



Call for Proposals for Innovative Community-Based Adaptation Projects Operational Phase 7 (2020-2023) of the GEF-Small Grants Programme, UNDP.

(Date of Announcement: 5 December 2023)

Background

The Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP), implemented by UNDP in partnership with the Royal Government of Bhutan provides financial and technical support to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) including Community-based Organizations (CBOs) to 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 its inception in October 1998, SGP-UNDP has implemented a total of 188 projects in partnership with the Royal Government of Bhutan, CSOs, CBOs and academia. SGP-UNDP is now in its 7th Operational Phase (OP7) (2020-2023). The Strategic Goal of SGP, UNDP for Operational Phase 7 (2020-2023) is *“to promote and support innovative, inclusive and scalable initiatives, and foster multi stakeholder partnerships at the local level to tackle global environmental issues in the priority landscape”*.

Call for innovative proposals for 2023

The SGP-UNDP announces the 2023 "Call for Proposals" inviting CSOs (including Community-Based Organizations and grassroot institutions/communities) to submit inclusive and innovative project proposals specifically focused on *Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) Programmes* for small grants, the total fund from SGP not exceeding USD 50,000.00. At least 5 projects will be supported during this call.

Preference will be given to proposals that are inclusive and innovative. CSO and CBO who have ongoing projects are not eligible during this call. Duly completed project proposals (digital copy) should be submitted to the National Coordinator, SGP, UNDP Country Office, Bhutan via email/online. Proponents are encouraged to explore co-financing and integrate in-kind contribution for the proposed projects.

Project proposals must be aligned with the SGP's Country Programme Strategy (https://www.bt.undp.org/content/bhutan/en/home/library/environment_energy/sgp-country-programme-strategy-for-operational-phase-7.html) and the National Adaptation Plan (<https://www.undp.org/bhutan/publications/national-adaptation-plan>) of the Royal Government of Bhutan, besides

other relevant climate change adaptation policies and strategies of UNDP, government, and others. Please refer the SGP Proposal Template (download here:) and CBA Guidance (download here:) for the development of project proposals.

CSOs and CBOs are encouraged to submit proposals for SGP-UNDP's landscape (i.e Lower Pema Gatshel). Duly completed project proposals (digital copy) should be submitted to the National Coordinator, SGP, UNDP Country Office, Bhutan. Proponents are encouraged to explore co-financing and integrate in-kind contribution for the proposed projects.

Project proposal submission deadline

The “Call for Proposals” for innovative project is being made on 5th December 2023.

Project proposals will be accepted via email/online (<https://forms.gle/4BvJCMJ2L1d7mPf26>) only between 25th – 8th January 2024. **The deadline for the submission of proposals is 03.00 PM, 8th January (Monday) 2024**

For further information, visit UNDP website www.undp.org/bhutan or see the Facebook page OR contact, GEF-Small Grants Programme, UNDP, Thimphu at 02-322424 [Extension 330/331] or e-mail to letro.letro@undp.org.

SGP Secretariat reserves the right to reject proposals which are submitted after the deadline, not submitted in SGP proposal template, incomplete and those which are submitted by ineligible proponents.

Sensitization webinar

For interested grantees, SGP will conduct sensitization webinar on **15th December 2023** on the general guidance. Kindly **REGISTER** yourself in the given link; (<https://forms.gle/KjeUJptfkKUzP8gRA>)

Introduction to potential grantees

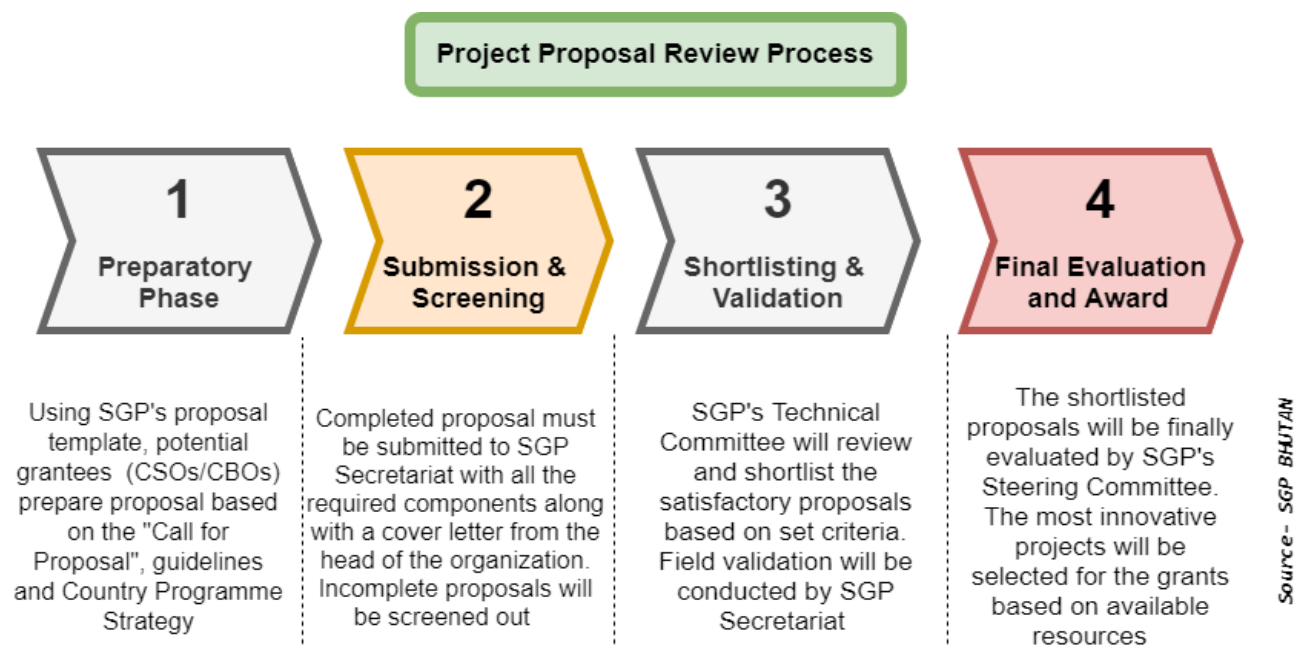
To know more about GEF-Small Grants Programme and its grant making modality, eligibility and grant ceiling, potential proponents are requested to watch these videos:

1. Dzongkha Version with sign language (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Iu0TD5iISw>) and
2. English version (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kh3r_YuOO48&t=132s)

Potential proponents can also watch past SGP supported project on UNDP Bhutan YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/undpbhutan2012/videos>

Project Proposal Review Process

The GEF-Small Grants Programme is implemented by UNDP in partnership with the Royal Government. The “project proposal review process” will follow the four steps in the selection of the most innovative proposals.



Preparatory Phase

- The call is open to all eligible civil society organizations (CSOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) in the country who are interested in contributing to global environmental benefits by implementing micro projects.
- All interested CSOs/CBOs must prepare proposals using SGP's standard Proposal Template. The proposals can be also submitted in Dzongkha and in video format especially for CBOs who have limitations.
- Proposals must be prepared based on the CBA guidelines and SGP Country Programme Strategy.
- All consultations (local or national) must be conducted during the proposal development phase and relevant agencies and authorities must be informed and their approval sought in advance.
- SGP Secretariat can be contacted for clarifications.

Submission and screening

- Qualified CSOs/CBOs must submit the full proposal documents within specified time.
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- Ensure that all components of the proposal are properly written.

- Supporting letters from agencies and institutions must be submitted as additional documents.
- SGP Secretariat will initiate the screening process.
- CSOs/CBOs that do not meet the eligibility criteria or submits incomplete proposals will be screened out.
- Satisfactory proposals will be reviewed by SGP's Technical Committee members

Shortlisting and validation

- SGP's Technical Committee will review and shortlist the project proposals based on the set criteria, sub-criteria, and point system.
- Shortlisted proposals will be recommended for field validation.
- The proposals will be then presented to the Steering Committee for final evaluation

Final Evaluation and Award

- The shortlisted proposals will be evaluated by SGP's Steering Committee.
- Based on the final scoring and field validation report, the Steering Committee will take decision to select the most innovative proposals.
- The selected CSOs/CBOs will be contacted to accept the grant and signing of Memorandum of Agreement.
- The project will be subjected to strict monitoring and evaluation.