

## SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY FOR OP7

### GEORGIA





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**OP7 Financial Resources - SGP Country Programme (estimated US\$)<sup>1</sup>**

Total SGP Grants to date since (2012):	<b>USD 1,737,151</b>
OP7 GEF Core Funds:	USD \$ 500,000
OP7 GEF STAR Funds:	<b>USD \$ 0</b>
Other funds (secured)	<b>USD \$ 0</b>
Other funds (expected/to be mobilized)	<b>USD \$ 0</b>

**BACKGROUND**

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

Action at the local level by civil society and community-based organizations, including women groups, youth, and persons with disabilities is recognized essential to form multi-stakeholder alliances to deliver global environmental benefits and contribute to the GEF-7 Programming Directions, UNDP’s Strategic Plan 2018-2021, and national priorities to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals and other international commitments.<sup>2</sup>

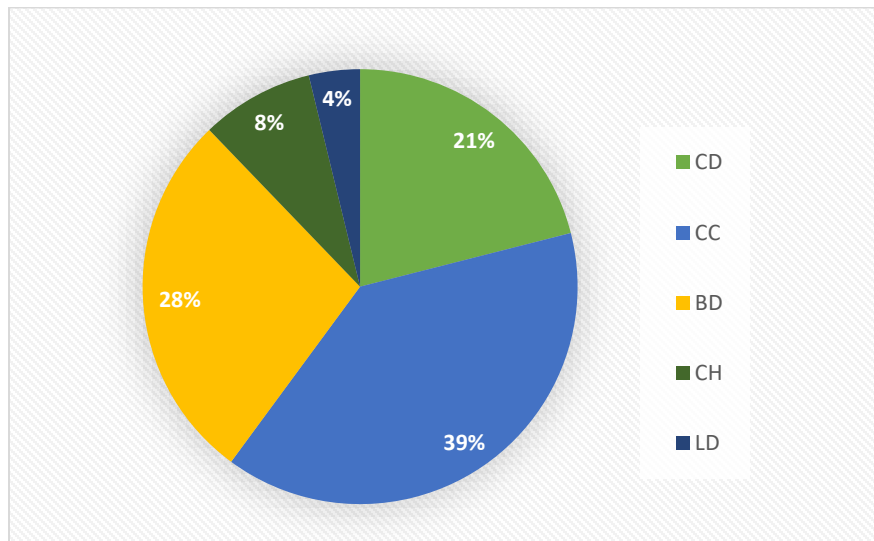
Building on its over 26 years of successful operations in total over 133 countries, the 7<sup>th</sup> Operational Phase of the SGP aims “to promote and support innovative, inclusive and scalable initiatives, and foster multi stakeholder partnerships at the local level to tackle global environmental issues in priority landscapes and seascapes.”

**1 SUMMARY: Key Results/Accomplishments**

<sup>1</sup> The level of SGP OP7 resources is an estimated total of: (i) the GEF7 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). SGP countries with remaining OP6 balances that have not been pipelined will be expected to use these balances in line with the OP7 strategic approach in order to be coherent in terms of SGP programming and results expected.

<sup>2</sup> The initial SGP OP7 concept was incorporated into the strategic directions for the overall GEF-7 replenishment negotiations in 2017, and subsequently approved by the GEF Council paper “GEF Small Grants Programme: Implementation Arrangements for GEF-7” (GEF/C.54/05.rev) in June 2018.

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. In 2017, Country Programme Strategy for the GEF-6 Operational Phase (OP) was approved and the programme continued. During OP6 \$987.151 was allocated to SGP Georgia from both CORE and STAR funds. The allocated funds were committed to a total of 39 grant projects in following GEF SGP thematic areas highlighted in Fig. 1. In total, combining OP5 and OP6, SGP Georgia allocated USD **1,737,151 (fund includes both CORE and STAR resources)** to a total of 72 grant projects.



**Figure 1.** Distribution of SGP OP 6 grant funds by thematic area (CC – climate change; BD – biodiversity; CD – capacity development; LD- land degradation; CH – chemicals; IW- international waters;)

SGP OP6 Georgia generated over USD 1 240 788 as co-financing, which included USD 758 156 cash contribution from various international donors, private sector and local governments. OP5 and OP6 combined produced USD 2 164 442 as co-financing including USD 1 166 620 in cash from a number of international donors, private sector and local governments.

SGP Georgia projects in OP6 had concrete achievements generating the global environmental benefits and contributing to the fulfilment of the GEF’s mandate. The highest number of projects (11 i.e. about 34%) with a total budget of 39% of all grant funds were supported in the field of climate change. The projects in this thematic area focused on (i) implementing low carbon energy efficient technologies and renewable energy sources (such as solar and biomass) (ii) raising awareness about climate change and low carbon energy technologies, (iii) implementation of “green libraries” for environmental education and promoting a dialogue platform between the government and the society. One of the projects was particularly noteworthy as an example of innovation; the project *Building an energy-efficient multifunctional Api-home* utilised low carbon energy sources and created the first bee therapy facility in Georgia.

Biodiversity was the second largest thematic area by the total allocated funds (28%) and the supported projects were related to the following fields: conservation and sustainable use of Georgian endemic species, eco-tourism development, supporting community conservation actions and empowerment of rural communities, marine aquaculture development, creating education opportunities for local communities living in remote areas. One of the good examples includes Vashlovani PA information center refurbishing and establishment of marketplace and camping site, which will bring additional income for locals and create incentives on local community to be more actively involved in conservation activities of Vashlovani PA.

Waste Management Plan was elaborated for Vashlovani PAs and Number of Community initiatives aiming to reduce or eliminate of open burning of household/municipal wastes and associated unintentional release of PoP were funded in the selected landscapes. Projects focusing on sustainable land management supported remote communities in high mountainous areas to have access to more pastures and to encourage restoration of eroded slopes through joint actions between the communities and the local government. A number of projects were funded outside the selected landscapes. They were mainly focussed on establishing dialogue platforms between local communities and local authorities - one project was especially noteworthy in this thematic area (i.e. *Capacity Development*) – A Municipal Environmental Action Plan was developed for the Chiatura Municipality, which was later officially adopted by the local authorities.

In total, 48% of the funded projects were led by women and 19 projects included youth involvement initiatives through which the SGP country programme contributed to women and youth empowerment and the capacity building of small CBOs. In addition, GEF SGP launched **INNOVATION PROGRAM ON SOCIAL INCLUSION** focusing on PWDs participation Climate Change Adaptation activities and thus involving addressing both environmental and social issues.

## 2 COUNTRY PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

### 2.1 Alignment with National Priorities

Georgia has ratified all three Rio conventions and other relevant protocols, which are directly or indirectly related to the GEF strategic priorities (see Table 1).

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

Conventions and national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	August 1994
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	July 1994
The Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution	January 1994
Strategic Action Plan for the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea	1996
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	October 1999
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

Ecoregional Plan of the Caucasus	2000
Aarhus Convention	2001
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	2002
Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	January 2007
Bern Convention	MAY 2009
Protocol on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Black Sea from Land-Based Sources and Activities	September, 2009
Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol to the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution	September, 2009
Strategic Action Plan for the Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea	2009
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	February 2010
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	April 2011
National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP, 2012-2016)	2012
Minamata Convention (MC) on Mercury	October 2013
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	December 2014
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	2014-2020
Social-economic Development Strategy of Georgia "GEORGIA 2020"	2014
UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	2015
Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) for the UN SDGs	2015
Government Programme "For Strong, Democratic and Unified Georgia"	December, 2015
Strategy for Agricultural Development in Georgia (2015-2020)	2015
National Waste Management Strategy	2016
Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Paris Accord	May 2017

## 2.2 Gaps and Opportunities

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 2014-2020 (NBSAP) 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 growing for the public to get involved in environmental decision making and management issues, the overall interest in such matters remains 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 OP7 Strategic Priorities of the SGP Country Programme

In alignment with the agreed global OP7 Strategic Initiatives, below are described the priorities of SGP Georgia Programme that are based on needs and opportunities at the country level and the potential for complementarity and synergy of the selected OP7 Strategic Initiatives with GEF, UNDP Country Office/UN Agency, government funded, and any other donor/NGOs funded projects and programmes for collaboration and co-financing are identified.

**Table 2.** Below aligns SGP Country Programme with SGP OP7 Strategic Initiatives and Country priorities/Projects/Programmes

1	2	3
SGP OP7 Strategic Initiatives - Global	SGP Country Programme’s OP7 Priorities	SGP Country Programme’s complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and programmes
<p><b><i>Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species</i></b></p> <p>Key objectives/focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve management effectiveness of protected areas through ICCAs and shared governance with private sector and government.</li> <li>• Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.)</li> <li>• Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve management effectiveness of protected areas through increased community participation</li> <li>• Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.)</li> <li>• Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trans Boundary Joint Secretariat for the southern Caucasus (TJS) (phase III)</li> <li>• Support to Eligible Parties to Produce the Sixth National Report to the CBD (Europe, CIS and Mongolia) (Implementing Agencies- United Nations Environment Programme/ Executive Agencies- Environment Ministries in the participating countries)2021-2030</li> <li>• Membership in IUCN Green List – IUCN /German Government</li> <li>• Enhancing financial sustainability of the Protected Areas system in Georgia (UNDP/GEF)</li> <li>• Eco-Corridors Fund in the Caucasus (ECF) A partnership for Living Landscapes – WWF / BMZ.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems (mountains, SIDS, etc.).</li> <li>• Increase diversification and livelihood improvement</li> <li>• Remove deforestation from supply chain and expanded restoration of degraded lands.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase diversification and livelihood improvement</li> <li>• Remove deforestation from supply chain and expanded restoration of degraded lands.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancing Resilience of Agricultural Sector in Georgia (ERASIG) IFAD/GEF;</li> <li>• Improving Food Quality and Safety through Capacity Building in Georgia’s Dairy Sector (FAO)</li> <li>• GCP/GEO/011/EC ENPARDIII - Improving the Agriculture Sector in Georgia – FAO Georgia; Implementing period: January 2018 – November 2022;</li> <li>• GCP/GEO/012/AUS - Strengthening capacities of</li> </ul>

		<p>stakeholders for the implementation of the Strategy for Agricultural Development in Georgia 2015-2020 and the Rural Development Strategy of Georgia 2017-2020 – FAO Georgia; Implementing period: December 2018 – November 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GEF Support to UNCCD 2018 National Reporting Process – Umbrella II</li> <li>• Improving farm productivity in Georgia through dual vocational education and training -Embassy of Switzerland in Georgia/ Partners: UNDP/Ministry of Education and Science/ Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture. 2018-2022</li> <li>• USAID – Agriculture Programme (CNFA)</li> <li>• USAID – Economic Security Programme (DAORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND RURAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN MTSKHETA-MTIANETI REGION – ELKANA/ADA)</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Low-carbon energy access co-benefits</i></b></p> <p>Support implementation of Paris Agreement and the NDCs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods.</li> <li>• Promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods.</li> <li>• Promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biomass Energy and EE Technologies as a Sustainable Energy Solutions for Georgian CoM signatories (EEC Georgia/EU).</li> <li>• Strengthening the Climate Adaptation Capacities in Georgia (UNDP/the overall initiative funded by Green Climate Fund (GCF), Government of Georgia and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). 2018-2025</li> <li>• Piloting innovative financing for climate adaptation technologies</li> </ul>



		<p>in medium-sized cities (GEF). Implementing Agencies- United Nations Industrial. Development Organization. Executing Agencies- Network Members and/or Consortium Partners of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stabilizing GHG Emissions from Road Transport Through Doubling of Global Vehicle Fuel Economy: Regional Implementation of the Global Fuel Economy Initiative (GFEI) Funding Source- GEF Trust Fund.</li> <li>• Implementing Agencies- United Nations Environment Programme. Executing Agencies- FIA Foundation (GFEI Secretariat).</li> <li>• Strengthening the Climate Adaptation Capacities in the South Caucasus-EDA (Embassy of Switzerland in Georgia, Project partners Contract partner</li> <li>• International or foreign NGO United Nations Organization (UNO) Other international or foreign NGO North United Nations Development Programme. Other partners-</li> <li>• UNDP Georgia (for the outcomes 1&amp;2) and NGO Sustainable Caucasus (for the regional outcome 3), represented by the consortium of the University of Geneva and NGO Sustainable Caucasus. The project's Georgia's component, implemented by UNDP, is part of a larger endeavour, co-funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Government of Georgia) 2017-2023.</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Georgia’s Fourth National Communication and Second Biennial Update Report to the UNFCCC (BUR) – UNDP</li> <li>• EU4Climate</li> <li>• Development and implementation of the low emission and climate resilient policies in Eastern Partnership countries- UNDP</li> <li>• ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND RURAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN MTSKHETA-MTIANETI REGION – CENN/ADA</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved capacities to promote community-driven, socially inclusive and integrated solutions to address low-emission and resilient urban development</li> <li>• Demonstrated innovative socially-inclusive urban solutions/ approaches (including waste and chemical management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity)</li> <li>• Implement public-private partnership approach for low carbon energy access for marginalized urban communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved capacities to promote community-driven, socially inclusive and integrated solutions to address low-emission and resilient urban development</li> <li>• Demonstrated innovative socially-inclusive urban solutions/ approaches (including waste and chemical management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity)</li> <li>• Implement public-private partnership approach for low carbon energy access for marginalized urban communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Piloting innovative financing for climate adaptation technologies in medium-sized cities (GEF)</li> <li>• Green Cities: Integrated Sustainable Transport for Batumi and Ajara- UNDP</li> <li>• Reducing the risk of climate-driven disasters in Georgia (UNDP) / GCF</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote/enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, strategy development related to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote/enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, strategy development related to global environment and sustainable development issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UNIDO Regional Resources Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP)</li> <li>• Fostering Regional and Local Development in Georgia – UNDP</li> </ul>

<p>global environment and sustainable development issues</p>		<p>–2018-2021 Swish Cooperation office</p>
<p><b>Enhancing social inclusion (mandatory)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote targeted initiatives</li> <li>Mainstream social inclusion in all projects (e.g. women/girls, youth, and persons with disabilities)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote targeted initiatives</li> <li>Mainstream social inclusion in all projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A more inclusive job market for women in the South Caucasus-EDA (01.11.2017 - 31.07.2021)</li> <li>Human Rights for All- UNDP</li> <li>Gender Equality in Georgia 2015-2020 UN Joint Programme – government of Sweden</li> <li>Upscaling WASH Initiatives by Providing Essential Social Services for Women and Youth in Disadvantaged Rural Communities of Georgia (CENN)</li> <li><u>Protecting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</u> (UNDP)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Knowledge Management (mandatory)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities</i></li> <li><i>Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs</i></li> <li><i>Conduct South-South Exchanges to promote technology transfer and replication of good practices</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities</i></li> <li><i>Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs</i></li> <li><i>Conduct South-South Exchanges to promote technology transfer and replication of good practices</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harmonization of Information Management for Improved Knowledge and Monitoring of the Global Environment in Georgia UNDP/GEF</li> </ul>
<p><b>Results Management, Monitoring &amp; Evaluation (mandatory)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Administer new M&amp;E strategy in country programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Results Management, Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Administer new M&amp;E strategy in country programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms</i></li> </ul>	

### **3 OP7 PRIORITY LANDSCAPES/SEASCAPES & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

#### **3.1 Grantmaking Within the Priority Landscape/Seascapes<sup>3</sup>**

##### **a) Process for selecting priority landscapes and seascapes**

The target landscapes/seascapes for OP7 in Georgia in which most of OP7 grant-making will be focused remain the same as those for OP6 as decided by the SGP National Steering Committee. The rationale for this decision was mainly the fact that the national priorities remained largely unchanged in respect of different parts of the country and no significant changes were noted with regard to the criteria that were originally used for selecting those landscapes/seascapes for OP6.

The target landscapes/seascapes were originally 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) (Presently MEPA) 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.

##### **b) Selected Landscapes/Seascapes for OP7**

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 still considered the most vulnerable parts of the country to climate change. Adaptation to climate change remain a priority for these landscapes, where the most vulnerable sectors include agriculture, water resources, and biodiversity.

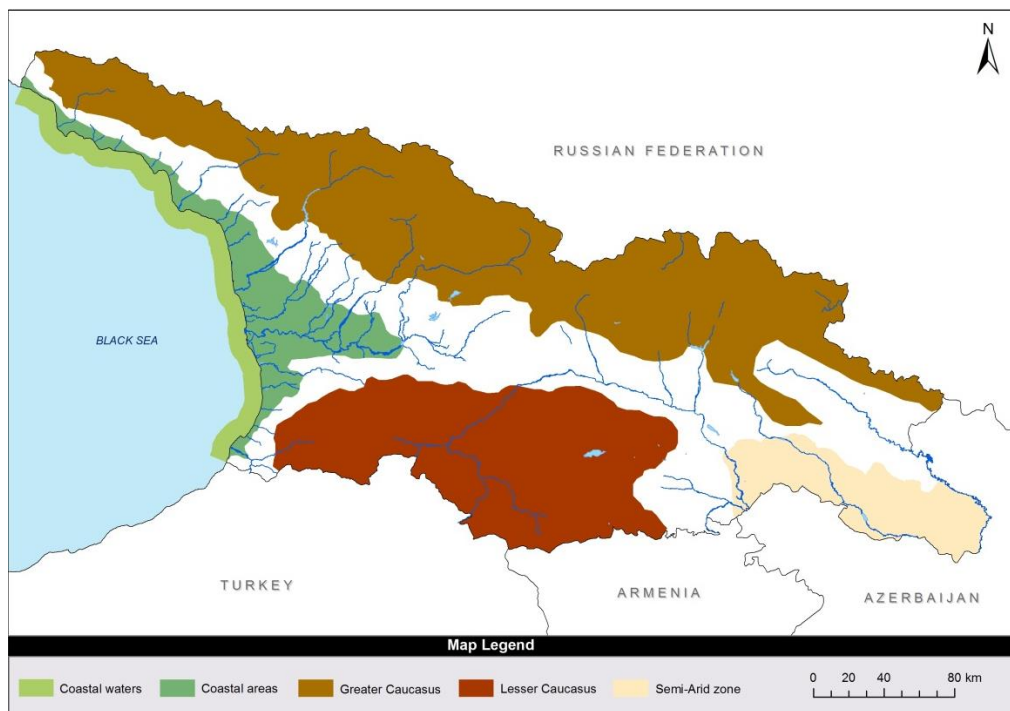
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<sup>3</sup> Refer to the various guidance documents on landscape/seascape selection and assessments.

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:

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** Priority landscapes/seascapes for OP7

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.

As mentioned above, the same land/seascapes from OP6 were selected because the national priorities remained largely unchanged in respect of different parts of the country and no significant changes were noted with regard to the criteria that were originally used for selecting those landscapes/seascapes for OP6. SGP has been investing in this area since 2013. The SGP National Steering Committee discussed in detail various options such as reducing the total number of target landscapes and evaluated advantages and disadvantages of doing so. Finally, it was decided not to change the target land/seascapes due to the following: (i) each of the OP6 target land/seascape remained important due to their biodiversity and other features, (ii) despite remarkable achievements of OP6, it was obvious that continuation in the same areas would permit even greater cumulative impact. In addition, local NGOs would have been given yet another opportunity to further develop and contribute to the sustainable development of their respective regions as well as better perform at a landscape level.

### **c) OP7 Strategic Initiatives in the landscapes/seascapes**

In order to ensure synergies between various initiatives conducted within the same landscape/seascape, the proposals will be considered in the context of the given landscape and those with clear multifocal/integrated 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. While the focus of OP7 will be mostly on selected priority land/seascapes and community-driven and locally implemented initiatives, many of the prioritized OP7 strategic initiatives require wider support primarily at the national level. OP7 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.

General SGP Georgia country programme niches by SGP OP7 strategic initiatives are as following:

1. Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species
  - Improve management effectiveness of protected areas with increased community participation
  - Improved community-led biodiversity-friendly natural resource use practices and approaches, including agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.
  - Enhanced community-led actions for threatened species conservation, including addressing human-wildlife conflicts.
  - Access and benefit sharing of genetic resources, particularly in support of local's traditional knowledge and customary rights.
2. Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, leading to food security
  - Increased efficiency and effectiveness of overall environmentally sound food production and value chain, including certification schemes of organic agriculture, fair trade, and others;
  - Agrobiodiversity conservation, including extending support to producer networks, movements and value chains among small-holder farmers

- Promotion of agro ecological production methods, including diversification and improved livelihoods; and
- Community-based sustainable fisheries, including promotion of traditional fisheries practices and knowledge
- Implement community-based actions to remove deforestation from supply chain and expand restoration of degraded lands.

3. Low-carbon energy access co-benefits

- Promotion of renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods, including innovative and catalytic financing.
- Support off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas.

4. Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions

- Improved capacities to promote community-driven, socially inclusive and integrated solutions to address low-emission and resilient urban development by strengthening capacities of key service providers at the local municipality level to promote community-driven and integrated solutions to address low-emission and resilient urban development.
- Demonstrate innovative socially-inclusive urban solutions/ approaches (including waste and chemical management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity).
- Promote public-private partnership approach for low carbon energy access for marginalized urban communities.

**Table 3.** below describes which OP7 strategic initiatives will be prioritized for each of the four selected landscape/seascapes.

Landscape/Seascape	SGP Country Programme’s OP7 Priorities
The Greater Caucasus mountains (>1,200 meters above sea level)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.)</li> <li>• Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species</li> <li>• Increase diversification and livelihood improvement</li> <li>• Remove deforestation from supply chain and expanded restoration of degraded lands.</li> <li>• Promote renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods.</li> <li>• Promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas.</li> <li>• Improved capacities to promote community-driven, socially inclusive and integrated solutions to address low-emission and resilient urban development</li> <li>• Promote/enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, strategy development related to global environment and sustainable development issues</li> </ul>

Landscape/Seascape	SGP Country Programme's OP7 Priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve management effectiveness of protected areas with increased community participation</li> </ul>
The Lesser Caucasus mountains (>1,200 meters above sea level)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.)</li> <li>• Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species</li> <li>• Increase diversification and livelihood improvement</li> <li>• Improve management effectiveness of protected areas with increased community participation.</li> <li>• Remove deforestation from supply chain and expanded restoration of degraded lands.</li> <li>• Promote renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods.</li> <li>• Promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas.</li> <li>• Promote/enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, strategy development related to global environment and sustainable development issues</li> </ul>
Black Sea coast (<100 meters above sea level) and marine waters up to 10 km off coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.)</li> <li>• Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species</li> <li>• Remove deforestation from supply chain and expanded restoration of degraded lands.</li> <li>• Promote renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods.</li> <li>• Promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas.</li> <li>• Improved capacities to promote community-driven, socially inclusive and integrated solutions to address low-emission and resilient urban development</li> <li>• Demonstrated innovative socially-inclusive urban solutions/ approaches (including waste and chemical management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity)</li> <li>• Implement public-private partnership approach for low carbon energy access for marginalized urban communities</li> <li>• Promote/enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, strategy development related to global environment and sustainable development issues</li> </ul>
The semi-arid zone of Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.)</li> <li>• Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species</li> <li>• Increase diversification and livelihood improvement</li> <li>• Remove deforestation from supply chain and expanded restoration of degraded lands.</li> </ul>



Landscape/Seascape	SGP Country Programme’s OP7 Priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods.</li> <li>• Promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas.</li> <li>• Improved capacities to promote community-driven, socially inclusive and integrated solutions to address low-emission and resilient urban development</li> <li>• Demonstrated innovative socially-inclusive urban solutions/ approaches (including waste and chemical management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity) Improve management effectiveness of protected areas with increased community participation</li> <li>• Implement public-private partnership approach for low carbon energy access for marginalized urban communities</li> <li>• Promote/enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, strategy development related to global environment and sustainable development issues</li> </ul>

**Post COVID recovery**

Confronted with the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, the world is now facing the greatest health, economic and social challenge in the recent times and Georgia is not the exemption. While the work of GEF Small Grants Programme, implemented by UNDP, is focused on addressing long term environmental challenges and fostering community resilience, SGP will contribute and address relevant recovery efforts in line with the agreed SGP Strategic Initiatives under its Project Document.

“SGP Georgia offer to the COVID-19” will focus on the recovery by addressing the root causes of vulnerability and enhancing community resilience, in line with the existing SGP project document, strategy and approaches agreed by GEF and UNDP. SGP Georgia could support community-based initiatives related to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources that could generate both environmental and economic benefits as well as to contribute in providing access to reliable and affordable low carbon energy, particularly to the remote areas and vulnerable communities, that are essential for creating green jobs, improved communication, sustainable agricultural production and supply chain; The activities will take in consideration particularly the most vulnerable community affected by the COVID-19 (e.g. women, youth, and persons with disabilities). SGP may also support medical waste management at community and household levels, including waste reduction and awareness raising through waste management project; SGP could also support dissemination of information and raise awareness to reduce health and environmental risks associated with improper handling of waste.

**3.2 Grantmaking Outside the Priority Landscapes/Seascapes**

SGP OP7 will support Initiatives to further enhance innovation, inclusion, and impact. More specifically special attentions will be given to:

- *CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms*



- *Social Inclusion and*
- *Knowledge Management*

SGP in Georgia will expand its innovative CSO-Government Dialogue Platforms towards a greater engagement of private sector to leverage its potential to invest and support sustainability at the local level. These platforms will also provide opportunities to discuss possible shifts in relevant policies and practices to promote sustainability.

In OP7, SGP will strongly support CSO participation in ongoing national dialogues and legislative processes so that CSOs take an active role in the preparation of national environmental legislation as well as high profile forums focusing on investment, innovative technologies and other topics bringing together a wide range of stakeholders including the government, private sector and civil society.

SGP in Georgia will help to promote role of CSOs, create a “bridge” to link the grassroots to national/local policy-makers for policy/program influence, facilitate the uptake of good practices, and enhance communications

Empowerment of women, youth and persons with disabilities, will be further enhanced through both specific initiatives/projects that targets these populations as well as mainstreaming inclusive approach through all SGP projects on environment and livelihood improvement.

With regards to knowledge management, specific knowledge management initiatives will be envisioned to strengthen project and country level activities with a focus to scale up, replicate and mainstream successes and disseminate the learnings.

***a) CSO-Government-Private Sector 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 the existing opportunities for an effective dialogue between CSOs and local governments in each of the selected priority 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 be involved in existing dialogue platforms, among other things by facilitating that relevant local CSOs are invited. In OP7 SGP Georgia will expand the dialogue platform for greater engagement of private sector; CSO-government private sector/business forum will be facilitated to foster CSO-Govt-private sector dialogue on environment.

SGP Georgia will continue to be actively involved in all relevant major policy making processes and will make special efforts to 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 NBSAP and NEAP (National Environmental Action Plan). 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.

***b) Promoting Social Inclusion, including gender equality and women’s empowerment***



The SGP Georgia during its OP5 and OP6 had approaches that promoted social inclusion by working and engaging with women, youth, and persons with disabilities. It will further enhance its approaches for the involvement and active participation of vulnerable groups as key stakeholders for environmental action and advocacy. To this end, all SGP supported projects will ensure that gender mainstreaming considerations are applied consistently. At least 40% of SGP projects will be led by women or institute mechanisms for increased participation and decision-making by women; women and girls constitute at least 50% of beneficiaries of all SGP projects. More specifically GEF SFP will be enhancing women's decision-making capabilities regarding land, forests, and other biological resources they use; promoting women's equal engagement in community, rural and urban planning processes; providing policy level training opportunities to help women participate in decision-making forums and will be creating opportunities from (alternative) sustainable livelihoods and income-generation opportunities such as conservation, rehabilitation and restoration actions for women;

The SGP will continue to demonstrate the involvement of youth in at least 30 of its projects. Guidelines and best practices on engaging youth will be developed and widely shared with interested stakeholders. Grantmaking will include direct involvement of youth in project activities through working with youth as individuals and as organizations/ networks/ councils for tackling global environmental issues. Support to capacity development will include investments in skills trainings, mentorship programs and etc. In OP7, SGP will also venture into developing youth thematic focus such as in climate change and urban waste management.

With regards persons with disabilities (PwD), SGP programming will demonstrate and generate lessons and good practices on how environment related projects have the potential to actively promote participation of PwD to ensure concrete results on both environment and socio-economic issues. Engagement with disabled persons organizations will help integrate the perspectives of the disable communities into the guidelines.

SGP will invest in efforts to promote integrated approaches that address all social inclusion aspects – gender, youth, PwD – wherever possible, feasible and appropriate.

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. 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.

### ***c) Knowledge Management***

During OP7, 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.



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.

In addition, organizing thematic training workshops, establishing and nurturing networks of NGO's and CBO's and working with the government in achieving national environmental priorities will be supported during OP7. These country level initiatives will support SGP grantee partners' networks and facilitate learning and sharing.

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.

## 4 COMMUNICATION PLAN

The communication strategy of SGP OP7 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.

SGP operates through a multi-stakeholder approach engaging a range of stakeholders including NGOs, CBOs, the private sector, government, academia, and donor partners.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) are both beneficiaries and direct participants in SGP through their inclusion in NSCs. 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. On the other hand, CSO will be taking key roles related to knowledge sharing and policy advocacy. Although grants are targeted towards CSOs particularly community-based and non-governmental organizations, a broad range of stakeholders are engaged as active partners in program management and during grant implementation, including research institutes, local and municipal governments, international NGOs, as well as national and international volunteers. So this network will be used for lessons learning and knowledge sharing opportunities and for promoting partnership and advocacy to raise awareness and mobilize the resources for global environment and sustainable development.

In GEF 7, SGP financed projects will give more attention to the promotion and support of innovative and scalable initiatives at the local level, It also will support those projects that could serve as incubators of innovation, with the potential for broader replication; in order to support to scale up and replicate best practices visual media, website and social media, various events, reports and publications, newsletter, and many other innovative ideas will be supported during projects implementations and for targeting broader audience.

In 2021 there is 10th years of University of SGP Project in Georgia so wide range of events e.g. knowledge Fairs will be organizes and support for showing how does it to bring the voices and knowledge of civil society to national level and how it empower and improve the skills of local and vulnerable communities.

## 5 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND PARTNERSHIP PLAN

The resource mobilization strategy for SGP OP7 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 experiences and lessons learnt during OP5 and OP6, the NC will act in a flexible, timely and adaptive manner to ensure maximum use of available funding opportunities at all levels.

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

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 phases, the NC will ensure that regional and national-level co-funding opportunities are also effectively exploited – whenever/if information on possible funding sources becomes available to the NC, she/he will assist local applicants to approach those potential donors, if appropriate. 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 OP7. 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 considered 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).

### 5.2 Co-financing Opportunities

Resource mobilisation strategy at the country level will rely on maintaining and further developing existing and/or establishing new partnerships with bilateral and multilateral agencies and international NGOs (EU/ENPARD, USAID, ADA, SIDA GIZ, WWF, IUCN, CNF<sup>4</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 agencies and organisations to present OP5/OP6 results and CPS for OP7 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 toward achieving UN 2020 SDGs will be presented at donor coordination meetings. Joint ENPARD and SGP initiatives can foster contribution in the field of sustainable

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<sup>4</sup> Caucasus Nature Fund

agriculture and food security; GEF funding can play an important role as top-up funding for ongoing WWF and CNF initiatives in such areas as biodiversity conservation and PA sustainable management.

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 unitised based on previous experience.

## 6 Grantmaker Plus & Partnership Opportunities

The SGP Georgia has strong network with membership of NSC local government partner NGOs and etc.; these network enables to assist communities and CSOs to access other donors and funding facilities through active sharing of information about funding opportunities And/or for making joint effort with potential partner for environment E.g. NC has been participated in other donors grant proposals evaluation such and BP eco-grants programme and EPF air pollution campaign competition, this activities benefit both SGP and other donor activities in terms of knowledge sharing, to avoid duplication and potentially to ensure complementary capacity development in the area of environment.

While the funds may not go directly to SGP, this activity can be considered part of resource mobilization as there is increased flow of resources to SGP stakeholders through its support. SGP's Grantmakers Plus initiatives will promote an enabling environment to scale up the impacts of SGP Strategic Initiatives through networking and knowledge exchange nationally and where relevant, all of these to extend to regional and global levels.

## 7 RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

**Table 4.** Description of risks identified in OP7

Describe identified risk	Degree of risk (low, medium, high)	Probability of risk (low, medium, high)	Risk mitigation measure foreseen
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.
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 OP7 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 OP7.
Pandemic, Covid19.	Low to High	High	The applicant will be requested to come up with an alternative scenario(s) about how they continuous working in Covid19 situation.

During the implementation of the OP7 CPS this risks will be tracked and reviewed during the annual CPS review and AMR preparation. the degree of risk, or probability of risk, may be adjusted as relevant as well risk mitigation measures will be jointly discussing and agreed with NSC members Identified risks may also be removed and new risks added if necessary with appropriate mitigation measures identified.



## 8 MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

### 8.1 Monitoring Approaches at Project and Country Levels

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, awarded NGO/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 also 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 NGO/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**

SGP Individual Project Level		
M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
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 Work plans	Grantees, NC	Throughout the project implementation
NC Project Proposal Site Visit ( <i>as necessary / cost effective<sup>5</sup></i> )	NC	Before the project approval as appropriate
NC Project Monitoring Site Visit ( <i>as necessary / cost effective</i> )	NC	On average once a year or as appropriate
NC Project Evaluation Site Visit ( <i>as necessary / cost effective</i> )	NC	At the end of the project or as appropriate
Project Final Report	Grantees	Following the completion of the project activities
Project Evaluation Report ( <i>as necessary / cost effective</i> )	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

<sup>5</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.

**Table 6.** M&E Plan at the Country Programme Level

M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible Parties	Budget Source	Timing
Country Programme Strategy elaboration	Framework for action including identification of community projects.	NC, NSC, country stakeholders, grantees	A SGP planning grant to engage consultants may be used to update OP7 CPS.	At start of OP7
As part of NSC meetings, ongoing review of project results and analysis. This includes an Annual CPS Review.	Assess effectiveness of projects, country portfolio; learning; adaptive management.	NC, NSC, UNDP Country Office. Final deliberations shared/ analysed with CPMT colleagues.	Staff time, Country Operating Budget	At least annual review <sup>6</sup> to ensure OP7 CPS is on track to achieve its results and make timely and evidence-based modifications to CPS as may be needed <sup>7</sup> .
Annual Monitoring Report Survey <sup>8</sup>	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF. It serves as the primary tools to record and analytically present results to donors.	NC/PA in close collaboration with NSC. CPMT provides technical guidance support and receives final country submission for further action.	Staff time	Once per year in June- July
Country Portfolio Review	Methodological results capture of the portfolio at a given point to note impact level change as well as broader adoption. The goal is to support reporting to stakeholders, learning, and support to strategic development/	NC, NSC	SGP planning grant to engage consultants may be used to undertake previous operational cycles impact review and utilize lessons for both OP7 CPS development and its implementation.	Once per operational phase

<sup>6</sup> It is recommended that the Annual CPS review is done close to AMR submissions for both processes to benefit from each other (suggested timeframe is May- July).

<sup>7</sup> Please note OP7 CPS will be regarded as a dynamic document and can be updated by the SGP country team and NSC on a periodic basis to reflect any necessary adjustments to ensure maximum impact. This CPS update process should be part of the Annual CPS Review.

<sup>8</sup> Timely and quality country level submissions to *Annual Monitoring Process* are mandatory. As a Global Programme, it enables aggregated reporting by CPMT to GEF, UNDP and other stakeholders.

M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible Parties	Budget Source	Timing
	implementation of CPS.		Global technical M&E support can be expected.	
SGP Database	Ensure recording of all Project and Country Programme inputs in SGP database.	NCs, PAs,	Staff time	Throughout the operational phase. Ensure quality assurance and completion of data prior to annual monitoring cycle (May- June of every year).
Audit	Ensure compliance with project implementation/management standards and norms.	UNOPS / External Contractor. NC/ PA to provide requisite support.	Global Operating Budget	Annually for selected countries on risk-assessment basis

In addition, Table 6 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.

## 8.2 CPS Results Framework

**Table 7: Results Framework of SGP OP7 Country Programme Strategy**

<p><b>Alignment with SDGs:</b>  <i>CPS will contribute to SDG goal 15 (Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss) SDG Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts and SDG Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</i></p>		
<p><b>Synergy with UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD):</b>  <i>CPD is synergized with UNDP Georgia CPD outputs 4.1 By 2020 policy formulation enabled and institutional and legal systems enhanced for environmental governance including DRR climate change ecosystem services chemicals and energy efficiency and 4.2 By 2020 environmental knowledge and information systems enhanced including capacities for regular reporting to international treaties</i></p>		
<p><b>OP7 SGP Programme Goal:</b>  <i>Promote and support innovative, inclusive and impactful initiatives, and foster multi-stakeholder partnerships at the local level to tackle global environmental issues in priority landscapes and seascapes.</i></p>		
1 OP7 SGP CPS Strategic Initiatives	2 OP7 CPS Indicators and Targets	3 Means of verification
<p><b>Strategic Initiative 1:</b>  <b>Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species</b></p> <p>Relevant focus objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve management effectiveness of protected areas with increased community participation</li> <li>• Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.)</li> <li>• Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50 000 hectares of landscapes are under improved management to benefit biodiversity (GEF core indicator 4.1)</li> <li>• At least 3 PAs are positively influenced through the SGP projects.</li> <li>• The local conservation status of at least 2 threatened species is improved.</li> <li>• At least 2 initiatives based on community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches have been implemented/supported through SGP projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports)</li> <li>• Baseline assessment comparison variables (use of conceptual models and partner data as appropriate)</li> <li>• Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</li> <li>• Country Programme Review</li> <li>• SGP case studies, monitoring Site visits.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Strategic Initiative 2:</b> <b>Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security</b></p> <p>Relevant focus objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems (mountains, SIDS, etc.).</li> <li>• Increase diversification and livelihood improvement</li> <li>• Remove deforestation from supply chain and expanded restoration of degraded lands.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1000 hectares of landscapes (land and Forest) under sustainable land management in production systems (GEF core indicator 4.3)</li> <li>• 1500 hectares of degraded agricultural land improved or restoration supported (GEF core indicator 3.1)</li> <li>• At least 2 linkages and partnerships for sustainable food production practices (such as diversification and sustainable intensification) and supply chain management (esp. SMEs) supported through SGP</li> <li>• At least 100 households involved in or benefit from sustainable agriculture fisheries and food security practices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports)</li> <li>• Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</li> <li>• Country Programme Review</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strategic Initiative 3:</b> <b>Low-carbon energy access co-benefits</b> Relevant focus objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods.</li> <li>• Promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 10 KW renewable energy capacity installed using local technologies (e.g. biomass, micro hydro, solar, etc.).</li> <li>• At least 3 of typologies of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations or scaling up and replication supported through SGP</li> <li>• At least 3 communities utilise at least 6 of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations for scaling up and replication.</li> <li>• 50 of households achieving energy access, with co-benefits estimated and valued.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports)</li> <li>• Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database</li> <li>• Country Programme Strategy Review</li> <li>• (NSC inputs)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strategic Initiative 4:</b> <b>Catalysing sustainable urban solutions</b> Relevant focus objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved capacities to promote community-driven, socially inclusive and integrated solutions to address low-emission and resilient urban development</li> <li>• Demonstrated innovative socially-inclusive urban solutions/ approaches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 2 of community-based urban solutions/ approaches (including chemical and waste management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity) deployed.</li> <li>• At least 2 communities have improved capacities to promote community-driven integrated solutions for low-emission and resilient urban development.</li> <li>• At least 2 public private partnerships established through SGP for low carbon</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports).</li> <li>• Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database.</li> <li>• Country Programme Review.</li> </ul>

<p>(including waste and chemical management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement public-private partnership approach for low carbon energy access for marginalized urban communities</li> </ul>	<p><i>energy access for marginalized urban communities.</i></p>	
<p><b>Strategic Initiative 5:</b> <b>CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms</b> Relevant focus objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote/enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, strategy development related to global environment and sustainable development issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>At least 3 representatives from social inclusion groups ( women, youth, persons with disability, farmers, other marginalized groups) supported with meaningful participation in dialogue platforms.</i></li> <li><i>Strengthening technical capacities of at least 5 NGOs/CBOs for environmental Governance and MEA implementation</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports)</li> <li>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), global database</li> <li>Country Programme Review</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strategic Initiative 6:</b> <b>Enhancing social inclusion Relevant focus objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote targeted initiatives</li> <li>Mainstream social inclusion in all projects (e.g. women/girls, youth, and persons with disabilities)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>At least 500 of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment (GEF core indicator 11)</i></li> <li><i>At least 10 of SGP projects led by women and/or mainstream concrete mechanisms for increased participation of women.</i></li> <li><i>At least 3 of SGP projects demonstrate appropriate models of engaging youth</i></li> <li><i>At least 2 of SGP projects demonstrate models of engaging persons with disability.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports).</li> <li>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database.</li> <li>Country Programme Review.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strategic Initiative 7:</b> <b>Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management</b> Relevant focus objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administer new M&amp;E strategy in country programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>At least 2 of SGP projects administering results management modalities in programme design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms.</i></li> <li><i>Monthly updating of SGP database for effective data collection, management and analysis supporting gains in programme performance and learning.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports).</li> <li>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database.</li> <li>Country Programme Review .</li> </ul>