



Thematic Fact Sheet

Small Grant Programme

Information at a glance

Mandate

Established in 1992, the year of the Rio Earth Summit, the GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) embodies the very essence of sustainable development by "thinking globally acting locally." The objective of the programme is to build up the capacity of local communities by providing financial and technical support in order to conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people's well-being and livelihoods. SGP demonstrates that community action can maintain a fine balance between human needs and environmental imperatives.

Thus, SGP is deeply rooted in the belief that global environmental problems can best be addressed and alleviated if local people are actively involved, and their direct community benefits and ownerships are generated.

SGP in Eritrea

Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as a corporate programme. SGP is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of the GEF partnership and is executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

SGP is working with a motto of Local Action Global Impact. It is tailored to support communities through community-based organizations and local non-governmental organizations.

The Ministry of Land, Water and Environment (MLWE) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have a significant role in establishing and implementing the programme in Eritrea. Since its establishment, the office has developed four consecutive Country Programme Strategies (CPS) in four GEF Operational PHASEs, namely OP4, OP5, OP6 & OP7. In early 2024, the office plans to develop CPS for OP8 with the leadership of SGP National Steering Committee (NSC) members and through the involvement of all its stakeholders, including the indigenous communities.

Country Program Strategy (CPS) is a prerequisite for GEF/SGP before granting or starting any grant-making exercise or other program activities. The CPS must be aligned with local goals with the relevant Operational Phase (OP) project document and the global SGP operational guidelines. Accordingly, during OP4, 70% of SGP projects were clustered in Adi Tekelezan sub-region, Anseba region, where land degradation is severe. At the same time, landscape and seascape approaches are carried out during the development of GEF OP6 and OP7. The landscape and seascape, namely Anker Balwa and Bahr areas, were carefully chosen through rigorous selection criteria. Anker Balwa is located in Aditekelezan and Elabered subregion of the Anseba region. The seascape site is located at the juncture of the two coastal regions, the Northern & Southern Red Sea Regions (Gelalo and Araeta subregions).

SGP NSC Eritrea has an average composition of 8 members. The members consist of environmental-related ministries such as the Ministry of Land Water Environment (MoLWE); Ministry of Mines and Energy (MoME); Ministry of Agriculture (MOA); Ministry of Marine Resource (MoMR), Forestry and Wildlife (FWL), Academia (College of Agriculture); Representatives of the CSOs/CBOs and UNDP CO. Ministry of Finance and National Development will be incorporated during the next meeting of NSC in 2023.

NSC is the core element of SGP and provides a major substantive contribution to and oversight of the programme.

UNDP-GEF/SGP Eritrea became operational in 2009. Since its establishment, the programme has supported 56 projects, of which 34 were satisfactorily completed and 19 are under implementation.

COUNTRY PROGRAMME SNAPSHOT

2009

Start Year

56

Number of GEF Projects

US\$ 2,588,000

GEF Grant Amount

US\$ 443,883

Co-Financing in Cash

US\$ 4,355,590

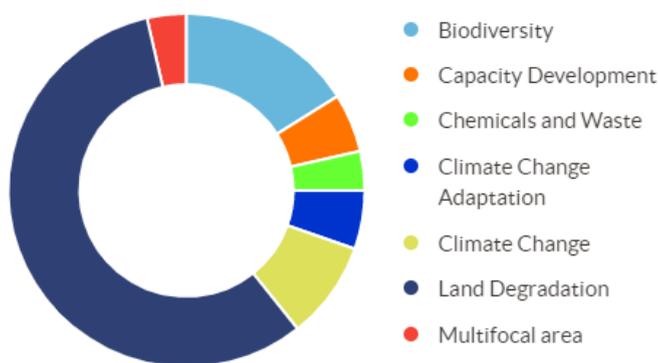
Co-Financing in Kind

Key programme achievements

Vigorous achievements are made, lessons learned, and viable impact has been gained from those projects as indicated below.

- ❖ Strong partnership was established with 49 Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and other non-state actors.
- ❖ Soil and water conservation programs were implemented in 29 community based permanent enclosures of 970 hectares in various sub-regions of the country.
- ❖ 252 households & 6 service centers are served with installation of solar home systems.
- ❖ Solar lanterns are distributed to 400 households.
- ❖ Over 400 households served with energy saving improved traditional stoves.
- ❖ Piloted solar powered IT systems in two elementary schools.
- ❖ Biogas as alternative sources of energy are placed in eight households.
- ❖ Conducted promotional training on production and application of compost in over 60 villages and on proper management of agrochemicals for community representatives in two subregions.

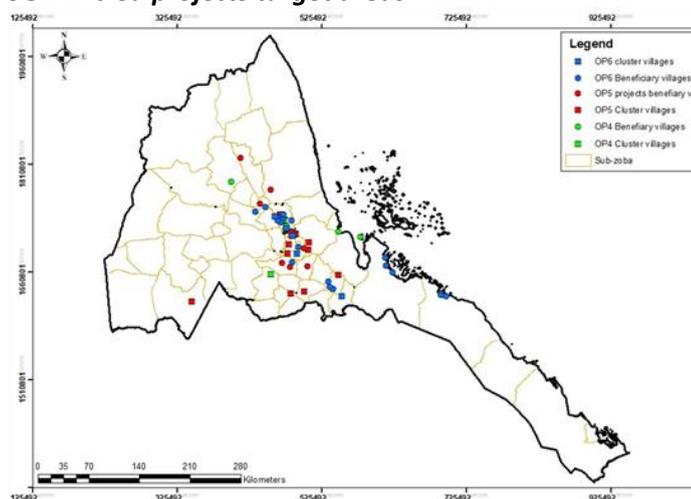
COUNTRY PORTFOLIO BY AREA OF WORK



SGP Target areas

SGP projects are in all or six regions of Eritrea but in some regions are highly clustered in the areas of severe land degradation with high population.

SGP Eritrea projects target areas



Immediate Impact

- ❖ The programme has enabled communities to mitigate land degradation, restore endangered plant species, and recharge underground water sources.
- ❖ Communities have shifted from high health risk to active health promotion.
- ❖ Communities have shifted from darkness to light by installing renewable and efficient energy sources.
- ❖ Two afforestation projects received National Greening Award. The projects are Tala Community-Based Catchment Rehabilitation (OP5 project) and Mesfnto-Tsehaflam Community-Based Forest Management project (OP6 project).
- ❖ One strategic provision of solar home systems in Qnafena has become a model and replicated in other places namely Hamelmalo and Habero subregions of the Anseba region by UNDP CO and other local actors.

Implementing Partners

- ❖ Ministry of Land, Water & Environment (MoLWE);
- ❖ Ministry of Mines and Energy (MoME)
- ❖ Ministry of Agriculture (MOA);
- ❖ Ministry of Marine Resource (MoMR);
- ❖ Forest and Wildlife Authority (FWLA);
- ❖ The Academia
- ❖ National Board for Higher Education;
- ❖ Community-Based Organizations (CBOs);
- ❖ National Union of Eritrean Women;
- ❖ National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students;
- ❖ Eritrean National War Disabled Veterans Association (ENWDVA);
- ❖ National Confederation of Eritrean Workers (NCEW).

Financial Information

UNDP and SGP in Eritrea are grateful for the support provided by partners who have contributed financially and technically to the programmes.

- ❖ GEF donor countries
- ❖ GEF agencies
- ❖ Global Conventions
- ❖ Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

Programme Alinement

The programme is contributing and coherent with at least 9 SDGs and complementary to the national priorities.



Biodiversity



Climate Change



Land Degradation



Sustainable Forest Management



International Waters



Chemicals



People centered development in line with
Government priorities of Leave no One Behind.



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