

## SGP success stories



**Khengrig Namsum Cooperative**, a youth group, implemented a project called “Rehabilitating fallow land through agroforestry for rural income enhancement” in Zhemgang with support from technical agencies of Royal Government of Bhutan.

### Positive impacts of project:

rehabilitated 230 acres of fallow land & supported 7 km solar electric fencing, planted 30,000 banana saplings (85% survival rate) and water melons, in 2018 the group harvested 11 tons of water melon, 11 tons (3 trucks) of banana fetching income of Nu. 315,000 from water melon and Nu. 422,000 from banana, employs 7 youths and supports 17 collaborative farmers, farmers income between Nu 12,000 to Nu. 42,000 and supplies fruits and vegetables to 2 central schools, communities and markets in Thimphu.



The project “Protection of Bjagay Menchu (medicinal water) and sustainable management of the Community Forest” in Paro was undertaken by Bjagay Menchu community forest group. The Block extension officials supported the project implementation.

### Positive impact of project:

reduced emission of CO2 through 27% fuelwood reduction, consumption of fuel wood reduced from 37.44 tons/year to 28.08 tons/year, protected 1.4 ha of medicinal water area and conserved of 432.2 ha of forest, eco-friendly public bath facility with energy efficient water heating system installed, benefitted 109 members (63 female & 46 male), 360 sick people has availed services between October 2017 to March 2018, employs 5 community members, CF receives annual fee of Nu. 215,995.



## How to apply for a grant?

- 1 “Call for Proposals” are made through national newspapers and other media channels. Applicants may directly contact National Coordinator/Programme Assistant to obtain guidelines and forms.
- 2 Prepare and submit project proposals to the National Coordinator/Programme Assistant.
- 3 National Coordinator with the support of the Technical Committee, reviews and pre-screens project proposals for eligibility.
- 4 Eligible proposals are verified by the National Coordinator through field visits and meetings with applicants.
- 5 Eligible proposals, along with field verification reports, are reviewed by National Steering Committee (NSC). The NSC either approves or rejects the project proposals.
- 6 If a project proposal is approved, a Grant Agreement is signed between GEF-UNDP SGP and the Grantee.
- 7 Fund is released to the Grantee for project implementation.

### A proposal gets higher preference if it:

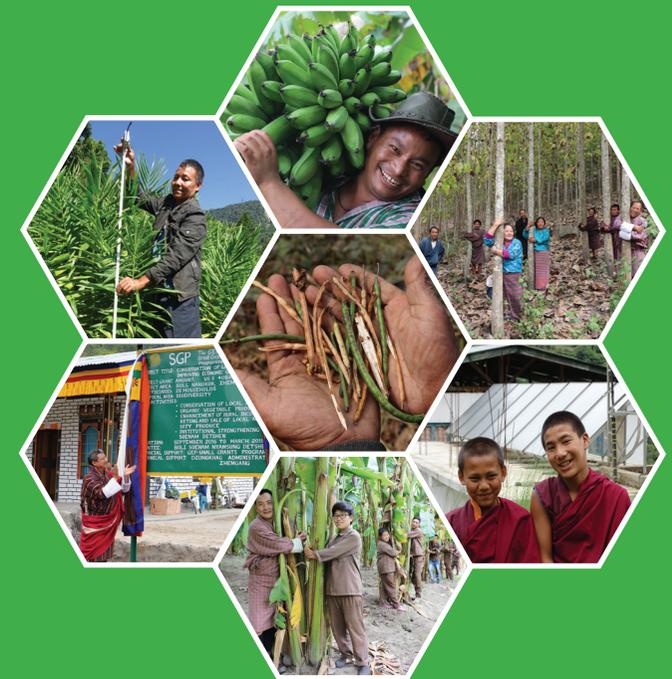
- is innovative
- addresses livelihood issues
- fosters local ownership
- is gender sensitive
- builds institutional capabilities
- is sustainable in the long run
- has co-financing from the community
- has co-financing from other stakeholders
- has an exit strategy

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## BHUTAN GEF - UNDP Small Grants Programme (SGP)

### COMMUNITY ACTION GLOBAL IMPACT



“Developing community-led and community-owned strategies and technologies for reducing threat to the global environment through local actions and solutions”



## GEF-UNDP Small Grants Programme: An Introduction

### What is SGP?

The Small Grants Programme (SGP) was launched in 1992 as corporate programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) implemented through UNDP to provide financial and technical support to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) such as national-level CSOs, community-based organizations (CBOs) and academia to meet the overall objective of "Global environmental benefits secured through community-based initiatives and actions". GEF-SGP is rooted in the belief that community-driven and civil society-led initiatives that generate environmental benefits while at the same time supporting sustainable livelihoods and local empowerment are among the most effective ways to address global environmental challenges.

### What does SGP do?

With the support of Royal Government of Bhutan, GEF-UNDP SGP supports implementation of micro environmental projects in the six GEF Focal Areas namely;

- biodiversity conservation,
- climate change,
- sustainable forest management,
- sustainable land management,
- chemicals and waste,
- international waters.



SGP's project period can range from six months to three years. SGP funds "small grants" up to a maximum of \$50,000 with average fund support of \$35,000<sup>[1]</sup>.

[1] Average for 27 projects implemented between 2015-2018 in Operational Phase 6



## GEF- UNDP Small Grants Programme in Bhutan

### Our Objectives

Since its inception in October 1998, SGP has implemented a total of 184<sup>[2]</sup> projects in partnership with the Royal Government of Bhutan, CSOs, CBOs and academia. SGP is recognized by the government as one of the key partners in environmental conservation and rural development.

- Develop community-level strategies and implement technologies that could reduce threats to global environment.
- Gather lessons from community-level experience and share successful community-based strategies and innovations among CBOs, CSOs, govt., development aid agencies, GEF and others working on a regional or global scale.
- Build partnerships and networks of stakeholders to support and strengthen community, CSO and national capacities to address global environmental problems and promote sustainable development.
- Ensure that conservation and sustainable development strategies and projects that protect the global environment are understood and practiced by communities and other key stakeholders.



SGP projects have provided immediate solutions to local communities and grassroots institutions. The project implementation is supported by National Steering Committee (NSC) and Technical Committee assuring a "country-driven" approach to SGP implementation and national capacity building. SGP's Country Programme Strategy (CPS) adapts the SGP global strategic framework and takes in to account existing national environmental strategies and plans, as well as those relating to national development and poverty eradication. SGP has supported more than 100 CBOs, 10 CSOs and several educational and research institutions until now.

[2] Including ongoing projects of December 2018



## Country Ownership

The SGP programme in Bhutan has a strong country ownership and it is indeed country driven. It receives strategic direction and guidance from the SGP National Steering Committee which is chaired by RGOB with members from RGOB, UN agencies and CSOs. This committee is supported by technical committee with members drawn from various RGOB technical agencies and CSOs. The technical committee ensures that SGP projects are technically sound. Recognizing SGP's impact made particularly to the grassroots community-based organizations, RGOB had provided consistent support to the SGP programme. During GEF 6 cycle, RGOB, through its GEF STAR allocation, provided USD 500,000 to SGP programme in Bhutan as co-financing.



## Success Project Stories



Bhutan Youth Development Fund (YDF) in partnership with SGP and Goodwill Community Foundation, USA embarked on an eco-friendly initiative/project "Providing gainful employment to recovering youth and reduction of urban waste through manufacturing of egg trays" to address youth unemployment whilst curbing waste management issues. Through the project, YDF established Bhutan's first egg tray manufacturing plant.

**Positive impacts of project:** recycling of over 100,000 kg of waste paper a year, production of over 1.1 million egg trays and income of USD 45,000 a year, employment of recovering youths, income to sustain drug education, prevention & rehabilitation program of YDF and reduce import of egg trays.



**THINK GLOBALLY  
ACT LOCALLY**