

BRIEF ON UNDP - GEF SGP VIETNAM PRIORITIES OF SGP GEF 6

I. Background information

Recognizing the essential role of households and communities in dealing with global environmental issues, UNDP launched the GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) in 1992. The GEF SGP provides grants to community-based groups (CBOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to address local problems related to the GEF areas of concern in a way that is suitable with each local's circumstance.

The programme operates on the premise that people will be empowered to protect their environment when they are properly organized to take action, have a measure of control over access to the natural resource base, equipped with the necessary information and knowledge, and aware that their social and economic well-being is dependent on sound long-term resource management. However, the GEF SGP is more than simply a fund that provides small grants to improve the local environment. By raising public awareness, building partnerships and promoting policy dialogue, the GEF SGP seeks to help create a more supportive and favorable environment within countries for achieving sustainable development and addressing global environmental issues.

GEF SGP Vietnam (SGP) was launched in 1999. Focal areas of SGP include biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as land degradation and desertification. Most projects aim at building models for testing community strategies and technologies to sustainably use the natural resources with community-based approaches. They also focus on local people's and community's capacity development.

Despite limited resource (50.000 USD/project), SGP projects has brought about impressive results, many of which have been extended with additional funds from the government and other sponsors... SGP projects improves the reputation of civil society organizations. After almost 20 years, SGP is one of a small number of programs that has managed to effectively support CSOs and community resource organizations in implementing environmental projects including environmental protection, promoting sustainable livelihood based on sustainable utilization of natural resources, with a quick, transparent and friendly sponsoring mechanism. In GEF 5 (2010-2014), SGP has funded about 30 projects for CSOs and CBOs in Vietnam. By 2015, SGP has funded 141 projects implemented in 116 communes of 40 provinces all over the country.

Principal objectives of GEF SGP

- Demonstrate community-level strategies and technologies that could reduce threats to the global environment if they are replicated over time;

- Draw lessons from community-level experience, and support the spread of successful community-level strategies and innovations among CBOs and NGOs, host governments, development aid agencies, the GEF, and other related associations/offices;
- Build partnerships and networks of local stakeholders to support and strengthen community, CBOs, and NGOs capacity to address environmental problems and promote sustainable development.

Focal areas of GEF SGP

GEF resources are available for projects and other community-supporting activities that address climate change, biodiversity conservation, land degradation, desertification and pollution of international waters.

II. Summary of Country Programme Strategy SGP GEF 6

1. Develop SGP portfolio with better focus:

- *Priorities:*

- (i) Integrated management and use of land, water and biodiversity resources to maintain, improve and expand livelihoods, through community outreach to adapt to rising sea level/drought/saline water intrusion due to climate change impacts. Community empowerment in management of protected areas and conservation of culture and traditional knowledge of the local communities, especially of ethnic minorities and development of sustainable financial mechanism for Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCA);
- (ii) Community-based Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) on the basis of combining traditional knowledge (TK) and advanced technologies application (converting farming systems, plants and livestock structures; using resistant and quality varieties/breeds; appropriate farming techniques; IPM, INM, IWM; post-harvest preservation techniques), combining conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity with sustainable land management (SLM) within CSA to ensure production efficiency/sustainability, climate change adaptation, prevention of land degradation and reduction of adverse impacts on the environment;
- (iii) Development of renewable energy including biomass, solar energy. Increased use of agro-products effectively contribute to reducing environmental pollution;
- (iv) Management of solid wastes in rural areas of the Red River Delta.

- *Focal geographical area: Mekong and Red River Delta*
- *Grant amount: max 50.000 USD (depending on project scope and issues)*
- *Grantee: local NGOs and CBOs*

2. Promote national and local impact of SGP projects through:

- Testing innovative ideas/strategies/approaches and replicating/upgrading successful models
- Knowledge management (documentation and dissemination of lessons learned)

- Policy advocacy – local and national levels: Introducing successful projects for certain particular case studies in policy-making and adjustment.
- Capacity development for CSOs and its networks and communities to be able to play a key role in the development process of advocacy work.
- Disseminating lessons and propagandas for SGP as an effective and proper sponsor for CSOs in Vietnam.
- Coordinating with governmental projects (national and local development plan in biodiversity, climate change, land degradation and desertification and international waters) and with international organizations, emphasizing on GEF’s medium-scaled and large-scaled projects as well as UNDP Vietnam’s ones.

3. Procedure of project selection

- The project proponent contacts the GEF SGP the National Co-coordinator to receive project application guidelines and other documents.
- The proponent prepares a brief project concept paper 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.

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