

OPERATIONAL PHASE 8 (OP8)

SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY (CPS)

EGYPT

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OP8 Financial Resources - SGP Country Programme (estimated US\$)¹

¹ The level of SGP OP8 resources is an estimated total of: (a) the GEF8 core grant allocation; (b) approved STAR resources; as well as (c) other sources of cost sharing & co-financing (country, regional and/or global levels). SGP countries with remaining OP7 balances that have not been pipelined will be expected to use these balances in line with the OP8 strategic approach in order to be coherent in terms of SGP programming and results expected.

Total SGP Grants to date since Country Programme start date (1993)	USD 10 433 633
OP8 GEF Core Funds	TBC
OP8 GEF STAR Funds	USD 1,411,568
Other funds (secured)	USD
Other funds (expected/to be mobilized)	USD 1,450,000 CSO contributions/co-finance

1. INTRODUCTION

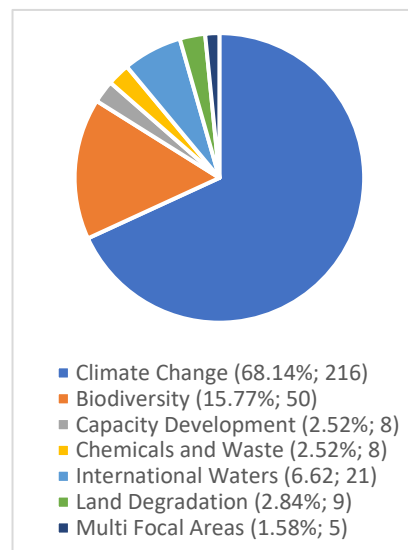
The Eighth Operational Phase of the Small Grants Programme (SGP OP8) builds on 30 years of successful experience in empowering local civil society organizations (CSOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) in designing and leading community driven initiatives that have enhanced household wellbeing, increased awareness and resilience regarding environmental threats, and generated global environmental benefits. With economic development pressures intensifying in many parts of the developing world and the associated rising inequalities, local communities, particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged groups are becoming more and more marginalized, unable to cope with threats associated with ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change. Lessons learned and experience gained in previous SGP Operational Phases have demonstrated that integrated, landscape-seascape approaches are effective in mobilizing multiple stakeholder collaboration, linking local CSOs/CBOs with enabling partners and achieving mutually supportive livelihood and environmental outcomes at scale.

The objectives of the SGP OP8 is to engage local CSOs/CBOs in landscape-seascape approaches across the world, providing them access to knowledge and information, capacitating them through learning-by-doing, skills development, and delivering technical and grant assistance for interventions that enhance wellbeing and socioeconomic conditions and generate global environmental benefits.

The OP8 objectives reflect the key features of GEF Small Grants Programme 2.0, including new approaches to support youth, women and Indigenous Peoples, linking up with complementary mechanisms, such as the Microfinance Initiative and CSO Challenge Programme, cooperating with other GEF Agencies, and leveraging opportunities with GEF strategies, including the delivery of the GEF-8 Integrated Programmes. In addition, OP8 will facilitate opportunities for innovation and scaling up, catalyze multi-stakeholder alliances to test new approaches through CSOs, and leverage its dialogue platforms towards greater impact. OP8 will also align and contribute to the UNDP Strategic Plan (2022-2025).

2. COUNTRY PROGRAMME SUMMARY: Key results and achievements (1 page)

SGP started in Egypt with a pilot phase in 1992 and has since been implemented with the 7th phase to be completed in 2026. SGP Egypt has a total of 317 GEF project grants, with 292 completed and 25 currently being executed, constituting a GEF Grant Amount of US\$ 10,433,633; Co-Financing in Cash of US\$ 551,591,133, and Co-Financing in Kind of US\$ 2,662,644. Thematic areas of focus and their focal area distribution is provided in Fig.1.



SGP Egypt's key global environmental benefits that coincide with key results by focal areas include, inter alia: Positive influence on Protected Areas (PAs), encompassing 64,200 ha in the period from 2016 to 2023²; Biodiversity-based products sustainably produced; Community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations or scaling up and replication; Low carbon technology and renewable energy projects; Energy efficiency solution projects; Sustainable transport projects; Conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks projects; Land brought under improved management practices, encompassing 3,608 ha in the period from 2016 to 2023³; River and lake basins converted, encompassing 1,000 ha in the period from 2016 to 2023⁴; E-waste collected or recycled, encompassing 5,450 kg in the period from 2016 to 2023⁵, as well as supporting the creation of several CSO-government dialogues, encompassing 34 in the period from 2016 to 2023 that involved hundreds of CSO/CBO representatives.⁶

SGP Egypt's socio-economic results comprise targeting hundreds of beneficiaries, with the following specific accomplishments in the period from 2016 to 2023: 52 gender responsive projects; 18 projects led by women and 28 projects including youth.⁷ SGP Egypt has connected grantees to private sector companies, development agencies and practitioners, government services and built project-specific technical capacities. The programme has also increased access to technology, food security and nutritional value, education, infrastructure, finance and markets as well as improved health and access to health facilities and increased and/or diversified income. Specific examples of SGP Egypt's socio-economic results include, inter alia: improved rural household health in targeted landscapes through recycling of accumulated biomass to produce biogas, which also spared women the challenges they had to face to buy butane gas cylinders and enhanced security and safety of local communities through energy efficient street lighting.

² SGP Egypt Results Report: [https://sgp.undp.org/all-documents/country-documents/2238-egypt-results-report-\(fy-2017-2023\)/file.html](https://sgp.undp.org/all-documents/country-documents/2238-egypt-results-report-(fy-2017-2023)/file.html)

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid

Through its revolving fund mechanism, SGP Egypt has empowered CSOs to exceed intended project targets as well as ensured sustainability of projects through investments by local community members, which extends beyond the time span of an SGP phase.

Key achievements in broader adoption comprise: Collaboration with GEF full-sized projects through technical support, which scaled up the achievements of these projects via CSO outreach to and involvement with local communities that also catalysed the success of private businesses created or supported by the GEF full-sized projects; Initiation and implementation of strategic projects to facilitate upscaling of successful SGP-supported initiatives in the fields of RET/EET in conjunction with sustainable waste and water management systems in public buildings, mainstreaming biodiversity conservation at the national level and banning SUP; Upscaling plans concerning land rehabilitation interventions included in landscape strategies, and Enhancing upscaling through innovative funding models for RET in farming.

SGP Egypt's active participant, the St. Catherine Medicinal Plants Association, which implements the project on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Medicinal Plant, was the Equator Prize Winner in 2012.⁸

SGP Egypt's learned lessons include: the need for more focused capacity building of NGOs/CSOs/CBOs, particularly for proposal preparation and international best practices as well as a number of environmental/technical issues, especially biodiversity, which is not adequately and fully covered by the current capacities of the civil societies and more systematic effort towards the engagement of the private sector. On the plus side, SGP Egypt has successfully provided facilitation and delivery mechanism to a number of bigger projects, which serves the sustainability of their results at local community levels. Facilitation efforts comprise the expansion of scope of two projects, namely, the GEF Full-sized Biomass Project and the GEF Sustainable Transport Project. The first was working in two governorates only, while SGP Egypt succeeded to promote the biogas technology in 12 additional governorates, which also served to increase visibility and reaching out to more communities. As for the second, SGP Egypt worked in full coordination with the project to raise community awareness towards the concept of bike lanes, provided bike instalments for youth and installed bike racks. SGP Egypt served as a delivery mechanism for EU's Strengthening Environmental Governance by Building the Capacity of NGOs project through the implementation of four projects with a funding of USD 200,000. This EU project aimed to promote sustainable development and improved environmental management through effective civil society participation in environmental governance.

3. COUNTRY PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT (2 pages)

3.1 Alignment with national priorities

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

Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
GEF-8 National Dialogues	Consultation Workshop with SGP Egypt experts and representatives of collaborative entities on 21 July, 2024

⁸ <https://sgp.undp.org/component/countrypages/?view=countrypage&country=45&Itemid=271> and <https://sgp.undp.org/resources-155/award-winning-projects/396-st-catherine-medicinal-plants-association/file.html>

	Consultation Workshop with the wider base of SGP Egypt's current and potential stakeholders on 24 July, 2024
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)	Party to CBD by ratification since 31-08-1994 https://www.cbd.int/countries?country=eg
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	As party to CBD, Egypt has submitted its first NBSAP for 1998-2017 and submitted a revised and updated version for 2015 to 2030 in January 2016: https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/eg/eg-nbsap-v2-en.pdf
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	Party by ratification since 12-10-2014: https://www.cbd.int/countries?country=eg
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Non-Annex I Party to Paris Agreement Date of ratification: 29 June 2017 Party to Kyoto Protocol Date of ratification: 12 January 2005 https://unfccc.int/node/61057
UNFCCC National Communications	NC1 (19 Jul 1999); NC2 (7 Jun 2010); NC3 (8 Nov 2016); NIR (8 Nov 2016) https://unfccc.int/non-annex-i-ncs
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	Website (https://www.globalsupportprogramme.org/projects/bf-egypt-nama) and web search do not clarify ratification date/status However, Egypt NAMA's Second National Communication 2010 is available online (https://www.globalsupportprogramme.org/resources/assessments-and-background-documents/egypt-second-national-communication-2010)
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	Web search did not lead to results
Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the Paris Accord	Party to Paris Agreement Date of ratification: 29 June 2017
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	Date of ratification: 7 July 1995 https://www.unccd.int/our-work-impact/country-profiles/egypt
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	Egyptian National Action Program to Combat Desertification, June 2005 https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/naps/egypt-eng2005.pdf
Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Ratification: 02/05/2003 Entry to force: 17/05/2004 https://www.pops.int/Countries/StatusofRatifications/PartiesandSignatoires/tabid/4500/Default.aspx
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	Implementation of the Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plan – Egypt, July 2005 https://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NationalImplementationPlans/NIPTransmission/tabid/253/ctl/Download/mid/13657/Default.aspx?id=57&ObjID=6793

Minamata Convention (MC) on Mercury	Non-party https://minamataconvention.org/en/parties/overview ; however, there is a WB project currently working on Supporting the Preparation of Egypt's Application to the Convention, namely, GCCC: https://gccceg.com/component-6/
UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Egypt launched in March 2015 its strategy for sustainable development "Egypt's Vision 2030" (https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/members/tates/egypt). Egypt's Vision 2030 was updated in 2023 (https://mped.gov.eg/Files/Egypt_Vision_2030_EnglishDigitalUse.pdf)
Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) for the UN SDGs	Egypt's 2021 Voluntary National Review (https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/279512021_VNR_Report_Egypt.pdf), preceded by an earlier one in 2018 (https://mped.gov.eg/DynamicPage?id=80&lang=en)
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international waterbodies (IW)	Regional Strategic Action Programme for the Nubian Aquifer System, ratified in September, 2013 https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/sap180913.pdf
Others (list) as relevant	
Action Programme of the Egyptian Government (2024-2027)	July, 2024 https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ndyhrbeMu326o8lrg_z3r7B2x8mLdig0/view
Egyptian National Agenda for Sustainable Development – Egypt's Updated Vision 2030	Published in 2023 https://mped.gov.eg/Files/Egypt_Vision_2030_EnglishDigitalUse.pdf
Egyptian National Action Program to Combat Desertification 2030	to be presented to UNCCD
Egypt National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS) 2050	Launched on 19/5/2022 (https://beta.sis.gov.eg/en/media-center/strategies/egypt-national-climate-change-strategy-nccs-2050/)
Egyptian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2030)	January 2016 https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/eg/eg-nbsap-v2-en.pdf
National Strategy to limit single-use plastic	2020
National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2030	Launched in 2017: Updated version published in March 2017 (https://www.preventionweb.net/files/52869_day2egyptnationalstrategy.pdf) Abridged version published in April 2017 https://www.preventionweb.net/files/57333_egyp tiannationalstrategyfordrrengli.pdf
National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030	Launched in 2017 (https://beta.sis.gov.eg/en/egypt/society/woman/national-strategy-for-the-empowerment-of-

	egyptian-women-2030/#:~:text=The%20vision%20of%20the%20Wo men's,guarantees%20them%20%2D%20without%20any%20discrimination%20%2D%20">egyptian-women-2030/#:~:text=The%20vision%20of%20the%20Wo men's,guarantees%20them%20%2D%20without%20any%20discrimination%20%2D%20
The Egyptian National Youth Strategy (2021-2026)	2021
The Egyptian National Strategy for Human Rights (2021 - 2026)	Issued on 11 September, 2021 https://t.ly/xlvdG

3.2 Gaps and opportunities

In light of Egypt's national strategies and plans listed above, particularly the most recently developed Action Programme of the Egyptian Government (2024-2027), salient priorities of relevance lie within the scopes of sustainable development, community involvement and participation in environmental issues and causes, enhancing CSO-government partnerships in environmental awareness, and social inclusion of women, youth and persons with disabilities. These priorities fit perfectly with the opportunities provided by OP8, through which Egypt's CPS aims to target environmental sustainability issues as outlined in the strategic priorities in Table 2. Moreover, OP8's allocation of 30% grant-making outside the landscapes-seascapes further solidifies these opportunities through providing a country-wide, connective path that can be created via emphasizing specific themes in light of national priorities and as guided by stakeholder consultation. Given the accomplishments of SGP Egypt so far and the evaluation of its previous phases, the main foreseen programme implementation gap lies within the technical and financial capacities of CSOs to fully achieve Outputs 2 and 3 of OP8's Theory of Change. However, since the OP8 CPS preparation process has resulted in the selection of three main landscapes where SGP Egypt has a long experience as well as established multi-stakeholder platforms, this gap is envisaged to be surmountable. The Country Programme is fully aware of the relevant CSO capacity needs in these landscapes and can, accordingly, allocate the necessary resources and implement the required activities for capacity building early on in OP8.

Social inclusion has always been a main pillar of SGP Egypt, in line with GEF priorities. SGP Egypt's potential grantees have to develop proposals that specifically include targeting women, youth and persons with disabilities. In OP8, special consideration may be given to innovative solutions seeking to overcome barriers for community involvement and social inclusion. These solutions may be either sought as standalone strategies projects, since Enhancing Social Inclusion is one of OP8's mandatory **Strategic Initiatives** (SIs), or as cross-cutting dimensions that are called for in project proposals and/or designs. Further elaboration on such solutions is presented in Section 4.3 of this CPS.

3.3 OP8 strategic priorities of the SGP Country Programme

Table 2. SGP Country Programme's alignment with SGP OP8 Strategic Initiatives and country priorities/projects/programmes

SGP OP8 Strategic Initiatives - Global	SGP Country Programme's OP8 Priorities (Choose priorities among the SGP OP8 Strategic Initiatives on the left column. Some are mandatory and already included.)	SGP Country Programme's complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and programmes (identify related projects/programmes for cooperation)
<i>Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species</i>	<i>Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species at the country level:</i>	• <i>Safe Haven Project in collaboration with Shelter Project (al-Ma'wa) of Jordan, Ministry of Environment,</i>

1) Improve the effectiveness of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and management through equitable governance systems by recognizing and respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. 2) Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy approaches (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.). 3) Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species.	1) Improve the effectiveness of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and management through equitable governance systems by recognizing and respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. 2) Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy approaches (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.). The Country Programme will function in alignment with the Government of Egypt's (GoE) Action Programme of 2024-2027, which lists relevant priorities under its <i>Development and Sustainability of Natural Resources</i> sub-programme, concerning: Declaring the entire Red Sea Coral Reef area an MPA; Implementing Integrated Coastal Zone Management Systems; Preparation of Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment for priority coastal areas in light of national development requirements; Effectuating a Strategic Framework for Blue Economy; Sustainable PA management plans; Ecotourism; Private sector partnership for providing services in PAs⁹. Within the scope of the above priorities, which summarize the needs and opportunities, the Country Programme will focus on implementable community-based and led practices, approaches and actions. <u>In continuum with OP7, the Country Programme may emphasize: Community</u> level small grant projects on strengthening participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity resources and ecosystem services and Partnership building, establishment of business models for leveraging funding, and policy advocacy for facilitating broader adoption of	started in 2023 – ongoing national initiative • <i>Greening Hurghada</i>, UNIDO/GEF, started 2022 – expected completion date is 14/9/2027 • <i>Green Sharm El Sheikh</i>, UNDP/GEF, started 2022 – completion date is 21/3/2027 • <i>Healthy Ecosystems for Rangeland Development (HERD)</i> in Matrouh UNEP/GEF, to be initiated • <i>Egyptian Red Sea Initiative</i>, UNDP, USAID and the Global Fund for Coral Reefs, started in 2024 – to be completed in 2030 • <i>National Initiative for Smart Green Projects</i>, The Government of Egypt, started in 2022 – ongoing national initiative • <i>Enhancing Climate Change Adaptation in the North Coast & Nile Delta</i>, UNDP, started in 2022 – planned end date is 29/10/2025 • <i>Development and clearance of the Northern Lakes</i>, The Government of Egypt, started in 2023 – ongoing national project •
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⁹ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ndyhrbeMu326o8lrg_z3r7B2x8mLdig0/view

	participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood initiatives. <u>Such outputs may be indicated through, inter alia:</u> Participatory management of critical ecosystems; Strengthened agroecological systems; Strengthening gender quality and women's empowerment in control of natural resources; Empowering women in natural resource governance and Participatory landscape management	
Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security 1) Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems (mountains, island ecosystems, etc.). 2) Increase diversification and livelihood improvement. 3) Remove deforestation from supply chain and expand restoration of degraded lands.	Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security 1) Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems (mountains, island ecosystems, etc.). 2) Increase diversification and livelihood improvement. 3) Expand restoration of degraded lands. Food Security is one of the main programmes of the GoE's Action Programme of 2024-2027, comprising a number of sub-programmes, including, most relevantly: Increasing stock of strategic crops; Increasing agricultural land area; Enhancing agricultural investments; Improving the quality of agricultural products; Enhancing sustainable agricultural practices; Supporting farmers; Mitigating negative climate change impacts on agriculture; Increasing the greening rate and Developing fisheries. Sustainability, efficiency and effectiveness are cross-cutting themes among these sub-programmes. The Country Programme will align with these sub-programmes in light of the following priorities, for guidance as applicable: Climate-smart Agriculture, sustainable agriculture, restoration of degraded lands and vertical expansion; Innovative agricultural and irrigation technologies that abate climate change impacts; Adaptable crop patterns based on biotechnology; Linking smallholder farmers to markets; Efficient and	• <i>NWFE – Egypt's Nexus of Water, Food and Energy</i>, The Government of Egypt, started in 2023 – ongoing national programme • <i>Modernization of irrigation techniques to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Upper Egypt</i>, FAO, started in 2022 – end date is October 2026 • <i>Promoting climate smart agriculture and agricultural biodiversity for enhancing the adaptive capacity of vulnerable rural communities in old and new lands of Upper and Lower Egypt</i>, FAO, started in 2023 - end date is June 2027 • <i>Modernisation of Irrigation Techniques to Improve the Livelihoods of Smallholder Farmers in Upper Egypt</i>, FAO, started in 2022 – end date is October 2026 • <i>The National Project for Fish Farming</i>, The Government of Egypt, started in 2014 – ongoing national project • <i>Enhancing climate change adaptation in the North coast and Nile Delta Regions in Egypt</i>, Green Climate Fund, started in 2017 – estimated completion date is 30 November, 2026 • <i>Green Growth and Jobs Accelerator Project Cycle 2</i>, UNDP and The Government of Egypt, started in 2023 – end year is 2027

	sustainable fodder production; Sustainable fisheries and fish farming; Best utilization of information technology and communication applications; Supporting rural women pioneers and Completion of the “100 million trees” presidential initiative. <u>In continuum with OP7, the Country Programme may emphasize: Partnership building, establishment of business models for leveraging funding, and policy advocacy for facilitating broader adoption of participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood initiatives; Community projects implementing renewable energy and energy efficient technologies, including solar energy applications, biogas digestors, PVs, etc. and Partnership building, establishment of business models for leveraging funding and policy advocacy for facilitating broader adoption of renewable energy and energy efficient applications. <u>Such outputs may be indicated through, inter alia: Strengthened agroecological systems; Livelihood co-benefits and strengthened resilience through low carbon agricultural practices and Strengthened resilience and increased energy security.</u></u>	
Low-carbon energy access co-benefits Support implementation of Paris Agreement and the NDCs 1) Promote renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods. 2) Promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas.	Low-carbon energy access co-benefits Support implementation of Paris Agreement and the NDCs 1) Promote renewable and energy efficient technologies providing socio-economic benefits and improving livelihoods. 2) Promote off-grid energy service needs in rural and urban areas. Energy conservation is one of Egypt’s current highest strategic priorities. With a dedicated programme in the GoE’s Action Programme of 2024-2027, the government aims at “Enhancing Energy Security” with a number of sub-programmes including the following, which are most relevant to this Strategic Initiative (SI): Securing low-cost, clean energy and making it available to both individuals and organizations; Diversifying the country’s energy mix;	• NWFE – Egypt’s Nexus of Water, Food and Energy, The Government of Egypt, started in 2023 – ongoing national programme • Greening Hurgada, UNIDO/GEF, started 2022 – expected completion date is 14/9/2027 • Green Sharm El Sheikh, UNDP/GEF, started 2022 – completion date is 21/3/2027 • National Initiative for Smart Green Projects, The Government of Egypt, started in 2022 – ongoing national initiative • The Green Economy Financing Facility (GEFF) in Egypt – supported by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in cooperation with the Agence française de développement (AFD) and the European Investment Bank

	Improving energy efficiency; Promoting innovation and productivity and Improving infrastructure. Within the realm of these sub-programmes as well as the renewable energy and energy efficiency directions of Egypt's NCCS 2050, which directly translate as the country's most urgent needs, the Country Programme will be guided by priorities as applicable and relevant to its scope of implementation: Promoting and implementing renewable energy projects and technologies, such as small-scale decentralized systems including waste, bioenergy, rooftop photovoltaic solar cells and solar water heaters; Optimizing the use of renewable energy in off-grid applications; Enhancing and energy efficiency applications in all development sectors, as well as among individuals and institutions/organizations; Promoting the shift towards increasing energy efficiency in facilities, including tourist, commercial, industrial and residential facilities; Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural activities; and Promote the concept of the '4Rs' which is to reduce, reuse, recycle and recover municipal and agricultural waste. <u>In continuum with OP7, the Country Programme may emphasize: Community projects implementing renewable energy and energy efficient technologies, including solar energy applications, biogas digestors, PVs, etc. and Partnership building, establishment of business models for leveraging funding and policy advocacy for facilitating broader adoption of renewable energy and energy efficient applications. <u>Such outputs may be indicated through, inter alia: Livelihood co-benefits and strengthened resilience through low carbon agricultural practices and Strengthened resilience and increased energy security.</u></u>	• <i>The Climate Finance Accelerator</i>, UK Government, started in 2024 – expected to end in 2029 • <i>Green Growth and Jobs Accelerator Project Cycle 2</i>, UNDP and The Government of Egypt, started in 2023 – end year is 2027
Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management 1) Reduce and promote alternative to mercury use	Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management 2) Promote plastics/solid waste management and circular economy.	• <i>Greening Hurghada</i>, UNIDO/GEF, started 2022 – expected completion date is 14/9/2027 • <i>Green Sharm El Sheikh</i>, UNDP/GEF, started 2022 – completion date is 21/3/2027

in artisanal and small-scale gold mining. 2) Promote plastics/solid waste management and circular economy. 3) Reduce/remove use of chemicals in agriculture. 4) Enhance local to global coalitions on chemicals, waste and mercury management.	3) Reduce/remove use of chemicals in agriculture. Egypt prioritizes waste management, including hazardous waste management, which comprises chemicals, as attested to by several official frameworks, including laws and regulations, national action plans and strategic directives. A particularly important framework is the Egyptian Law for Regulation of Waste Management (202/2020) and its Executive Regulations as well as the Decree of the Minister of Trade and Industry (326/2022) to stipulate terms and conditions and the Prime Ministerial Decree (20/2022) to to Apply the incentives of the investment law to the manufacture of safe, environmentally friendly alternatives to single-use plastic products and integrated waste management activities In this context, the Country Programme will address the following priorities as applicable: Promoting investment opportunities in the fields of plastics/solid waste and/or agri-waste management, reuse and/or recycling; Promoting using organic fodder and organic agriculture; Promoting initiatives and activities for banning single-use plastic and Promoting investment opportunities in the fields of green and circular economy. <u>In continuum with OP7, the Country Programme may emphasize: Partnership</u> building, establishment of business models for leveraging funding, and policy advocacy for facilitating broader adoption of participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood initiatives; Community projects implementing renewable energy and energy efficient technologies, including solar energy applications, biogas digestors, PVs, etc. and Partnership building, establishment of business models for leveraging funding and policy advocacy for facilitating broader adoption of renewable energy and energy efficient applications.	• <i>National Initiative for Smart Green Projects</i>, The Government of Egypt, started in 2022 – ongoing national initiative • <i>Greater Cairo Air Pollution Management and Climate Change Project</i>, The World Bank, started in 2020 – expected end date is 31 December, 2026 • <i>National Solid Waste Management Program (NSWMP)/EU Green</i>, GIZ and EU, started in 2022 – end year is 2026 • <i>Project for Supporting the Promotion of Circular Economy Practices on Single-use Plastic Value Chain</i>, JICA and UNIDO, started in 2019 – estimated end date is 31 March, 2026 • <i>Green Growth and Jobs Accelerator Project Cycle 2</i>, UNDP and The Government of Egypt, started in 2023 – end year is 2027
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Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions 1) Improve capacities to promote community-driven, socially inclusive and integrated solutions to address low-emission and resilient urban development. 2) Demonstrate innovative socially inclusive urban solutions/ approaches (including waste and chemical management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity). 3) Implement public-private partnership approach for low carbon energy access for marginalized urban communities.	Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions 1) Improve capacities to promote community-driven, socially inclusive and integrated solutions to address low-emission and resilient urban development. 2) Demonstrate innovative socially inclusive urban solutions/ approaches (including waste and chemical management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity). Country-level priorities for urban solutions as emphasized by Egypt's NCCS 2050 and the GoE's Action Programme of 2024-2027 include: Achieving Sustainable Low-Emission Development in Various Sectors; Integrated air pollution management to reduce air pollutants; Implementation of urban greening strategies; Increasing the area of green spaces and afforestation in all new urban cities and Increasing the rate of afforestation in all cities, especially densely populated areas and high temperature areas. Within the above context, the Country Programme will be guided by following priorities, as applicable: Promote initiatives that encourage civil society institutions to calculate carbon emissions for various activities and investigate means to reduce these emissions; Promote initiatives that spread the culture of urban agriculture and rooftop farming as a means of climate change impacts mitigation; Promote initiatives that enhance urban greening practices, such as green roofs, walls and belts; Enhance innovative urban solutions/approaches in the fields of waste management, energy efficiency and renewable energy, transport and ecosystem services and biodiversity and Enhance the implementation of practical and cost-effective public-private partnership approach for low carbon energy access.	• <i>NWFE – Egypt's Nexus of Water, Food and Energy</i>, The Government of Egypt, started in 2023 – ongoing national programme • <i>National Initiative for Smart Green Projects</i>, The Government of Egypt, started in 2022 – ongoing national initiative • <i>The Climate Finance Accelerator</i>, UK Government, started in 2024 • <i>Greening Hurgada</i>, UNIDO/GEF, started 2022 -- expected completion date is 14/9/2027 • <i>Green Sharm El Sheikh</i>, UNDP/GEF, started 2022 – completion date is 21/3/2027 • <i>Greater Cairo Air Pollution Management and Climate Change Project</i>, The World Bank, started in 2020 – expected end date is 31 December, 2026 • <i>National Solid Waste Management Program (NSWMP)/EU Green</i>, GIZ and EU, started in 2022 – end year is 2026 • <i>Project for Supporting the Promotion of Circular Economy Practices on Single-use Plastic Value Chain</i>, JICA and UNIDO, started in 2019 – estimated end date is 31 March, 2026 • <i>Green Growth and Jobs Accelerator Project Cycle 2</i>, UNDP and The Government of Egypt, started in 2023 – end year is 2027
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	<u>In continuum with OP7, the Country Programme may emphasize: Community level small grant projects on strengthening participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity resources and ecosystem services; Partnership building, establishment of business models for leveraging funding, and policy advocacy for facilitating broader adoption of participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood initiatives; Community projects implementing renewable energy and energy efficient technologies, including solar energy applications, biogas digestors, PVs, etc. and Partnership building, establishment of business models for leveraging funding and policy advocacy for facilitating broader adoption of renewable energy and energy efficient applications.</u>	
Enhancing social inclusion (mandatory) 1) Promote inclusive targeted initiatives. 2) Mainstream social inclusion in all projects. (e.g. women/girls, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities).	Enhancing social inclusion 1) Promote targeted inclusive initiatives. 2) Mainstream social inclusion in all projects. The Country Programme will be guided by the goals of the relevant country-level strategies, namely, the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030, the Egyptian National Youth Strategy (2021-2026) and the Egyptian National Strategy for Human Rights (2021-2026), the latter having a separate pillar focused on women, youth, persons with disabilities, children and the elderly. The Programme will also build on its social inclusion experience and accomplishments in the previous phases. <u>In continuum with OP7, the Country Programme may emphasize the following: Strengthening gender quality and women's empowerment in control of natural resources; Empowering women in natural resource governance; Strengthening socioeconomic benefits for women and Mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment</u>	• <i>Investigating potential cooperation with the following agencies, among others:</i> ○ The National Council for Women ○ The Ministry of Social Solidarity ○ Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency (MSMEDA) • <i>Green Growth and Jobs Accelerator Project Cycle 2, UNDP and The Government of Egypt, started in 2023 – end year is 2027</i>

Knowledge Management (KM) <i>(mandatory)</i> 1) Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities. 2) Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs. 3) Conduct South-South Exchanges to promote technology transfer and replication of good practices.	Knowledge Management 1) Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities. 2) Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs. 3) Conduct South-South Exchanges to promote technology transfer and replication of good practices. The Country Programme will build on its KM experience in the previous phases, particularly OP7, which witnessed the preparation of a standalone KM and capacity building project as well as the development of a Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy. The strategy prepared and developed for OP7 will be used and updated as needed to ensure full compliance with OP8 requirements and its window for grant-making outside the selected landscape/seascape areas. <u>In continuum with OP7, the Country Programme may emphasize the following: Strengthening the Capacities of CBOs through skills training, financial management mentoring, and networking with enabling governmental, civil society, and private sector partners and Knowledge from innovative project experience shared for replication and upscaling across the landscapes, across the country, and to the global SGP network.</u>	• Seek guidance, as relevant, from knowledge sharing and management portals, such as: ○ GEF Knowledge & Learning ○ South-South Galaxy ○ Panorama Solutions for a Healthy Planet
Results Management, Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) <i>(mandatory)</i> 1) Administer new M&E strategy in Country Programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms.	Results Management, Monitoring & Evaluation 1) Administer new M&E strategy in Country Programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms. The Country Programme will build on its experience in Results Management and M&E for the previous phases in OP8's landscapes.	• As relevant, discuss results management and M&E approach and outcomes with similar projects.

4. OP8 PRIORITY LANDSCAPES/SEASCAPES & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES (4 pages)

4.1 Grant making within the priority landscape/seascapes

a) Process for selecting priority landscapes and seascapes

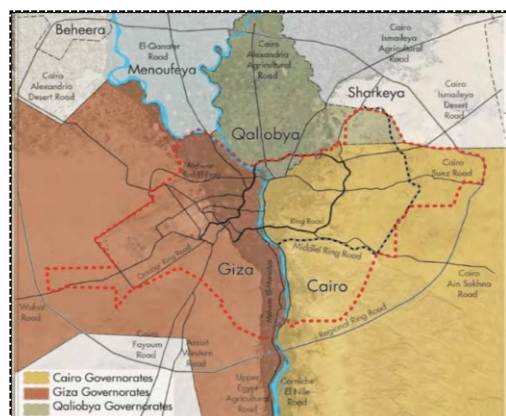
The process for selecting the priority landscapes/seascapes for OP8 relied on the following:

- 1) Preparation and dissemination of communication and outreach material about OP8, which included sections on OP8's Objectives; Theory of Change; Global Strategic Initiatives and stipulated country-level indicators and targets per initiative; Landscape/seascape approach and selection criteria; Grant-making within the priority landscapes/seascapes and Grant-making outside the priority landscapes/seascapes.
- 2) Consultation meetings with SGP NSC, Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and other relevant partners from the government, civil society, UNDP, partner agencies, research institutions, among others to discuss the selection priorities based on the criteria and the availability of grant-making outside the priority landscapes/seascapes.

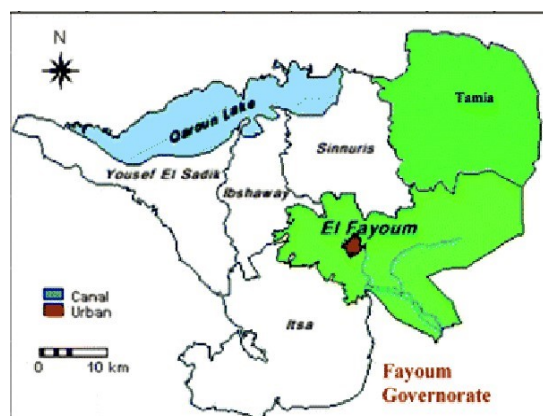
Based on the above process, the decision to consolidate the accomplishments and results of both OP6 and OP7 through the selection of three landscapes was reached, namely: Greater Cairo (Cairo and Giza Governorates), Fayyoun Governorate and Upper Egypt (Qena and Luxor Governorates). Please refer to Annex 1 – Applicable Criteria for Selection of Target Landscapes/Seascapes.

b) Selected landscapes/seascapes for OP8

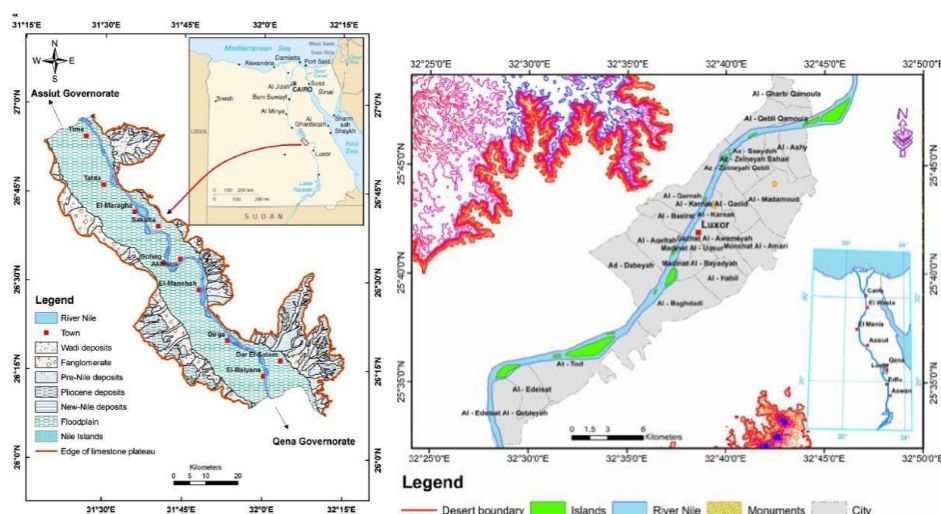
1) Maps



Greater Cairo Landscape:
Cairo and Giza governorates



Fayoum Landscape



2) Coordinates

Cairo: 30.0444° N, 31.2357° E

Giza: 30.0131° N, 31.2089° E

Fayoum: 29.3084° N, 30.8428° E

Luxor: 25.6872° N, 32.6396° E

Qena: 26.1551° N, 32.7160° E

3) Total hectarage

Greater Cairo: Cairo: 308,467.6 ha + Giza: 131,8400 ha

Fayoum: 606,800 ha

Upper Egypt (Luxor and Qena): 125,2500 ha

Total ha: 3,486,167.6 ha

4) Typology

Greater Cairo (Cairo and Giza): "Almost flat, with no clear topographical gradients. The main highest elevations are located in Moqattam hills to the east, with elevations generally exceeding 300 m. Greater Cairo is surrounded by sandy deserts from the east and west."¹⁰ It lies south of Delta in the Nile basin, where Cairo lies at the center on the east bank of the Nile, while Giza Governorate runs along its western side¹¹.

Fayoum: The Fayoum landscape encompasses the Fayoum Governorate, including Fayoum City, and Lake Qarun and the Wadi-El-Rayan protected areas. The Fayoum Governorate is a green natural depression, which is "one of the depressions in the limestone plateau of the Egyptian Western Desert. It is connected to the Nile valley by Bahr Yousif Channel. The topographic and

¹⁰ Kenawy, Ahmed M., et al, "Nocturnal Surface Urban Heat Island over Greater Cairo: Spatial Morphology, Temporal Trends and Links to Land-Atmosphere Influences", *Remote Sensing*, 27 November, 2020 (<https://shorturl.at/VihMQ>) (accessed July, 2024)

¹¹ Robaa, S. M., "Urban-suburban/rural differences over Greater Cairo, Egypt", *Atmósfera vol.16 no.3*, July 2003 (https://www.scielo.org.mx/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0187-62362003000300003)

hydrological boundaries are clear. Qarun Lake is located at the north-west in the bottom of the Depression.”¹² Nile sediments fertilize the Depression and sustain intensive irrigated cultivation. Fayoum is famous for its natural landscape, encompassing sand dunes, palm trees, lakes, and valleys. It also contains the most complete fossil records of terrestrial primates and marshlands.

Upper Egypt (Luxor and Qena): “Wadi Qena is considered as one of the largest wadis in the Eastern Desert area, and it lies to the northeast of Qena City.” “Red Sea mountainous terrain forms the main watershed and “it is cut by two deep drainage systems. One of them drains eastwards into the mountains of the Red Sea”, while “the other system drains westwards to debauch finally into the River Nile.”¹³ The Upper Egypt landscape comprises the hyper-arid desert of Upper Egypt, where annual rainfall is typically negligible, and irrigation from the Nile River is generally the only water source to sustain permanent agriculture and other forms of primary production. The Upper Nile is one of the KBAs designated in Egypt. The river forms an elongate wetland that meanders through the densely populated agricultural landscape of the Nile valley. Since the closure of the Aswan High Dam in 1964, dense swamp vegetation became established in many downstream riverbanks, creating important water bird habitats.

5) Process for updating baseline assessment

The landscapes selected for OP8 are ones that OP7 is currently working on, moreover they were also selected for OP6, while previous SGP Egypt phases allowed a wide geographic focus that also comprised these landscapes and/or their proximities:

- 1) SGP has been investing in the areas for the following number of years
 - Greater Cairo (Cairo and Giza Governorates) = 32
 - Fayyoun Governorate = 32
 - Upper Egypt (Luxor and Qena) = 32
- 2) Reasons for continuation in the same areas revolve around sustainability of SGP’s accomplishments so far and learning from the lessons of its previous phases, including:
 - Alignment of area needs and opportunities with OP8’s Strategic Initiatives as well as the strategic priorities at the country-level.
 - Conformation of the selected areas with the stipulated criteria for landscape/seascape selection, namely: the OP8 checklist *Criteria for Selection of Landscape and Seascapes* as well as the *Technical Guidance Note on OP8 Landscape/Seascape approach (2024 –2028)*.
 - Availability of better capacitated CBOs/CSOs to build on previous SGP accomplishments.
 - History of evidently successful cooperation and collaboration with governmental bodies.
 - Awareness and involvement of local and urban communities with SGP for several years.

¹² EL GHONAMEY, Y. K., et al, “Land Evaluation of Some Areas of El-Fayoum Depression, Egypt Using Remote Sensing and GIS Techniques”, *Egyptian Journal of Agricultural Research*, 96 (3), 2018
(https://ejar.journals.ekb.eg/article_137792_c366111d4531cb3d22b2d55d0dbc2e3d.pdf) (accessed July, 2024)

¹³ El Sawy, E. K. et al. Geo-Environmental Studies on Wadi Qena, Eastern Desert, Egypt, by Using Remote Sensing Data and GIS, *Al-Azhar Bull. Sci. Vol. 22, No. 2 (Dec.): pp. 33-60, 2011,*
(https://absb.journals.ekb.eg/article_7909_05bcc4ff29aa89d0ae8284a0c875efba.pdf) (accessed July, 2024).

Given the continuum that OP8 is furnishing for, the baseline assessment process was an update rather than a preparation from scratch. The process relied on the results of the multi-stakeholder consultation process carried out for OP8's CPS, including communication and outreach material, meetings comprising open discussions and a stakeholder consultation questionnaire as well as OP7's MtR consultations and findings.

c) OP8 Strategic Initiatives (SIs) in the landscapes/seascapes

The Country Programme will be implementing SIs 1 to 5, in addition to the mandatory SIs 7 and 8. Throughout their implementation and across the selected landscapes, OP8 will rely on the cumulative experience via OP7 and SGP's previous phases to coordinate these initiatives to achieve a greater impact from a multi-focal/integrated approach, that may comprise enhancing and promoting:

- Community-based participatory interventions and activities for: Conservation, particularly in PAs; Ecotourism; Sustainable landscape management through improved agroecological and agricultural practices and Sustainable waste management to ensure biodiversity conservation in PAs. (SIs: 1, 2, 4, 7 and 8)
- Combatting soil salinization and improving soil fertility; Improved efficient irrigation; Improved organic fertilisation and replacement of chemical fertilizers; More suitable cultivated crops; Compositing of agricultural waste and residues; Combatting desertification by applying sustainable agriculture and water conservation methods; Restoring degraded agricultural land using solar PV systems for groundwater pumping for irrigation. (SIs: 2, 3, 4, 7 & 8)
- Utilization of solar PV for lighting (residential – schools – commercial); Biogas for cooking; LED lamps replacing incandescent lamps and Bicycle sharing programme(s), as part of community level climate change mitigation actions, particularly within the urban parts of the project landscapes. (SIs 1, 3, 7 & 8)

Moreover, OP8 may enhance and promote the following, in light of OP8's SIs and country-level strategic priorities:

- Sustainable fisheries and fish farming (SIs 1, 2, 7 & 8)
- The concept of the <4Rs> which is to reduce, reuse, recycle and recover municipal and agricultural waste, with focus on plastic and solid wastes and agricultural compost (SIs 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8)
- Initiatives and activities for banning and/or reducing single-use plastic (SIs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8)
- Investment opportunities in the fields of green and circular economy (SIs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8)
- Initiatives that encourage civil society institutions to calculate carbon emissions for various activities and investigate means to reduce these emissions (SIs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8)
- Initiatives that spread the culture of urban agriculture and rooftop farming as a means of climate change impacts mitigation as well as initiatives that enhance urban greening practices, such as green roofs, walls and belts (SIs 2, 3, 5, 7 & 8)
- Innovative urban solutions/approaches in the fields of waste management, energy efficiency and renewable energy, transport and ecosystem services and biodiversity (SIs 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8)

d) Grantmaking outside the priority landscapes/seascapes

Grant-making outside the priority landscapes is envisaged for cross-cutting themes that serve to link a number of strategic initiatives. In addition to prioritizing innovation and maintaining the dimensions of inclusion and impact, this grant-making will also target projects that either have the potential to be scaled up or replicated at a regional or national level, or are scaling up or replicating successful projects already implemented within the landscapes under OP7 and OP8. This targeting aims at maximizing the benefits of projects of proven or anticipated impact, while spreading their scale wide enough to ensure their sustainability.

In alignment with OP8's Global SIs and the country-level strategic priorities, higher consideration may be given to projects in the fields of:

- Banning/reducing and/or recycling single-use plastic
- Tree plantation
- Circular, green and blue economies
- Sustainable and smart agriculture
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Water management and conservation
- Land degradation
- Waste management and recycling
- Biodiversity conservation (terrestrial, marine and lacustrine...)
- Ecotourism

In accordance with the stakeholder consultation process for OP8's CPS, grant-making outside the selected landscapes/seascapes will include the below priority geographical areas/regions. These areas/regions may be subject to expansion or elimination as per the rates of implementation progress of OP8's grant projects and the unanticipated obstacles they might encounter. The progress and obstacles will be investigated through the regular monitoring and evaluation carried out for the projects (please refer to Section 9 of this document):

- North and South Sinai, which includes areas with significant biodiversity and unique climate conditions in need of conservation and sustainable development.
- Matrouh, which has significant and unique natural resources along the length of its coastline/seascape that is in need of sustainable management to protect its terrestrial and marine environments. It is well-positioned for implementing projects within the scopes of SIs 1, 2, 4 and 5 as well as other projects given that it is a border governorate with a small population that can be easily positively impacted.
- Delta, given the impacts of climate change, increasing soil salinity and sea-level rise, which require
- Red Sea region, with focus on projects targeting conservation of coral reefs, mangroves and marine biodiversity
- Western Desert and New Valley, as desert environments

4.2 CSO-government-private sector dialogue platforms

Based on its long history in Egypt, SGP has a strong basis for CSO-Government-Private Sector Dialogue Platforms. In OP7, SGP Egypt conducted 3 CSO-government dialogues targeting the different landscapes, which discussed climate change issues and challenges and suggested solutions that were elaborated afterwards to concept notes and projects proposals that are ready for funding. Stakeholders gathered through these dialogues included: Landscape CSOs; Line, concerned ministries; Private sector enterprises; Local government units; National agencies; Academic institutions and Relevant international organizations and projects. The dialogues resulted in issuing a joint statement by CSOs that was presented at COP27 (Sharm ElSheikh, November, 2022). During COP27, 12 side events were organized by SGP grantees in Blue & Green Zones, where they presented best practices and the outcomes of their SGP funded projects.

Moreover, in OP7, multi-stakeholder platforms have been established in the three landscapes that have been selected for OP8. These platforms rely on the experience of the previous phases in the three landscapes, including the established multi-stakeholder partnerships and community networks, and comprise: local CSOs/CBOs/NGOs, national and local government entities, private sector enterprises and associations, academic research institutions as well as local branches of relevant councils at the landscape level, such as the National Council for Women. The scope of these platforms includes: discussing ongoing projects; sharing lessons learned; exchanging knowledge and experience; following up and monitoring progress of the implementation of landscape strategies and providing necessary assistance to SGP grantees to overcome any obstacles and challenges facing the implementation of their projects.

In OP8, SGP Egypt will build on its dialogues and platforms established for its landscapes at both the national and local levels. The dialogues will be a continuum where already experienced CSOs that have established channels of communication with grassroots as well as national/local policy and decision makers may sustain and enhance this communication. Furthermore, and based on their experience, these CSOs, along with all other dialogue and platform members, will be invited to share their lessons learnt with new members in each landscape, as part of the knowledge sharing aspect of the knowledge management strategy of OP8.

With the newly assigned government just recently finalizing its programme, namely, the GoE's Action Programme of 2024-2027, SGP Egypt will be perfectly positioned, through both OP7 and its continuum dialogue means of OP8, to participate and inform anticipated key policy processes and updates in cooperation with the above-mentioned dialogue and platform members.

As for OP8's stakeholders for grant-making outside the selected landscapes, SGP Egypt has operated at a country-level from 1992, the start of its pilot phase, and up to the end of its fifth operational phase in 2017. Throughout this period, SGP Egypt maintained a participatory implementation approach that established effective collaboration with highly functional CSOs as well as local authorities at the governorate and regional levels. Capacity building and awareness raising activities for CSOs were continuous, integral elements of this collaboration, through which CSOs were informed of the SGP programme, GEF criteria, relevant operational programmes, procedures, focal area activities, projects and systems. Country programme strategies for SGP operational phases throughout this period were

developed through comprehensive consultation processes, which involved national authorities, including those represented in the National Steering Committees.

OP8's CSO-government-private sector dialogue platforms outside the selected landscapes will, therefore, adopt an efficient and complementary approach to ensure highest effectiveness and elimination of potential duplication of effort. This approach will utilize the existing OP7 dialogue platforms wherever possible to include dialogue partners through grant-making from outside the selected landscapes. This inclusion will be based on relevance to Strategic Initiatives under which the grant operates and/or common or similar definitive aspects, such as typology, demographic distribution, environmental, social and development challenges, etc. in the areas where the grant is approved and functioning. In case of grant-making outside the landscapes that does not share commonalities with any of the already existing platforms, new and similar platforms to those of OP7 will be created based on either cross-cutting Strategic Initiatives or common definitive aspects, such as the ones mentioned above. The decision to select the basis for creation of these platforms will be consultative and will ensure inclusion of concerned dialogue partners.

4.3 Promoting social inclusion, including gender equality and women's empowerment

In accordance with the principle of "leave no one behind" and as per GEF 8 PIF's Social Inclusion cross-cutting priority, SGP's Country Programme will facilitate the involvement of marginalized and vulnerable groups in participating in landscape-seascape planning, in being a part of the multi-stakeholder governance platforms, and their benefitting through capacity building and grant assistance by implementing initiatives that enhance their well-being, as well as generate global environmental benefits. This is in compliance with GEF-8's PIF Policy Requirements for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment; Project Output 2.1.3 (Focused interventions for advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment objectives); Output 2.1.4 (Focused interventions on leaving no one behind, including Indigenous Peoples, Youth, Persons with Disabilities) as well as OP8 strategy's "concerted focus on engagement of youth and youth-led initiatives". Moreover, social inclusion is an integral strategic priority of current Egyptian strategies, as exemplified by the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030, the Egyptian National Youth Strategy (2021-2026) and the Egyptian National Strategy for Human Rights (2021 -2026), the latter having a separate pillar focused on women, youth, persons with disabilities, children and the elderly.

SGP Egypt's OP8 will be running concurrently with OP7, which has developed and implemented a Gender Analysis and Action Plan. The Midterm Review (MtR) for OP7 verified that the "project design and implementation is "gender responsive" as it addresses the differential needs of men, women or marginalized populations and focuses on the equitable distribution of benefits and resources (according to the UNDP Gender Results Effectiveness Scale)."¹⁴

Therefore, the best approach for a simultaneously launched OP8, mainly within the same landscapes, would be to use OP7's Gender Action Plan for guidance and possible selective replication as relevant, given that it has proven successful, while revising it to ensure compliance with OP8's Operational Guidelines and any potential updates of UNDP's Gender Equality Strategy as well as any updates of

¹⁴ Midterm Review Report, Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Egypt, June 2024, 53

relevant national strategies, directions and regulations/legislations. Revision will also be carried out to update gender analysis data and information of the selected landscapes.

OP8 CPS's strategies and approaches for social inclusion may comprise the following:

- Achieve a gender-responsive design, implementation, and monitoring to address structural and cultural barriers, bridge the existing gender gap and promote equality between men and women.
-
- Facilitating access to resources through bridging the existing gender gap in accessing productive resources including land, inputs for production, credit etc. for sustainable production and resilience in order to achieve global environment benefits.
- Facilitating access to socio-economic services and entitlements through reducing vulnerabilities of women in stress-prone areas by building their capacities on technologies and increasing their access to government services and social-safety net schemes.
- Bridging the gender knowledge gap by increasing access of women to information, trainings and capacity development programmes and knowledge products.
- Increased social mobility and access to market through facilitating women's mobility in the public sphere by addressing social and cultural norms and increasing their access to market for increasing sustainable income and enhanced resilience.
- Ensuring participation and decision making of women and other marginalized groups including elderly, youth and disabled people in local governance system for influencing decisions related to landscape management for better global environment benefits.
- Increased participation and decision-making of women in local governance systems for influencing decisions related to landscape management for better global environment benefits.
- Reducing vulnerability of women to sexual violence and trafficking by building their resilience against extreme climatic events such as droughts and by increasing their sustainable income. Ensure reinforcement and non-duplication of efforts, through aligning all empowerment activities of women, youth and persons with disabilities with relevant national strategies and directions as well as coordinating with national and international complementary programmes and projects, particularly within the scope of the selected landscapes.
- Ensure that the NSC includes at least one focal point for each of women, youth and persons with disabilities.

Women

The situation of women in the selected landscapes varies considerably, with Cairo being the capital and lacking rural areas, while Giza, Fayyoun, Qena and Luxor being less privileged overall. However, women face the same issues throughout the landscapes, being unemployment; illiteracy; higher, vulnerability to pollution negative impacts, with the women of Qena and Luxor being particularly affected by social norms that restrict their mobility, employment and education. The highest probability is that women in areas outside the selected landscapes will be facing the same challenges. OP8 will, therefore, ensure inclusion, engagement and active participation of women as well as providing them with equal

opportunities while accounting for and resolving the specific limitations they may be subject to in each landscape at the project levels. This may entail equal access and participation of women through:

- Optimally utilizing the current capacities of local landscape champions and actors, including NGOs/CBOs, local government, private sector, among other stakeholders as well as further capacitating them to use innovative methods to:
 - Overcome the landscape-specific limitations that may impede access, including percentage of illiteracy and level of literacy; poverty; knowledge and information outreach, etc.
 - Secure relevant knowledge management and knowledge sharing throughout and across the landscapes.
 - Participate in landscape planning through inclusive consultation.
 - Diversify means of participation in multi-stakeholder governance platforms to secure fair representation of women.
- Developing capacities of women entrepreneurs of SGP grant-making levels within the scope of the landscapes where it comes to technical skills, financial management, available financing mechanisms and access to microcredit opportunities as well as business development.
- Directly targeting women-led CBOs/NGOs at the landscape-level with specific and relevant grant-making calls that serve the applicable Strategic Initiatives as per OP8's CPS.
- Investigating and implementing, as relevant, the replication and/or scaling-up of successful and impactful women empowerment projects of previous SGP phases within the scope of OP8 landscapes.
- Targeting eight approved projects throughout the landscapes to be women-led and/or focused on women empowerment.

Youth

- Build upon the existing opportunities for youth empowerment within the selected landscapes through using two youth-specific edges, namely, population percentage and digital awareness and skills, with the latter being an excellent means and modality for particularly targeting youth-led projects and NGOs/CBOs.
- Optimally utilize the current capacities of local landscape champions and actors, including NGOs/CBOs, local government, private sector, youth centers, universities and schools among other stakeholders as well as further capacitating them to use innovative methods to:
 - Outreach to underprivileged youth with minimal digital skills.
 - Secure relevant knowledge management and knowledge sharing throughout and across the landscapes.
 - Participate in landscape-seascape planning through inclusive consultation.
 - Diversify means of participating in multi-stakeholder governance platforms to secure fair representation of youth, particularly underprivileged youth.

Persons with Disabilities

- Continue to target persons with disabilities with appropriate projects, which has already started in the same landscapes in OP7.

- Incentivize the grant-making process to ensure inclusion through means that are suitable to each landscape. This may be concluded via consultation with partner CSOs and relevant governmental authorities in the landscapes over the best incentives that may be offered to motivate potential grantees to include persons with disabilities in their proposals.

4.4 Knowledge Management

The Country Programme will build on its KM experience in the previous phases, which culminated in OP7 that includes the preparation of a standalone KM and capacity building project as well as the development of a Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy. OP8 will have the same KM objectives of OP7, which are: Enhancing the KM system and learning cycle by utilising lessons learned generated throughout the implementation of SGP Egypt; Improving the capacity of local communities by providing a series of awareness and training activities to promote community resilience; Increasing the visibility of project stakeholders and SGP Egypt so as to build partnerships with external stakeholders (e.g. local and national governments, academia, private sector) and Capacitating NGOs/CBOs to better understand global environmental challenges, international conventions as well as GEF focal areas, the SGP Country Programme and its landscape strategy and results.

Moreover, as per GEF 8's PIF "targeted knowledge management and communications activities will aim to share lessons and experiences and showcase results of gender mainstreaming, as well as inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups." The KM Strategy objectives will be implemented through a number of approaches, including:

- Knowledge Fairs: Conduct one knowledge fair that showcases best practices, focusing on the most innovative practices and allowing beneficiaries/local communities to present and connect with key stakeholders like academia, other NGOs, government authorities, international agencies, and other development practitioners for replication, upscaling, and policy influence, as well as technical support and knowledge transfer. These Knowledge Fairs also allow communities to learn from one another and to foster networks of civil society innovators for sustainable development.
- Stakeholder Seminars and Workshops: To address the knowledge needs of SGP grantees and other CSOs as well as inform SGP grantees and key stakeholders about the programme, its strategy, and GEF targets; enhance the grant-making process; increase awareness of SGP at the country level; promote partnerships, and share experiences from SGP projects. SGP Egypt's OP8 will be running concurrently with OP7, which has developed and implemented a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). This plan may be used for guidance and possible selective replication as relevant to OP8. Most relevantly, OP7's SEP indicates that the project's Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy will "ensure that stakeholders are informed on an ongoing basis about the project activities, overall project progress, and the opportunities for stakeholders' involvement in various aspects of the project's implementation" and "apart from formal consultation meetings, the project will set up social media platforms that will allow open communication with stakeholders and mechanisms for receiving timely feedback". Moreover, the SEP details the roles of key stakeholders in sharing knowledge from innovative project experience for replication and upscaling across the landscapes and the country as well as to the global SGP network.

- Case Studies and Best Practices: Conduct regular project reviews to identify the most innovative and successful practices. Demonstrative publications and videos of these practices will be produced to share these with wider audiences. Moreover, templates prepared by the Country Programme for documenting, collecting and disseminating best practices and lessons learned will be used for easier aggregation and sharing with SGP stakeholders and partners. Findings can also be disseminated globally through the South-South Community Innovation Exchange Platform.

5. COMMUNICATION PLAN

The Country Programme will build on its communication experience in the previous phases, which culminated in OP7 with the development of a Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy. SGP Egypt's experience has proved that its scope necessitates an integration of KM and communication, which are together seen as one harmonious process with overlapping elements. OP8 will, therefore, be guided by OP7's strategy.

OP8 communication plan's objectives, therefore, overlap with a number of its KM objectives, as follows: Improving the capacity of local communities by providing a series of awareness and training activities to promote community resilience; Increasing the visibility of project stakeholders and SGP Egypt so as to build partnerships with external stakeholders (e.g. local and national governments, academia, private sector) and Capacitating NGOs/CBOs to better understand global environmental challenges, international conventions as well as GEF focal areas, the SGP Country Programme and its landscape strategy and results.

Key messages of OP8's communication plan will align with its SIs at the country level and will be generated through consultation processes with local CSOs to ensure they best convey their intended meaning to the target audience.

Target audience for OP8 includes, inter alia: NGOs/CBOs; Community members; Beneficiaries; Governmental authorities (national/local); International agencies/donors & development practitioners; Academia and the Media.

Moreover, as per GEF 8's PIF "targeted knowledge management and communications activities will aim to share lessons and experiences and showcase results of gender mainstreaming, as well as inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups." Appropriate communication activities may include, inter alia: Updating of SGP Egypt website and managing its social media pages; Audiovisual and promotional materials; Periodical newsletters; Awareness raising activities for grantees and potential grantees on various national and global environmental occasions and Multi-stakeholder meetings and consultations.

6. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND PARTNERSHIP PLAN

a) Secured and planned cash and in-kind co-financing

Secured/planned cash co-financing will be through the requirement for 1:1 funding by implementing grantees at the project and landscape levels. At the country level, planned cash co-financing will be through collaboration with national and non-GEF international projects and initiatives listed in Table 2 above, among others.

Secured in-kind co-financing will be through the National Host Institution, namely the Arab Organization for Youth and Environment (AOYE), via contributions to the rental-maintenance costs, utilities, and share in miscellaneous expenses associated with the AOYE premises and facilities utilized by the SGP team. In-kind co-financing at the country level is planned through collaboration with national and international projects and initiatives listed in Table 2, among others. The 1:1 collaboration requirement of implementing grantees also covers in-kind co-financing.

b) Co-financing opportunities

Build on previous SGP OPs in Egypt to secure co-financing from existing partners, including:

- **The Bioenergy for Sustainable Rural Development Association (BSRDA):** A non-governmental organisation established by the Ministry of Environment in cooperation with UNDP by decision of the cabinet of ministers in July 2015. The BSRDA operates nationally and receives international funding to finance bioenergy projects and provide technical assistance and capacity building.
- **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (MSMEDA):** MSMEDA provides financial assistance to MSME for community development projects, including environmental protection. The project will engage with MSMEDA (including their microfinance sector and gender unit) as a potential co-financing partner to local CBOs/NGOs for projects implemented in the target landscapes and for upscaling innovative approaches across the landscapes and other regions of the country.
- **Agricultural Credit and Development Bank (ACDB):** The ACDB is a long-standing institution providing financing for farmers, for equipment and raw materials. The bank has a social mission to support the agriculture welfare, particularly for small farmers. The project will work with the ACDB on interventions involving local farmers, e.g., land reclamation, irrigation improvements, agro-ecological farming practices, etc., advocating for co-financing support to local CBOs/NGOs and for upscaling innovative approaches.
 - **The 1:1 Co-financing requirement:** Requirement for 1:1 funding by implementing grantees. This requirement will help promote enabling partnerships with governmental, civil society, donor, and private sector stakeholders. Moreover, the multi-stakeholder landscape platforms will provide direct linkages with local government development planning mechanisms and opportunities for funding upscaling and replication.
 - **The Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE):** The AOYE hosts the SGP Country Programme Management Unit, thus there is day-to-day contact, allowing timely resolution of issues that might arise. AOYE provides in-kind contributions to the rental-maintenance costs, utilities, and share in miscellaneous expenses associated with the AOYE premises and facilities utilized by the SGP team.

Egypt has been serving as a delivery mechanism for other projects and programmes and these opportunities are still standing within the scope of all its focal areas. SGP Egypt typically involves financing and capacitating CSOs, which are in direct, consistent communication with local communities and grassroots; an edge that bigger scale projects may not have. A recent example has been collaborating with the EU on governance activities that had secure funding but had no means of outreach to local communities. Similarly, SGP provided the necessary, missing link between a GEF full-sized project to produce biogas units, which also encompassed supporting private startups, and local communities where CSOs supported by SGP have been raising awareness on the issue. This resulted in scaling up outside the targeted areas and beyond the targeted number of units. With OP8's available

grant-making outside the targeted landscapes, SGP Egypt expects to be providing this delivery mechanism role on an even wider scale, therefore, potential collaboration with national and international projects and initiatives will be routinely investigated.

Build on previous SGP OPs in Egypt to secure co-financing from existing partners, including:

- **Private sector enterprises, chambers of commerce and industry:** Private sector engagement will be facilitated during project implementation for leveraging resources and strengthening partnerships for increased livelihood opportunities for local communities. SGP will also explore possible linkages with private sector corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives for wider resource mobilisation for grantee partners and for upscaling or replicating best practices.

7. PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SGP Egypt has:

- Established a wide-scale partnership basis, as advocated for by its NSC. This partnership extends to international agencies, such as UN Habitat, UN Women, International Labor Organization (ILO), and FAO, in addition to partnering with GEF full-sized projects. These partners have expressed interest in partnering with SGP and continuing to support the program by providing potential grantees with assistance needed, either technical or financial, when possible. Moreover, the NSC has consistently promoted the collaboration of the Country Programme with GEF and government financed projects and programmes for many years. SGP Egypt has provided technical assistance to community components of selected GEF full-sized projects to increase the efficiency of uptake by community stakeholders of project-promoted technologies and practices. Members of the NSC endorse collaborative arrangements and partnerships to maximize the efficiency of the GEF SGP investment, as well, with SGP-sponsored technologies, and ensure that experience and lessons learned are disseminated and absorbed by government programmes and institutions.
- An NSC, with representation from civil society leaders, government institutions and donors, that provides guidance for effective design and implementation of SGP-financed projects.
- A TAG, which as per its mandate, provides technical guidance with regards to SGP project selection and the quality of project proposals, prior to final review and approval by the NSC.
- An excellent scope and scale of technical expertise and capacities of both the NSC and TAG.
- Specialised technical sub-committees that may be formed to review proposals (as with OP7's sub-committees on climate change and biodiversity).
- A developed Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for OP7, which may be used for guidance and possible selective replication as relevant to OP8, particularly in the same landscapes. The SEP details the project key stakeholders and their planned involvement on the project as well as their long-term participation, which may be extended throughout OP8. These key stakeholders include:
 - .

Therefore, SGP Egypt, through its NSC, and TAG sub-committees, is well positioned to be leveraged, if needed, to assist communities and CSOs develop proposals to access other donors and funding facilities.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Table 3. Description of risks identified in OP8

Describe identified risk	Degree of risk (low, medium, high)	Probability of risk (low, medium, high)	Risk mitigation measure foreseen
CBOs have a low level of technical and management capacity to implement grant projects.	Low	Low	Continuous capacity building provided by SGP for grantees and their partner CBOs
Low capacities of the different CBOs to coordinate with each other and with different government levels.	Moderate	Moderate	Participatory approaches based on OP6 and OP7 for establishing multi-stakeholder platforms and development of landscape strategies and action plans based on results from participatory baseline assessments of the intervention landscapes.
Impacts of security threats on the continuity of project implementation.	Moderate	Moderate	Procedures and safeguards for implementing project activities during heightened security threats. The project will follow government directives, as well as guidelines and policies of UNDP. Resources will be allocated in the project budget for security services, as one type of management measure.
Impacts of exchange rate fluctuations and/or a possible global economic recession on project delivery.	Moderate	Moderate	Annual budget reviews should track and respond to macroeconomic externalities. Changes in the scope or timing of planned activities may be necessary through workplan adjustments.
Vulnerable or marginalized groups, might be excluded from fully participating in decisions regarding priority actions on lands claimed by them	Moderate	Moderate	The multi-stakeholder platforms in the landscapes have, and continue to target, equitable representation of vulnerable groups and women. These multi-stakeholder platforms will be utilized, whenever possible, to carry out the same role for grant-making outside the landscapes. In cases where this is not a possibility, newly established platforms for OP8 will perform this role.

Project activities and approaches might not fully incorporate or reflect views of women and girls and ensure equitable opportunities for their involvement and benefit	Moderate	Moderate	OP8 will use OP7's Gender Analysis and Action Plan for guidance and selective replication, as relevant, while revising it to ensure compliance with OP8's Operational Guidelines and any potential updates of UNDP's Gender Equality Strategy as well as any updates of relevant national strategies, directions and regulations/legislations. Revision will also be carried out to update gender analysis data and information of the selected landscapes. Based on the above, this risk is to be assessed through gender analysis and managed through gender action plan, which will be regularly reviewed and updated to account for gender differentiated impacts
Poorly designed or executed project activities could damage critical ecosystems	Moderate	Moderate	Biodiversity conservation related community grants will be primarily carried out in partnership with expert organizations. Specific activities will be designed through collaborative arrangements with these organizations. Utilization of natural resources will be carried out sustainably and according to relevant regulations
Climatic unpredictability, periodic droughts, changes in rainfall distribution, altered frequency of extreme weather events, rising temperatures may affect project results	Moderate	Moderate	The landscape approach implemented under the project will promote socio-ecological resilience. The landscape strategies will include priority actions to achieve enhanced resilience, based upon the circumstances in the landscapes and capacities of the local communities
Project interventions, e.g., involving the installation and use of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies, may result in release of pollutants to the environment	Low	Low	Promote relevant best practices and raise awareness

and in the generation of hazardous waste.			
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9. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN (8 pages)

9.1 Monitoring approaches at project and country levels

As per the Operational Guidelines for GEF-8, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting of global SGP projects follow the GEF Monitoring Policy (GEF/ME/PL/03). At the project level, monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP and UNDP Evaluation Policy. The UNDP Country Office is responsible for ensuring full compliance with all UNDP project monitoring, quality assurance, risk management, and evaluation requirements. Additional mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements will be undertaken in accordance with the GEF Monitoring Policy, the GEF Evaluation Policy and other relevant GEF policies. In addition to these mandatory UNDP and GEF M&E requirements, other M&E activities deemed necessary to support project-level adaptive management will be agreed during the Project Inception Workshop and will be detailed in the Inception Report.

SGP projects will be monitored according to the formulated M&E plan. OP8 will be functioning in landscapes where SGP Egypt has long, solid experience and a well-defined base of CSOs. These CSOs are well connected, both at the landscape and national levels, among each other and to SGP stakeholders, through already established multi-stakeholder platforms. These platforms serve, among other various purposes, to capacitate and inform CSOs and other potential grantees of SGP M&E strategy and requirements. Moreover, existing grantees present their projects within the scope of activities of these platforms, whereby feedback on project results by various stakeholders, including non-governmental and governmental representatives of local community members and vulnerable groups, is invited and discussed to ensure participatory monitoring and evaluation of the results.

Each SGP project is visited at least once during the life cycle of project by the CPMT. The CPMT, based on the M&E plan, produces monthly progress and final reports covering all landscape projects. Moreover, each project develops its own M&E plan and report to track its results. The Country Programme will provide M&E assistance to CBO grantees as needed, as part of its activities. The CPMT will oversee monitoring achievement of the performance metrics included in the project results framework, with direct input from the CBO grantees from M&E feedback from the individual projects.

As per GEF monitoring and reporting requirements, OP8 at the global level will carry out and produce: An Inception Workshop and Report; a GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR); an Update of core GEF Indicator; an independent Midterm Review (Mtr); a Terminal Evaluation (TE) and a Final Report.

Table 4. M&E Plan at the Country Programme level

M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible Parties	Budget Source	Timing
Country Programme Strategy elaboration	Framework for action including identification of community projects	NC, NSC, country stakeholders, grantees	A SGP planning grant to engage consultants may be used to update OP8 CPS	At start of OP8
As part of NSC meetings, ongoing review of project results and analysis. This includes an Annual CPS Review	Assess effectiveness of projects, country portfolio; learning; adaptive management	NC, NSC, UNDP Country Office. Final deliberations shared/ analyzed with CPMT colleagues	Staff time, Country Operating Budget	At least one annual CPS review to ensure OP8 CPS is on track to achieve its results and make timely and evidence-based modifications to CPS as may be needed ¹⁵
Annual Monitoring Report Survey ¹⁶	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF. It serves as the primary tools to record and analytically present results to donors	NC/PA in close collaboration with NSC. CPMT provides technical guidance support and receives final country submission for further action	Staff time	Once per year in June- July
Country Portfolio Review	Methodological results capture of the portfolio at a given point to note impact level change as well as broader adoption. The goal is to support reporting to stakeholders, learning, and	NC, NSC	SGP planning grant to engage consultants may be used to undertake previous operational cycles impact review and utilize lessons for both OP8 CPS development and its implementation	Once per operational phase

¹⁵ It is recommended that the Annual CPS review is done close to AMR submissions for both processes to benefit from each other (suggested timeframe is May- July). Note that OP8 CPS will be regarded as a dynamic document and can be updated by the SGP country team and NSC on a periodic basis to reflect any necessary adjustments to ensure maximum impact.

¹⁶ Timely and quality country level submissions to Annual Monitoring Process are mandatory. As a Global Programme, it enables aggregated reporting by CPMT to GEF, UNDP and other stakeholders.

M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible Parties	Budget Source	Timing
	support to strategic development/ implementation of CPS		Global technical M&E support can be expected	
SGP Database	Ensure recording of all Project and Country Programme inputs in SGP database	NCs, PAs,	Staff time	Throughout the operational phase. Ensure quality assurance and completion of data prior to annual monitoring cycle (May- June of every year)
Audit	Ensure compliance with project implementation/ management standards and norms	External/independent auditors. NC/ PA to provide requisite support.	Global Operating Budget	Annually for selected countries on risk-assessment basis

9.2 CPS Results Framework

Table 5: Results Framework of SGP OP8 Country Programme Strategy

Alignment with SDGs SDG 1 – No Poverty; SDG 2 – Zero Hunger; SDG 4 – Quality Education; SDG 5 – Gender Equality; SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy; SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities; SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production; SDG 13 – Climate Action; SDG 14 – Life Below Water; SDG 15 – Life on Land and SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals
Synergy with UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD): CPD 2023-2027¹⁷ outputs this CPS is synergized with: Output 2.1 Policy frameworks, technical and financial support improved for MSME sector Output 2.2 Entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem is strengthened Output 3.1 Sustainable, efficient income-generating agricultural systems are developed
OP8 SGP Programme Goal: Engage local CSOs/CBOs in landscape-seascape approaches across the world, providing them access to knowledge and information, capacitating them through learning-by-doing, skills development, and delivering technical and grant assistance for interventions that enhance wellbeing and socioeconomic conditions and generate global environmental benefits.

¹⁷ https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2023-01/N2240578%20-%20UNDP%20Egypt%20CPD%202023-2027_0.pdf (p. 10-15)

1 OP8 SGP CPS Strategic Initiatives	2 CPS Indicators and Targets	3 Means of Verification
<u>Strategic Initiative 1:</u> Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species	20,000 hectares of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (GEF core indicator 4.1 and 4.3) 1,000 hectares of marine protected areas created or under improved management (GEF core indicator 2) 3,000 hectares of marine habitat under improved practices (GEF core indicator 5)	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports) Baseline assessment comparison variables (use of conceptual models and partner data as appropriate) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Review
<u>Strategic Initiative 2:</u> Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security	10,000 hectares of land and ecosystems under restoration (GEF core indicator 3.1) 3 (number of) partnerships to advance sustainable agriculture and fisheries and/or food security (such as diversification, sustainable intensification, sustainable fisheries management, agroecological farming practices, climate-smart agriculture, certification programmes, local sourcing initiatives, waste reduction and circular economy, etc.)	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Review Socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes (SEPLs)
<u>Strategic Initiative 3:</u> Low-carbon energy access co-benefits	15,000 tCO₂e (direct lifetime) mitigated/avoided (GEF core indicator 6) 100 kW increase in installed renewable energy capacity from community-scale systems (e.g., biomass, micro-hydro, solar, etc.) 5 (number of) locally adapted solutions promoting low-carbon technologies (such as new/modified biogas technology, locally developed energy-	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Strategy Review

	efficient stoves, innovative uses of solar/wind energy, etc.)	NSC inputs
<u>Strategic Initiative 4:</u> Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management	2 (number of) policy recommendations or advocacy initiatives related to land-based pollution as a result of SGP projects 1 (number of) local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management strengthened and/or established 2-3 (number of) SGP projects working on plastic reduction in landscapes / seascapes	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports) Strategic partnership with The International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) . IPEN supports local, national, regional and international efforts to protect health and the environment from harms caused by exposure to toxic chemicals. Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), global database Country Programme Review
<u>Strategic Initiative 5:</u> Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions	5 (number of) community-based sustainable solutions in urban landscapes (e.g., transport, biodiversity conservation, chemical and waste management, energy efficiency, watershed protection, etc.) 10 (number of) projects with targeted urban solutions focus	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Review
<u>Strategic Initiative 6:</u> CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms	5 (number of) CSO-government-private sector dialogues formed or strengthened 2 (number of) high-level policy changes associated with increased community participation in multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms 20 (number of) representatives from social inclusion group (women, youth, persons with disability, farmers, other marginalized groups) meaningfully engaged in multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), global database Country Programme Review

<u>Strategic Initiative 7:</u> Enhancing social inclusion	10,000 (5,000 Female & 5,000 Male) (number of) people benefitting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex (GEF core indicator 11) 6(number of) projects with focused interventions promoting gender equality and women's empowerment 4 (number of) projects that demonstrate models of engaging (a) Local communities, (b) youth, and (c) persons with disabilities. 10 (number of) grants with targeted support for 1) women or women groups; 2) youth or youth-led groups; 3) local community members 40% (amount of grant funding) of total grant portfolio accessed by 1) women or women groups; 2) youth or youth-led groups; 3) local community members	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Review
<u>Strategic Initiative 8:</u> Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management	1 Communication and KM strategy updated 15 (number of) projects with meetings involving local CSOs/CBOs or communities to monitor project results, assess impacts, and identify lessons learned 20 (number of) knowledge exchange/sharing events with participation of local communities 1 (number of) online knowledge repository developed as a result of SGP project 2 (number of) country/cross-country impact reviews conducted with evidence of SGP impact and lessons learned. 2 (number of) South-South exchanges between communities, NGOs/CSOs, or other partners within or across countries to transfer knowledge, replicate technology, tools or approaches on global environmental issues	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Review Communication and KM strategy updated



10. NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT

NSC members involved in OP8 CPS development, review and endorsement	Signatures
Dr. Hala Yousry, NSC Chair, Professor of Sociology – Desert Research Center Egyptian Sustainable Development Forum (ESDF)	
Dr. Ali Abou Sena, GEF OFP & EEAA CEO, represented by Ms. Hoda Omar, Head of GEF Unit	
Dr. Angy El Yamany, Ministry of Social Solidarity	
Dr. Mahmoud Hanafy, Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association (HEPCA)	
Dr. Omayma Sawan, Bioenergy Association for Sustainable Development	
Dr. Mohamed El-Khayat, Climate Change / Energy Expert	
Dr. Kamel Shehata, Commercial International Bank (CIB)	
Dr. Mohamed Bayoumi, Environment Officer - United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	

ANNEXES (optional)

ANNEX 1 - APPLICABLE OP8 CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF TARGET LANDSCAPES/ SEASCAPES

Criteria	Greater Cairo	Fayoum	Upper Egypt
Global Environmental Characteristics			
Presence of important ecosystems that are recognized globally and/or nationally	✓ Wadi Degla National Protectorate	✓ Lake Qarun ecosystem	✓ Nile ecosystem
Presence of globally and/or nationally threatened species	✓ Wadi Degla harbours globally threatened wildlife, including the dorcas gazelle (<i>Gazella dorcas</i> – VU), and hosts 75 types of native plants and 20 kinds of reptiles	✓ Wadi El-Rayan holds reasonable numbers of wintering birds such as the near-threatened Ferruginous Duck (<i>Aythya nyroca</i>) and Pallid Harrier <i>Circus macrourus</i> as well as several threatened species of mammals, including the slender horned gazelle, <i>Gazella leptoceros</i> .	
Areas of increased threats to ecosystem integrity, connectivity and resilience	✓ Petrified Forest PA: Threat by sprawling urbanization and illegal collection of petrified wood.	✓ Lake Qarun: The lacustrine ecology is changing as the salinity of the lake increases, raising concerns that the salinity levels might become too high for many life forms to thrive. Moreover, largely unregulated tourist developments, particularly along the southern shores of the lake, are damaging mudflats, saltmarshes and other water bird	

		habitats. Hunting of water birds also continues to be a threat to the biodiversity of Lake Qarun, partly by recreational hunters, but also by local fish-farmers, an example of typical human-wildlife conflicts at many of Egypt's wetland sites. Wadi El-Rayan PA: Potential threats to the site include agricultural and wastewater drainage as well as illegal hunting. The greatest threat to the area comes from a land-claim project which aims at cultivating 15,000 feddan (6,300 ha) of desert, right in the centre of Wadi El Rayan Protected Area. Fish-farming, taking place in and around the lakes, is a potential source of water-pollution. In addition, there is a possibility that water flow to the lakes will be severely reduced in the future as part of the drainage water recycling policy the government is applying to conserve water. This would lead to a significant reduction in the size of the second	
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		lake or its complete disappearance. The salinity of the second lake is likewise increasing, and this is likely to diminish its importance for water birds. Illegal hunting and especially falcon-catching is also a continued threat. The growing number of fisherfolk and fish farms is also causing increased disturbance to wintering water birds. The tarmac road, encircling the two lakes of Wadi El Rayan, has made the area more accessible, drastically increasing the opportunities for illegal hunting and habitat destruction.	
Presence of degraded land areas that are prioritized globally and/or nationally	✓ Degraded agricultural land.	✓ Degraded agricultural land.	✓ Degraded agricultural land.
Areas with low access to grid and clean electricity	✓	✓	✓
Climate change vulnerable areas		✓	✓
Areas covered by International Waters Strategic Action Plans (SAPs) – Large Marine Ecosystems and Water Basins	✓ Nile River	✓ Nile River	✓ Nile River
Areas recognized as important/priority through	✓ UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Historic	✓	✓

international and national processes and institutions (example, UNESCO World Heritage Site, Key Biodiversity Areas, Land degradation (LD) hotspots, deforestation hotspots (SFM), aligned with NBSAP, NAPA, NDC, and other national strategies in relation to MEAs)	Cairo & Memphis and its Necropolis	UNESCO World Heritage Site: Wadi Al-Hitan (Whale Valley) Key Biodiversity Areas: Lake Qarun and Wadi El Rayan	UNESCO World Heritage Site: Ancient Thebes with Its Necropolis Key Biodiversity Area: Upper Nile
Socio-economic characteristics			
Areas of the country with high poverty/low human development index	The imbalance between population growth and resources has created pockets of poverty which affect a significant percentage of the residing population. In Cairo, the population rate below poverty line is 17.5%, and in Giza it is 28.6%, which means that almost half of the population of these two governorates combined is below the poverty line.	The governorate of Fayoum is the ninth in Egypt, with 26.4% of its population below national poverty line. Poverty is more pronounced in rural areas, and especially in villages that are dependent on agriculture and where irrigation water is scarce.	Qena is the third poorest governorate in Upper Egypt, with a poverty rate of 57.8% while Luxor is the sixth, with a poverty rate of 41.2%.
Presence of strong traditional systems of governance (such as traditional territories, ICCAs)			
Presence of important cultural heritage (including sacred sites, archaeological)	✓ Several Islamic and Coptic sacred shrines	✓ UNESCO World Heritage Site: Wadi Al-Hitan (Whale Valley)	✓ Several Islamic and Coptic sacred shrines

features, traditional knowledge, etc.)			
Presence of Indigenous Peoples/ vulnerable groups/ethnic minority groups			
Stakeholder Capacities			
Availability of organizations (NGOs, CSOs and CBOs)	✓ Evident through OP7 and earlier phases	✓ Evident through OP7 and earlier phases	✓ Evident through OP7 and earlier phases
Availability of partner institutions (local governments, civil society groups, universities, network of IPs, others)	✓ Evident through OP7 and earlier phases	✓ Evident through OP7 and earlier phases	✓ Evident through OP7 and earlier phases
Additional considerations: long term potential for SGP's role			
Build on gains and networks of previous operational phases	✓ Builds on OP6 and OP7 in landscape	✓ Builds on OP6 and OP7 in landscape	✓ Builds on OP6 and OP7 in landscape
Provides opportunities for deeper impact and broader adoption (scaling up, replication, policy influence)	✓ Through cumulative impact of OP6 and OP7 and their multi-stakeholder platforms and dialogue in landscape.	✓ Through cumulative impact of OP6 and OP7 and their multi-stakeholder platforms and dialogue in landscape.	✓ Through cumulative impact of OP6 and OP7 and their multi-stakeholder platforms and dialogue in landscape.
Presence or potential to collaborate with other large-scale efforts for co-financing and joint initiatives (e.g. GEF and UNDP Projects, multilateral/bilateral donors, private sector, foundation)	✓ As outlined in CPS	✓ As outlined in CPS	✓ As outlined in CPS
Logistic considerations (example, geographic accessibility, security)	None	None	None



concerns, infrastructure)			
Provides opportunities for capacity building among local communities, stakeholders, and implementing partners	✓ Building on cumulative efforts and gains of OP6 and OP7 in landscape	✓ Building on cumulative efforts and gains of OP6 and OP7 in landscape	✓ Building on cumulative efforts and gains of OP6 and OP7 in landscape
Potential to incorporate innovative approaches	✓ Building on gains of OP6 and OP7 in landscape.	✓ Building on gains of OP6 and OP7 in landscape.	✓ Building on gains of OP6 and OP7 in landscape.
Potential to integrate gender transformative approaches	✓ Building on gains of OP6 and OP7 in landscape.	✓ Building on gains of OP6 and OP7 in landscape.	✓ Building on gains of OP6 and OP7 in landscape.