– To establish the effective mechanisms to prevent pollution and to control water abstraction;</li> <li>– To reduce water pollution from untreated municipal wastewater;</li> <li>– To reduce pollution from diffuse sources in agriculture.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategic Action Program for Reducing Transboundary Degradation in the Kura River Basin (2014)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– To achieve sustainable utilization of water resources to ensure access to water and preserve ecosystem services;</li> <li>– To achieve water quality such that it would ensure access to clean water for present and future generations and sustain ecosystem functions in the Kura river basin;</li> <li>– To achieve and maintain ecosystem status whereby they provide essential</li> </ul>	<p>Advancing IWRM Across the Kura River Basin through Implementation of the Transboundary Agreed Actions and National Plans UNDP/GEF</p>

SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	Relevant national priorities/other agencies <sup>3</sup>	Complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
		<p>environmental and socio-economic services in a sustainable manner in the Kura River Basin;</p> <p><b>Strategic Action Plan for the Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea (2009)</b></p> <p><b>Conserve coastal and marine habitats and landscapes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Further recognize and implement integrated coastal zone management principles</li> <li>– Develop and disseminate information, training and education materials on ICZM in regional languages, referring to coastal biodiversity conservation</li> <li>– Amend national waste strategies and national coastal zone management plans with the aim of marine litter minimization</li> <li>– Promote/develop investment projects within national strategies/local plans to engineer, construct and install new solid waste recycling facilities and incineration plants, complying with BAT regulations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reduce eutrophication:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Implement integrated river basin management and integrated coastal zone management approaches, as stated in revised LBSA protocol;</li> <li>– Ensure all tourist resorts are connected to sewerage systems with WWTPs of adequate capacity to address seasonal loads;</li> <li>– Ensure that all industrial plants have adequate wastewater treatment to reduce N&amp;P emissions from direct discharge to surface waters;</li> <li>– Reduce or phase out the use of high P-containing laundry detergents;</li> <li>– Improve the use of regulatory instruments for reducing point and diffuse source pollution from agriculture;</li> <li>– Develop and expand the capacity of national agricultural extension services for promoting the control of agricultural pollution;</li> <li>– Promote organic farming and other low input farming systems.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reduce pollutants originating from land based sources, including atmospheric pollutions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Continue/improve rehabilitation /construction of wastewater treatment plants</li> </ul>	

SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	Relevant national priorities/other agencies <sup>3</sup>	Complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
Energy access co-benefits	<i>Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path</i>	<p><b>Relevant National Priorities:</b></p> <p><b>NEAP 2012-2016:</b> Creation of favourable conditions for the reduction of GHG emissions. Conduct awareness raising campaigns on potential CC risks</p> <p><b>Third National Communication to the UNFCCC:</b> Increase of energy efficiency in commercial building and promotion of renewable energy sources; Promoting the development of local technologies to import and introduce advanced foreign technologies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as well as for adaptation purposes; Promoting the introduction of clean, energy-efficient and renewable energy technologies and renewable fuel.</p> <p><b>Social-economic Development Strategy of Georgia “GEORGIA 2020”</b> Energy efficiency will be enhanced and relevant legislative mechanisms will be drawn up in accordance with international and European norms in order to preserve the country’s energy resources. The efficient use of energy is important as a means of increasing the country’s energy independence and rational use of resources, and can potentially decrease future costs.</p> <p><b>Georgia’s intended nationally determined contribution Submission to the UNFCCC:</b> Georgia plans to unconditionally reduce its GHG emissions by 15% below the Business as usual scenario (BAU) for the year 2030. It is envisaged that the most intensive pre-2020 mitigation action in Georgia should be the voluntary reduction of GHG emissions.</p> <p><b>Georgia’s EC-LEDS Clean Energy Program, USAID:</b></p>	<p>Promotion of Biomass Pellet Production and Utilization in Georgia – UNDP /GEF 2013-2016</p> <p>Green Cities : Integrated Sustainable Transport in the City of Batumi and the Achara Region UNDP/GEF 2015-2019</p> <p>Climate Resilient Flood and Flash Flood Management – Adaptation Fund -2012-2016</p> <p>Georgia's First Biennial Update Report UNDP/GEF 2015-2016</p> <p>Stabilizing GHG Emissions from Road Transport Through Doubling of Global Vehicle Fuel Economy: Regional Implementation of the Global Fuel Economy Initiative (GFEI)UNEP/GEF</p>

SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	Relevant national priorities/other agencies <sup>3</sup>	Complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
		<p>Support climate change mitigation by building municipal capacity in climate change mitigation measures and raising public awareness; increasing private sector investment in energy efficiency and green buildings; and strengthening Government of Georgia capacity to develop and implement a national Low Emission Development Strategy.</p> <p><b>Covenant of Mayors for Climate &amp; Energy:</b> Local solutions to energy and climate challenges help provide secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy for citizens and therefore contribute to reducing energy dependence and protecting vulnerable consumers.</p>	
Local to global chemicals coalitions	<i>Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern</i>	<p><b>National Action Plan for Waste Management (2016-2020):</b> Strengthening the capacity of the public sector at local and national level; increasing the capacity of the private sector and public awareness; Introduction of recycling technologies; Elaboration of encouraging mechanisms for the private sector and local municipalities to promote waste reuse and recycling.</p> <p><b>NEAP 2012-2016:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– To reduce environmental pollution from accumulated wastes;</li> <li>– To improve household and hazardous waste management (collection, transport, disposal).</li> </ul> <p>Waste management Strategy</p> <p><b>Persistent Organic Pollutants National Implementation Plan of Georgia (NIP)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– To develop the POPs related legislation;</li> <li>– To build capacity in the fields of risk assessment and management;</li> <li>– To develop the monitoring system;</li> <li>– To support efficient public awareness raising program on the adverse impact of POPs in human health and environment.</li> </ul>	<p>Strengthen national decision making towards ratification of the Minamata Convention and build capacity towards implementation of future provisions UNDP/GEF 2016-2017</p> <p>HCFC Phase-Out Management Plan - Multi-Lateral Fund to the Montreal Protocol 2013-2020</p> <p>Disposal of POPs pesticides and Initial steps for the containment of Dumped POSP pesticide in Georgia</p>

SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	Relevant national priorities/other agencies <sup>3</sup>	Complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
		<p><b>Waste Management Technologies in Regions (WMTR), USAID, CENN:</b> To improve policy formulation and strategic planning related to waste management at national and local levels in Georgia; enhance the capacity of targeted municipalities to establish and maintain sustainable waste management facilities and services; and support the development of Georgia’s recycling sector.</p>	
CSO-Government dialogue platforms	<p><i>Enhance capacity of civil society to contribute to implementation of MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and national and sub-national policy, planning and legal frameworks</i></p>	<p><b>NBSAP (2014-2020):</b> <b>National target A.2:</b> By 2020, significantly more people, especially local populations, are interested and effectively taking part in decision making processes that contribute both to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.</p> <p><b>Europe Foundation strategy (2014-2019):</b>“Engaging local communities to enhance civil society influence on public decision making process; CSOs are increasingly utilizing the <b>Social Enterprise</b> concept as one of the ways of attaining their long-term sustainability so as to address the needs of their vulnerable constituencies; EPFs <b>Open Door Grant-making Program</b> will further contribute to improved civil society capacity and longer-term sustainability to address societal needs.”</p> <p><b>Heinrich Boell Foundation programme goals (2015-2017):</b> “An open inclusive political culture provides space for public participation, which gives input into the green trend of the socio-economic transformation in the South Caucasus.”</p>	<p>The UNIDO Regional Resources Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP)</p> <p>Fostering Regional and Local Development in Georgia – UNDP –2012-2017 Swish Cooperation office</p>
Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)	<p><i>GEF Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Gender Equality Action Plan and GEF Principles for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples</i></p>	<p><b>The Georgian National Youth Policy Document (2014):</b> Environmental activities and the active participation of young people is an important social strategy, aimed at developing a person who has appropriate knowledge of environment and subsistence, and is equipped with practical skills to interact with the environment and has a responsible attitude towards the environment. Objectives of the Government of Georgia are the following: 1.7.1. Facilitate access to environmental information;</p>	<p>GCP/GEO/007/EC - Gender sensitive socio-economic empowerment of vulnerable IDPs through co-funding of their livelihoods opportunities and promotion of their social mobilization – FAO Georgia –</p>

SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	Relevant national priorities/other agencies <sup>3</sup>	Complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
		<p>1.7.2. Encourage environmental awareness among young people through formal and non-formal education;</p> <p>1.7.3. Promote the youth involvement in the environmental activities.</p> <p><b>Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan, 2014-2016:</b> Develop and implement joint-actions with civil society organizations working at regional and local level; Increase awareness of gender equality in Georgian institutions, civil society and right-holders.</p> <p><b>Georgia’s intended nationally determined contribution Submission to the UNFCCC:</b> It is fundamental to incorporate a gender- and human rights-sensitive approach in adaptation planning capacity building, prioritizing the most vulnerable sectors and regions in order to reduce social inequality and the gap between women and men rights.</p> <p><b>NBSAP (2014-2020)</b> A.2-o2. 3. Strengthen local NGOs, CBOs and local women’s groups and encourage their involvement in the decision-making in and monitoring of development projects as well as in biodiversity conservation and resource-use planning.</p> <p><b>Europe Foundation strategy (2014-2019):</b> “To build youth leadership capacity and enhance female and male youth volunteerism and civic engagement to address their own communities’ needs.”</p> <p><b>Heinrich Boell Foundation programme goals (2015-2017):</b> “Gender equality and gender diversity issues are accepted and a broad and informed discussion takes place in public and in political circles in the South Caucasus.”</p>	<p>2016-2016 EU</p> <p>Gender Equality in Georgia 2015-2020 UN Joint Programme – government of Sweden</p>

SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	Relevant national priorities/other agencies <sup>3</sup>	Complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
Contribution to global knowledge management platforms	<i>Contribute to GEF KM efforts</i>	<p><b>Social-economic Development Strategy of Georgia “GEORGIA 2020”</b> The main goal of state policies as far as innovation and technological sophistication are concerned is to facilitate the transfer and introduction of innovative activities and modern technologies both at the national and regional levels. The state will facilitate the introduction of environmentally-friendly modern technologies and development of a “green” economy.</p> <p><b>Strategy for Agricultural Development in Georgia (2015-2020)</b> “Improved farmer knowledge and information and the delivery of efficient agricultural extension service support”</p>	<p>Harmonization of Information Management for Improved Knowledge and Monitoring of the Global Environment in Georgia UNDP/GEF 2015-2018</p> <p>Deepening linkages between formal/non-formal VET system and the labour market needs in the context of lifelong learning in Georgia UNDP-2015-2017 EU</p>

### **3. OP6 strategies**

#### **3.1. Cross-cutting OP6 grant-making strategies**

SGP OP6 will support the capacity strengthening of decision makers, municipalities and community organizations for their effective involvement in environmental issues, and their awareness raising in concepts of green economy and ecosystem services.

Public participation and involvement at all levels will be supported in a number of different ways such as (i) empowering local NGOs and CBOs to become more involved in environmental decision making processes and implementation of local policies (such as environmental impact assessment initiatives, municipalities' sustainable energy development action plans, etc.) and(ii) dialogue platform initiatives to influence central, regional and local government policy-making processes, etc.

SGP Georgia will also promote income generation and community well-being through supporting the development of social enterprises that are based on sustainable use of resources and environmentally friendly technologies.

Priority will be given to those projects that ensure the involvement/participation of women and youth of different social and cultural groups. Based on the experience gained during SGP OP5, both of these groups can be instrumental in raising awareness and promoting advocacy. Other desirable aspects will be (i) project's ability to positively affect people's attitudes and behaviour and society's perceived role in solving environmental problems, (ii) replication of tested (piloted) innovative approaches or technologies in other regions, (iii) partnerships with private sector and(iv) involvement of public education resources to promote wider experience and knowledge sharing.

#### **3.2 Landscape/seascape-based OP6 grant-making strategies**

The target landscapes/seascapes for OP6 in Georgia in which most of OP6 grant-making would be focused were selected through an extensive process of stakeholders consultations. The process included meetings and discussions with (i) members of the SGP National Steering Committee, (ii) the Focal Points of the Rio conventions, (iii) representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection (MoENRP) and relevant non-governmental organizations and (iv) coordinators of relevant on-going projects and programmes.

The following criteria were applied during the preliminary selection process and later by the CPS project team to finalise the list of proposed landscapes/seascapes:

- Conservation value, vulnerability and challenges;
- Ecosystem services and the level of dependency of local communities on those services;
- National priorities;

- Co-financing potential for SGP initiatives.

As a result of the consultations with stakeholders and the National Steering Committee and using the above criteria, the following landscapes/seascapes were selected:

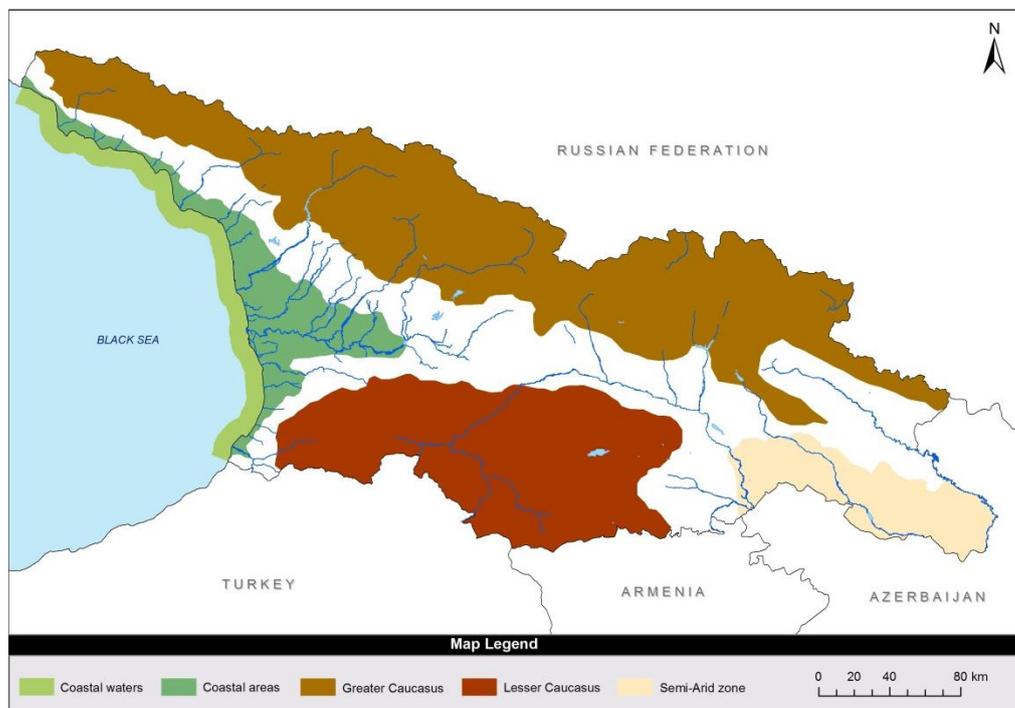
1. High mountains (>1,200 meters above sea level)
2. Black Sea coast (<100 meters above sea level) and marine waters up to 10 km off the coast
3. The semi-arid zone of Georgia

High mountains, coastal and semi-arid areas are considered the most vulnerable parts of the country to climate change. Adaptation to climate change is a priority for these landscapes, where the most vulnerable sectors include agriculture, water resources, and biodiversity.

Using the elevation range above 1,200 meters above sea level as a criterion for defining high mountain landscapes yielded two isolated large parts of the country: *Greater Caucasus mountains* and *Lesser Caucasus mountains* – two separate landscapes with differing geo-physical, ecological and socio-cultural characteristics. Thus the selected target landscapes/seascapes included (see Figure 1 for map):

1. The Greater Caucasus mountains (>1,200 meters above sea level)
2. The Lesser Caucasus mountains (>1,200 meters above sea level)
3. Black Sea coast (<100 meters above sea level) and marine waters up to 10 km off the coast
4. The semi-arid zone of Georgia

The boundaries of these landscape/seascapes were drawn primarily along the geophysical and ecological borders or where appropriate along the municipal borders .



**Fig. 1** Selected target landscapes/seascapes for OP6

The baseline assessment of the selected landscapes/seascapes relied on literature review and analysis by a team of experts of the following fields: geography, socio-economy, biodiversity conservation, waste management, water management, climate change, etc. An overall outline and main topics of the baseline assessment were identified and agreed with the SGP national coordinator and the SGP National Steering Committee prior to the process. The literature review involved looking at and compilation of all existing information for the selected landscape/seascapes including scientific literature, reports and other relevant documents.

Table 3 describes (i) which OP6 strategic initiatives will be prioritized (ii) types of projects and (iii) key stakeholders, for each of the four selected landscape/seascapes

In order to ensure synergy primarily between various proposed initiatives to be conducted within the same landscape/seascape, the proposals will be considered in the context of the given landscape and those with clear multifocal approach or a potential of complimenting each other will be given priority. After awarding such projects will be encouraged to coordinate their activities with each other and where possible act jointly to achieve maximum impact at landscape level.

As mentioned above, one of the criteria for selecting target landscapes/seascape was the potential of co-financing. Thus co-financing opportunities are envisaged to be available in all four selected landscapes/seascapes. For example, the recently adopted new “Mountain Law” and related governmental programmes create co-funding opportunities in the Greater Caucasus and Lesser Caucasus landscapes. The SGP national coordinator will assist local NGOs in approaching identified potential sources of co-financing operating both at national and local level. For example, local municipalities were the co-funders of many projects implemented during OP5 and this source should be utilized again.

While the focus of OP6 is mostly on selected landscapes/seascapes and community-driven and locally implemented initiatives, many of the prioritized OP6 strategic initiatives require wider support primarily at the national level. OP6 will encourage and support as much as possible any national or regional level initiatives that could in turn support or compliment SGP funded local projects in the selected landscapes/seascapes.

Table 3. Prioritized OP6 strategic initiatives, types of projects and key stakeholders for the selected landscape/seascapes

#	Landscape/Seascape	OP6 strategic initiatives (in priority order)	Types of projects	Key stakeholders
1.	The Greater Caucasus mountains (>1,200 meters above sea level)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Community landscape/seascape conservation</i></li> <li>2. <i>Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology</i></li> <li>3. <i>Energy access co-benefits</i></li> <li>4. <i>Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)</i></li> <li>5. <i>CSO-Government dialogue platforms</i></li> <li>6. <i>Local to global chemicals coalitions</i></li> </ol>	<p><u><i>Community landscape/seascape conservation</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Sustainable management of fish ponds/lakes and river sections for fish stocks restoration and sustainable fisheries.</li> <li>– Promotion of native/endemic varieties of domestic plants and animals.</li> <li>– Sustainable harvesting of medicinal plants and other non-timber forest resources.</li> <li>– Promotion and piloting of traditional and sustainable pasture management practices (e.g. grazing calendars, pasture rotation).</li> <li>– Enhancing biodiversity and improving productivity of summer pastures through environmentally friendly methods (such as mowing, ecologically friendly fertilisation, seed dissemination, improved access to water, etc.)</li> <li>– Combating illegal hunting.</li> <li>– Mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts.</li> <li>– Supporting conservation/restoration of endangered species including rare endemics.</li> <li>– Supporting existing protected areas through participatory site protection, biodiversity monitoring and nature-based tourism activities as well as public awareness and education activities.</li> <li>– Supporting the establishment of new protected areas in Svaneti, Racha and Samegrelo and Emerald sites and important bird areas (IBA) throughout the landscape.</li> <li>– Piloting community managed protected sites.</li> <li>– Promotion of traditional knowledge related to biodiversity (incl. agricultural biodiversity) and biodiversity values and ecosystem services.</li> </ul>	Local communities and NGOs such as associations “Friends of” protected areas; protected areas such as Lagodekhi PAs, Kazbegi national park, Tusheti PAs and Tusheti protected landscape, etc.; local municipalities; local schools and local resource centres of the Ministry of Education; local private sector such as guesthouses; livestock owners and farmers; village farmers; local hunters and hunting reserves etc.

#	Landscape/Seascape	OP6 strategic initiatives (in priority order)	Types of projects	Key stakeholders
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Supporting afforestation and the recovery of degraded forests and other ecosystems.</li> <li>– Facilitation of restoration of various landscape elements that have water purification and water regulation functions.</li> <li>– Support to local people and community conserved areas</li> </ul> <p><i><u>Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Promotion of sustainable agricultural practices, use of endemic varieties and organic farming especially in PA buffer/supporting zones.</li> <li>– Projects promoting and/or involving agro-forestry activities.</li> <li>– Piloting application of agro-ecological approaches for erosion control including the protection of river banks.</li> <li>– Local campaigns on the impacts of climate change on the mountainous areas of Georgia.</li> </ul> <p><i><u>Energy access co-benefits</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Projects dedicated to the promotion and application of sustainable energy technologies and/or use of renewable energy sources at the municipal and local level.</li> <li>– Promotion of knowledge management, awareness raising and skills development on alternative energy sources.</li> </ul> <p><i><u>Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Projects that facilitate the involvement/participation of women and youth in income generation activities and development of social enterprises.</li> </ul>	

#	Landscape/Seascape	OP6 strategic initiatives (in priority order)	Types of projects	Key stakeholders
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Projects that support the involvement of women and youth in awareness raising and advocacy activities.</li> </ul> <p><u>CSO-Government dialogue platforms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Supporting dialogue platform initiatives to influence local government policy-making processes;</li> <li>– Projects dedicated to/involving capacity strengthening of municipalities and community organizations.</li> <li>– Projects dedicated to/involving the empowerment of local communities to become more involved in environmental decision making processes, and implementation of local policies.</li> </ul> <p><u>Local to global chemicals coalitions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Encouraging local communities to use environmentally friendly alternatives to chemicals and products containing heavy metals.</li> <li>– Supporting the phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern.</li> <li>– Projects involving awareness raising and trainings in POPs, ODSs, harmful chemicals and other pollutants, especially focussing on women as main users and decision makers on the use of those substances or products containing them.</li> </ul>	
5	The Lesser Caucasus mountains (>1,200 meters above sea level)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Community landscape/seascape conservation</i></li> <li>2. <i>Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology</i></li> <li>3. <i>Energy access co-benefits</i></li> <li>4. <i>Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)</i></li> <li>5. <i>CSO-Government dialogue</i></li> </ol>	<p><u>Community landscape/seascape conservation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Sustainable management of fish ponds/lakes and river sections for fish stocks restoration and sustainable fisheries.</li> <li>– Promotion of native/endemic varieties of domestic plants and animals.</li> <li>– Sustainable harvesting of medicinal plants and other non-timber forest resources.</li> </ul>	Local communities and NGOs such as associations “Friends of” protected areas; protected areas such as Borjomi-Kharagauli PAs, Javakheti PAs, Mtirala national park, Machakhela national park,

#	Landscape/Seascape	OP6 strategic initiatives (in priority order)	Types of projects	Key stakeholders
		<p><i>platforms</i></p> <p>6. <i>Local to global chemicals coalitions</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Promotion and piloting of traditional and sustainable pasture management practices (e.g. grazing calendars, pasture rotation).</li> <li>– Enhancing biodiversity and improving productivity of summer pastures through environmentally friendly methods.</li> <li>– Combating illegal hunting.</li> <li>– Mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts.</li> <li>– Supporting conservation/restoration of endangered species including rare endemics.</li> <li>– Supporting the protected areas through participatory site protection, biodiversity monitoring and nature-based tourism activities as well as public awareness and education activities.</li> <li>– Piloting community managed protected sites</li> <li>– Supporting the establishment of Emerald sites and important bird areas (IBA) throughout the landscape.</li> <li>– Promotion of traditional knowledge related to biodiversity (incl. agricultural biodiversity) and biodiversity values and ecosystem services.</li> </ul> <p><i>Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Supporting afforestation and the recovery of degraded forests and other ecosystems.</li> <li>– Facilitation of restoration of concrete landscape elements that have water purification and water regulation functions.</li> <li>– Promotion of sustainable agricultural practices in PA buffer/supporting zones.</li> <li>– Projects promoting and/or involving agro-forestry activities.</li> <li>– Piloting application of agro-ecological approaches for erosion control including the protection of river banks.</li> <li>– Local campaigns on the impacts of climate change on the mountainous areas of Georgia.</li> </ul>	<p>etc.; local municipalities; local schools and local resource centres of the Ministry of Education; local private sector such as guesthouses and tourist services providers; livestock owners and farmers; village farmers; local hunters and hunting reserves, etc.</p>

#	Landscape/Seascape	OP6 strategic initiatives (in priority order)	Types of projects	Key stakeholders
			<p><u>Energy access co-benefits</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Projects dedicated to the promotion and application of sustainable energy technologies and use of renewable energy sources at the municipal and local level.</li> <li>– Promotion of knowledge management, awareness raising and skills development on alternative energy sources.</li> </ul> <p><u>Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Projects that facilitate the involvement/participation of women and youth of all ethnic groups in income generation activities and development of social enterprises.</li> <li>– Projects that support the involvement of women and youth in awareness raising and advocacy activities.</li> </ul> <p><u>CSO-Government dialogue platforms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Supporting dialogue platform initiatives to influence local government policy-making processes;</li> <li>– Projects dedicated to/involving capacity strengthening of municipalities and community organizations.</li> <li>– Projects dedicated to/involving the empowerment of local communities to become more involved in environmental decision making processes, and implementation of local policies.</li> </ul> <p><u>Local to global chemicals coalitions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Encouraging local communities to use environmentally friendly</li> </ul>	

#	Landscape/Seascape	OP6 strategic initiatives (in priority order)	Types of projects	Key stakeholders
			<p>alternatives to chemicals and products containing heavy metals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Supporting the phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern.</li> <li>– Projects involving awareness raising and trainings in POPs, ODSs, harmful chemicals and other pollutants, especially focussing on women as main users and decision makers on the use of those substances or products containing them.</li> </ul>	
6	Black Sea coast (<100 meters above sea level) and marine waters up to 10 km off coast	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Community landscape/seascape conservation</i></li> <li>2. <i>Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology;</i></li> <li>3. <i>Energy access co-benefits</i></li> <li>4. <i>Local to global chemicals coalitions</i></li> <li>5. <i>CSO-Government dialogue platforms</i></li> <li>6. <i>Contribution to global knowledge management platforms</i></li> <li>7. <i>Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)</i></li> </ol>	<p><u>Community landscape/seascape conservation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Supporting the conservation of Kolkheti wetlands.</li> <li>– Promotion of sustainable fishing in lake Paliastomi and other water bodies of Kolkheti.</li> <li>– Promotion of sustainable fishery and aquaculture in the Black Sea.</li> <li>– Conservation of the marine mammals.</li> <li>– Conservation of migratory birds and their wintering/staging sites.</li> <li>– Combating illegal fishing and hunting.</li> <li>– Supporting conservation/restoration of endangered species including rare endemics.</li> <li>– Supporting Kolkheti national park and Kobuleti nature reserve through participatory site protection, biodiversity monitoring and nature-based tourism activities as well as public awareness and education activities.</li> <li>– Supporting the establishment of new Emerald sites and important bird areas (IBA) throughout the landscape/seascape.</li> <li>– Support to local people and community conserved areas</li> </ul> <p><u>Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology;</u></p>	Local communities and NGOs such as associations “Friends of” protected areas; protected areas such as Kolkheti national park, etc.; local municipalities; local schools and local resource centres of the Ministry of Education; local private sector such as guesthouses and tourist services providers; local fishermen and hunters, etc.

#	Landscape/Seascape	OP6 strategic initiatives (in priority order)	Types of projects	Key stakeholders
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Supporting restoration of and prevention of degradation of seashores and coastal areas.</li> <li>– Facilitation of restoration of concrete landscape elements that have water purification and water regulation functions.</li> <li>– Promotion of sustainable agricultural practices around Kolkheti national park.</li> <li>– Local campaigns on the impacts of climate change emphasising those on the coastal areas of Georgia.</li> <li>– Supporting the reduction of pollution of coastal wetlands and marine ecosystems.</li> <li>– Supporting integrated management of coastal and marine ecosystems.</li> <li>– Awareness raising among the local people and private sector having their businesses (such as cafes, restaurants, etc.) at the beach/shore.</li> <li>– Support the refinement of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Achara.</li> <li>– Preparation of adaptation plans for local municipalities.</li> <li>– Preparation of action plans for emergency situations.</li> <li>– Capacity building of the local health care personnel/units.</li> </ul> <p><u>Energy access co-benefits</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Projects dedicated to the promotion and application of sustainable energy technologies at the municipal and local level and energy efficient initiatives at the local level, especially in the construction sector.</li> <li>– Promotion of knowledge management, awareness raising</li> </ul>	

#	Landscape/Seascape	OP6 strategic initiatives (in priority order)	Types of projects	Key stakeholders
			<p>and skills development on alternative energy sources.</p> <p><u>Local to global chemicals coalitions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encouraging local communities to use environmentally friendly alternatives to chemicals and products containing heavy metals.</li> <li>- Supporting the phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern.</li> <li>- Projects involving awareness raising and trainings in POPs, ODSs, harmful chemicals and other pollutants, especially focussing on women as main users and decision makers on the use of those substances or products containing them.</li> <li>- Supporting e-waste recycling initiatives</li> </ul> <p><u>CSO-Government dialogue platforms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting dialogue platform initiatives to influence local and regional (in case of Achara) government policy-making processes;</li> <li>- Projects dedicated to/involving capacity strengthening of municipalities and community organizations.</li> </ul> <p><u>Contribution to global knowledge management platforms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Projects dedicated to/involving the empowerment of local communities to become more involved in environmental decision making processes, and implementation of local policies.</li> <li>- Projects dealing with the replication of tested (piloted)</li> </ul>	

#	Landscape/Seascape	OP6 strategic initiatives (in priority order)	Types of projects	Key stakeholders
			<p>innovative approaches or technologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Projects that encourage partnerships with private sector.</li> </ul> <p><u>Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Projects that facilitate the involvement/participation of women and youth in income generation activities and development of social enterprises.</li> <li>– Projects that support the involvement of women and youth in awareness raising and advocacy activities.</li> </ul>	
4	The semi-arid zone of Georgia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Community landscape/seascape conservation</i></li> <li>2. <i>Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology;</i></li> <li>3. <i>Energy access co-benefits</i></li> <li>4. <i>Local to global chemicals coalitions</i></li> <li>5. <i>Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)</i></li> <li>6. <i>CSO-Government dialogue platforms</i></li> <li>7. <i>Community landscape/seascape conservation (international waters)</i></li> <li>8. <i>Contribution to global knowledge management platforms</i></li> </ol>	<p><u>Community landscape/seascape conservation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Sustainable management of fish ponds/lakes and river sections for fish stocks restoration and sustainable fisheries.</li> <li>– Promotion of native/endemic varieties of domestic plants and animals.</li> <li>– Promotion and piloting of traditional and sustainable pasture management practices (e.g. grazing calendars, pasture rotation).</li> <li>– Enhancing biodiversity and improving productivity of winter pastures through environmentally friendly methods (such as mowing, ecologically friendly fertilisation, seed dissemination, improved access to water, etc.)</li> <li>– Combating illegal hunting.</li> <li>– Mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts.</li> <li>– Supporting conservation/restoration of endangered species including rare endemics.</li> <li>– Supporting Vashlovani national park, Chachuna managed reserve and other protected areas through participatory site protection, biodiversity monitoring and nature-based tourism activities as well as public awareness and education activities.</li> </ul>	Local communities and NGOs such as associations “Friends of” protected areas; protected areas such as Vashlovani PAs, Chachuna, Gardabani, Iori managed reserves, etc.; local municipalities; local schools and local resource centres of the Ministry of Education; local private sector such as guesthouses and tourist services providers; livestock owners and farmers; local crops growers and village farmers; local hunters and hunting reserves, etc.

#	Landscape/Seascape	OP6 strategic initiatives (in priority order)	Types of projects	Key stakeholders
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Piloting community managed protected sites.</li> <li>– Supporting the establishment of new Emerald sites and important bird areas (IBA) throughout the landscape.</li> <li>– Promotion of traditional knowledge related to biodiversity (incl. agricultural biodiversity) and biodiversity values and ecosystem services.</li> </ul> <p><i><u>Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology:</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Supporting afforestation and restoration of windbreaks.</li> <li>– Facilitation of restoration of concrete landscape elements that have water purification and water regulation functions.</li> <li>– Promotion of sustainable agricultural practices and organic farming.</li> <li>– Projects promoting and/or involving agro-forestry activities.</li> <li>– Piloting application of agro-ecological approaches for erosion control including the protection of river banks.</li> <li>– Local campaigns on the impacts of climate change with an emphasis on semi-arid zone.</li> </ul> <p><i><u>Energy access co-benefits</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Projects dedicated to the promotion and application of sustainable energy technologies at the municipal and local level and energy efficient initiatives at the local level, especially in the construction sector.</li> <li>– Promotion of knowledge management, awareness raising and skills development on alternative energy sources.</li> </ul> <p><i><u>Local to global chemicals coalitions</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Encouraging local communities to use environmentally</li> </ul>	

#	Landscape/Seascape	OP6 strategic initiatives (in priority order)	Types of projects	Key stakeholders
			<p>friendly alternatives to chemicals and products containing heavy metals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Supporting the phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern.</li> <li>– Projects involving awareness raising and trainings in POPs, ODSs, harmful chemicals and other pollutants, especially focussing on women as main users and decision makers on the use of those substances or products containing them.</li> <li>– Supporting e-waste recycling initiatives</li> </ul> <p><i><u>Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Projects that facilitate the involvement/participation of women and youth in income generation activities and development of social enterprises.</li> <li>– Projects that support the involvement of women and youth in awareness raising and advocacy activities.</li> </ul> <p><i><u>CSO-Government dialogue platforms</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Supporting dialogue platform initiatives to influence local government policy-making processes;</li> <li>– Projects dedicated to/involving capacity strengthening of municipalities and community organizations.</li> <li>– Projects dedicated to/involving the empowerment of local communities to become more involved in environmental decision making processes, and implementation of local policies.</li> </ul> <p><i><u>Community landscape/seascape conservation (international waters)</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Supporting integrated management of water resources in the</li> </ul>	

#	Landscape/Seascape	OP6 strategic initiatives (in priority order)	Types of projects	Key stakeholders
			<p>Mtkvari (Kura) river basin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Promoting community based water resource management initiatives and application of innovative approaches in the Mtkvari (Kura) river basin.</li> <li>– Implementation of public awareness raising and public participation in water management issues and governance in the Mtkvari (Kura) river basin.</li> <li>– Support the reduction of pollution of the trans-border rivers.</li> </ul> <p><i>Contribution to global knowledge management platforms</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Projects dealing with the replication of tested (piloted) innovative approaches or technologies.</li> <li>– Projects that encourage partnerships with private sector</li> </ul>	

## **Recognizing and Strengthening Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Areas**

Georgia is one of the 26 partner countries of the Global Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Areas (ICCA) Support Initiative funded by the German Ministry of the Environment (BMUB) and implemented through the GEF-SGP. The project objective is to improve the recognition, support, and overall effectiveness for biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and resilience to climate change, of territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities, through enhanced capacities of all engaged parties, contributing to the achievement of Aichi Targets 11, 14 and 18 of the CBD 2020 Global Biodiversity Strategy, in at least 26 countries.

As part of the project support, Georgia has a potential to receive a funding support of about US 350,000 (in tranches and competitive basis) and a Catalytic grant of US 50,000 for assessment and formulation ICCA strategy at the country level, development of pipeline projects and assisting the successful grantee partners in the project implementation.

Protected Areas represent the cornerstone of Georgia's biodiversity conservation strategy; Georgia now has a system of protected areas covering about 585,883 ha of land or 8.41 % of the country's territory. Today there are 88 different categories of protected area in Georgia and 21 administrative structural bodies. Until 2008, all protected areas were managed by the Department of Protected Areas (DPA). The DPA was replaced in January 2008 by the newly created parastatal, the Agency for Protected Areas (APA), under the oversight of the Ministry of Environment. The last 10 years in various international organizations and significantly expanded the network of protected areas and the establishment of new protected areas (in particular: Tusheti, Vashlovani, Javakheti, etc.).

Georgia has a legal and legislative basis for public participation in decision making processes. Georgia ratified Aarhus Convention and also its Constitution and Administrative and Environmental Codes are ensuring access to the information and right to participate in decision making processes, as well as the right to access the justice. Furthermore, with regard of Protected Areas the Law System of Protected Areas Article 22 gives the right of the public and representatives of public organizations, to take part in:

- A) the establishment of protected areas, development, reduction and cancellation of management plans, administrative regulations and other documents for review and amendment process;
- B) protected areas and buffer zones for maintenance and management activities. (27.04.2007. N4683)

Also the same law in Article 21, states that it is mandatory to cooperate with local government institutions and local self-governmental units.

At central level APA set up consultation council, which is functional and operational. In addition, all protected areas who are having administrative units designed scientific-consultation councils, who are authorized to formulate recommendations for the management of protected areas and protected areas in relation to other matters. However, due to limited financial resources, scientific-consultation councils cannot held systematic sessions; with financial support of BMZ/KFW - PA support programme in Caucasus – Georgia, at four PAs Kazbegi, Kintrishi Algeti and Pshav – khevsureti regional advisory board (with participation of the local government and self- government organizations) were established and being operational. APA plans in future to replicate the best practices at other administrative units.

Besides above mentioned, for public and community involvement in PA management, APA is using various mechanisms including public participation in social studies, organizing festivals, support of young ranger systems and friend association of PAs and etc.

APA regularly holds public hearings and meetings with local communities and Non-Governmental organizations for PAs planning and management issues, such as PA demarcations, PA management plan preparation, Natural resource usage and etc.

Currently there are Friend Associations at 9 PAs (Vashlovani, Lagodekhi, Tusheti, Algeti, Kazbegi, Kintrishi, Pshav-Khevsureti, Mtirala and Machakhela). Most of them were created and are being supported by international donors such as IUCN, UNDP. SGP Georgia has also supported 4 initiatives of friends associations during OP5. Friends Associations of PAs with membership of local community are actively involved in PAs decision making processes as well as mentioned NGOs are members of scientific councils and regional advisory boards.

Support from the Global ICCA Support Initiative will provide a good opportunity for Georgia to strengthen its work on ICCAs and different protected area governance types. To provide strategic direction, a detail assessment and development of ICCA country program strategy is anticipated through a catalytic grant. Based on the ICCA strategy and with the support of the organization selected for the catalytic grant, on-the-ground ICCA emblematic projects will be implemented contributing to the overall goal of CPS and global Aichi targets, particularly the targets 11 and 14.

### 3.3. **Grant-maker+ strategies**

#### 3.3.1. *CSO-Government Dialogue Platform*

The SGP will encourage, create and support various forms of CSO-government dialogue platforms both at the landscape and national level. It will make special effort to create or enhance opportunities for an effective dialogue between CSOs and local governments in each of the selected landscapes through encouraging and supporting joint initiatives and activities as well as round table discussions on specific topics. At the national level, the SGP will get involved in existing dialogue platforms (such as Pasture Management Stakeholders Coordination Meeting<sup>4</sup>) among other things by ensuring that relevant local CSOs are invited to their meetings.

#### 3.2.2. *Policy influence*

SGP Georgia will continue to be actively involved in all relevant major policy making processes and will make special efforts ensure that issues identified on the ground (e.g. at the landscape level) are adequately reflected in the policy development processes such as the revision of Georgia's NEAP (National Environmental Action Plan). In addition, any policy-level changes that will be considered necessary to provide effective support to local initiatives will be identified and raised with relevant stakeholders at the highest possible level by NC and as appropriate also by NSC members. The GEF SGP will also encourage participating NGO's to include in their project design their capacity strengthening and "local to national" NGO partnerships so that they become more involved and influential in policy making processes at the local and regional as well as national level.

#### 3.2.3. *Promoting social inclusion*

The reflection of aspects of social inclusion in particular women's empowerment and gender equality as well as involving youth and children will be required for each project proposal and the social inclusion criteria will be considered by NSC members while reviewing submitted applications. Successful examples of past projects and experience – such as projects successfully implemented solely or in part by women and youth or other vulnerable social groups, or projects with demonstrated successes achieved in respect of social inclusion – will be used to encourage new initiatives to encompass social inclusion. In addition, mentoring and guidance will be provided to various local social groups for successful project development, application and implementation process and on how to link social and gender issues with other SGP priorities.

#### 3.2.4. *Knowledge management plan*

During OP6, SGP Georgia will focus on organizing knowledge fairs, strengthening the NGO to NGO platforms as a tool for NGO's social networking, knowledge exchange, best practices and lessons learned. This will strengthen the process of collection and centralization of the knowledge, information and skills in line with good environmental practices.

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<sup>4</sup> Set up by UNDP Georgia within the framework of EU funded project, *Sustainable Management of Pastures in Georgia to Demonstrate Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Benefits and Dividends for Local Communities*

SGP Georgia's strategy for replication and up-scaling good practices and lessons learnt will be focused on supporting such project proposals and initiatives that can be effectively replicated by other NGOs and CBOs in their regions. In order to facilitate the process of replication and up-scaling good practices and lessons learnt, applicants will be requested to include a knowledge management component in their applications. Successful applicants will be required to evident the process of activity implementation and results achievement in an electronic and hard copy format. These materials will then be disseminated by the grantee among local and national stockholders to foster replication.

Special emphasis will be placed on the exchange of experiences gained at the seminars, meetings and workshops via electronic networks, publication of information materials etc. Special attention will be paid to the trainings and workshops as an integral part of individual project implementation since this is considered one of the best venues to generate ideas, exchange views and experiences; any training products will also be made available for the wider public. In addition, the SGP database and a photo gallery linked to the good practices section will be maintained.

The NC will be personally responsible for the preparation of SGP knowledge products to contribute to the GEF SGP knowledge management plan. The collection and consolidation of the gained experiences and knowledge will be recorded at the Program level in the form of booklets, brochures, reports, video materials, films, etc. Project site visits will be one of the main mechanisms of collecting first-hand information as well as the opportunity to learn about experiences gained during the implementation of individual projects and their activities. The NC will be responsible for collecting and compiling knowledge and information as inputs to the wider GEF knowledge products and policy papers, also for participation in SGP regional and international meetings and seminars as required.

Press conferences and/or workshops with the participation of key stakeholders and media will be organised at the local and national level as a means to ensure better knowledge transfer and to influence the policy development process. These conferences and workshops will be dedicated to the role of SGP in Georgia, to assisting the implementation of UN Conventions at the local and national level and to achieving global environmental benefits.

The SGP will actively participate in and be engaged with UNDP Georgia's Energy and Environmental portfolio activities such as retreats and related projects/programmers events, for knowledge dissemination and experience sharing purposes.

In addition, the SGP team will ensure that every meeting with local communities and with regional and municipal authorities will be used to disseminate best practices and lessons learnt as well as the results achieved in SGP projects.

### *3.2.5. Communications Strategy*

The communication strategy of SGP OP6 in Georgia is closely linked to SGP knowledge management system and aims (i) to ensure the engagement of key stakeholders and CSOs in the country programme activities, (ii) to build relationships and (iii) to foster partnerships with UN agencies, governmental bodies, donor organization, private sector and media.

The SGP Georgia will continue with the practice of directly engaging with NGO's through a series of consultation meetings in which any issues and questions may be clarified on the elaboration of project proposals as well as project implementation. These meetings will be also used to discuss lessons learned from the past SGP projects and to share best practices. The SGP Georgia will conduct active mentoring and coaching to promote participation of NGOs in country programme activities and to articulate the contribution of the SGP to the national priorities during OP6.

Additionally, a data base of SGP activities, achievements, best practices and lessons learned will be maintained and this information will be communicated with relevant stakeholders during stockholder workshops and national meetings. Existing relevant electronic networks (such as NGO networks) will be used to reach even more of the target audience; mass media will be used for wider public outreach for promoting SGP contribution to the national priorities, GEF programming, and UNDP strategies.

#### **4. Expected results framework**

Table 4. Consistency with SGP OP6 global programme components

1 OP6 project components	2 CPS targets	3 Activities	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 1:</u> <i>Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation:</i></p> <p>1.1 SGP country programmes improve conservation and sustainable use, and management of important terrestrial and coastal/marine ecosystems through implementation of community based landscape/seascape approaches in approximately 50 countries</p>	<p>At least 4 PAs are positively influenced through the SGP projects.</p> <p>The local conservation status of at least 2 threatened species is improved.</p> <p>At least 50.000 ha of landscapes/seascapes have improved conservation status and/or are under improved management.</p> <p>Integrated water management practices are applied in at least 2 river basins.</p> <p>The targets selected target landscapes/seascapes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>High mountains (&gt;1,200 meters above sea level)</i></li> <li>- <i>Black Sea coast (&lt;100 meters above sea level) and marine waters up to 10 km off coast</i></li> <li>- <i>The semi-arid zone of Georgia</i></li> </ul>	<p>Approx. 2 projects for improving protected areas management through community-based actions.</p> <p>Approx. 2 projects for improving biodiversity conservation, sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystem services in target landscapes /seascapes through community initiatives.</p> <p>Approx. 2 project for conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems and/or demonstrating integrated water resource management practices.</p> <p>Implementation of at least 6 ICCA initiatives (supported by ICCAs-BMUB fund, Global ICCA Support Initiative)</p>	<p>Number of PAs influenced.</p> <p>Number of hectares of landscapes and seascapes with improved conservation status and management.</p> <p>Number of threatened species with improved local conservation status.</p> <p>Number of river basins in which integrated water management practices are applied.</p> <p>Number of ICCAs established.</p> <p>Number of implemented ICCA initiatives.</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>SGP Global Database</p> <p>SGP case studies</p> <p>Monitoring visits</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p>

1 OP6 project components	2 CPS targets	3 Activities	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
	Enhance the collaboration of ICCA <sup>5</sup> network and support the establishment of at least 3 new ICCAs			
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 2:</u> <i>Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology:</i></p> <p>2.1 Agro-ecology practices incorporating measures to reduce CO2 emissions and enhancing resilience to climate change tried and tested in protected area buffer zones and forest corridors and disseminated widely in at least 30 priority countries</p>	<p><i>At least 150 households have been involved in or benefited from agro-ecological practices (such as agro-forestry, sustainable aquaculture, organic farming, sustainable fish farming, etc) incorporating measures to reduce CO2 emissions and enhance resilience to climate change</i></p> <p><i>At least 1000 ha of land and forest are put under sustainable management and/or rehabilitated using agro-ecological practices.</i></p>	<p>1 project demonstrating sustainable and climate friendly agro-ecological practices.</p> <p>1 project focusing on sustainable forestry with community based landscape approaches.</p>	<p>Number of hectares of land under sustainable management.</p> <p>Number of households involved in or benefiting from sustainable agro-ecological and forest management practices.</p> <p>Number of hectares of degraded land/forest restored and/or rehabilitated.</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes (SEPLs)</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p>
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 3:</u> <i>Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits:</i></p> <p>3.1 Low carbon community energy access solutions successfully deployed in 50 countries with alignment and integration of these approaches within larger frameworks such as SE4ALL</p>	<p><i>At least 3 communities utilise low carbon energy access solutions such as solar, micro hydro, energy-efficient heating systems, geothermal, etc. ).</i></p> <p><i>Approx. 35 tons of CO2 mitigated through energy efficient initiatives and the use of renewable energy</i></p>	<p>2 projects demonstrating low carbon energy access solutions.</p>	<p>Number of tons of CO2 mitigated</p> <p>Number of communities successfully utilising low carbon energy access solutions.</p>	<p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), country reports AMR, global database, country reports</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p>

<sup>5</sup> *Indigenous peoples' and community conserved territories and areas*

1 OP6 project components	2 CPS targets	3 Activities	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
initiated in at least 12 countries	<i>sources.</i>			
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 4:</u> <i>Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions:</i></p> <p>4.1 Innovative community-based tools and approaches demonstrated, deployed and transferred, with support from newly organized or existing coalitions in at least 20 countries for managing harmful chemicals and waste in a sound manner</p>	<p><i>At least 5000 kg of chemicals of global concern (such as POPs, plastic, e-waste, etc.) reduced or avoided from utilisation and disposed of appropriately.</i></p> <p><i>At least 1000 people have benefitted from the reduction or avoidance of the utilisation or safe disposal of chemicals of global concern.</i></p>	<p>Approx. 2 projects with community based initiatives managing/handling harmful chemicals in a sound manner.</p>	<p>Quantity (in kg) of chemicals of global concern reduced or avoided from utilisation and disposed of appropriately.</p> <p>Number of beneficiaries (gender, youth and disability disaggregated).</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Strategic partnership with IPEN country partners</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 5:</u> <i>CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms (Grant-makers+):</i></p> <p>5.1 SGP supports establishment of “CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms”, leveraging existing and potential partnerships, in at least 50 countries</p>	<p><i>At least 2 CSO- Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms initiated.</i></p> <p><i>Strengthening technical capacities of at least 10 NGOs for environmental Governance and MEA implementation.</i></p>	<p>Approx. 2 projects for/involving improvement environmental governance.</p> <p>At least 2 Strong CSO networks established in the target landscapes.</p>	<p>Number of initiated CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms.</p> <p>Number of influenced National Policies.</p> <p>Number of CSOs with improved capacity.</p> <p>Number of established CSO networks.</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>SGP Global Database</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 6:</u> <i>Promoting Social Inclusion (Grant-makers+):</i></p>	<p><i>At least one gender mainstreaming orientation session is conducted by SGP.</i></p>	<p>100% of projects have appropriate gender balance of participants and target beneficiaries.</p>	<p>Number of beneficiaries (gender, youth, and disability disaggregated).</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p>

1 OP6 project components	2 CPS targets	3 Activities	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
<p>6.1 Gender mainstreaming considerations applied by all SGP country programmes; Gender training utilized by SGP staff, grantees, NSC members, partners</p> <p>6.2 IP Fellowship programme awards at least 12 fellowships to build capacity of IPs; implementation of projects by IPs is supported in relevant countries</p> <p>6.3 Involvement of youth and disabled is further supported in SGP projects and guidelines and best practices are widely shared with countries</p>	<p><i>At least 500 beneficiaries from vulnerable social groups supported for involvement in environmental management and decision making.</i></p>	<p>At least one gender specific project demonstrating gender mainstreaming in environmental governance</p> <p>At least one youth-led project and 20% of projects include activities directly involving young people and children;</p> <p>At least one project include specific work on the inclusion of vulnerable groups.</p>	<p>Number of women and youth led projects supported by SGP.</p>	<p>SGP Global Database</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 7:</u> <i>Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge program (Grant-makers+):</i></p> <p>7.1 Digital library of community innovations is established and provides access to information to communities in at least 50 countries</p> <p>7.2 South-South Community Innovation Exchange Platform promotes south-south exchanges on global environmental issues in at least 20 countries</p>	<p><i>A press conference and/or workshop with subsequent publication on lessons learned (success and failure) and good practices identified.</i></p> <p><i>At least one knowledge fair will be conducted to share experiences lessons learned between the selected landscapes.</i></p>	<p>At least one project involving the establishment of a digital library of community innovations</p> <p>At least one PPP established / and social enterprise supported</p>	<p>Number of community innovations included in the digital data base.</p> <p>Number of knowledge products produced and shared.</p>	<p>SGP Global Database</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>

## 5. Monitoring & Evaluation plan

All GEF-SGP projects will be requested to incorporate a detailed monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan with appropriate indicators in the project document prior to the approval. The involvement of the key stakeholders in project design and monitoring and evaluation will be another important aspect that will contribute to community ownership and enhance participatory M&E. In addition, grant recipient NGOs/CBOs will be requested to submit regular progress reports and a final report. These reports will be the basis for the disbursement of grant funds.

A M&E plan will be designed by NC in order to oversee the implementation of each of the projects in the country portfolio. This plan will be coordinated with the NGOs/CBOs work-plan. In addition, monitoring site visits will be made by the NC to the projects sites. The frequency of these monitoring trips will vary depending on specific needs. However, at least two visits will be carried out during a project's lifetime. Relevant members of the NSC will also participate in monitoring site visits as necessary and when appropriate. After each site visit the NC/NSC member(s) will prepare a monitoring record including information on any changes or deviations from the original indicators established for the project monitoring.

The country programme will also involve independent experts upon request to monitor and/or evaluate GEF-SGP project as appropriate, advice of an independent expert as well as regular consultations with NC and NCS members will be used to strengthen NGOs/CBOs adaptive and results-based management. In addition, capacity-development workshops and M&E trainings for improved community monitoring and adaptive management will be organized if needed.

The NC will continue to maintain the project data base incorporating all accounts of lessons learned and case studies. The table below describes M&E activities, responsible parties and timeframes at the project level.

Table 5. M&E Plan at the Project Level

<b>SGP Individual Project Level</b>		
<b>M&amp;E Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Parties</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Baseline Data Collection	Grantees, NC	At project concept planning and proposal stage
Participatory Project Monitoring	Grantees	Throughout the project implementation
Two or Three Project Progress and Financial Reports <i>(depending on agreed disbursement schedule)</i>	Grantees, NC	At each disbursement request
Project Workplans	Grantees, NC	Throughout the project implementation

NC Project Proposal Site Visit (as necessary / cost effective <sup>6</sup> )	NC	Before the project approval as appropriate
NC Project Monitoring Site Visit (as necessary / cost effective)	NC	On average once a year or as appropriate
NC Project Evaluation Site Visit (as necessary / cost effective)	NC	At the end of the project or as appropriate
Project Final Report	Grantees	Following the completion of the project activities
Project Evaluation Report (as necessary / cost effective)	NC, NSC, External party	Following the completion of the project activities
Prepare project description to be incorporated into global project database	NC	At the beginning of the project, and on-going as appropriate

The NC will also provide UNOPS with quarterly spread sheet reports on expenses and report on an annual basis on technical and substantive projects and programme progress (Performance and Review Assessment). The GEF SGP database will be updated on a monthly basis by NC on the following topics: selection process of the projects, meetings conducted by NSC, project monitoring and evaluation activities including site visits, relationship with project stakeholders, resource mobilization efforts, public outreach, etc.

In general the country programme strategy (CPS) will constitute the basis for the assessment and development of the programme reports on review. CPS will be an active document that will be reviewed and revised jointly by the NC and NSC in agreement with CPMT. The NC will have a leading role in preparing Programme Review Report; however NSC will be closely involved in the assessment of the country programme performance.

The table below describes M&E activities, responsible parties and time frames at the programme level.

Table 6. M&E Plan at the Programme Level

<b>M&amp;E Activity</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Responsible parties</b>	<b>Budget source</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Country Programme Strategy elaboration	Framework for identification of community projects	NC, NSC, country stakeholders, grantee	Covered under preparatory grant	At the start of the operational phase
Annual Country Programme Strategy Review	Learning; adaptive management	NC, NSC, CPMT	Covered under country programme operating costs	Reviews will be conducted on an annual basis <sup>7</sup> to ensure CPS is on track in achieving its outcomes and targets, and to take decisions on any revisions or adaptive management needs

<sup>6</sup>To ensure cost-effectiveness, project level M&E activities, including project site visits, will be conducted on a discretionary basis, based on internally assessed criteria including (but not limited to) project size and complexity, potential and realized risks, and security parameters.

<sup>7</sup> The CPS is a living document, and should be reviewed and updated as deemed necessary by the NSC on a periodic basis as part of the annual strategy review.

NSC Meetings for on-going review of project results and analysis	Assess effectiveness of projects, portfolios, approaches; learning; adaptive management	NC, NSC, UNDP	Covered under country programme operating costs	At least twice per year; one dedicated to M&E and the other to adaptive management at the end of the grant year.
Annual Country Report (ACR)	Enable efficient reporting to NSC	NC presenting to NSC	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per year in June
Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) Survey (based on ACR)	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF; presentation of results to donor	NC submission to CPMT	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per year in July
Strategic Country Portfolio Review	Learning; adaptive management for strategic development of Country Programme	NSC	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per operational phase

In addition, Table 4 will be used for M&E as it describes the logical framework approach of the CPS both at programme and project level and thus provides the basis for M&E. It indicates expected results at the programme level along with respective outcome target indicators and means of verification within the selected landscape/ seascape(s). It also specifies approximate number of projects and features of the project activities planned under respective Outcome.

## 6. Resource mobilization plan

The resource mobilization strategy for SGP OP 6 in Georgia has three levels of operation: local (i.e. municipal), regional and national. Different approaches may need to be utilised at each of those levels due to varying co-funding opportunities and potential sources. Based on successful experience and lessons learnt during OP5, the NC will act in a flexible, timely and adaptive manner to ensure maximum use of available funding opportunities at all levels.

At the project level, every applicant and subsequently awarded organisation will receive support in the form of guidance and mentoring to increase their chances of obtaining sufficient co-financing before and after the project approval. While local sources such as local municipalities proved to be a major source during the previous phase, the NC will ensure that regional and national-level co-funding opportunities are also effectively exploited – the NC will help local applicants to approach those potential donors. During the consultation and scoping exercise it was found that there are a number of large on-going programmes that have regional focus and their priority regions at least in part cover some of the selected landscapes/seascapes of the SGP OP6. Specific programme(s) will be identified

according to the geographical scope of envisaged or submitted applications and the respective applicant will be provided with information and guidance for additional co-funding or follow-up opportunities. Private sector is also regarded as one of the important potential funding sources especially at the project level and the role of the NC will be even more instrumental in this regard. The NC will also explore the potential of project-specific co-funding from various private sources and of developing public private partnerships (PPPs).

Resource mobilisation strategy at the country level will rely on maintaining and further developing existing and establishing new partnerships with bilateral and multilateral agencies and international NGOs (World Bank, USAID, GIZ, WWF, IUCN, CNF<sup>8</sup>) as well as with on-going large scale programmes (see Table 2), private sector and governmental programmes, and of course with UNDP's other programmes and projects in Georgia. Bilateral meetings and workshops will be organised with the above organisations to present OP5 results and CPS for OP6 emphasising co-funding and cost-sharing needs and opportunities. The GEF SGP funding opportunities and achievements for exploring new funding opportunities and to highlight the role of UNDP will be presented at donor coordination meetings.

The NSC with its highly representative composition from governmental, academic, international and nongovernmental sectors is also considered as a powerful instrument of raising additional funds both at the project and country level.

In addition, opportunities for the SGP to serve as a delivery mechanism will be thoroughly explored and utilised based on previous experience.

## 7. Risk Management Plan

Table 7. Description of risks identified in OP6

<b>Describe identified risk</b>	<b>Degree of risk (low, medium, high)</b>	<b>Probability of risk (low, medium, high)</b>	<b>Risk mitigation measure foreseen</b>
Lack of capacity among the local NGOs to plan and implement projects derived from the local and landscape context.	Medium	Medium	Extensive explanatory and guidance work will be conducted in each of the selected landscapes; NGO/NGO partnerships will be actively encouraged to achieve greater impact at the landscape level; the possibility of a short-term targeted grant for local NGO capacity building will be considered if necessary.
Political instability or escalation in areas near the occupied territories.	High	Low	The respective applicant will be requested to come up with an alternative scenario(s) to pursue should the situation occur.

<sup>8</sup> Caucasus Nature Fund

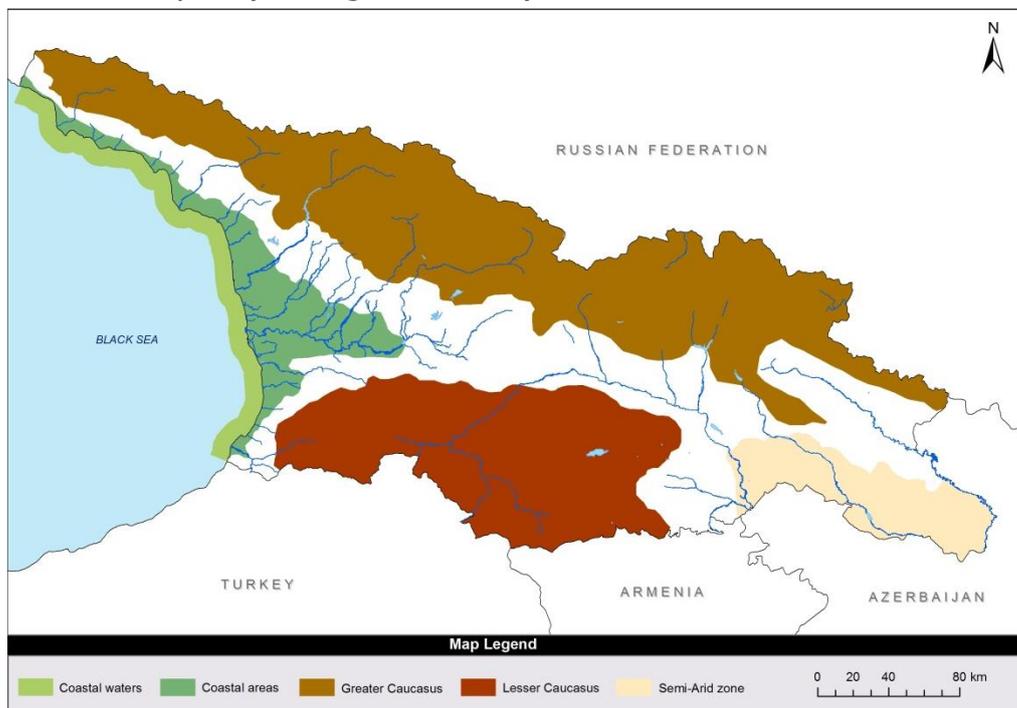
Risks associated with occupational health and safety	Medium to High	Medium	For projects involving high risk activities (such as fieldwork in high mountains, hazardous chemicals, etc.) the proposal will have to include detailed safety measures and risk mitigation/management plans.
Extreme weather and disasters	Medium to High	Medium	Project components sensitive to extreme weather conditions and/or disasters will be identified and relevant mitigation or preventive measures will be drafted.
Lack of co-funding and poor sustainability of projects.	Medium	Low	Meetings/workshops/press conferences will be conducted to promote SGP OP6 and mobilise additional resources at various levels.
Disproportional interest and uneven distribution of applications among the different strategic initiatives.	Medium	High	Extensive promotional and explanatory work will be conducted on the ground to ensure that proposals cover the whole diversity of thematic areas.
Low interest among vulnerable social groups.	Medium	Medium	In addition to the planned activities relevant national advocacy groups (such as women's and youth organisations) will be invited to get involved and promote SGP OP6.

## Annex 1: 6th Operational Phase (OP6) GEF Small Grants Programme STAR Fund grant allocation

In OP6, the government of Georgia has endorsed US\$287,151 to the GEF SGP Georgia under its allocation of the GEF System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) for community based projects in Climate Change focal area.

In order to promote SGP's integrated approach and leverage partnerships, up to 20% of the total STAR grant funds can be used to support focal areas other than the ones allocated the STAR resource (including International Waters, Chemical/Waste, and Capacity Development).

The SGP Georgia will fund projects in above mentioned focal areas in 4 selected landscapes (see figure below) as defined in CPS.



**Fig. 1** Selected target landscapes/seascapes for OP6<sup>9</sup>

Type of Project funded from STAR fund, that will be prioritized by SGP OP6 strategic initiative, are as following:

### **Energy access co-benefits:**

- Projects dedicated to the promotion and application of sustainable energy technologies at the municipal and local level and energy efficient initiatives at the local level, especially in the construction sector.
- Promotion of knowledge management, awareness raising and skills development on alternative energy sources.

### **International waters:**

<sup>9</sup> The Greater Caucasus mountains (>1,200 meters above sea level) The Lesser Caucasus mountains (>1,200 meters above sea level) Black Sea coast (<100 meters above sea level) and marine waters up to 10 km off the coast The semi-arid zone of Georgia

- Support integrated management of water resources and watersheds in transboundary river basins.
- Promote community based water resource management initiatives and application of innovative approaches.
- Support public awareness raising and public participation in water management issues and governance and integrated watershed management.

### **Local to global chemicals coalitions:**

- Encouraging local communities to use environmentally friendly alternatives to chemicals and products containing heavy metals.
- Supporting the phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern.
- Projects involving awareness raising and trainings in POPs, ODSs, harmful chemicals and other pollutants, especially focussing on women as main users and decision makers on the use of those substances or products containing them.
- Supporting e-waste recycling initiatives

### **Capacity Development (social inclusion/knowledge management and CSO-government dialog platform establishment)**

- Capacity strengthening of decision makers, municipalities and community organizations for their effective involvement in environmental issues, and their awareness raising in concepts of green economy and ecosystems services;
- Empowering local communities to become more involved in environmental decision making processes, and implementation of local policies (such as environmental impact assessment initiatives, municipalities' sustainable energy development action plans, etc.)
- Ensure the involvement/participation of women and youth of different social and cultural groups in income generation activities and development of social enterprises that are based on sustainable use of resources and environmentally friendly technologies.
- Support involvement of the women and youth in the awareness raising and advocacy promotion activities, especially those, which positively affect people's attitudes and behaviour and society's perceived role in solving environmental problems
- Involvement of public education resource centres and other relevant institutions to promote wider experience and knowledge sharing;