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SGP Country Programme Strategy for utilization of OP5 grant funds

Country: GEORGIA
Resources to be invested: USD 750,000 (core grant)¹

1. INTRODUCTION

The Small Grants Program (SGP) is a country-driven and effective delivery mechanism of funds for poor and vulnerable communities enabling them to transform global environmental policies into the specific local actions and vice versa via provision of lessons and knowledge from the local projects to the policy makers. SGP supports innovative piloting and demonstration of the new methods and models at a local level and scaling up, replication and mainstreaming of global environmental benefits into the local development taking the initiative to provide financial support to the communities to carry out innovative projects in lines with the GEF strategic priorities and local sustainable development objectives/goals.

During the last 20 years, SGP supported more than 120 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.

The Government of Georgia has submitted an application with the endorsement of the UNDP Country Office for the country's participation in the GEF Small Grants Programme. The GEF SGP Steering Committee has made a decision to start up the GEF SGP Georgia for Operational Phase 5 (2011-2014) with GEF Council approving the GEF SGP OP5 PIF incorporating this decision. The SGP country programme was officially

¹ The level of SGP OP5 resources is an estimated total of the GEF core grant allocation, anticipated STAR resources, as well as other sources of third party co-financing.

launched in Georgia with the appointment of the National Coordinator in November 2012.

The programme has allocated US 750,000 from GEF global fund in grants to Civil Society organizations for the next two years; in addition to the grant funds, Country Operating Budget (COB) will be allocated to cover salaries and country operations.

The country has formed its own GEF SGP National Steering Committee (NSC) with the representatives from the government, civil society, academy and UNDP.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN GEORGIA AND SGP STRATEGIES

Biodiversity

Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas through community-based actions

Establishment of the protected areas (PAs) is one of the most important instruments for the effective biodiversity conservation. The first nature reserve was made in Georgia in 1912 in Lagodekhi. Currently there are 50 protected areas comprising 7.1% of the whole territory of Georgia. Although the primary function of the Protected Areas is to ensure conservation of biodiversity, they also have a great scientific research and socio-economic value for the country, especially for the development of the national and international tourism. One of the main gaps of the PAs System is the lack of a unified PA network. Not all the sensitive areas in the country are designated as PAs of Georgia. The lack of global and trans-boundary PAs categories and the low number of ecological corridors should also be emphasized. Another significant (remarkable) problem in the system is ineffective management of PAs, signified (implied) by the lack of management plans, incomplete databases, and unproductive monitoring system deficiencies in the legislation. In addition, the lack of qualified human resources, insufficient equipment and supplies contribute to the problem. Illegal use of natural resources is also among the most important problems in PAs. This illegal use is primarily caused due to difficult socio-economic conditions, conflicting interests for existing among the different stakeholders and low environmental awareness of the population. Most of the problems identified in the PA system are also exacerbated by insufficient funding of the system. Although there is a strong commitment of the Government of Georgia to allocate funds to PAs, reflected in the positive trend of PA budget, existing financing falls far short of the amount required for effective management of the existing protected areas, let alone for the expansion of the system to meet conservation priorities and CBD targets. Apart from inadequate legal, institutional and policy settings, there is a culture-driven disbelief to adopt innovative tools that have never demonstrated success in local circumstances at the site level.

GEF SPG in Georgia will promote the participation and capacity building of the local communities in the design, implementation, and management of projects on protected

areas. GEF SGP will also promote protected area co-management between the government and the local communities where such management models are appropriate. GEF SGP will also encourage national policy reform and incentives to engage the private sector and other stakeholders to improve the financial sustainability of the protected areas. GEF SGP will support projects that aim to improve the management effectiveness of the existing protected areas. This could include support to the trans-boundary protected areas.

Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions

As part of the Caucasus eco-region, Georgia represents one of the biodiversity “hotspots” (currently, by “Conservation International” there are 34 identified biodiversity “hotspots” in the world, which have unique biodiversity and are simultaneously under the significant threat). At the same time, according to the World Wild Fund (WWF), the Caucasus is an eco-region of global importance characterized by species diversity, a high degree of endemism, diversity of vegetation types and rare biomass at global level. Degradation of habitats and loss of endangered species, illegal fishing and hunting practices, ineffective management of the protected areas, lack of the unified protected areas network, absence of the proper databases for biodiversity conservation and sustainable management are the major problems in the field of biodiversity in Georgia. Besides, overgrazing is one of the most significant factors deleteriously affecting biodiversity. Overgrazing is most acute on sub-alpine and alpine pastures of the highlands and in arid ecosystems of southeast Georgia, where numerous domestic livestock (especially sheep) and unregulated grazing have resulted in soil erosion, and reduction of plant cover composition and productivity, which creates ideal conditions for spreading invasive plants. Despite measures undertaken to support sustainable fishery and hunting, high levels of illegal fishing and hunting, the incomplete monitoring system and lack of competent staff in these sectors still remain as the key problem. The existing assessment system for fish stock and hunting species and additional establishment of fishing and hunting quotas needs to be improved. Lack of data complicates defining concrete measures to support sustainable fishing and hunting. These factors are causing a rapid decline in the number of game species and individual populations. Degradation of the Black Sea marine and coastal biodiversity is another issue that needs to be addressed. Fish resources have also significantly decreased in the inland waters of Georgia where invasive species are the major problem. The current state of most fish species (except for sturgeon and the Black Sea salmon species), including endemic forms in inland waters, is still unknown. Despite measures undertaken to support a sustainable fishery, illegal fishing still remains as an acute problem.

GEF SGP Georgia will promote measures to support reduction of the negative impacts that productive sectors exert on biodiversity, particularly outside of the protected areas. GEF SGP will support the development of regulatory and management frameworks to prevent control and manage invasive alien species. GEF SGP will also help to remove the barriers to enhancing, scaling up, replicating, and extending environmental certification systems in productive landscapes and seascapes. GEF SGP will support the development and implementation of policy and regulatory frameworks that provide incentives for private sectors to align their practices and behavior with the principles of sustainable use

and management. To this end, GEF SGP interventions will remove critical knowledge barriers and develop necessary institutional capacities. This will include support for sub-national and local level applications--where implementation can be more effective--of spatial land-use planning that incorporates biodiversity and ecosystem service evaluation.

Climate Change

Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level

CC related problems in Georgia are of greatest concern in those areas being the most vulnerable to CC. It remains unclear what the potential CC impacts are on other regions and specific sectors of Georgia.

Economic growth of the country will inevitably cause increases of GHG emissions. Significant growth is expected in the energy sector, from heat and hot water supply systems. Emissions from industry and agriculture most probably will be increased as well. By reducing GHG emissions at the national level by supplying them with internally generated “clean energy,” Georgia can make an important contribution to the CC mitigation process.

GEF SGP Georgia will step up its efforts in promoting the demonstration, development and transfer of innovative low-carbon technologies that could have significant impact in the long-run reduction of GHG emissions. GEF SGP intervention under this objective will include technical assistance for creating an enabling policy environment for technology transfer, institutional and technical capacity building and establishment of mechanisms for technology transfer. Project activities will also include developing of local capacity to adapt exogenous technologies to the local conditions and to integrate them with endogenous technologies.

Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level

The biggest increase in GHG emission is expected to come from motor transportation in Georgia. Consequently, it is very important to use the GHG emission reduction mechanisms and implement relevant measures in Georgia and especially in big municipalities.

Bicycle roads and promotion of their use, in addition several pioneering initiatives e.g. promoting of energy efficient practices and technologies will be considered by GEF SGP in Georgia. GEF SGP will also focus on viable ideas that can receive support of investors and the government. GEF SGP will also focus on advocacy efforts both at local and national level influencing policy development in the area of low emission transportation options.

Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry

The major share of GHG emissions in developing countries results from land-use change, such as deforestation, and the degradation of soils, forest lands, and other high carbon-sequestering ecosystems. Engaging community-level partners to combat unsustainable land management is critical, as they are the direct users and beneficiaries of well-functioning ecosystems, and are the most vulnerable to climate change. Limited number of community-level stakeholders, CBOs and NGOs has adequate capacity to address Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) issues. The recent increases in the number of geologically related natural disasters occurring in Georgia is thought to have been caused by the effects of global climate change, in particular increased rainfall, temperature and humidity, which can initiate or aggravate geological events such as mudflows, soil erosion etc. In assessments made within Georgia's Second National Communication (SNC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the regions, most vulnerable to CC have been identified. These regions are the Black Sea coastal zone, semi-arid regions (especially, agricultural lands/croplands and grasslands in these regions) and highlands/mountainous areas. The Black Sea coastal zone is affected by several geophysical processes (tectonic movements, sea level rise, storms, floods, underwater flows, at the inflows of rivers, etc.). In semi-arid regions adverse impacts of CC are revealed in increased frequency and strength of droughts, changes in temperature regimes and precipitation totals. Because of these events, agricultural productivity has significantly decreased. Such an abrupt decrease of productivity may seriously threaten food security, a major component of national security. In the highlands, increasing frequency and intensity of flashfloods, landslides and mud-streams/mudflows has caused serious damage to agriculture, forestry, roads and other infrastructure. Within SNC the focus was made on the vulnerability assessment of various systems and economic sectors and the elaboration of adaptation projects and strategies; in response to the CC adaptation strategies, identified in the SNC, there is an on-going project, financially supported by the German government, focusing on the rehabilitation of degraded landscapes and windbreaks through reforestation activities in the Dedoplistskaro region. Georgia is now in the process of developing the Third National Communication for UNFCCC; the assessments are underway but initial findings once again confirm the vulnerability of Black Sea coastal zone and Achara region to land degradation, agriculture and extreme events.

The lack of awareness regarding CC issues and their insufficient integration into development plans of various sectors impedes finding and implementing effective ways of addressing the problem.

In OP5 SGP Georgia will support reduction of deforestation, community level reforestation/afforestation efforts and peatland restoration activities. GEF SGP will support development and capacity building of civil society stakeholders in participatory monitoring and empower them to engage in national policy and formulation of the national emission recounting initiatives. All this will assist in developing the capacity of NGOs/CBOs and community-level stakeholders to address LULUCF issues.

Land Degradation

Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities

Forests are the most common habitat type in Georgia, covering 39.9 % of the total area of the country. Forests are found throughout the country, with the exception of the Javakheti plateau. Khevi and mountainous Tusheti are relatively poor in forests. Oriental beech (*Fagus orientalis*) tends to be the dominant species, although there are many other tree species existing in the forests. Although Georgia belongs to the number of countries rich in forests, average forest stand density for considerable part of the forests has reached the critical threshold. Currently, the country's forests are threatened by unsustainable forest use (logging), overgrazing and not environmentally sound forest practices. Grazing levels in the forests around settlements are in most instances far from above carrying capacity. Overgrazing prevents regeneration of herb, shrub and tree layers and causes permanent damage to soils. Lack of regeneration and the gradual disappearance of protective vegetation lead to soil erosion, land slide and forest habitat loss. Rural poverty, lack of awareness among graziers, and the lack of alternative livelihood opportunities contributes to the problem a lot. Rural households are driven by poverty, lack of alternative energy supplied and lack of alternative livelihoods to cut or purchase firewood and use forests illegally for grazing of their livestock. Current levels of illegal logging, and unsustainable forest exploitation is causing irreversible degradation of the forest ecosystem. Furthermore, there is a lack of public participation in forest management and decision making. Given this situation, there is little control over the use of forest resources, and rate of unsustainable exploitation is increasing. In order to apply an ecosystem approach to forest management close cooperation is required between the various agencies involved in decision making, and more up to-date scientific information.

In general, unsustainable agricultural activities cause many types of land degradation with wide variety of underlying causes. Land degradation, lack of efficient land resource management practices, limited access to appropriate information and technology, and weak institutional communication between various stakeholders (which makes a decision-making process ineffective) are the major land resource management challenges in Georgia.

GEF SGP will focus on areas where agriculture and rangeland management practices underpin the livelihood of poor rural farmers. GEF SGP will also support technical and institutional capacity development, community-based agricultural management initiatives. In particular, sustainable land use, land use charge and forestry management and climate proofing practices will be adopted at the community level for forest and non-forest land use types.

Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes)

Historically, Georgia has been an agricultural country. Even today according to official statistics, 53% of employed people are involved in the agricultural sector. Georgia has the potential to produce high-quality agricultural products, which are extremely important for food security and economic growth, as well as to increase the country's export capacity. Land degradation, lack of efficient land resource management practices, limited access to

appropriate information and technology and weak institutional communication between the various stakeholders (which makes a decision-making process ineffective) are the major problems of land resource management that Georgia faces. Land degradation is one of the important issues in Georgia. Overgrazing and uncontrolled grazing, loss of forest covers and unplanned urban sprawl is the major causes of the land degradation in Georgia. Soil erosion processes are natural phenomena, but they are exacerbated by all kinds of unsustainable human uses. Soil fertility is dependent on the degree of salinization and acidification processes also. In addition, frequent agricultural soil contamination is caused by the inappropriate use of chemicals (herbicides, insecticides and fertilizers), oil spills, improper irrigation methods and uncontrolled disposal of waste. Although a number of organizations and agencies collect and hold various statistical and spatial data, no detailed data regarding degraded lands, the extent of contamination, or land use are available. Lacking this information, effective planning and decision-making are extremely difficult, if not impossible. In addition, data exchange among agencies and ministries is limited and unsystematic, with no clear delineation of roles and responsibilities. The rights and responsibilities are dispersed among a large number of local and central authorities. Scientific knowledge and existing expertise is rarely applied in decision-making, mainly due to limited communication among scientific and executive institutions. This communication is critical for effective decision-making.

GEF SGP activities under this objective will focus on harmonized sector policies and coordinated institutions constituting an enabling environment between sectors and the large-scale application of good management practices on integrated land use planning. At the same time financing instruments and mechanism that provide incentives for reducing the pressures and competition between land use systems will be explored.

International Waters

Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives

Effective approaches to transboundary water body management require multi-government solutions at the policy level, but must also include implementation at the community level. In Georgia, water is managed according to a model based on administrative boundaries. National water policies defined by numerous legislative acts and water-related responsibilities are scattered among various state institutions. Both horizontal and vertical cooperation and coordination between these institutions needs to be strengthened. In order to effectively manage water quality, it is necessary to regularly collect monitoring data and assess water quality status in water bodies. This information is essential for planning of measures to improve water quality where needed. The scarcity of basic hydrological and water pollution data in Georgia does not allow drawing a comprehensive picture of surface water conditions. For the transboundary problem deterioration of water quality in the Kura-Aras River Basin, the threats are: risks to public health through contaminated drinking water and agricultural products with an increase in potential for water borne illnesses; the degradation of aquatic ecosystems; and an anticipated decline in bio-resources including fish stocks. Transboundary ecosystem degradation including increased trends of biodiversity loss, deforestation and land degradation are observed throughout the basin. The decline of species has been

intensified over the last few decades, due to a large extent by habitat fragmentation and degradation.

There is on-going UNDP/GEF project “Reducing Trans-Boundary Degradation in the Kura-Aras Basin”, within the frames of which Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) is being up-dated. Once the TDA Gap Analysis is completed, the results will be examined in light of the development of National IWRM plans, capacity building needs and the demonstration of the project activities. Through the iterative process of filing critical gaps in the TDA - the final TDA will serve as the basis for the regional Strategic Action Programme to be developed by the countries in the region.

The Black Sea is a significant water body for Georgia. By signing the Black Sea Biodiversity Protocol of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution in 2009, Georgia has officially declared importance of Black Sea biodiversity protection at the international level. It has the largest specific drainage basin in the world, which drains over two million square kilometers and covers almost one third of continental Europe. These natural characteristics make the Black Sea ecosystem invaluable in terms of biodiversity. Its huge catchment area and semi-enclosed nature have made the Black Sea highly sensitive to a variety of anthropogenic impacts. The Black Sea faces the following main problems: (I) decline in commercial marine living resources; (II) degradation of the Black Sea marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats; and (III) eutrophication. Ineffective management of the coastal zone contributes to the degradation of the Black Sea marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats.

The goal of the international waters focal area is the encouragement of collective management for transboundary water systems and subsequent implementation of the full range of policy; legal and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services.

In GEF OP5 SGP Georgia will support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives, including community-level linkages for implementation of Strategic Action Programs (SAPs). GEF SGP initiatives will be focused on results-based management means and on such initiatives that will create enabling environment for adaptation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plans and policies.

Chemicals

Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level

Pollution of the environment by wastes and chemicals is one of the environmental problems in Georgia, such as residues of agrochemicals (including pesticides) or household chemicals, or their packaging materials contaminated by the chemicals; transport wastes (batteries, tires, contaminated oils/lubricants), electrical and other wastes containing heavy metals and toxic substances. The problem is complex, comprising littering of the environment, environmental pollution from landfills and issues related to the management of hazardous and accumulated wastes. Currently, the regular collection

of household waste is carried out only in big cities and district centers. In many settlements (especially in the villages) the inhabitants have to solve the waste problem themselves. Usually, they dump the wastes in nearby ravines, along roadsides, or onto riverbanks. As a result, these dumps are transformed into small, uncontrolled “landfills”. The environment is significantly affected by the air, groundwater and surface water pollution from improperly constructed official municipal landfills. Most of the 63 official municipal landfills operational today do not have a groundwater protection barrier and a leachate collection/ treatment system. There is no operating landfill for hazardous wastes in Georgia. Industrial, medical and veterinary, as well as other hazardous wastes are often disposed to the municipal landfills without control, creating the main source of environmental pollution.

Georgia’s reporting and control systems for production, transfer, treatment or disposal of the industrial, medical/veterinary and other hazardous wastes need improvement. Approximately 2,700 tons of hazardous chemicals are placed in the damaged waste-burial pit at Ialguja hill. About 230 tons of obsolete pesticides were collected from the storehouses of former *kolkhozes* and *sovkhazes* all over Georgia and have been temporarily stored at the Ialguja burial. Their subsequent, environmentally appropriate retrieval and disposal is necessary. In addition, hazardous waste is produced as a result of agricultural activities (empty containers of pesticides, agrochemicals, and obsolete pesticides from markets) and this issue should be adequately addressed as well.

In 2003-2007, the Government of Georgia, with the assistance of GEF/UNDP, developed a draft of the National Implementation Plan for the implementation of POPs Stockholm convention, under which the reduction of releases of POPs pesticides from small storages and from the Ialguja dump was identified as one of the top priorities. The Plan now is under the process of official endorsement by the government. Although, Georgia with its own resources and donor’s (Dutch) assistance was able to start implementation of certain NIP activities, like collection of about 235 tons of non-soil mixed pesticides at purposefully built storage. However, a number of barriers, obstructing the full-scale implementation of the NIP measures and correct management planning of POPs pesticides in general, still remain. Within the frames of UNDP/GEF project - “Disposal of POPs Pesticides and Initial Steps for Containment of Dumped POPs Pesticides in Georgia” - technical guidelines on safety measures/procedures for handling, transport and storage (disposal) of POPs pesticides has been developed; besides, the draft legislation packages on particular needs of POPs have been deliberated. In addition, preparation of new legislation on waste management, including hazardous and solid waste, is ongoing within the frames of the Twining project. The government entities/bodies were trained in pesticide site investigation and risk assessment, management option screening for creating customer competence for such services. However, the need of trainings in the following directions: hazardous waste export procedures, safe disposal of POPs pesticides, contaminated site assessment, etc. is still required. Furthermore, notwithstanding the certain government and donor funding, allocated for the safe disposal of POPs pesticides, necessary financing needed for these purposes is still lacking.

GEF SGP will support POPs and other harmful chemicals to phase out initiatives at the community level. This would include introduction of POPs substitutes and the promotion of environmentally friendly practices of pest management. Raising awareness of the

techniques of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and demonstrating their application would be strongly encouraged.

Capacity Building

Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations and those of indigenous peoples) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines,, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends.

GEF's strategic priorities are tightly linked to the international conventions supported by the Facility. It is supposed that implementation of these conventions will strengthen the ability of GEF to deliver environmental impacts and Global Environmental Benefits. In order to promote attainment of conventions objectives, SGP will support developing capacities of the civil society organizations to implement guidelines of the conventions. As the latter is critical among SGP's primary stakeholders, the country programme will also invest in capacity development of community-level stakeholders (especially those in poor rural areas) to self-organize and respond to key environmental problems. In OP5 the country programme "learning by doing" approach will be applied. SGP in Georgia will fund projects on supporting CSOs capacity to involve in consultation processes, knowledge management to ensure adequate information flow, effective monitoring and evaluation.

Livelihoods and Gender

Poverty reduction, livelihoods and gender

Along with the environmental benefits, SGP will contribute to the *reduction of local poverty* through introduction of sustainable livelihoods that are in agreement with environmental conservation. With SGP's support, civil society and community-based organizations will develop the capacity to improve conservation and sustainable use efforts and ensure local benefits, contributing to long-term sustainability. Performance of the SGP projects will be assessed in terms of their effects on income generation.

GEF SGP recognizes the importance of *gender* equality and women's empowerment as essential elements to achieve sustainable development and project impacts for the GEF. As such, gender issues are well mainstreamed throughout the SGP and incorporated within the SGP project cycle. Gender is one of the mandatory cross-cutting requirements in the SGP grant-making criteria.

3. SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME NICHE

For the time being Georgia has ratified and signed numerous international multilateral environmental agreements (Conventions and Protocols), most of them are linked to the GEF

strategic priorities. The list of relevant Rio Conventions ratified by Georgia and national planning frameworks are listed in the below Table 1.

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

Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	2 June 1994
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	Work on the NBSAP was initiated in 1998; the document was created in 2003, was updated later in 2005 and is currently in the process of NBSAP up-date
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	16 May 1994
UNFCCC National Communications (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd)	First Communication was submitted in 1999, Second communication was submitted in 2009, Third National Communication is underway of elaboration
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	Feb, 2010 (letter submitted to the secretariat)
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	23 July 1999
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	Submitted in April, 2003
Stockholm Convention (SC)	April 11, 2006
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	2012
World Bank Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	N/A
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	N/A
GEF-5 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	N/A
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies	Black Sea Strategic Action Program – 2009 Kura-Aras Strategic Action Programme – planned The Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention) – date of ratification - 21 April 1992

SGP Georgia will use OP5 resources to support implementation of the national priorities with regard to GEF-5 strategic framework and will help the country to reach the goals set forth by the global conventions. Table 2 shows national priorities and SGP's niche.

Table 2. Consistency with national priorities

OP5 project objectives	National priorities	SGP niche
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1:</u> Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas through community-based actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To elaborate a combined and effective network for the protected areas (NEAP 2012-2016) - To develop a system for the protected areas to ensure conservation and sustainable use of biological resources (NBSAP, 2005) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve capacity and management of PAs (e.g. law enforcement, monitoring etc.) with active participation of local community; - Initiate co-management practices at certain PAs and support the diversification of PA Governance types; - Assist in PA network establishment process; - Support of PAs conservation and sustainable management; - Support locals for proper natural resource management initiatives at supporting zones around PAs; - Support of PAs corridor management; - Promotion of sustainable eco-tourism at PAs also aimed at local livelihood improvement.
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2:</u> Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To create proper databases for biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of biological resources through developing the relevant bio-monitoring system (NEAP 2012-16); - To develop the monitoring system for biodiversity; also an active and integrated biodiversity database to ensure sustainable use and conservation of biological resources (NBSAP, 2005); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support research activities on endangered and vulnerable species, including support of local species and their habitat maintenance; - Support recovery and conservation of agro-biodiversity of Georgia; - Support development of eco-systems services (including black sea

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To rehabilitate, protect and conserve viable populations of selected endangered species and habitats(NEAP 2012-16); - To maintain and restore Georgia’s habitats, species and genetic diversity through in-situ, ex-situ and inter-situ conservation measures and through sustainable use of biological resources (NBSAP, 2005); - To improve effectiveness of hunting and fishery management to ensure sustainable use of fauna resources (NEAP 2012-16); - To promote sustainable hunting and fishing through appropriate planning, restoration and protection of key biological resources (NBSAP, 2005); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - biodiversity); - Support research on the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity research; - Support awareness raising initiatives on Ramsar convention and wetlands importance.
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3:</u> Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To implement adaptation measures in regions vulnerable to CC (NEAP 2012-16); - To create favorable conditions for reduction of GHG emissions (NEAP 2012-16); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support application of alternative energy efficient and renewable energy technologies at the local level (specifically at vulnerable areas of Georgia e.g. Dedoplistskaro, Black Seas coastal zone and Svaneti); - Support knowledge management and skill development initiatives towards promotion of alternative energy sources; - Support capacity building/awareness raising activities for promotion of new and energy efficient technologies; - Support promotion of energy efficient building initiatives at the local level.
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To limit vehicle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support promotion

<p>Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level</p>	<p>emissions via introduction of relevant instruments based on international experience and national specifics (NEAP-2012-16);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To reduce CO₂ emissions caused by city energy consumption (Sustainable Energy Action Plan City of Tbilisi For 2011-2020); - To rehabilitate and develop transport infrastructure (Sustainable Energy Action Plan City of Tbilisi For 2011-2020); - To increase the share of public transportation within a total passenger turnover (Sustainable Energy Action Plan City of Tbilisi For 2011-2020); - To reduce the mobility of private cars and encourage low emission cars by means of various restrictions and incentives (Sustainable Energy Action Plan City of Tbilisi For 2011-2020); - to match transport legislation basis and standards with the European Legislation (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper Progress Report, 2006); 	<p>of the clean transportation at large municipalities, such as Tbilisi, Batumi, Kutaisi and etc.;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support the implementation of the commitments under the Covenant of Mayors (including elaboration and application of green transportation mechanisms for urban areas of Georgia);
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 5:</u> Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To reduce unsustainable and illegal forest use (NEAP 2012-16); - To establish prerequisites for sustainable forest management system (NEAP 2012-16); - Conserve forest biodiversity via sustainable forest management (NBSAP, 2005); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support community-based activities aimed at sustainable forest management, including reforestation, cleaning and rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems; - Support sustainable land management (including soil regeneration) activities;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support developing the capacity of NGOs/CBOs and community-level stakeholders to address LULUCF issues.
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6:</u> Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conserve Georgian agrobiodiversity via ensuring its sustainable use and by promoting of ex-situ and in-situ conservation measures (NBSAP, 2005) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support community based and sustainable agriculture and forest management practices to reduce negative impact of agro and forest ecosystems; - Raise awareness about the native and locally adapted crops and breeds
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7:</u> Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To reduce degraded land areas, improve the soil quality and minimize soil contamination (NEAP 2012-16); - Enhance the existing capacity of the spatial-land information system to ensure improved management of land resources via introduction of modern tools and technologies (NEAP 2012-16); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with the local municipalities and community to introduce the innovative management methods and practices to reduce negative impact on land and forest use; - Support advocacy of land regulation initiatives at the local level.
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8:</u> Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To establish an effective water management system (NEAP 2012-16); - To establish the effective mechanisms to prevent pollution and to control water abstraction (NEAP 2012-16); - To reduce water pollution from untreated municipal wastewater (NEAP 2012-16); - To reduce pollution from diffuse sources in agriculture (NEAP 2012-16); - Coherent law at the regional level with the purpose to have a unified policy for the whole region (BS SAP). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support integrated water resource management for transboundary river basins; - Support and promote community based and sustainable water resource management initiatives at the local level in the areas of transboundary water basins; - Introduce Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) approaches and protect the coastal zone from degradation.

<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9:</u> Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To reduce environmental pollution from accumulated wastes (NEAP 2012-16); - To improve household and hazardous waste management (collection, transport, disposal) (NEAP 2012-16); - To develop the POPs related legislation (NIP); - To build capacity in the fields of risk assessment and management (NIP); - To develop the monitoring system (NIP); - To develop efficient public awareness raising program on the adverse impact of POPs in human health and environment (NIP); - To resolve problems in the field of management of hazardous chemical substances (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper Progress Report, 2006). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assist the local farmers to phase out POPs and other pollutants and support Integrated Pest Management; - Support awareness raising initiative on POPs harmful chemicals and other pollutants (specifically on basic sanitation norms, law enforcement initiatives and alternative sources) at the local level; - Support nationwide assessment initiatives on identification of chemicals hazardous to the environment and human health; - Support to implementation initiatives for POP's communication action plan
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10:</u> Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations and those of indigenous peoples) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To raise public awareness on biodiversity issues and to encourage public participation in the decision making process (NBSAP, 2005); - To improve the effectiveness of PAs management through the capacity building of its administrations and introduction of financial sustainability Mechanisms (NEAP 2012-16); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to locals in empowerment and involvement at environmental decision making processes, specifically on environmental impact assessment initiatives - Support execution of obligations under the Aarhus convention in Georgia
<p><u>Cross-Cutting Results:</u> Poverty reduction, livelihoods and gender</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To integrate environmental activity into the process of social-economic development of the country (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper Progress Report, 2006); - To promote gender equality and empower women (MDG) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support gateway community livelihood improvement at certain municipalities; - Eradicate conflict between humans and wildlife for poverty eradication

	<p>Support Equal Participation of Men and Women at All Levels of the Decision Making Process on the Issues of Environment Protection (Resolution of the Parliament of Georgia About Approving “2011-2013 Action Plan for Implementation of Gender Equality”);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To foster economic and social development in the regions and reduce regional and social disparities, with a focus on the integration of vulnerable groups (European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument 2011-13); - To stimulate economic opportunities and cooperation between regions in Georgia and the EU (European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument 2011-13). 	<p>and livelihood improvement;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support local farmers to improve livelihood via agro-tourism development and introduction of sustainable agro-management practices.
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Namely, the programme, through active public outreach and liaison with vibrant civil society and capable NGOs working directly with the communities, will encourage them to learn about the potential opportunities offered by the program; furthermore, GEF SGP will help to facilitate the access of communities to funds and implement innovative projects ideas in accordance with the national CPS and SGP OP5 global targets.

Notwithstanding the facts, that Georgia has made significant progress towards achieving many of its National Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), poverty reduction and employment generation still remain as the main priorities of the government. Therefore, strong focus on livelihoods would be the key for achieving sustainability of projects and producing environmental benefits, within the scope of the GEF thematic areas on the country level.

Geographic focus

Georgia covers an area of 69,7 square kilometers. It is bounded to the west by the Black Sea, to the north by Russia, to the south by Turkey and Armenia, and to the east by Azerbaijan (please see map below).

Taking into consideration the size of Georgia, the whole country should be considered as one geographic area; hence there will be no specific geographic focus during implementing of SGP, apart from encouraging SGP projects throughout the country in

the following focal areas: biodiversity conservation, climate change, combating land degradation, protection of international waters, the reduction and / or elimination of the chemicals.



4. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT, POVERTY REDUCTION AND GENDER RESULTS FOR SGP

The cross-cutting objective of the SGP in Georgia will be to enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations) to actively engage and involve locals in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines, monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends. Furthermore, poverty reduction, livelihood and gender empowerment will be one of the key targets for SGP funded initiatives.

During the preparation and review processes of the projects and in further implementation NSC and project team will focus and support such initiatives that will assist the local NGOs and CBOs in capacity development, livelihood improvement and production of economic benefits. In order to ensure the strong ownership of the activities and expected outcomes in direct socio-economic benefits, hence overall achievement of global environmental benefits, support of locally driven initiatives focused on the local specifics is important. With the aim of to sustain the developed capacity, NSC and project team will consistently be engaged with the local communities involved in SGP supported activities.

In addition the program will support gender empowerment initiatives, so that both, men and women can equally benefit within the same communities, advocating for and encouraging women to be actively involved in environmental decision making processes and projects implementation activities.

5. OP5 COUNTRY OUTCOMES, INDICATORS AND ACTIVITIES

Table 3. Results Framework

SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1: Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas (ICCAs) through community-based actions			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
<p>SGP BD Outcome 1.1: Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts on biodiversity resources in and around protected areas, and indigenous and community conservation areas</p> <p>SGP BD Outcome 1.2: Benefits generated at the community level from conservation of biodiversity in and around protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas</p> <p>SGP BD Outcome 1.3: Increased recognition and integration of indigenous and community conservation areas in national protected area systems</p> <p>SGP BD Outcome 1.4: Increased understanding and awareness at the community-level of the importance and value of biodiversity</p>	<p>Number of Hectares of local community conserved areas (ICCAs) influenced</p> <p>Number of Hectares of protected areas influenced</p> <p>Number of Hectares of significant ecosystems with improved conservation status</p>	<p>GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits</p> <p>SGP case studies</p> <p>SGP grantee data</p>	<p>At least 4 ICCAs and PAs related projects will be supported for this outcome and objective below²</p>
GEF-SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2: Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
SGP BD Outcome 2.1:	Number of	GEF SGP database,	See objective 1 above

² The estimated number of OP5 projects should distinguish between the utilization of core grants (which can apply across GEF focal areas) and non-core GEF resources (which need to be directly linked to the relevant GEF focal areas). In accordance with the GEF Steering Committee decision (March 2010), up to 20% of non-core GEF resources mobilized may be used for secondary focal areas.

Improved community-level sustainable use of biodiversity in production landscapes / seascapes through community-based initiatives, frameworks and market mechanisms, including recognized environmental standards that incorporate biodiversity considerations	Hectares of production landscapes / seascapes applying sustainable use practices Number of significant species with maintained or improved conservation status	project reports and monitoring visits SGP case studies SGP grantee data	
SGP BD Outcome 2.2: Increased understanding and awareness of sustainable use of biodiversity	Total value of biodiversity products/ecosystem services produced (US dollar equivalent)		
GEF-SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3: Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
SGP CC Outcome 3.1: Innovative low-GHG technologies deployed and successfully demonstrated at the community level	Tonnes of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies:	GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits SGP case studies	At least 2 projects to demonstrate low GHG Technologies and capacity building initiatives
SGP CC Outcome 3.2: GHG emissions avoided	Number of community members demonstrating or deploying low-GHG technologies Total value of energy or technology services provided (US dollar equivalent)	SGP grantee data From the innovative monitoring approaches	
GEF-SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4: Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
SGP CC Outcome 4.1: Low-GHG transport options demonstrated at the community level	Tonnes of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies:	GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits SGP case studies	At least two demonstration projects on low-GHG transport options and advocacy to affect policy level
SGP CC Outcome 4.2: Increased	Total value of	SGP grantee data	

investment in community-level energy efficient, low-GHG transport systems SGP CC Outcome 4.3: GHG emissions avoided	transport services provided (US dollar equivalent)	from the innovative monitoring approaches	
GEF-SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 5: Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
SGP CC Outcome 5.1: Sustainable land use, land use change, and forestry management and climate proofing practices adopted at the community level for forest and non-forest land-use types SGP CC Outcome 5.2: Restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks in forests and non-forest lands, including peatland SGP CC Outcome 5.3: GHG emissions avoided	Hectares of land under improved land use and climate proofing practices Tonnes of CO2 avoided through improved land use and climate proofing practices	GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits SGP case studies SGP grantee data from innovative monitoring approaches	At least 2 community level projects focusing on SLM and forests management / restoration
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
SGP LD Outcome 6.1: Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts on agro-, and forest ecosystems and ecosystem services demonstrated to sustain ecosystem functionality SGP LD Outcome 6.2: Community-based models of sustainable forestry management developed, and tested, linked to carbon sequestration for possible up-scaling and replication where appropriate, to reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhance carbon sinks	Hectares of land applying sustainable forest, agricultural and water management practices Hectares of degraded land restored and rehabilitated	GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits SGP case studies SGP grantee data from innovative monitoring approaches	At least 2 Community based projects aimed at sustainable forest and agricultural management to reduce land degradation

from land use, land use change, and forestry activities			
GEF-SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7: Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes)			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
SGP LD Outcome 7.1: Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts in land use frontiers of agro-ecosystems and forest ecosystems (rural/urban, agriculture/forest)	Number of communities demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices	GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits SGP case studies SGP grantee data from innovative monitoring approaches	At least 2 projects demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices;
GEF-SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8: Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
SGP IW Outcome 8.1: Effective and climate resilient community-based actions and practices supporting implementation of SAP regional priority actions demonstrated SGP IW Outcome 8.2: Synergistic partnerships developed between SGP stakeholders and transboundary water management institutions and structures supporting implementation of SAP regional priority actions	Hectares of river/lake basins applying sustainable management practices and contributing to implementation of SAPs Hectares of marine/coastal areas or fishing grounds managed sustainably Tonnes of land-based pollution avoided	GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits SGP case studies SGP grantee data from innovative monitoring approaches	Integrated and sustainable water resource management practices are demonstrated at least in 2 communities for trans-boundary river basins
GEF-SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9: Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
SGP CH Outcome 9.1: Improved community-level initiatives and actions to prevent, reduce and phase out POPs, harmful chemicals and other pollutants, manage contaminated sites in an environmentally sound manner, and mitigate environmental	Tons of solid waste prevented from burning by alternative disposal Kilograms of obsolete pesticides disposed of appropriately Kilograms of	GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits SGP case studies SGP grantee data from innovative monitoring approaches	At least 2 hazardous chemical waste management projects contributing to the implementation of national plans and policies to address problems with POPs, harmful chemicals and other pollutants

contamination	harmful chemicals avoided from utilization or release		
GEF-SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10: Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations and those of indigenous peoples) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
<p>SGP CD Outcome 10.1: Active participation of NSCs and NFGs in GEF focal areas at the national level</p> <p>SGP CD Outcome 10.2: Improved information flows to/from CBOs and CSOs in SGP countries regarding good practices and lessons learned, and application of such practices</p> <p>SGP CD Outcome 10.3: Increased public awareness and education at the community-level regarding global environmental issues</p> <p>SGP CD Outcome 10.4: Capacity of CBOs and CSOs strengthened to support implementation of global conventions</p> <p>SGP CD Outcome 10.5: Increased application of community-based environmental monitoring</p> <p>SGP CD Outcome 10.6: Evaluation of SGP projects and programs against expected results strengthened, including increased capacity of CBOs and</p>	<p>Number of community-based monitoring systems demonstrated</p> <p>Number of national policies influenced (NIP, NBSAP etc.)</p> <p>Number of people trained on: project development, monitoring, evaluation etc.</p>	<p>GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits</p> <p>SGP case studies</p> <p>SGP grantee data from innovative monitoring approaches</p>	<p>At Least 10 CBOs and CSOs</p> <p>Capacities strengthened and motivated to be actively involved in environmental decision making processes</p>

CSOs to apply relevant evaluation methodologies			
Cross-Cutting Results: Poverty reduction, livelihoods and gender			
Outcome	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
SGP's Results Framework for OP5, as approved by the SGP Steering Committee, does not include specific objectives on livelihoods and gender. Nonetheless, SGP does produce positive results in these areas, which contribute to the overall achievement of Global Environmental Benefits through sustainable development. Generally, SGP seeks to improve livelihoods through increasing local benefits generated from environmental resources, and mainstream gender considerations in community-based environmental initiatives.	<p>Livelihoods & Sustainable Development:</p> <p>Number of participating community members (gender disaggregated)</p> <p>Empowerment:</p> <p>Number of NGOs/CBOs formed or registered</p> <p>Number of women-led projects supported</p>	<p>GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits</p> <p>SGP case studies</p> <p>SGP grantee data from innovative monitoring approaches</p>	<p>100% of projects with appropriate gender balance of participants and target beneficiaries; at least 1 gender-specific project demonstrating gender mainstreaming in environmental governance</p> <p>At least 10 community members with sustained livelihood improvement through GEF-SGP support</p>

6. MONITORING & EVALUATION PLAN

All GEF-SGP projects will be requested to incorporate a detailed Monitoring & Evaluation plan with appropriate indicators in the project document prior to the approval. The involvement of the key stakeholders in monitoring and assessment will contribute to community ownership. Besides, granted NGO/CBOs will be obliged to submit regular progress reports and the final report. These reports will be the signals for NC and NSC for grants disbursement.

The 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, periodic monitoring site visits will be organized by the NC to the projects sites. The frequency of these regular NC monitoring trips will vary; however, at least two visits during the project lifetime will be carried out as a must. Respective 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 to monitor and/or evaluate GEF-SGP project as appropriate.

NC will update the on-line project database - accounts of lessons learned and case studies. The programme level resource mobilization should be entered and maintained. The below table describes M&E activities, responsible parties and timeframes at the project level.

Table 4. M&E Plan at the Project Level

SGP Individual Project Level		
M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
Participatory Project Monitoring	Grantees	Duration of the project
Baseline Data Collection ³	Grantees, NC	At project concept planning and proposal stage
Two or Three Project Progress and Financial Reports (<i>depending on agreed disbursement schedule</i>)	Grantees, NC, PA	At each disbursement request
Project Work plans	Grantees, NC, PA	Duration of the project
NC Project Proposal Site Visit (<i>as necessary / cost effective</i> ⁴)	NC	Before the project approval, as appropriate
NC Project Monitoring Site Visit (<i>as necessary / cost effective</i>)	NC	On the average once a year, as appropriate
NC Project Evaluation Site Visit (<i>as necessary / cost effective</i>)	NC	At end of the project, as appropriate
Project Final Report	Grantees	Following completion of the project activities
Project Evaluation Report (<i>as necessary / cost effective</i>)	NC, NSC, External party	Following completion of the project activities
Prepare project description to be incorporated into global project database	PA, NC	At the beginning of the project, and ongoing as appropriate

NC will also provide UNOPS with quarterly spreadsheet reports on expenses. Besides, NC will report on annual basis on technical and substantive projects and programme progress (Performance and Review Assessment). Thus, 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.

³ Capacity-development workshops and M&E trainings may be organized in relation to innovative techniques for community monitoring, including new technologies (i.e. GPS-enabled cameras, aerial photos, participatory GIS, etc.); as well as in response to guidelines for “climate proofing” of GEF focal area interventions; REDD+ standards; and/or other specific donor/co-financing requirements.

⁴ 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.

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 for preparing Programme Review Report; however NSC will be closely involved in an assessment of the country programme performance.

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

Table 5. M&E Plan at the Programme Level

SGP Country Programme Level		
M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
Country Programme Strategy Review	NSC, NC, CPMT	Start of OP5
Strategic Country Portfolio Review	NSC, NC	Once during OP5
NSC Meetings	NSC, NC, UNDP CO	Minimum twice a year
Performance and Results Assessment (PRA) of NC Performance	NC, NSC, UNDP CO, CPMT, UNOPS	Once a year
Country Programme Review resulting in Annual Country Report ⁵	NC presenting to NSC and CPMT	Once a year
Financial 4-in-1 Report	NC/PA, UNOPS	Quarterly

In addition, Table 3 will be used for M&E as it describes the logical framework approach of the CPS both at programme and project levels 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. It also specifies approximate number of projects and features of the project activities planned under respective Outcome.

7. KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Projects will document lessons learnt regarding the SGP programme/project development, implementation and oversight, also the best practices identified through the country portfolio of SGP projects with civil society, government and other related stakeholders. As a result, the project periodically will collect, synthesize and disseminate SGP outcomes, the best practices and lessons learnt with SGP, GEF and other regional and global networks. Besides, NC will be personally responsible for the preparation of SGP knowledge products to wider contribute to GEF SGP knowledge management plan.

The collection and consolidation of the gained experiences and knowledge are recorded on the Program level in the form of booklets, brochures, reports, video materials, films, etc. One of the main mechanisms to collect information are the project site visits that provide the

⁵ The annual Country Programme Review exercise should be carried out in consultation with the national Rio Convention focal points and the associated reporting requirements.

opportunity to obtain and learn the practical knowledge and experiences gained during the course off the project activities. Besides, grantees would be responsible for collection, preparation and distribution knowledge products in agreement with NC. The great attention will be paid to the exchange of experiences gained at the seminars, meetings and workshops, by electronic delivery via electronic and information networks, publication of information materials etc. Special attention will be paid to the trainings and workshops, as to the integral part of the individual project implementation since this is the best venue to generate ideas, exchange views and experiences; any training products would also be available for wider public. Besides, the SGP database, a photo gallery linked to the good practices section will be regularly maintained. At the end of the working year, a special brochure summarizing SGP activities in Georgia, as well as focusing on environmental risks and community level solutions will be produced and distributed.

Project will actively participate in the SGP knowledge network for learning and information dissemination purposes; besides, NC will be responsible to collect knowledge information as inputs to the wider GEF knowledge products and policy papers, also for participation and attendance of SGP regional/international meeting and seminars as required.

One of the opportunities for influencing policy at the local and national level will be organizing press conferences and/or workshops with the participation of the key stakeholders as well as media to discuss the role of SGP in Georgia and to find solutions for the numerous environmental problems connected to the implementation of UN Conventions at the local/national level and to get global environmental benefits.

The project will actively participate in and be engaged with CO Energy and Environmental portfolio activities, such as retreats and related projects/programmers events for knowledge dissemination and experience sharing purposes. Besides, the SGP Georgia Strategy for replication and up-scaling good practices and lessons learnt will be focused on support of such projects proposals and initiatives that can easily be used by other NGOs/CBOs on their territories. That is why the publishing and dissemination of good results and lessons learnt will be foreseen in each SGP projects for targeting relevant groups and regional authorities to help them out in replication of these results on their territories. In addition, the SGP team meetings with local communities, regional and municipal authorities will start with notification on dissemination of best practices and lessons learnt as well as on the results achieved in SGP projects.

8. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION PLAN

The NC will ensure development and regular update of an SGP Resource mobilization strategy and implementation plan that will be started with identifying and seeking opportunities for project co-financing and taking follow up actions. Regular workshops and seminars will be organized to advocate GEF SGP activities and raise awareness among lead donors, international partners and private sector.

In OP5, projects funded by SGP Georgia are expected to ensure 1:1 co-funding ratio (50% in cash and 50% in-kind). However, once adequate level of financial resources is mobilized at the country programme level, cash co-financing component can be reduced or not be applied in special circumstances and considering specifics of a particular community.

Partnerships are critical for SGP successful implementation both in terms of technical and financial points of view. The country programme will strive to maintain and expand existing partnerships with bilateral and multilateral agencies (such as UNDP, World Bank, USAID, GIZ, WWF, IUCN) private sector and government for complementarily and cost-sharing opportunities for addressing GEF OP5 project objectives. Projects will ensure active liaison with the Ministry of Environment Protection for achieving GEF OP5 goals within the context of the national priorities.

The country project will seek to establish strong relationships with all operating bilateral and multilateral agencies, as well as national and international NGOs and foundations through active participation in programmes of mutual interest and initiatives to act jointly to get global environmental benefits and effective knowledge/information sharing.

Special attention will also be paid to the public private partnerships (PPPs) regularly informing and engaging private companies in collaborating with NGOs/CBOs to address global environmental challenges. Some of the livelihood initiatives might also be considered under such partnerships to complement SGP-supported initiatives. GEF-SGP will ensure its visibility to such private organizations for resource mobilization to achieve the main goal of GEF-SGP and project sustainability.

ANNEX 1: GEF SGP OP 5 PROJECT LEVEL INDICATORS

SGP OP5 results indicators	
Biodiversity (BD)	
BD1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hectares of indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs) influenced ○ Hectares of protected areas influenced ○ Hectares of significant ecosystems with improved conservation status
BD2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hectares of production landscapes / seascapes applying sustainable use practices ○ Number of significant species with maintained or improved conservation status ○ Total value of biodiversity products/ecosystem services produced (US dollar equivalent)
Climate Change (CC)	
CCM1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tonnes of CO₂ avoided by implementing low carbon technologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Renewable energy measures (please specify) ○ Energy efficiency measures (please specify) ○ Other (please specify) ○ Number of community members demonstrating or deploying low-GHG technologies ○ Total value of energy or technology services provided (US dollar equivalent)
CCM4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tonnes of CO₂ avoided by implementing low carbon technologies: ○ Low carbon transport practices (please specify) ○ Total value of transport services provided (US dollar equivalent)
CCM5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hectares of land under improved land use and climate proofing practices ○ Tonnes of CO₂ avoided through improved land use and climate proofing practices
Land degradation (LD) & Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)	
LD1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hectares of land applying sustainable forest, agricultural and water management practices ○ Hectares of degraded land restored and rehabilitated
LD3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of communities demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices
International Waters (IW)	
IW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hectares of river/lake basins applying sustainable management practices and contributing to implementation of SAPs ○ Hectares of marine/coastal areas or fishing grounds managed sustainably ○ Tonnes of land-based pollution avoided
Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	
POPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tons of solid waste prevented from burning by alternative disposal ○ Kilograms of obsolete pesticides disposed of appropriately ○ Kilograms of harmful chemicals avoided from utilization or release
Capacity Development, Policy and Innovation (all focal areas)	
CD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of consultative mechanisms established for Rio convention frameworks (please specify) ○ Number of community-based monitoring systems demonstrated (please specify) ○ Number of new technologies developed /applied (please specify) ○ Number of local or regional policies influenced (level of influence 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5) ○ Number of national policies influenced (level of influence 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5) ○ Number of people trained on: project development, monitoring, evaluation etc. (to be specified according to type of training)

SGP OP5 results indicators	
Livelihoods, Sustainable Development, and Empowerment (all focal areas)	
Cross-cutting	<p>Livelihoods & Sustainable Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of participating community members (gender disaggregated) (Note: mandatory for all projects) ○ Number of days of food shortage reduced ○ Number of increased student days participating in schools ○ Number of households who get access to clean drinking water ○ Increase in purchasing power by reduced spending, increased income, and/or other means (US dollar equivalent) ○ Total value of investments (e.g. infrastructure, equipment, supplies) in US Dollars (Note: estimated economic impact of investments to be determined by multiplying infrastructure investments by 5, all others by 3). <p>Empowerment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of NGOs/CBOs formed or registered ○ Number of indigenous peoples directly supported ○ Number of women-led projects supported ○ Number of quality standards/labels achieved or innovative financial mechanisms put in place