



Call for Proposals

GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP)

Implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

July 2024

Guidelines for GEF SGP applicants

NOTE: This Call for Proposals forms the basis for applying for GEF SGP grants. It must neither be construed as a grant agreement nor be regarded as a confirmation of a grant awarded by the GEF Small Grants Programme to any entity. This Call for Proposals is not for sale and neither does the GEF Small Grants Programme charge a fee for any stage of the proposal development and submission process.

Proposals are to be sent by e-mail to sgpinfo.ke@undp.org by CoB July 26 2024

Introduction

The **Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP)** implemented by UNDP, awards grants on a competitive basis for initiatives implemented by civil society organizations, to enable them to implement environmental projects while at the same time supporting poverty reduction and local empowerment objectives.

Global environmental degradation proceeds unimpeded in the World Heritage Site of the Kenya Lakes System in the Great Rift Valley, the marine ecosystem of Southern Kenya in Kwale County, and the arid rangelands of northern Kenya, due to human activity, climate change, and land degradation. Weaknesses in the organizational capacities of communities and community organizations, which seek to address these challenges, prevent them from collectively taking action to strengthen and maintain the resilience of these socio-ecological landscapes. Local resource-dependent rural and coastal poor communities are at the receiving end of the negative and devastating effects of habitat destruction, climate change, and biodiversity loss.

To address this challenge, the Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in Kenya aims to empower communities and organizations to take collective action through a participatory landscape planning and management approach aimed at enhancing socio-ecological resilience by producing global environmental and local sustainable development benefits. The project will do so by strengthening adaptive management capabilities, increasing technical know-how, developing planning and organizational skills, and strengthening innovation and experimentation capacities to enhance civil society's capacity to build landscape resilience. The project will also invest in strategic projects to build knowledge and capacity and generate synergies among other smaller local actions, to build long-term ecological social and economic resilience in landscapes. This project aims to promote synergies, coordination, and collaboration among local actions to accrue results and acquire a critical mass of practitioners to achieve landscape-level resilience. The project has a strong commitment to attending the specific needs of vulnerable sub-groups within the communities that often tend to be placed on the margin of social processes - women, youth, and indigenous communities - by supporting their productive and sustainable initiatives and enhancing their participation in multi-stakeholder structures.

Project Objective

The **objective** of the project is to enhance and maintain the socio-ecological resilience of selected landscapes and seascapes through community-based initiatives in selected ecologically sensitive areas of Kenya for global environmental benefits and sustainable development.

The GEF-funded alternative will be delivered through two Components:

- **Component 1-** Resilient rural landscapes for sustainable development and contribution to global environmental protection
- **Component 2-** Landscape governance and adaptive management for upscaling and replication

SGP seeks proposals aligned to the 3 outcomes of Component 1, and one outcome of Component 2. A description of the outcomes appears below. Examples of typology of projects that will be considered for funding under each output is highlighted in Annex 1.

Under Component 1, the following **outcomes** are anticipated:

- **1.1 Ecosystem services and biodiversity within targeted landscapes and seascapes are enhanced through multi-functional land-use systems.**
 - the project recognizes that one of the effective means of engaging various levels of community and government is through improved and integrated land use, while ensuring connectivity. This involves strategies of rehabilitating degraded ecosystems, fostering a shared understanding on the importance of ecosystem services and how best to manage them, and contributing to improved and sustainable land use.

- **1.2: The sustainability of production systems in the target landscapes is strengthened through integrated agro-ecological practices.**
 - the project acknowledges that agriculture offers an entry by which sustainability measures can be promoted while supporting livelihoods. It is also a sector where there is room for innovation and sharing of best practices. Given that the project is primarily targeting rural communities, agriculture is the most relevant sector to address, as it is directly connected to livelihoods, sustenance, connection to the land and to traditions, supports the sense of community, and is most closely associated to the use of natural resources.

- **1.3 Livelihoods of communities in the target landscapes and seascapes are improved by developing eco-friendly, climate-adaptive, small-scale community enterprises with clear market linkages**
 - The project seeks to strengthen communities' livelihoods by promoting and upscaling sustainable enterprises. With its rich cultural heritage and diverse landscapes, the communities under this project have a plethora of activities at the local scale that could yield greater socioeconomic and environmental benefits. These enterprises need accompaniment, organizational development, and support in business planning to make initiatives profitable. They also require the opportunity to pilot various activities to see which can be managed by the communities, and which can be viable.

One of the outcomes expected in component 2 is as follows:

- **Output- 2.2.1 Landscape/seascape learning supports community-level project management, capacity building, project monitoring, and learning,**
 - the project seeks to support local organizations in strengthening their organizational capacities, administrative practices, gender-responsive approaches and sensitivity to socioeconomic, ethnic, inequalities, ability to leverage funds, and upscale their sustainable practices. This is a core issue to ensure sustainability and to provide an incentive for participation on the parts of smaller organizations, which may have to sacrifice time/resources to participate in SGP multi-stakeholder meetings.

Gender mainstreaming

- The Constitution of Kenya 2010 recognizes women as a special group deserving protection. The Constitution espouses the rights of women as being equal in law to those of men and affirms that women are entitled to enjoy equal opportunities in the political, social, and economic spheres. Despite the rights-based progressive Constitution that provides a framework for advancing the cause of equality, according to UN Women, African women still face challenges including the ability to participate effectively in decision-making and leadership.
- SGP requires that throughout the various stages of the project including conceptualization, planning, implementation, monitoring, and lesson-sharing, gender matters are fully incorporated, to ensure equal opportunities to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from project resources, activities, and results.
- Some of the indicators that SGP will address during the life of the project related to gender mainstreaming include:
 - Percentage of women with improved participation and decision-making in natural resource governance
 - Number of participants and beneficiaries disaggregated by gender
 - Number of women groups supported to implement activities aligned to the expected outcomes

Development of project proposals

Proposals will be developed and submitted to the SGP office by local civil society organizations based in the landscape/seascape of the following ecosystems:

- 1) Lake Bogoria National Reserve, and Lake Baringo National Reserve production landscapes
- 2) The Samburu-Isiolo Conservation Area (SICA) production landscape
- 3) The Shimoni-Vanga and Bodo-Mwandamu production seascapes

Each of the proposals developed should be well-aligned with the outputs and outcomes of the project, and should make clear linkages with one of the focal areas listed below:

- 1) Biodiversity Conservation
- 2) Sustainable land management
- 3) Capacity development

A proposal will likely include activities that address all 3 focal areas. However, the proposal must be written in such a way that a dominant focal area is clear.

Examples of projects that can be developed are in Annex 1. However, this is not an exhaustive list, and other innovative project proposals can be developed, as long as they are aligned with the expected outcomes and outputs.

Factors to be included in the proposals:

- 1) Proposals intending to engage in restoration activities or improved practices at landscape or seascape level, must include hectareage of the intended target
- 2) Projects should make an effort to support improved participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance, and identify indicators on tracking this element
- 3) Projects by women groups, youth groups and persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.
- 4) Proposals of community eco-enterprises should strive for improved market access, or partnership with the private sector, and/or adopt the value chain approach.
- 5) Organizations that developed proposals in the previous phase of GEF 6 and were funded, and completed are welcome to apply. However, new proposals must show sustainability, innovation, and scale-up.
- 6) Organizations that submitted applications in GEF phase 6 but were not successful are welcome to try again, but with an enriched proposal.

Strategic Partners

The GEF SGP identified 4 strategic partners on a competitive basis; one for each county, to spearhead and coordinate SGP-related activities at the selected production landscapes and seascapes. Some of the key tasks of the strategic partners include:

- (i) Conduct a baseline assessment and develop a site strategy for their respective landscape/seascape.
- (ii) Disseminate the Call for Proposals and assist CBOs develop quality proposals
- (iii) Provide mentorship and technical support (as needed) to CBOs that are awarded grants
- (iv) Establish/strengthen multi-stakeholder platforms and support their operationalization
- (v) Support community-based monitoring and develop knowledge management materials based on the ongoing learning by doing.
- (vi) Ensure that the portfolio of SGP-funded projects at each landscape/seascape is vibrant; builds partnerships with key stakeholders and contributes to the objectives of the respective CIDPs.

Organizations interested in GEF SGP funds are encouraged to liaise with the strategic partners before proposal submission and during implementation. The strategic partners are as follows:

1) Shimoni-Vanga seascape:

CANCO

Email: info@cancokenya.net / richard.canco@gmail.com / hadley.becha@cancokenya.net

Tel: 0791328750 / 0728607519

2) Lake Bogoria and Lake Baringo National Reserves

Farming Systems Kenya (FSK)

Email: kenneth.wamuga@farmingsystemskenya.org / purity@farmingsystemskenya.org

Tel: 0724522936 / 0724226424

3) Samburu Isiolo Conservation Area (SICA)

Isiolo County

Merti Integrated Development Programme (MID – P)

Email: ibraahappy@midpkenya.org / ydimam@midpkenya.org / midp2003@gmail.com

Phone: 0712417098 / 0705310316

Samburu County -integrated

PACIDA

Email: L.abdiah@pacida.org / b.owino@pacida.org / p.ochieng@pacida.org

Phone: 0724553015 / 0729465090

Grant awards

GEF SGP awards grants only to civil society organizations on a competitive basis. These include national NGOs, Community-Based Organizations, (CBOs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), a development arm of (i) financial institutions, and (ii) faith-based organizations. Partnerships with the private sector, national and county governments, and institutions of higher learning are highly encouraged. The maximum grant award for CBOs and SHGs is USD 30,000. The maximum grant for other CSOs is USD 50,000. The period of implementation will be approx. 18 months

Co-financing

It is a requirement by GEF that applicants demonstrate co-financing. For SGP-funded projects, the requirement is 1:1. i.e. for every dollar requested from GEF SGP, the applicant should be able to raise an additional dollar. The applicant should show in the proposal the amount of co-financing it will raise (both in cash and in-kind) during the implementation of the project and indicate the source of the co-financing.

Proposal development

The template for proposal development is found at the following link: [SGP OP7 project proposal template FINAL](#)

Additional information about SGP is found at the following website: www.sgp.undp.org

Eligibility Criteria

- A non-profit, civil society organization, locally registered in Kenya with at least 18 months of experience in environmental conservation, natural resource management and/or sustainable development. A civil society organization that is not registered, may apply through their trusted partner.
- Be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the project, i.e., not acting as an intermediary.
- Have a bank account.
- Women and youth-led organizations, especially Indigenous, are strongly encouraged to apply.
- Indicate linkages with county integrated development plans.

Duration

The projects will be implemented over a period of 18 months.

Submission of proposals

All proposals must be developed using the GEF SGP proposal guidelines template and should reach the following email address sgpinfo.ke@undp.org no later than **CoB July 26, 2024**. Only one application per organization will be accepted. Files larger than 5MB will not go through. For enquiries and clarifications, send an email to Eunice.mwaura@undp.org.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applicants are to submit a full project proposal, using the GEF SGP proposal template. The template is available below.



SGP OP7 project
proposal template_FIT

Documents to be submitted for application.

The following documents must be submitted as part of the application:

- Project proposal application form (template provided);
- Project budget (template provided);
- Registration certificate as evidence for legal credentials of the organization.
- Letter of support from a government office or a development partner.

Further documentation may be required. These may be communicated to provisionally selected applicants.

Documents may be checked for truthfulness and accuracy of representation through various means, including but not limited to internet searches, formally official confirmation from responsible offices, letters of recommendation, etc.

Where and how to send the application

The completed application form and the budget document must be submitted in Word, Excel or PDF.

Applications must be submitted by email to sgpinfo.ke@undp.org. The subject heading should make reference to one of the focal areas. The focal areas are:

- Biodiversity Conservation
- Sustainable land management
- Capacity Development

The subject should read: **SGP CfP application; [focal area]**. If you have any questions regarding this application process, kindly send your query to sgpinfo.ke@undp.org.

Applications sent by any other means (e.g. by fax) or delivered to other addresses will not be considered under this Call for Proposals.

Incomplete applications will be rejected.

Deadline for submission of applications

The deadline for the submission of full project proposals is **CoB 26 July 2024** as evidenced by the date of receipt of submission email. Any application submitted after the deadline will be automatically rejected.

EVALUATION PROCEDURE

Applications will be evaluated by the technical evaluation team according to the following steps and criteria:

Step one: Eligibility evaluation

The following will be evaluated:

- The submission deadline has been respected.
- The application form including the budget table is duly filled.
- Requested documents are attached to the application.
- The proposal meets the rest of the eligibility criteria as mentioned in section 2 above.

Step two: Technical assessment of full project proposals

The technical assessment will be done by the National Steering Committee (NSC).

The NSC reviews the proposal and either accepts it conditionally or rejects it. Proposals that are conditionally accepted are requested to enrich them as per the recommendations of the NSC. In addition, proposals are subjected to a due diligence process, which may include a field visit.

Some of the criteria for evaluation of the proposals are:

- ❖ Relevance of Core activities
- ❖ Demonstrated capacity to implement activities/track record
- ❖ Comprehensive and realistic work plan
- ❖ Detailed and realistic budget
- ❖ Co-financing provided and a breakdown presented.
- ❖ The project centers community engagement and participation and demonstrated tangible benefits for the community

Upon conclusion of the due diligence and receipt of the revised proposal, the NSC makes a final decision on the organizations to be awarded a grant. Approved proposals enter the national SGP work programme.

APPROVAL AND AWARD

Only successful applicants will be informed in writing of the grant award.

The successful applicant signs a Grant Agreement based on the standard SGP MOA.

Annex 1

Component 1: Resilient rural landscapes for sustainable development and contribution to global environmental protection		
Outcome	Output	Examples of Activities
1.1 Ecosystem services and biodiversity within targeted landscapes and seascapes are enhanced through multi-functional land-use systems.	1.1.1: Community level small grant projects in the selected landscapes that restore degraded land, improve connectivity, support innovation in biodiversity conservation and optimization of ecosystem services (including reforestation of riparian gallery forests, enhanced connectivity for wetlands, rangelands and priority conservation areas; water catchment protection; participatory monitoring of species;).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Conservation and restoration of mangrove ecosystems ❖ Restoration and rehabilitation of native vegetation, including riparian forests in middle and upper catchments /woodlands, coastal areas ❖ Expanding coral reef restoration programme ❖ Replicating successful Sea Grass Ecosystem Restoration programs in areas where it has not been piloted ❖ Capacity building/training initiatives for engaging local communities, especially women and youth in landscape resilience activities. ❖ Disseminating best practices on sustainable use of biodiversity, such as habitat restoration, use of non-timber forest products [NTFP]. ❖ Restoration of traditional/cultural natural resources management systems and practices ❖ Establishing community conservancy land use management plans ❖ Support county government to develop / implement county spatial plans, participatory forest management plans

		<p>(PFMPs) and other development plans related to sustainable management of natural resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ management of fish spawning areas ❖ resource based conflict/ Human wildlife conflict
<p><i>1.2: The sustainability of production systems in the target landscapes is strengthened through integrated agro-ecological practices.</i></p>	<p>1.2.1- Targeted community projects enhance the sustainability and resilience of production systems, including soil and water conservation practices, silvopastoral and agroforestry systems; agro-ecological practices and holistic grazing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Identification and dissemination of sustainable rangeland management practices such as: sustainable land use/ranch management plans, and holistic range management; strengthening traditional mechanisms for grazing control. ❖ Improve water management including water catchment support, small scale irrigation schemes, improved water treatment technology. ❖ Promote use and document indigenous knowledge and traditional crops, especially neglected native crops ❖ Promote rural farmers to adopt to climate-smart agricultural /agro-ecological practices ❖ Promote an integrated approach between farming and potential impacts on marine environment ❖ Support county government to develop / implement county spatial plans and other development plans related to sustainable management of natural resources. ❖ Management of water sources – cross border sharing of resources
<p>Outcome 1.3- Livelihoods of communities in the target landscapes and seascapes are improved by developing eco-friendly, climate-adaptive, small-scale</p>	<p>Output 1.3.1- Targeted community projects promoting sustainable livelihoods, green businesses and market access, including ecotourism; ecological conversion of waste; beekeeping; green value-added agro-businesses integrated into value chains, micro-processing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mariculture ▪ Tree nurseries and demo gardens of fruit trees, indigenous trees and medicinal trees. ▪ Forging/strengthening associations and cooperatives

<p>community enterprises with clear market linkages</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supporting groups/cooperatives in accessing revolving credit ▪ Providing capacity-building for entrepreneurs, supporting sustainable packaging/marketing, quality control ▪ Investing along the value chain to increase value addition of products e.g. gum arabica and Resin fish, honey, fruits, leather, pasture, seaweed, ▪ Supporting smaller enterprises to obtain eco-tourism status e.g. eco lodges, safari walks and adventures, bird watching, camping tents, curio shops, guidebooks ▪ Support not-for-profit training centers for guides and scouts ▪ Promote sustainable livestock husbandry techniques (predator proof Bomas, improved breed, marketing strategies) ▪ Recycling and waste management
<p>Component 2- Landscape governance and adaptive management for upscaling and replication</p>		
<p>Outcome 2.2- Knowledge from community level engagement and innovative conservation practices is systematically assessed and shared for replication and upscaling across the landscapes, across the</p>	<p>Output- 2.2.1 Landscape/seascape learning supports community level project management, capacity building, project monitoring and learning,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Showcase best practices, systematizing lessons learned, so that they can be shared in a usable manner ▪ Strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to effectively respond to NR issues at landscape level ▪ Conduct capacity building sessions that will include the following topics: organizational

<p>county, and to the global SGP network,</p>		<p>development, governance and inclusive, democratic decision-making; financial management and accountability, participatory monitoring, gender mainstreaming; administrative procedures, proposal development, resource mobilization, and use of social media for development.</p> <p>One capacity building grant per site will be selected¹; 3 in total. One for Lk. Bogoria/Lk. Baringo landscape; 1 for the Samburu-Isiolo Conservation Area (SICA) landscape and 1 for Shimoni-vanga/Bodo-Mwadamu seascapes.</p>
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¹ The number of SGP-funded organizations per landscape/seascape will vary, but estimated to be about 10-15. The capacity B grant will be expected to build the capacity of not only CSO executives, but also wider membership. In addition, the project will be expected to work closely with the strategic partner to host at least 1 learning platform that brings together the CSO grantees, members of the National Steering Committee (NSC) of SGP and members of the multi-stakeholder platform.