

...Small Grants Big Impact

EDITOR'S NOTE

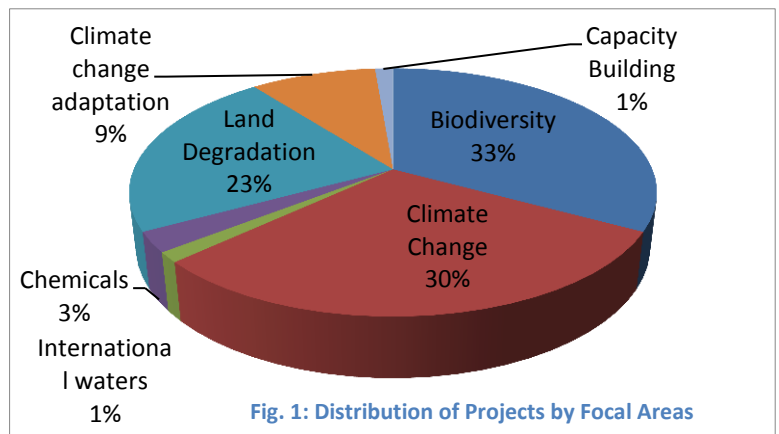
It has been a while and many activities and success stories have been recorded. We continue to get satisfied by the impact GEF-SGP is making in the lives of poor and marginalized communities in all our project areas and we hope you enjoy the few of the success stories we shared in this edition. We welcome our new NSC members who have added so much value to us and our operations in the little period they have joined and we remain grateful for their commitment. As SGP continues to make positive impact, we invite prospective collaborators to take advantage of the globally acclaimed integrity, transparency and participatory mode of operation of GEF-SGP. Please don't hesitate to send us your feedback. Happy reading!

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FROM THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR/UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

The Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has achieved notable results supporting over 70 national civil societies to implement 88 community environmental initiatives in 23 states of the federation. One of the grantees was recently honoured with the International Peace Building award conferred by the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, the Federal Government of Nigeria and the United Nations Development Programme. I am glad to share in this and other success stories, UNDP having provided the support to achieve these results. I invite you to enjoy this Edition of GEF-SGP Nigeria Newsletter which further elucidates the importance of community environmental initiatives and the development efforts of the UNDP.



NIGERIA SUPPORTS 37 NEW PROJECTS

A total of \$1,138,000 to implement 37 community projects has been approved by the National Steering Committee of GEF-SGP during the current GEF Operational Phase 5. These projects will facilitate the planting of over 15,000 trees; capacity building for more than 12,000 beneficiaries. Production of compost; provision of photovoltaic cells for communities which are not connected to the national grid; over 500 solar cookers and solar panels; fabrication of melon washers; empowerment of women farmers on organics farming and land management techniques; abatement of over 10 tons of CO₂ through different project activities. SGP looks forward to award-winning outcomes of these various projects. The pie chart below shows the breakdown of all SGP projects in terms of focal areas.

GEF-SGP ORGANISED A TWO-DAY WORKSHOP AND EXHIBITION

Over 100 participants attended a 2-day workshop organized for SGP grantees in Abuja. The Programme was supported by the Federal government through the Federal Ministry of Environment and UNDP Country Office. The workshop promoted further appreciation and understanding of the GEF-SGP in Nigeria; built grantees capacity for knowledge management, resource mobilization, advocacy, effective community engagement and partnership building. Participants also learnt the process of effective participation in consultative processes for Multilateral Environmental Agreements



Fig. 2: Participants at Exhibition Stands

SGP also organized the first exhibition of her projects during the workshop to showcase some of the products/results of SGP projects in the country. Over 20 grantees participated and several SGP products were on display. The various products displayed during the exhibition included herbal products, craft works, irrigation pitchers, products from *Nypa* palm such as ethanol and fronds, energy saving cooking stoves, tree seedlings, improved agricultural products produced using composting among others.



Fig 3: Products on display during exhibition

APPLAUSE FOR GEF-SGP @ THE 8TH NATIONAL COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENT

The increasing impact of SGP activities in Nigeria cannot be over emphasized. GEF-SGP impact was again recognized and applauded by the First Lady of Benue State, Mrs. Yemisi Doshima Suswan; the Deputy Governor, Stephen Lawani (OFR?); Benue State Commissioner for Environment and other dignitaries at her exhibition stand during the 8th National Council on Environment (NCE) meeting held in Benue State between the 5th and 10th, May 2013 where only 10 SGP grantees showcased some of SGP products and projects results.



Fig. 4: SGP exhibition applauded by dignitaries



Fig 5: Nat. Coord. explaining project results



Fig 6: Products on display during exhibition

NEWS OF ACTIVITIES

a. **International Seminar on Community-Based Conservation of Endangered Sclater's Monkey (*Cercopithecus sclateri*).** GEF-SGP Nigeria National Coordinator was a Resource Person at the first International Seminar on **Community-Based Conservation of Endangered Sclater's Monkey (*Cercopithecus Sclateri*)** which was organized by one of her grantees (Biodiversity Preservation Centre) in collaboration with the University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. It was a well-attended meeting with other resource persons from Nigeria and Rome, Italy. The meeting underscored the importance of conservation and especially scientific and fact based conservation, indigenous participation and political will in order to make a great positive impact in conservation. Some of the endangered species of animal endemic to Nigeria and Akwa Ibom in particular were highlighted and there was a general call to the academic/research institutions, donors and corporate organisations for concerted effort to prevent total extinction of these species.



Fig 7: Cross section of organisers & resource persons



Fig 8: NSC members at the 8th NSC meeting

b. **GEF National Steering Committee Meeting:** GEF-SGP Nigeria, as a member of the Nigerian National Steering Committee of the Global Environment Facility was at the last NSC meeting where the National Coordinator made a presentation on the status and success stories of GEF-SGP, explained the importance of collaboration with other GEF Full Size and Medium size projects and promised to work more with other projects to achieving synergy for greater success of GEF projects and programmes in the country. All other project contacts agreed and expected SGP NC for further discussions on the way forward.

c. 8th NSC Meeting

The 8th NSC meeting of GEF-SGP was held on the 27th June 2013. The meeting which was well-attended deliberate on various important national and strategic issues that borders on the Country Programme Strategy, Resource Mobilization, Partnership Building and Review and Approval of 14 Proposals for funding during OP5 Y3. There was a mini exhibition of SGP success stories. NSC commended the achievements of SGP Nigeria and the efforts of the National Team.

d. World Environment Day 2013

The 2013 World Environment Day (WED) was celebrated by our grantees. Below we share with you pictures of the various exercises that border on the theme of the celebration “Think, Eat, Save”.

e. **GEF-SGP Grantees Workshop:** In effort to make project implementation more effective and promote better understanding of stakeholders’ role, GEF-SGP organised a workshop for all her new OP5 grantees early this year. Some of the issues discussed were understanding of the requirements of the MOA, community engagement, technical and financial report writing, knowledge sharing, resource mobilization partnership building and mentoring. The aim was to remove or reduce the hitches usually associated with project implementation and misunderstanding of the requirements of the signed MOAs. Over 30 participants, including old and new grantees participated at the workshop. All the participants attested to the importance of the workshop and the increased knowledge gained to help them to effectively deliver on the projects.



Fig 9: Participants during World Environment Day Rally

OUTSTANDING PROJECTS

Initiative for Community Development (ICD): One of SGP projects in Delta state facilitated the use of indigenous plants to reclaim farmlands along pipelines degraded by oil spill. This has resulted in reclamation of about 1/5 of farmlands of Emede in Isoko LGA of Delta State. The NGO has also trained other NGOs to support other communities to deploy the simple remediation technology while Delta State government has commissioned the NGO to replicate the project in other affected communities.



Fig 10: Reclaimed oil degraded farmland

Environment and Development Foundation (EDF): SGP Nigeria supports simple pitcher irrigation to raise tree seedlings in woodlots to reduce deforestation and produce fruits in orchards. Vegetables were grown in the orchard before the fruit trees reach maturity. Pitcher irrigation is similar to drip irrigation technology but without the sophistication and costs. It involves the burying of specially made porous earthen pots neck deep into the ground. The buried pots are filled with water and covered with a lid to prevent evaporation. The water seeps out from the wall of the pots gradually to wet the surrounding soil and may not be refilled for up to 2 weeks depending on the size of the pots. This simple



Fig 10: Thriving Orchard on degraded land with pitcher irrigation

and affordable technique has enabled the people of Udubo, Katagum, Zaki LGAs in Bauchi State to reforest a whole Muslim Praying Ground, created several orchards and vegetable farms and created jobs for women who make the pots.

NSC MEMBERSHIP

Three new members recently joined the team of our vibrant National Steering Committee (NSC). They are Mrs. Aisha Bello-Mustapha, Dr. Christopher Ugwu and Prof. Augustine Ezealor. They have been fascinated by SGP achievements and have done so much, in such a little while to enhance the quality of SGP operation nationwide. On why he joined the NSC, Prof. Ezealor said “*I saw in the appointment a fulfilling opportunity to contribute to grassroots conservation initiatives, ... the concept and design of projects submitted to GEF-SGP for execution in Nigeria. I also saw in the scheme, prospects for me to improve on my sang-froid for articulating and executing projects that are imbued with environmental conservation benefits, including rural livelihood enhancement. Finally, the opportunity to meet and discuss with people who are as enthusiastic about nature conservation as I am, was simply irresistibly attractive.*”

TIPS FOR GEF-SGP GRANTEES

- Think sustainability at all times. Active participation by the communities will most certainly ensure ownership and hence sustainability.
- SGP projects are not ethnically, religiously or politically inspired/inclined. It is meant for every eligible group.
- Beneficiaries must understand that they are privileged because there are thousands of other communities who desire but do not have this project to benefit from.
- Collect testimonies from beneficiaries. Share your success stories through word, pictures, videos and articles.
- Mentoring others is a proof of your success and passion for development.

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES & SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

GEF-SGP seeks and welcomes opportunities to partner with interested organisations. GEF-SGP partners include bilateral donors, foundations, international NGOs, government agencies, environment funds/trusts, national poverty alleviation programmes, service organizations, academic institutions, the private sector, and GEF Full and Medium size and UNDP core programmes. Acting as “Grantmaker+, Barefoot Consultant and a catalyst for innovative environmental finance, partnership synergies are found at all stages of GEF-SGP operations, including programme management; capacity development; grant implementation and monitoring; resource mobilization and co-financing; advocacy and communications. GEF-SGP’s unique delivery mechanism makes it a viable channel to achieve environmental benefits while addressing livelihood enhancement of target beneficiaries. Partnership strategy of GEF-SGP ensures all stakeholders benefit from collaborations thereby achieving partners’ goals. Please call our hotline number 234 805 988 6269 for further discussions.

FAQS

- a. What are the criteria for an NGO/CBO to be eligible for GEF-SGP grant? *Ans: Please see GEF-SGP Project Concept Guidelines at <http://www.ng.undp.org/qefGEF-SGP/>*
- b. What field of operation is required for an NGO/CBO to be eligible for grant? *Ans: A general NGO experience, an evidence of practical activity for at least three years in environmental management and community engagement. Cross cutting experience in development and environment is an added advantage.*
- c. How can and NGO/CBO interested in accessing GEF-SGP grant easily come up with project concepts? *Ans: Identify and analyze the problem through consultations with the target community, link it to any of GEF-SGP’s focal areas, the Country Programme Strategy and review experiences of other projects on GEF-SGP website.*
- d. Will GEF-SGP consider a project concept from an NGO/CBO situated in a region of the country which will be implemented in another region? *Ans: An NGO must have proven presence in a proposed project site because GEF-SGP will NOT pay for project staff salary and transport/logistics expenses between project site and NGO office. A CBO can only propose project around its organisation’s office and MUST have experience working with the people in that community.*
- e. Where can I get more information about GEF-SGP? *Ans: GEF-SGP Global website: www.sgp.undp.org for all global documents and samples of global projects from all GEF-SGP countries; GEF-SGP Nigeria webpage: www.ng.undp.org/gefsqp for GEF-SGP Nigeria documents and samples of country projects;*
- f. When is the deadline to submit a project concept? *There is no deadline to submit a project concept. Concepts papers are reviewed quarterly but it is advisable to submit concept papers as soon as possible. Interested NGOs and*

CBOs can send in their concept paper any time during the year to the address sgpnigeria@gmail.com. However, specific advertorials are made at particular periods. Upon receipt of your application, an acknowledgment will be sent to you, but this does not represent an approval of your project concept.

- g. How long does it take between project concept submission and approval/start of a project? *Project proponents must give at least six (6) months interval between submission and proposed start date of project if approved.*

FACTS & FIGURES

- ✓ SGP has supported 88 projects in 23 states in the last four years of operation.
- ✓ Allocation for grant since inception in 2009 is **\$2,597,869 for GEF**
- ✓ SGP Nigeria has raised **\$2,170,376** total co-financing to support her projects.
- ✓ Over 70 NGOs in Nigeria have been supported to carry out community environmental initiatives that also enhance the livelihood of the beneficiaries.
- ✓ Over 10 SGP supported projects have been replicated or up-scaled
- ✓ SGP projects have won three international and one national awards.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Extended Council Workshop (ECW) of the Global Environment Facility will hold in Nigeria from 1st to 3rd October 2013. This is the first time Nigeria is hosting the workshop which brings together various GEF stakeholders in the West Africa region to discuss issues of GEF operations in line with its Operational Phase 5 strategies and beyond. The meeting will be hosted by the Federal Ministry of Environment on behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria. There will be exhibition of GEF-SGP projects and products during the three day meeting. GEF-SGP Nigeria looks forward to receiving all participants from West Africa region and wishes the GEF and the Federal Republic of Nigeria fruitful meeting.

GEF-SGP is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of the GEF partnership, and executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

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