2018

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

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

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# Basic Data

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

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

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

# Overall Ratings

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

# Development Progress

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| **Description** |
| **Objective****To enable community-based organizations to take collective action for adaptive landscape management for socio-ecological resilience through design, implementation, and evaluation of grant projects for global environmental benefits and local sustainable development in three ecologically sensitive landscapes: the Knuckles Conservation Forest and its buffer zone, the coastal region from Mannar Island to Jaffna, and the Colombo Wetlands.** |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2017** | **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. | *(not set or not applicable)* | Initiated work on 33,450 ha across three production landscapes, which include Colombo Wetlands, Knuckles and Mannar Landscapes.17 projects under Outcome 2 have been approved and started their implementation in May 2018. Projects under outcome 3 are expected to start their implementation in August 2018.
The hectares of carbon storage will be analyzed after completion of projects selection. This activity would be initiated by the 3 Knowledge management groups in the 3 target landscapes once the projects are under implementation by the end of October 2018.
In the Colombo Wetland, the eight projects currently under implementation are focused on: management of urban wetlands; conservation of species such as the otter and fishing cat in the urban wetlands; organic paddy cultivation and biodiversity awareness among the urban population as the government hopes to declare the Colombo wetlands as a Ramsar site and be one of the first wetland cities in the world. The 8 wetland projects will be models to showcase how the wetlands can be restored through wise use. SGP is working closely with The Sri Lanka Land Reclamation and Development Cooperation, which manages the wetlands work in close collaboration with SGP.
In the landscape of Mannar, four projects have been approved by the NSC to date. Inter alia, they support activities related to the protection of the Vidatalativu Nature Reserve, plantation of mangroves and new ecotourism enterprises.
5 projects have been approved in the Knuckles landscape and main activities include: discovering new herpetofauna point endemic species from the Knuckles landscape and strengthening its conservation status by conducting education and capacity building training programmes for project stakeholders in the landscape, such as field staff of the Forest Department, school children, villagers, journalists, Police officers, and the security forces of the region, and preparation of awareness materials such as posters and brochures to depict the uniqueness of the region showing all endemic fauna and flora.
These activities contribute towards sustainably managed production landscapes that conserve biodiversity and enhance ecosystem services. |
| 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. | *(not set or not applicable)* | Initiated work on 1,360.2 ha. This target is expected to be achieved mainly from the Knuckles landscape. So far, 5 projects have been approved in this area with 2 projects addressing land degradation issues. 4-5 projects are expected to be approved by the NSC in the Knuckles landscape in the period Aug 2018-October 2018. Under these projects, efforts will be fully concentrated on achieving the target of soil conservation and land restoration.
The two projects currently under implementation on soil conservation aim to reduce the possibility of occurring & spreading forest fires on 50 ha by 50% and conserving five watersheds and catchment areas linked to Hasalaka canal conserved whilst reducing soil degradation in 60 slopping farm lands by 60%. |
| 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. | *(not set or not applicable)* | Each landscape has catered to over 250 individuals covering over 750 individuals as an aggregate in all 3 landscapes to date. Additional details are provided below per target landscape.
Mannar: Out of the 5 projects that are operating in the Mannar landscape, around 250 individuals are actively participating in projects related to ecotourism enterprise, sustainable fisheries, value addition and marketing activities with professional training skills on sewing activities. Communities will also be engaged in surveillance and reef monitoring in some projects while 500 individuals will be engaged in tree planting. Students will be engaged in mangrove planting and managing a nursery for mangroves.
Knuckles: The 5 projects in the Knuckles landscape will cover over 1,000 individuals mainly through training and awareness programmes on Betel cultivation, climate change adaptation, importance of Knuckles landscape and importance on biodiversity conservation for school children. One project will also pave the way for 50 community members to learn about organic farming and eco-tourism related business activities, where 10 women will be encouraged towards traditional self-employment activities, and another 10 to take up handicrafts. An awareness programme on crop diversification will be conducted by another project, promoting production of goods for ecotourism and enabling 50 families to engage in pepper cultivation as an alternative livelihood opportunity.
Colombo: Over 1,000 individuals from the Colombo landscape are expected to be engaged in training and awareness programmes on flora and fauna in the wetlands, educational knowledge enhancement programmes for school children receiving economic benefits in the form of livelihood development activities, mainly through paddy and vegetable cultivation. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | **On track** |
| **Outcome 1****Component 1****Resilient rural landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection****Outcome 1:****Multi-stakeholder partnerships in three ecologically sensitive landscapes develop and execute management plans to enhance socio-ecological landscape resilience and global environmental benefits** |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2017** | **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) | *(not set or not applicable)* | Achieved. Three multi-stakeholder working groups have been formed in the three landscapes.
The multi-stakeholder working groups of each landscape comprise of the nominee of the District Secretary’s office, academia, relevant government stakeholders and civil society. They have been an important and integral part of the project and have been consulted providing advisory services to the project. The 3 groups have also been instrumental in advising on key socio-environmental challenges of the landscape, while also providing guidance for the 3 strategic projects.
The second target has also been achieved with three comprehensive socio-ecological baseline assessments completed in the 3 landscapes. The extensive baseline assessments were conducted in the period Nov 2017-Dec 2017 in the three landscapes using the developed set of 20 SEPLS indicators of resilience, developed under the Satoyama Initiative and piloted by the COMDEKS programme.
The Knuckles landscape, as it is a large area, was divided into 4 main zones. The criteria of selection of these zones were livelihood and land use practices along with environmental and climatic similarities of each zone. Accessibility and convenience from an administrative level was also looked at and community members form each zone participated in 4 workshops where the information for baseline assessments was gathered. 50-80 stakeholders participated in each workshop. The 4 zones were Ududumbara, Panwila, Raththota and Hettipola.
In the Colombo Landscape, the landscape was divided into 4 zones where between 20-40 participated in each workshop. The zones were Homagama, Kaduwela, kolonnawa and maharagame- Kotte.
In the Mannar landscape, the four divisions that the multi-stakeholder consultations were held were Manthai West, Nanttan, Mannar Town and Pooakary. Approx 50 participants in each workshop.
During these assessments, participants jointly identified key challenges and objectives in each landscape. While in Colombo the key challenge identified is landscape diversity and protection, in Knuckles and Mannar, it was livelihoods and well-being, which the landscape strategies aim to improve respectively. This information was taken into consideration when determining the typologies of projects for each landscape. |
| 1.2 A strategy to achieve greater social and ecological resilience for each landscape | *(not set or not applicable)* | *(not set or not applicable)* | Three landscape management strategies and plans prepared and then approved by the National Steering Committee | *(not set or not applicable)* | Target achieved with three landscape management strategies reviewed and approved by the SGP NSC, one in each of the three landscapes.
After several discussions with the NSC, key strategic stakeholders, and the communities, as well as extensive research and analysis through the SEPLS indicators, the three landscape strategies were completed at the end of Dec 2017, with support from three grantees. Main outcomes of the strategies include: protection and restoration of sensitive ecosystems and habitats, preventing further degradation of natural resources, sustainable land use practices to preserve and enhance agro-biodiversity and productivity, improved livelihoods through ecofriendly community-based enterprises, boosted knowledge and capacity of the community and local institutions to increase resilience. These documents are uploaded on the SGP Sri Lanka website. |
| 1.3 A typology of community level initiatives in each landscape needed to achieve landscape outcomes  | *(not set or not applicable)* | *(not set or not applicable)* | Landscape specific typologies (3) of community level projects and eligibility criteria formulated by multi-stakeholder groups in each landscape | *(not set or not applicable)* | Target Achieved. Typologies of projects for the three landscapes were developed and used in the call for proposals for the three landscapes.
Project types include restoration of degraded lands, promotion of agro forestry and agriculture, protection of wetlands, water conservation and improved livelihoods. The typologies of projects were determined using the baseline assessments and the 3 landscape strategies. For Knuckles, projects to be considered are restoration of degraded lands, promotion of agro-forestry, controlling the spread of invasive species, and soil conservation. In the Colombo landscape, some examples are conservation of isolated wetlands, minimizing animal-human conflict, and establishing a knowledge sharing platform related to Colombo Wetlands. For Mannar, the typology of projects to be supported include protection of mangroves, conservation of salt marshes, minimizing disruptive fishing activities, and water conservation.
There was an Expression of Interest from CBOs/NGOs working in the three landscapes in October 2017 and over 119 eligible EOIs were received. All of these CBOs/NGOs were invited to a workshop on 2 February 2018 in Kurunegala, which provided an introduction to the GEF 6 program, its aims and objectives, the selected landscapes where conservation activities will be focused on, the GEF focal areas, the typologies of projects in each landscape, and a brief training on the logical framework.
A period of one month was given to the proponents to send the project concepts and 88 project concepts were received. The NSC graded these concepts as A-D and all A-C concepts were visited in the field. These concepts were also reviewed by the multi-stakeholder group and in the case of Colombo, the multi-stakeholder group recommended to visit the D sites as well. After the field inspection, 30 concepts were recommended to NSC and 18 projects have been approved: 8 in Colombo, 5 in Knuckles, and 5 in Mannar. The remaining grants (approx. 5) are expected to be awarded by Sep-October 2018. |
| 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 | *(not set or not applicable)* | Achieved. Eight projects in Colombo, five projects in Mannar and five projects in Knuckles have all secured co- financing by other stakeholders in the landscape and the distribution of co-financing per landscape are as follows:
Knuckles:
Cash - US$ 106,820.
In-kind - US$ 57,510
Colombo:
Cash - US$ 183,146
In-kind - US$ 49,910
Mannar:
Cash - US$ 53,410
In-Kind - US$ 3,349
The following projects have received written and signed co-financing agreements with other partners. In Mannar, the Zoological student association has secured funding 1:1 from MAS Private Ltd, a private sector collaboration in the area. The Turtle Conservation Project has collaborated with the Columbus Zee in the USA. The Herpetological Association of Sri Lanka in the Knuckles region received US$ 12,354 from the Commercial Bank of Ceylon as co-financing in cash. The Centre for Sustainability-University of Sri Jayawardenapura has also secured US$ 12,635 as co-financing from MAS Holdings (Pvt) Ltd and the grantee has also committed a considerable portion of in-cash as well as in-kind contribution for the project in the Colombo wetlands. Wanasarana Thurulatha Voluntary Society in the Colombo wetlands has secured co-financing from a private sector entity called Ecotherm Energy Solutions worth of US$ 6,500. Apart from the above mentioned, all other grantees have secured their co-financing from different stakeholders ranging from community-based societies, grantee organizations, government departments (verbal confirmations) and general public in project sites. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | **Achieved** |
| **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 2017** | **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. | *(not set or not applicable)* | One-the-ground work has been initiated by 16 organizations carrying out 16 projects supporting biodiversity conservation on a total of over 32,391 ha in the three landscapes. The conservation initiatives include:
- Coral reef and associated reef improvement and improvement of eco-tourism activities on 1,000 ha in the Mannar landscape;
- Growing of Mangroves in the coast banks of Maldiva as part of the initiative to protect corals that are facing danger due to illegal fishing practices and conservation of Sea Turtles that are endangered due to poaching;
- Biodiversity and ecosystem services, wetland conservation and improvement, conservation and improvement of lakes and streams for ecotourism development in Colombo city and in making Colombo as the first metropolitan wetland city in Asia;
- Conservation of forests and waterfalls under both conservation and eco-tourism development aspects in the Knuckles region in the Central Province.
- Protection of endemic fauna on 10,500 ha area in the Knuckles Mountain region. |
| 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 | *(not set or not applicable)* | A cumulative of 1,059 ha of reforestation activities are being carried out by 8 organizations in the 3 landscapes through small grants, with 990 ha in the Knuckles landscape through 3 projects, 62 ha in the Mannar landscape through 3 projects, and 7 ha through 2 projects in the Colombo wetlands landscape. These activities are expected to be completed by early 2020.
The remaining grant funds to be committed (under outcome 2, as per the PRODOC) and the strategic project initiative (outcome 3 as per the PRODOC) are planned to start by end of 2018, and they will focus on the gaps including reforestation and work towards achievement of the 10,000 ha by the end of the project period. |
| 2.3 Area (hectares) of degraded wetlands rehabilitated | n/a | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 3,000 hectares of degraded wetlands rehabilitated | *(not set or not applicable)* | There are 7 projects at present on the ground that are working on degraded wetland rehabilitation activities in 2 landscapes, with 414 ha in the Colombo wetland landscape through 6 projects, and 52 ha through a project in the Mannar landscape, totaling 466ha.
The activities in the Colombo wetlands include:
- Wetland rehabilitation for cultivation purposes, where decades of abandoned paddy fields in selected locations will be rehabilitated, promoting cultivation of local rice varieties to the market.
- Rehabilitation of marshes and tanks in the Colombo region, as their degradation has contributed to floods.
- Arboretum of native wetland plant species, where it will focus mainly on mangroves in the Mannar landscape. |
| 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  | *(not set or not applicable)* | This target cannot be calculated yet, as projects currently under implementation are still pre-mature. Furthermore, a particular project that was expected to be carried out on a government-owned, abandoned tea plantation estate that was directly engaged in carbon sequestration was rejected by the NSC, as the proposed government land set aside to carry out the project was sold to a private entity for commercial purposes. However, the current projects on the ground thus far in the Knuckles and Colombo Wetlands regions on forest conservation, as well as additional planned projects to be carried out through grants allocated under outcome 2 and strategic grants under outcome 3 are expected to achieve the target by the end of the project implementation period in 2020.
As per literature, 52 ha of mangroves sequestrate 624 tons of carbon per year and 1,000 forest trees planted on 10 ha sequestrate 3 tons per year. Considering these calculations, the projects that operate on the ground involving mangrove planting initiatives will considerably contribute to carbon sequestration. There are also plans to increase the projects on forest restoration in the next grant cycle in Aug 2018. |
| 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 | *(not set or not applicable)* | Land rehabilitation activities are being carried out on 467 ha thus far. Six (6) projects on the ground in Knuckles and Colombo (3 projects each), with 405 ha in the Knuckles region and 62 ha in the Colombo region.
The following activities will be carried out:
- address human-animal conflicts,
- livelihood development, promoting eco-tourism in 3 villages, and enhanced ecosystem services in the Theligamu river, which is a highly sensitive catchment area in the Knuckles region,
- agro-forestry initiatives and organic vegetable cultivation in Thalangama in the Colombo wetlands.
The remaining grant funds under outcome 2 as well as on outcome 3 for the strategic grant will address the shortcomings to reach the target by the end of the current operational phase. A gap analysis will also be carried out on the overall programme for OP6, based on which the strategic projects will be designed to address under-achieved targets, while ensuring the core focus is on achieving outcome 3 (expected Aug-Sep 2018). |
| 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 | *(not set or not applicable)* | No projects were proposed that would address this indicator, and it is highly unlikely we will receive proposals in the future to achieve this component. Hence, during the upcoming MTR process we would like to consider adjusting this indicator. |
| 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 | *(not set or not applicable)* | Seven projects in the Colombo and Knuckles landscapes promote agro-ecological practices; systems that increase sustainability & productivity; and conservation of crop genetic resources on 427.2 ha. Four (4) projects in Knuckles cover 365.2 ha, while 3 projects in the Colombo wetlands cover 62 ha.
Activities supported towards achieving this target are home gardening in 75 homes in Knuckles, cultivation of organic traditional paddy and conservation of water fronts for sustainability and productivity activities in Colombo wetlands.
The remaining funding available for small grants as well as the strategic grant will contribute to achieving this target. |
| 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 | *(not set or not applicable)* | Over 300 individuals per landscape are expected to benefit from the projects through alternative livelihood options.
The projects awarded thus far cover 313 individuals in the community, which equals more than 150% of the target. The activities are currently ongoing and livelihood options mainly focus on farming and eco-tourism related occupations, such as tour guides, handicrafts and traditional art, nature trail activities, etc. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | **On track** |
| **Outcome 3****Multi-stakeholder partnerships develop and implement projects that catalyze the adoption of successful SGP-supported technologies, practices, or systems** |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2017** | **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 | *(not set or not applicable)* | On track.
The methodology of upscaling has been established and the initial work has been completed by short-listing 3 projects/concepts from the 4 SGP publications that have published approx. 80 case studies of successful SGP projects. The initial short-listing of the three best ideas has been completed and vetted through the multi-stakeholder groups. Discussions are ongoing with key stakeholders and the three concepts will be presented during the July NSC meeting. Once the NSC has selected the key concepts to take forward, there will be a call for prospective mature SGP grantees to apply.
Once the 3 NGOs/CBOs are selected, the next step is to ensure the collaboration of other actors such as the private sector/ Government for co-financing collaborations and establishing a business plan, which would ensure sustainability of the project.
SGP is also exploring the possibility of targeting mature SGP grantees that participated in previous OPs but have not received grant funding in OP6 through capacity development and business model training to see whether they are ready for upscaling as incubators of business models through mentoring and training. |
| 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. | *(not set or not applicable)* | On Track, with 250 stakeholders being consulted in the target landscape in the design of project activities. In the Colombo Landscape over 100 stakeholders have been consulted in designing the individual projects for the landscape. In Knuckles, over 100 stakeholders have been consulted when designing the individual projects in the landscape. In Mannar, over 50 stakeholders have been consulted when designing the projects in the landscape.
The 3 multi-stakeholder groups in the three landscapes, consisting of 6-8 individuals each, have been involved in identifying key needs for the respective landscapes and contributing their ideas for the concepts that should be taken forward in their landscapes. For example, in the Colombo landscape it is suggested to work in the wetlands where all the wetlands are connected. In Knuckles, it is suggested to work on soil conservation and land degradation as this is the most urgent need, and in Mannar, water shortage and how to curb this is suggested. Multi-stakeholder groups will be involved in the selection and will continue to be involved in the design and implementation of the strategic projects in each landscape. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | **On track** |
| **Outcome 4****Multi-stakeholder landscape policy platforms will discuss potential policy innovations based on analysis of project experience and lessons learned.** |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2017** | **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 | *(not set or not applicable)* | On Track
Multi-stakeholder policy platforms will be developed after consulting the NSC on involving high-level government officials, which will ensure post-project continuation of services
In early 2019, after the SGP projects have been under implementation on the ground and have begun producing results, the SGP project initiatives will be showcased to the national government through the line ministry, which is the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment headed by the President of Sri Lanka, to encourage their collaboration to continue these initiatives after the project period. Measures will be taken to showcase the results of these projects in case study publications, elaborate the importance of these pilot initiatives in each landscape, showcase the benefit and importance of including these initiatives in their policy work and master plans, and to give due recognition through national intervention. |
| 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.  | *(not set or not applicable)* | On Track.
25-year publication on SGP OP5 completed and disseminated globally through the SGP Sri Lanka and SGP Global websites. The hardcopies also have been shared with key members of the GEF and SGP CPMT at the global UCP workshop in Ecuador. Hardcopies have also been shared at the GEF global meeting held in Vietnam in June 2018, as well as with UNDP Sri Lanka and NGO/CBO members. More copies will be distributed to universities and libraries in Sri Lanka by Sep 2018.
A case study for each OP6 project will be developed together with each grantee and the Knowledge Management group. These case studies will be published, and a symposium will be held to showcase the results. Moreover, the Knowledge Management Grantees in the three landscapes will work on documenting all the results of the projects in each landscape and see how they all contribute towards the landscape approach, based on which landscape case studies will be developed. A consultant, Technical Advisor of SGP Sri Lanka, will be analyzing the connectivity of all the projects with a landscape approach in Aug 2018. |
| 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 | *(not set or not applicable)* | On Track. With respect to promoting awareness and knowledge of best practices through knowledge sharing events and capacity building activities, the following activities have been implemented so far:
- In Nov 2017, a landscape approach training was held for the NSC/Government and Technical advisers through UNDP co-financing. 30 participants attended this workshop.
On Feb 2, 2018 over 90 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) proponents received training on the landscape approach and GEF focal areas at a workshop in Kurunegala. Proposal development and the log frame were discussed at this meeting.
On 3-4 May 2018, over 40 SGP Project beneficiaries underwent a proposal development workshop, which included a training on Results Based Management and how to fill the log frame according to SGP outcomes and indicators. A further training will be held by mid-August to finalize the project log frames, which will also ensure ease for monitoring purposes.
A workshop on “Conducting Ecological Social Surveys in Colombo Wetlands and Introduction of floral and faunal species commonly found in wetlands in the Colombo landscape” was held for the Colombo projects on 17 July 2018, and a workshop on “Finalizing Baseline Questionnaires and Guidance on Data Analysis for the Colombo Landscape will be held on 14 Aug 2018 for the beneficiaries.
In Nov 2018, Progress Workshops will be held in the landscapes so grantees can learn and share their experience. SGP will be hiring a communication expert in Sep 2018 who will document and analyze the experiences, lessons and discussions from these meetings. Furthermore, the 3 Knowledge Management grantees will assist in holding these workshops in the 3 landscapes. The NSC, Technical Advisers and the Multi-Stakeholder Groups will be invited to attend these workshops.
Mid 2019, exchange programmes will be held in the 3 landscapes so that the grantees learn about the other projects and the landscape approach.
SGP hopes to build the capacity of the Sri Lanka Nature Forum and the SGP network, a collaboration of over 80 SGP NGOs through training on SGP focal areas, landscape approach training, business model training and up-scaling. This is planned from September 2018 through 2019. SGP will use the expertise of the National Steering Committee, Technical Advisers and academia to provide their expertise through day training and practical field trainings.
In September 2018, a consultant will be hired to develop business models for SGP grantees and for some members of the Sri Lanka Nature Forum.
An expert will support a workshop on Eco-Tourism in October 2018 to guide the Knuckles grantees on eco-tourism.
A private sector forum will be organized in Jan 2019, where all the SGP grantees will showcase their project work where possible co-financing collaborations will be explored.
A flyer on “What’s Up” at SGP, which was launched in July 2018, will be a monthly edition to inform stakeholders of the work of SGP Sri Lanka.
A communication strategy is expected to be developed by a communication expert who will be hired in August 2018. This consultant will look at how SGP will communicate to stakeholders such as NGOs, private sector and the government and policy makers. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | **On track** |

# Implementation Progress



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| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 21.4% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 34.81% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 534,425.87 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** |
| PPG Amount | 60,000 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 2497078 |
| Co-financing | 3,300,000 |

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| **Key Project Dates** |
| PIF Approval Date | Apr 28, 2015 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Nov 18, 2016 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Jan 25, 2017 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Mar 20, 2017 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Jan 25, 2019 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Oct 25, 2020 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Jan 25, 2021 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2017 to 1 July 2018)** |
| 2017-08-25 |
| 2017-10-13 |
| 2017-10-27 |
| 2017-12-22 |
| 2018-01-19 |
| 2018-03-25 |
| 2018-05-25 |

# Critical Risk Management

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| Current Types of Critical Risks  | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |
| N/A | No critical risk is identified in the Project Document. |

# Adjustments

**Comments on delays in key project milestones**

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| **Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure.** |
| As of today, there are no delays in achieving key project milestones.
The project had its inception workshop in March 2017, and the NC was hired in July 2018 and the PA in November 2018 resulting in delays initiating the programme and finalizing the 3 landscape strategies. Grants were not awarded until the landscape strategies were finalized and the typology of projects defined. Therefore, the grant process was initiated only in Jan 2018, affecting the low delivery rate. From Jan 2018 to April 2018 the project fast-tracked, and 18 community grants were awarded in the three landscapes during the reporting period. Although there were initial delays, the programme is on track and the MTR will be held as scheduled. |

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| **Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure.** |
| As of today, there are no delays in achieving key project milestones. |

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| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure.** |
| No delays were observed in achieving key project milestones this reporting period. The project is well prepared for the upcoming MTR. |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

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| **Role** | **2018 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2018 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -*  |
| Overall Assessment | The project is rated as Satisfactory as activities are well underway, and progress is in line with the annual workplan. Progress towards individual targets is on track, with some targets achieved or exceeded already in this early implementation stage of the project. Some targets are yet to be achieved but progress is expected to be achieved through future activities including remaining grant making in the three landscapes.
Outcome 1:
The project has already achieved his end-of-projects targets, as the project has established multi-stakeholder partnerships in three ecologically sensitive landscapes and developed and executed management plans to enhance socio-ecological landscape resilience and achieve global environmental benefits. The multi-stakeholder working groups of each landscape are comprised of the nominee of the District Secretary’s office, academia, relevant government stakeholders and civil society. They have been an important and integral part of the programmes and have been consulted during the short-listing of community-based projects, providing advisory services to SGP Sri Lanka. The 3 groups have also been instrumental in advising on the essential key needs, from a social and environmental perspective, of the landscape providing guidance for the 3 strategic projects as well.
Three landscape management strategies have been reviewed and approved by the SGP NSC, one in each of the 3 landscapes. After several discussions and a thorough, participatory process involving the SGP National Steering Committee (NSC), technical experts and key strategic stakeholders, and the communities, as well as extensive research and analysis through the SEPLS indicators, the 3 strategic documents were completed in Dec 2017 by 3 grantees. Main expected outcomes of the strategies are protection and restoration of sensitive ecosystems and habitats and preventing further degradation of natural resources, sustainable land use practices to preserve and enhance agro-biodiversity and productivity, improving local livelihoods through ecofriendly community-based enterprises, and boosting the knowledge and capacity of the community and local institutions to increase resilience. These documents are now uploaded on the Sri Lanka SGP website.
Typologies of projects for the three landscapes were developed and used when calling for concepts for the three landscapes. Project types include restoration of degraded lands, promotion of agro-forestry and agriculture, protection of wetlands, water conservation and improvement of livelihoods. All approved projects for funding have secured co-financing in terms of cash and in-kind from different stakeholders. 8 projects in Colombo, 5 projects in Mannar and 5 projects in Knuckles have all secured co-financing by other stakeholders in the landscape.
Outcome 2:
Progress towards this outcome “Community-based organizations in landscape-level networks build their adaptive management capacities by implementing projects and collaborating in landscape management” is on track. 16 organizations have started on-the-ground activities within 16 projects promoting biodiversity conservation on over 33,450 ha in the three landscapes, exceeding the target of 10,000 ha. Reforestation activities are being carried out by 8 organizations on 1,059 ha in the 3 landscapes through small grants. It is expected that the 7,000 ha target will be achieved through additional grant projects and strategic projects by the end of the project period 2020.
There are 7 projects on the ground presently working on degraded wetland rehabilitation activities on 466 ha towards the target of 3,000 ha. Six (6) projects have been approved that carry out land rehabilitation activities on 467 ha thus far towards the target of 2,000 ha. Seven (7) projects contribute towards 427.2 ha of agro-ecological practices; systems that increases sustainability & productivity, and conservation of crop genetic resources towards the target of 8,000ha. These targets on reforestation, wetland rehabilitation, agro-ecological practices, and improved agricultural sustainability and productivity are expected to be achieved by the end of the project period.
Over 300 community members will benefit in each landscape from projects promoting alternative livelihood options. The projects awarded thus far cover 313 community members, which equals more than 150% of the target (200 community members). The activities are currently ongoing and livelihood options mainly focus on farming, and eco-tourism related occupations.
Outcome 3:
Progress towards outcome 3 “Multi-stakeholder partnerships develop and implement projects that catalyze the adoption of successful SGP-supported technologies, practices, or systems” is on track. The methodology of upscaling has been established and preparatory work has been completed by short-listing 3 projects/concepts from the 4 SGP publications that have published approx. 80 case studies of successful SGP projects. The initial short-listing of the three best ideas has been completed and vetted through the multi-stakeholder groups. Discussions are ongoing with key stakeholders and the three concepts will be presented at the July NSC meeting. Once the NSC has selected the key concepts to take forward, there will be a call for mature SGP grantees to apply.
The 3 multi-stakeholder groups in the three landscapes are already involved in identifying the key needs for the respective landscapes and supporting the selection of concepts that should be taken forward in their landscapes. For example, rehabilitation of connected wetlands in the Colombo landscape, soil conservation and reversing land degradation in Knuckles, and tackling water shortage in Mannar. They will continue to be involved in the design and implementation of the strategic project in each landscape.
Outcome 4:
Progress towards outcome 4 “Multi-stakeholder landscape policy platforms will discuss potential policy innovations based on analysis of project experience and lessons learned” is also on track. Multi-stakeholder policy platforms will be developed after consulting the NSC on involving high-level government officials through the focal ministry for Environment, the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, which will ensure post-project continuation of services. At the beginning of 2019, after the SGP projects have been under implementation on the ground and producing results, these initiatives will be showcased to high-level governance platforms to encourage their collaboration on these initiatives beyond the project period. Measures will be taken to include these initiatives in their policy work and master plans.
With regard to summarizing lessons learned and best practices, based on evaluation of implementation results at the landscape level, a 25-year publication on SGP OP5 has been completed and disseminated globally. A case study for each OP6 project will be developed together with each grantee and Knowledge Management group. These case studies will be published, and a symposium will be held to showcase the results in mid 2020. Moreover, the Knowledge Management Grantees in the three landscapes will work on documenting all the results of the projects in each landscape and see how they all contribute towards the landscape approach, based on which landscape case studies will be developed in collaboration with the UCP Regional Technical Advisor and Knowledge Management Consultant. A Newsletter on “What’s Up” at SGP has been launched in June 2018 and will be a monthly edition to provide updates on SGP Sri Lanka. A comprehensive communication strategy will be developed by a communications expert who will be hired in August 2018. This consultant will look at how SGP will communicate to stakeholders such as NGOs, private sector and the government and policy makers.
With regard to gender equality and women empowerment, the Project Document has given due priority for mainstreaming gender and social inclusiveness into the project through outcomes, outputs and indicators and is complemented by a gender equality strategy. Gender sensitivity was considered as one of the key priority areas in landscape-level baseline surveys and is part of the grantee selection process for project funding.
All projects approved for funding have secured co-financing in terms of cash and in-kind from different stakeholders. 8 projects in Colombo, 5 projects in Mannar and 5 projects in Knuckles have all secured co-financing by other stakeholders in the landscape.
SGP is working with 21 partners at present in the present cycle and is also actively engaged with working with the SRI Lanka Nature Forum a partnership of over 70 SGP grantees. Working towards civil society capacity building on GEF focal areas, the landscape approach and other key areas that would benefit them. |
| **Role** | **2018 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2018 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Satisfactory | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The primary objective of the project is 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 project focuses on three landscapes namely Knuckles Conservation Forest and its buffer zone, the coastal region from Mannar Island to Jaffna, and the Colombo Wetlands. These three landscapes represent wetlands, forests and coastal regions.
There are four key outcomes of the project out of which outcome one is to improve resilience of rural landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection, outcome two works on building adaptive management capacities of community-based organizations in landscape level networks by implementing small pilot projects with specific emphasis on collaborating in landscape management, outcome three focuses on developing and implementing projects that catalyze the adoption of successful SGP-supported technologies, practices, or systems through multi-stakeholder partnerships, and finally outcome four focuses on multi-stakeholder landscape policy platforms to discuss potential policy innovations based on analysis of project experience and lessons learned.
The project implementation started in February 2017. Therefore, this is the first Project Implementation Report (PIR) of the project relating to the second year of implementation, and the project is rated as Satisfactory for Development Objective Progress. As of 30th June 2018, the project has been able to set up its management arrangements such as the national steering committee, and complete recruitments of a national coordinator and associate etc. The project has also attained a considerable progress in line with targets for 2018 identified in the project document and the results framework. These include formulation and validation of strategies for the three landscapes. The strategies lay the foundation for identifying priority areas for selecting grantees for small grants. Based on these priorities, the project has granted 20 small grants to work in the three landscapes during the reporting period. Establishment of multi-stakeholder groups for the three landscapes is another key achievement of the project thus far.
Deficiency of clarity and awareness on the concept of landscape level planning could give rise to certain drawbacks in moving forward as the planning thus far is more focused on administrative boundary level. Therefore, it is noteworthy to record that the project conducted a training programme for government officials on landscape level planning during the reporting period. However, the project should provide enough attention in expanding the level of awareness and training in years to come. Further, it has been noted that even though the project has covered the areas like biodiversity and climate change areas it has not paid adequate attention on addressing land degradation issues when selecting small grants projects. Therefore, it is advisable to consider more projects which covers land degradation issues in order to achieve targets identified in the project document/results framework.
Cumulative financial delivery is mostly on track, with minor delays, with a cumulative delivery against expected delivery as of this year of 34.81%, which is moderately satisfactory (IP). Project risk log indicates that there are no critical risks identified. However, as the project closely work on an array of stakeholder’s project should identify potential risks and come up with corrective measures to address these risks. One of the areas the project should pay attention in the future is to establish a systematic grievance redress mechanism to address potential grievances. Moreover, it is recommended to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation – both field monitoring for individual projects, and results monitoring against the overall framework- to ensure that grants given by the project are successfully implemented and contributing to project’s objectives in the overall.
According to the project strategy there are immense potential for gender inclusion in a more meaningful manner. However, these aspects should be taken into consideration from the very early stage. Therefore, it is highly recommended to conduct a gender assessment and identify potential entry points and strategies to identify differential needs of men, women, girls, boys and address the accordingly. Further, project should identify different potentials of men and women in landscape level planning and come up with a sustainable starter to utilize them differently as change agents.
Project has a major component of improving income generating activities. Therefore, there is a huge potential of bringing private sector on-board for sustainable management of identified landscapes. With that background, it is recommended to explore potential private sector partners and work with them closely and liaise with UNDP CO programmes that work in the environmental sector and private sector partnerships. Moreover, the project could also work with non-traditional partners such as universities moving forward.
Project is encouraged to share best practices and experiences with other similar UNDP funded projects such as GEF funded Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Biofin Project, Biomass Energy Project, Integrated Water Management project supported by Green Climate Fund. The lessons learnt and good practices specially in terms of ecotourism and tourism management could be fed into a “Biodiversity Tourism” Project under GEF VII cycle, which is currently being formulated.
Finally, the project should pay more attention on communicating results among wider audiences to showcase the progress and advocate potential partners on landscape level planning. |
| **Role** | **2018 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2018 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **GEF Operational Focal point** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -*  |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| **Role** | **2018 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2018 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Implementing Partner** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -*  |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| **Role** | **2018 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2018 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Other Partners** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -*  |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| **Role** | **2018 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2018 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser** | Satisfactory | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | This is the first PIR for the Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Sri Lanka and the project is granted a DO rating of SATISFACTORY as the project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The current progress shown below, explains why the project manager, the UNDP Country Office and the Regional Technical Advisor (RTA), concur with a satisfactory DO rating.
As one of the SGP Upgraded Country Programmes, SGP Sri Lanka in its Sixth Operational Phase has been adopting a community-based landscape approach to enhance and maintain socio-ecological resilience of three ecologically sensitive landscapes: The Knuckles Conservation Forest and its buffer zone, the coastal region from Mannar Island to Jaffna, and the Colombo Wetlands. During its first year of implementation, the project has been able 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 17 community-based projects, with additional projects in the pipeline, 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. These activities cover an expected total area of 33,450 hectares under resilient landscape management across three production landscape, against the original objective level target of 20,000ha. Each landscape has targeted over 250 beneficiaries, actively participating in project activities benefitting over 750 individuals as an aggregate in all 3 landscapes (target: 250 in each landscape). The target of area of degraded lands in three project landscapes benefitting from land rehabilitation activities (target: 15,000), is also on track with initial work being undertaken in 1,360 through ha community projects. The target is expected to be achieved by the end of the project through soil conservation and land restoration activities in the Knuckles landscape.
The project is designed to enhance capacity of community organizations for landscape management for socio-ecological resilience through 4 outcomes: 1): Multi-stakeholder partnerships in three ecologically sensitive landscapes develop and execute management plans to enhance socio-ecological landscape resilience and global environmental benefits; 2) Community-based organizations in landscape level networks build their adaptive management capacities by implementing projects and collaborating in landscape management; 3) Multi-stakeholder partnerships develop and implement projects that catalyze the adoption of successful SGP-supported technologies, practices, or systems; 4) Multi-stakeholder landscape policy platforms will discuss potential policy innovations based on analysis of project experience and lessons learned.
With regard to Outcome 1, the project has been successful in its first year, and the EoP targets have been achieved. In terms of landscape governance, three multi-stakeholder working groups have been formed 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. Three comprehensive socio-ecological baseline assessments have been completed in the 3 landscapes in the period Nov 2017-Dec 2017 using the set of 20 SEPLS indicators of resilience developed under the Satoyama Initiative and piloted by the COMDEKS programme (target achieved). In November 2017, SGP Sri Lanka conducted community consultations and participatory baseline assessments in the three target landscapes (target: achieved). In the Colombo Wetlands landscape, 103 local stakeholders (75 men and 28 women), including community members and leaders, private sector/farmers, civil society, and government representatives, participated in the baseline assessment using the Resilience Indicators, piloted through COMDEKS, in November 2017. Within the same month, the baseline assessment and community consultations were conducted through four workshops held for the Knuckles Conservation Forest and Buffer Zone, with a total of 283 participants (169 men and 114 women). Finally, 173 local stakeholders participated in overall six workshops conducted for the baseline assessment in the Colombo target landscape. Based on the socio-economic and environmental challenges identified during these participatory assessments, all three Landscape Strategies were finalized in January and February 2018 (target: achieved). Each Landscape Strategy defines four key landscape outcomes, as well as a typology of potential projects (target: achieved) that community-based initiatives will aim to achieve through collective action, in order to address challenges as diverse as the types of the target landscapes, ranging from soil and water degradation due to human activity and habitat loss impacting local biodiversity, to governance issues over local resources and reduced crop productivity due to soil degradation and climate change effects.
With regard to outcome 2, project activities are on track through 16 community based-projects currently under implementation (16 out of 17) 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. As mentioned above, additional projects are in the pipeline, and the project team is encouraged to commit all grant funds before the end of the year to allow for sufficient time for on the ground implementation, reaching the expected targets. In particular, on-the-ground work has been initiated by 16 organizations carrying out 16 projects supporting biodiversity conservation on a total of over 32,300 ha in the three landscapes (target: at least 10,000 ha); reforestation activities are being carried out on a cumulative of 1,059 ha by 8 organizations in the 3 landscapes (target: 7,000 ha), rehabilitation activities of degraded wetlands are starting up covering 466 ha (target: 3,000). Measurements related to carbon sequestration will be undertaken in the coming reporting period as projects are still in the early phase of implementation. The target related to the promotion of agro-ecological practices and systems is also on track (target: 8,000), and expected to be achieved by the end of the project through remaining funding available for small grants. Finally, over 300 individuals per landscape are expected to benefit from the projects through alternative livelihood options. The projects awarded thus far cover 313 individuals in the community, which equals more than 150% of the target (200 individuals).
With regard to outcome 3 related to strategic projects, the target of ‘three strategic projects to enable and facilitate upscaling of successful SGP-supported initiatives’ is on track. The methodology of upscaling has been established, and discussions are ongoing with key stakeholders on three concepts to be reviewed by the NSC. SGP is also exploring the possibility of upscaling best practices from mature SGP grantees outside of the strategic projects modality (amount up to US$150,000) through capacity development and business model trainings. Once projects are selected, the project team in encouraged to produce case studies highlighting the role of these projects, and supported activities in addressing market barriers, up-scaling appropriate technologies or specific successful lines of work, and/or advancing needed policy changes.
With regard to outcome 4 on capacity building, policy influence and knowledge management, EoP targets are on track. As mentioned above, important steps were made by the project during the reporting period to support multi-stakeholder governance platforms, which will ensure post-project continuation of services, and three such platforms were established. These platforms will have a key role in terms of disseminating knowledge and experiences from project activities for further policy influence and upscaling. The project has also paid particular attention to provide capacity building opportunities, as evidenced in this PIR by the number of guidance workshops and trainings conducted by the project. About 160 project stakeholders have so far received training and/or participated in workshops on analysis of project experience and landscape management, and additional capacity building workshops are planned in the coming months (target: 500).
More specifically, on knowledge management activities, one of the strategic priorities for SGP is the generation and dissemination of the knowledge produced by its projects allowing for other communities and donors to replicate and scale up good practices. SGP Sri Lanka has made important progress with regards to knowledge management and capacity building activities during the reporting period. In particular, during the reporting period, in occasion of World Environment Day, SGP Sri Lanka organized a symposium on OP5 supported projects and CBR+ projects in partnership with other UN Agencies, Government and private sector entities. In this occasion, SGP Sri Lanka launched a publication with over 30 case studies “25 years of SGP”, where good cases were highlighted and disseminated to celebrate 25 years of GEF SGP. 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.
During the reporting period, SGP Sri Lanka has been involved in a number of South-South collaboration efforts that have enabled countries to learn from one another and leverage knowledge and skills. Most notably, in occasion of its 15 years of grant making SGP India , in partnership with the Government of India and the Centre for Environment Education (CEE) in India, organized a knowledge fair with the theme “Mainstreaming grassroots innovations, Community Action, Global Impact” in an effort to highlight the innovative solutions developed by communities and civil society organizations supported by the SGP in India. To promote south-south knowledge transfer, SGP National coordinators from Afghanistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka, attended the event and shared good practices from their countries. SGP Sri Lanka, together with an SGP grantee, HEDO Human and Environment Development Organization, which also won the first runner up in the Yale prize for innovation, shared its experience introducing sustainable practices in the production of fuel-efficient rubber. More than 300 participants attended the fair, including government officials, development practitioners, members of the academia, the private sector, communities and NGOs.
Additionally, in April 2018, SGP Sri Lanka, together with other SGP Country Programmes from SGP Upgraded Country Programmes and the SGP Global Programme, as well as UNDP CO representatives, participated in the global workshop for SGP Upgraded Country Programmes. The workshop offered a valuable platform to 1) review lessons, challenges and successes in implementing SGP Upgraded Country Programmes, provide strategic guidance to project implementation and analyze prospects and preparations for OP7; 2) share and disseminate knowledge and experiences from successful on-the-ground actions for replication and upscaling of community-based landscape planning and management approaches and practices; and 3) build staff technical capacity through specialized training on the community-based landscape management approach and M&E practices. In particular, SGP Sri Lanka shared experiences, results and lessons learned with regard to strengthening the sustainability of production systems.
With regards to gender mainstreaming, SGP has been pioneering and highly recognized in mainstreaming gender equality and women’s empowerment in every step of the program cycle. A gender focal point is designated within each 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, and during the inception workshop, a number of gender indicators were reflected in the project logframe. However, a gender analysis and action plan is yet to take place at the level of each target site to further guide project implementation. It is recommended that before the end of 2018, a gender analysis is conducted, reviewed by the NSC, and implemented in each target landscape ensuring that gender aspects and targets are integrated into project delivery and monitoring.
Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery is mostly on track, with minor delays, as suggested below. Risk management is on track with no foreseen critical risks. Despite the transition of the SGP Sri Lanka Country Programme to an SGP Upgraded Country Programme during its Sixth Operational phase, continuous progress has been made during this reporting period. Overall, the project is well managed and executed, with a functioning project board (SGP National Steering Committee), as also reflected by the considerable number of NSC meetings, seven that took place during the reporting period. During the reporting period, the SGP Sri Lanka National Coordinator has maintained effective work relationships with the NSC, the government, and the UNDP CO, working closely with UNDP CO staff to ensure greater engagement with the UNDP team in view of exploring synergies with UNDP’s ongoing programmes and projects. The project team is encouraged to continue to explore such synergies in the coming reporting period to promote the upscaling and replication impacts of the best practices, also exploring new partnerships with the private sector and the academia.
Cumulative financial delivery is mostly on track, with minor delays which are expected to be addressed in the coming months as more community-based projects are being awarded by the NSC. Considering the delivery rate of 21.4% against the total approved budget as per ProDoc, the overall IP rating is rated as MODERATELY SATISFACTORY. Cumulative disbursement as of June 30 against expected delivery as of this year was at USD 524,425 with a cumulative delivery of 34.81%, which is moderately satisfactory at this stage of the project. Grant implementation has been somewhat slower than planned, despite a number of OP6 call for proposals that were launched during the reporting period. However, commitment and delivery of OP6 grant funds is expected to pick up considerably in the next reporting period.
Final recommendations:
To sum up, the project in on track to deliver on its EoP indicators by its closure, and no major obstacles for the successful implementation of planned future activities have emerged during the period reviewed. A number of recommendations are suggested below for adaptive management in the remaining of the project period. With regards to the timing of project milestones, which are on track, it is recommended that the MTR (due on January 2019) is finalized before the end of 2018 to inform the next PIR, as well as the PIF for the Seventh Operational Phase. In addition, the project is also recommended to track project level co-financing through the SGP database in the coming reporting period, as community-based projects are awarded by the NSC. Acknowledging the concrete progress made this reporting period, moving forward the project has some strategic areas to be addressed in close coordination with all partners: 1) The systematic documentation and dissemination of lesson learned 2) ensuring 100% of grant-making commitment by the end of the year to allow sufficient time for project implementation on the ground ; 3) Tracking co-financing 4) Conduct a landscape-level gender analysis and integrating gender aspects and targets into project delivery and monitoring 5) Liaise closely with the UNDP CO in order to strengthen partnerships and capitalize on potential for upscaling and replication through other FSPs; 6) planning for the Mid-term Review. |

# Gender

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

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

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| **Gender Analysis and Action Plan:** *not available* |
| **Please review the project's Gender Analysis. If the Gender Analysis 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.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.****Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.**  |
| The Project Document has given due priority for mainstreaming gender and social inclusiveness into the project through outcomes, outputs and indicators and the ProDoc is also complemented by a strategy for gender equality (Annex 2). Gender sensitivity was considered as one of the key priority areas in landscape level baseline surveys.
In selection of the projects for small grants and implementing agencies (NGOs) gender was considered among the key criteria. Additionally, a landscape-wide gender analysis is currently being carried out by a gender consultant and the report is due in October 2018. The gender analysis and action plan will help to incorporate the gender aspect in all projects in the future. As the projects are in initial stages, implications of gender inclusion will be reported with more details in the next report.
The Project and selected grant projects specifically target women and young girls as key partners and beneficiaries. Among the selected 18 partner organizations, 2 organizations are women-led organizations and among the selected grant projects, 3 are planned to implement the project with/through women. The following list gives a brief overview:
- Public Interest Law Foundation – women-led grantee: The project aims to give legal status to the Mattegoda and Polgasovita wetlands as protected areas.
- Emotional Intelligence and Life Skills Training Team (Gte) Ltd – A grantee working with women managers in the project, who are involved with the project design and are the key implementers of the project. The project aims to establish community groups to participate in conservation of the selected site in Madinnagoda wetland in Colombo.
- An initiative on wetland conservation and livelihood enhancement by a youth community group working on mobilizing youth and other stakeholders and field activities towards prevention of environment pollution.
- University of Sri Jayewardenepura (Center for Sustainability) – Women-led project aiming at restoration and sustainable management of the Madinnagoda wetland ecosystem, Sri Jayewardenepura, Kotte.
- Small Cat Advocacy and Research – A women-led environment group implementing an urban fishing cat conservation project. |

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| **Does this project specifically target woman or girls as direct beneficiaries?** |
| Yes |

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

# Social and Environmental Standards

**Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)**

The Project Manager and/or the project’s Safeguards Officer should complete this section of the PIR with support from the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP-GEF RTA should review to ensure it is complete and accurate.
For reference, the project's Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP), which was prepared during project design, is available below. If the project began before the SESP was required, then the space below will be empty.

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| **SESP:** [Annex 4 SGP Sri Lanka SESP ProDoc.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5529/214209/1718980/1726551/Annex%204%20SGP%20Sri%20Lanka%20SESP%20ProDoc.doc) |
| **1) Please provide a brief update on the project’s social and environmental risks listed in the SESP. If the project has not prepared an SESP (i.e. if the project began before the SESP was required), then please indicate when that screening will be done (recommended before the Midterm Review and/or Terminal Evaluation, or after a significant change to the project context). If the project has updated its SESP during implementation, then please upload that file to this PIR. If any relevant grievances have arisen during the reporting period please describe them in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.** |
| The project has not updated its SESP during project implementation.
Reduced grant funding for environmental initiatives in the country – Since GEF SGP is one of the few grant mechanisms for environmental initiatives in the country, there is a huge demand for the limited grant funds available. Moreover, in this phase funding was accessible to only 3 landscapes as opposed to the past years where it was open island-wide. Therefore, there are some disgruntled grantees, especially if they had received grant funding in previous phases but not this time. In particular, there are appeals from several grantees who are unhappy that their projects were not selected. In the Knuckles landscape especially, as only one NSC member visited the site there is an appeal to revisit these sites. During the last NSC meeting on July 10th, it was decided that all the D projects (please see DO section for more details) will be visited by the NSC and all the rejected concepts will get a chance to present their concepts at an NSC meeting, hoping that more project proposals will fulfil the selection requirements. Additionally, capacity building on the landscape approach is required, helping the mature SGP grantees to build their capacitates on business incubation models to strengthen their independence and financial sustainability. The Strategic Project modality is also an avenue where mature SGP grantees can play a key role. |

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| **2) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?** |
| No |

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

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| **3) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during implementation? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.** |
| No |

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

# Communicating Impact

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| **Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people’s lives.****(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)** |
| The community-based projects supported by SGP Sri Lanka are starting to produce concrete results, benefiting some 6,000 individuals from 21 community-based organizations by supporting biodiversity conservation; land, forest, and wetland rehabilitation; and alternative livelihood opportunities in the landscapes of Mannar, Knuckles and the Colombo wetlands. Minimizing land degradation by soil restoration techniques and reforestation of the landscapes are some important expected results, which will help local communities to secure their livelihoods while protecting the ecosystems they depend on.
Some interesting examples of projects supported through SGP during OP6 include the following:
The SGP Project implemented by the Wanasarana Thurulatha Swechcha Society is supporting 25 local farmers to cultivate 30 hectares of barren paddy fields abandoned for decades, also preserving traditional local paddy varieties and 10 hectares of Koratu lands with vegetable crops in the Walpita wetlands of the Homagama agrarian division. The goal of the project is to create a biodiversity hotspot landscape in the surroundings of Walpitayaya paddy lands. The Walpitayaya paddy fields in Homagama agrarian division have faced degradation for decades and have not been cultivated for many years. This revived rice paddy cultivation and vegetable farming will generate income for local farmers, while restoring degraded soil through organic farming practices. Reforestation activities will additionally help to restore fragmented habitats for local biodiversity and rehabilitate degraded ecosystems.
A project implemented by the Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF), an NGO that works with the community on legal aid, aims to achieve legal status as protected areas for the Mattegoda and Polgasowita wetlands to conserve and protect the Mattegoda Wewa and adjacent wetlands with ground water source in the Homagama divisional secretariat. These wetlands are situated in an area that is developing fast and hence face the threat of being lost or seriously degraded. Conserving these wetlands is important for socio-economic and environmental reasons, as local livelihoods depend on biodiversity and healthy ecosystems, so PILF and the Wetland Division of the Central Environment Authority are promoting legal protection for the Mattegoda Wewa and adjacent wetlands.
The SGP Project implemented by the Organization for Aquatic Resources Management (OARM), an NGO that works on Habitat Restoration and enrichment of the Heen Ela marsh, Rajagiriya, in the Colombo landscape, aims to create suitable habitats to attract aquatic birds and establish a park open to visitors to ensure the protection of the marshland. The declining of aquatic bird populations and other fauna due to habitat loss is expected to be reversed through habitat restoration, which will involve the removal of the invasive species Wel-atta and acacia that cover 40-45% of the land. The NGO will also grow native plants along the wetlands to restore the nesting grounds for bird species in the area. Conservation of the marsh can be carried out through public awareness raising and promoting new ecotourism enterprises. Shallow pools will be excavated to create habitat for aquatic birds, bat houses will be built and people from the community will be trained to produce pendants and ornaments from the Wel-atta tree, which will create income while helping to remove this invasive species. To resolve the human-snake conflict that could impact eco-tourism activities, piles with soil are built for snakes and the community will be trained on how to react in a close encounter with different types of snakes. Youth from the community will be trained on handling snakes. Overall, the project aims to rehabilitate at least 60 ha of degraded wetlands at Heen-Ela marsh, and over 100 ha will be protected from human-snake conflict around Heen-Ela Marsh.
The SGP Project implemented by the community youth group Small Cat Advocacy and Research aims to protect and conserve the Urban Fishing Cat in the area. The Fishing cat (Prionailurus viverrinus) – locally known as the “Handun diviya“ – is the country’s second largest wild cat. Though the species’ global classification was upgraded to Vulnerable in 2016 by the IUCN red list, it is locally classified as Endangered by the National Red List, Sri Lanka. Colombo is the only known large city in the world where wild fishing cats have been recorded, not only in urban wetlands, but also within the heart of the city. The main objective of the project is to conserve the endangered fishing cat in Colombo’s urban wetlands starting with the Diyasaru Park and Kolonnawa wetland by developing a wetland management and wildlife management strategy for Colombo’s urban wetlands. Moreover, it aims to contribute to establishing a small cat rehabilitation center at Diyasaru Park as well as a social enterprise for wetland conservation through a plastic recycling initiative. Fishing cat poultry cages will be provided to the communities faced with fishing cat-human conflict to protect their livestock.
The SGP Project implemented by the Marine and Coastal Resources Conservation Foundation works on establishing community surveillance and reef monitoring mechanism to ensure sustainable management of Vankalei coral reef. The Vankalai fishing village was identified as productive poor and the majority of community members are primarily dependent on the marine resources of the Vankalai reef, near-shore and lagoon ecosystems. Poverty, resource depletion, and chronic coastal disasters are only some of the major local challenges. Hence, the project aims to contribute to improved socio-economic and environmental conditions in and around the Vankalei village, by supporting biodiversity conservation on- and offshore, as well as rehabilitating the offshore coral cover. Sustainable management of the reef and associated livelihood activities will be promoted through a community-driven surveillance and reef monitoring mechanism, conducting awareness raising activities, mobilizing community members for participation, and establishing a locally suitable reef management mechanism. Community income is expected to increase through rehabilitation of mangroves, reef and beach cleaning programmes, thereby improving ecosystem balance, rehabilitating degraded resources, and improving productivity. Additionally, composting and aloe vera production will be promoted to establish alternative livelihood activities. Ten youths will be trained in rescuing entangled turtles and dolphins from fishing nets, which is envisioned to spur ecotourism opportunities. |

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| **What is the most significant change that has resulted from the project this reporting period?****(This text will be used for internal knowledge management in the respective technical team and region.)** |
| The establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms and creating a common vision for sustainable landscape planning and management for biodiversity conservation and livelihood improvement in the three landscapes can be considered the most significant change through activities carried out during the reporting period. Additionally, the baseline assessments and these multi-stakeholder groups contributed to collectively identifying key challenges and creating a common vision for action.
In the case of the Colombo Wetlands Landscape, there has been significant progress towards conserving the wetlands of Colombo. The wetlands are considered the heart of the city as they help to control flooding and restore balance in the environment. Thus, 8 projects in and around the wetlands will produce key pilots (to be showcased to private sector) on how the urban community – though in an urban setting – can still protect the environment and wetlands.
In the case of Knuckles, soil conservation and forest restoration are key to protect the forests of Knuckles. Initial projects have started to showcase these methods.
In Mannar, the coastal belt projects help to conserve water habitats along with sustainable livelihoods that promote environment conservation rather than destruction. |

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| **Describe how the project supported South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year.****(This text will be used for internal knowledge management within the respective technical team and region.)** |
| The SGP NC and a representative from the grantee HEDO (Human and Environment Development Organization) participated in the South South Exchange platform of knowledge exchange organized by SGP India in Ahemabad. Here, the grantees from India had a product exhibition showcasing environmentally friendly products and climate smart products produced by the programme. This was an invaluable exchange to meet grantees from India and learn from their innovations. Sri Lanka will look at finding ways together with SGP India on how to set up a knowledge exchange platform for grantees to learn from each other.
The SGP NC participated in the COMDEKS Global Knowledge Exchange workshop in Costa Rica in 2017, and in 2018 in the SGP UCP Global Workshop in Quito, Ecuador, which both involved the landscape approach as a central theme for discussions and trainings. The SGP Sri Lanka PA and the NSC Chair also participated in the workshop in Quito and learned a lot from this international exchange. It was a learning experience on how other countries work with grantees and jointly work in their landscapes.
In February last year, the grantee HEDO won the first runner up in the Yale prize for innovation, where experiences on fuel-efficient rubber were showcased in the US at a high-profile symposium.
Last year, SGP organized a symposium on OP5 projects and CBR+ projects where a publication on over 30 case studies was launched. It was launched at the WED organized by SGP, UN Agencies, Government and private sector entities. This publication was showcased internationally by uploading it to the SGP Global and SGP Sri Lanka websites. The publication was also shared with the SGP team globally by email. SGP Sri Lanka also published the book “25 years of SGP”, where good cases were highlighted and disseminated for the worldwide audience to celebrate 25 years of the GEF. |

**Project Links and Social Media**

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| **Please include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, Adaptation Learning Mechanism (UNDP-ALM) platform, Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file upload' button in the top right of the PIR.** |
| http://www.gefsgpsl.org/ - Sri Lanka GEF/SGP website
Here are the links for the publications:
Local Action- Global Thinking
https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B8EMaM8pGjjAUHdkOWVwdXdwUVk
GEF-SGP 25 Year Publication
https://www.dropbox.com/s/lxmtvvypbb06hff/25%20Years%20-%20COMMUNITIES%20IN%20ACTION%20-%20Publication.pdf?dl=0
COMDEKS Newsletter – Issue 24, June 2018
https://comdeksproject.files.wordpress.com/2018/06/comdeks-newsletter-issue24\_final1.pdf |

# Partnerships

Give the name of the partner(s), and describe the partnership, recent notable activities and any innovative aspects of the work. Please do not use any acronyms. (limit = 2000 characters).This information is used to get a better understanding of the work GEF-funded projects are doing with key partners, including the GEF Small Grants Programme, indigenous peoples, the private sector, and other partners. Please list the full names of the partners (no acronyms please) and summarize what they are doing to help the project achieve its objectives. The data may be used for reporting to GEF Secretariat, the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP Corporate Communications, posted on the UNDP-GEF website, and for other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts. The RTA should view and edit/elaborate on the information entered here. All projects must complete this section. Please enter "N/A" in cells that are not applicable to your project.

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| **Civil Society Organisations/NGOs** |
| Sri Lanka Nature Forum (SGP Network in Sri Lanka)
Wanasarana Thurulatha Swechcha Society (WTSS)– WTSS will cultivate 30 hectares of barren paddy fields that were abandoned for decades with traditional paddy varieties and 10 hectares of koratu lands with vegetable crops in Walpita wetlands of Homagama Agrarian Division, by local farmers.
Mihimaw Science Foundation: Rehabilitation and sustainable use of selected wetland agro ecosystem in Homagama DS Division.
Public Interest Law Foundation: Giving legal status to the Mattegoda and Polgasovita wetlands as protected areas.
Emotional Intelligence and Life Skills Training Team (Gte) Ltd.: Initiative on wetland conservation and livelihood enhancement by a youth community group.
Organization for Aquatic Resources Management (OARM): Habitat Restoration and enrichment project for the Heen Ela marsh, Rajagiriya, Colombo.
People to People Volunteers: Wetland Eco- System Conservation Around Thalangama Tank
University of Sri Jayewardenepura (Center for Sustainability): Restoration and sustainable management of Madinnagoda wetland ecosystem, Sri Jayewardenepura, Kotte
Small Cat Advocacy and Research: Urban Fishing cat conservation project
National Ethnic Unity Foundation: Conserving the Rathna Ella conservation forest and developing eco-tourism activities for community livelihoods.
Centre For Integrated Indigenous Knowledge System: Promoting Biodiversity Conservation in three villages, minimizing human animal conflicts and developing eco-tourism activities.
Friends of Knuckles Foundation for Nature & Culture (Dumbara Mithuro Foundation): Biodiversity Conservation in four villages in the Knuckles Conservation Forest through community participation.
Herpetological Foundation of Sri Lanka: Protecting the herpetofauna point endemic species for strengthening the conservation status of the Knuckles landscape.
Arunalu Community Development Centre: Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Enhancement in the Theligamu Oya Watershed.
Sri Lanka Turtle Conservation Project: Promoting the wise use of marine and coastal habitats by coastal communities through education and incentives in Vidathalativu, Mannar.
Marine and Coastal Resources Conservation Foundation: A community drive surveillance and reef monitoring mechanism to ensure sustainable management of Vankalei coral reef.
Socio-Economic Development Association: Promote environmentally friendly ecosystem development and sustainable land use practices in schools.
Zoological Students Association: Promoting home stay based eco-tourism through sustainable use of coastal biodiversity |

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| **Indigenous Peoples** |
| N/A |

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| **Private Sector** |
| MAS Holdings – Co-financing partner
Commercial Bank PLC – Co-financing Partner
Ecotherm Energy Solutions – Co-financing Partner |

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| **GEF Small Grants Programme** |
| The project is delivered by the GEF Small Grants Programme in Sri Lanka |

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| **Other Partners** |
| Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment
United Nations Development Programme
Sri Lanka Navy |

# 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.