  

**OP6 SGP Innovation Programme for the Strategic Initiative on**

**Community Landscape/Seascape Conservation**

**Blue Economy Programme**

**Introduction**

To provide inputs to UN Ocean Conference in June 2017, World Bank and DESA jointly issued a report on the potential of the blue economy in achieving SDGs.[[1]](#footnote-1) “Blue economy” refers to a concept that seeks to promote economic growth, social inclusion and preservation improvement of livelihoods while at the same time ensuring environmental sustainability of oceans and seas.

Oceans and seas cover two-thirds of Earth’s surface and have played a significant role in community livelihoods through the provision of food, medicine, energy and other ecosystem services and products. Blue economy contributes to poverty eradication by creating sustainable livelihoods and decent work, provide food and minerals, generate oxygen, absorb greenhouse gases and mitigate the impacts of climate change, determine weather patterns and temperatures, and serve as highways for seaborne international trade.[[2]](#footnote-2) Below are some quantitative data on oceans’ contribution to economic growth and livelihoods:

* Over three billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods
* Globally, the market value of marine and coastal resources and industries is estimated at $3 trillion per year or about 5 per cent of global GDP
* Oceans absorb about 30 per cent of carbon dioxide produced by humans, buffering the impacts of global warming
* Oceans serve as the world’s largest source of protein, with more than 3 billion people depending on the oceans as their primary source of protein
* Marine fisheries directly or indirectly employ over 200 million people.[[3]](#footnote-3)

SDG Target 14.7 of the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals focuses on enhancing the economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through the sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture, and tourism. SDG Target 14.9 aims to “provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.” Blue economy is not manifested in the targets of SDGs, but also is a means to achieve SDG 14 and other goals.

SGP in the past 25 years has gained considerable experiences of protecting ocean and coastal environment while enhancing livelihoods and empower local communities. There is a need to advance the experiences and lessons learnt to further promote a balanced approach to economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable ocean and coastal management. SGP’s portfolio on Blue Economy and lessons learned are compiled in the 2018 publication on Blue Economy: Community Solutions.[[4]](#footnote-4)

The SGP Blue Economy Innovation Program seeks to protect the ocean and coastal environment through the enhancement of the efficiency and sustainability of community-based blue economy. It is premised on the fact that enhanced resource use efficiency will create more livelihoods opportunities while reducing human induced pressure on ocean and coastal ecosystems.

The goal of the program is to identify, test and scale up innovative community-based projects that boost local livelihoods through better and sustainable use of ocean and coastal resources through active social inclusion, particularly women and girls, youth, indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities.

**Priority Themes and Activities**

Priority themes include fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, and cross-cutting capacity development. Specifically, priority activities include:

**a-Fisheries:**

* Promote sustainable fishery management by developing community by-laws, policies and monitoring schemes to enhance fisheries management (especially those community monitoring to prevent IUU)
* Rehabilitate, conserve and sustainably manage coastal habitats for fisheries

**b-Climate resilient aquaculture:**

* Reduction of pollution from aquaculture and land-based pollution

**c-Eco-tourism:**

* Pilot and test community-managed eco-tourism initiatives
* Develop business plans and market tourist destinations
* Management from tourists, hotels and other tourism generated waste

**d-Capcity development:**

* Education and trainings to community members on sustainable fisheries, aquaculture and eco-tourism;
* Identification, collection and codification of good practices on blue economy for local, national and global learning and sharing

**Focal geographical area***:* Red River and Mekong delta

**Grantee:** local NGOs and CBOs

**Procedure of project selection**

* The project proponent may request for a grant up to 50,000 USD in 18 months.
* The project proponent contacts the GEF SGP the National Cocoordinator to receive project application guidelines and other documents.
* The proponent develops project concept paper (in Vietnamese) in accordance with GEF SGP format and submits this to the NC.
* The NC screens and considers the concept paper according to GEF criteria and then submits it to the NSC for further approval.
* The proposing organization whose concept paper cleared by GEF SGP submit a grant application in case of need. GEF SGP provides a small grant for project design, stakeholder consultation and surveys.
* The NC considers and approves the above-mentioned document.
* The proposing organization whose proposal cleared by GEF SGP submit a Project proposal.
* The proposing organization submit the project proposal to the NC:
* The project proposal is either cleared by the NC and submitted to the NSC
* It can be returned to the proposing organization with the NC’s comments for adjustment.
* Proposals cleared by the NC are submitted to the NSC:
* It might be accepted or rejected by the NSC
* The NSC might return the proposal with a request for further work or additional sponsor
* Proposals cleared by the NSC are submitted to UNDP Vietnam for final clearance.
* Proposals cleared by UNDP Vietnam are submitted to the Central Programme Management Team (CPMT) in New York and The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) asks for funding.
* Approved proposals enter the SGP work programme.

**Criteria for selecting concept paper/proposal**

* Suitable with GEF SGP’s strategic focal areas (i) focal and geographic focus (ii)
* objectives (capacity development, demonstration or replication strategies/community technique and knowledge management (lessons learned documentation/dissemination)
* Reasonable, creative, science – based, feasible and community approach. Projects should include strong social inclusion (gender equality and women’s empowerment, indigenous peoples, youth, and or persons with disabilities).
* Sustainability, mainstreaming, upscaling/replication
* Organization’s capability (i) Human resource and management experience (ii) Capacity and technical experience of the organization/consulting experts (iii) The involvement of communities and local stakeholders (iv) Linkages/mainstreaming with related projects/programs.
* Budget (i) Compatible (ii) Reasonable. (iii) Cofinanncing

**Submission of concept paper (in Vietnamese) to:**

UNDP – GEF SGP Vietnam

Green One UN House, 304 Kim Ma, Ba Dinh, Ha Noi

Soft file should be sent to email: [gef-sgp-vietnam@undp.org](mailto:gef-sgp-vietnam@undp.org)

Deadline: **24 April 2020** (17h00 Hanoi time)

1. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/26843/115545.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/26843/115545.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/oceans/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://sgp.undp.org/innovation-library/item/1784-blue-economy,--community-solutions.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)