SGP The GEF Small Grants Programme

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# THE GEF SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME
# RESULTS REPORT 2017-2018

# THE SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME (SGP)

## RESULTS REPORT 2017-2018

### INTRODUCTION

The Small Grants Programme (SGP) is a corporate programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) that finances community-led initiatives to address global environmental and sustainable development issues. Launched in 1992, it is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of the GEF Partnership. It is specifically designed to generate local action by empowering civil society organizations (CSOs) and poor and vulnerable communities, including indigenous peoples and women.

The SGP supports community projects that have global environmental benefits while improving livelihoods and reducing poverty, as well as promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. The SGP has a decentralized national-level delivery mechanism, responsible for the implementation of more than 22,000 projects in 125 countries, with a total of US$600 million in grants since its launch. Among the countries participating in the SGP, 69 are Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), with several in post-conflict or crisis status.

### METHODOLOGY

This report presents SGP's results for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, based on information from 120 SGP Country Programmes, and including only GEF-funded projects completed during the reporting period. 1,005 GEF-funded projects were completed and results for these are presented in infographic and summary form here. A full report is also accessible at www.sgp.undp.org.

## PORTFOLIO

1 JULY 2017 – 30 JUNE 2018

**1,011** NEW PROJECTS

**1,005** COMPLETED PROJECTS

**2,942** ONGOING PROJECTS

## FUNDING

ACTIVE PORTFOLIO OF GRANT PROJECTS FUNDED BY GEF

**US$102** MILLIONS IN PROJECTS FUNDING

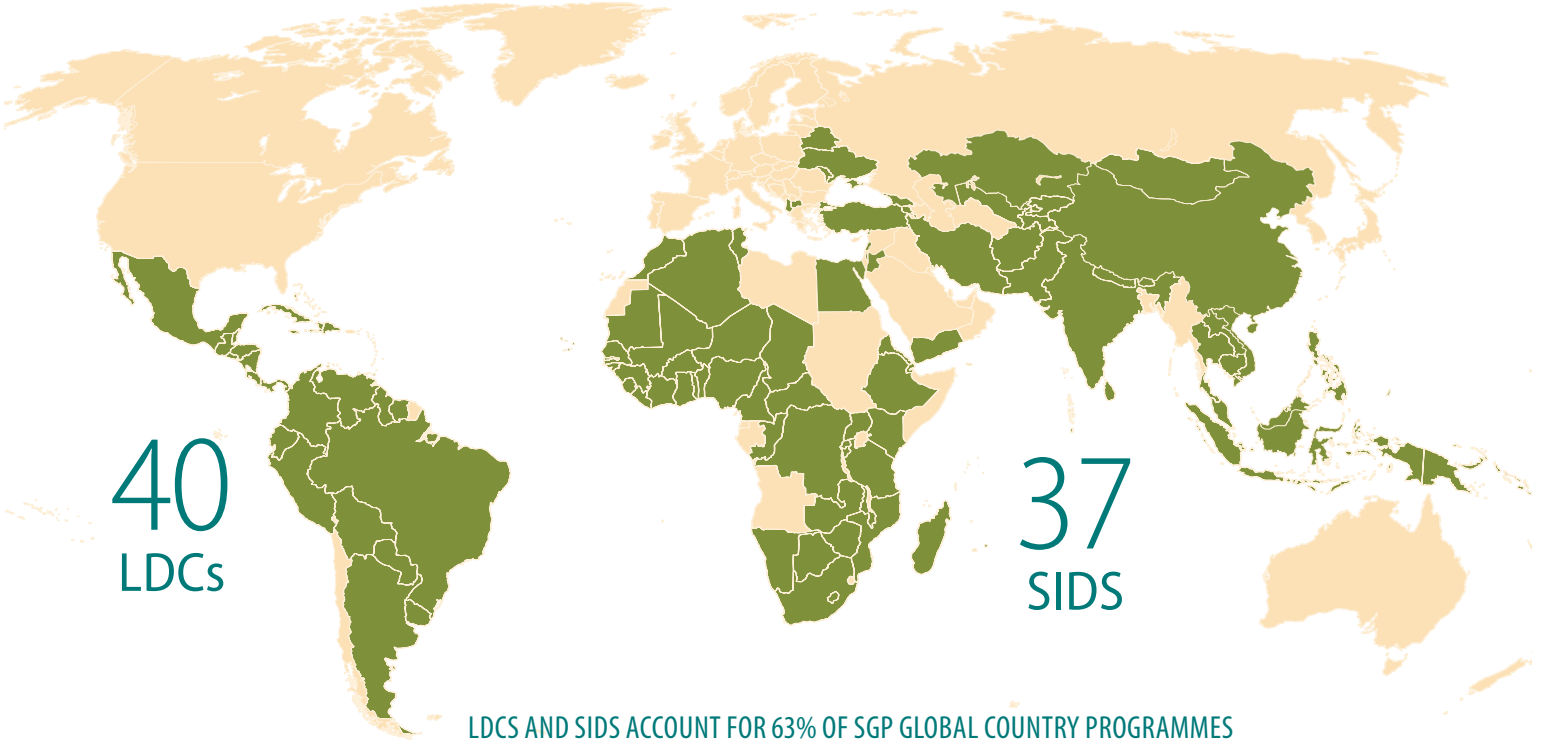
**US$103** MILLIONS IN PROJECT LEVEL CO-FINANCING

## COVERAGE

**125** ACTIVE COUNTRIES

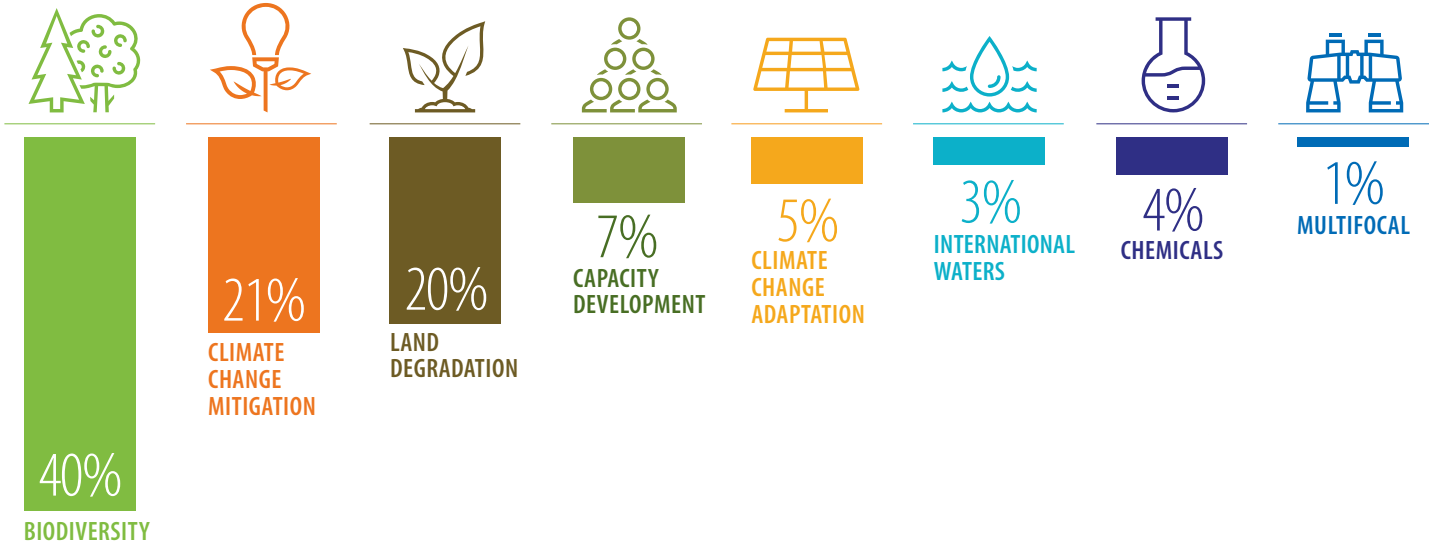
**110** COUNTRIES IN THE SGP GLOBAL PROGRAMME

**15** UPGRADED COUNTRIES




LDCS AND SIDS ACCOUNT FOR 63% OF SGP GLOBAL COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

## FOCAL AREA DISTRIBUTION



# PROGRESS TOWARDS FOCAL AREA OBJECTIVES

## BIODIVERSITY

SGP's biodiversity portfolio supports improvements in the sustainability of protected areas (PAs) and indigenous and community conservation areas and territories (ICCAs), as well as mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use through protection and transmission of traditional knowledge and genetic resources.

### RESULTS DURING THE REPORTING YEAR

(JULY 1, 2017 - JUNE 30, 2018)

**7.1**
MILLION HECTARES OF PAs

**192**
NUMBER OF PAs

**202**
NUMBER OF ICCAs

**7.1**
MILLION HECTARES OF LANDSCAPES AND SEASCAPES UNDER SUSTAINABLE USE

**381**
PROJECTS COMPLETED

**459**
THOUSAND HECTARES OF ICCAs

**228**
LANDSCAPES AND SEASCAPES UNDER SUSTAINABLE USE

**618**
SIGNIFICANT SPECIES WITH IMPROVED CONSERVATION STATUS

**595**
SUSTAINABLY PRODUCED BIODIVERSITY AND AGRO-BIODIVERSITY PRODUCTS

# SPOTLIGHT ON BENIN

The Djidja Territory in south-western Benin was faced with the depletion of species of medicinal plants. SGP supported the Association of Traditional Healers of the Djidja Community *(Association des tradithérapeutes de la commune de Djidja)* to conserve and restore medicinal plants in the area. A key component of the project was to provide training on reproductive techniques of medicinal tree species, including: African mahogany *(Khaya senegalensis)*; pepper *(Xylopia aethiopicum)*; African teak *(Milicia excelsa)*; and leguminous tree species such as Mututi *(Pterocarpus santalinioides)*, which is typically grown in agroforestry systems to act as a windbreak and preserve soil against water erosion.

Moringa oleifera, a highly nutritious plant originating in South Asia, was also introduced to combat high rates of infantile malnutrition in the Didja community. In addition, more than 10 species of rare or endangered medicinal plants were conserved and reintroduced on a demonstration site, through replanting and protection of existing seedlings. The project also contributed to improved food security and increased income of the community members.

SGP Benin

SGP Benin

## CLIMATE CHANGE

SGP's climate-change portfolio supports decarbonization and low-carbon energy transformation at the community level through introduction of low-greenhouse gas (GHG) technologies and low-carbon transport initiatives, including access to renewable energy. These technologies include micro-hydro, wind, solar, and biomass energy production.

### RESULTS

**259** PROJECTS COMPLETED THIS YEAR

**2,412** HOUSEHOLDS WITH ENERGY ACCESS CO-BENEFITS

**189** THOUSAND HECTARES OF FOREST AND NON-FOREST LAND RESTORED OR WITH ENHANCED CARBON STOCKS

**80** TYPOLOGIES OF ENERGY SOLUTIONS

**36** COUNTRY PROGRAMMES (CPS) TO DEPLOYMENT OF LOW-GHG TECHNOLOGIES

# SPOTLIGHT ON HONDURAS

With support from SGP, a local cooperative of electricity producers in Honduras *(Cooperativa Mixta de Servicios Eléctricos Rio Claro)* promoted conservation of the Río Claro micro-basin, while also providing clean energy to the communities of Las Dantas, Los Chiles, and Playitas. Key project components included the installation of a small power-generation system, watershed management, and strengthening organizational capacities of the cooperative.

SGP Honduras

With the installation of power-generation equipment and the subsequent production of hydroelectric energy, the community now generates 50-60 kilowatts during dry periods and 80-90 kWs in the winter months, and provides clean energy to 1,184 members. To protect the watershed, the community, in close coordination with the Municipal Environmental Authority, formed a committee to plant 1,000 trees of endemic species. The support from the SGP also had a catalytic effect to mobilize additional resources to the community, which resulted in leveraging additional funding of more than US$215,000 from several partners, namely the Government of Honduras, the National Electric Utility Company, the local government, and the German Corporation for International Cooperation, to scale up the project. The partners also provided engineering and technical support to improve the design of the system, which generated US$73,749 in savings. As a result, the territory of the Rio Claro watershed was demarcated and declared as protected area by the government.

## LAND DEGRADATION

SGP's sustainable land management portfolio supports reversal and prevention of desertification and land degradation, while mitigating the effects of drought. Activities supported targeted rural communities who are highly dependent on agro-ecosystems and forest ecosystems for their livelihoods.

**RESULTS**

**207** PROJECTS COMPLETED THIS YEAR

| 25 | 174 | 56 | 6,146 | 999 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| THOUSAND COMMUNITY MEMBERS WITH IMPROVED ACTIONS AND PRACTICES | THOUSAND COMMUNITY MEMBERS DEMONSTRATING SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT | THOUSAND HECTARES OF LAND BROUGHT UNDER IMPROVED MANAGEMENT PRACTICES | FARMER LEADERS DEMONSTRATING OF AGRO-ECOLOGICAL PRACTICE | FARMER NETWORKS DISSEMINATING IMPROVED AGRO-ECOLOGY PRACTICES |

# SPOTLIGHT ON GHANA

In Ghana, acommunity group in Dorbor, together with the *Save Our Environment Foundation*, received support from SGP to promote climate-smart agriculture practices to increase resilience to climate change and reduce GHG emissions. With the project, community members established a small-scale village enterprise as well as implementing sustainable land management and wildfire prevention measures. Six community land management groups were formed and trained in sustainable land management practices and technologies.

A participatory land-use plan was formulated and several agricultural practices were implemented, including alley cropping, which improves agricultural productivity by retaining soil moisture. To control water flow and retain soil moisture, stone bunds were also constructed.

As a result, 30 hectares of degraded woodland have been restored and managed sustainably. The community has also adopted efficient charcoal-production methods, agroforestry, compost preparation, and multi-cropping for increased crop yield to diversify their income sources.

SGP Ghana

## SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

SGP's sustainable forest management portfolio supports sustainable land use, land-use change, and forestry management interventions for forest and non-forest land-use types, to ensure connectivity between ecosystems and restorative activities.

### RESULTS

**34**
PROJECTS COMPLETED THIS YEAR

**276**
THOUSAND HECTARES OF FOREST AND NON FOREST LANDS RESTORED OR WITH ENHANCED CARBON STOCKS

# SPOTLIGHT ON BELARUS

SGP Belarus

To combat land degradation and conserve biodiversity in the Klimovichi and Krichev regions of eastern Belarus, SGP supported a community effort to prevent forest fires. Through effective and efficient partnerships with the Ministries of Environment and Forestry, regional authorities, local communities, and environmental NGOs, the project trained communities in Klimovichi on techniques to combat forest fires and raised awareness to prevent forest fires through a media information campaign.

With the use of a new mobile system for forest fire elimination, the number of forest fires in the region was reduced by 29 percent, preventing possible damage from fires in more than 3,000 hectares of forest lands. More than 600 local community members enhanced their knowledge and skills on sustainable land management, sustainable use of biodiversity, and forest fire prevention and control. The project results have shared and encouraged policy makers and practitioners to replicate it to other regions in Belarus.

# INTERNATIONAL WATERS

SGP's international waters portfolio supports sustainable management of transboundary waterbodies through regionally connected community-based activities.

## RESULTS

**27** PROJECTS COMPLETED THIS YEAR

| 13 | 79 | 37 | 26 |
|---|---|---|---|
| NUMBER OF SEASCAPES AND INLAND FRESHWATER LANDSCAPES SUPPORTED | TONS OF LAND-BASED POLLUTION REDUCED | THOUSAND HECTARES OF MARINE AND COASTAL AREAS UNDER SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT | THOUSAND HECTARES OF SEASCAPES UNDER SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT |

## SPOTLIGHT ON SAINT LUCIA

In Saint Lucia, the Saint Lucia Fisher Folk Cooperative Society Ltd. and Algas Organics sought support from SGP for a community-based local solution to the damaging build-up of sargassum seaweed on the east coast. The project informed and educated communities about the origin and impacts of the sargassum seaweed and the opportunity to transform this prolific species into a business opportunity by using it to create an organic liquid fertilizer. The project established a system to remove sargassum seaweed from the Dennery Village Bay and built a facility to process the seaweed.

As a result, the SGP-supported project piloted the production of a plant tonic bio-stimulant, which supports the formative growth stages of plants. Studies by an ISO 2000-certified laboratory confirmed that the Algas Tonic (the organic liquid fertilizer) has negligible amounts of lead, mercury, cadmium, and arsenic, and is therefore suitable for use on food crops. More than 270,000 kg of wet seaweed has been removed from the coast to date, with a projection of 90,000 kg per month. Production of the bio-stimulant is also projected to generate income for the communities through domestic and international markets. The project was awarded by the Smithsonian Institute at the Earth Optimism Summit in Washington, DC in 2017.

SGP Saint Lucia

## CHEMICALS AND WASTE

SGP's chemicals and waste management portfolio supports reduction and elimination of the release of harmful chemicals into the environment.

### RESULTS

**36** PROJECTS COMPLETED THIS YEAR

| 3 | 60 | 75 | 26 | 22 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| MERCURY MANAGEMENT PROJECTS COMPLETED | THOUSAND KILOGRAMS OF PESTICIDES AVOIDED | THOUSAND KILOGRAMS OF SOLID WASTE REDUCED | THOUSAND KILOGRAMS OF E-WASTE COLLECTED OR RECYCLED | THOUSAND KILOGRAMS HARMFUL CHEMICALS AVOIDED |

# SPOTLIGHT ON BHUTAN

SGP Bhutan

In Bhutan, *Clean Bhutan* sought support from SGP to promote zero waste in Trashiyangtse District to reuse, reduce and recycle wastes through behavioural change, provision of waste-management facilities, and increased knowledge on waste segregation and management.

Through improved waste management system and advocacy efforts, solid waste management facilities are now in place at the municipality level, leading to a 35 percent reduction of wet waste, and a significant reduction in the amount of plastic bottles and products going to landfills. The project also supported plastic waste businesses. With support of the District Administration and other stakeholders, such as the Royal Bhutan Police, municipality, business community and schools, the project was able to reach community members across the district with more than 1,626 participants attending 21 advocacy programmes and 2,100 participants attending the 14 clean-up awareness programs.

# CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

SGP's capacity development portfolio enhances and strengthens the capacity of communities and civil society organizations to address global environmental challenges.

## RESULTS

**58**
PROJECTS COMPLETED THIS YEAR

**572**
CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS WITH STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES

**881**
COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS WITH STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES

**13**
THOUSAND PEOPLE WITH IMPROVED CAPACITIES TO ADDRESS GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

## SPOTLIGHT ON
# MACEDONIA

In Macedonia, a project[1] to strengthen the capacity of environmental CSOs in partnerships and policy dialogue established a coordinating mechanism for the cooperation between the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning and environmental NGOs, and provided regular strategic planning and coordination activities between civil society organizations and representatives of the Ministry.

As a result, a coordinating body[2] of elected civil society representatives was established between the government and CSOs in the areas of energy, nature, waste, water, and air pollution. With the project, communication, trust and partnership between Government and environmental NGOs was strengthened. Seven consultative meetings were organized and laws, documents and strategies including new energy law, transport and agricultural strategies, national park management plans were developed

SGP Macedonia

[1] In Macedonia, a project to strengthen the capacity of environmental CSOs in partnerships and policy dialogue established a coordinating mechanism for the cooperation between the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning and environmental NGOs, and provided regular strategic planning and coordination activities between civil society organizations and representatives of the Ministry.

[2] Each year during the Annual gathering of environmental CSOs, a call is launched for nominations of civil society representatives who are willing to represent the other CSOs in the coordinative body, for a particular topic. For each topic a list of nominated candidates is prepared, and voting takes place. The elected candidate will have the role to represent CSOs for the specific topics in the communication towards the institutions, will participate in specific meetings, workshops or hearings on behalf of the CSOs and will report back to the CSOs using the general list. They are also obliged to perform regular consultations with the other CSOs when necessary. The members of the coordinative body meet at least once a year and they also take part in the consultations with the European Union delegation office in Macedonia, in the process of providing feedback on the progress of Macedonia in the accession and transposition of EU legislation.

# GRANTMAKER PLUS

Grantmaker plus strategies were employed by SGP to enhance overall effectiveness of its portfolio. This was done by promoting interventions that build systemic capacity for civil society and community action to address global environmental challenges.

## KEY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES INCLUDE:

**67%**
PROMOTED PEER-TO-PEER EXCHANGES

**72%**
STRENGTHENED GRANTEE NETWORKS

**74%**
CONNECTED GRANTEES WITH GOVERNMENT SERVICES

**71%**
CONNECTED GRANTEES WITH NGOs/INGOs

**42%**
CONNECTED GRANTEES WITH PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES

**58**
SOUTH- SOUTH EXCHANGES ACROSS COUNTRIES

**70%**
CONNECTED GRANTEES WITH THE ACADEMIA OR RESEARCH CENTERS

**128**
DIALOGUE PLATFORMS INITIATED

**66%**
ORGANIZED TRAINING FOR SGP GRANTEES ON DIFFERENT SUBJECTS TO IMPROVE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

**42%**
CONNECTED GRANTEES WITH DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES/PRACTITIONERS

# CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

# SOCIAL INCLUSION

SGP undertakes targeted efforts to support greater social inclusion of marginalized groups, including women, indigenous peoples, youth and persons with disabilities.

**93%**
PROJECTS COMPLETED WERE GENDER RESPONSIVE

**34%**
PROJECTS WERE LED BY WOMEN

**91%**
COUNTRIES HAVE A GENDER FOCAL POINT IN NSC

**22%**
PROJECTS COMPLETED WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

**40%**
COUNTRIES HAVE AN IP FOCAL POINT IN NSC

**1,657**
INDIGENOUS LEADERS WITH IMPROVED CAPACITIES

**39**
DISABLED PERSONS ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTED TO SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES

**307**
YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES

# LIVELIHOODS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Improving livelihoods is a core strategy of SGP in addressing global environmental issues, with 658 completed projects that contributed to improving livelihoods of communities. Below are the strategies used by SGP country programmes to improve livelihoods.

| 29% | 37% | 38% | 41% | 57% | 64% | 73% |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| IMPROVED HEALTH OR ACCESS TO HEALTH FACILITIES | INCREASED ACCESS TO EDUCATION | INCREASED ACCESS TO FINANCE | INCREASED ACCESS TO INFRASTRUCTURE | IINCREASED ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY | INCREASED FOOD SECURITY | INCREASED DIVERSIFICATION OF INCOME |

# BROADER ADOPTION OF SGP

## SCALING UP, REPLICATION AND POLICY INFLUENCE

**SGP continues to encourage replication and scaling up of good results and impactful measures, including through influencing relevant policies at the national, regional, and global levels.**

**157**
PROJECTS REPLICATED AND SCALED UP

**90**
PROJECTS INFLUENCED POLICY

SGP Mauritius

### Below are some examples of scaling up or policy influence achieved by SGP projects completed during the past reporting year.

In **Armenia**, SGP supported a project to reuse discharge water from fish-farms for irrigation purposes. With the objective to test and verify the technical and economic feasibility of using waste water from fish farms for irrigation purposes, the project selected Hayanist village as the pilot site to experiment a new irrigation system. Through collaborative partnerships with a USAID-funded ASPIRED project and Coca-Cola HBC Armenia, an additional US$138,000 financing was leveraged to scale up the SGP's investment with a construction of a larger system supplying close to 1,200,000 $m^3$ of water per year to 40 hectares of farmland in Hayanist.

SGP Armenia

Currently, the model irrigation system is being replicated by the USAID ASPIRED project in Sayat Nova and other Hayanist communities for irrigation of 200 and 300 hectares of land, respectively. The project contributed to the prevention of uncontrolled discharge of highly polluted effluents into water bodies and the supply of additional water for irrigation of idle lands exposed to degradation.

In **Mauritius**, SGP supported a project to decrease POPs through management of empty pesticide containers. The project was designed to train and encourage farmers to triple rinse the empty pesticide containers, which removes 99.99 percent of pesticide residue, and safely dispose them. Over 900 farmers were trained, and 1,800 kilogrammes of empty pesticide containers were collected. The containers were sent for recycling, resulting in approximately 8 tonnes of recycled products. A steering committee, comprised of multi-stakeholders including the Ministry of Environment, was established to oversee the implementation. Lessons and recommendations from the SGP project were shared and validated during a workshop with a proposal to scale up the project at the national level. It is estimated that the annual volume of pesticides plastic bottles generated at the national level would be 37,600 kg. As a result, the Pesticide Use Bill was recently passed by government to allocate US$56,228 under the 2018 national budget to upscale the approach tested by the SGP project to a national level.

SGP Mauritius

# KNOWLEDGE AND COMMUNICATIONS

**1,511** SGP MENTIONS IN THE MEDIA

**858** FACTSHEETS, CASE STUDIES, PUBLICATIONS, VIDEOS AND HOW-TO-TOOLKITS DEVELOPED

**1,268** TRAINING SESSIONS

**596** PEER-TO-PEER EXCHANGES

**61** NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

# PARTNERSHIPS

DURING FY 2018, SGP CONTINUED TO IMPLEMENT STRATEGIC PROGRAMMES WITH THE SUPPORT OF VARIOUS PARTNERS AND DONORS INCLUDING:

Australian Aid

Japan Biodiversity Fund

Supported by:

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the German Bundestag

NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

# MONITORING AND EVALUATION

**1,799** PROJECTS (56% OF THE ACTIVE PORTFOLIO) WERE VISITED TO TRACK PROGRESS

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORTS PRODUCED FOR PARTNER REQUIREMENTS

The Small Grants Programme (SGP) is a corporate programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Established in 1992, SGP's grantmaking in over 125 countries promotes community-based innovation, capacity development, and empowerment through sustainable development projects of local civil society organizations with special consideration for indigenous peoples, women, and youth. SGP has supported over 20,000 community-based projects on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, climate change mitigation and adaption, sustainable land management, conservation of international waters, and chemicals and waste management, while generating sustainable livelihoods.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, is a catalyst for action on the environment — and much more. Through its strategic investments, the GEF works with partners to tackle the planet's biggest environmental issues. Our funding also helps reduce poverty, strengthen governance and achieve greater equality between women and men. As such, we occupy a unique space in the global partnership for a more sustainable planet.

*Empowered lives.*
*Resilient nations.*

UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in 177 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations. www.undp.org

304 E 45th Street
UNDP, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10017
USA

Email: sgp.info@undp.org
Website: www.sgp.undp.org

**COVER PHOTO**
Sutipond/Shutterstock.com

**DESIGN**
Camilo J. Salomón
www.cjsalomon.com