2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF SGP in Sri Lanka**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 5529 |
| GEF ID | 9093 |
| Title | Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF SGP in Sri Lanka |
| Country(ies) | Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Integrated Strategies and SGP |
| Project Implementing Partner | UNOPS |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Full Size |

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| **Project Description** |
| The goal of this project is to support the achievement of global environmental benefits and the protection of the global environment through community and local solutions that work in harmony with local, national and global action. To that end, the objective of this project is to enable community organizations to take collective action for adaptive landscape management for socio-ecological resilience through design, implementation, and evaluation of grant projects for global environmental benefits and sustainable development in three ecologically sensitive landscapes: the Knuckles Conservation Forest and its buffer zone, the coastal region from Mannar Island to Jaffna, and the Colombo Wetlands. This will be carried out through participatory, multi-stakeholder, landscape management.
The proposed interventions are aimed at enhancing social and ecological resilience through community-based, community-driven projects to conserve biodiversity, optimize ecosystem services, manage land (particularly agro-ecosystems) and water sustainably, and mitigate climate change. The pilots will build on experiences and lessons learned from previous SGP operational phases, and lessons learned from the COMDEKS Programme, to assist community organizations in carrying out and coordinating projects in pursuit of outcomes they have identified in landscape plans and strategies. Coordinated community projects in the landscape will generate ecological, economic and social synergies that will produce greater and potentially longer-lasting global environmental benefits, as well as increased social capital and local sustainable development benefits. Multi-stakeholder groups will also take experience, lessons learned, and best practices from prior initiatives and implement a number of potential scaling up efforts during this project’s lifetime. |

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| Project Implementing Partner | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Other Partners | *(not set or not applicable)* |

# Overall Ratings

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| Overall DO Rating | Satisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Satisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | Low |

# Development Progress

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| **Description** |
| **Objective****To enable community-based organizations to take collective action for adaptive landscape management for socio-ecological resilience through design, implementation, and evaluation of grant projects for global environmental benefits and local sustainable development in three ecologically sensitive landscapes: the Knuckles Conservation Forest and its buffer zone, the coastal region from Mannar Island to Jaffna, and the Colombo Wetlands.** |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| A. Area, across three landscapes, of sustainably managed production landscapes that conserve biodiversity and enhance ecosystem services
 | Socio-economic activities in the three landscapes lead to degraded habitats, including deterioration of ecosystem quality, increased risk of desertification, and increased risk of communities to the impacts of climate change | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 20,000 hectares, across three production landscapes, of sustainably managed production landscapes that conserve biodiversity and enhance ecosystem services, including 650 hectares of forest for carbon storage. | Initiated work on 33,450 ha across three production landscapes, which include Colombo Wetlands, Knuckles and Mannar Landscapes.17 projects under Outcome 2 have been approved and started their implementation in May 2018. Projects under outcome 3 are expected to start their implementation in August 2018.
The hectares of carbon storage will be analyzed after completion of projects selection. This activity would be initiated by the 3 Knowledge management groups in the 3 target landscapes once the projects are under implementation by the end of October 2018.
In the Colombo Wetland, the eight projects currently under implementation are focused on: management of urban wetlands; conservation of species such as the otter and fishing cat in the urban wetlands; organic paddy cultivation and biodiversity awareness among the urban population as the government hopes to declare the Colombo wetlands as a Ramsar site and be one of the first wetland cities in the world. The 8 wetland projects will be models to showcase how the wetlands can be restored through wise use. SGP is working closely with The Sri Lanka Land Reclamation and Development Cooperation, which manages the wetlands work in close collaboration with SGP.
In the landscape of Mannar, four projects have been approved by the NSC to date. Inter alia, they support activities related to the protection of the Vidatalativu Nature Reserve, plantation of mangroves and new ecotourism enterprises.
5 projects have been approved in the Knuckles landscape and main activities include: discovering new herpetofauna point endemic species from the Knuckles landscape and strengthening its conservation status by conducting education and capacity building training programmes for project stakeholders in the landscape, such as field staff of the Forest Department, school children, villagers, journalists, Police officers, and the security forces of the region, and preparation of awareness materials such as posters and brochures to depict the uniqueness of the region showing all endemic fauna and flora.
These activities contribute towards sustainably managed production landscapes that conserve biodiversity and enhance ecosystem services. | Target achieved and exceeded - 27,660 ha across the three production landscapes have been brought under sustainable management practices conserving biodiversity and enhancing ecosystem services (138% of the target).
This includes:
1. SGP grants are currently being implemented by 25 CBOs/NGOs carrying out 25 projects that protect or promote sustainable use for biodiversity conservation or improved ecosystem functions covering an estimated 27,660 ha within the 3 landscapes. These initiatives include: 20,942 hectares for improved community conservation areas, 3,873 hectares for improved eco-tourism development, 31 hectares for improved non timber products and 700 hectares for protection from human-animal conflict, and 2,114 hectares under re-forestation.
Some examples of projects include:
- Coral reef and associated reef
improvement and improvement of eco-tourism activities within the Mannar Island-Jaffna Landscape;
- Rehabilitation of mangrove clusters along coastline of Maldiva to protect corals under threat from illegal fishing practices and to conserve sea turtles endangered from poaching activities;
- Enhancing eco-tourism development in Colombo city through biodiversity and ecosystem services, wetland conservation and improvement, conservation and improvement of lakes and streams and attaining designation of Colombo as the first metropolitan wetland city in Asia;
- Eco-tourism development of tourist attractions areas (such as conserved forests and waterfalls) in the Knuckles Conservation Forest;
- Identification of endemic and red-listed fauna in the KCF that has led to government protection of their habitat as well as halting developments that adversely impact their habitats. |
| B. Area of degraded lands in three project landscapes that are benefiting from land rehabilitation activities | Landscapes have benefitted from small grant projects. In the three landscapes projects have not been as extensive or strategically coordinated to achieve landscape synergies and impacts | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 15,000 hectares of degraded lands in three project landscapes under sustainable land management benefiting from land rehabilitation activities. | Initiated work on 1,360.2 ha. This target is expected to be achieved mainly from the Knuckles landscape. So far, 5 projects have been approved in this area with 2 projects addressing land degradation issues. 4-5 projects are expected to be approved by the NSC in the Knuckles landscape in the period Aug 2018-October 2018. Under these projects, efforts will be fully concentrated on achieving the target of soil conservation and land restoration.
The two projects currently under implementation on soil conservation aim to reduce the possibility of occurring & spreading forest fires on 50 ha by 50% and conserving five watersheds and catchment areas linked to Hasalaka canal conserved whilst reducing soil degradation in 60 slopping farm lands by 60%. | Target on track - 10,036 ha across the three production landscapes have been brought under sustainable land management benefiting from land rehabilitation activities (67% of the target).
This target will be achieved at the end of the project though the implementation of Strategic Projects.
Initiatives towards this target include the following:
Wetland rehabilitation is underway on approximately 6,864 ha through 18 SGP-supported initiatives mainly within the Colombo Landscape and Mannar Island-Jaffna Landscape, which include:
- Revival of local rice cultivation in abandoned paddy fields in the Colombo Landscape aiming to restore urban wetlands;
- Rehabilitation of flood mitigation functions of marshes and water tanks in Colombo;
- Development of an arboretum of native wetland plant species for the Mannar Island-Jaffna Landscape that will be used to rehabilitate mangroves within the landscape.
Land rehabilitation activities are being carried out on an estimated 1,582 ha through 7 projects within the Knuckles Landscape:
- Projects in the Knuckles Landscape addressing human-animal conflicts in agricultural areas;
- Eco-tourism and livelihood developments being promoted in 3 villages, along with enhanced ecosystem services in the Theligamu river, a highly sensitive catchment area in the Knuckles Landscape.
Agro-forestry initiatives on 1,590 ha and organic vegetable cultivation being conducted in Thalangama in the Colombo Landscape.
Additional areas of land rehabilitation are expected from strategic projects under Outcome 3.
The promotion of agro-ecological practices is mainly conducted in the Knuckles landscape. These activities are being implemented in homes in Knuckles. In the Colombo Landscape, projects support cultivation of organic traditional paddy and conservation of water fronts for sustainability and productivity activities. |
| C. Number of stakeholders actively engaged in and benefiting from local project activities | A number of awareness-raising activities have either been implemented or are underway, but these are not organized as a coherent landscape strategy/programme | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 250 individuals in each of the three landscapes actively participating and benefiting from local field-based project activities. | Each landscape has catered to over 250 individuals covering over 750 individuals as an aggregate in all 3 landscapes to date. Additional details are provided below per target landscape.
Mannar: Out of the 5 projects that are operating in the Mannar landscape, around 250 individuals are actively participating in projects related to ecotourism enterprise, sustainable fisheries, value addition and marketing activities with professional training skills on sewing activities. Communities will also be engaged in surveillance and reef monitoring in some projects while 500 individuals will be engaged in tree planting. Students will be engaged in mangrove planting and managing a nursery for mangroves.
Knuckles: The 5 projects in the Knuckles landscape will cover over 1,000 individuals mainly through training and awareness programmes on Betel cultivation, climate change adaptation, importance of Knuckles landscape and importance on biodiversity conservation for school children. One project will also pave the way for 50 community members to learn about organic farming and eco-tourism related business activities, where 10 women will be encouraged towards traditional self-employment activities, and another 10 to take up handicrafts. An awareness programme on crop diversification will be conducted by another project, promoting production of goods for ecotourism and enabling 50 families to engage in pepper cultivation as an alternative livelihood opportunity.
Colombo: Over 1,000 individuals from the Colombo landscape are expected to be engaged in training and awareness programmes on flora and fauna in the wetlands, educational knowledge enhancement programmes for school children receiving economic benefits in the form of livelihood development activities, mainly through paddy and vegetable cultivation. | SGP grants thus far have benefited over 750 (400 women and 350 men) individuals across the communities of the 3 landscapes. Ongoing SGP activities for enhanced livelihoods and enhanced productivity development options are mainly focused on farming and eco-tourism related occupations, such as tour guides, handicrafts and traditional art, nature trail activities.
Further details were outlined in the previous PIR. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | **On track** |
| **Outcome 1****Component 1****Resilient rural landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection****Outcome 1:****Multi-stakeholder partnerships in three ecologically sensitive landscapes develop and execute management plans to enhance socio-ecological landscape resilience and global environmental benefits** |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 1.1 A multi-stakeholder group on landscape planning and management organized for each of the selected landscapes | Networks of civil society associations, community-based organizations, and other non-governmental organizations were organized under the GEF 5 Small Grant Programme, but not in the project landscapes and they no longer convene | *(not set or not applicable)* | - One multi-stakeholder working group per landscape is operational with agreed TORs (3)
- One comprehensive socio-ecological baseline assessment for each landscape (3) | Achieved. Three multi-stakeholder working groups have been formed in the three landscapes.
The multi-stakeholder working groups of each landscape comprise of the nominee of the District Secretary’s office, academia, relevant government stakeholders and civil society. They have been an important and integral part of the project and have been consulted providing advisory services to the project. The 3 groups have also been instrumental in advising on key socio-environmental challenges of the landscape, while also providing guidance for the 3 strategic projects.
The second target has also been achieved with three comprehensive socio-ecological baseline assessments completed in the 3 landscapes. The extensive baseline assessments were conducted in the period Nov 2017-Dec 2017 in the three landscapes using the developed set of 20 SEPLS indicators of resilience, developed under the Satoyama Initiative and piloted by the COMDEKS programme.
The Knuckles landscape, as it is a large area, was divided into 4 main zones. The criteria of selection of these zones were livelihood and land use practices along with environmental and climatic similarities of each zone. Accessibility and convenience from an administrative level was also looked at and community members form each zone participated in 4 workshops where the information for baseline assessments was gathered. 50-80 stakeholders participated in each workshop. The 4 zones were Ududumbara, Panwila, Raththota and Hettipola.
In the Colombo Landscape, the landscape was divided into 4 zones where between 20-40 participated in each workshop. The zones were Homagama, Kaduwela, kolonnawa and maharagame- Kotte.
In the Mannar landscape, the four divisions that the multi-stakeholder consultations were held were Manthai West, Nanttan, Mannar Town and Pooakary. Approx 50 participants in each workshop.
During these assessments, participants jointly identified key challenges and objectives in each landscape. While in Colombo the key challenge identified is landscape diversity and protection, in Knuckles and Mannar, it was livelihoods and well-being, which the landscape strategies aim to improve respectively. This information was taken into consideration when determining the typologies of projects for each landscape. | Target achieved during the previous reporting period with three multi-stakeholder working groups operational in the three landscapes.
Progress of the grantees work in the Colombo landscape was presented to the multi-stakeholder group on 21st December 2018. All Colombo grantees presented their progress and required technical input, and progress achievements and barriers were discussed at this meeting.
The multi-stakeholder meeting for the Mannar landscape was held on 17th January 2019, where all grantees presented their work and the progress was discussed, chaired by the GA (Government Agent) of the District of Mannar.
The multi-stakeholder meeting in the Knuckles landscape was held on the 21st of January in the Mathale District office, chaired by the GA of the District of Mannar. All grantees presented their work and the progress was discussed with the multi-stakeholder group. |
| 1.2 A strategy to achieve greater social and ecological resilience for each landscape | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | Three landscape management strategies and plans prepared and then approved by the National Steering Committee | Target achieved with three landscape management strategies reviewed and approved by the SGP NSC, one in each of the three landscapes.
After several discussions with the NSC, key strategic stakeholders, and the communities, as well as extensive research and analysis through the SEPLS indicators, the three landscape strategies were completed at the end of Dec 2017, with support from three grantees. Main outcomes of the strategies include: protection and restoration of sensitive ecosystems and habitats, preventing further degradation of natural resources, sustainable land use practices to preserve and enhance agro-biodiversity and productivity, improved livelihoods through ecofriendly community-based enterprises, boosted knowledge and capacity of the community and local institutions to increase resilience. These documents are uploaded on the SGP Sri Lanka website. | Target achieved with three landscape management strategies currently under implementation, one in each of the three landscapes. Details were elaborated in the previous PIR. |
| 1.3 A typology of community level initiatives in each landscape needed to achieve landscape outcomes  | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | Landscape specific typologies (3) of community level projects and eligibility criteria formulated by multi-stakeholder groups in each landscape | Target Achieved. Typologies of projects for the three landscapes were developed and used in the call for proposals for the three landscapes.
Project types include restoration of degraded lands, promotion of agro forestry and agriculture, protection of wetlands, water conservation and improved livelihoods. The typologies of projects were determined using the baseline assessments and the 3 landscape strategies. For Knuckles, projects to be considered are restoration of degraded lands, promotion of agro-forestry, controlling the spread of invasive species, and soil conservation. In the Colombo landscape, some examples are conservation of isolated wetlands, minimizing animal-human conflict, and establishing a knowledge sharing platform related to Colombo Wetlands. For Mannar, the typology of projects to be supported include protection of mangroves, conservation of salt marshes, minimizing disruptive fishing activities, and water conservation.
There was an Expression of Interest from CBOs/NGOs working in the three landscapes in October 2017 and over 119 eligible EOIs were received. All of these CBOs/NGOs were invited to a workshop on 2 February 2018 in Kurunegala, which provided an introduction to the GEF 6 program, its aims and objectives, the selected landscapes where conservation activities will be focused on, the GEF focal areas, the typologies of projects in each landscape, and a brief training on the logical framework.
A period of one month was given to the proponents to send the project concepts and 88 project concepts were received. The NSC graded these concepts as A-D and all A-C concepts were visited in the field. These concepts were also reviewed by the multi-stakeholder group and in the case of Colombo, the multi-stakeholder group recommended to visit the D sites as well. After the field inspection, 30 concepts were recommended to NSC and 18 projects have been approved: 8 in Colombo, 5 in Knuckles, and 5 in Mannar. The remaining grants (approx. 5) are expected to be awarded by Sep-October 2018. | Target achieved in the previous reporting period with typologies of projects developed for the three landscapes and informing on-the-ground grant activities. Details were elaborated in the previous PIR. |
| 1.4 Formal cooperative agreements between community organizations and other partners in each landscape to pursue the outcomes of each strategy through community and landscape level projects | Experts and other specialists are available to provide ad hoc support to local initiatives but will require an institutional mechanism and remuneration | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least ten signed formal agreements between community organizations and other partners in each landscape to pursue the outcomes of each strategy through community and landscape level projects | Achieved. Eight projects in Colombo, five projects in Mannar and five projects in Knuckles have all secured co- financing by other stakeholders in the landscape and the distribution of co-financing per landscape are as follows:
Knuckles:
Cash - US$ 106,820.
In-kind - US$ 57,510
Colombo:
Cash - US$ 183,146
In-kind - US$ 49,910
Mannar:
Cash - US$ 53,410
In-Kind - US$ 3,349
The following projects have received written and signed co-financing agreements with other partners. In Mannar, the Zoological student association has secured funding 1:1 from MAS Private Ltd, a private sector collaboration in the area. The Turtle Conservation Project has collaborated with the Columbus Zee in the USA. The Herpetological Association of Sri Lanka in the Knuckles region received US$ 12,354 from the Commercial Bank of Ceylon as co-financing in cash. The Centre for Sustainability-University of Sri Jayawardenapura has also secured US$ 12,635 as co-financing from MAS Holdings (Pvt) Ltd and the grantee has also committed a considerable portion of in-cash as well as in-kind contribution for the project in the Colombo wetlands. Wanasarana Thurulatha Voluntary Society in the Colombo wetlands has secured co-financing from a private sector entity called Ecotherm Energy Solutions worth of US$ 6,500. Apart from the above mentioned, all other grantees have secured their co-financing from different stakeholders ranging from community-based societies, grantee organizations, government departments (verbal confirmations) and general public in project sites. | Target on track with 8 projects with signed formal agreements between community organizations and other partners in each landscape to pursue the outcomes of each strategy through community and landscape level projects.
The 8 projects have received US$ 250,800.57 cash and US$ 386,974.34 in-kind as co-financing.
Knuckles:
Cash - US$ 14,162.76.
In-kind - US$ 261,424.33
Colombo:
Cash - US$ 202,799.88
In-kind - US$ 86,675.86
Mannar:
Cash - US$ 33,837.93
In-Kind - US$ 38,874.15 |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | **On track** |
| **Outcome 2****Community-based organizations in landscape level networks build their adaptive management capacities by implementing projects and collaborating in landscape management** |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 2.1 Area (hectares) under protection or sustainable use for biodiversity conservation or improved ecosystem function | n/a | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 10,000 hectares under protection or sustainable use for biodiversity conservation or improved ecosystem function – community conservation areas, ecotourism development, NTFPs, human-animal conflicts, etc. [MTR: At least 17,500 ha]  | One-the-ground work has been initiated by 16 organizations carrying out 16 projects supporting biodiversity conservation on a total of over 32,391 ha in the three landscapes. The conservation initiatives include:
- Coral reef and associated reef improvement and improvement of eco-tourism activities on 1,000 ha in the Mannar landscape;
- Growing of Mangroves in the coast banks of Maldiva as part of the initiative to protect corals that are facing danger due to illegal fishing practices and conservation of Sea Turtles that are endangered due to poaching;
- Biodiversity and ecosystem services, wetland conservation and improvement, conservation and improvement of lakes and streams for ecotourism development in Colombo city and in making Colombo as the first metropolitan wetland city in Asia;
- Conservation of forests and waterfalls under both conservation and eco-tourism development aspects in the Knuckles region in the Central Province.
- Protection of endemic fauna on 10,500 ha area in the Knuckles Mountain region. | Achieved and exceeded – 25,546 ha brought under protection or sustainable use for biodiversity conservation or improved ecosystem function (255% of the target).
Additional 9 projects have been approved during this reporting period, totaling 25 organizations currently working on biodiversity conservation across the three landscapes.
12,290 of hectares have been conserved as community conservation areas by 12 organizations in Knuckles, while 547 ha in Colombo have been conserved by 8 grantees, and 8,105 ha in Mannar region by 5 grantees.
1,025 ha of ecotourism development in Knuckles and 2,085 ha in Mannar has been achieved. Sustainable production of Non-Timber Forest Products has been initiated, especially in the Knuckles landscape.
Human-animal conflict reduced on 500 ha in Knuckles (Human-elephant) and 200 ha (Human-urban fishing cat and human-snake) in Colombo.
The new conservation initiatives include:
- Enhancing productivity and sustainability of agro-ecosystems in Udu Dumbara buffer zone and livelihood development.
- Conservation of biodiversity and enhancing livelihoods through the development of integrated eco-friendly villages.
- Introducing sustainable land management practices to Ilukkumbura & Mahalakotuwa areas
- Biodiversity conservation on 100 ha of 3 villages of Udaththawa, Udagal Debokka, Galamuduna GN divisions of Minipe DS Division.
- Converting abandoned tea lands of 100 acres in the Midland estate in Raththota into a land providing ecosystem services such as eco-tourism activities that improve conservation awareness while increasing livelihood opportunities for the communities. |
| 2.2 Area (hectares) of reforested and/or afforested lands | n/a | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 10,000 hectares under reforestation or farmer managed natural regeneration [MTR: At least 2,500] | A cumulative of 1,059 ha of reforestation activities are being carried out by 8 organizations in the 3 landscapes through small grants, with 990 ha in the Knuckles landscape through 3 projects, 62 ha in the Mannar landscape through 3 projects, and 7 ha through 2 projects in the Colombo wetlands landscape. These activities are expected to be completed by early 2020.
The remaining grant funds to be committed (under outcome 2, as per the PRODOC) and the strategic project initiative (outcome 3 as per the PRODOC) are planned to start by end of 2018, and they will focus on the gaps including reforestation and work towards achievement of the 10,000 ha by the end of the project period. | 2,114 hectares of reforestation activities have been carried out by 18 organizations in the 3 landscapes through small grants, with 2,030 ha in the Knuckles landscape through 10 projects, 62 ha in the Mannar landscape through 3 projects, and 22.3 ha through 5 projects in the Colombo wetlands landscape.
The remaining grant funds will be committed on Strategic Projects, which focus on the gaps including reforestation and work towards achievement of the 2,500 ha by the end of the project period. The Strategic Projects are scheduled to start implementation in September 2019. |
| 2.3 Area (hectares) of degraded wetlands rehabilitated | n/a | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 3,000 hectares of degraded wetlands rehabilitated [MTR: At least 9,000] | There are 7 projects at present on the ground that are working on degraded wetland rehabilitation activities in 2 landscapes, with 414 ha in the Colombo wetland landscape through 6 projects, and 52 ha through a project in the Mannar landscape, totaling 466ha.
The activities in the Colombo wetlands include:
- Wetland rehabilitation for cultivation purposes, where decades of abandoned paddy fields in selected locations will be rehabilitated, promoting cultivation of local rice varieties to the market.
- Rehabilitation of marshes and tanks in the Colombo region, as their degradation has contributed to floods.
- Arboretum of native wetland plant species, where it will focus mainly on mangroves in the Mannar landscape. | Activities rehabilitating 6,864 ha of degraded wetlands currently under implementation (76% of the target):
9 projects in the Colombo and 4 projects in the Mannar region are currently working on degraded wetland rehabilitation activities, with 959 ha in the Colombo wetland landscape, and 5,700ha in the Mannar landscape.
The activities in the Colombo wetlands include:
Wetland rehabilitation for cultivation purposes, where decades of abandoned paddy fields in selected locations are rehabilitated, promoting cultivation of local rice varieties for income generation, reduce agro-chemical usage, and introducing and encouraging organic and ecofriendly farming practices. Traditional ecofriendly farming practices are encouraged in paddy wetland ecosystems.
Indigenous fresh water fish conservation, butterflies and pollination species incensement are carried out.
Tree planting, waste management, and invasive plant species removal has been conducted in wetlands of Colombo.
Awareness programs focusing on youth, school students and social media groups were held.
In the Mannar Coastal Area, the project implemented by the Ecological Association supports protection and conservation of the seascape and the coastal area from Mannar to Jaffna mainly through ecotourism activities. This will be surveyed through GIS identifying the salt marshes, invasive plants, sand dunes and land use patterns.
Two MOAs have been signed for the Knuckles and Colombo Strategic Projects. The Projects will start work on the ground in late August/September 2019, focusing on closing the gaps towards targets, including wetland rehabilitation on 9,000 ha by the end of the project period. |
| 2.4 Area (hectares) of forest cover lands set aside for carbon sequestration | n/a | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 650 hectares of forest cover lands set aside for carbon sequestration leading to mitigation of at least 25,000 metric tons of CO2  | This target cannot be calculated yet, as projects currently under implementation are still pre-mature. Furthermore, a particular project that was expected to be carried out on a government-owned, abandoned tea plantation estate that was directly engaged in carbon sequestration was rejected by the NSC, as the proposed government land set aside to carry out the project was sold to a private entity for commercial purposes. However, the current projects on the ground thus far in the Knuckles and Colombo Wetlands regions on forest conservation, as well as additional planned projects to be carried out through grants allocated under outcome 2 and strategic grants under outcome 3 are expected to achieve the target by the end of the project implementation period in 2020.
As per literature, 52 ha of mangroves sequestrate 624 tons of carbon per year and 1,000 forest trees planted on 10 ha sequestrate 3 tons per year. Considering these calculations, the projects that operate on the ground involving mangrove planting initiatives will considerably contribute to carbon sequestration. There are also plans to increase the projects on forest restoration in the next grant cycle in Aug 2018. | This target cannot be calculated yet, as projects currently under implementation are still pre-mature. There are no current projects on the ground thus far that have achieved measurable carbon sequestration. 2,114 ha are under reforestation within the buffer zone of the Knuckles forest alone, which will contribute to carbon sequestration in the future, and which will contribute towards achieving the target of 650 hectares of forest cover lands set for aside for carbon sequestration, leading to mitigation of at least 25,000 metric tons of CO2 throughout the project period. |
| 2.5 Area (hectares) of land rehabilitated through best practice soil conservation measures | n/a | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 2,000 hectares of land rehabilitated through best practice soil conservation measures and agroforestry [MTR: At least 2,500] | Land rehabilitation activities are being carried out on 467 ha thus far. Six (6) projects on the ground in Knuckles and Colombo (3 projects each), with 405 ha in the Knuckles region and 62 ha in the Colombo region.
The following activities will be carried out:
- address human-animal conflicts,
- livelihood development, promoting eco-tourism in 3 villages, and enhanced ecosystem services in the Theligamu river, which is a highly sensitive catchment area in the Knuckles region,
- agro-forestry initiatives and organic vegetable cultivation in Thalangama in the Colombo wetlands.
The remaining grant funds under outcome 2 as well as on outcome 3 for the strategic grant will address the shortcomings to reach the target by the end of the current operational phase. A gap analysis will also be carried out on the overall programme for OP6, based on which the strategic projects will be designed to address under-achieved targets, while ensuring the core focus is on achieving outcome 3 (expected Aug-Sep 2018). | Land rehabilitation activities have been carried out on 1,582 ha through soil conservation methods (53% of the adjusted target). Ten projects on the ground in Knuckles and 3 projects in Colombo have contributed towards this target.
The following activities have been carried out:
Establishment of hedge groves on sloppy areas and planting trees around the village boundary.
Placing stone beds to control soil erosion.
Replantation on degraded lands to indirectly support soil conservation.
Organic fertilizer usage, and capacity and awareness raising activities to reduce chemical use, as it negatively impacts species richness in the soil, leading to biodiversity depletion in the area.
Agro-forestry initiatives and organic vegetable cultivation, mainly in a home gardening concept took place in almost all projects within the three regions.
The Knuckles Strategic Project has been signed and this project will focus on closing the gaps towards targets, including soil conservation on 3,000 ha by the end of the project period. |
| 2.6 Area of land under improved grazing regimes | n/a | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 2,000 hectares under improved grazing regimes [MTR: 0] | No projects were proposed that would address this indicator, and it is highly unlikely we will receive proposals in the future to achieve this component. Hence, during the upcoming MTR process we would like to consider adjusting this indicator. | No projects under this indicator and the target was adjusted to 0 based on Mid-term Review recommendations. |
| 2.7 Area of agricultural land under agro-ecological practices and systems that increase sustainability and productivity and/or conserve crop genetic resources | n/a | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 8,000 hectares of agricultural land under agro-ecological practices and systems that increase sustainability and productivity and/or conserve crop genetic resources [MTR: At least 3,000] | Seven projects in the Colombo and Knuckles landscapes promote agro-ecological practices; systems that increase sustainability & productivity; and conservation of crop genetic resources on 427.2 ha. Four (4) projects in Knuckles cover 365.2 ha, while 3 projects in the Colombo wetlands cover 62 ha.
Activities supported towards achieving this target are home gardening in 75 homes in Knuckles, cultivation of organic traditional paddy and conservation of water fronts for sustainability and productivity activities in Colombo wetlands.
The remaining funding available for small grants as well as the strategic grant will contribute to achieving this target. | 3 projects per landscape in Colombo and Mannar and 10 projects in the Knuckles landscapes, are promoting agro-ecological practices across a total commitment area of 1,590 ha (53% of the adjusted target).
Committed systems that improve sustainability, productivity and conservation of crop genetic resources are covered. Conserving crop genetic resources of traditional rice varieties and sharing seeds with other communities is one of the key priorities in all 3 landscapes.
Activities supported towards achieving this target include promotion of home gardening, non-chemical traditional paddy cultivation, and conservation of water fronts for sustainability and productivity activities in Colombo wetlands.
The remaining grant funds to be committed on Strategic Projects will start implementation in Sep 2019, focusing on closing gaps towards targets, including agro-ecological practices on 3,000 ha by the end of the project period. |
| 2.8 Number of individuals in the communities that have benefited from new sustainable alternative livelihood options | Procedures under the GEF 5 Small Grant Programme are known at the national level but less known in the new targeted landscapes and communities
50 civil society associations, community-based organizations and other non-governmental organizations benefited from grants under the GEF 5 programme but were scattered throughout Sri Lanka and their individual objectives and interventions were not strategically coordinated with each other | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 200 individuals in the communities have benefited from new sustainable alternative livelihood options | Over 300 individuals per landscape are expected to benefit from the projects through alternative livelihood options.
The projects awarded thus far cover 313 individuals in the community, which equals more than 150% of the target. The activities are currently ongoing and livelihood options mainly focus on farming and eco-tourism related occupations, such as tour guides, handicrafts and traditional art, nature trail activities, etc. | Target achieved and exceeded.
The projects awarded thus far cover 571 individuals in the three landscapes. The activities are currently ongoing and livelihood options mainly focus on farming and eco-tourism related occupations, such as tour guides, handicrafts and traditional art, nature trail activities, etc.
There are direct and indirect livelihood opportunities received by the communities. Direct livelihood opportunities include agriculture-related livelihood activities like home gardening and animal husbandry, establishment of supporting services and facilities for ecotourism, new value added and marketing of underutilized crops, waste management related enterprises, cultivation of wetland plants, and sustainable fisheries are the common livelihood development activities that have been initiated by the grantees in three landscapes. In addition to these, indirect livelihood opportunities were generated for some community members through conservation activities like nursery management for reforestation, improving ecosystem health.
3,006 ha have been committed in three landscapes for agro-ecological practices, where 332 community members in the 3 landscapes had the opportunity to improve their home gardens and improve livelihoods. With respect to ecotourism, 8 community members in Knuckles have been trained under the Forest Department as recognized tour guides
Cultivation, harvest, value addition and marketing of wetland plants is a key livelihood development initiative of the project. Through support for enterprise development with value adding and marketing of underutilized crops and crop varieties, one grantee in Knuckles and three grantees in Colombo have started enterprises based on value addition and 3 community members in Colombo wetlands have established enterprises based on cultivation and sustainable harvest of wetland products.
Waste management has been given due priority by the grantees. One of the key activities is compost production and sale. Under this project, 5 community members have been supported to facilitate compost production and sale.
3 community members in the Mannar landscape have been supported by the project with regard to establishment of sustainable fisheries, value addition and marketing. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | **On track** |
| **Outcome 3****Multi-stakeholder partnerships develop and implement projects that catalyze the adoption of successful SGP-supported technologies, practices, or systems** |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 3.1 Number of strategic projects supporting broader adoption of successful small grant project lessons | Local development activities receive ad hoc support from an informal network of local NGOS and CBOs in the project landscapes
Better practices and lessons have been learned from the GEF 5 SGP | *(not set or not applicable)* | Three strategic projects to enable and facilitate upscaling of successful SGP-supported initiatives: potential lines of work include biodigestors; production, marketing and sale of underutilized crops or crop varieties; and value addition to products harvested sustainably from wetlands or forests | On track.
The methodology of upscaling has been established and the initial work has been completed by short-listing 3 projects/concepts from the 4 SGP publications that have published approx. 80 case studies of successful SGP projects. The initial short-listing of the three best ideas has been completed and vetted through the multi-stakeholder groups. Discussions are ongoing with key stakeholders and the three concepts will be presented during the July NSC meeting. Once the NSC has selected the key concepts to take forward, there will be a call for prospective mature SGP grantees to apply.
Once the 3 NGOs/CBOs are selected, the next step is to ensure the collaboration of other actors such as the private sector/ Government for co-financing collaborations and establishing a business plan, which would ensure sustainability of the project.
SGP is also exploring the possibility of targeting mature SGP grantees that participated in previous OPs but have not received grant funding in OP6 through capacity development and business model training to see whether they are ready for upscaling as incubators of business models through mentoring and training. | Two strategic projects approved, and one expected to be approved in August 2019.
The Call for Proposals for Strategic Projects has been completed and the Strategic Projects for Knuckles and Colombo have been selected. The NSC is expected to select the Mannar Strategic Project in August 2019. The Upscaling Strategy, resource mobilization strategy and feasibility study and business plan for Colombo and Knuckles have been completed.
Multi-stakeholder consultations for the 3 landscapes included consultations with 6 to 8 individuals with specialized knowledge of these landscapes who identified key needs for each landscape that should be further developed within the strategic projects. These priority needs include:
The Colombo Landscape needs to work on facilitating networking of all existing wetlands as a means of biodiversity management in an urban area, with a focus on expanding existing project activities, and strengthening an integrated wetland approach;
The Knuckles Landscape requires strengthening of its approaches to soil conservation and minimizing sedimentation of reservoirs, reducing land degradation, and promoting agro-biodiversity;
The Mannar Island-Jaffna Landscape needs to mitigate water shortages through soil conservation, agro-ecology, rainwater harvesting and land rehabilitation from damage caused by overgrazing and over farming.
Private sector partners to be involved by first helping the grantees to come up with a 3-year sustainability plan and with this business plan have a pitch in event calling the private sector to adopt a SGP project to ensure sustainability beyond grant implementation period.
A Business Incubation programme was implemented for mature SGP grantees regarding avenues to becoming a social venture. 20 mature grantees were involved with the programme, where coaching sessions were conducted on registration, business plan development, and product development. Finally, 8 SGP projects have been selected for the pitch in event organized to seek co-financing opportunities for these NGOs. |
| 3.2 Number of community members in each of the three landscapes who have participated in the design and implementation of their respective scaling-up strategic project | No attempts at stimulating broader adoption of small grant successes from the GEF 5 program have been attempted | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 250 local community representatives in each of the three landscapes have participated in the design and implementation of the scaling-up strategic project. | On Track, with 250 stakeholders being consulted in the target landscape in the design of project activities. In the Colombo Landscape over 100 stakeholders have been consulted in designing the individual projects for the landscape. In Knuckles, over 100 stakeholders have been consulted when designing the individual projects in the landscape. In Mannar, over 50 stakeholders have been consulted when designing the projects in the landscape.
The 3 multi-stakeholder groups in the three landscapes, consisting of 6-8 individuals each, have been involved in identifying key needs for the respective landscapes and contributing their ideas for the concepts that should be taken forward in their landscapes. For example, in the Colombo landscape it is suggested to work in the wetlands where all the wetlands are connected. In Knuckles, it is suggested to work on soil conservation and land degradation as this is the most urgent need, and in Mannar, water shortage and how to curb this is suggested. Multi-stakeholder groups will be involved in the selection and will continue to be involved in the design and implementation of the strategic projects in each landscape. | On track.
At least 250 community members per landscape will be involved in and benefit from the Strategic Projects when they are fully operational in September 2019. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | **On track** |
| **Outcome 4****Multi-stakeholder landscape policy platforms will discuss potential policy innovations based on analysis of project experience and lessons learned.** |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 4.1 Existence of operational multi-stakeholder governance platforms in the three landscapes, including local and higher levels of government, NGOs, academics, second level organizatios, and others | Mainstreaming of lessons learned and best practices of small grant projects under the GEF 5 programme was pursued through awareness-raising activities and not institutionalized as a formal mechanism with line ministries and agencies. | *(not set or not applicable)* | Three (3) multi-stakeholder governance platforms have convened at least twice per year and are institutionalized through formal agreements at the District and Division levels to ensure post-project continuance of their services | On Track
Multi-stakeholder policy platforms will be developed after consulting the NSC on involving high-level government officials, which will ensure post-project continuation of services
In early 2019, after the SGP projects have been under implementation on the ground and have begun producing results, the SGP project initiatives will be showcased to the national government through the line ministry, which is the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment headed by the President of Sri Lanka, to encourage their collaboration to continue these initiatives after the project period. Measures will be taken to showcase the results of these projects in case study publications, elaborate the importance of these pilot initiatives in each landscape, showcase the benefit and importance of including these initiatives in their policy work and master plans, and to give due recognition through national intervention. | On Track.
A mechanism to be developed after consulting the NSC on forming a multi-stakeholder platform involving high-level government officials which will ensure post-project continuation of services
In the beginning of 2020 after the SGP projects have been under implementation on the ground and have begun producing results, these initiatives will be showcased to high-level governance platforms to encourage their collaboration to continue these initiatives after the project period. Measures will be taken to showcase the results of these projects in case study publications and elaborate the importance of these pilot initiatives in each landscape, highlighting the benefit and importance of including these initiatives in their policy work and master plans. |
| 4.2 Number of case studies summarizing lessons learned and best practices, based on evaluation of implementation results at the landscape level | Lessons learned from the GEF 5 Small Grant Programme have been promoted through brochures, booklets and ad hoc presentations in-country, but there is no specific communication strategy or plan for long-term promotion of best practices | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least one case study per target landscape summarizing lessons learned and best practices, based on evaluation of implementation results.  | On Track.
25-year publication on SGP OP5 completed and disseminated globally through the SGP Sri Lanka and SGP Global websites. The hardcopies also have been shared with key members of the GEF and SGP CPMT at the global UCP workshop in Ecuador. Hardcopies have also been shared at the GEF global meeting held in Vietnam in June 2018, as well as with UNDP Sri Lanka and NGO/CBO members. More copies will be distributed to universities and libraries in Sri Lanka by Sep 2018.
A case study for each OP6 project will be developed together with each grantee and the Knowledge Management group. These case studies will be published, and a symposium will be held to showcase the results. Moreover, the Knowledge Management Grantees in the three landscapes will work on documenting all the results of the projects in each landscape and see how they all contribute towards the landscape approach, based on which landscape case studies will be developed. A consultant, Technical Advisor of SGP Sri Lanka, will be analyzing the connectivity of all the projects with a landscape approach in Aug 2018. | A case study in each project will be written at the end of the project and documented and presented at a symposium
Case study publications of prominent SGP6 projects are to be prepared in 2020 as a means to elaborate on the importance of the SGP6 pilot initiatives in each landscape, and their potential for strengthening related policy work and master plans for these landscapes, which may result in national recognition and interventions on a national scale. These case studies will be developed together with each grantee and the Knowledge Management group with the current plans for their delivery and publication in 2020, followed by a symposium to showcase their results. |
| 4.3 Awareness and knowledge of best practices promoted through knowledge sharing events and capacity building activities. | n/a | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 500 project stakeholder participants have actively engaged in analysis of project experience and landscape management and have participated in platform workshops and dialogues
Communication strategy is developed and operational | On Track. With respect to promoting awareness and knowledge of best practices through knowledge sharing events and capacity building activities, the following activities have been implemented so far:
- In Nov 2017, a landscape approach training was held for the NSC/Government and Technical advisers through UNDP co-financing. 30 participants attended this workshop.
On Feb 2, 2018 over 90 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) proponents received training on the landscape approach and GEF focal areas at a workshop in Kurunegala. Proposal development and the log frame were discussed at this meeting.
On 3-4 May 2018, over 40 SGP Project beneficiaries underwent a proposal development workshop, which included a training on Results Based Management and how to fill the log frame according to SGP outcomes and indicators. A further training will be held by mid-August to finalize the project log frames, which will also ensure ease for monitoring purposes.
A workshop on “Conducting Ecological Social Surveys in Colombo Wetlands and Introduction of floral and faunal species commonly found in wetlands in the Colombo landscape” was held for the Colombo projects on 17 July 2018, and a workshop on “Finalizing Baseline Questionnaires and Guidance on Data Analysis for the Colombo Landscape will be held on 14 Aug 2018 for the beneficiaries.
In Nov 2018, Progress Workshops will be held in the landscapes so grantees can learn and share their experience. SGP will be hiring a communication expert in Sep 2018 who will document and analyze the experiences, lessons and discussions from these meetings. Furthermore, the 3 Knowledge Management grantees will assist in holding these workshops in the 3 landscapes. The NSC, Technical Advisers and the Multi-Stakeholder Groups will be invited to attend these workshops.
Mid 2019, exchange programmes will be held in the 3 landscapes so that the grantees learn about the other projects and the landscape approach.
SGP hopes to build the capacity of the Sri Lanka Nature Forum and the SGP network, a collaboration of over 80 SGP NGOs through training on SGP focal areas, landscape approach training, business model training and up-scaling. This is planned from September 2018 through 2019. SGP will use the expertise of the National Steering Committee, Technical Advisers and academia to provide their expertise through day training and practical field trainings.
In September 2018, a consultant will be hired to develop business models for SGP grantees and for some members of the Sri Lanka Nature Forum.
An expert will support a workshop on Eco-Tourism in October 2018 to guide the Knuckles grantees on eco-tourism.
A private sector forum will be organized in Jan 2019, where all the SGP grantees will showcase their project work where possible co-financing collaborations will be explored.
A flyer on “What’s Up” at SGP, which was launched in July 2018, will be a monthly edition to inform stakeholders of the work of SGP Sri Lanka.
A communication strategy is expected to be developed by a communication expert who will be hired in August 2018. This consultant will look at how SGP will communicate to stakeholders such as NGOs, private sector and the government and policy makers. | On track. A multi-stakeholder meeting for the Colombo Urban Wetland Landscape stakeholders was held on 21 December 2018 with the participation of stakeholders such as SLLRDC, the Colombo Divisional Secretariat, GEF-SGP, Colombo landscape grantees and the Knowledge Management partner, Surakshi GTE Ltd. 25 participants actively participated in the meeting as all projects were presented to the group.
A multi-stakeholder meeting for the Knuckles Landscape stakeholders was held on 21 January 2018 at the District Secretariat Matale, joined by the Matale District Secretary, Laggala Divisional Secretary, Officers of GEF-SGP, UNDP, Forest Department, Department of Wildlife Conservation, Knuckles Landscape grantees and the Knowledge Management partner, SLEES. Project proponents currently executing grant projects presented their progress to the stakeholders and received feedback. A networking session was also organized at this event with the private sector. 45 participants were present in the meeting and actively involved as all projects were presented to the group

A multi-stakeholder meeting for stakeholders of the Mannar Island Landscape was held on 17 January 2019 at the Mannar District Secretariat, including 27 participants from District and Divisional Secretariats of Mannar, Divisional Secretariat, Poonarine, officials from MEPA, CCD, Sri Lanka Navy, consultants, GEF/SGP Secretariat, members of grantee projects and the knowledge management project, as well as Mannar Eco-Friends. Representatives from 5 grantee projects presented their project progress, issues and collaborations needs. 20 participants joined the meeting and were actively involved as all projects were presented to the group
The 2nd International Conference on Social Enterprise & Social Finance under the theme of “Think Social Produce Social Buy Social” was held on 28-29 January 2019 at Waters’ Edge, Battaramulla. Organized by Lanka Social Ventures Ltd in partnership with British Council, Government institutions and private sector organizations, the conference was a platform to showcase inspiring stories, products and services of social enterprises, facilitate co-financing opportunities, and provide opportunities to expand business incubation activities.
Recruitment of a communication expert in mid-2019 who will document and analyze the experiences, lessons and discussions from all SGP6 workshops and meetings and develop a communication strategy that will better define how SGP will communicate to stakeholders such as NGOs, private sector and the government and policy makers.
Knowledge products are currently already being developed for this purpose in the 3 landscapes and will be published mid 2020:
Knuckles- A map showcasing all 12 SGP projects and how they are interconnected in the landscape.
The newly discovered species that have been found will be documented and shared in this platform, highlighting the importance of protecting the Knuckles landscape and its rich biodiversity.
Colombo- The importance of the projects in terms of wetland rehabilitation will be studied and shared as a document.
Mannar- The GPS survey of the coastline from Mannar to Jaffna highlighting the sand dunes, invasive plants, mangroves and land use patterns will be documented and shared in policy platforms.
Important areas to be gazetted as a conservation area by the Government, if possible, with government intervention:
Workshops for the Colombo Landscape on “Conducting Ecological Social Surveys in Colombo Wetlands and Introduction of floral and faunal species commonly found in wetlands in the Colombo landscape” (17 July 2018), and “Finalizing Baseline Questionnaires and Guidance on Data Analysis for the Colombo Landscape” (14 August 2018);
Progress workshops in September 2018 in the 3 landscapes to accelerate learning and sharing experiences amongst grantees that were delivered by the 3 Knowledge Management grantees;
A workshop on Eco-Tourism in October 2018 to guide the Knuckles Landscape grantees on eco-tourism;
A newsletter on “What’s Up” at SGP, was launched in July 2018 as a monthly issue to inform stakeholders of ongoing work of SGP Sri Lanka;
Building the capacity of the Sri Lanka Nature Forum and the SGP network, a collaboration of over 80 SGP NGOs through training on SGP focal areas, landscape approach training, business model training and up-scaling. Capacities will be built with the expertise of the NSC, SGP6 Technical Advisers and academia (through day training and field practicums), and a consultant to develop business models for SGP grantees and Sri Lanka Nature Forum personnel. These activities were initiated in late 2018 and are planned for continuation to the end of 2019. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | **On track** |

# Implementation Progress



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| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 38.29% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 42.62% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 956,212 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** |
| PPG Amount | 60,000 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 2,497,078 |
| Co-financing | 3,300,000 |

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| **Key Project Dates** |
| PIF Approval Date | Jun 4, 2015 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Nov 18, 2016 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Jan 25, 2017 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Mar 20, 2017 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Jan 25, 2019 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | Jun 16, 2019 |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Oct 25, 2020 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Jan 25, 2021 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)** |
| 2019-02-11 |
| 2019-03-29 |
| 2019-05-06 |
| 2018-07-10 |
| 2018-08-31 |
| 2018-09-10 |
| 2018-10-01 |
| 2018-10-26 |
| 2018-11-23 |
| 2019-01-28 |

# Critical Risk Management

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| Current Types of Critical Risks  | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |
| N/A | N/A |

# Adjustments

**Comments on delays in key project milestones**

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| **Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| The MTR took place 5 months after the original expected date (due in January 2019), as the approval of grants was delayed by 6 months, and due to the availability of the consultant.
It was recommended by the MTR to have an extension to the project so that all grantees can complete project activities during the project period.
The MTR recommended changes to the indicators which were approved by the NSC on the 29-30th March 2019 as follows:
Table 5: Proposed new targets for Outcome 2
Indicator; Target in ProDoc (ha); Indicative progress towards target (ha); Proposed new target (ha)
Biodiversity (BD); 10,000; 26,000; 17,500
Reforestation (BD); 10,000 2,000; 2,500
Wetland Rehabilitation (LD); 3,000; 6,000; 9,000
Soil Conservation (LD) ; 2,000; 2,000; 3,000
Agro-ecological/home gardens (LD); 8,000; 2,000;3,000
Grazing (LD); 2,000; 0; 0
Totals: 35,000; 40,000; 35,000

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| **Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| The MTR was delayed by 05 months, however it was completed successfully during the reporting period with a management response submitted by the project team and currently under implementation. |

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| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| The Mid-Term Review, expected to take place by January 2019, was undertaken by the consultant in June due to the availability of the consultant.
The MTR recommended a number of changes to the logframe which were approved by the SGP National Steering Committee (NSC). It is important to clarify that the proposed changes will not have a significant impact on the project objective or scope (i.e. global environmental benefits), and/or a material reduction in the objective level indicators.
Additionally, the MTR recommended a no-cost project extension. Given that the project is expected to close by January 2021, the RTA recommends that the possibility of a project extension is reviewed by the next SGP National Steering Committee in view of allowing grantees time to complete their projects and see results on the ground. Subject to the availability of funds, the extension of the Project will ensure due completion and monitoring of the results of the grant projects, as well as dissemination of the monitoring results to the stakeholders and public. The project should prepare a sound justification and a review of the remaining project funds, and the NSC decision should be reflected in the next PIR. |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

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| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -*  |
| Overall Assessment | The project is rated as Satisfactory as activities are well underway, and progress is in line with the annual workplan. Progress towards individual targets is on track, with some targets achieved or exceeded already at mid-term level of the project. Some targets are yet to be achieved but progress is expected to be achieved through future activities. As of to date, SGP Sri Lanka has supported 33 projects benefiting more than 500 beneficiaries during its Sixth Operational Phase; and grant making will be completed through the Strategic Projects and Policy Platforms to be formalized in the next reporting period.
Outcome 1: The project has already achieved this end-of-projects targets, as the project has established multi-stakeholder partnerships in three ecologically sensitive landscapes and developed and executed management plans to enhance socio-ecological landscape resilience and achieve global environmental benefits. The multi-stakeholder working groups of each landscape are comprised of the nominee of the District Secretary’s office, academia, relevant government stakeholders and civil society. They have been an important and integral part of the programmes and have been consulted during the short-listing of community-based projects, providing advisory services to SGP Sri Lanka. The 3 groups have also been instrumental in advising on the essential key needs, from a social and environmental perspective, of the landscape providing guidance for the 3 strategic projects as well.
Three landscape management strategies have been reviewed and approved by the SGP NSC during the previous reporting period and are currently under implementation, one in each of the 3 landscapes. Main expected outcomes of the strategies are protection and restoration of sensitive ecosystems and habitats and preventing further degradation of natural resources, sustainable land use practices to preserve and enhance agro-biodiversity and productivity, improving local livelihoods through ecofriendly community-based enterprises, and boosting the knowledge and capacity of the community and local institutions to increase resilience. These documents are now uploaded on the Sri Lanka SGP website.
Typologies of projects for the three landscapes were developed and used when calling for concepts for the three landscapes. Project types include restoration of degraded lands, promotion of agro-forestry and agriculture, protection of wetlands, water conservation and improvement of livelihoods. All approved projects for funding have secured co-financing in terms of cash and in-kind from different stakeholders. 9 projects in Colombo, 7 projects in Mannar and 12 projects in Knuckles have all secured co-financing by other stakeholders in the landscape.
Landscape synergies will be identified in all three landscapes. In Knuckles, a map will be created connecting all 12 projects and showcasing how they are connected by way of hiking trails, for example, as well as demarcating the landscape connectivity and the nature of the inter-connected trails. In the landscape of Colombo, a study will be conducted on how all the projects contribute towards wetland conservation and re-habilitation. A tour path to showcase all projects will be established so that others can learn from the pilot projects and the importance it has on protecting the wetlands. In Mannar, the importance of the landscape in terms of nesting grounds for birds and the importance of the conservation of mangroves and water will be established.
Outcome 2: Progress towards this outcome “Community-based organizations in landscape-level networks build their adaptive management capacities by implementing projects and collaborating in landscape management” is on track. 28 organizations have started on-the-ground activities with 25 projects promoting biodiversity conservation on over 27,660 ha in the three landscapes, exceeding the target of 10,000 ha. Reforestation activities are being carried out by 18 organizations on 2,114 ha in the 3 landscapes through small grants
There are 18 projects on the ground presently working on degraded wetland rehabilitation activities on 6,864 ha towards the target of 9,000 ha. Thirteen (13) projects have been approved that carry out land rehabilitation activities on 1,582 ha thus far towards the target of 3,000 ha. Sixteen (16) projects contribute towards 1,590 ha of agro-ecological practices; systems that increase sustainability & productivity, and conservation of crop genetic resources towards the target of 3,000 ha. These targets on reforestation, wetland rehabilitation, agro-ecological practices, and improved agricultural sustainability and productivity are expected to be achieved by the end of the project period.
Over 571 community members are benefiting in the three landscape from projects promoting alternative livelihood options and increase in productivity. The projects awarded thus far cover 571 community members, which equals to 95% of the target (600 community members). The activities are currently ongoing and livelihood options mainly focus on farming, and eco-tourism related occupations and increase in productivity consists mainly on agricultural produce.
Product development from the landscape will be highlighted especially in the Knuckles landscape; products such as Knuckles pepper, bee honey and Kithul Treacle (Juggery) will be promoted. Non- chemical paddy and recycling and reuse products will be promoted in the Colombo landscape. SGP is also looking at getting the GAP (Good Agricultural Practice) certifications for these products
Outcome 3: Progress towards outcome 3 “Multi-stakeholder partnerships develop and implement projects that catalyze the adoption of successful SGP-supported technologies, practices, or systems” is now on track. The methodology of upscaling has been established and preparatory work has been completed by short-listing 3 projects/concepts from the 4 SGP publications that have published approximately 80 case studies of successful SGP projects. The initial short-listing of the three best ideas has been completed and vetted through the multi-stakeholder groups. Discussions are ongoing with key stakeholders and the three concepts were presented at the July NSC 2019 meeting and the NSC selected the key concepts to take forward, after which there was a call for proposals for mature SGP grantees. In the Colombo and Knuckles landscape the SGP grantees have been selected and work will commence in Aug 2019. The up-scaling strategy, resource mobilization strategy and feasibility study has been completed. The Mannar Strategic Project will be finalized by September 2019.
The 3 multi-stakeholder groups in the three landscapes are already involved in identifying the key needs for the respective landscapes and supporting the selection of concepts that should be taken forward in their landscapes. For example, rehabilitation of connected wetlands in the Colombo landscape, soil conservation and reversing land degradation in Knuckles, and tackling water shortage in Mannar. They will continue to be involved in the design and implementation of the strategic project in each landscape.
In order to ensure sustainability of the SGP projects, sustainability plans will be developed with the grantees and a private sector collaboration event will be organized by the end of December 2019, providing an opportunity to collaborate with SGP projects and establish partnerships.
Outcome 4: Progress towards outcome 4 “Multi-stakeholder landscape policy platforms will discuss potential policy innovations based on analysis of project experience and lessons learned” is also on track. Multi-stakeholder policy platforms will be developed after consulting the NSC on involving high-level government officials through the focal ministry for Environment, the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, which will ensure post-project continuation of services. At the beginning of 2020, after the SGP projects have been under implementation on the ground and producing results, these initiatives will be showcased to high-level governance platforms to encourage their collaboration on these initiatives beyond the project period. Measures will be taken to include these initiatives in their policy work and master plans.
In order to showcase policy-level SGP work in the Mannar landscape, the survey and GIS maps established by the Ecological Association of Sri Lanka will be shared with the relevant government authorities and gazette a sensitive area, if possible. In the Knuckles landscape, the new species discovered by the Herpetological Foundation of Sri Lanka will be documented in the Red-List, and information will be spread widely on the importance of protecting the Knuckles Range.
In the Colombo landscape, the importance of conservation of the wetlands though the wise use of natural resources will be highlighted by SGP projects documented and shared with policy makers.
Co- Financing and Partnerships:
All projects approved for funding have secured co-financing in terms of cash and in-kind from different stakeholders. 9 projects in Colombo, 7 projects in Mannar and 12 projects in Knuckles have all secured co-financing by other stakeholders in the landscape.
SGP has secured a partnership with Social Ventures Sri Lanka and British Council where grantees that were not able to secure grants from SGP have a way through mentoring and coaching on business incubation to be up-graded as social enterprises in the future. Moreover, SGP and the Sri Lanka Nature Forum completed a workshop on SGP and SDGs, based on which a publication will be developed by October 2019 highlighting how all SGP projects contribute towards the SDGs. This document will be given to the private and public sector to establish partnerships for co-financing and partnerships to be established with the Resident Coordinators office on SGP and UN SDG synergies. SGP further has a collaboration with the private sector partner Unlessnow where they are looking at co-financing initiatives in the Knuckles range for reforestation.
Additionally, the Ministry of Environment is collaborating with SGP in the Knuckles and Colombo Landscape to establish the Haritha Gamanaya (or the Eco Village concept) in SGP projects. SGP is also looking at collaborating with the Federation of Commerce to pitch in their business plans for commercial and project sustainability.
Knowledge Management:
SGP partners with two Knowledge Management groups that work on Knowledge Management products in Colombo and Knuckles. A case study for each OP6 project will be developed together with each grantee and Knowledge Management group. These case studies will be published, and a symposium will be held to showcase the results in mid-2020. Moreover, the Knowledge Management Grantees in the landscapes will work on documenting all the results of the projects in each landscape and see how they all contribute towards the landscape approach, based on which the landscape case studies will be developed in collaboration with the UCP Regional Technical Advisor and Knowledge Management Consultant. A Newsletter called “What’s Up” has been launched in June 2018 and is a monthly edition to provide updates on SGP Sri Lanka. A comprehensive communication strategy has been developed by a communications expert in the UNDP Team. The UNDP communication Team is working closely with SGP Sri Lanka to communicate lessons learnt to stakeholders such as NGOs, private sector and government and policy makers.
Good stories have also been highlighted on the SGP and UNDP websites. Such case is https://undpsrilanka.exposure.co/breathe-colombo-breathe
With regard to gender equality and women empowerment, the Project Document has given due priority for mainstreaming gender and social inclusiveness into the project through outcomes, outputs and indicators and is complemented by a gender equality strategy. Gender sensitivity was considered as one of the key priority areas in landscape-level baseline surveys and is part of the grantee selection process for project funding. The Gender Analysis is completed and SGP Sri Lanka is working on implementing the recommendations.
Delivery:
Our expenditure to date is US$ 956,211 and commitment amounts to US$ 577,668, equaling US$ 1,533,879 which is 61% of the total budget of US$ 2,497,078.
The MTR was completed in March 2019 and the SGP programme received a satisfactory rating. The targets were changed as specified in the core indicator table and approved by the NSC on 29-30 March 2019. There were no changes at the objective level as the overall amount remains the same in the indicators. |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Satisfactory | Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Global Environment Facility (GEF) supported “Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Sri Lanka” has the objective to effectively support generation of global environmental benefits and the safeguarding of the global environment through community and local solutions that complement and add value to national and global level action. The project is expected to close operationally by 25 January 2021. The Project completed its mid-term evaluation in May 2019 with a satisfactory rating.
The project comprises four (4) outcomes which are designed to improve socio-ecological resilience in the selected three landscapes, applying lessons from and replicating the COMDEKS approach, which involves working with targeted beneficiary communities through learning-by-doing, adaptive management, stakeholder engagement, capacity building and scaling up.
To date, the project has demonstrated good progress towards achieving its goal, objective and outcomes. These involve establishment of multi-stakeholder partnerships in all three landscapes (33 grants have been given to NGOs in line with priorities identified in the respective landscape strategies, (29 small grants, 2 for strategic projects, 2 knowledge management) and support for effective operation of multi-stakeholder governance platforms for the three landscapes. Moreover, selected grants serve government priorities that encompass their vision for development that also addresses biodiversity, climate change and land degradation issues of global conventions of the UNCBD, UNFCCC and the UNCCD respectively, under which Sri Lanka are signatories. Further, selection of strategic projects is in progress which will complement the small grants provided in the landscape. Up to now, each landscape has catered to over 250 individuals totaling over 750 individuals as an aggregate in all 3 landscapes. These will include exploring options for scaling up, policy interventions etc.
While the project has taken certain measures to ensuring sustainability, such as capacity building of communities, promoting entrepreneurships due to lack of diverse sources for continued funding and upscaling of initiatives in the current cycle, there is a risk for sustaining NGO activities beyond the project period. Therefore, it is recommended to look into the sustainability aspect such as strengthening partnerships with the private sector, exploring new markets, increasing capacity building etc. Further, SGP allocation from GEF 7 could be considered as an opportunity to scaling up of ongoing interventions.
The Project has successfully facilitated partnerships with a wide range of relevant stakeholders, all of whom have contributed to the efficient implementation of SGP6, including local NGOs & CSOs and academia strategically selected to advance landscape strategies. The steering committee is represented by a range of members such as the private sector, academia, and NGOs, which bring different perspectives and experiences to the table. The level of engagement of government officials is also at a satisfactory level. This allowed to improve government ownership during SGP6 compared to previous SGP cycles. However, partnering with the private sector is not at an adequate level so far. Therefore, it is recommended to establish a private sector engagement plan to strengthen private sector involvement in scaling up. This should be specifically looked into in the strategic projects.
A gender assessment and action plan has been developed for the project, which is a positive starting point. However, proactive measures should be taken to incorporate gender into project activities across the board. More awareness raising should be carried out to grantees to make sure that gender is adequately embedded in their programmes, in line with the gender action plan. Further, gender aspects should be reflected in monitoring formats too. The Project is also encouraged to communicate results through targeting different stakeholders, including in areas such as women empowerment. Additionally, the project should also pay attention to social and environmental risks potentially emerging from NGO activities. NGOs should be made aware on identifying, minimizing and monitoring associated social and environmental risks. Moreover, measures should be taken to strengthen transparency and accountability of GEF funds channeled through grantees through close monitoring and checks & balances.
The MTR has recommended an extension for the project. This will be discussed at the next steering committee meeting, and measures will be taken to request an extension, if it is justifiable.
The Project is encouraged to implement the recommendations given by the MTR and strengthen the monitoring mechanism to report against new indicators suggested during the MTR. Further, indicator definitions should be clearly identified in order to avoid confusion in reporting against indicators. Considering the above, the project can be rated as satisfactory for the DO rating.
Overall, implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. Therefore, an IP rating of “satisfactory” is given. |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **GEF Operational Focal point** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -*  |
| Overall Assessment | The SGP-6 project in Indonesia has developed significantly in achieving targeted outputs. To enhance this progress, the project needs to expand its communication and collaboration with other stakeholders, especially local governments and businesses, as part of its exit strategy and for project sustainability. |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Implementing Partner** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -*  |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Other Partners** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -*  |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser** | Satisfactory | Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | .As one of the SGP Upgraded Country Programmes, SGP Sri Lanka in its Sixth Operational Phase has been adopting a community-based landscape approach to enhance and maintain socio-ecological resilience of three ecologically sensitive landscapes: the Knuckles Conservation Forest and its buffer zone, the coastal region from Mannar Island to Jaffna, and the Colombo Wetlands. This is the second PIR for the Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Sri Lanka. As in the previous reporting phase, the project is granted a DO rating of SATISFACTORY, as the project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The current progress shown below, explains why the project manager, the UNDP Country Office and the Regional Technical Advisor (RTA), concur with a satisfactory DO rating.
During its second year of implementation, the project has continued to make good progress towards its objective to enable community organizations in Sri Lanka to take collective action for adaptive landscape management for socio-ecological resilience, through design, implementation and evaluation of grant projects for global environmental benefits and sustainable development. During the reporting period, SGP Sri Lanka has supported 33 community-based projects, with additional projects in the pipeline for one Strategic grant in Mannar, to enable community organizations and NGOs to develop and implement adaptive landscape/seascape management strategies that build social, economic and ecological resilience based on local sustainable development benefits. So far, 27,660 ha across the three production landscapes have been brought under sustainable management practices conserving biodiversity and enhancing ecosystem services (138% of the objective-level target of 20,000 ha). By project end, these initiatives are expected to have covered a total area of 33,450 hectares under resilient landscape management. Each landscape has targeted over 250 beneficiaries, actively participating in project activities benefitting over 750 individuals as an aggregate in all 3 landscapes (target: 250 in each landscape). The target area of degraded lands in three project landscapes benefitting from land rehabilitation activities (target: 15,000), is also on track with initial work being undertaken on 10,036 ha through community projects (67% of the target). The target is expected to be achieved by the end of the project through soil conservation and land restoration activities, particularly through the two recently approved Strategic Projects.
The project is designed to enhance capacity of community organizations for landscape management for socio-ecological resilience through 4 outcomes: 1): Multi-stakeholder partnerships in three ecologically sensitive landscapes develop and execute management plans to enhance socio-ecological landscape resilience and global environmental benefits; 2) Community-based organizations in landscape level networks build their adaptive management capacities by implementing projects and collaborating in landscape management; 3) Multi-stakeholder partnerships develop and implement projects that catalyze the adoption of successful SGP-supported technologies, practices, or systems; 4) Multi-stakeholder landscape policy platforms will discuss potential policy innovations based on analysis of project experience and lessons learned.
With regard to Outcome 1, the project had already successfully achieved the EoP targets in its first year. In terms of landscape governance, three multi-stakeholder working groups are currently operational in the three landscapes (one in each landscape; target achieved) bringing together community organizations, indigenous peoples groups, NGOs, and local and provincial government authorities, as well as other stakeholders, following the implementation of the three Landscape Strategies finalized during the previous reporting period. Each Landscape Strategy defines four key landscape outcomes, as well as a typology of potential projects (target: achieved) that community-based initiatives will aim to achieve through collective action, in order to address challenges as diverse as the types of the target landscapes, ranging from soil and water degradation due to human activity and habitat loss impacting local biodiversity, to governance issues over local resources and reduced crop productivity due to soil degradation and climate change effects.
With regard to outcome 2, project activities are on track through 25 community based-projects currently under implementation aimed at enhancing social and ecological resilience through community-based, community-driven efforts to conserve biodiversity, optimize ecosystem services, manage land (particularly agro-ecosystems) and water sustainably, and mitigate climate change. In particular, 30 organizations are carrying out 25 projects supporting biodiversity conservation on-the-ground, with current progress of 25,546 ha in the three landscapes (target: at least 10,000 ha); reforestation activities have been carried out on a cumulative of 2,114 ha by 18 organizations in the 3 landscapes (adjusted target based on MTR: 2,500 ha), rehabilitation activities of degraded wetlands have so far covered 6,864 ha (adjusted target based on MTR: 9,000; previously 3,000). Measurements related to carbon sequestration will be undertaken in the coming reporting period as projects are still in the early phase of implementation, however, the reforested 2,114 ha within the buffer zone of the Knuckles forest alone will contribute to carbon sequestration in the future, and is expected to allow achievement of the target of 650 hectares of forest cover lands set for aside for carbon sequestration. Overall 13 projects are promoting agro-ecological practices and systems, with progress of 1,590 ha so far (adjusted target based on MTR: 3,000). The target is expected to be achieved by the end of the project through the selected Strategic Projects that will commence implementation in September. Finally, 571 individuals across the three landscapes have so far benefited from the projects through alternative livelihood options (target: 200 individuals per landscape).
With regard to outcome 3 related to strategic projects, the target of ‘three strategic projects to enable and facilitate upscaling of successful SGP-supported initiatives’ is on track. The methodology of upscaling has been established, and the Strategic Projects for Knuckles and Colombo have been selected. These are expected to start implementation in September 2019, while the final Strategic Project towards the target – for the Mannar Landcsape – is expected to be selected by the NSC in August. Multi-stakeholder consultations for the 3 landscapes included consultations with 6 to 8 individuals with specialized knowledge of these landscapes who identified key needs for each landscape that should be further developed within the strategic projects. These priority needs include: 1) Facilitation of networking for BD management of all existing wetlands in the Colombo Landscape; 2) Soil conservation and minimizing sedimentation of reservoirs, reducing land degradation, and promoting agro-biodiversity in the Knuckles Landscape; and 3) Mitigation of water shortages through soil conservation, agro-ecology, rainwater harvesting and land rehabilitation in the Mannar Island-Jaffna. SGP is also exploring the possibility of upscaling best practices from mature SGP grantees outside of the strategic projects modality (amount up to US$150,000) through capacity development and business model trainings. Once projects are selected, the project team is encouraged to produce case studies highlighting the role of these projects, and supported activities in addressing market barriers, up-scaling appropriate technologies or specific successful lines of work, and/or advancing needed policy changes.
With regard to outcome 4 on capacity building, policy influence and knowledge management, EoP targets are on track. As mentioned above, important steps were made by the project during the reporting period to support multi-stakeholder governance platforms, which will ensure post-project continuation of services, and three such platforms were established. These platforms will have a key role in terms of disseminating knowledge and experiences from project activities for further policy influence and upscaling. The project has also paid particular attention to provide capacity building opportunities, as evidenced in this PIR by the number of guidance workshops and trainings conducted by the project. More than 160 project stakeholders have so far received training and/or participated in workshops on analysis of project experience and landscape management, and additional capacity building workshops are planned in the coming months (target: 500).
More specifically, on knowledge management activities, one of the strategic priorities for SGP is the generation and dissemination of the knowledge produced by its projects allowing for other communities and donors to replicate and scale up good practices. SGP Sri Lanka has continued to make important progress with regards to knowledge management and capacity building activities during the reporting period. For example, a multi-stakeholder meeting for stakeholders of the Mannar Island Landscape was held on 17 January 2019 at the District Secretariat, Mannar, that included 27 participants from District and Divisional Secretariats of Mannar, Divisional Secretariat, Poonarine, officials from MEPA, CCD, Sri Lanka Navy, consultants, GEF/SGP Secretariat, grantee partners, and Mannar Eco-Friends. Representatives from 5 grantee projects presented their project progress, issues and collaborations needs. The project team is strongly encouraged to continue to give special attention to this aspect so that lessons learned can be used to communicate and scale up successful interventions in Sri Lanka and other countries around the world.
With regards to gender mainstreaming, SGP has been pioneering and highly recognized in mainstreaming gender equality and women’s empowerment in every step of the program cycle. A gender focal point is designated within the SGP National Steering Committee to ensure review of gender considerations in project selection. Gender equality and women’s empowerment is a critical element of SGP efforts in Sri Lanka. Following the RTA recommendation from the previous PIR, a landscape-wide gender analysis for the programme was completed in Feb 2019 and action plans were developed in each landscape based on integration of gender issues in landscape baseline assessments. These action plans facilitate incorporation of gender aspects within all SGP projects during SGP6. Further efforts to encourage proposals by women-led organizations, and/or considering gender dimensions and promoting gender equality, involved including a gender focus as a specific selection criterion for NGOs applying to SGP grants.
Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery is mostly on track, with minor delays, as suggested below. Risk management is on track with no foreseen critical risks. Despite the transition of the SGP Sri Lanka Country Programme to an SGP Upgraded Country Programme during its Sixth Operational phase, continuous progress has been made during this reporting period. Overall, the project is well managed and executed, with a functioning project board (SGP National Steering Committee), as also reflected by the considerable number of NSC meetings, ten, that took place during the reporting period.
During the reporting period, the SGP Sri Lanka National Coordinator has maintained effective work relationships with the NSC, the government, and the UNDP CO, working closely with UNDP CO staff to ensure greater engagement with the UNDP team in view of exploring synergies with UNDP’s ongoing programmes and projects. The project team is encouraged to continue to explore such synergies in the coming reporting period to promote the upscaling and replication impacts of the best practices, also exploring new partnerships with the private sector and the academia.
Cumulative financial delivery has been brought on track, with minor delays during the previous reporting period that have been addressed in the past year, as more community-based projects have been awarded by the NSC. Considering the delivery rate of 38.29.62.4% against the total approved budget as per ProDoc, an overall IP rating of SATISFACTORY is suggested for this second reporting period. Cumulative disbursement as of June 30 against expected delivery as of this year was at USD 956.212 with a cumulative delivery of 42.62.3% against expected delivery as of this year, which is satisfactory at this stage of the project, especially taking into account the overall level of commitment so far, as indicated above.
Final recommendations:
To sum up, the project in on track to deliver on its EoP indicators, and no major obstacles for the successful implementation of planned future activities have emerged during the period reviewed. The MTR was completed in June 2019 and the SGP programme received a satisfactory rating. A number of recommendations are suggested below for adaptive management in the remaining of the project period.
1. While the NSC is actively engaged in the monitoring of the project, moving forward, the project is highly encouraged to review the overall composition and the balance of the SGP National Steering Committee in Sri Lanka. While the current composition of the NSC includes mostly members from civil society, in line with SGP Operational Guidelines, the length of NSC members (including the Chair) should be reviewed, encouraging rotation. It will be important for the UNDP CO in Sri Lanka to lead such discussion during the next NSC meeting on the composition of the NSC. As per GEF-SGP Operational Guidelines, NSC members usually serve for a period of three years. Each country must decide whether this term is renewable, and how eligibility for renewal is determined. In general, periodically inviting new members is a sound and healthy policy that brings new ideas and expertise to programme implementation, and roughly one quarter of NSC members may rotate in any given year.
2. With regards to the timing of project milestones, following the recommendation from the MTR, it is recommended that a request for project extension is reviewed by the NSC meeting and a recommendation is provided before the next PIR whether an extension is required to allow the grantees time to complete their projects smoothly. Subject to the availability of funds, the extension of the Project will ensure due completion and monitoring of the results of the grant projects, as well as dissemination of the monitoring results to the stakeholders and public.
3. Going forward in the next reporting period, the revised results framework including changes to the indicators (at the output level) should be reported before the issuance of the next PIR so that these are documented in the final PIR template issued, also reflecting the GEF Core indicators as the programme has transitioned from the GEF Tracking tools to the GEF Core Indicators.
4. Finally, SGP Sri Lanka should continue to liaise closely with the UNDP CO in order to strengthen partnerships and capitalize on potential for upscaling and replication through other FSPs. |

# Gender

**Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

This information is used in the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP-GEF Annual Gender Report, reporting to the UNDP Gender Steering and Implementation Committee and for other internal and external communications and learning.  The Project Manager and/or Project Gender Officer should complete this section with support from the UNDP Country Office.

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| **Gender Analysis and Action Plan:**  |
| **Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.** |
| [2018 12 22 - Report on the Study on Gender and SGP.pdf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5529/214209/1729455/1744629/2018%2012%2022%20-%20Report%20on%20the%20Study%20on%20Gender%20and%20SGP.pdf) |

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| **Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):** |
| Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: Yes |
| Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes |
| Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes |
| Not applicable: No |

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| **Atlas Gender Marker Rating** |
| **GEN2:** gender equality as significant objective  |

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| **Please describe any experiences or linkages (direct or indirect) between project activities and gender-based violence (GBV). This information is for UNDP use only and will not be shared with GEF Secretariat.** |
| N/A |

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| **Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.****Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.**  |
| SGP Sri Lanka has made considerable efforts to mainstreaming gender and social inclusiveness into its operations. A gender analysis for the programme was conducted in Feb 2019. Gender issues are covered and given priority within the 3 landscape-level baseline assessments. This coverage of gender inequalities in the baseline assessment reports provided a basis for landscape-wide gender analyses by an SGP gender consultant, completed in late 2018. This provided further gender analysis and proposed action plans in each landscape to assist in incorporating gender aspects within all SGP projects during SGP6. Further efforts to encourage proposals by women-led organizations, and/or considering gender dimensions and promoting gender equality, involved including a gender focus as a specific selection criterion for NGOs applying to SGP grants. Women-led projects include:
The women-led Public Interest Law Foundation works toward providing legal status to the Mattegoda and Polgasovita wetlands as protected areas in the Colombo Landscape;
The Emotional Intelligence and Life Skills Training Team (Gte) Ltd, a grantee working with women managers, is involved in the project design and serves as key implementer to establish community groups to participate in conservation of the selected site in Madinnagoda wetland in Colombo;
The women-led University of Sri Jayewardenepura (Center for Sustainability) aims to restore and sustainably manage the Madinnagoda wetland ecosystem, Sri Jayewardenepura, Kotte;
The Small Cat Advocacy and Research is led by women to implement an urban fishing cat conservation project in the Colombo Landscape; and
The Community Development Centre is led by a woman to liaise with villagers of the KCF buffer zone area north of Ududumbara in the Knuckles Landscape to sustainably manage their lands for agriculture and provide a sustainable harvest of native taro plants to supply a taro chip making business.
The project Soba Kantha is a fuel-efficient stove project for fish drying, which it targets women groups, having distributed 17 stoves to groups of 5 women (benefiting 85 women overall) that are expected to work together towards community benefits and environment conservation. |

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| **Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.** |
| Yet to be analyzed as community based projects are in the mid stage of implementation and need more time to analyze the impact. |

# Social and Environmental Standards

**Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)**

The Project Manager and/or the project’s Safeguards Officer should complete this section of the PIR with support from the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP-GEF RTA should review to ensure it is complete and accurate.

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| **1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?** |
| No |

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| **If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during project implementation please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.**  |
| N/A |

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| **2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.**  |
| No |

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| **If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.**  |
| N/A |

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| **SESP:** [Annex 4 SGP Sri Lanka SESP ProDoc.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5529/214209/1718980/1726551/Annex%204%20SGP%20Sri%20Lanka%20SESP%20ProDoc.doc)**Environmental and Social Management Plan/Framework:** *not available* |
| **For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.**  |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **3) Have any required social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared in the reporting period? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.**  |
| Not Applicable |

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| **If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.** |
| N/A |

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| **4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential )?**  |
| No |

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| **If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.**  |
| N/A |

# Communicating Impact

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| **Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people’s lives.****(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)** |
| The community-based projects supported by SGP Sri Lanka are starting to produce concrete results, directly benefiting more than 600 individuals from 30 community-based organizations by supporting biodiversity conservation; land, forest, and wetland rehabilitation; and alternative livelihood opportunities in the three landscapes of Mannar, Knuckles and the Colombo wetlands. Minimizing land degradation by soil restoration techniques and reforestation of the landscapes are some important expected results, which will help local communities to secure their livelihoods while protecting the ecosystems they depend on.
Some interesting examples of projects supported through SGP during OP6 include the following:
The project implemented by the Soba Kantha Environment Management and Community Development Foundation expects to introduce new fishing techniques and no-fishing zones to curtail excessive fishing in the Thalaimannar Pier Coastal area across 131 hectares, as well as introduce environment friendly techniques to promote dry fish production to ensure sustainable revenue among low income fishing communities. These multi-ethnic and multi-religion communities carry out traditional excessive fishing in shallow waters and use traditional simple fish drying methods, where the cleaned fish is laid on a rug and exposed to sand and animals such as crows and dogs. The project expects to address the unhygienic method of fish drying by introducing a custom-made machine that uses sunlight to dry fish can faster as well as in a more hygienic manner without exposure to sand and animals. This method gives them the opportunity to sell their product at a higher price. This women-driven project also expects to train and promote home gardening to facilitate cultivation on sandy soils, as well as to improve their health and livelihoods. The fishermen will be trained and taught on the impacts of shallow water fishing and will be encouraged to protect their main livelihood source using necessary precautionary measures.
The Knuckles landscape is the home for many endemic species of fauna and flora (29 species discovered so far) and many more species that remain to be discovered. Main threats identified in this area include illegal constructions within the Knuckles landscape, cardamom and tea plantations, uncontrolled illegal gem mining, forest fires, introduction and spread of Invasive alien species (IAS), poaching, collecting important plant and animal species and gene piracy,and human-wildlife (snake) conflict. Considering above concerns, the Herpetological Foundation Sri Lanka expects to discover new herpeto-faunal point endemic species from the knuckles landscape and strengthen their conservation status.
The Rathna Ella sanctuary is another important forest area of 345 hectares around the Knuckles landscape. Rathna Ella (Falls) & Kaluwa Watuna Ella (Falls) are popular tourist destinations located in the Rathna Ella village. The increasing tourist activities in the area disturb the natural environment and the Rathna Ella sanctuary, including pollution by means of polythene and other waste disposal by the visitors. Currently, there is no proper mechanism to minimize the pollution and to formalize the ecotourism activities. Moreover, the community in the area is mainly engaged in agriculture with traditional practices and heavy use of chemicals, which is a threat to sensitive ecosystems and water sources of the area. A proper waste management mechanism is not available, causing the pollution of water bodies and sensitive ecosystems. To mitigate these threats, the National Ethnic Unity Foundation is a project that has developed eco-tourism activities with community support based on the Rathna Ella forest reserve, Rathna Ella falls & Kaluwa Watuna Ella falls. Through the project, it is expected to strengthen the community in the village, increase their incomes through formalization of eco-tourism, introduce waste management systems and to reduce the use of pesticides.
The project by the Dumbara Mithuro Organization expects to conserve the biodiversity in the Knuckles area through strengthened community participation. The communities of these villages had a lifestyle closely related to the forest in the past. After the forest was declared as a conservation forest, the villagers were forced to leave the forest. Their main livelihood sources of chena and cardamom cultivation had to be ceased. With the rise of poverty due to loss of income sources, these communities were pushed to depend on illegal harvesting of forest products, disturbing the ecosystem of the conservation forest. The main watersheds that provide water to recently constructed Moragahakanda and Kaluganaga reservoirs are also located in this mountainous area. Hence, the importance of conservation of these watersheds for future generations is very important. Furthermore, it is home to a world heritage site called “Pitawala Pathana” that over 100,000 people visit annually. The Dumbara Mithuro Organization aims to conserve this valuable ecosystem through community-based reforestation, watershed restoration, improvement of standard of living for the community, conservation of biodiversity in the Pitawala Pathana and conservation of the forest reserve through public and school awareness.
Until today, no study has been conducted in the Mannar landscape to determine its ecological characteristics and current state after the civil unrest that lasted for 30 years. Hence, the Ecological Association of Sri Lanka is engaged in a project through SGP to study Salt Marshes and Mangroves of the Coastal Area from Malwathu Oya to Pooneryn in the North-Western Coastal Regions of Sri Lanka. The project will map out all salt marshes and mangrove sites, including the distribution of invasive species, while documenting the fauna and flora in the saltmarshes and mangroves. The final report will be presented to relevant government agencies to ensure the ecologically sensitive areas are correctly identified and protected when planning and executing development initiatives in the area. |

**Knowledge Management, Project Links and Social Media**

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| --- |
| **Please describe knowledge activities / products as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement /Approval.****Please also include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, blogs, photos stories (e.g. Exposure), Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file lirbary' button in the top right of the PIR.** |
| http://www.gefsgpsl.org/ - Sri Lanka GEF/SGP website
Here are the links for the publications:
Local Action- Global Thinking
https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B8EMaM8pGjjAUHdkOWVwdXdwUVk
GEF-SGP 25 Year Publication
https://www.dropbox.com/s/lxmtvvypbb06hff/25%20Years%20-%20COMMUNITIES%20IN%20ACTION%20-%20Publication.pdf?dl=0
COMDEKS Newsletter – Issue 24, June 2018
https://comdeksproject.files.wordpress.com/2018/06/comdeks-newsletter-issue24\_final1.pdf
Links of the What’s Up Newsletter
- February - http://gefsgpsl.org/NewsPaper/Whats%20UP%20Newsletter%20February%202019.pdf
- January - http://gefsgpsl.org/NewsPaper/Whats%20UP%20Newsletter%202019%20January.pdf
- December - http://gefsgpsl.org/NewsPaper/Whats%20UP%20Newsletter%20December%202018.pdf
- November - http://gefsgpsl.org/NewsPaper/Whats%20UP%20Newsletter%20Oct%20-Nov%202018.pdf
- October - http://gefsgpsl.org/NewsPaper/Whats%20UP%20Newsletter%20September.pdf
- September - http://gefsgpsl.org/NewsPaper/Whats%20UP%20Newsletter%20August.pdf
- August - http://gefsgpsl.org/NewsPaper/Whats%20UP%20Newsletter%20July.pdf
- July - http://gefsgpsl.org/NewsPaper/Whats%20UP%20Newsletter%20July.pdf
- June - http://gefsgpsl.org/NewsPaper/Whats%20UP%20Newsletter%20June.pdf
Colombo as a Wetland City appeared in the UNDP Sri Lanka website and SGP Global website
https://www.sgp.undp.org/resources-155/our-stories/584-breathe-colombo-breathe-conserving-the-wetlands-which-breathes-life-into-the-city-of-colombo.html  |

# Partnerships

**Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagment**

Please select yes or no whether the project is working with any of the following partners. Please also provide an update on stakeholder engagement. This information is used by the GEF and UNDP for reporting and is therefore very important!  All sections must be completed by the Project Manager and reviewed by the CO and RTA.

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with any Civil Society Organisations and/or NGOs?** |
| Yes |

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?** |
| No |

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with the Private Sector?** |
| Yes |

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?** |
| Yes |

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with UN Volunteers?** |
| No |

|  |
| --- |
| **Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?** |
| No |

|  |
| --- |
| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [5529 SGP Sri Lanka CEO final for resubmission 10 Nov 2016.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5529/214209/1693604/1693887/5529%20SGP%20Sri%20Lanka%20CEO%20final%20for%20resubmission%2010%20Nov%202016.doc) |
| **Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as documented at CEO endorsement/approval (see document below). If any surveys have been conducted please upload all survey documents to the PIR file library.** |
| SGP closely works with the Landscape Multi-stakeholder groups and updates them on the grantees’ progress when required.
SGP have also established interesting linkages with other programs including Lanka Social Ventures (LSV), a group that supports incubation activities for local entrepreneurs and innovations for social change. LSV are also supported by the British Council and UN-ESCAP. SGP6 is providing support for these incubation workshops that were linked to some of its grantees. These incubation workshops focus on assisting entrepreneurs in strategic business thinking, preparing business plans, and prudent management of their businesses, all issues considered important in the evolution of SGP grantees to become social enterprises.
SGP hopes to create a private sector platform at the end of Nov 2019, where business plans will be developed for SGP projects, which will pitch their projects for co-financing and sustainability financing through the private sector.
SGP has successfully facilitated partnerships with a wide range of relevant stakeholders, all of whom have contributed to the efficient implementation of SGP6. Engagement of stakeholders has been strategic from the engagement of personnel who constitute the NSC (including the Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka that chairs the NSC, and a Deputy Director of MoMDE), to consultants on knowledge management (including Surakshi for the Colombo Landscape and the Sri Lanka Environmental Exploration Society (SLEES) for the Knuckles Landscape) and landscape strategies (including University of Peradiniya for the Mannar Island Landscape and the University of Colombo for the Colombo Landscape), to the selection of SGP grantee recipients. |

# Annex - Ratings Definitions

**Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

**Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.