

# GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME (GEF-SGP)



UNDP engaged local engineers and entrepreneurs to prototype and scale-up an innovative solarpowered machine to sterilize hay for mushroom farmers

## BACKGROUND

It is local communities in the developing world that are often the first to feel the effects of environmental degradation and climate change. The realization that they are at the forefront of efforts to prevent and reverse damage to the environment led to the setting up of the Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme in 1992. The programme was started following the Rio Earth Summit and has so far given out 14,500 grants to local initiatives to conserve the environment in 125 developing countries.



Painting green in Khumbu not only shows solidarity in conservation but also protect wooden beam inside.

Since its inception in 1998, has funded 219 Small grant projects to 159 grantees in 54 districts. Out of 219 projects, 75 are biodiversity projects, 64 are climate change, 56 are land degradation, 5 are chemicals projects and 18 projects are multifocal and Capacity building and information dissemination projects. Likewise SGP had also implemented seven Community Development and Knowledge Management for Satoyama Initiatives (COMDEKS) project for nature conservation at landscape level and four Every Drop Matters projects for water conservation. These projects have all involved local communities in conserving their local natural resources in ways that enhance human well-being and livelihoods and deliver global environmental benefits.



## QUICK FACTS:

**Duration:** 1998-2022

**Focus Area:** Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change, Land Degradation, International Waters and Chemicals

**Implemented by:** UNDP

**Collaborating partners:** Civil society organizations and community based organizations

**Funded by:** Global Environment Facility

# ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR



Fruit sapling distribution for climate smart agriculture in Devghat, Tanahu

- Conservation and sustainable use of 5,293 hectares of 5 biodiverse midhill forests, including Panchase, Kankrebihar, Patana, Tinjure Milke Jaljale and Gwalek; and 3,450 hectares of 12 wetlands, including Jagadispur, Ajingara, Bishazar, Rupa, Kupinde Daha, Brija, Gajedi, Taudaha, Betna, Satyabati, Charinge, and Jakhera Lake.
- Conservation of more than 2,900 hectares of sloping land through SALT technology, and planting of over 5.3 million plants majority including broomgrass (4.5M) benefitting 5,800 households
- Support in formulation of vulture conservation action plan 2009-2013, declaration of 40 districts as Diclofenac-free areas and establishing community-managed vulture restaurants
- Installation of bio-gas, solar home and micro hydro systems, as well as solar tukis, rice husk stoves, Puxing biogas and ICSs—saving altogether 16,422 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year. Also piloted and successfully replicated Matribhumui Improved Cook Stove, Rice Husk Stove, Stainless Still Distillation Unit and Cardamom dryer. In addition 4 Hydramp installed lifting 136,000lit/per day benefitting 124 HH and Introduction of Sunfarmers portable irrigation pump and solar pasturisation of mushroom substrate successfully demonstrated.
- Successful advocacy towards banning the registration of Endosulfan in Nepal
- Contribution to ban import, purchase and use of mercury-based equipment in health sector effective from July 15, 2013
- Successful demonstration of Hospital Waste management in 3 hospitals and 5 health posts.
- Initiation of carp—a small Indigenous Fish Species (SIS)—polyculture in over 400 ponds in 5 districts
- SGP grantees and project staff won 42 awards including 9 prestigious global awards: UNEP Sasakawa Award 2010 and Ryotaro Hashimoto APFED Award (Gold prize) 2008 to MDI, Tech Museum Award to Babu Raja Shrestha (CRE on dissemination of Solar Tuki Lamp) 2005, Stockholm PEN (PCB Elimination Network) Award to CEPHED (2011), SEED Gender Equality Award to WEPCO Nepal (2011), Equator Initiative Award to AID Nepal (2014), Infymakers Award for developing 3-D mold for cook stove burner (2017), Farming for Biodiversity Award (Judges choice) to NDRC (2018), Birdlife Nature's Hero Award to DB Chaudhary (2018), 4 Ideas to Impact Climate adaptation prize (2016) and One Climate adaptation prize.
- Able to generate cofunding of USD8.77M (Cash USD5.87M and in Kind USD2.9M)
- Community conserve species conservation such as Dolphins, Vultures, Giant Hornbill and Bijaya Sal (Pterocarpus Marsupium)

## Expected project outputs

Additional 12 new projects have been approved, which would be implemented in 2019. Additionally, a new Country Programme Strategy is under preparation for period of 2019-2022.

### Gender and Social inclusion Interventions

Of the 219 projects, 35 projects were implemented by woman team leaders or chairpersons where as 13 projects were implemented by indigenous peoples organisation. GEF-SGP has closely worked with indigenous peoples in order to conserve their indigenous cultures associated with environment conservation. These included conserving indigenous Sherpa culture in Khumbu region, improving slash and burn farming by Chepangs and Tamangs, balancing nomadic culture of Rautes and their association with forest, conserving fish and Dolphin by Majhis and Rajis, improving workspace of Bishworkarma and conserving indigenous medicinal practices of Tharu Guruba and Amchi (Traditional medical practitioner in Highland).

### Importance of the project for the SDGs

The Nepal Small Grants Programme primarily contributes to Goal 7: Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy to All; Goal 13: Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and its Impacts; and Goal 15: Protect, Restore and Promote Sustainable Use of Terrestrial Ecosystems, Sustainably Manage Forests, Combat Desertification and Halt and Reverse Land Degradation and Biodiversity Loss. But the diverse nature of SGP projects means that it was also able to contribute to other Goals through its multi-faceted interventions, such as Goal 2: End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture; Goal 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls; and Goal 11: Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable.

#### CONTACT:

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