



## The Small Grants Programme (SGP)

The Small Grants Programme (SGP) is a downstream funding instrument and programme supporting community led initiatives with a focus on sustainability and socio-environmental impact. It is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and relies on a National Steering Committee to ensure transparency and a participatory approach.

### GEF SGP Mission

Established in 1992, the year of the Rio Earth Summit, the GEF Small Grants Programme embodies the very essence of sustainable development by "thinking globally acting locally". By providing financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people's well-being and livelihoods, SGP demonstrates that community action can maintain the fine balance between human needs and environmental imperatives.

Since 2001, GEF Small Grants Programme Iran (GEF SGP) implemented by UNDP, has worked to build ecosystem resilience and pilots for participatory practices. Iran as the 54th country that joined the global programme, has been active in participatory conservation and revitalization of globally important habitats. This work is accomplished through community action and multi-stakeholder approaches including community and marginalized groups with ancestral knowledge.

GEF focal areas of climate change, biodiversity, prevention of land degradation, conservation of international water bodies, and reduction of chemical pollution. Multi-focal area projects are more relevant to the community orientation of the projects. The Iran GEF SGP programme has worked in Caspian, Persian Gulf, Zagros and Touran geographic areas and in main UNDP and large GEF project sites.



## GEF SGP in I.R. of Iran

Iran was the 54th country to join the program starting in 2001. To date, SGP Iran has funded over 350 projects. The program has applied participatory approach from the very beginning of its operations in Iran. It was a learning by doing process, which produced the participatory literature as the projects went along, in order to fill the gap. Our collective experience has demonstrated that change comes community by community, it does not come through a top-down approach. When development takes shape from the grass roots it is sustainable, and when the communities are empowered as a part of the solution, then innovative solutions arise. Participatory assessments, planning and implementation is what SGP and the grantees in Iran have been doing.

At the national and local levels, SGP operates in a decentralized and country-driven manner through country programme teams composed of a National Coordinator (NC), a Programme Associate (PA), and a National Steering Committee (NSC). Each participating country develops a country programme strategy (CPS),

which adapts the SGP global strategic framework to specific country conditions. SGP CPS takes into account existing national environmental strategies and plans, as well as those relating to national development and poverty eradication. Through the CPS, the country is able to put emphasis on certain thematic and geographic areas to ensure synergy and impact, as well as to facilitate programme administration.

All SGP country programmes have a voluntary National Steering Committee (NSC), which is the central element of SGP and provides the major substantive contribution to and oversight of the programme. The NSC is comprised a majority of civil society organizations, as well as representatives of the government, UNDP and the academia. The NSC helps develop the CPS, considers whether proposals for grants are feasible and meet SGP criteria, and what kind of technical support is needed for implementation.

## SGP Iran Thematic Clusters

Eight Thematic Clusters have been formed in SGP Iran which have resulted in thematic networks among grantees and stakeholders on similar topics to help build synergy, sharing resources, partnerships, emerging solutions, as well as helping communities accessing national forums on related topics.





# SGP Iran Portfolio (2001-2022)



**350**  
**TOTAL PROJECTS**  
(since 2001 - OP2)

**227**  
**GEF Funded Projects**

**87**  
**Non- GEF Funded Projects**

**21**  
**TOTAL ongoing Projects**



**US\$ 7.0**  
**MILLIONS**  
**Project Grants**

**US\$ 12.2**  
**MILLIONS**  
**Co-funding (cash& inkind)**

## GEF SGP IRAN PROJECTS BASED ON FOCAL AREAS



**26%**  
**Biodiversity**



**20%**  
**Climate Change**



**8%**  
**Land Degradation**



**1%**  
**Chemicals and Waste**



**2%**  
**Capacity Development**



**2%**  
**International Waters**



**17%**  
**Multifocal Area**



**17%**  
**Community Conserved Areas**



**7%**  
**UNDP RCCE COVID-19**

