

2021

Project Implementation Report (PIR)

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

[Basic Data](#_Toc1)

[Overall Ratings](#_Toc2)

[Development Objective Progress](#_Toc3)

[Implementation Progress](#_Toc4)

[Project Governance](#_Toc5)

[Ratings and Overall Assessments](#_Toc6)

[Gender](#_Toc7)

[Risk Management](#_Toc9)

[Knowledge Management & Communications](#_Toc12)

[Stakeholder Engagement](#_Toc13)

[Annex - Ratings Definitions](#_Toc14)

# Basic Data

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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-NCE Technical Team | Integrated Strategies and SGP |
| Management Arrangements | Agency |
| Project Implementing Partner | UNOPS |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Full Size |
| Implementation Status | 4th PIR |
| GEF Fiscal Year | FY21 |
| Trust Fund | GEF Trust Fund |

|  |
| --- |
| **Project Description** |
| The goal of this project is to support the achievement of global environmental benefits 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. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Contacts** | |
| UNDP-NCE Technical Adviser | Ms. Diana Salvemini (diana.salvemini@undp.org) |
| UNDP-NCE Programme Associate | Ms. Kariny De Oliveira Amorim (kariny.amorim@undp.org) |
| Project Manager/Coordinator | Ms. Dinali Jayasinghe (dinali.jayasinghe@undp.org) |
| UNDP Country Office Programme Officer | Ms. Sureka Perera (sureka.perera@undp.org) |
| UNDP Country Office Deputy Resident Representative | Faiza EFFENDI (faiza.effendi@undp.org) |
| UNDP Regional Bureau Desk Officer | Tshering Pem (tshering.pem@undp.org) |
| GEF Operational Focal Point | Ms. Janaki Amaratunge |
| Project Implementing Partner | Edriss Rifatt (edrissR@unops.org)  Rosanna De Luca (rosanna.dl@unops.org)  Mr. Kristoffer Kappy (KristofferK@unops.org) |
| Other Partners | *(not set or not applicable)* |

# Overall Ratings

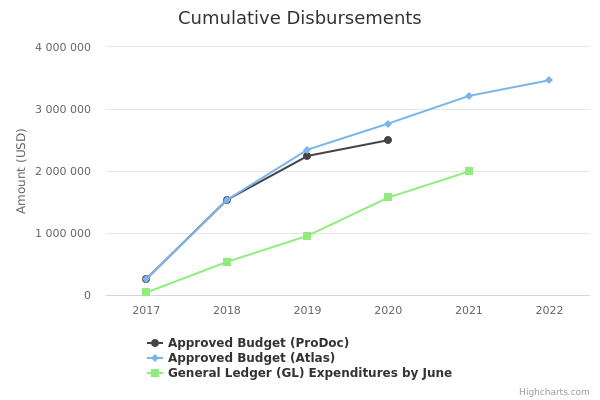
|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Overall DO Rating | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | moderate |

# Development Objective Progress

It is mandatory for all reported progress to be substantiated by evidence. Please upload evidence files for each objective/outcome via the DO PROGRESS section in the online PIR platform. If there is no evidence to upload, the Project Manager is required to provide an explanation.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 2020** | **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. | The target of 20,000 ha has been achieved and exceeded with an aggregate of 27,660 ha across the three landscapes brought under sustainable management practices conserving biodiversity and enhancing ecosystem services (138% of the target). A total of 26 projects out of 34 overall projects supported in OP6 are ongoing and supporting bio diversity conservation in the 3 landscapes and are distributed as 6 projects in Mannar landscape, 12 projects in Knuckles landscape and 8 projects in the Colombo landscape  Following key achievements can be highlighted with reference to key projects in each landscape:  Mannar landscape:  Voluntary Organization for Vulnerable Community Development (VOVCoD) has established green houses in three schools and have initiated home garden cluster programme to help school feeding programme of 3 schools (30 households per school). Furthermore, distribution of fruit trees, tree planting programme and establishment of a bio fence from Palmyra covering 2 hectares for elephants was setup while planting 10,000 mangrove plants in 30 km extent, which cover 100 hectares of ocean bed.  The Zoological Students’ Association (ZSA) restored the lagoon of Kautharimunai with mangrove plants covering 50 hectares and established a monitoring unit in the university of Jaffna. Home-gardening for fishing community and Palmyra development programme from growing to processing to making handicrafts was also initiated in the same area. An environmental and conservation laboratory was also established under the project.  The Ecological Association of Sri Lanka (EASL) conducted a survey on salt marshes, sand dunes and mangroves and mapped the biodiversity of coastal lagoons from Malwathuoya to Pooneryn in the Mannar District, which covers more than 4,000 hectares. Furthermore, it will be translated to an Atlas and submitted to government focal parties to support policy decisions with regard to environment sensitive areas.  Knuckles landscape:  The Center for Integrated Indigenous Knowledge System (CIIKS) developed soil conservation structures in line with development of the Kobonilla to Kandegama tourist track. Training has been given regarding soil conservation, community development and pepper cultivation. Nearly 80% of soil conservation work has been completed while the pepper improvement programme is being continued with the community. A fire belt has been laid using fire resistant plant species called “Hana” on a 4.5 km stretch covering 60 hectares. Fruit plants and Areca Nut plants have been planted through community interventions while forest trees have been planted in the Hare Park estate (nearly 12 ha) and along the Hasalaka river. The Kithul (Caryota) programme has been completed and provided with necessary Kithul extracting equipment for them (9 units by the project and 6 units Divisional Secretariat office) to extract the sap out of the flower to process jaggery and trickle.  The National Ethnic Unity Foundation (NEUF) formed a CBO in the project site near the Ratna Ella Fall in Hasalaka and empowered the community in the village by ensuring a sustainable revenue source to ensure protection of iconic Ratna Ella fall and its surrounding area covering 300 hectares. The Ratna Ella fall is a high tourist attraction nature trail led through the village and with much tourism potential. Hence, an information outlet was set up at the start of the trail along with necessary facilities (safety gears) required for tourists, along with renovation of road for 150m and erection of display boards on environment conservation and guidelines. The livelihood aspect was looked into through the project by investing on income generating avenues such as renovating the camping site, developing & formalizing a traditional food outlet, supporting to develop and promote traditional handicraft industries, creating home stay facilities, preparing a plan and a system for proper waste management, promoting organic farming through provision of paddy seeds, training on producing organic fertilizer and maintaining a model liquid fertilizer producing center.  The Dumbara Mithuro Organization engaged in demarcating reforestation area & buffer zone, reforestation activities, measuring water quality, installing boundary stones around watersheds and renovation of watersheds covering 60 hectares, soil conservation by installing wedges, trenches and live fences, fixing informative boards at Pitawala Pathana, developing organic home gardens, Producing value added NTFPs & medicinal products, training & facilitating youth for eco-tourism, and construction of a 50m protective stone wall at Pitawala Pathana.  Eleven implementing organizations have reforestation targets of 2,214 hectares within their selected villages or nearby forests.  Planting materials were produced in a central nursery in Mahalakotuwa village for Anuruddha Arana and Rangiri Thakshana Piyasa. Some organizations like the Nirmani Development Foundation and Peoples’ Livelihood Development Foundation (PLDF) produced 50% planting materials through grantees that have received funds while the remaining 50% were procured from close by nurseries.  Main reforestation grounds were man-made clearings for agriculture within conserved forest areas. Replanting was done using the Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) technique that supports to cover the open patches introducing new plants while keeping existing plants. Existing plants were kept while removing invasive bushes and vines, which cleared lines for new plantings. Other than ANR done within conserved forest, many forest trees were planted along roads, water streams, private lands and paddy field reservations. Some species like jack have been destroyed by stray cattle and drought conditions but the beneficiaries have been advised to replant where there have been such destructions.  The reforestation target for Knuckles landscape has been distributed among grantees within their area of operation. It was found that map data on potential bare lands for reforestation were already naturally regenerated. The challenge was securing suitable lands for reforestation within the project area and submitting requests to the forest department to grant permission for reforestation in suitable bare lands in Redbana village after joint field inspection with forest department. It has taken around 3 months to grant permission by the Forest Department for reforestation in new locations proposed by the project. This target would be achieved with close collaboration with the Forest Department. | The target has been achieved and exceeded. A total of 27,760 hectares across the three landscapes are under sustainable management production practices conserving biodiversity and enhancing ecosystem services, including 650 hectares of forest cover that have been set aside for carbon sequestration (139% of the target).  During the reporting period, the Community Development Center accounted for an additional 100 hectares through their work on conserving, revitalizing and sustainably managing the cultivation of traditional yam and tuber cultivars at the Aranayake village in the Knuckles landscape.  Furthermore, during the reporting period, 26 projects have completed all their activities resulting to a cumulative total of 27,760 ha.  Some examples of completed projects in each landscape include the following:  Knuckles landscape:  Herpetological Foundation Sri Lanka completed activities involved in ensuring the protection and/or sustainable use for biodiversity conservation over an area of 10,500 hectares in the Knuckles Conservation Forest and its buffer zones. Some activities conducted since the project commenced include:  • Surveying of herpetofaunal species with the discovery of 14 new species; descriptions of two snake species have been officially published in scientific journals.  • Preventing the transfer of invasive species to the newly built Moragahakanda and Kaluganga reservoirs to conserve the native species.  • Prevention of cutting certain trees within the Knuckles conservation forest and the training of village groups to do the same.  National Ethnic Unity Foundation completed activities involved in ensuring the protection and/or sustainable use of biodiversity over an area of 700 hectares through improved eco-tourism development in the Rathna Ella area in the Knuckles landscape. Some activities conducted since the project commenced include:  • Environmental services carried out by the Soba Mithuro Environment Association including the collecting of garbage and cleaning of trekking tracks in the Rathnalla and Kaluwawetuna Ella that have helped for improved eco-tourism development.  • The cultivation of traditional types of rice through organic practices has allowed for the revitalization of traditional rice types, thereby enhancing local agrobiodiversity.  • The establishment of 12 eco-tourism enterprises, covering camping sites, home stays, food sales amongst others that additionally contributed towards sustaining improved eco-tourism development.  Colombo landscape:  Organization for Aquatic Resource Management has successfully completed its project at the Heen Ela Marsh in the Colombo landscape and has contributed towards this indicator through the reduction of animal-human conflicts and through eco-tourism endeavors over and area of 100 hectares. Some activities conducted since the project commenced include:  • Building 21 snake hides in 4 locations at the Heen-Ela Marsh in Rajagiriya that has reduced human-snake conflicts in the area and thereby prevented harm to snakes.  • A new eco-tourism enterprise at Heen-Ela Marsh was established, including purchase of two paddling boats and two catamarans, creation of a nature trail, and establishment of bird blinds and watch hut.  • Training of five boat guides further improved eco-tourism.  Small Cat Advocacy and Research has successfully completed its project and contributed towards this indicator through conservation of fishing cat habitat and involvement in eco-tourism development with 25 hectares of improved community conservation of the endangered fishing cat in Colombo’s wetlands, starting with the Diyasaru and Baddegana wetland parks and 45 hectares covered by eco-tourism development at the Diyasaru park and Kollonawa Marsh area in the Colombo landscape. Some activities since the project commenced include:  • Installation of 10 cameras at the Diyasaru Park in monitoring the fishing cat in the area.  • Collaring two fishing cats. This activity was limited to only two cats due to the constraints posed by the pandemic.  • Small cat rehabilitation enclosure for the Attidiya Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre was constructed.  • An urban wildlife management strategy with relevance to fishing cats, developed and presented to relevant government stakeholders.  • An eco-tourism endeavor was built around the Diyasaru and Baddegana wetlands, as people visited the regions in hopes of catching a glimpse of the rare fishing cat.  • 5,000 urban wildlife wetland maps were printed and distributed in the two wetland parks, in schools and through other awareness programmes to increase awareness about the fishing cat.  Furthermore, four new projects (including the Mannar strategic project) were approved in April 2021 after a delayed period due to the COVID-19 pandemic and started in late-May 2021 thereafter. They are expected to account for an additional 635 hectares during the next reporting period. |
| 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. | Target on track – 12,000 ha across the three production landscapes have been brought under sustainable land management benefiting from land rehabilitation activities (80% of the target). All three landscapes have contributed to these aggregate hectares covered so far and are on track to achieve the target by EoP.  Knuckles Landscape:  Rangiri Thakshana Piyasa was engaged in documenting traditional knowledge, soil conservation initiatives, establishment of stone bunds, wedges and live fences, home gardening, providing cash crop plants, providing rainwater harvesting tanks, planting trees at Theligamu river catchment area spanning 200 hectares and training women on reed & ola leaf handicrafts.  Anurudhdha Arana Trust carried out soil testing, soil conservation initiatives formed through stone bunds, wedges and live fences; training farmers on composting & producing liquid fertilizer on 300 hectares; developing green home gardens; providing cash crop plants; providing rain water harvesting tanks; conducting entrepreneurship training programmes, promoting beekeeping, providing “Anagi – fuel efficient’ cook stoves. Moreover, 4,500 forest plants have also been planted.  Community Development Center (CDC) was involved in capacity building of CBOs, preparing a plan for human – animal conflict, soil conservation initiatives, home gardening, cultivating minor cash crops, introducing a farming handbook, establishment of seed banks, publishing a book, facilitating for production and marketing of underutilized crops such as black pepper, turmeric, etc. and implementing soil conservation and agro-ecology on 500 hectares.  The Knuckles Strategic Project carried out by Ekabadda Praja Kantha Maha Sangamaya (EPKMS) covers 4 villages in Wilgamuwa DS division: Sulugune, Uduwelwala, Moragahaulpotha and Godaulpotha. As part of land rehabilitation and soil conservation, the project has conducted rehabilitation of irrigational channels in Sulugune and repairing of Thalgune Tank. The major soil conservation programme of EPKMS is the groundnut development programme. In addition, construction of the Moragahaulpotha water tank for home consumption for the community and irrigation channel are key achievements. Additionally, 10 agro-wells have been constructed as part of agro-ecological practices. These agro wells will mitigate the severe erosion of the area caused by free flow of water originated from the forest area. Moreover, 30,000 plants were distributed for home gardening to cover 1,000 hectares.  Colombo landscape:  The Human Development Foundation of Sri Lanka (HDFSL) is implementing the Strategic Project carried out in the Colombo Wetland landscape. Abandoned lands were prepared for cultivation and harvested in Watareka and Panaluwa and some in Artigala area while some lands were prepared for harvesting in the next season, spanning across 500 hectares. “Koratu” farmers are using home base selling mechanism of their harvest and 17 new farmers to cultivate abandoned paddy fields at Watareka. A market place for selling the products generated through the project is being establish as a sustainable model of production to packaging to marketing while seeking further marketing mechanisms to ensure sustainability. | The target is on track. A total of 12,042 hectares in the three project landscapes have been brought under sustainable land management benefiting from land rehabilitation activities (80% of the target).This target is on track to be achieved during the next reporting period. During the reporting period, the Ekabadda Praja Sanwardhana Kantha Maha Sangamaya accounted for the additional 42 hectares through work conducted on soil conservation and agro-ecological practices by the project in numerous villages within the Knuckles landscape.  During the reporting period, 27 projects have completed all their activities related to this target.  Some examples of completed projects include the following:  Mannar landscape:  Voluntary Organization for Vulnerable Community Development (VOVCD) completed activities involved in ensuring sustainable land management through land rehabilitation activities in Poonagary area in the Kilinochchi district over an impact area of 1,000 hectares. Activities conducted include:  • Wetland rehabilitation through the planting of mangroves on 16.5 hectares of the coastal area.  • Improvement of soil and water conservation for coconut cultivation in approximately 10 hectares.  • The establishment of two mangrove nurseries that are nurturing mangrove seedlings presently to be planted over an area of 25 hectares.  The Zoological Students Association completed activities involved in ensuring sustainable land management through land rehabilitation activities over an area of 307 hectares: of which 300 hectares were covered through wetland rehabilitation, five hectares were covered by agro-ecological practices and another two hectares in conserving crop genetic resources in the coastal zone of Kavutharimunai, Poonryn. Some activities conducted include:  • Wetland restoration through the plantation of mangroves with community participation.  • Provision of micro-irrigation systems and rainwater harvesting systems.  Knuckles landscape:  Peoples’ Livelihood Development Foundation completed activities involved in ensuring sustainable land management through land rehabilitation activities over an area of 245 hectares: of which 25 hectares were covered through wetland rehabilitation, 120 hectares was covered through soil conservation measures and another 100 hectares were covered by agro-ecological practices in the Udattawa and Galamuduna areas in the Knuckles landscape. Some activities conducted include:  • Cultivation of traditional rice varieties by 18 families in Medakelle over a area of 25 hectares.  • Development of 100 home gardens by 18 families over an area of 120 hectares.  Ekabadda Praja Sanwardhana Kantha Maha Sangamaya (EPSKMS) completed activities involved in ensuring sustainable land management through land rehabilitation activities in numerous villages within the Knuckles landscape. Some activities conducted include:  • Promotion of agro-forestry and soil conservation measures over an area of 1,000 hectares.  • Establishment of a women’s knowledge bank that provides free advice on agriculture such as best practices for soil conservation to 52 women’s societies that support approximately 2,000 women.  • Establishment of a sales outlet to sell the produce generated by the women’s farmer societies and other GEF-SGP supported projects that have worked on land rehabilitation amongst other activities and applied advice received from the knowledge bank on land rehabilitation and other agricultural advice.  Furthermore, four new projects (including the Mannar strategic project) were approved in April 2021 after a delayed period due to the COVID-19 pandemic and started thereafter. They are expected to account for an additional 3,920 hectares to this target during the next reporting period. |
| 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. | The project has so far engaged a total of 1,737 community members (707 women and 1,030 men). Different approaches have been taken by each project to engage community and provide benefits in each location. They vary from livelihood improvement to awareness and capacity building to engaging in activities that would benefit the environment as well as people. The impact of these initiatives is distributed among landscapes under each project.  Mannar landscape:  VOVCoD: Awareness sessions on different subjects were hosted for the community including on mangrove restoration for 6 males and females, human–elephant conflict for 24 men and 12 women, and biodiversity and organic gardening for 36 women and 28 men.  ZSA has engaged 50 men in establishing home gardens and 50 women in model organic gardens. Training has been provided on producing Palmyra-based handicrafts to 37 women while approximately 187 university graduates benefit from the environment and conservation laboratory established as well as model ecosystems placed in the university.  Sobakantha Foundation has helped a total of 110 men and women by providing solar fish drying units along with fish storing structured huts for 25 individuals and 20 individuals through home gardening and by providing fruit plants.  Colombo landscape:  The Emotional Intelligence and Life Skills Training Team, as part of their project initiative for Youth Community Wetland Conservation (YCWC) around the areas of Kolonnawa marsh complex, has impacted 30 males and 14 females to become members and carry out conservation initiatives in the Kolonnawa area.  Wanasarana Thurulatha Swechcha Society is implementing a project solely focusing on regenerating and cultivation on abandoned paddy lands has benefited 50 paddy farmers which includes 24 males. Furthermore, 8 males and 1 female vegetable farmer and 1 male and 7 female self-employed community members are benefited through the project.  Knuckles landscape:  The project implemented by Arunalu Community Development Center (ACDC) has impacted a total of 258 community members with 138 men and 120 women in the Rathninda and Atanwala area through soil conservation, eco-tourism development and reforestation and biodiversity initiatives.  The Center for Integrated Indigenous Knowledge Systems (CIIKS) has made an impact on 65 individuals through the fire belt, livelihood improvement and home gardening activities as well as many school kids through art competitions carried out in schools.  The Dumbara Mithuro Organization has facilitated an eco-tourism guide programme for 50 individuals and equipped them with a license to operate in Knuckles through the Central Province Tourism Development Authority. Moreover, to safeguard traditional medicine and medical practices, two traditional ayurvedic doctors were supported and a new batch of apprentices are groomed to take the tradition forward. A lot more are benefited in the Narangamuwa area through conservation measures carried out on water springs which provides fresh water for many families for their daily household needs, including drinking water. Overall, 137 women and 153 men have been impacted.  NEUF has impacted 54 community members, with the majority being women (37). Out of the 17 men, 1 is engaged in managing a camping site while 1 woman is engaged in running an authentic food restaurant which is part of eco-tourism services. The majority (40) are engaged in home gardening, fruit planting, koratu and animal husbandry for livelihood activities. In addition, there are 4 women whose livelihoods depend on sewing. These ladies are currently sewing face masks as an alternative to their usual production of cloth bags, curtains and other cloth items during the Covid-19 pandemic.  Anuradha Arana – The project impacted the community via home garden development, providing energy efficient cooking stoves, livelihood development, providing water supply and beekeeping initiatives, where 183 women and 103 men are benefited.  CRPC – As part of eco-tourism activities, around 50 lifeguards have been trained and youth in the community have obtained alternate income out of it. Home garden development as part of livelihood development is a valuable approach. Overall, 88 males and 19 females have been benefited.  Community Development Center (CDC) – There are 39 benefactors overall out of the project, where 12 women and 27 men are involved in soil conservation measures and home garden development, Soil conservation practices, home garden development, cash crops development and growing of spice crops have impacted 55 women and 10 men in the community through the project carried out by CDC.  The Grama Abhiwurdhi Foundation for Environment Conservation (GAFEC)-led project promoted livelihood development activities, benefiting 7 women and 28 men. | The target is on track. It has been achieved for the Knuckles and Mannar landscapes. The projects have so far engaged a total of 1,737 individuals/community members (707 women and 1,030 men) who actively participate and benefit from local field-based project activities. Breakdown for each landscape is as follows:  Knuckles: 1,125 (503 women and 622 men) individuals/community members.  Colombo: 111 (48 women and 63 men) individuals/community members.  Mannar: 501 (156 women and 345 men) individuals/community members.  Furthermore, four new projects (including the Mannar strategic project) were approved in April 2021 after a delayed period due to the COVID-19 pandemic and started in late-May 2021 thereafter. They are expected to account for approximately an additional 446 individuals/ community members in local field-based project activities during the next reporting period. |
| **The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:** | **On track** | | | | |
| **Evidence uploaded:** | **YES** | | | | |
| **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 2020** | **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) | The target was achieved during the first reporting period and collaboration with multi-stakeholder groups has been ongoing during this reporting period as well. Key highlights are as follows;  Colombo landscape:  Two (2) meetings were held in line with Wetland Day on 3 and 5 January 2020, where members from Sri Lanka Land Development Cooperation (SLLDC), National Resource Management (NRM), Central Environment Authority (CEA) and SGP grantees attended the meeting.  Knuckles landscape:  The 2nd Multi-stakeholder Meeting for Knuckles Landscape projects was held on 1st of August 2019 at the District Secretariat office in Matale with the participation of Additional District Secretary-Matale, Grama Niladhari (Village officers), GEF-SGP officials, consultants, Knuckles landscape grantees and the Knowledge Management partner-SLEES.  Mannar:  Meeting with GA and Mannar District Secretariat Office officials and GEF SGP representatives in September 2019 in Mannar. | The target has been achieved. Multi-stakeholder groups in each landscape have been operationalized with agreed TORs.  Comprehensive socio-ecological baseline assessments were developed for each landscape.  During the reporting period, multi-stakeholder meetings have continued to progress. Indeed, the following multi-stakeholder meetings were conducted in each of the three landscapes during the reporting period:  - The Colombo landscape multi-stakeholder meeting took place remotely on the 15th of February 2021. The director of international relations and biodiversity from the Ministry of Environment, who are members of the National Steering Committee (NSC), along with officials representing the Sri Lanka Land Development Cooperation (SLLDC), Central Environment Authority (CEA), (UDA) and Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC), joined the meeting. Means of acquiring better maps for the Colombo wetlands along with possible avenues of working with the SLLDC on water quality monitoring projects were discussed. The importance of the established multi-stakeholder platform when taking decisions with respect to urban wetlands was highlighted and plausible suggestions were made to be implemented in the Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF SGP.  - The Mannar landscape multi-stakeholder meeting took place remotely on the 16th of February 2021. The director of international relations and biodiversity and the additional secretary (Environment Projects, Education and Training) of the Ministry of Environment along with officials representing Coast Conservation Department, Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA), Department of Forest Conservation and the Navy attended the meeting. The issues and threats in the landscape, as well as the potential geographical distribution of the projects to achieve the maximum possible impacts, were discussed.  - The Knuckles landscape multi-stakeholder meeting took place remotely on the 18th of February 2021. The additional secretary (Environment Projects, Education and Training) and the directors of international relations and biodiversity of the Ministry of Environment along with the additional District Secretary (DS) (Land) and officials from the DS offices (Matale and Kandy), Department of Forest Conservation, Department of Wildlife Conservation, Sri Lanka State Plantation Corporation, Tourism Board of Central Province, Superintendent, Midland Estate, Rattota, Director General of the Department of Export Agriculture and the Director of the Provincial Agriculture Department attended. Discussions involved identification of possible collaborative approaches between stakeholders in the context of the Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF SGP while addressing threats and issues to the Knuckles Conservation Forest and the buffer zone.  The multi-stakeholder groups have also aided in the implementation of the Seventh Operational phase of the GEF SGP. |
| 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 | This target was achieved with the three landscape management strategies developed for each landscape and currently being implemented. Three landscape management strategies and plans were prepared and then approved by the National Steering Committee in 2017 | This target has been achieved. Three landscape management strategies and plans were prepared and then approved by the National Steering Committee in 2017. |
| 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 in the first reporting period with typologies of projects developed for the three landscapes and informing on-the-ground grant activities. Landscape specific typologies (3) of community level projects and eligibility criteria were formulated by multi-stakeholder groups in each landscape | This target has been achieved. Typologies of community level projects and eligibility criteria were developed in the three landscapes by multi-stakeholder groups. |
| 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 | This target has been achieved with 10 formal agreements signed, including Dumbara Mithuro receiving a formal agreement from the Provincial Department of Tourism through the KOICA-funded eco-tourism project worth LKR 500,000 and the Ayurvedic Department of the Central Province for continuation of activities carried out by traditional ayurvedic doctors during the reporting period.  The President’s Office has provided LKR 2.1 million for rehabilitation of the Galamuduna Road as a result of project activities carried out at this location, and the Primary Development Ministry has provided Kithul utensils to produce Kithul honey  The Midland Estate has formally provided in-kind support through plants and labour for the project carried out in the Midland Estate and Dankanda Lake area by Grama Abhiwurdhi Foundation for Environment Conservation (GAFEC).  The District Secretariat Office has funded 6 Units of Kithul trickle and jaggery making pots and pans and 2 safety gears for extracting Kithul honey from the trees.  A large private sector apparel company in Sri Lanka has entered into an agreement with the Zoological Students’ Association to finance to obtaining seedlings for mangroves while the Palmyra Development Board has provided training on making products and also agreed on a buy back mechanism by agreeing to buy the palmyra bags and mats at a higher price.  The Wanasarana Thurulatha Swechcha Society (WTSS) has come to a formal agreement with a private sector company in providing machinery support for the project implemented in Homagama.  The Turtle Conservation Project is engaged in a co-financing agreement with the Columbus Zoo in the USA.  Panthera Foundation has assured co-financing to Small Cat Advocacy and Research (SCAR) on carrying out fishing cat conservation initiatives in Colombo Wetlands.  The Herpetological Association of Sri Lanka engaged in an agreement with one of the largest local private banks in Sri Lanka with LKR 1 million in conservation initiatives on herpeto-fauna in the Knuckles landscape. The grantee expanded SGP work on herpeto-fauna conservation through co-financing. | The target has been achieved and exceeded. A total of 12 formal agreements have been signed between community organizations and other partners in each landscape to pursue the outcomes of each strategy through community and landscape level projects.  During the reporting period, two additional agreements were signed: one between One Tree Planted and Voluntary Organization for Vulnerable Community Development (VOVCOD) and the other between One Tree Planted and Ekabadda Praja Kantha Maha Sangamaya (EPKMS).  The agreement signed between One Tree Planted and VOVCD entailed a donation of USD $16,000 for planting approximately 20,000 mangroves seedlings in the Mannar and Kilinochchi district lagoons, that were previously damaged and degraded by the civil conflict.  The other agreement signed between One Tree Planted and EPKMS entailed a donation of USD $16,000 for the planting of 20,000 plants of both native and agroforestry tree species in the Knuckles Mountain range in Central Sri Lanka. |
| **The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:** | **Achieved** | | | | |
| **Evidence uploaded:** | **YES** | | | | |
| **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 2020** | **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] | The target has been achieved and exceeded.  25,546 ha brought under protection or sustainable use for biodiversity conservation or improved ecosystem function (255% of the target).  Mannar landscape:  SEDA, through its tree planting initiative, has planted 2,000 trees in 5 schools (on 5 hectares in total) located alongside the Jaffna and Mannar Road. Bio-fences have been established around the school premises to protect planted trees. Army camp near Kalliyadi school is helping in planting and maintenance while in others the principal and students are maintaining them.  An awareness programme was conducted by VOVCoD, and 3 green houses were established for schools and cultivation has begun. Altogether, 60 grow bags out of 90 have been distributed and communities started cultivating vegetables at Kiranchi and Veravil villages. Fruit plants have been distributed among communities and palmyra seeds were planted along 4 km to form a bio-fence.  The Ecological Association of Sri Lanka conducted a study to evaluate the present status of the coastal ecosystems in Northwestern Coastal Plain (NWCP). Eleven major coastal habitat types with a total extent of 34,467 ha were mapped and described in the NWCP.  The entire area was GIS mapped indicating the sand dunes, mangroves and land use patterns of the area. The new species of mangrove – the Dwarf mangrove – was recorded in the Malwattu Oya Delta and the NGO is looking at gazetting this area as a protected site.  Knuckles landscape:  Dumbara Mithuro has completed all activities including removal of invasive species, construction of a protection wall and setting up of model herbal garden at the Pitawala Pathana area of 60 hectares. Reforestation has commenced near Redbana village and 500 plants out of 1,800 were planted so far. Training of 52 trackers for the Knuckles range was also completed.  The Herpetological Foundation of Sri Lanka focused on the research of protecting herpetofaunal point endemic species for strengthening the conservation status of the Knuckles landscape in the entire Matale and Kandy districts.  As part of the Herpetological Foundation project to discover new species not recorded before in the Knuckles World Heritage Site, and thereby to state the importance and requirement to protect the Knuckles which is so rich in Biodiversity, 10 new species have been recorded as an accomplishment of this project.  i) Six new snakes  Two species published, Aspidura desilvai,  Link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/16gqhYYMIOtxLa1P\_YVr9PvxWwXGJxFKz/view  and Rhinophis gunasekarai  Link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IT0tMqdJEXKDXNddBPNlM7piMrP1k9-d/view  Work in progress for the remaining two Rhinophis sp. (sheildtailed snakes), and two scolecophidians (blind snakes).  ii) One Lankaskincus sp. (Skink)  iii) Three new amphibians  All belonging to the genus Pseudophilautus or shrub frog, where the smallest species will be named after the GEF Small Grants Programme as the project is funded by GEF SGP.  The Community Development Center (CDC) is working on 500 Hectares on reforestation and 100 hectares on agro ecology restoration Community plant nurseries were established and training was provided on bee keeping, processing Kithul products, and pepper cultivation. Rehabilitation of the elephant fence has commenced to protect the communities by the wild elephant.  Colombo Landscape:  The Organization for Aquatic Resources Management (OARM) has constructed safe habitats on 43 hectares for safe roosting and nesting for marshland birds. Roosting branches have been erected for birds and bat houses were constructed to prevent the decline of aquatic bird species in the marshland. A survey was conducted to assess the biodiversity of the project site. Invasive species (Wel-atha) was removed and indigenous marshland trees were planted to increase biodiversity. 2 Newspaper articles were published to create awareness among the general public. Soil mounds were built as hides for snakes and lectures were delivered to the community to conserve wetland snakes. Crossing cables were established for monkeys to mitigate human-monkey conflict. Artificial cement dens were constructed as breeding habitats for fishing cat and otter. Wood crafting out of invasive species and pan crafting trainings were provided for community members. Leaflets have been distributed and publicity boards have been erected to raise awareness. A park will be open for visitors to promote eco-tourism while ensuring the protection of the marshland. A documentary film is being prepared so that in October 2020 it can be widely circulated among school children and urban dwellers to showcase the importance of the Colombo Wetlands.  The Emotional Intelligence and Life Skills Training Team (EILSTT) has raised awareness of the 64 hectares Kolonnawa wetlands by working with the community on the importance of solid waste management and established solid waste collection mechanism. An E-waste awareness and collecting campaign for school students and community was also carried out. Furthermore, they have established information boards in three languages, conducted an art and poster competition “wetland for future” and conducted a short film competition titled “Be a change maker”. The award ceremony was held for winners in three events around “World Wetland Day”. A plant nursery was established with feeder plants for butterflies and a butterfly garden is to be prepared. A loan system was established for 10 eco-friendly social entrepreneurs for business startup or support to existing businesses.  The Center for Environment Justice (CEJ) has worked towards mobilizing communities around wetlands to conserve wetlands and generate a national level momentum towards conservation of Colombo wetlands. A network of vigilante committees has been established with constant guidance and monitoring by CEJ. An E-Justice Mobile App was created and introduced to the communities as an alternative method for resolution of disputes on wetland related issues. Complaints related to wetlands received through the mobile app, hotline, and written complaints were directed to relevant government agencies followed by an initial examination. Multi-stakeholder meetings were organized for major stakeholders, academics and interested parties to discuss about wetlands in a more holistic and scientific manner. More than 3 media visits to wetlands were organized to create awareness among general public and advocacy through government agencies. Several sign boards with messages and warnings for those who violate the law regarding the environment/wetlands have been exhibited in project areas. In addition, awareness materials and posters were distributed in schools, public areas and government agencies.  The project undertaken by the Centre for Sustainability, University of Sri Jayawardenapura, was initially supposed to work on 110 ha of wetlands. However, due to land issues the SLLDC only released 30 hectares for project activities and with the restriction that no permanent structures can be erected. According to the university it would be challenging to continue the bio-remediation methods that were planned through landscaping by plants and contours. Nevertheless, the University is trying to work on the 30 hectares given, but due to COVID-19 progress is further challenged as students are not permitted to congregate in activities and as the access road now is not by land but through a small stream which makes the continuation of the project even more challenging. Discussions will be resumed with the Sri Lanka Land Reclamation Board once it is safer to start project activities with university students. | The target has been achieved and exceeded. An aggregate of 25,546 hectares were brought under protection or sustainable use for biodiversity conservation or improved ecosystem function (146% of the target after the MTR revision of this target from 10,000 hectares to 17,500 hectares).  During the reporting period, 27 projects have completed all their activities related to this target. No additional grants were provided during this reporting period as this target has been achieved and exceeded.  Some examples of completed projects include the following:  Knuckles Landscape:  Herpetological Foundation Sri Lanka (HFSL) has successfully completed their project in the Knuckles Conservation Forest and its buffer zones. contributing significantly (10,500 hectares) to the end of project target. This initiative entailed efforts towards the protection and sustainable use for biodiversity conservation, through activities such as conducting herpetological surveys to monitor the biodiversity of these species, prevention of invasive species within the regions, and providing support to the landscape’s knowledge management group in biodiversity conservation efforts.  - National Ethnic Unity Foundation (NEUF) successfully completed a project implemented in Rathnalla village , hence contributing to this target with 700 hectares NEUF has introduced 25 alternative tourism-related sustainable livelihood options for their beneficiaries. Furthermore, NEUF was also involved in the establishment of a Community-Based Organization (CBO) called “Soba Mithuro Rathnalla”. This CBO has been actively involved in conserving Rathnalla’s forest. Soba Mithuro Rathnalla’s main activity relates to waste management. Garbage left by visitors along the track up to the waterfall and the surrounding forest is collected. It is subsequently sorted and handed to the town council after selling salable garbage.  Furthermore, cultivation of traditional types of rice through organic practices in the region and post COVID-19 agriculture diversification efforts have supported the well-being of the village and surrounding forest.  - Dumbara Mithuro Environment and Cultural Foundation has successfully completed their project in Ranamuregama and Pitawala Pathana, contributing 135 hectares to the end of project targetEfforts included development of home gardens within 30 households, removal of invasive species in Pitawala Pathana, development of forest gardens in Pithwala Pathana and development of home gardens in Ranamuregama in Lakegala (60 hectares). Furthermore, 75 hectares were achievedthrough improved eco-tourism development, including the development and refurbishment of tourist information boards in Pitawala Pathana, the demarcation of two treks in Rivers turn and Lakegala, the training and registering of 10 trekking guides with the forest department and the tourism board. Other activities that the project conducted vis-à-vis this target include publications, the development of an exhibition chamber and the establishment of a base camp at Attanvala.  Colombo Landscape:  Organization for Aquatic Resource Management has successfully completed its project at the Heen Ela Marsh and contributed 100 hectares towards this target through the reduction in human-animal conflicts, particularly between humans and snakes at the Heen-Ela Marsh in Rajagiriya. This included the development of 21 snake hides in four locations, lectures to raise awareness on snakes and the training of five youth snake handlers from the community. In addition, 1,500 leaflets on snakes were printed and distributed to help with the identification of snakes, tackling myths related to snakes and increasing awareness on how to react when people encounter snakes.  Furthermore, a new eco-tourism enterprise at Heen-Ela Marsh was established. Two paddling boats and two catamarans were purchased, a nature trail was created and bird hides and watch hut were built. Other activities involved in eco-tourism development included training five boat guides, training seven individuals to make pendants and ornaments through sustainably resourced material in the area, and shooting a documentary along with the publication of five articles on eco-tourism endeavor in the Heen Ela Marsh.  Mannar Landscape:  The Ecological Association of Sri Lanka has successfully completed its project, contributing over 4,000 hectares to this target through improved community conservation areas in the northwestern coastal plain. Activities consisted of increasing knowledge gathering by mapping and publishing the surface area of the North-Western Coastal Plain, which depicted 11 distinct habitat types. This allowed to better guide and equip the community and other relevant stakeholders in making better informed conservation-related decisions at both local and national levels. |
| 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] | 2,214 hectares of reforestation have commenced which is 88% of the project target  Knuckles landscape:  It has become a challenge finding vacant land for reforestation as potential vacant land for reforestation shown on map data are naturally regenerated. A request was made to the Forest Department to grant permission for reforestation in suitable bare lands in Redbana Village. Based on a site inspection and after 3 months of discussions, permission was granted to reforest proposed lands by the project. Based on the approval, 4 organizations (Anurudha Arana, Rangiri Thakshana Piyasa, Dumbara Mithuro and Arunalu Community Center) carried out their reforestation activities in 600 hectares of land.  The project implemented by GAFEC completed its reforestation activity by re-planting 500 ha of abandoned tea land belonging to the Midland Estate run by the State Plantation Corporation. Shade Trees, tea and fruit trees were planted on this land as well as along the roadside towards the site.  The project implemented in the Kobonilla / Harepark location is a wildfire prone area. The fire belt established through the fire resistant plant called Hana (Snake Plant) will help to conserve 100 ha through annual bushfire.  Colombo Landscape:  In the Colombo landscape, 150 ha of abandoned paddy lands were converted to non-chemical paddy and vegetation whilst improving the surrounding biodiversity.  Mannar Landscape:  In the Mannar landscape, 100 hectares a large extent of lagoon areis available for mangrove plantingplantation. Hence, mangroves were planted in selected lagoons covering about 120 ha. through 15,517 mangrove seedlings. In addition, 10,000 Palmyra (Borassus flabellifer) seeds were planted in over a distance of 3.7 km as an elephant fence. Sshade trees were planted in schools, home gardens and along the road to increase the shade of the area as it is a dry area. Approximately 12 ha. of home gardens were developed by planting Coconut and Mango trees, a. Along with 2,697 plants of shade trees such as Neem, Mee, Caya, Mahogani Kumbuk, Tespecia in schools. | Target on track. A total of 2,214 hectares have been brought under reforestation or farmer-managed natural regeneration, equivalent to 89% of the end of project target, which is on track to be achieved during the next reporting period.  During the reporting period, 17 projects have completed all their activities related to this target.  Some examples of completed projects include the following:  Knuckles landscape  Centre for Integrated Indigenous Knowledge Systems completed reforestation efforts over an area of 70 hectares in the Kobonilla and Kandegama areas. Reforestation efforts were conducted over an area of 70 hectares in the hair park estate conservation area and the forest department land. In addition to this, the plantation of Agave plants was conducted in establishing a fire protection belt.  Peoples’ Livelihood Development Foundation completed reforestation efforts that mainly included the establishment of forest plants over an area of 100 hectares alongside the Medakelle and Galamuduna roads.  Rangiri Thakshana Piyasa completed reforestation efforts over an area of 250 hectares that included fallowing agricultural lands using Kumbuk, Mee and Karanda tree species and the managing of additional stocks of the forested plants in the Redbanagama village to be established in the next rainy season.  Four new projects (including the Mannar strategic project) were approved in April 2021 after a delayed period due to the COVID-19 pandemic and started thereafter. They are expected to account for approximately an additional 635 hectares during the next reporting period. |
| 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] | Rehabilitation of 6,864 ha of degraded wetlands currently under implementation (76% of the target):  13 grants have been awarded to implement wetlands rehabilitation on 6,864 ha of land thus far. Projects that promote enhancing eco system services, productivity and sustainability in the wetlands through good governance, developing innovative alternative livelihood options and improving market access and climate change resilience. The outcome of these projects aims to promote “Colombo as a model wetland City” where community actions will contribute towards keeping the wetlands healthy and safe. A comprehensive biodiversity survey is being undertaken to conserve threatened species associated with the wetlands.  The Human Development Foundation of Sri Lanka (HDFSL) has developed 42 ha of paddy lands and established organic paddy cultivation with traditional rice varieties. Special training was given to some farmers on new farming techniques through the Rice Research and Development Institute (RRDI), which also provided training to the Organic Centre at Makandura on organic vegetable cultivation. Two plots are now been farmed with organic vegetables.  The Mannar Strategic Project, which is yet to be approved will be working on reservoir restoration to cover an area of 3,000 hectares for wetland rehabilitation. | Target on track. A total of 6,864 hectares of degraded wetlands have been rehabilitated, which accounts for 76% of the target, which is on track to be achieved during the next reporting period.  During the reporting period, 18 projects have completed all their activities related to this target.  Some examples of completed projects include the following:  Mannar landscape:  - The Ecological Association of Sri Lanka was involved in many activities, with the primary objective being the mapping and describing of the Northwestern coastal plain that comprises 11 major coastal habitats and worked over an area of 4,000 hectares. This allows for the establishment of an inventory of the area’s ecological resources which was dominated by wetlands and allowed for the preparation and publication of an atlas. This atlas shares information on the nature, extent, spatial distribution, and potential and limitations of coastal ecosystems in Mannar-Poonaryn landscape. This is a pre-requisite for planning the sustainable development in the area. Furthermore, this project allowed for the collection of information on threats posed by invasive species (Prosopis juliflora) to local ecosystems and sustainable use potential of the salt marshes, mangroves and sand dunes in the region.  The Voluntary Organization for Vulnerable Community Development (VOVCD) successfully completed their project with the main objective of the project being the introduction of sustainable and eco-friendly conservation practices to improve biodiversity in the landscape and seascape in the Poonagary area, Kilinochchi district over an area of 1,000 hectares. Mangroves were planted on 16.5 hectares of coastal area, and palmyra and other trees were planted in the common wetland areas and other common places over and area of 15 hectares. In addition, this project established two mangrove nurseries looking after 15,000 mangrove seedlings to be planted over an area of 25 hectares and conducted awareness raising events to share knowledge on mangrove restoration.  Colombo landscape:  The Wanasarana Thurulatha Swechcha Society successfully completed its project in the Walpitayaya paddy lands rehabilitating 60 hectares of wtlands mainly through organic and non-chemical farming practices. It further promoted the cultivation of local paddy varieties such as Kuruluthuda, Suvandel, Kaluheenati and Mawee. The project also worked towards increasing the biodiversity of the wetland by raising community awareness. Other activities included rehabilitation of wetlands (removal of invasive species, clearing and dredging of a 1.5km water access canal, growing vegetables in the Koratu lands under non-chemical farming practices, conducting demonstration pilots on organic farming and the plantation of plants along the field bunds and plain lands over an area of 60 hectares.  Furthermore, four new projects (including the Mannar strategic project) were approved in April 2021 after a delayed period due to the COVID-19 pandemic and started thereafter. They are expected to account for approximately an additional 2,240 hectares to this target during the next reporting 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 has been achieved, as 650 hectares of forest cover has been set aside for carbon sequestration.  Planting of trees was done in three areas, i.e. space available in villages (Home Garden), space available in the buffer zones in between villages and the conserved forest and vacant areas in the conserved forest. Trees planted in the Home Gardens and buffer zones are basically utility tree species and forest tree species in the conserved forest. Also, some forest tree species and utility tree species were planted on marginal tea lands belonging to the Government-owned State Plantation corporation lands.  In addition to the above land area, nearly 600 ha of forest lands were conserved by establishing a fire belt. This land extent was subjected to bush fire every year preventing reforestation and destroying additional area in each fire. 6,000 Hana seedlings known as Snake Plant in English (Sansevieria zeylanica) were planted along the fire belt. Natural rejuvenation of forest trees has been facilitated in 600 ha of lands. | The target has been reached. 650 hectares of forest cover lands were set aside for carbon sequestration.  A technical expert will be consulted in obtaining the corresponding amount of CO2 mitigated from setting aside 650 hectares. This will be calculated using information and equations obtained from the 2006 IPCC guidelines and REDD+ Sri Lanka and will be reported during the next reporting 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 have been carried out on 2,000 ha through soil conservation methods (80% of the target).  EPKMS rehabilitated an irrigation channel in Sulugune. Soil conservation work is in progress in Uduwelwala, a water tank for home consumption and irrigation was constructed in Moragahaulpotha, and a plant nursery of lime was established covering 1,000 hectares of soil conservation. Seven agro-wells were constructed in Godaulpota and several long and deep (about 1m deep 1m wide) ditches were dug across the slope bordering the village and conserved forest area to intercept off farm water flow originating from the conserved forest area. This will reduce severe erosion caused by the water flows in the community area.  Anurudha Arana and Rangiri Thakshana Piyasa covering 500 hectares of soil conservation established a 50-pot drip irrigation system including a 500l water storage tank. The system feeds enough water to grow crops required for own consumption during the dry season. Such 40 units were distributed among 40 beneficiaries in the village. The system could be upgraded to 500 pots when water source is enough to fill a 500l tank daily. | Target on track. A total of 2,582 hectares of land have been rehabilitated through best practice soil conservation measures and agroforestry, which account for 86% of the target (revised at Mid-Term to 3,000), which is on track to be achieved during the next reporting period.  During the reporting period, the Ekabadda Praja Kantha Maha Sangamaya accounted for the additional 582 hectares through their work on soil conservation in the Knuckles landscape.  Furthermore, during the reporting period, 14 projects have completed all their activities related to this target.  Some examples of completed projects include the following:  Knuckles landscape:  Rangiri Thakshana Piyasa has completed activities that have rehabilitated 200 hectares of land through soil conservation work conducted on and off-farm areas. Off-farm lands mostly included the implementation of home gardens and leader drains. The introduced leader drains facilitated water run-off to minimize soil erosion in the area.  The Centre for Integrated Indigenous Knowledge Systems Organization has rehabilitated lands with most efforts dedicated to rehabilitate 30 hectares of land in the Kobonilla and Kandegama regions. The establishment of a fire belt with the plantation of Agave plants has also contributed towards soil conservation through its contribution in reducing the occurrence and spread of fires.  Furthermore, four new projects (including the Mannar strategic project) were approved in April 2021 after a delayed period due to the COVID-19 pandemic and started thereafter. They are expected to account for approximately an additional 1,055 hectares to this target during the next reporting 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 submitted under grazing for the 3 landscapes, as the target was adjusted to 0 based on Mid-term Review recommendations. | Not applicable anymore. Mid-term Review recommendations adjusted the target to 0. This recommendation was made as there are no lands categorized for grazing by the government in Mannar and to an extent in the Knuckles landscape. Furthermore, no proposals for grazing were received resulting in this target being revised to 0. |
| 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] | A total of 2,500 hectares have been brought under agro-ecological practices (83% of the target).  EPKMS is promoting home gardening on 1,000 hectares in selected villages, contributing to conserving crop genetic resources. The community will be mobilized to grow 30,000 plants of minor export crops such as pepper on 1,000 hectares and plant 5,000 fruit plants. Production of value-added community agro-products such as coffee and lime will be carried out by the CBOs. The project expects to reach the export market, and this will bring a substantial economic benefit for the rural communities.  The challenge faced was that many villagers did not have fruit species, spice and vegetables in their home gardens for their daily consumption. Therefore, the project came up with a solution of introducing many new fruit species. This was initiated by two grantees in the Knuckles area, namely Rangiri Thakshana Piyasa and Anurudha Arana. As part of it, a total of 45,965 trees have been disseminated among the community covering 500 hectares of agro-ecology. | Target on track. A total of 2,596 hectares of agricultural land have been brought under agro-ecological practices and systems, which accounts for 87% of the end of project target, which is on track to be achieved during the next reporting period.  During the reporting period, the Community Development Center accounted for the additional 96 hectares through their work on establishing home gardens and disseminating seeds and planting material to households at the Aranayake village, in the Knuckles landscape.  Furthermore, during the reporting period, 18 projects have completed all their activities related to this target.  Some examples of completed projects include the following:  Knuckles landscape:  The Anuruddha Arana Trust has successfully completed project activities in establishing 300 hectares of agricultural land under agro-ecological practices and systems that increase sustainability and productivity and/or conserve crop genetic resources in the Madaela and Kahagala regions. This was mainly done through the improvement of 50 home gardens and the introduction of different fruit and vegetable species that enhanced the region’s agricultural biodiversity.  The Community Resource Protection Centre has successfully 100 hectares of agricultural land under agro-ecological practices and systems that increase sustainability and productivity and/or conserve crop genetic resources in the Meemure region. The development and establishment of horticultural plants across 100 home gardens over an area of 100 hectares and the completion of organic agricultural work in paddy fields facilitated this achievement.  Furthermore, four new projects (including the Mannar strategic project) were approved in April 2021 after a delayed period due to the COVID-19 pandemic and started thereafter. They are expected to account for approximately an additional 625 hectares to this target during the next reporting 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 | This target has been achieved and exceeded. 835 livelihoods have been developed, which is 417% of the target. Knuckles and Mannar have significantly contributed to achieve this target through initiatives such as 100 home gardens, 1 unit of traditional food production and sales center, 10 homestays / camp sites and food processing outlet for tourists, 132 beekeeping units among 65 beneficiaries, assistance for 50 families in the Kithul tapping industry along with support to the handicraft industry in several projects in the Knuckles landscape and initiatives such as palmyra product manufacturing from handicrafts to palmyra drink, model home gardening, and solar dryers for processing dried fish for 50 families in the Mannar Landscape.  Entrepreneurship development is one of the basic problem-solving approaches of the landscape. Loss of income opportunities in traditional living such as Chena cultivation and cardamom cultivation in dense forests as it was restricted for farmers, forced to find new income generation opportunities. Some of them were cultivating pepper in home gardens and other lands out of the forest boundary. Apart from which, kithul tapping, paddy farming, commercial vegetable cultivation, beekeeping, tourism and trekking are some of the livelihood options available to the village community.  The project concentrates on livelihood activities familiar to the particular community and supports them to upgrade these, providing small inputs like technology, investment and the market opportunities. Livelihoods are different from place to place based on the resource availability, topography and socio-economic status. | Target achieved and exceeded.  835 individuals benefited from new sustainable alternative livelihood options, which is equivalent to 417% of the target. No new sustainable alternative livelihoods have been developed during this reporting period.  Furthermore, four new projects (including the Mannar strategic project) were approved in April 2021 after a delayed period due to the COVID-19 pandemic and started thereafter. They are expected to account for an additional 171 individuals during the next reporting period. |
| **The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:** | **On track** | | | | |
| **Evidence uploaded:** | **YES** | | | | |
| **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 2020** | **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 | 2 Strategic Projects are under implementation in the Knuckles and Colombo Landscapes.  Knuckles Landscape:  The Knuckles Strategic project includes establishment of 4 community-based organizations (CBOs) to strengthen the communities. 50 community members will be trained as leaders to lead and represent their communities in the CBOs. The community will be made aware of the soil conservation practices, water conservation and eco –friendly cultivation methods which could be used to increase yields of the paddy cultivations and home gardens. Both men & women will benefit from the project equally. The project proposes to develop the community by means of a family unit approach. Benefits and responsibilities of the project are equally distributed among both men and women. The project aims to complete 1,000 hectares of soil conservation and agro-ecology on 1,000 hectares. As for the up-scaling potential of this project the grantee is looking for private sector partnerships to establish market linkages for the agriculture produce. The grantee is also establishing 30 small women’s groups on micro-credit and knowledge sharing on conservation and through training hopes to disseminate this knowledge to the 13 Knuckles landscape projects. The final intention being to establish a women’s Knowledge bank in the Knuckles region  Colombo Strategic Project:  Project aims to restore 500 ha of abandoned paddy lands in four Gramasewaka Niladari (GN) Divisions in Homagama DSD through cultivating local paddy varieties while assisting to upscale other ongoing agriculture related SGP projects. In addition, organic vegetable cultivation is being promoted and a few farmer products, including dairy products, are to be introduced. The project also plans to empower women groups through introducing alternative livelihoods.  During the Maha cultivation season of 2019/20, approximately 115.5 acres (or 46 ha) of abandoned paddy lands that had not been cultivated for 10-20 years were prepared for cultivation by clearing the undergrowth and rehabilitating the canal system to maintain appropriate water levels in collaboration with 94 farmers belonging to 4 farmer organizations. A traditional paddy variety “Red Kurulu thuda” was planted. Selected farmers were provided training on the "parachute rice transplanting technique” at the Rice Research and Development Institute (RRDI), Bathalegoda, as this technique is said to be cost effective and has the potential to provide high yields per hectare of land. The trained farmers provided a practical training session for the farmers who were unable to participate the training in Bathalegoda. The project developed a good collaboration with the Department of Agrarian Services and Agricultural extension officers of each village are supporting the project. Regular meetings are held with farmer organizations to discuss and overcome issues about paddy cultivation.  Additionally, the Mannar Strategic Project is pending approval by the NSC. The project aims at restoring 3,000 hectares of wetlands in the Mannar district through tank rehabilitation. The project will also work on 500 hectares of soil conservation, 500 hectares of agro-ecology and 500 hectares of re-forestation. | Target on track. Three strategic projects to enable and facilitate upscaling of successful SGP-supported initiatives are supported.  The Knuckles landscape Strategic Project carried out by Ekabadda Praja Sanwardhana Kantha Maha Sangamaya (EPSKMS) has successfully completed its activities during this reporting period. Furthermore, they have also become finalists of the equator initiative. Key cumulative achievements from this project include:  • Rehabilitation of 1,000 hectares through soil conservation methods and the promotion of agroforestry.  • Establishment of a sales outlet selling women farmer societies’ products and those from other GEF-SGP supported projects. This outlet only sells pesticide-free and home-grown products.  • Establishment of a Women’s Knowledge Bank. EPSKMS facilitated the creation of a Women’s Cooperative (Kantha Balamandalaya) registered under the Women’s Knowledge Bank. The cooperative comprises 52 Women’s societies from Hettipola (Sithamu Kantha Govi Sanvidhana), that support approximately 2,000 women. The Knowledge Bank provides technical advice and support related to agriculture and strengthens the established women farmer societies through trainings. The establishment of the women’s cooperative looks to strengthen all farmer societies in the area, which are currently at different levels of productivity and management. The goal being for all of them to build their own organization and efficiently manage their finances, so that the dependency on grants to fund their activities will be reduced over time.  An article covering this project is available at: https://undpsrilanka.exposure.co/creating-sustainable-livelihoods.  The Colombo landscape strategic project is still under implementation. During the reporting period, the Human Development Foundation of Sri Lanka (HDFSL) achieved the following:  • Introduction of value- added products at the Colombo city Centre in August 2020 such as spices, dried fruits (breadfruit and jackfruit), Sri Lankan sweets, dry fish, kithul honey, jaggery, chutneys, pickles and other home and kitchen items such as self-woven rugs and kitchen baskets.  • A sales center, ‘Keth Roo’ selling produce collected from beneficiaries of the project was opened in February 2021. The sales center sells non-chemical produce cultivated on previously degraded and abandoned paddy lands in the surrounding Watareka wetlands area.  During this reporting period, the Mannar landscape Strategic Project was cleared and implementation started. This project is implemented by the Nature Conservation Foundation. It focuses on establishing proper mechanisms for adaptation to climate change and on enhancing the resilience of smallholder farmers to the impacts of climate change. This is being achieved through the rehabilitation of four medium scale tanks, the Kunchukkulam – Puthukkulam and Uvayadikkulam tanks within the Sinnakunchukkulam cascade, and by introducing sustainable water management practices for organic farmers in Kuchchukkulam Mathakirimamm villages, with the active participation of the community.  The main objective of the strategic project is to rehabilitate four tanks within the Sinnakunchukkulam cascade and a degraded wetland area of 1,100 hectares. |
| 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. | Target achieved in Colombo and Knuckles. The Strategic Project in Mannar is yet to be approved pending field verification and evaluation by the NSC, prior to approval.  Colombo Strategic Project – Total 252  The target has been achieved with 228 paddy farmers (191 men and 37 women) and 19 Koratu farmers (13 men and 6 women), while 2 members maintain plant nurseries and 2 women on home gardening in the Colombo Wetland Strategic Project.  Knuckles Strategic Project – Total 700  The Knuckles Strategic project impacts around 700 community individuals, 500 females and 200 males. There are 90 people in the community who directly benefit from agro-wells, irrigational canals, restoration of tanks and elephant fences, the activities as part of soil conservation, and land rehabilitation. 460 community members are engaged in home garden development, 40 in cash crops, 50 in spice crops and 60 in water supply benefactors. | The target has been achieved.  This target was achieved in 2020 for the Colombo and Knuckles landscapes.  Cumulative numbers of community representatives in each landscape having participated in the design and implementation of their respective scaling-up strategic project are as follows:  Colombo Strategic Project – Total 252 (204 men and 48 women)  Knuckles Strategic Project – Total 700 (200 men and 500 women)  The Mannar Strategic Project, which has been recently initiated in late-May, will involve a total of 335 community representatives. 60 individuals (40 women and 20 men) have been involved in the design and implementation stage, and 275 individuals (110 women and 165 men) will be involved and benefit from organic fertilizer production, converting bare home gardens into sustainable cashew plantation and the establishment of proper irrigation systems. |
| **The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:** | **On track** | | | | |
| **Evidence uploaded:** | **YES** | | | | |
| **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 2020** | **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 | SGP is now producing results on the work started on the ground in 2018. These good cases will be documented as policy briefs in October 2020 and shared with 3 multi-stakeholder policy governance platforms.  Since the presidential election happened in the beginning of the year and general elections last month the governance policy level persons have changed frequently. The General election happened just last month but after constitutional reforms in the next few weeks it is believed that there will be more stabilized governance structures.  SGP then will approach the key Ministers of the Colombo, Knuckles and Mannar landscapes and present the policy briefs where SGP work is documented whist highlighting key strategy SGP interventions by October 2020.  In the Mannar Landscape a key strategic policy intervention is by Ecological Association of Sri Lanka, which has completed mapping through GIS for the first time in Sri Lanka all the Sand dunes, mangroves and land use patterns of the coast of Mannar up to Jaffna. This is new data for the country and these findings have enabled to identify vulnerable and environmentally sensitive patches and have been documented including the dwarf mangrove which is recorded for the first time in Sri Lanka. Initial steps have been taken to inform the Forest Department and the Secretary Ministry of Environment in July 2020 to gazette this this site as a protected site. Steps were being carried out on this regard but after the General Election in August 2020 the line Ministries and Secretary have changed. Therefore after September 2020 SGP would have to again brief the new line Ministries the importance of gazetting the mangrove patch with the new found SGP data.  Due to COVID from the period March-August 2020 since SGP could not physically have policy level platforms due to social distancing and curfew restrictions SGP went on-line to initiate policy level awareness and information dissemination sessions in the 3 landscapes. The first such on-line platform was initiated on World Environment Day in June where Mr Mendis from Herpetological association through power point presentation via zoom spoke about the 7 new Species found in Knuckles and the importance of conservation. This webinar went live on UNDP Facebook page where several government officials, private sector, academic and civil society groups participated. The Private sector Dialog Axiata promised to fund Herpetological association with a weather gauge to help with further new discoveries. The special invite for this session was the Secretary of the Ministry of Environment.  For the Mannar landscape, Ecological Association did a similar presentation on the GIS mapping of the Mannar coast to Jaffna to inform government officials, academics, civil society organizations and UN agencies on the work in Mannar.  Such a similar zoom meeting policy platform will happen in September for the Colombo landscape as well.  These zoom meetings serve as information dissemination to policy and stakeholder platforms.  Knuckles Landscape Policy Forum  In the Knuckles landscape in October 2020 SGP will form the policy governance platform with the GA Knuckles and the Secretary to the Environment Ministry and other key stakeholders. The Environment Minister will also be briefed on SGP work and form a Knuckles Conservation Policy Governance Platform to sustain the work of SGP.  Colombo Landscape Policy Governance Forum  The National Wetland Committee Meeting is a national stakeholder dialogue comprising of key government officials, civil society that are working on protecting the Wetlands of Colombo. This will act as the policy forum in Colombo for SGP which is chaired by the Secretary Ministry of Environment. In 2019 three SGP grantees, Public Interest Law foundation, Emotional Intelligence and Wanansarna Thurulatha all made presentations on their work in the Wetlands. In August 2020 OARM, CEJ and Emotional Intelligence all SGP grantees made presentations on their work. It was decided at this meeting that SGP will share a policy document on the “wise use of wetlands” to be handed over to the Secretary Ministry of Environment in order to see where SGP projects can be synergized with the Colombo Wetland Plan.  Mannar Landscape Policy Forum  Similarly, in the Mannar landscape Ecological Association GIS mapping and SGP results will be documented in a policy brief and handed over to the policy forum which will comprise of the GA Mannar, Secretary Ministry of Environment and other key stakeholders in October 2020. | Target on track. The project established three multi-stakeholder governance platforms which convened at least twice each year and were institutionalized through formal agreements since work on this topic started in 2018.  During this reporting period, three policy dialogues were conducted and three policy papers were prepared for the three landscapes.  Colombo Landscape multi-stakeholder governance platform:  The Colombo landscape policy dialogue was held on the 23rd of February 2021 and the forum was organized with the participation of the relevant line ministries. The policy paper was also submitted for the landscape. Projects and lessons learnt were discussed on how to integrate into policy initiatives. Considerations of approaches such as converting abandoned paddy lands to non-chemical farming lands were made.  Mannar Landscape multi-stakeholder governance platform:  The Mannar landscape policy dialogue was held on the 17th of March 2021. Information supplied by the Ecological Association on the Map Atlas of Mannar was used to inform the relevant line ministries on land use, mangroves, sand dunes and sea grasses in the area. The GIS mapping of Mannar stimulated government officials to use this data to declare the area as an Environment Sensitive Area (ESA). The data was used to publish the dwarf mangrove patch that were cited for the first time in Sri Lanka in an official gazette.  Knuckles Landscape multi-stakeholder governance platform:  The Knuckles landscape policy dialogue was held on the 26th of March 2021. Data compiled by Herpetological Foundation Sri Lanka (HFSL) was used to inform the relevant line ministries participating in the forum. HFSL discovered 14 new herpetological species (nine snakes, one Skink, four amphibians), of which two of the new snake species were scientifically published. The policy paper was also submitted for the landscape. These discoveries and publications encouraged policy level discussions to promote biodiversity in the landscape.  Furthermore, during this policy dialogue, the Community Development Centre (CDC) headed by Ms. Damayanthi Godamulla developed a root and tuber cultivation project. It aimed at developing the cultivation of traditional varieties of yam and tuber varieties among villagers and increasing their incomes. This initiative was presented at the Knuckles policy dialogue. The project has been scaled up to over 18 villages benefitting over 2,000 people. Based on this successful experience, further recommendations were made in the policy paper to make policy interventions to upscale practices involving root and tuber cultivation projects.  The government ministry officials were encouraged to take steps in making the CDC project a national initiative. |
| 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. | Case studies are currently being developed by the Knowledge Management grantees in the landscape. There will be 12 projects documented in Knuckles 9 projects in Colombo and 7 projects in Mannar.  The Knowledge Management grantees in Knuckles and Colombo have initiated to document the good practices and lessons learnt of all projects. These case studies will be presented at a Symposium scheduled for mid-2021 where key stakeholders such as the government/private sector and civil society organizations will be invited. A publication will result from this symposium.  A communication strategy and a Knowledge management Strategy has been developed where SGP is closely working with the UNDP communication team to showcase good practices aiming at the government/ private sector and civil society.  A Zoom Webinar has been introduced where SGP had invited other UN agencies/ Government partners/ private sector and civil society organizations to learn about SGP initiatives in the field. The first such zoom Webinar was held on 5th June, where the work of the Herpetological Foundation of Sri Lanka and their new findings was shared via zoom Link: https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=1176825256002604  A newsletter “What’s Up” every 2 months is shared by the Knowledge Management grantees to showcase the highlights of the work done in the 3 landscapes  Link: http://gefsgpsl.org/MonthlyNewsletter.aspx  A series of newspaper articles covering the three landscapes on before, mid and after progress of the landscape has been published in the Sinhala newspaper Dinamina. | Target on track.  As projects are being completed, case studies for each project in each landscape are being developed by the knowledge management grantees in the landscape with 13 in the Knuckles landscape and 7 in the Colombo landscape are in their final draft stage. Case studies include highlights of the projects along with any lessons learnt.  Furthermore, 24 newsletters have been released since inception. During the reporting period, six bi-monthly newsletters were shared by the knowledge management grantees in the three landscapes to stage the work done by the project grantees within the three landscapes. |
| 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 | Several initiatives were taken to create awareness and knowledge of best practices to promote knowledge sharing events and capacity, covering the following number of participants:  1733 participants- 801 women and 932 men (Colombo)  197 participants- 60 women and 137 men (Knuckles)  50 participants- 137 women and 13 men (Mannar)  Colombo  Agricultural training programmes were carried out for Colombo based famers (https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Pjqn4e4kWz4ubRd5A9HzpSjtDTn4cQSW?usp=sharing) and awareness programme for sustainable waste management among community members  (https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UVUrD87zRY2-3p5zYez4sD6k7fsKWUVN?usp=sharing) were carried out. 29 participants 14 women and 15 men  A door to door awareness campaign on sustainable management of domestic waste, was held on 19th of February 2020 with the participation of Kolonnawa Youth.  A Disaster Management workshop was held on 21st of February 2020 at Gothatuwa Purana Raja Maha Viharaya with the participation of Kolonnawa youth and their parents. 20 participants  The final session of the awareness campaign for sustainable waste management and livelihood training was held on 20th February 2020 at Diyasaru Park. The programme which was organized by Surakshi (SRL/SGP/OP6/STAR/CD/2017/06), was conducted by Ms. Kanchana Weerakoon, president of ECO-V. Community members of GEF/SGP/UNDP Colombo wetland grantees participated in the event. At the end of the session, a bench was constructed at Diyasaru Park by using the Eco bricks that had been made by the participants, following a training at a prior session of the campaign.  19 participants- 14 women and 5 men  A workshop of environmental mediation organized by Center for Environmental Justice (CEJ: SRL/SGP/OP6/STAR/BD/2019/26) was held on 16th of January at the Center for Banking Studies, Rajagiriya. A collection of government officers including PHI officers, police officers, Grama Niladari, agricultural officers, and other government and public stakeholders had discussions to come up with solutions for wetland related issues.  30 participants  A two-day camp was held at Thalangama on 17th and 18th January with the participation of gold medalists of the Environmental Pioneers Programme conducted by the Central Environmental Authority.  150 participants- 63 women 87 men  “Sri Lanka NEXT - A Blue Green Era” Conference and Exhibition was held on 23rd and 24th October 2019 at the BMICH. Several GEF-SGP grantees displayed their products while creating awareness on environment and blue-green economy in order to achieve both economic and environmental sustainability of the country. Knowledge management teams of Knuckles & Colombo landscapes took part in educating the visitors about the environment conservation efforts behind the community products and the work carried out by GEF-SGP towards sustainable management and conservation of bio diversity of Sri Lanka.  500 participants  The programme, organized by Sri Lanka Land Reclamation and Development Corporation (SLLRDC) to commemorate the World Children's day 2019 was held at Diyasaru Park, Thalawathugoda from 1-6 th of October. Surakshi Gte. Ltd. acted as the coordinator between the grantees of GEF-SGPUNDP and SLLRDC. Grantees had exhibition and sales stalls displaying their products and project activities. The event highlighted the importance of protecting wetlands while providing a key opportunity for the kids to learn, experience and enjoy the wonders of urban wetlands.  585 participants- 235 women and 350 men  Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation – Asia Pacific Conference 2019 was held at MAS Athena, Thulhiriya on 10-13 September 2019. Many local & foreign scientists, researchers, environmentalists & university students participated to this event. Several GEF-SGP grantees displayed their community products such as rush & reed handy crafts, kitul based products and traditional yam based food items etc. Knowledge management teams of Knuckles & Colombo landscapes took part in educating the visitors about the environment conservation efforts behind the community products and the work carried out by GEF-SGP towards sustainable management and conservation of bio diversity of Sri Lanka.  250 participants  Lanka Social Ventures (LSV) launched their campaign, “My responsibility- think social, produce social, buy social” with the aim to promote and support entrepreneurship and innovation for social change and environmental sustainability. The event featuring an exhibition of social enterprises, discussions, information and guidance for social entrepreneurs, was held on 18th September at Arcade Independence Square. Several GEF-SGP grantees who are transforming towards social enterprises exhibited their products in this event.  150 participants  Knuckles  Eco –tourism Development Workshop was held at HARTI, Colombo on 7/11/2019for grantees (http://gefsgpsl.org/Workshop%20on%20Eco-Tourism%20Development%20for%20GEF-%20SGP%20Projects.aspx) and a Workshop on Eco- Tourism Activities for Knuckles Landscape Projects in Oak Ray Hotel in Kandy on 28 July 2019 (http://gefsgpsl.org/Workshop%20on%20Eco-%20Tourism%20Activities%20for%20Knuckles%20Landscape%20Projects.aspx)  21 participants- 7 women and 14 men  The 2nd Multi-Stakeholder Meeting was held on 1 August 2019 at District Secretariat in Matale (http://gefsgpsl.org/2nd\_Multi\_projects.aspx)  23 participants- 6 women and 17 men  Residential Workshop on Social Enterprise Formation was held at Sembuwatta Polo Bungalow, Elkaduwa on 30-01/09/2019(http://gefsgpsl.org/ResidentialWorkshop.aspx)  20 participants- 4 women and 16 men  “World Mountain Day 2019 National Celebration programme held at Kelebokka 360 viewpoint in Panwila DS division of the Kandy District on 10/12/2019 and all Knuckles grantees were given the opportunity to take part the even while UNDP GEF/SGP played a leading role together with District Secretariat office in Matale to facilitate the event. The programme was attended by several key government officials and SGP Knuckles grantees were given the opportunity to display their initiatives which gave visibility on the work done in the landscape. (http://gefsgpsl.org/World%20Mountain%20Day%202019.aspx)  A series of Zoom online meetings and webinars were conducted during Covid-19 lockdown period and following are some of the programmes;  20 participants  • Discussion on  Community Products  produced by GEF-SGP  Projects on 17/4/2020  • Progress Review and  COVID -19 Impact  Assessment Meeting on  16/5/2020  • Discussion on Display  Boards and  Communication  Materials on 22/5/2020  • A webinar on “How to  Identify Venomous  Snakes in Sri Lanka” on  31/5/2020 9.00-  • A webinar on “Central  Highlands World  Heritage Site of Sri  Lanka and Biodiversity”  on 31/5/2020  • Webinar on “Community  Health and Air Pollution”  on 6/6/2020  • Webinar on Air quality of  Sri Lanka and Air  Pollution” 7/6/2020  Rangiri Thakshanma Piyasa (SRL/SGP/OP6/STAR/LD/2018/23) published a book titled “Dumbara Udasiya Paththuwe Asparsheeya Sanskruthika Urumaya” (Cultural Heritage of the Knuckles Region) capturing traditional knowledge unique to the Knuckles area. There are some ancient villages located in the Knuckles area and the descendants of the original settlers of the area still lives today. The day to day knowledge they gathered through generation to generation on the topics such as agriculture, weather forecasting, rituals and healing methods have been captured in this book. Moreover, the book consists of knowledge on traditional medicine, traditional medical practices, folklore, mythology and information on ancient villages located in the Knuckles area.  GEF-SGP Sri Lanka was selected to showcase the restoration efforts carried out in the Knuckles landscape in the Flash Talk session at the Yale International Society of Tropical Foresters (ISTF) conference held on 1st of February 2020 at Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, New Haven, Connecticut, United States of America. National Coordinator of the GEF-SGP Sri Lanka participated to the Flash Talk session and made her presentation on Community Efforts in Conserving the Knuckles Forest Range under the Flash Talk theme Local Restoration.  50 participants  A workshop was held on “Eco- Tourism Activities for Knuckles Landscape Projects” on July 28, 2019 at Oak Ray Regency, Kandy. Grantee projects in the Knuckles landscape who had proposed eco-tourism related activities participated to the workshop. The workshop covered topics such as tourism in a global context, identifying unique experiences in the Knuckles region that could be offered to the tourists, good practices & standards of home stay operation etc.  23 participants- 4 women and 19 men  A multi stakeholder meeting was held on 01st of August 2019 at the Conference Hall, District Secretariat, Matale. All 13 Knuckles landscape projects, GEF-SGP officials, consultants and government officers from the District Secretariat, Divisional Secretariats & Forest Department participated to this meeting while Mr. I.D.P. Wijethilaka, Additional District Secretary, Matale chaired the meeting. All grantees presented on the progress of their projects and received individual comments.  20 participants  A two-day Residential Workshop was held in Sembuwatta Polo Bungalow, Elkaduwa Estate, Elkaduwa, Matale on 30th September 2019 and 01st October 2019. The GEF-SGP Projects of Knuckles Landscape presented on their future activities and a discussion was held on matters of achieving indicator targets of each project.  20 participants 4 women 16 men  Mannar  Zoological Student Association (ZSA SRL/SGP/OP6/Star/BD/2018/04), Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna organized cross learning visit for the beneficiaries of palmyra handy craft production from Kautharimunai on 23rd Feb 2020. They visited 3 women lead enterprises processing palmyra by-products in Mannar District which were initiated by UNDP during 2007, named Ilanthalir Palmyra by-production Center at Tharavankottai , involved in production of dried palmyra yam (Odiyal), pulp and fiber production and two palmyra handicraft production centers at Naruvilikulam  30 participants- 27 women and 3 men  One day training programme on management and maintenance of mangrove at the Mangrove Farm at Pallamadhu, Vidathaltivu, Mannar was held on 11th October 2019. 12 members from respective Fisheries Societies and Fisheries Unions of Valaippadu, and Kiranchi attended this training programme to protect their respective seascapes.  20 participants | Target achieved.  4,329 project stakeholder participants have actively engaged in analysis of project experience and landscape management and have participated in platform workshops and dialogues. A communication strategy has been developed and made operational.  During the reporting period, the additional 2,349 participants in platform workshops and dialogues were as follows:  671 participants- 280 women and 391 men (Colombo)  1,133 participants-632 women and 501 men (Knuckles)  87 participants- 23 women and 64 men (Mannar)  458 participants (Youth)  A Knowledge Management team for the Mannar landscape led by the Wildlife Research and Conservation Fund was established and a Capacity Development team lead by the Federation of Environmental Organizations for all three landscapes was also established. The objective of these teams is to offer a comprehensive package of knowledge management and capacity building, including raising awareness and capacity building through workshops, training and knowledge fairs, training NGOs in designing logical frameworks including realistic indicators to assess progress, designing systems to share knowledge and lessons learnt etc. for grantee partners.  During the reporting period, the following platform workshops and dialogues were organized:  Knuckles Landscape  The Knuckles landscape multi-stakeholder meeting took place on the 18th of February 2021 via Zoom platform, with 28 participants (21 men and 7 women). The meeting objective was to identify possible collaborative approaches between stakeholders in the context of operational phase 7 while addressing threats and issues to the Knuckles Conservation Forest and the buffer zone. Furthermore, a plan on how the indicators will be achieved was also developed.  Herpetological Foundation Sri Lanka (HFSL) conducted a workshop in June 2020 on knowledge sharing on protecting herpetological endemic species for strengthening the conservation status of the Knuckles landscape for 200 women and 300 men. HFSL also conducted a workshop in collaboration with Sri Lanka Environment  Exploration Society (SLEES) to increase knowledge on the identification of venomous snakes in Sri Lanka for 100 individuals (50 men and 50 women).  SLEES conducted two series of two-day residential workshops in July and September 2020 on Climate change adaptation and identification of community-based adaptation strategies for a total of 48 women and 47 men. SLEES was also involved in organizing a workshop on introducing and increasing knowledge on PGS certification for which 26 individuals took part (14 women and 12 men).  The Centre for Integrated Indigenous Knowledge Systems (CIIKS) conducted a training programme in June 2020 for 4 villagers (1 man and 3 women) on increasing the knowledge of these villagers on the methods of making string from Hemp leaves.  Ekabadda Praja Kantha Maha Sangamaya (EPKMS) conducted on-site training in November/ December 2020, on pruning techniques within their Mango plantation. This increased the knowledge of 30 women and 15 men. Furthermore, a training programme on improving kitchen management skills for Rural women benefitted 250 women.  Community Resource Protection Centre engaged 3 men and 3 women in January/ February 2021 in a workshop conducted to increase knowledge and skills on reed craft making in Meemure village.  Colombo Landscape:  The Colombo landscape multi-stakeholder meeting took place on the 15th of February 2021 via Zoom platform, with 12 participants (5 men and 7 women). Means of acquiring better maps for the Colombo wetlands along with possible avenues of working with the SLLDC on water quality monitoring projects was discussed. The need for a multi-stakeholder platform when taking decisions with respect to urban wetlands was highlighted and plausible suggestions were made to be implemented in operational phase 7.  Surakshi conducted an eco-friendly development workshop in May 2020, which 11 women and 7 men attended.  Emotional Intelligence and Life Skills (EILS). conducted a workshop in June 2020 on “How to make a short film” that benefitted 8 women and 22 men and an online home gardening workshop in June 2020 that engaged 16 women and 24 men. Furthermore, EILS also conducted a webinar in July 2020 on e-waste generation, its management and dangers that engaged 12 women and 18 men. Finally, EISL also organized 15 discussions between January and April 2021 via Zoom on subjects related to the environment and the wetlands that engaged 164 women and 246 men:  - Discussion on establishing a new mindset in the new year in January 2021.  - Discussion on Conquered challenges in January 2021.  - Discussion on new ways of moving forward in January 2021.  - Discussion named Ideas worth a million in January 2021.  - Discussion on protecting our wetlands in January 2021.  - National short film competition on “Let’s protect our wetlands” in February 2021.  - Discussion between the directors of the year’s short film competition and the winner in 2018, to share their experiences in February 2021.  - Discussion on the short film competition on protecting our wetlands with short film director Mr. Thisara Mangala Bandara in February 2021.  - Discussion on short film competition on protecting our wetlands, with Mr. Athula Disanayake (Award-winning program Director and Producer) in February 2021.  - Discussion on short film competition on protecting our wetlands, with directors who participated in the short film competition in March 2021.  - Discussion on short film competition on protecting our wetlands, with directors who participated in the short film competition in March 2021.  - Discussion on short film competition on protecting our wetlands, with the winning directors in March 2021.  - Discussion on identifying the snakes around us in March 2021.  - Discussion on the secret to living a healthy life in April 2021.  - Discussion on the truth behind conservation around snakes in April 2021.  The Centre for Environmental Justice (CEJ) conducted a roundtable discussion in July 2020 on current legal framework and the protection of South Asia’s first wetland city, Colombo, which engaged 10 women and 20 men. Furthermore, CEJ organized a follow up conference in December 2020 on the Colombo wetlands that engaged 25 women and 25 men.  Mannar Landscape:  A Mannar multi stakeholder meeting was held on the 16th of February 2021, via zoom, with 11 participants (8 men and 3 women). The issues and threats in the landscape as well as the potential geographical distribution of the projects to achieve the maximum possible impacts was discussed.  The Zoological Students Association conducted a training in August 2020 for 15 women to increase knowledge on palmyra pulp extraction and preservation.  VOVCD conducted a knowledge sharing program in October 2020 on mangrove restoration that engaged and benefitted 8 female and 4 male staff members of Non-governmental organizations in the Kilinochchi district.  The Turtle Conservation Project (TCP) conducted a tourist guide programme in March 2021 that benefitted 18 men. A tourist guide license will be issued by the Northern Province Tourism Bureau for all those participants who successfully completed the training course.  Youth:  In celebration of World Environmental day 2021, Power of Play Organization in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Environment Exploration society (SLEES) presented a famous Sri Lankan Folktale as an environmentally friendly story providing lessons on sustainability, co-existence and conservation with the primary objective of increasing awareness on climate change among youth. This activity was conducted in 4 sessions via Zoom, with live streams also conducted on Facebook and videos shared on YouTube as well. Each session was conducted each Saturday of the Month of June: 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th of June 2021, and engaged 458 youth, while the total participant count exceeded 1,000 individuals across the three platforms.  YouTube videos:  Day 1:  https://youtu.be/j1lRs0IGN20  Day 2:  https://youtu.be/8R15z3uekhI  Day 3: https://youtu.be/QZgnU7Wh\_\_0  Day 4: https://youtu.be/MySy6c4Jc3g |
| **The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:** | **On track** | | | | |
| **Evidence uploaded:** | **YES** | | | | |

# Implementation Progress



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 79.81% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 79.81% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June: | 1,992,845 |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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 |
| First Disbursement Date | Mar 31, 2017 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Jan 25, 2019 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | Jun 16, 2019 |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Apr 25, 2022 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Jan 25, 2021 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | Jul 25, 2022 |

|  |
| --- |
| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2020 to 1 July 2021)** |
| 2020-09-24 |
| 2020-12-30 |
| 2021-03-03 |
| 2021-04-22 |

|  |
| --- |
| **Project Manager: Please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones outlined in the above 'Key Project Dates' table. Include comments on COVID-19 related challenges, delays and impact. If there are no delays, please indicated 'not applicable'.** |
| During this reporting period, delays were experienced in receiving approvals for the projects implemented in the Mannar Landscape due to constraints caused by COVID-19 which were posed by the curfews and lockdowns that resulted in a lack of mobility. Additionally, progress of projects conducted in the Colombo landscape also experienced delays due to the continuous lockdowns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which prevented the ability to conduct group meetings, meet government officials and gather people to conduct necessary trainings. Furthermore, constraints due to the inability to conduct in-person field visits to review progress by projects was also experienced. |

|  |
| --- |
| **CO Programme Officer: Please include specific measures to manage the project's implementation performance** |
| In line with National Coordinator’s comment, delays were experienced in Project activities due to the challenges posed by COVID-19. This situation is expected to prevail for the remaining period of the project. As such, the project team is encouraged to work with NSC and grantees to review the ongoing activities and develop COVID responsive implementation plans for remaining work and further, to explore new ways of working to mitigate the risks posed on implementation in the “new normal”.  During the reporting period, a forensic audit was undertaken to address grievances received by UNDP against the GEF/SGP programme. The NC is advised to implement the recommendation made by the audit in consultation with the NSC. While the project has established a grievance redress mechanism which is a positive move towards addressing these challenges, the project should also take measures in strengthening its operationalization more systematically together with the NSC. Additionally, measures should be taken to strengthen transparency and accountability of GEF funds channeled through grantees through close monitoring and checks and balances. Moreover, the project should also pay continuous attention to social and environmental risks potentially emerging from NGO activities. NGOs should be made aware of identifying, minimizing and monitoring such social and environmental risks.  It has been observed that certain grantees tend to work with selected community groups besides engaging with a wider community group considering the social dynamics. This has risen due to inadequate social mobilization in the planning and implementation of project activities. Thus, the stakeholder engagement plan should be operational with a special focus on social mobilization. Further, the beneficiary selection process and information disclosure require more attention in the OP7 cycle. |

|  |
| --- |
| **NCE RTA: Please include specific measures to manage the project's implementation performance.** |
| During the previous reporting period, the project was granted a 18-month no cost extension until 25 July 2022, to compensate for delays in the start of the OP6 project, delays in the implementation a number of community level projects, and to allow the necessary time for consolidation of the results achieved to date and disseminate these in the three landscapes. Additionally, given the current situation with the COVID pandemic where social distancing and curfew remains in place, additional delays have been experienced with a number of grantee activities throughout the reporting period, especially in the Colombo and Mannar landscapes. The project team is encouraged to keep monitoring the progress made towards the remaining each end of project targets to be achieved, prepare an adaptive management plan to describe mitigation measures and to identify potential unavoidable delays or changes to the scope of the project interventions, and to keep the National Steering Committee, UNDP CO and RTA updated on any progress or challenges encountered.  With regards to the forensic audit which was undertaken during the reporting period, please refer to the Risk Section of this PIR. The UNDP RTA is currently overseeing the development of an implementation plan developed by UNOPS, Implementing Partner (Executing Agency), in close coordination with the UNDP CO with management actions that will not just strengthen the Sri Lanka program but also the SGP everywhere. The project team is encouraged to closely liaise with UNOPS and UNDP CO on its implementation. A number of actions, including the revision of the composition of the SGP National Steering Committee (see Governance section of this PIR), have already been addressed during the reporting period. The lessons learned from the audit findings will be used to strengthen the execution of the SGP Sri Lanka Programme while informing the new Operational Phase (OP7). |

# Project Governance

|  |
| --- |
| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021). Please also upload all meeting minutes using the FILE LIBRARY button.** |
| 2020-09-24 |
| 2020-12-30 |
| 2021-03-03 |
| 2021-04-22 |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Role** | **2021 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2021 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP-NCE Technical Adviser** | Moderately Satisfactory | Moderately Satisfactory |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Moderately Satisfactory | Moderately Satisfactory |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Role** | **2021 Overall Assessment** |
| **UNDP-NCE Technical Adviser** | This is the fourth PIR for the Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Sri Lanka. and the project is granted a rating of Moderately Satisfactory for both Development Progress (DO) and Implementation Progress (IP) as the project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure, with minor shortcomings. The evidence provided by the project team fully support reported progress in the DO progress section of the PIR. The current progress shown below, explains why the Regional Technical Advisor (RTA) and the UNDP Country Programme Office concur with a MODERATELY SATISFACTORY rating, which is slightly lower than the rating provided last year for the Development Objective, but in line with the MS rating for IP provided last year.  As one of the SGP Upgraded Country Programmes, SGP Sri Lanka has been adopting and promoting a community-based landscape approach in OP6 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.  During this fourth 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 41 community-based projects (13 in Knuckles including one Strategic Project, 10 in Colombo including one Strategic Project, and 11 in Mannar including one Strategic project, , 1 Knowledge Management in Knuckles, 1 Knowledge Management in Mannar and 1 Knowledge Management in Colombo and one Capacity building for the three landscapes and 3 projects that did the landscape strategies for each landscape), , 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, 27,760 ha across the three production landscapes have been brought under sustainable management practices conserving biodiversity and enhancing ecosystem services (139% of the objective-level target of 20,000 ha). Four new projects (including the Mannar strategic project) were approved in April 2021 after a delayed period due to the COVID-19 pandemic and started thereafter. They are expected to account for an additional 635 hectares during the next reporting period. With a total of 1,737 community members (707 women and 1,030 men) actively engaged in and benefiting from activities, the target to reach at least 250 beneficiaries in the Knuckles and Colombo landscapes (750 in total) has been achieved and exceeded. The target area of degraded lands in three project landscapes benefitting from land rehabilitation activities (target: 15,000) is also on track with 12,042 ha across the three production landscapes having been brought under sustainable land management and/or benefiting from land rehabilitation activities through community projects (80% 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 four new projects approved during the reporting period, including the Strategic Project in Mannar, which are expected to cover an additional 3,920 hectares towards this indicator, thereby fully achieving its EOP target.  The project is designed to enhance capacity of community organizations for landscape management for socio-ecological resilience through four 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 - Multi-stakeholder partnerships in three ecologically sensitive landscapes develop and execute management plans to enhance socio-ecological landscape resilience and global environmental benefits - 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 second reporting period in OP6. 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. The target of 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 has also been achieved. Two of the currently 12 formal agreements were signed during the reporting period. Through these agreements, 20,000 mangrove seedlings will be in the Mannar and Kilinochchi district lagoons that were previously damaged and degraded by the civil conflict; and both native and agroforestry tree species will be planted in the Knuckles Mountain range in Central Sri Lanka. One multi-stakeholder platform meeting has been held in each of the target landscapes during the reporting period (February 2021). Discussions involved identification of possible collaborative approaches between stakeholders in the context of the seventh operational phase of the GEF SGP while addressing threats and issues in each of the landscapes.  With regard to Outcome 2 - Community-based organizations in landscape level networks build their adaptive management capacities by implementing projects and collaborating in landscape management - project activities are on track through 31 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. During the reporting period, 27 projects have completed all their activities related to this target. In particular, 27 organizations are carrying out projects supporting biodiversity conservation on-the-ground, with current progress of 25,546 ha in the three landscapes (target: at least 17,500 ha). Reforestation activities have been carried out on a cumulative 2,214 ha by 17 organizations in the three landscapes (adjusted target based on MTR: 2,500 ha), and the four most recently approved projects are expected to add another 635 ha to achieve the EOP target. Rehabilitation activities for degraded wetlands have so far covered 6,864 ha through 18 projects (adjusted target based on MTR: 9,000; previously 3,000), and additional 2,240 ha are expected to be covered in the next months prior to project closure. The target related to carbon sequestration has been achieved with 650 hectares of forest cover lands set for aside for carbon sequestration. Additionally, nearly 600 ha of forest lands were conserved by establishing a fire belt to protect this land from annual bush fire. Land rehabilitation activities have been carried out on 2,582 ha through soil conservation methods, achieving this target during the reporting period (86% of the target), and an additional 1,055 ha are planned to be achieved during the next reporting period. Overall, 18 projects are promoting agro-ecological practices and systems, with progress on 2,596 ha so far (adjusted target based on MTR: 3,000), with the Community Development Center covering an additional 96 hectares through their work on establishing home gardens and disseminating seeds and planting material to households in the Knuckles landscape. Another 625 ha are expected to be covered during the next reporting period, Finally, 835 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 - Multi-stakeholder partnerships develop and implement projects that catalyze the adoption of successful SGP-supported technologies, practices, or systems - 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 target of supporting Strategic Projects in Knuckles, Colombo and Mannar landscapes is on track with the three strategy projects currently under implementation. However, some delays were experienced under this outcome during the reporting period, which contribute to a rating of moderately satisfactory for DO. The Mannar strategic project was finally approved towards the end of the reporting period and is currently under implementation, along with the Colombo strategic project. The Knuckles landscape strategic project was successfully completed during the reporting period. In the Knuckles Landscape, 700 community members (500 women and 200 men) directly benefited from activities such as establishment of agro-wells and irrigation canals, home garden development, and other land rehabilitation measures. About 1,000 ha of land have been rehabilitated through soil conservation methods and agroforestry. In the Mannar landscape, the strategic project has involved 335 community representatives during the reporting period. 60 individuals (40 women and 20 men) were involved in the design and implementation stage, and 275 individuals (110 women and 165 men) were involved in and benefitting from organic fertilizer production, converting bare home gardens into sustainable cashew plantations and the establishment of proper irrigation systems. In the Colombo Landscape, 252 farmers and gardeners (204 men and 48 women) have been engaged in the design and benefit from the strategic project (target achieved: 250 in each landscape). SGP is also exploring the possibility of upscaling best practices from mature SGP grantees outside of the strategic project modality (amount up to US$150,000) through capacity development and business model trainings. A number of these best practices have been disseminated during the reporting period through Exposure as photostories, including an article on the establishment of the women’s knowledge bank by Ekabadda Praja Sanwadhana Kantha Maha Sangamaya, published on Exposure: https://undpsrilanka.exposure.co/creating-sustainable-livelihoods. As also suggested in the CO overall assessment above, the project team is encouraged over the next few months prior to project closure, to finalize the development of case studies (20 case studies are currently in the final stage of development, 13 covering the Knucles landscape and 7 covering the Colombo landscape) 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 - Multi-stakeholder landscape policy platforms will discuss potential policy innovations based on analysis of project experience and lessons learned - on capacity building, policy influence and knowledge management, EoP targets are on track with minor shortcomings. As mentioned above, important steps were made by the project during the previous reporting periods 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. During this reporting period, three policy dialogues were conducted and three policy papers were prepared for the three landscapes. Projects and lessons learnt were discussed on how to integrate them into policy initiatives. In the Colombo landscape, considerations of approaches such as converting abandoned paddy fields to non-chemical farming lands were made. In the Mannar Landscape, information supplied by the Ecological Association on the Map Atlas of Mannar was used to inform the relevant line ministries on land use, mangroves, sand dunes and sea grasses in the area. The GIS mapping of Mannar stimulated government officials to use this data to declare the area as an Environment Sensitive Area (ESA). In Knuckles, data compiled by Herpetological Foundation Sri Lanka (HFSL) was used to inform the relevant line ministries participating in the forum. HFSL discovered 14 new herpetological species (nine snakes, one skink, four amphibians), of which two of the new snake species were scientifically published. The policy paper was also submitted for the landscape. These discoveries and publications encouraged policy level discussions to promote biodiversity in the landscape. Furthermore, during the Knuckles landscape policy dialogue, a project by women-led Community Development Centre (CDC) on cultivation of traditional yam and tuber varieties among villagers for increasing incomes was presented. The project has been scaled up to over 18 villages benefitting over 2,000 people. Based on this successful experience, further recommendations were made in the policy paper for policy interventions to upscale practices involving root and tuber cultivation projects.  While the multi-stakeholder governance platforms are currently functioning in the three target landscape, with three meetings conducted during the reporting period the project team is encouraged to strengthen such platforms during the next reporting period to take advantage of the approved project extension with the objective to integrate the landscape approach in local development planning.  As projects are being completed, case studies for each project in each landscape are being developed by the knowledge management grantees in the landscape. Furthermore, 24 newsletters have been released since inception. During the reporting period, six bi-monthly newsletters were shared by the knowledge management grantees in the three landscapes to stage the work done by the project grantees within the three landscapes. 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. 4,329 project stakeholder participants have actively engaged in analysis of project experience and landscape management and have participated in platform workshops and dialogues (target: 500). A communication strategy has been developed and made operational during the reporting period. The SGP team is commended for this effort.  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 Knowledge Management team led by the Wildlife Research and Conservation Fund and a Capacity Development team under the Federation of Environmental Organizations for all three landscapes was established. The objective of these teams is to offer a comprehensive package of knowledge management and capacity building including raising awareness and capacity building through workshops, training and knowledge fairs, training NGOs in designing logical frameworks with realistic indicators to assess progress, and designing systems to share knowledge and lessons learnt with grantee partners. Apart from multiple trainings workshops and exchanges in each of the landscapes, in celebration of World Environmental Day 2021, the Power of Play Organization in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Environment Exploration society (SLEES) presented a famous Sri Lankan Folktale as an environmentally friendly story providing lessons on sustainability, co-existence and conservation with the primary objective of increasing awareness of climate change among youth. This activity was conducted in four sessions via Zoom, with live streams also on Facebook and videos shared on YouTube. These sessions engaged 458 youth, while the total participant count exceeded 1,000 individuals across the three platforms. 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 regard to gender mainstreaming, SGP is highly recognized for 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 second 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, currently under implementation, 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 for SGP grants. Increased involvement and engagement are demonstrated within the SGP, which works with three women-headed NGOs in the Colombo landscape, one woman led project in the Mannar landscape and three women-headed projects in the Knuckles landscape, together benefitting a total of 1,058 people (624 women and 434 men). Furthermore, two of the three strategic projects to upscale community-led initiatives are led by women. This confirms SGP’s engagement with women-led groups who have reached key strategic heights in engaging with the government and private sector in regard to conservation and other issues. The Human Development Foundation heading the strategic project in the Colombo landscape has 316 beneficiaries, while Ekabadda Praja Kantha Maha Sangamaya of the Knuckles landscape has 507 beneficiaries of which 408 are women.  IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS  Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations, while cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays, contributing to a Moderately Satisfactory rating for Implementation Progress.  In regard to the timing of key milestones, the MTR was completed in June 2019 (originally expected in January 2019) and the SGP programme received a Satisfactory rating. As suggested in the IP rating section of the PIR, an extension, initially recommended by the MTR, cleared by the NSC and the RTA, was approved by the UNDP GEF Directorate during the previous reporting period. The 18-month extension will allow time for the project to implement the MTR recommendations before the Final Evaluation. With the extension until 25 July 2022, it is expected that the desired targets and results will be achieved. It will compensate for delays in the start of the OP6 project, delays in the implementation of a number of community level projects, and to allow the necessary time for consolidation of the results achieved to date and disseminate these in the three landscapes. Additionally, given the persisting situation with COVID-related impacts and restrictions, it has been a challenging task to do community work, especially in the Colombo and Mannar landscapes.  Cumulative disbursement as of June 30 against expected delivery as of this year was at USD 1,992,845 with a cumulative delivery of 79.81% against expected delivery as of this year, and against the total approved budget as per ProDoc, which is moderately satisfactory taking into account the upcoming revised closing date. Cumulative financial delivery is mostly on track, with minor delays experienced during the reporting period due to the COVID-19 pandemic as the implementation of community-based projects has been affected by COVID, as mentioned above. In particular, delays were experienced in receiving approvals for the projects implemented in the Mannar Landscape due to constraints caused by curfews and lockdowns that resulted in a lack of mobility. Furthermore, progress of projects conducted in the Colombo landscape experienced delays due to the continuous restrictions on movement and meeting, which prohibited meetings and hence affected group meetings, meetings with government officials and trainings.  Of the 41 community projects executed in GEF OP6, 27 have been successfully completed during the reporting period. Eight community projects are ongoing, of which four need more time as they have faced delays due constraints and restrictions posed by the COVID-19 pandemic that prevented these projects from completing project activities. The other 4 ongoing projects are the newly approved projects in the Mannar landscape including the Mannar strategic project that have just begun work in late-May 2021. Although the strategic projects in the Colombo and Knuckles landscapes have already been approved and are under implementation, it will require additional time to fully carry out activities and truly display the impact. The project team is encouraged to provide close monitoring and evaluation to grantees over the next few months, accelerating delivery leading up to project closure. The extension will allow the grantees to complete their projects smoothly and to demonstrate the results with strong evidence from the field, including the publication of all project systematizations and case studies.  With regards to risk management, management of risks is mostly on track, contributing to an IP rating of Moderately Satisfactory. In addition to the COVID risk mentioned above and reflected in the Atlas Risk Register, the PIMS+ Risk Rating reflects a moderate risk rating due to a forensic audit conducted during the reporting period. During the previous reporting period the UNDP Resident Representative in Sri Lanka received a complaint levied by the members of the Sri Lanka Nature Forum (SLNF) - a network of registered environmental organizations in Sri Lanka - against the UNOPS-executed UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme in Sri Lanka. The allegations of “Wrongdoing, Irregularities, Discrimination, Fraud and Injustice” were also directed to the Ministry of Environment (Secretary and Additional Secretary). As UNOPS implements the GEF SGP, with UNDP oversight, in Sri Lanka, UNDP immediately shared the allegations with UNOPS, the implementing partner (executing agency) for the project. During the reporting period, UNOPS IAIG (equivalent to UNDP OAI) undertook a remote forensic audit of the GEF SGP project in Sri Lanka. UNOPS, is currently finalizing the implementation plan in coordination with the UNDP CO, with management actions that will not just strengthen the Sri Lanka program but also the SGP everywhere. The lessons learned from the audit findings will be used to strengthen the execution of the SGP Sri Lanka Programme while informing the new Operational Phase (OP7). UNDP will continue to keep GEFSEC updated. In addition, in line with the recommendation made by the UNDP CO and the RTA in the last PIR, the project team established last year a grievance redress mechanism for identification, assessment, resolution and management of any complaints should be established both at national and sub-national levels to receive and address the grievances timely and in a transparent manner. The RTA concurs with the UNDP CO’s recommendation to ensure that the operationalization of such mechanism is strengthened, in coordination with the NSC. Finally, it is important to highlight that the overall risk rating and categorization of the project SESP has been revised from Low to Moderate during the reporting period, also in light of a more thorough review of the SESP conducted as part of the design of the Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Sri Lanka. While the UNDP CO and the project team are regularly monitoring the Risk Register which both COVID risks and other SESP related risks, the project team is requested to work closely with the UNDP CO and the RTA to ensure that such changes are also reflected in the SESP document before the end of the year.  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 of best practices, also exploring new partnerships with the private sector and the academia.  With regards to cofinacing, while new partnerships have been forged during the reporting period, the project is yet to achieve its full cofinancing goals ($3.3m), with $2.5m reported as leveraged cofinancing as of to date. The team is encouraged to continuously tracking cofinancing mobilized in the coming months as community-based projects are finalized, while following up with the original cofinanciers to ensure that the committed cofinancing materializes by the end of project implementation.  In regard to project and programme governance, while the NSC is actively engaged in the monitoring of the project - as reflected by the number of NSC meetings, four that took place during the reporting period – but as pointed out in the last PIR, the project board (SGP National Steering Committee) was deemed to need restructuring to comply with the SGP Operational Guidelines. During the reporting period, in consultation with the UNDP CO and HQ, the project team implemented measures to restructure the NSC in line with the Guidelines through a transparent process of nomination and selection of NSC members. The restructured NSC comprises a range of members from the private sector, academia, and NGOs, ensuring consideration of different perspectives, providing technical support and contributing to facilitating partnerships. As per GEF SGP Operational Guidelines, NSC members, including the Chair usually serve for a period of three years, renewable for another term. In general, periodically inviting new members is a sound and healthy policy that brings new ideas and expertise to programme implementation; as per the Guidelines, roughly one quarter of NSC members may rotate in any given year.  Finally, it is important to highlight that during the previous reporting period, SGP Sri Lanka has successfully mobilized OP7 resources, obtaining the OP7 endorsement letter from the GEF OFP for the total amount of $2,050,000, with a PPG under development during the reporting period. The OP7 ProDoc was submitted to the GEF Secretariat during the reporting period, and it will lead to an intensification of the landscape approach.  Final recommendations:  To sum up, the project is on track to deliver on its EoP indicators with minor shortcomings that are expected to be addressed during the next few months as the project move towards project completion. Acknowledging the concrete progress made this reporting period on the ground, moving forward in the next few months before project closure, the project has some strategic areas to be addressed in close coordination with the NSC and the UNDP CO.  A number of recommendations are suggested below for adaptive management in the remaining of the project period. The RTA is confident that these recommendations can be addressed before the closure of the project. 1) Closely liaise with UNOPS and UNDP CO on the implementation of the UNOPS implementation plan following the forensic audit conducted during the reporting period; 2) Following the results of the COVID impact assessment, prepare an adaptive management plan in response to the current COVID-19 pandemic. An adaptive management plan should be prepared to describe mitigation measures and to identify potential unavoidable delays or changes to the scope of the project interventions; 3) In line with the recommendation made by the UNDP CO, the SGP Country Programme should strengthen in coordination with the NSC, the operationalization of its grievance redress mechanism for identification, assessment, resolution and management of any complaints both at national and sub-national levels aimed at receiving and addressing the grievances timely and in a transparent manner; 4) Systematic documentation and dissemination of lessons learned through case studies, publications and other knowledge products. Taking into account the approved extension, it is expected that the SGP team will have time to complete the planned knowledge management (KM) products at the landscape level and the required dissemination to key stakeholders including authorities, academia and producers for replication and upscaling. It will be key for the project team to use the extension period effectively to promote the appropriation, exchange and dissemination of learning and knowledge, and the discussion of public policy applications at the regional and national level, building on the landscape level work that has taken place during the first two years. 5) SGP Sri Lanka should continue to liaise closely with the UNDP CO to strengthen partnerships and capitalize on potential for upscaling and replication through other FSPs. 6) Develop terms of reference as well as an exit strategy for the multi-stakeholder governance platform envisaged by the project to be reviewed during NSC meeting; 7) Tracking project level co-financing; 8) Completing the ongoing project activities; and 8) Carrying out the Terminal Evaluation including the development of the management response. |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | 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 of effectively supporting the achievement of global environmental benefits and safeguarding of the global environment. The programme approach includes community and local solutions that complement and add value to national and global level action. The operational closure of the Project was due on the 25th January 2021. The Project, however, received a one and half year extension and, is, therefore, now in its final year of implementation.  The Project comprises four (4) outcomes that are designed to improve socio-ecological resilience in the three selected landscapes and apply lessons from and replicate the COMDEKS approach. This 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 significant progress towards achieving its goal, objective and outcomes despite enormous challenges posed by COVID 19 as explained in the PIR. Thus far, it has supported 30 small grants projects, 3 strategic projects, 3 knowledge management projects and 1 capacity building project. These projects have been delivering direct benefits for 1,737 beneficiaries (707 female and 1,030 male) so far; while the Strategic Projects have benefitted an additional 952 community members (548 females and 404 males). With this cumulative progress, the project has achieved/exceeded or is on track in a majority of the indicators in line with the project’s result’s framework. Furthermore, three new projects were approved on the 22 April 2021 after a long delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic, along with the Mannar Strategic Project, which has been on hold for nearly one year owing to a forensic audit, which was initiated in July 2021. These selected grants serve government priorities that encompass their vision for development, addressing biodiversity, climate change and land degradation issues of global conventions such as the UNCBD, UNFCCC and the UNCCD respectively to which Sri Lanka are signatories. The project has specifically contributed to the government’s new policy on the promotion of ecological agriculture through pilot testing of ecological/organic agriculture and soil conservation practices.  While the project has taken certain measures in ensuring sustainability, such as the capacity building of communities, promoting entrepreneurship to encourage diverse sources for continued funding and upscaling of initiatives, the project is strongly advised to look into a sustainability mechanism for the grant projects in this cycle. Some potential strategies involve strengthening partnerships with the private sector, exploring new markets, increasing capacity building, etc. The project is encouraged to look into the sustainability of GEF Cycle 6 by linking the initiatives with GEF Cycle 7 by way of scaling up ongoing interventions. Further, the project could explore possibilities to link up with other ongoing UNDP or other donor-funded projects in the selected landscapes. For example, the GEF 6 “Managing Together” project and the GCF funded Integrated Water Management project that is currently being implemented in the Mannar Landscape and UNDP’s Biofin/Sustainable Tourism projects for biodiversity financing and ecotourism are some projects that SGP could collaborate with.  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. In 2021, the project team in consultation with UNDP CO and HQ made measures to reshuffle the National Steering Committee (NSC) in line with GEF/SGP operational manual through a transparent process. The reshuffled NSC is represented by a range of members such as the private sector, academia, and NGOs, which bring different perspectives and experiences to the table, adding value to the project in strengthening partnerships further and providing high-level technical inputs. The level of engagement of government officials is also at a satisfactory level. The engagement of officials representing the Ministry of Environment, the IP, with the project, is at a satisfactory level. This involves active participation in the NSC meetings and joining field monitoring and grievance redress missions. This has allowed the strengthening of government ownership during SGP 6 compared to previous SGP cycles. The project is encouraged to maintain this positive relationship further. However, the efforts in forging partnerships with the private sector could be further strengthened. Therefore, it is recommended to establish a private sector engagement plan to strengthen the sector’s involvement in scaling up.  The Project has taken measures to communicate its results and create visibility of SGP’s mission regularly through different communication strategies which involves print, digital and social media. The project has reached many stakeholders and a range of demographics in the general public through innovative communication and storytelling approaches. One such example is the bi-monthly newsletter that is shared by the knowledge management groups in each landscape. The project has also enhanced the environmental literacy and climate change awareness of children and young people through local folktales delivered online as theatrical and puppet performances. Others include photo essays on the grant recipients and their work, feature stories in print and regular social media content. However, given the project is in its final stage of implementation the project should now focus on strategizing project’s advocacy to influence provincial and local planning to integrate landscape approach in local development planning.  The project has taken measures to ensure gender equity in many different ways such as in the beneficiary selection, participation, capacity building, etc. for the project activities. However, more capacity building and awareness-raising are required amongst grantees to make sure that gender and inclusion are adequately mainstreamed in all project activities and reporting as the project has the potential to create transformational change through its work.  During the reporting period, a forensic audit was undertaken to address grievances received by UNDP against the GEF/SGP programme. NC is advised to implement the recommendation made by the audit in consultation with the NSC. While the project has established a grievance redress mechanism which is a positive move towards addressing these challenges, the project should also take measures in strengthening its operationalization more systematically together with the NSC. Additionally, measures should be taken to strengthen transparency and accountability of GEF funds channeled through grantees through close monitoring and checks and balances. Moreover, the project should also pay continuous attention to social and environmental risks potentially emerging from NGO activities. NGOs should be made aware of identifying, minimizing, and monitoring such social and environmental risks.  It has been observed that certain grantees tend to work with selected community groups besides engaging with a wider community group considering the social dynamics. This has risen due to inadequate social mobilization in the planning and implementation of project activities. Thus, the stakeholder engagement plan should be operational with a special focus on social mobilization. Further, the beneficiary selection process and information disclosure necessitate more attention in the OP7 cycle.  Most importantly, the project should focus on leveraging its strategic projects to build synergy and coherence of individual grant projects to achieve landscape objectives. In this light, the project should develop a plan for more strategic policy interventions through the policy groups established at landscape levels.  In summary, project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings as explained above. Further, the implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations due to the delays experienced in certain areas. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well in overall. With this background, DO rating is given as (MS) Moderately Satisfactory and IP rating is given as (MS) Moderately Satisfactory. |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | To date, SGP Sri Lanka has supported 41 total projects: 31 small grants projects, 3 strategic projects, 3 knowledge management projects, 1 capacity building grantee and 3 landscape strategy projects. The small grants projects have been generating direct results for 1,737 beneficiaries (707 female and 1030 male) so far while strategic projects have been generating direct results for an additional952 beneficiaries (548 females and 404 males). Strategic projects’ main objective is to bring SGP initiatives and best practices to policy level discussions. Furthermore, the completed and on-going projects support the protection of the environment through community and local solutions, while allowing beneficiaries to enjoy consequent environmental benefits in the Knuckles Conservation Forest and its buffer zone, the coastal regions from Mannar island to Jaffna and the Colombo Wetlands. Projects implemented so far have resulted in the achievement of over 27,760 hectares of sustainably managed production landscapes that conserve biodiversity and enhance ecosystem services. This include 650 hectares of forest for carbon storage (Indicator A), 12,042 hectares of 15,000 hectares target under sustainable land management benefiting from land rehabilitation activities is on track to be achieved by the next reporting period (Indicator B). Moreover, with the occurrence of the x-press Pearl maritime disaster near the coasts of Sri Lanka, the project has allocated a fund to be provided to two projects focusing of risk communication and alternate livelihood development in affected communities in relation to wetland rehabilitation. Furthermore, the target of at least 250 stakeholders actively engaged in and benefiting from local project activities for each landscape (Indicator C) has been achieved for the Knuckles and Colombo landscapes, while the target for the Mannar landscape is on track to be achieved in the next reporting period.  End-of-projects targets were achieved for Outcome 1:  A Multi-stakeholder working group on landscape planning and management organized and a comprehensive socio-ecological baseline assessment for each landscape (indicator 1.1) have been established in three ecologically sensitive landscapes. The multi-stakeholder working groups of each landscape comprised of the nominee of the District Secretary’s office, academia, relevant government stakeholders and civil society have successfully engaged in discussions and have been involved in the preparation stage of operational phase 7 (OP7). The groups developed and executed management plans to enhance socio-ecological landscape resilience and achieve global environmental benefits in each landscape.  Furthermore, three landscape management strategies (indicator 1.2) have been prepared, reviewed, and approved by the Small Grants Programme (SGP) National Steering Committee in 2017. They are currently under implementation in each of the three landscapes. Main expected outcomes of the strategies are the protection and restoration of sensitive ecosystems and habitats. Other key strategies include preventing further degradation of natural resources, adhering to sustainable land use practices in preserving and enhance agro-biodiversity and productivity, improving local livelihoods through eco-friendly community-based enterprises, and boosting the knowledge and capacity of the community and local institutions to increase resilience. All projects have directed their activities in line with the recommendations of the 3 strategies.  Landscape specific typologies of community level projects and eligibility criteria for the three landscapes were formulated by multi-stakeholder groups and used when calling for concepts for the three landscapes (indicator 1.3). 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.  The target of at least 10 formal agreements between community organizations and other partners in each landscape (indicator 1.4) was achieved with a total of 12 agreements signed as far. During this reporting period, two new formal agreements with One tree planted were established by Vulnerable Community Development (VOVCD) and Ekabadda Praja Kantha Maha Sangamaya (EPKMS) that are involved in reforestation efforts in the Mannar and Kilinochchi lagoons and the Knuckles Mountain range. respectively.  Significant progress has been done towards outcome 2 end of project targets. Indeed:  27 projects have brought 25,546 hectares under protection or sustainable use for biodiversity conservation or improved ecosystem function across the three landscapes, exceeding the target of 17,500 hectares (indicator 2.1). In addition, 2,214 hectares have been reforested or regenerated by 17 organizations within the 3 landscapes, with the target of 2,500 hectares on track to be achieved in the next reporting period (indicator 2.2).  18 projects have yielded to the rehabilitation of 6,864 hectares of wetlands, with the target of 9,000 hectares on track to be achieved in the next reporting period (indicator 2.3). Furthermore, 650 hectares of forest cover has been set aside for carbon sequestration (indicator 2.4). Similarly, 14 projects have carried out land rehabilitation with best practices and soil conservation and agroforestry measures on 2,582 hectares, with the target of 3,000 hectares on track to be achieved in the next reporting period (indicator 2.5). Regarding indicator 2.7, 19 projects contributed towards bringing 2,596 hectares of agricultural land under agro-ecological practices and systems that increase sustainability and productivity and conservation of crop genetic resources, with the target of 3,000 hectares on track to be achieved in the next reporting period.  Over 800 community members are benefiting across the three landscapes from projects promoting sustainable alternative livelihood options and increase in productivity (indicator 2.8). Most livelihoods activities are still ongoing. They focus on farming, and eco-tourism related occupations and increase in agricultural productivity. Key commodities promoted include Knuckles pepper, turmeric and Kithul Treacle (Jaggery). Non-chemical paddy and recycling and reuse products are promoted in the Colombo landscape. SGP is also supporting farmers to obtain the GAP (Good Agricultural Practice) certifications for these products.  Significant progress was made towards achievement of Outcome 3, and most targets of this outcome have been achieved during the reporting period.  Three strategic projects have been implemented in the Knuckles, Colombo and Mannar landscapes (Indicator 3.1). The Knuckles and Colombo Strategic projects that were under implementation in the last reporting period have progressed well. The Knuckles strategic project has been completed with the rehabilitation of 1,000 hectares through soil conservation methods and the promotion of agroforestry, the establishment of a sales outlet selling Women’s farmer societies products and those from other GEF-SGP supported projects and established a Women’s Knowledge Bank comprised of 52 Women's societies from Hettipola (Sithamu Kantha Govi Sanvidhana), that support approximately 2,000 women. This project has also become a finalist at the equator initiative.  The Colombo landscape strategic project is still under implementation. During the reporting period, the Human Development Foundation of Sri Lanka rehabilitated 500 hectares of wetland and protected 100 hectares for biodiversity conservation. Furthermore, in August 2020, the project introduced new products such as spices, dried fruits, Sri Lankan sweets, dry fish, kithul honey etc. and opened a sales center, “Keth Roo” that sells non-chemical produce cultivated on previously degraded and abandoned paddy lands in the surrounding Watareka wetland area, that have been collected from the beneficiaries of the project.  The Mannar strategic project, following the completion of the forensic audit report during the reporting period, was cleared for approval. Implementation started during the reporting period. This project is rehabilitating the Kunchukkulam – Puthukkulam, Uvayadikkulam and Elukkulam tanks within the Sinnakunchukkulam cascade, which is rehabilitating 1,100 hectares of degraded wetland. The project is conducting reforestation activities on 500 hectares. Furthermore, this project contributes 750 hectares in land rehabilitated through best practice soil conservation measures and an additional 500 hectares towards agro-ecological practices through the development of home gardening of organic cashews. Furthermore, the Mannar strategic project is also establishing notice boards in Mannar and open a sales outlet in the region.  So far, at least 250 local community representatives in the Knuckles and Colombo landscapes have participated in the design and implementation of the strategic project (indicator 3.2). The target for the Mannar landscape will be achieved in the next reporting period through the approved Mannar strategic project.  Significant progress has been done towards outcome 4 end of project targets:  Three multi-stakeholder platforms involving high-level government officials through the focal Ministry for Environment, the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment met at least twice a year to first review the projects and evaluate the progress of projects in the landscape (indicator 4.1). This feature is a decision-making body in the landscape which provides guidance and transparency in the landscape level. Furthermore, three policy dialogues have been conducted for the three landscapes to prepare three policy papers. The Colombo policy forum discussed how to integrate the lessons learnt from projects into policy initiatives. The Mannar policy forum discussed GIS mapping, which brought government officials to use this data to declare the area as an Environment Sensitive Area (ESA). Data were also used to publish the dwarf mangrove patch that were cited for the first time in Sri Lanka in an official gazette. The Knuckles policy forum encouraged policy level discussions to promote biodiversity in the landscape. The Community Development Centre’s roots and tuber cultivation project was discussed and encouraged to be implemented as a national initiative.  Furthermore, as all projects are being completed, case studies for all the projects in each landscape are being developed by the knowledge management grantees in the landscape (Indicator 4.2). The results will be showcased in a symposium by the end of December 2021. Additionally, a bi-monthly newsletter is being shared by the knowledge management groups to stage the work done by the projects in each landscape.  Finally, over 2,000 project stakeholder participants have actively engaged in the analysis of project experience, landscape management and participated in platform workshops (indicator 4.3), with numerous initiative conducted to increase awareness and share knowledge of best practices to promote knowledge sharing events and capacity.  Way forward and next steps:  All outcomes are on track to be achieved in the next reporting period. The end of project targets on reforestation, wetland rehabilitation, land rehabilitation through soil conservation and agroforestry and agro-ecological practices, improved agricultural sustainability and productivity will be reached thanks the activities conducted by the four newly approved projects. They will contribute a total of 635 hectares in reforestation, 2240 hectares in wetland rehabilitation, 1055 hectares in rehabilitated land through soil conservation measures and 625 hectares in Agro-ecological practices.  Co-financing and partnerships:  During this reporting period, two formal cooperative agreements between Ekabadda Praja Kantha Maha Sangamaya and Voluntary Organization for Vulnerable Community Development with One Tree Planted were established. Each agreement involved in-cash contributions from One Tree Planted, USA of USD $16,000. Furthermore, in this reporting period, the Sri Lanka Turtle Conservation Project received a grant of USD $50,000 from the Resilience in Wildlife Community Grant by the Lion’s Share fund led by the UNDP. This was given as the SLTCP initiative which demonstrated innovative local-level action to increase resilience and well-being of communities against external shocks on reducing impacts of destructive fishing practices in coastal habitats while increasing income- generation opportunities to local communities in the Vidathaltivu area.  The program co-financing so far is as follows:  • Sri Lanka Nature Forum (SLNF) has committed USD $1,000,000 in-kind and USD $1,100,000 in-cash at the beginning of the program – So far received to date is USD $1,112,579.59 in-kind and USD $538,138.45. in-cash.  • UNDP has committed USD $100,000 in-cash and $400,000 in-kind – so far received to date is USD $100,000 in-cash and USD $50,000 in-kind.  • Ministry of Environment has committed USD $700,000 in-kind – not captured to date.  • Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation has provided USD $700,000 in-kind.  Knowledge Management:  SGP partnered with three Knowledge Management groups: one group in each landscape that work on Knowledge Management products in their respective landscapes. Case study for each OP6 project is being developed by each grantee together with the respective Knowledge Management group, docume. nting projects’ results in each landscape and how they all contributed towards the landscape approach. This is done in collaboration with the UCP Global Coordinator and Technical Advisor and Knowledge Management Consultant. These case studies will showcase best practices and lessons learnt from projects and are expected to be published and disseminated during a symposium being held to communicate these results by October 2021. Moreover, the Knowledge Management Grantees in the landscapes have continuously contributed towards the bi-monthly “What’s Up” Newsletter that has been launched in June 2018. This newsletter provides updates on SGP Sri Lanka. The 4th volume is currently being published. A comprehensive communication and Knowledge Management strategy was developed in the last reporting period and SGP is working closely with the communication expert in the UNDP Team to implement this strategy. The UNDP CO Communication Team works closely with SGP Sri Lanka to share lessons learnt to stakeholders such as NGOs, private sector and government and policy makers. Success stories have been highlighted on the respective SGP and UNDP websites. An example is the article on Renuka’s organization, Ekabaddha Praja Kantha Maha Sangamaya, forming the first ever Women’s knowledge bank.  https://undpsrilanka.exposure.co/creating-sustainable-livelihoods  Gender mainstreaming:  Regarding 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 was completed. SGP Sri Lanka is working on implementing the recommendations which include empowering women, building their capacity and giving them representation through gender mainstreaming work done by the women strategic projects, increased women representation within the National Steering Committee and the development of the Women’s knowledge bank.  There are multiple concrete outcomes arising from the implementation of this strategy. Ms. Damayanthi Godamulla, a SGP grantee, won the trail blazer in social services award for the project implemented by the Community Development Centre on the development to the cultivation of traditional yam and tuber varieties among villagers and increasing their incomes.  In addition, representation of women-led organizations has increased (7 SGP projects are being led by women). In fact, 2 of the 3 strategic projects are also led by women. Furthermore, a women’s knowledge management team has also being developed that provides technical advice, support related to agriculture and strengthens the established 52 women’s farmer societies that support approximately 2,000 women through trainings in micro-credit finance accounting, bookkeeping etc. Furthermore, the roots and tuber cultivation project headed by Ms. Damayanthi Godamulla that mostly engages women beneficiaries is under discussion with the Ministry of Backward Rural Area Development and Promotion of Domestic Animal Husbandry and Minor Economic Crop Cultivation to be implemented in 3 districts of Sri Lanka.  Delivery:  As of 30 June 2021, the cumulative disbursement is USD $1,992,845, which corresponds to 79.81% of the total budget of US$ 2,497,078. The project was extended in June 2020 up to June 2022 due to the COVID situation in the country.  COVID-19 pandemic-related challenges, delays, impact and adaptive measures implemented:  The pandemic and its consequent inability to meet in-person caused delays in receiving approvals for the latest projects approved by the NSC in the Mannar landscape. Moreover, the pandemic caused delays in progress achieved by projects in the Colombo landscape due the constraints posed by the continuous lockdowns experienced. Finally, conducting physical verification of work done by the projects in all landscapes was a challenge due to the risk of spreading the virus and travel restriction in place with the 3rd wave of COVID-19. This was overcome by conducting virtual verification via Zoom platform, where videos and images on activities conducted were showcased. Further verification was also conducted by three field coordinators in each landscape.  SGP rapidly responded to the maritime disaster that took place in the country by working closely with UNDP to potentially allocate some of remaining grant funds to support projects aimed at providing relief support to subside effects to the seascape and also to support in risk communication and building up alternative livelihoods in the two seascapes (Colombo and Mannar). Further actions in this area will be reported in the next reporting period. |
| **GEF Operational Focal point** | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| **Project Implementing Partner** | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| **Other Partners** | *(not set or not applicable)* |

# Gender

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

|  |
| --- |
| **1) 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.** |
| [Creating sustainable livelihoods by UNDP Sri Lanka - Exposure-.pdf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5529/214209/1748829/1786118/Creating%20sustainable%20livelihoods%20by%20UNDP%20Sri%20Lanka%20-%20Exposure-.pdf) |

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

|  |
| --- |
| **2) 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 |

|  |
| --- |
| **3) 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.** |
| Achieving gender equality through women’s empowerment is integral to the Sustainable Development Goals. Fulfilling gender equality is the best chance we have in meeting some of the most pressing challenges of our time, from economic crisis and poor health care, to climate change, violence against women and escalating conflicts. Women are not only more affected by these problems, but also possess ideas and leadership to solve them. Increased involvement and engagement is demonstrated within the SGP which works with three women-headed NGOs in the Colombo landscape, one woman-led project in the Mannar landscape and three women-headed projects in the Knuckles landscape, together benefitting a total of 1,058 beneficiaries (624 women and 434 men).  Ekabadda Praja Kantha Maha Sangamaya (EPKMS) was involved with the establishment of a Women’s Knowledge Bank. 52 women’s societies from Hettipola (Sithamu Kantha Govi Sanvidhana) formed a Women’s Cooperative (Kantha Balamandalaya) registered as the Women’s Knowledge Bank under the facilitation of EPSKMS. The Knowledge Bank provides technical advice and support related to agriculture and strengthens the established women’s farmer societies through trainings. Ms. Renuka, head of EPKMS, with a background in micro-credit finance, hopes to diversify and reach a larger audience and further share her knowledge on the importance of saving through the Knowledge Bank. The establishment of the women’s cooperative looks to strengthen all farmer societies in the area which are currently at different levels of productivity and management. The goal is for all of them to build their own organization and efficiently manage their finances, so that the dependency on grants to fund their activities will decrease overtime. To this end, trainings are being organized through the Knowledge Bank to help these societies understand how to maintain records and establish an information database, allowing for increased women’s involvement in agriculture and entrepreneurship.  Additionally, the Women’s Knowledge Bank also creates links with the local Grama Seva Bank to support female entrepreneurs. EPKMS was also involved in training rural Women in the management of kitchens through awareness raising and consultations on best practices to be conducted within kitchens. This helped 250 beneficiary women to manage their kitchens through awareness-raising and consultations.  The Community Development Centre headed by Ms. Damayanthi Godamulla won the best “trail blazer award in social services” for her project. She developed a root and tuber cultivation project aimed at developing the cultivation of traditional yam and tuber cultivars among villagers and increasing their incomes. The project has expanded to over 18 villages benefitting over 2,000 people. She is creating awareness of the nutritional value of indigenous tubers and is involved in discussions with the Ministry of Backward Rural Area Development and Promotion of Domestic Animal Husbandry and Minor Economic Crop Cultivation who is working with the Community Development Centre to spread the initiative throughout the three districts of Sri Lanka. The spread of this initiative would provide training and aid in the dissemination of knowledge as well as propagate the tuber varieties around the country, allowing more women to be involved in conservation activities. Additionally, her work also involved the promotion of soil conservation methods and agroforestry, the conservation of crop genetic resources, marketing of underutilized crops and the reduction of human-wildlife conflict.  The Urban Fishing Cat Conservation Project conducted by the Small Cat Advocacy and Research group is led by a woman activist and researcher. This project is involved in conducting research on the ‘urban fishing cat’ which is found in the Colombo Wetland and is an endangered species. This research will add to new knowledge at global level for the first time on the movement and habitat of the species, including breeding and feeding of the young.  The women-headed Soba Kantha Environmental Management and Community Development Foundation was involved in the introduction of new fishing techniques and no-fishing zones to curtail excessive fishing in the Thalaimannar Pier Coastal area across 131 hectares and to introduce environmentally friendly techniques to promote dry fish production to ensure sustainability among low-income fishing. This project benefited 60 women.  Furthermore, two of the three strategic projects to upscale community-led initiatives are led by women. This recognizes the project’s engagement with women-led groups that have reached key strategic heights in engaging with the government and private sector in addressing conservation issues. The Human Development Foundation, heading the strategic project in the Colombo landscape, has 316 beneficiaries, while Ekabadda Praja Kantha Maha Sangamaya of the Knuckles landscape has 507 beneficiaries of which 408 are women.  For more information, please see: Trail blazer award: https://twitter.com/UNDPSriLanka/status/1369228387143671810?s=20 and:  EPKMS article: https://undpsrilanka.exposure.co/creating-sustainable-livelihoods  The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the delay of progress made by the Women’s Knowledge Bank. Due to the inability to conduct in-person training and knowledge sharing events and the lack of infrastructure in most rural households for conducting virtual trainings, it has been a challenge to provide training on micro-credit finances, accounting, bookkeeping and to provide agricultural advice to the members of the 52 women’s organizations. |

|  |
| --- |
| **4) Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.** |
| GEF SGP is working to mitigate the gender gap in the three landscapes and always encourages the participation of women. It has been understood that women’s empowerment can be easily achieved by enabling women entrepreneurs with financial stability and recognition. In fact, it is considered from the beginning itself, where the Project Document has given due priority to mainstreaming gender and social inclusiveness into the project through outcomes, outputs and indicators and is complemented and supported 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.  Furthermore, during the pandemic, it is observed in the SGP projects that women-led projects that were involved in initiatives such as online sales outlets, dissemination of micro-credit finance schemes etc., were more resilient to the impacts of COVID-19. |

# Risk Management

## A) Review of Risks outlined in Risk Register and PIMS+ risk tab

|  |
| --- |
| **NCE RTA:**  Please provide an assessment of project risk management (including risks reported in  Risk Register and risks included in the project’s risk tab in  PIMS+ ) undertaken in the reporting period  and summarize the key risk management measures to be taken in the coming year. This text will be pulled into the risk management action plan in this project’s risk tab in PIMS+. |
| Management of risks is mostly on track, contributing to an IP rating of Moderately Satisfactory. While the Risk Register is monitored regularly by the project team and the UNDP CO, the project team is recommended to keep implementing mitigation measures for relevant risks, until the project ends. In addition to the new COVID risk reflected in the Atlas Risk Register, the project’s risk tab in PIMS+ reflects a moderate risk rating, related to a forensic audit conducted during the reporting period.  During the previous reporting period the UNDP Resident Representative in Sri Lanka received a complaint levied by the members of the Sri Lanka Nature Forum (SLNF) - a network of registered environmental organizations in Sri Lanka - against the UNOPS-executed UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme in Sri Lanka. The allegations of “Wrongdoing, Irregularities, Discrimination, Fraud and Injustice” were also directed to the Ministry of Environment (Secretary and Additional Secretary). As UNOPS executes the GEF SGP, with UNDP oversight, in Sri Lanka, UNDP immediately shared the allegations with UNOPS. As a result, during the reporting period, UNOPS IAIG (equivalent to UNDP OAI) undertook a remote forensic audit of the GEF SGP project in Sri Lanka. Following the results of the audit, UNOPS, is currently finalizing an implementation plan in coordination with the UNDP CO, with management actions that will not just strengthen the Sri Lanka program but also the SGP everywhere. The lessons learned from the audit findings will be used to strengthen the execution of the SGP Sri Lanka Programme while informing its new Operational Phase (OP7). UNDP will continue to keep GEFSEC updated.  In addition, in line with the recommendation made by the UNDP CO and the RTA in the last PIR, the project team established a grievance redress mechanism last year for identification, assessment, resolution and management of any complaints both at national and sub-national levels to receive and address the grievances in a timely and transparent manner. The RTA concurs with the UNDP CO’s recommendation to ensure that the operationalization of such mechanism is strengthened, in coordination with the NSC.  With regards to COVID, the last 16 months of project implementation coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic. Government restriction measures to respond to COVID affected SGP ongoing projects and led to delays in their activities, which justified a second request for extension. The project has adapted well to the COVID challenges (which included travel restrictions and mandatory self-isolation) providing technical support, training and continuous communication during this time of COVID challenges. The SGP Team has been in continuous contact with grantees to adjust their projects’ action plans taking into consideration delays in implementation and also to minimize or replace physical awareness raising and capacity building activities with online sessions and trainings, which overall have been particularly useful in ensuring continuous progress. Additionally, the SGP Sri Lanka team has been participating in weekly webinars with managers of other SGP Country Programmes from around the region and worldwide to share lessons learned and best practices in addressing challenges arising from COVID, and it is encouraged to maintain this practice.  With regards to the Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards) Risks, it is important to highlight that the overall risk rating and categorization of the project SESP has been revised from Low to Moderate, also in light of a more thorough review of the SESP conducted as part of the design of the Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Sri Lanka. While the UNDP CO and the project team are regularly monitoring the Risk Register, also reflecting SESP related risks, the project team is requested to work closely with the UNDP CO and the RTA to ensure that such changes are also reflected in the SESP, and a new updated/official version of the SESP document is developed before the end of the year, including signature by the CO and posting in the QA system. |

## B) Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards) Risks

|  |
| --- |
| **1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period?** |
| Yes |

|  |
| --- |
| **If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during the reporting period please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.** |
| The impact of COVID-19 has caused difficulties in conducting physical verification of how partners are utilizing resources provided by the project. The third wave of COVID-19 in the country has resulted in the implementation of inter-provincial travel bans and lockdowns hindering the ability to conduct field visits. However, this risk is reasonably overcome through virtual verification via ZOOM where partners showcase videos and images as evidence of progress on the activities that they have proposed. Further verification was also conducted by three field coordinators in the three landscapes to confirm the conducted work. |

|  |
| --- |
| **2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks become more severe and/or has the project's SESP categorization changed during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.** |
| Yes |

|  |
| --- |
| **If any existing social and/or environmental risks have become more severe and/or if the project's SESP categorization has changed during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.** |
| The categorization of the SESP has changed during implementation to moderate due to the inclusion of the COVID risk, as well as a reassessment of the overall risks and mitigation measures. |

|  |
| --- |
| **3) Have any social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared or updated, and/or has the SESP been updated in the reporting period, as required? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.** |
| No |

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

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

|  |
| --- |
| **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 |

|  |
| --- |
| **5) Is the preparation and./or implementation of the project's safeguards management plan(s) on track, including monitoring?** |
| Yes |

|  |
| --- |
| **If no, please explain:** |
| N/A |

# Knowledge Management & Communications

The **Project Manager** must complete the three questions below.

|  |
| --- |
| **1) Please provide progress on the implementation of the project's Knowledge Management approach approved at CEO Endorsement/Approval. If there is no KM approach/strategy, please comment on how the project is capturing and disseminating best practices and lessons learned.** |
| The community-based projects supported by the Small Grants Programme (SGP) Sri Lanka have generated distinct results, directly benefiting more than 2,689 individuals from 37 community-based organizations. It promotes biodiversity conservation; land, forest, and wetland rehabilitation; and alternative livelihood opportunities in the three landscapes of Mannar, Knuckles and the Colombo wetlands. Initiatives have also minimized land degradation by soil restoration techniques and reforestation of the landscapes, which will help local communities to secure their livelihoods while protecting the ecosystems they depend on. Furthermore, during this reporting period six newsletters, three feature stories, four audio-visual products, one Atlas of the North-western coastal plain of Sri Lanka, three policy papers, four zoom sessions to retell folktales in celebration of World Environment Day and numerous social media updates on activities conducted through the SGP projects were produced. Additionally, during the next reporting period case studies showcasing all the results achieved by the completed projects will be generated. Furthermore, each landscape has a knowledge management team that is involved with providing training, disseminating information, and developing case studies for their respective grantees in each landscape.  World Environment Day 2021 was celebrated with numerous activities. However, one of the highlights of the celebrations was the retelling of famous Sri Lankan folktales as environmentally friendly stories, providing lessons on sustainability, co-existence, and conservation, with the primary objective of increasing awareness on climate change among youth. This event was conducted by the Power of Play Organization in collaboration with Sri Lanka Environment Exploration Society (SLEES), which is the knowledge management team of the Knuckles landscape. This event took place in four sessions via Zoom, with live streams also conducted on Facebook and videos shared on YouTube. Each session was conducted on a Saturday of the month of June: 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th of June 2021, and engaged 458 youth, while the total participant counts exceeded 1000 individuals across the three platforms.  Furthermore, some interesting examples of projects supported through SGP during Operational Phase 6 within the Knuckles, Colombo and Mannar landscape include the following:  Within the Mannar landscape, the Ecological Association of Sri Lanka (EASL) has engaged in a project with a focus on the extremely unique wetland ecosystems of the Mannar Coastal Plain. This area is home to the only known, well-developed wetland ecosystems that contain extensive areas of mangroves and salt marshes in Sri Lanka. The area also supports some unique sand dunes. However, while current uses of wetlands by the local people is generally known, the extent and nature of such uses and their sustainability are barely understood, with no maps of the ecosystem available. As a result, it is difficult to make conservation related decisions at local or national level. Therefore, the main objective of this study was to evaluate the present status of the coastal ecosystems in the North-Western Coastal Plain of Sri Lanka. Through this project, digital maps of mangroves, salt marshes and sand dunes and estimate their extents with the documentation of the fauna and flora and the distribution of invasive Prosopis juliflora within salt marshes and estimates of their extent was determined. Finally, this project also evaluated the sustainable use potential of the salt marshes and mangroves and identified threats to these ecosystems. Eleven major coastal habitat types with a total extent of 34,467 ha were mapped and described in the North-Western Coastal Plain. The most dominant coastal habitat were identified to be salt marshes (10,700 ha), followed by Tidal Mud Flats, Sand Dunes, Mangroves, Grasslands with Scrub, Prosopis habitats, Grasslands with Prosopis, Salt Marshes with Scattered Mangroves, Salt Marsh Encroached, Salt Marsh with Scattered Grassland, Scrub and Prosopis and Freshwater Marsh. Recommendations on taking advantage of the high energy value and use as firewood of the rapidly spreading Prosopis juliflora that is a biological threat to the salt marshes was also a proposed through this project. Finally, this project was also involved in the publication of the first ever Atlas on Mangroves, Salt Marshes and Sand Dunes of the coastal area from Malwathu Oya to Pooneryn in the North Western coastal region of Sri Lanka that was distributed to many individuals including government officials.  The Sri Lanka Turtle Conservation Project (SLTCP) had as main objective to reduce the impacts of destructive fishing practices on coastal habitats while increasing income- generation opportunities to local communities in return for the wise use of natural resources, in the Vidathaltivu area. Through this project 18 community members were successfully trained as tourists guides and will be receiving tourist guide licenses from the Northern Province Tourism Bureau. These community members will therefore be able to take both local and foreign tourists to the Maldiva Bank coral reef and make an additional income for their families. Furthermore, with the gradual increase of tourism, locals will be further encouraged to protect the coral reefs, mangroves and other marine and coastal resources since they have a better understanding of the importance of these natural resources for tourism industry, given the awareness programs conducted in the area that allow the community to understand the value of conserving their natural resources.  Furthermore, in line with the call for proposals by the Lion’s Share fund led by the UNDP, SLTCP proposed a project to take place in the small Rekawa fishing village located in the Southern coast of Sri Lanka. This village is located between two climatic zones resulting in high levels of biodiversity in the area: home to all five species of sea turtles nesting in Sri Lanka, along with 160 species of birds, 28 species of mammals, 37 species of reptiles, 35 species of butterflies and 17 species of mangrove plants. However, the killing of sea turtles, turtle egg gathering, mining of corals and sand, mining shells from the lagoon, cutting mangroves, poaching wild animals among other destructive practices have been occurring, mainly due to the lack of awareness on the importance of marine and coastal resources, lack of law enforcement and lack of community participation in conservation and management of coastal resources. Therefore, to protect the Rekawa sea turtles and other marine and coastal resources, SLTCP proposed conservation activities that included 24/7 beach monitoring and patrols, 12 beach cleaning programmes and the development of alternate livelihoods for the Rekawa community through batik training, sewing training and the development of herbal and organic gardens thereby reducing the human pressure on the local natural resources. Furthermore, SLTCP plans to increase the community’s preparedness for the pandemic, through 5 training workshops for tourists guides, school children and community to handle visitors and avoid contamination, training 10 community youth as trainers for mobilizing and training others in pandemic situation management and designing and printing a booklet to create awareness on good practices during a pandemic. The community will benefit from these outreach programmes, as they could enhance community resilience against pandemics such current novel COVID-19 virus. Given this proposal, SLTCP became the recipient of the Resilience in Wildlife Community Grant by the Lion’s Share fund led by the UNDP. This rewarded the previously elaborated SLTCP initiative’s demonstration of innovative local-level action to increase resilience and well-being of communities against external shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic.  Within the Knuckles landscape, the Herpetological Foundation of Sri Lanka was involved in efforts towards protecting herpetofaunal point endemic species by strengthening the conservation status of the Knuckles region. The Knuckles landscape is home to several endemic species of fauna and flora that are experiencing numerous threats such as uncontrolled illegal mining, poaching, among others. Therefore, the project conducted numerous activities to conserve the endemic species, conserve the forest and improve livelihoods. This project carried out systematic research to describe new endemic species from the Knuckles forest, this also allowed for the discovery new endemic herpetological species. The discoveries made also allowed for the identification of new sensitive areas and the declaration of the Knuckles Conservation Forest as a global key biodiversity area while, also being involved in policy initiatives that directed the consideration of biologically sensitive areas in planning and development work. Furthermore, the project conducted nearly 22 awareness programs and the development and broadcasted videos for the main stakeholder groups in the landscape and the public on the conservation implications and on how to mitigate unsustainable practices amongst the community of Knuckles landscape. Along with its collaboration with GEF/SGP, HFSL has identified 14 new species of which two species, Aspidura desilvai and Rhinophis gunasekarai have been recognized through official publications. The discovery and scientifically publishing of the two new species played a major role in highlighting the sensitive areas in the region and thereby preventing major constructions in the region, that would have had adverse effects in the area. A road expansion project was re-planned and implemented in a manner to minimize impacts in the area, including from a soil erosion standpoint (area which indirectly impacts the Moragahakanda and Kaluganga development projects).  The Ekabadda Praja Sanwardhana Kantha Maha Sangamaya (EPSKMS) rehabilitated 1,000 hectares of land through soil conservation methods and promotion of agroforestry. The project has also been involved with the establishment of community-based organizations and development of value-added products, while also establishing a sales outlet that sells the produce from the Women’s farmer societies and products from other GEF-SGP supported projects. This sales outlet sells pesticide-free products. The project has also been involved with the establishment of a Women’s Knowledge Bank. 52 Women’s societies from Hettipola (Sithamu Kantha Govi Sanvidhana) formed a Women’s Cooperative (Kantha Balamandalaya) registered under the Women’s Knowledge Bank under the facilitation of EPSKMS. The Knowledge Bank provides technical advice and support related to agriculture and strengthen the established women’s farmer societies through trainings. The establishment of the women’s cooperative looks to strengthen all farmer societies in the area which are currently at different levels of productivity and management. The goal being for all of them to build their own organization and efficiently manage their finances, so that the dependency on grants to fund their activities will reduce over time. Additionally, the women’s knowledge bank also creates links with the local Grama Seva Bank to support female entrepreneurs.  Within the Colombo landscape, Emotional Intelligence and Life Skills (EISL) was involved in a Youth-Community led conservation of the Kolonnawa Fresh water Marsh. This wetland is located within the urbanized area of Colombo, and the surrounding areas are populated with multi-religious, multi-ethnic communities of different educational levels and income, however, surveys have identified the population composition of the area being 30% youth of which females account for 49%. This project worked to conserve biodiversity of this vitally important urban marsh, improved its provision of ecosystem services, and established eco-friendly social enterprises for community upliftment. It covered 29 hectares of marsh and worked with approximately 50 youth in the low-income category whose houses are built on encroached lands releasing domestic waste and sewage in the Marsh due to the lack of amenities. Furthermore, EISL signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Youth Services Council for skill training. Youth groups were trained as trainings of trainers s (TOTs) for capacity building of youth, school children, community members and other stakeholders. Additionally, a social media-based monitoring initiative was launched, where selected youth were trained to observe and report destructive activities in the wetlands compelling relevant authorities to take action. A biodiversity assessment of the wetlands was also conducted to be used in awareness raising activities. Finally, 10 small businesses for livelihood enhancement with a focus on opening a window of opportunity for innovative and creative eco-friendly business models were assisted through training and provision of interest free loans.  Communications Strategy:  A Communication Strategy was designed and developed within the workplan for 2019-2021 covering media and social media outreach, visibility and knowledge products. The strategy also outlines the budget required and key messages that will be communicated to better highlight the impact of the work done by GEF/SGP in Sri Lanka. |

|  |
| --- |
| **2) Please provide URLs specific to this project in the relevant field below. Please categorize the URLs appropriately (for example: project websites, social media sites, media coverage, etc.)** |
| What’s Up Newsletter  SGP “What’s Up” newsletter –July-August 2020 Edition  http://gefsgpsl.org/NewsPaper/Whats%20UP%20Newsletter%20July-August%202020.pdf  SGP “What’s Up” newsletter –September-October 2020 Edition  http://gefsgpsl.org/NewsPaper/Whats%20UP%20Newsletter%20Sep-Oct%202020.pdf  SGP “What’s Up” newsletter -November-December 2020 Edition  http://gefsgpsl.org/NewsPaper/Whats%20UP%20Newsletter%20Nov-Dec%202020.pdf  SGP “What’s Up” newsletter – January-February 2021 Edition  http://gefsgpsl.org/NewsPaper/Whats%20UP%20Newsletter%20Jan-Feb%202021.pdf  SGP “What’s Up” newsletter –March-April 2021 Edition  http://gefsgpsl.org/NewsPaper/Whats%20UP%20Newsletter%20March-%20April%202021.pdf  Feature Stories  Creating sustainable livelihoods: https://undpsrilanka.exposure.co/creating-sustainable-livelihoods  Protecting diversity: https://undpsrilanka.exposure.co/protecting-biodiversity?fbclid=IwAR1c3B7XZqfO9TM6IMoC1og9f2\_P3U1hZGilTAvaVjoG0RfzlqaS52\_uvIU  All for one and one for all: https://undpsrilanka.exposure.co/all-for-one-and-one-for-all  Audio Visual Products  Biodiversity chat: https://fb.watch/6970fI9-Nf/  Aquatic resource management: https://fb.watch/6978DepcrA/  Two new snake species found: https://youtu.be/W8\_g7G8tyEI  Breathe in. Breathe out. Breathe in.: https://fb.watch/66WeOeMtyO/  Trail Blazer award winner for social services:  UNDP Sri Lanka Facebook (story): https://www.facebook.com/UNDPSriLanka/photos/a.291902264177636/4076516675716157  https://www.facebook.com/UNDPSriLanka/photos/a.291902264177636/4076516722382819  UNDP Sri Lanka Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNDPSriLanka/status/1369228387143671810?s=20  Atlas Launch:  UNDP press release: https://www.lk.undp.org/content/srilanka/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2021/Handing\_over\_of\_first\_ever\_Atlas\_on\_the\_Northwestern\_Coastal\_Region\_of\_Sri\_Lanka.html?utm\_campaign=later-linkinbio-undpsrilanka&utm\_content=later-15491434&utm\_medium=social&utm\_source=linkin.bio  UNDP Sri Lanka Facebook (story):  https://www.facebook.com/UNDPSriLanka/photos/a.291902264177636/4102816106419547  https://www.facebook.com/UNDPSriLanka/photos/a.291902264177636/4102815326419625  https://www.facebook.com/UNDPSriLanka/photos/a.291902264177636/4102815713086253  https://www.facebook.com/UNDPSriLanka/photos/a.291902264177636/4102816353086189  https://www.facebook.com/UNDPSriLanka/photos/a.291902264177636/4102818109752680  UNDP Sri Lanka Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/p/CMl5Oaghg1U/  UNDP Sri Lanka Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNDPSriLanka/status/1372563782895955968?s=20  Two new species:  UNDP Sri Lanka Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/p/CHPI6AsIltt/  https://www.instagram.com/p/CHuHj-qoAE9/  UNDP Sri Lanka Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNDPSriLanka/status/1324585439458545665?s=20  UNDP Sri Lanka YouTube:  https://youtu.be/W8\_g7G8tyEI  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crNLmuDOGbM  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UUHWjcIyxgQ  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4D8cTqwWOIE  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rwZq2PpSn8A  Programme at Diyasaru park:  UNDP Sri Lanka Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/p/CL3TSGFhRUY/  International Migratory Bird Day  UNDP Sri Lanka Exposure.com: https://undpsrilanka.exposure.co/wings-of-change  GEF SGP Facebook: https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fundpsrilanka.exposure.co%2Fwings-of-change%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR27Rv3k7IYdgB7Rsw5yi90NORkxK5BVHpFU4egy8PESY1TkFDZMx6v5kiQ&h=AT18vdAR4QCvVor\_7QZ8NoL0J1QimMXOO0xqTVqKLcbKxzYjiUffBNQeJ5\_nvkZoBwv\_nqpykl6Ynal9stCJm6H5pX3BUuYdoOC45tEqMh3t8mM7ye1LWeLPjbZOViI1XWitwW57YMLEzW8  SGP Twitter: https://twitter.com/GEF\_SGP/status/1284476844415365120?s=20  Wetlands day  UNDP Sri Lanka Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/p/CKx166eBiNU/?utm\_source=ig\_web\_copy\_link  https://www.instagram.com/p/CLyYCSBh2g9/?utm\_medium=copy\_link  https://www.instagram.com/p/CLwPDTpB9rY/?utm\_medium=copy\_link  UNDP Sri Lanka Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNDPSriLanka/status/1309039712062103555?s=20  UNDP Sri Lanka Facebook (video): https://fb.watch/66WeOeMtyO/  SGP twitter: https://twitter.com/GEF\_SGP/status/1352336777852280833?s=20  International Women’s day:  UNDP Sri Lanka facebook (story): https://www.facebook.com/UNDPSriLanka/photos/a.291902264177636/4095891560445335  UNDP Sri Lanka facebook (story) English: https://www.facebook.com/UNDPSriLanka/photos/a.291902264177636/4073546566013168  UNDP Sri Lanka facebook (story) Sinhala: https://www.facebook.com/UNDPSriLanka/photos/a.291902264177636/4073970412637450  UNDP Sri Lanka facebook (story) Tamil: https://www.facebook.com/UNDPSriLanka/photos/a.291902264177636/4073731249328033  UNDP Sri Lanka Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/p/CMJld4bBmyK/  UNDP Sri Lanka Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNDPSriLanka/status/1368821792698101762?s=20  https://twitter.com/UNDPSriLanka/status/1368821792698101762?s=20  World wildlife day:  UNDP Sri Lanka Facebook: https://fb.watch/698aK6ggzH/  UNDP Sri Lanka Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNDPSriLanka/status/1367021669798211584?s=20  Earth day:  UNDP Sri Lanka Facebook; https://fb.watch/698aK6ggzH/  UNDP Sri Lanka Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/p/CN9bsFEhsh3/  International day for Biological diversity:  UNDP Sri Lanka Exposure: https://undpsrilanka.exposure.co/all-for-one-and-one-for-all  UNDP Sri Lanka Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNDPSriLanka/status/1395966883871010824?s=20  UNDP Sri Lanka Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/p/CPKf8kJBIoJ/  World Environment Day:  UNDP Sri Lanka Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNDPSriLanka/status/1402618457812881412?s=20 (Generation restoration)  UNDP Sri Lanka Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/tv/CP5eNaHhVJQ/?utm\_source=ig\_web\_copy\_link (Generation restoration)  UNDP Sri Lanka Facebook: https://fb.watch/6992bK5uk-/ (Generation restoration)  UNDP Sri Lanka Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/UNDPSriLanka/posts/4356030167764805  Power of play Facebook: https://fb.watch/66VJxL0poO/  UNDP Sri Lanka Facebook:  https://fb.watch/66VJxL0poO/ (Day 1 - Teaser)  https://fb.watch/66T9SW55Y9/ (LIVE Video -Day 1)  https://fb.watch/6999Cz60Xb/ (Day 2 – Teaser)  https://fb.watch/699d2jbnBy/ (LIVE Video – Day 2)  https://fb.watch/v/2MCPvMlfu/ (Day 3 - Teaser)  https://fb.watch/v/1XOFQB3xl/ (LIVE Video -Day 3)  https://fb.watch/v/1pS9J7C\_e/ (LIVE Video – Day 4)  https://fb.watch/v/1T1tXMqs3/ (Appreciation video |

|  |
| --- |
| **3) In the PIR platform, please upload any supporting files, including the project's Communications Strategy, photos, videos, stories and other communication/knowledge materials.** |
| [KM Strategy.pdf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5529/214209/1748169/1786120/KM%20Strategy.pdf) |

# Stakeholder Engagement

|  |
| --- |
| **(A) Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent documentation submitted at CEO Endorsement/Approval.**  **(B) Upload all available documentation of the project's stakeholder engagement, including surveys, FPIC reports and others using the FILE LIBRARY button in the upper right corner of the PIR.**  **(C) If the project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been updated during the reporting period, please upload that file using the FILE LIBRARY button above.** |
| The multi-stakeholder working groups, multi-stakeholder governance platforms and policy dialogues conducted for each landscape have allowed for effective engagement of all our stakeholder groups, from our primary stakeholders, the community-based organizations and local communities to our other stakeholders, namely the government actors, NGOs, private sector and academic institutions. Furthermore, during the reporting period, the stakeholder engagement plan for the Seventh operational phase of GEF SGP was developed as the outcome of an inclusive stakeholder consultation and analysis through a series of consultations of national-level and landscape-level stakeholders, including state officials, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), civil society organizations (CSOs)local communities and private sector. The plan, which is also relevant for the continuous implementation of the Sixth Operational Phase, involves interactions between identified groups of people and provides stakeholders with opportunities to raise their concerns and opinions (e.g. through by way of meetings, interviews and/or focus group discussions), and ensures that this information considered is taken into consideration when making project decisions are made.  The project has thus far engaged a total of 1,737 community members (707 women and 1,030 men), through different approaches varying from livelihood improvement to awareness raising and capacity building. The majority of projects have been completed despite a few being delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, due to the risk of COVID-19, much of the stakeholder engagement activities was conducted via Zoom platform.  SGP and Stakeholder engagement opportunities undertaken during this reporting period include:  -15th of February 2021- The Colombo landscape multi-stakeholder group meeting  The Colombo landscape multi-stakeholder group meeting took place remotely on Zoom. The director of international relations and biodiversity from the Ministry of Environment along with officials representing the Sri Lanka Land Development Cooperation (SLLDC), Central Environment Authority (CEA), (UDA) and Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) joined the meeting. Means of acquiring better maps for the Colombo wetlands along with possible avenues of working with the SLLDC on water quality monitoring projects were discussed. The need for a multi-stakeholder platform when taking decisions with respect to urban wetlands was highlighted, and plausible suggestions were made to be implemented in the Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF SGP.  -16th of February 2021- The Mannar landscape multi-stakeholder meeting  The Mannar landscape multi-stakeholder meeting took place remotely on Zoom. The director of international relations and biodiversity and the additional secretary (Environment Projects, Education and Training) of the Ministry of Environment along with officials representing Coast Conservation Department, Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA), Department of Forest Conservation and the Navy attended the meeting. The issues and threats in the landscape as well as the potential geographical distribution of the projects to achieve the maximum possible impacts were discussed.  -18th of February 2021- The Knuckles landscape multi-stakeholder meeting  The Knuckles landscape multi-stakeholder meeting took place remotely on Zoom. The additional secretary (Environment Projects, Education and Training) and the directors of international relations and biodiversity of the Ministry of Environment along with the additional District Secretary (DS) (Land) and officials from the DS offices (Matale and Kandy), Department of Forest Conservation, Department of Wildlife Conservation, Sri Lanka State Plantation Corporation, Tourism Board of Central Province, Superintendent, Midland Estate, Rattota, Director General of the Department of Export Agriculture and the Director of the Provincial Agriculture Department attended. Discussions involved identification of possible collaborative approaches between stakeholders in the context of the Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF SGP while addressing threats and issues to the Knuckles Conservation Forest and the buffer zone.  -23rd of February 2021 – Colombo Landscape Multi-stakeholder governance platform:  The Colombo landscape policy dialogue was held on the 23rd of February 2021 and the forum was organized with the participation of the relevant line ministries. The policy paper was also submitted for the landscape. Projects and lessons learnt were discussed on how to integrate into policy initiatives. Considerations of approaches such as converting abandoned paddy lands to non-chemical farming lands were made.  -17th of March 2021- Mannar Landscape Multi-stakeholder governance platform:  The Mannar landscape policy dialogue was held on the 17th of March 2021. Information supplied by the Ecological Association on the Map Atlas of Mannar was used to inform the relevant line ministries on land use, mangroves, sand dunes and sea grasses in the area. The GIS mapping of Mannar was presented and stimulated government officials to use this data to declare the area as an Environmental Sensitive Area (ESA). The data was used to publish the dwarf mangrove patch in an official gazette for the first time in Sri Lanka.  -26th of March 2021- Knuckles Landscape Multi-stakeholder governance platform:  The Knuckles landscape policy dialogue was held on the 26th of March 2021. Data compiled by Herpetological Foundation Sri Lanka (HFSL) was used to inform the relevant line ministries participating in the forum. HFSL discovered 14 new herpetological species (9 snakes, 1 skink, 4 amphibians), of which two new snake species were described and scientifically published. The policy paper was also submitted for the landscape. These discoveries and publications encouraged policy level discussions to promote biodiversity in the landscape.  Further in this policy dialogue, the Community Development Centre (CDC) headed by Ms. Damayanthi Godamulla, developed a root and tuber cultivation project aimed at developing the cultivation of traditional yam and tuber varieties among villagers and increasing their incomes, and this was presented at the Knuckles policy dialogue. The project has expanded to over 18 villages benefitting over 2,000 people. Further recommendations were made in the policy paper to make policy interventions to upscale practices involving root and tuber cultivation projects. The government ministry officials were encouraged to take steps in making the CDC project a national initiative.  -25th and 26th of July and 12th and 13th of September 2020 - Two two-day residential workshops on climate change adaptation and identification of community-based adaptation strategies.  SLEES conducted two two-day residential workshops on Climate change adaptation and identification of community-based adaptation strategies for a total of 48 women and 47 men.  -12th June 2020 – Workshop on protecting herpetological point species  Herpetological Foundation Sri Lanka (HFSL) conducted a knowledge sharing workshop on protecting herpetological endemic species for strengthening the conservation status of the Knuckles landscape for 200 women and 300 men.  GEF SGP has already approached private sector actors, who have demonstrated interest in collaboration, for co-financing in-cash and in-kind. However, work has been delayed due to the constraints posed by the pandemic. However, work with foundations like the Darwin project, who is interested in continuing the work in the Colombo wetlands, has progressed. |

# 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.