GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title	
Conservation International GEF Small Grants Programme 2.0 (CI SGP 2.0)	
Region	**GEF Project ID**
Global	11719
Country(ies)	**Type of Project**
Global Equatorial Guinea St. Vincent and Grenadines Sri Lanka Libya Turkmenistan	MSP
GEF Agency(ies):	**GEF Agency ID**
CI	
Executing Partner	**Executing Partner Type**
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)	Others
GEF Focal Area (s)	**Submission Date**
Multi Focal Area	9/18/2024
Project Sector (CCM Only)	

Taxonomy

Biodiversity, Sustainable Land Management, Land Degradation, Focal Areas, Chemicals and Waste, Plastics, Waste Management, Sound Management of chemicals and waste, Biomes, Lakes, Mangroves, Tropical Dry Forests, Coral Reefs, Rivers, Wetlands, Tropical Rain Forests, Temperate Forests, Sea Grasses, Desert, Grasslands, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Landscapes, Productive Seascapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Mainstreaming, Tourism, Fisheries, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Species, Crop Wild Relatives, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Cover and Land cover change, Land Productivity, Carbon stocks above or below ground, Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Forest, Drought Mitigation, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Sustainable Livelihoods, Ecosystem Approach, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Pasture Management, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Food Security, Climate Change, Climate Change Mitigation, Energy Efficiency, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Sustainable Urban Systems and Transport, Renewable Energy, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate resilience, Least Developed Countries, Community-based adaptation, Small Island Developing States, Livelihoods, Innovation, Influencing models, Demonstrate innovative approache, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Stakeholders, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Participation, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Beneficiaries, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Private Sector, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, Communications, Education, Awareness Raising, Behavior change, Public Campaigns, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Access to benefits and services, Capacity Development, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Learning, Indicators to measure change, Adaptive management, Theory of change

Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
GET	60
GEF Project Grant: (a)	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)
4,300,460.00	0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)
387,040.00	0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
4,687,500.00	4,300,460.00
PPG Amount: (e)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)
0.00	0.00
PPG total amount: (e+f)	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)
0.00	4,687,500.00
Project Tags	
CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: Yes Innovation: No	

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. The explanation and justification of the project should be in section B “project description”.(max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Human actions, increasing population numbers and global consumption patterns threaten more species with extinction than ever before and virtually every part of the world is already experiencing increased average temperatures, as well as more frequent, more intense, more persistent and often compounding drought, heat wave, flood, and tropical storm events. Though climate change and biodiversity loss are global problems, their adverse impacts are inherently local. Rural communities dependent on local natural resources for their livelihoods (agriculture, forestry, pastoralism, fisheries), as well as those living in poorly developed and polluted urban environments, or those living in low-lying and unprotected coastal areas bear the brunt of the impacts of these global problems. Local civil society organizations are well placed to address these environmental challenges as they have first-hand knowledge of the pressures and needs facing their communities and the challenges they have to overcome to manage their ecosystems and urban areas sustainably. CBOs led by women, youth, or Indigenous people (where applicable) are moreover well placed to address their additional intersection of challenges in vulnerable and exposed rural and urban settings. The positive impact of grassroot civil society-led action is evidenced by the significant contribution to Global Environmental Benefits and the achievement of SDGs through the GEF Small Grants Programme and others. Despite this potential CSOs remain under-utilized, under-valued and under-financed in many countries. This is thought to be partially due to their limited organizational, operational and financial absorption capacities. CBOs in some regions may also face substantial political barriers to funding as they often are addressing problems marginalized or at the very least not prioritized by national governments.

The proposed project aims to address these issues by supporting and fostering the active leadership of Indigenous People (where applicable) and local communities in addressing critical environmental problems and improving their livelihoods in innovative and practical ways through a nature-based and socially inclusive

grantmaking approach. It will support CSO projects that focus on (i) community-based management of threatened ecosystems and species; (ii) sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security; (iii) low-carbon energy access and co-benefits; (iv) local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management; and (iv) catalysing sustainable urban solutions and contribute to the overall achievement of Global Environmental Benefits and poverty reduction.

To help lower the barriers to civil society-led environmental action and achieve the main objective, the project will implement a mix of interventions that will target: i) the enabling environment at global, national and local level; ii) the institutional, organizational and technical capacities of CSOs to apply for and obtain grants, manage and document projects successfully, and upscale their actions and impacts; and iii) the evidence base of the benefits of civil society-led action in delivering Global Environmental Benefits. It will build on the lessons learned and the experience gained from the previous operational phases of the GEF SGP by fostering, among other actions, a close interaction with UNDP which has been the implementing agency for the first 7 operational phases.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

Human actions, increasing population numbers and global consumption patterns threaten more species with extinction than ever before and virtually every part of the world is already experiencing increased average temperatures, as well as more frequent, more intense, more persistent and often compounding drought, heat wave, flood, and tropical storm events. Though climate change and biodiversity loss are global problems, their adverse impacts are inherently local. Rural communities dependent on local natural resources for their livelihoods (agriculture, forestry, pastoralism, fisheries), as well as those living in poorly developed and polluted urban environments, or those living in low-lying and unprotected coastal areas bear the brunt of the impacts of these global problems. Local civil society organizations are well placed to address these environmental challenges as they have first-hand knowledge of the pressures and needs facing their communities and the challenges they have to overcome to manage their ecosystems and urban areas sustainably. CBOs led by women, youth, or Indigenous people (where applicable) are moreover well placed to address their additional intersection of challenges in vulnerable and exposed rural and urban settings. The positive impact of grassroot civil society-led action is evidenced by the significant contribution to Global Environmental Benefits and the achievement of SDGs through the GEF Small Grants Programme and others. Despite this potential CSOs remain under-utilized, under-valued and under-financed in many countries. This is thought to be partially due to their limited organizational, operational and financial absorption capacities. CBOs in some regions may also face substantial political barriers to funding as they often are addressing problems marginalized or at the very least not prioritized by national governments. The proposed project aims to address these issues by supporting and fostering the active leadership of Indigenous People (where applicable) and local communities in addressing critical environmental problems and improving their livelihoods in innovative and practical ways through a nature-based and socially inclusive grantmaking approach. It will support CSO projects that focus on (i) community-based management of threatened ecosystems and species; (ii) sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security; (iii) low-carbon energy access and co-benefits; (iv) local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management; and (iv) catalysing sustainable urban solutions and contribute to the overall achievement of Global Environmental Benefits and poverty reduction. To help lower the barriers to civil society-led environmental action and achieve the main objective, the project will implement a mix of interventions that will target: i) the enabling environment at global, national and local level; ii) the institutional, organizational and technical capacities of CSOs to apply for and obtain grants, manage and document projects successfully, and upscale their actions and impacts; and

iii) the evidence base of the benefits of civil society-led action in delivering Global Environmental Benefits. It will build on the lessons learned and the experience gained from the previous operational phases of the GEF SGP by fostering, among other actions, a close interaction with UNDP which has been the implementing agency for the first 7 operational phases.

Project Components

1. Country programme strategy and governance

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
156,380.00	156,380.00

Outcome:

Outcome 1.1. National Steering Committees supervise the implementation of SGP country strategies

Output:

Output 1.1.1. A National Steering Committee is established in each participating country

Output 1.1.2. A SGP country programme strategy, aligned with the NBSAP is developed in each country

2: Granting

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
3,323,083.00	3,323,083.00

Outcome:

Outcome 2.1. IP&LC, CBOs and other CSOs deliver GEB through the inclusive projects they designed

Output:

Output 2.1.1. Direct access to the SGP by IP&LCs, community-based organizations and other CSOs is facilitated for projects that focus on the following priorities: (i) community--based management of threatened ecosystems and species; (ii) sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security; (iii) low-carbon energy access and co-benefits; (iv)local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management; and (v) catalysing sustainable urban solutions

Output 2.1.2. Women, youth, IP&LCs and other marginalized or vulnerable groups access and benefit from grants in an equitable manner

Output 2.1.3. Projects specifically designed and implemented by young people (15 to 35 years old) are granted and implemented

3: Capacity building and mentoring for larger scale impact

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
117,285.00	117,285.00

Outcome:

Outcome 3.1. Grantees demonstrate enhanced financial and institutional sustainability, and greater impact.

Output:

Output 3.1.1. Grantees' capacity is strengthened so that they monitor and document their impact

Output 3.1.2. Champion SGP grantees access longer-term support from CEPF and other donors

4: Knowledge management and partnerships for upscaling and replication

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
117,285.00	117,285.00

Outcome:

Outcome 4.1. Knowledge created and lessons learned in the context of the SGP are managed and shared

Outcome 4.2. SGP IAs cross-collaborate, and civil society is increasingly involved in delivering GEF-8 programme targets

Output:

Output 4.1.1. Knowledge is shared in national civil society networks and platforms

Output 4.1.2. Knowledge is shared in South-South civil society networks and platforms

Output 4.2.1. Project knowledge contributes to overall GEF and IAs knowledge and capacity to support civil society-led action

Output 4.2.2. Additional resources for SGP 2.0 are mobilized at scale

Output 4.2.3. Civil society in the participating countries is engaged in GEF corporate activities, as well as in the delivery of other initiatives under GEF-8

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
195,476.00	195,476.00

Outcome:

Outcome 5.1. Monitoring and evaluation framework established, and M&E activities conducted

Output:

Output 5.1.1. A project M&E framework is operational

Output 5.1.2. Periodic M&E reports generated and submitted to CI-GEF and Mid-term Evaluation and Terminal Evaluation executed and contributions to the common SGP 2.0 results framework made on a regular basis

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1. Country programme strategy and governance	156,380.00	156,380.00
2: Granting	3,323,083.00	3,323,083.00
3: Capacity building and mentoring for larger scale impact	117,285.00	117,285.00
4: Knowledge management and partnerships for upscaling and replication	117,285.00	117,285.00
M&E	195,476.00	195,476.00
Subtotal	**3,909,509.00**	**3,909,509.00**
Project Management Cost	390,951.00	390,951.00
Total Project Cost ($)	**4,300,460.00**	**4,300,460.00**

Please provide justification

10 percent PMC is reflected based on the approved GEF-8 SGP Implementation Arrangement Paper

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Briefly describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

Problem statement

Environmental problems and climate change are increasingly putting ecosystems under pressure and thereby threatening ecosystem services, crucial for the lives and livelihoods of the people and societies that directly depend on them. Human actions, increasing population numbers and global consumption patterns threaten more species with extinction than ever before and virtually every part of the world is already experiencing increased average temperatures, as well as more frequent, more intense, more persistent and often compounding drought, heat wave, flood, and tropical storm events. Though climate change and biodiversity loss are global problems, their adverse impacts are inherently local. Biodiversity loss poses a risk to local (and global) food security and in turn also reduces local (and global) resilience to climate change impacts. Apart from direct impacts on ecosystems and their health, climate change often acts as an amplifier and accelerator of local environmental problems such as land, forest and water resource degradation, or pollution.

Rural communities dependent on local natural resources for their livelihoods (agriculture, forestry, pastoralism, fisheries), as well as those living in poorly developed and polluted urban environments, or those living in low-lying and unprotected coastal areas bear the brunt of the impacts of these global problems. Apart from living in highly exposed areas, these communities often are also highly vulnerably due to a low adaptive capacity. Women, youth, indigenous people and minority groups in these communities are disproportionately affected by environmental problems and climate impacts, as they often face an intersection of challenges related to limited rights, powers and possibilities in terms of ownership, access, use and management of local natural resources or assets.

Civil society organizations, rooted in local realities and identities (Community Based Organizations - CBOs) are well placed to address environmental degradation, pollution, biodiversity loss or climate change impacts as they have first-hand knowledge of the pressures and needs facing their communities and the challenges they have to overcome to manage their ecosystems and urban areas sustainably. CBOs led by women, youth, or Indigenous people are moreover well placed to address the additional intersection of challenges in vulnerable and exposed rural and urban settings.

The positive impact of grassroot civil society-led action is evidenced by the significant contribution to Global Environmental Benefits and the achievement of SDGs through the seven first operational phases of the GEF Small Grants Programme. Similarly, the combined effort of 3,161 CBO-led projects under CEPF has led to 55.8 million acres of key biodiversity areas been brought under strengthened management as well as the creation of 17.1 million hectares of protected areas since its start in 2001.

Community based civil society, despite its potential to contribute significantly to national targets under MEA and the SDGs remain under-utilized, under-valued and under-financed in many countries. Moreover, while some donors are committed to and engaged in supporting civil society also more generally, governments still receive the vast majority of environment-related aid. In fact, civil society remains the least funded sector in this respect.

The under-utilization, under-valuing and under-financing of CBOs is thought to be partially due to their limited organizational, operational and financial absorption capacities. CBOs may also face substantial

political barriers to funding as they often are addressing problems marginalized or at the very least not prioritized by national governments.

Target country description

Equatorial Guinea (EQG) is situated on the equator in Africa, bordered by Cameroon to the north, Gabon to the east and south and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. It has an estimated population of 1,5 million (2021[1][1]). Its surface area of 28,051 km² is divided into two major regions: the Continental (26,000 km²) and the Insular (2,017 km²), as well as bay and capes such as Luba Bay, Cabo San Juan and Annobón, and the islets of Corisco, Elobey Grande, Elobey Chico and Mbañé. EQG is well endowed with arable land and mineral resources ranging from gold, oil, uranium, diamond and columbite-tantalite. The country also has an Exclusive Economic Zone (maritime area) of 314,000 km², 11 times larger than the land area. The economy relies heavily on the extraction of oil and liquefied gas, as well as the export of timber, cocoa and coffee. EQG imports most of its food (>80%) and is therefore very dependent on global food price fluctuations. Only 8% of the country's surface area is devoted to agriculture, agriculture remains an important source of subsistence for the rural population and is the economic activity employing the highest proportion of the active population. Non-timber forest products are a cornerstone of most people's livelihoods and food security. Fishing is an important economic activity in the coastal region of the mainland as well as on the islands (particularly Annobón)[2][2].

Equatorial Guineas is almost entirely covered in forest (93% of surface area). Forests are usually dense and low-lying, but there are also forest-crop mosaics, submontane forests (at an altitude between 900 and 1,500 m) or montane forests (at an altitude above 1,500 m)[3][3]. The islands of Bioko and Annobón are part of the Lower Guinean Forest bioregion. Bioko supports a much more diverse flora and fauna with relatively low levels of endemism, whereas islands further removed from the mainland like Annobón have low species richness due to their isolation but contain exceptionally high rates of endemism at the generic, specific, and subspecific levels. In the Continental Region, as well as on Bioko Island, there is a great diversity of mammals such as elephants (Loxondonta africana), gorillas (Gorilla gorilla), chimpanzees (Pan troglodytes), mandrills (Mandrillus sphinx), panthers (Panthera pardus) and numerous species of antelopes, amphibians, reptiles and birds. Hunting and bush meat consumption pose a serious threat to all these species[4][4].

Equatorial Guinea has an equatorial climate. The average annual temperature is approximately 25 ºC. Rainfall is abundant and regular, usually exceeding 1 500 or 2 000 mm per year[5][5]. Projections for Equatorial Guinea hold rising sea level, increasing temperature and decreasing overall precipitation (drought), increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as storms and floods[6][6] [7][7] [8][8]. Agriculture, fishing, energy, housing, education, sanitation, health and the environment are all at significant risk of impacts from

these climatic changes[9][9]. Significant increases in temperature and changes in precipitation pose a threat to the country's key ecosystems and species.

CEPF's scanning of existing CSO's involved in conservation in Equatorial Guinea in 2015 elicited the existence of 15 organisations[10][10].

Libya is a North African country located along the southern coast of the Mediterranean Basin, with an estimated population of 7 million[11][11]. Libya's economy is almost entirely dependent on two natural resources: hydrocarbon reserves and fossil (ground) water. Tourism is a major source of income in the coastal zone. With a few exceptions, the economies of the inland communities rely heavily on a combination of irrigated agriculture, effectively free electricity and potable water, and high levels of public sector employment.

Libya's total land area is about 1.76 million km2, most of which (95.2%) is desert, while the rest is either rangeland (4%), or agricultural land (0.4%), and less than 0.3% is scattered forested area. Only 5% of the country receives more than 100mm rainfall per year. Four phyto-geographical regions are present in Libya, and these include a narrow coastal strip, semi-coastal hills, sub-Saharan areas and Sahara desert belt. The relatively narrow coastal strip and highland steppes, immediately south, are the most productive agricultural regions in the country, while farther south a pastoral zone of sparse grassland gives way to the vast Sahara desert. Libya's coastal areas, the low mountains, and scattered oases in the desert, are the most densely populated areas of the country. These also coincide with some of the most biodiversity rich ecosystems in the country. Libya has a total of 9 Protected Areas (PAs) to conserve its unique biodiversity and ecosystems[12][12] and 18 Key Biodiversity Areas[13][13]. Terrestrial PAs cover about 2,084 km², or 0.13% of the total land area; and MPAs take 2,268 km², or 0.63% of the total marine and coastal area. has two designated Ramsar Wetlands: Ain Elzarga and Ain Elshakika, covering 83 ha. In the South, there are only two Nature Reserves in the Ubari Lake Basin - Gaber Oun Lake and Um Alma Lake – covering only 30 ha. The Cyrenaic Peninsula, on the northern coast, presents a diversity of habitats, including Mediterranean maquis and forest, arid steppe, coastal wetlands and dune systems, and contains almost 80% of the Libyan flora, with approximatively 100 species endemic to the peninsula itself. The wetlands are home to the extremely threatened sebkha (a smooth, flat plain, usually high in salt) vegetation and associated endemic species[14][14]. The ecosystems in the corridor and on the coast are however threatened by conversion of coastal wetlands into housing areas, traditional hunting, agricultural expansion, charcoal production and road building[15][15].

Libya is one of the driest countries in the world. Groundwater currently provides 80 percent of Libya's water needs, and more than 80% of the water resources are used for irrigation, livestock, industry, and other household needs. Unsustainable consumption creates water insecurity. Observed climate change has been exacerbating water insecurity. Over the last few decades, the surface temperature has risen, temperature extremes and heat waves have increased in intensity, number, and length[16][16], and winter and early spring

precipitation has decreased[17][17] [18][18]. Flooding events after extreme rainfall events and severe droughts have attained unprecedented intensities in the past ten years. They have also become more frequent. All of these climate indicators are projected to continue these trends [19][19] [20][20] [21][21] [22][22] [23][23] [24][24] [25][25]. A decrease in precipitation is projected to translate into reduced groundwater recharge[26][26]. The combined effect of a decrease in precipitation and higher temperatures is projected to lead to a strong increase of evaporation of water from all wet surfaces[27][27] bringing about a decline in water levels in and potentially drying out[28][28] of lakes and reservoirs[29][29] within the next 50 years. Surface water availability is projected to be reduced by 5–40% in 2030–2065 from 1976–2005[30][30]. Projected increased evaporation is expected to further decrease water retention in soils[31][31]. The main risks identified with dryer conditions is for habitats to shift towards more arid ecosystems[32][32] and for freshwater ecosystems hydrology and connectivity to degrade. Terrestrial and freshwater ecosystem habitats are projected to shrink[33][33]. Combined with unsustainable practices, these impacts are likely to result in an increased concentration of pollutants in freshwater resources, in particular during severe drought episodes. Desertification will affect additional areas[34][34]. Increasing heat waves, combined with drought and land use change, are projected to lead to increased fire risk as well as the likelihood of larger and more severe fires and longer fire seasons[35][35]. The effects of a decrease in water availability, increased needs for irrigation, and increased and more intense wildfires will exacerbate erosion and loss of agricultural potential and bring higher costs to manage these problems[36][36]. Heat-related excess mortality is projected to increase[37][37] [38][38] with impacts of heat waves more severe in cities than surrounding areas. As the Mediterranean warms, the water expands causing sea levels to rise at approximately 2.8 mm a

year. Higher seas erode shorelines and cause surge flooding. Low lying areas, particularly the city of Misrata, Benghazi and the Bay of Sirte, are particularly vulnerable.

Additional stress on humans and ecosystems comes from oil field pollution (compromising agricultural soil), limited capacities to collect and treat solid waste, and air pollution (both from industrial processes as well as dust storms). At the local level, the Libyan communities outside of the coastal industrial cities are all extremely vulnerable to climate change and ongoing environmental degradation. The government has publicly acknowledged the negative effects of climate change and has described it as a priority.

Libya's 2011 constitution enshrined the right to freedom of association, and it stipulated that the state ensure civil society organizations' freedom to operate. CSOs operate independently are affiliated directly to the Ministry of civil society[39][39]. Even though the involvement of civil society and the private sector in aspects related to climate change and climate finance has been found to be limited[40][40], civil society has played a critical role in raising public awareness about Libya's growing environmental challenges. Environmental organizations have emerged as a key source of institutional memory and manpower for climate action, particularly amid Libya's political instability. Government officials have worked alongside NGOs on a range of environmental issues and have sponsored workshops and events aimed at tackling pollution, biodiversity, desertification, and water insecurity in partnership with environmental civil society. A formal database of CSOs is maintained by the CSO Commissions in Benghazi and Tripoli. Environmental CSO's located in the north and east of the country typically concentrate on issues related to coastal cleaning, saltwater intrusion, wastewater, biodiversity conservation and sustainable fisheries. Those located in the south focus on land degradation, agriculture, ecosystem conservation and restoration as well as water management (including irrigation) and water pollution issues

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG), a small island developing state (SIDS), is an archipelagic state in the Eastern Caribbean. The country is comprised of the main island, Saint Vincent, while the Grenadines consists of 32 islands and cays, of which seven are inhabited, Bequia, Mustique, Canouan, Mayreau, Union Island, Palm Island and Petit St. Vincent. The total area of the country is 389 km2, of which Saint Vincent is 344 km2. The population of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is estimated at 110,872[41][41] with a life expectancy at birth of 74.9 years and a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita of US$9,360[42][42]. SVG's economy has experienced a structural transformation process over the past two decades, shifting to tourism and services, with agriculture's contribution to GDP becoming less. The agricultural sector is however still of significant importance to the economic development of the country and of keen focus to the Government. The sector has taken immense blows in recent years from storm Beryl and other climate hazards and anthropogenic stressors, significantly reducing production capacity.

The island of Saint Vincent is characterized by its mountainous terrain and its wet upland forests which cover between 25% and 30% of the country. Average annual rainfall ranges from 1,500 mm on the coast to 3,800 mm in the central mountains. The terrain on Saint Vincent has given rise to a dense river network and 16 small watersheds, generating approximately 120 million m3/year of renewable surface water resources. The much smaller Grenadine islands, have a gentler relief with low hills (150 m to 300 m) without streams and watersheds. The main sources of fresh water in these islands come from rainwater harvesting systems, concrete communal rainwater catchment systems and desalination plants.

The forests of the Saint Vincent Central Mountain Range Corridor represent one of the largest remaining tracts of wet forest in the Lesser Antilles, and one of the few that maintains full altitudinal connectivity from sea level to 1,234 m. It counts seven KBAs that together form the proposed Central Forest Reserve under the national system of protected areas and heritage sites. The KBAs in this corridor comprise a disjointed set of variously protected and unprotected forest areas, which are being degraded and threatened by agricultural expansion and infrastructure developments.

The country is projected to be highly exposed to warmer and drier climatic conditions in the medium to long term, as well as sea level rise and more intense extreme weather and sea events. These are likely to significantly affect the predominantly rainfed agriculture and tourism sectors. Deforestation, sand mining, soil erosion due to mono-cropping and poor soil and water management exacerbate vulnerability in the agricultural sector. The majority of the touristic infrastructure in SVG, as well as supporting critical infrastructure (transportation, telecommunications), lie on a narrow coastal belt less than eight meters above sea level, making the sector particularly vulnerable to Sea Level Rise and extreme weather and sea events. Climate change will also negatively affect natural ecosystems, such as coral reefs and in-land landscapes, which are important touristic attractions.

A rapid mapping exercise conducted by CEPF in 2019 identified a total of 10 CSO in SVG, three of which focused on environment, and more specifically on sustainable management of natural resources, conservation and climate change[43][43]. Most active participation of civil society in environmental matters has been found to be left to small CBOs[44][44].

Sri Lanka is an island nation in the Indian Ocean with a total land area of 65,610 Km^2 , a coastline of 1,340 Km^2 . Its population is estimated at 21.9 million people[45][45]. The lower-middle-income economy is built around agriculture 8.4%, industry 26.2%, and services 59.7%. Agriculture has been historically the most significant contributor to economy and livelihood in Sri Lanka, employing a large portion of the rural population. A vibrant manufacturing sector has more recently emerged including the textile, apparel, and tea processing industries, while the services sector, including tourism, finance, and IT services are growing fast. Despite a competitive export orientation, especially for tea and spices, agriculture has declined in economic importance while still employing 30% of the workforce. There are around 2 million farmers and a majority of them are small-scale, cultivating less than 1ha[46][46].

Nearly three quarters of Sri Lanka's land area lie below 300m and the rest can be characterized as hilly terrain. From the mountainous regions nine major rivers and 94 other rivers flow across the lowlands into the Indian Ocean. Despite its relatively small size, Sri Lanka has a rich biodiversity distributed within a wide range of ecosystems, from rainforests to grasslands, rivers, wetlands and freshwater bodies and coastal and marine ecosystems. The country, together with the Western Ghats of India, is one of the 36 biodiversity hotspots identified in the world.[47][47] Sri Lanka has the highest biodiversity per unit area of land amongst

Asian countries[48][48] due to its micro climatic changes and topography. The wet zone rainforests are home to nearly all of the country's woody endemic plants, and about 75% of its endemic animals.[49][49]

Sri Lanka's climate is hot and humid throughout the year. Three climatic zones can be distinguished, a Wet Zone (with average annual rainfall >2500mm), an Intermediate Zone (average annual rainfall 1750-2500mm) and a Dry Zone (average annual rainfall <1750mm). Annual rainfall is spread over four seasons: two monsoons, the northeast monsoon (September-March) and the southwest monsoon (May-August), and two inter-monsoons. There is high inter-annual variation of rainfall. With an average temperature of around 27°C–28°C, Sri Lanka is one of the hottest countries in the world.[50][50] The most frequent natural hazards that impact Sri Lanka are droughts, floods, landslides, cyclones and coastal erosion.[51][51] In the recent period, Sri Lanka experienced high incidence of extreme events. Extended drought in certain parts of the Dry Zone during 2016-2018 has been reported as the worst since 1970s. During the same period, certain locations in the Wet Zone experienced catastrophic events of floods. In the central highlands, extreme rainfall events were often associated with disastrous landslides.[52][52]

Projections show a trend of consistent warming regardless of the emission scenario[53][53]. There is no clear indication of the direction of change or the nature of emerging rainfall patterns[54][54]. Precipitation changes are likely to depend on how climate change affects the dynamics of the two monsoon seasons., but the signal of enhanced rainfall conditions during the monsoon months is thought to become strong in the long-term[55][55]. In spite of high uncertainty regarding the increase in average annual precipitation in the long-term, researchers seem to agree that variability of rainfall has increased over time and current pattern of spatial distribution may be changing[56][56]. In terms of extreme events, the probability of heatwaves are projected to significantly increase.[57][57] Especially northern Sri Lanka is identified as a hotspot of exposure to extreme heat. The projections for droughts and floods are affected by the uncertainty concerning future precipitation. There is some confidence that if extremes of precipitation increase, they will likely lead to an increase in flooding (and connected landslide) risk. Sea level rise[58][58] could lead to inundation of low-lying areas and saltwater intrusion in the coastal zone and rivers. The majority of coastal cities will experience moderate and low-level impacts of sea level rise by 2050[59][59]. Extreme heat threatens human health and living standards, particularly for outdoor labourers in urban areas[60][60] without adequate cooling systems; this will particularly impact communities in Sri Lanka's northern region. There is also potential for adverse implications to Sri Lanka's large tourism sector. Temperature rise is likely to lead to a decrease in agricultural yields, including key

staples such as rice. This may impact negatively on national and household food security. The projected increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme precipitation events may put lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure at risk through their link with riverine flooding, flash floods, and landslides. Increased incidence of flooding also brings the potential for enhanced disease transmission[61][61].

Other environmental issues in Sri Lanka include large-scale logging of forests, degradation of mangroves, coral reefs and soil, air pollution and water pollution, overfishing and insufficient waste management, especially in rural areas[62][62].

Civil society in Sri Lanka comprises a diverse array of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), advocacy groups, and grassroot movements that play pivotal roles across societal development, governance, and advocacy domains. They operate within sectors such as human rights, environmental conservation, development and peace-building, advocating for policy reform, monitoring government actions, and promoting transparency and accountability in governance processes, despite challenges stemming from restrictive legal frameworks, bureaucratic obstacles, and occasional political interference[63][63]. Many civil society initiatives in Sri Lanka focus on promoting and safeguarding human rights, including those of minorities, women, laborers, and marginalized communities, contributing significantly to social justice, however their external funding source pose significant challenges to their long-term viability and independence in decision-making[64][64]. Furthermore, they have played crucial roles in post-conflict peace-building endeavors, fostering reconciliation among communities, and promoting inter-ethnic dialogue and understanding[65][65]. Environmental NGOs are deeply involved in conservation efforts, sustainable development practices, and advocacy for environmental protection and adaptation to climate change challenges, through training initiatives, networking opportunities, and technical support, enhancing their resilience[66][66]. Overall, Sri Lanka's civil society, plays an integral role in shaping the country's socio-political landscape and promoting sustainable development, through adaptive strategies. Sri Lanka has a relatively well-organized network of conservation/ environmental groups registered and located throughout the country[67][67]. In spite of this network sharing resources and knowledge with smaller CSO's through the Midora portal, it seems that granting for smaller CSOs is limited. Overall, the precise number of civil society organisations (CSOs) in the country, remains unknown, estimates varying from 20,000 to 50,000[68][68].

With a total land area of 491.21 thousand square km, **Turkmenistan** is a landlocked country in the western part of Central Asia, bordered to the north by Kazakhstan, to the northeast and east by Uzbekistan, to the southeast by Afghanistan and to the south by Iran[69][69]. In the west, the natural border is the Caspian Sea, with a length of 1,768 km. Turkmenistan's upper middle-income Central Asian economy relies to a great extent on gas exports, and in spite of an annual stable growth rate of the gross domestic product (GDP) of 6-8% in recent years, this makes the economy vulnerable to fluctuations in the global energy market[70][70]. In recent

years, the country has embarked on large-scale reforms aimed at modernizing the economy and establish a new industrial and innovative development path. Apart from prioritizing the fuel, energy and agro-industrial complex, the chemical industry, the transport sector and information-communication infrastructure, significant investments are directed to the social, scientific, and educational spheres[71][71]. The majority of its estimated[72][72] 6.5 million people live in large oasis in the foothills of the Kopet Dag mountain range in the south and smaller oases in the northeast and east. Approximately 50% of the population lives in and around the capital of Ashgabat[73][73].

Roughly 80% of Turkmenistan's territory can be characterized as (sandy) deserts and semi-deserts, the remining 20% of the territory is occupied by mountains, foothill plains and uplands. Summers are hot and dry and last from May to September, while winters are generally mild and dry. Most of the rainfall occurs between January and May; rainfall throughout the country is low, with an average annual value of 300 mm in the Kopetdag to 80 mm in the north-west[74][74]. The average annual precipitation ranges from 76 to 380 mm. Throughout the year, sandstorms occur for 35–67 days, although in some years their number can reach 106–113 days. Mudflows occur in most of its rivers, and in winter the formation and subsequent melting of ice dams leads to large flooding events. Turkmenistan's deserts (80%) and forests (20%), possesses a significant level of endemic biodiversity, and is noted as one of the global centres of genetic diversity. The mountain ecosystems of Kopetdag, Koytendag and Badhyz, while occupying less than 5% of the country's territory, are biodiversity hotspots with naturally isolated refuges for the most ancient biological and cultural/historical relics. Regarding agricultural ecosystems, 172 species of wild relatives of vegetative cultures remain, including 40 breeds of fruit crops and leguminous plants. The Kelif-Talimarjan-Termez corridor, shared by Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, mainly consists of wetlands and harbours important biodiversity areas for threatened and wetland-dependent species.

With 90 percent of their water resources coming from mountains located outside the country borders, Turkmenistan is highly vulnerable to water shortages. This is projected to increase under climate change. Increased temperatures and more rapid melting of glaciers elsewhere in the region may lead to severe water shortages along Turkmenistan's most important river, the Amu Darya, by the 2040s and 2050s. Average temperatures are projected by some prognosis to rise by 5.1 degrees C by the 2090s, relative to the 1986–2005 baseline under the highest emissions pathway (RCP8.5), with the pace of warming significantly exceeding the global average. Daily maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to warm slightly faster than average temperatures. The annual probability of experiencing a severe drought is projected to increase very significantly over the 21st century. Temperature rises, increases in drought frequency and water shortages that are projected to occur in Turkmenistan are expected to reduce the yields of the country's major crops. Without adaptation significant falls in agricultural revenue, and food shortages, may result[75][75]. Finally, the rising temperatures will likely also increase human heat stress. Further environmental challenges in the country are contamination of soil and groundwater with agricultural chemicals, and salination and water logging of soil due to poor irrigation methods, transboundary pollution of the Caspian Sea, diversion of a large share of the flow of the Amu Darya into irrigation contributes to that river's inability to replenish the Aral Sea, soil erosion and desertification.

CSO registration is mandatory in Turkmenistan[76][76]. The latest Asian Development Bank brief on Civil Society in Turkmenistan (2023) reports that '*Turkmenistan's small civil society consists mainly of national public associations supported by the government and local public associations and economic societies that rely on grants from bilateral and multilateral donors. CSO activities include awareness raising and service provision in areas such as social protection, legal aid, the environment, and the empowerment of youth, women, and girls. The government recognizes that CSOs' experience with local and rural communities makes them a valuable resource and increasingly seeks to work with them on diverse activities'*[77][77]. The Government of Turkmenistan often seeks to pursue joint activities with CSOs in the area of environmental protection[78][78].

Preferred solution and baseline situation

At a global level, habitat protection and biodiversity conservation are of paramount importance to enable green and blue economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as to increase the resilience of natural capital and the economic sectors it supports to combat the impacts of climate change. Engaging with and strengthening local CSOs is critical to the sustainability of environmental and conservation outcomes, because CSOs offer innovative ideas and practical solutions to solving local challenges. Grassroot CSOs often have the trust of local communities and hence the leverage to foster behavioral change. The preferred solution contains the following elements in a strategy to support CSO-led environmental action:

- Engaging with women, youth and Indigenous civil society organizations is crucial to strengthen their unique capacities to address the intersection of challenges faced by them.
- Considering the limited capacity of CBOs, combining the provision of grants with targeted capacity building is the recommended strategy for strengthening and engaging CSOs in conservation and environmental protection.
- To obtain sustained, transformational change in the target countries, CSO grantmaking should be guided by shared strategies developed in consultation with key stakeholders from government, civil society, private sector and the donor community.
- In connection with the previous point and building on it, transferring skills and knowledge to government conservation agencies and private companies has high potential to lead to better public policy and business practices, both at national and cumulatively at global level.
- To address conservation issues that no one actor can address in isolation, catalyzing collaborative action would be highly beneficial. Networks and partnerships created or supported by CEPF grantees for example, have been shown to make a huge difference in assuring the sustainability of conservation outcomes, by securing broad support for conservation actions, promoting inclusion among diverse stakeholders, and increasing the likelihood that conservation efforts and activities will be socially inclusive and financially sustainable.

The baseline situation in the participating countries can be summarized as follows:

Country	Key national environmental and social policies, frameworks or initiatives	Sources of investment in nature and biodiversity conservation	Support for CSO environmental

			action through small grants
Equatorial Guinea	- Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation in Equatorial Guinea (ENPADIB), adopted in 2005. - Implementation Program of the "National Medium-Term Investment Plan for Agriculture and Rural Development" (PNIMP), adopted in 2005. - National Program for Food Security (PNSA), adopted in 2012. - National Adaptation Action Plan (PANA), the country prepared this document in 2013. - Mainstreaming Strategy for Sustainable Soil and Forest Management (ETGSSB), prepared in 2013. - National Action Program to Combat Deforestation and Land Degradation in Equatorial Guinea (PAN/LCD), the country prepared and adopted this strategy in 2015. - Action Plan of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea for the Mitigation of Emissions (PAMEGE) of CO2 from International Aviation, prepared and adopted in 2016. Horizon 2035. - National REDD+ Strategy (EN-REDD+), adopted in 2018. - Action Plan for the development of Renewable Energy in Equatorial Guinea 2018 – 2025 (PAER), this plan was adopted in 2018. - National REDD+ Investment Plan (PNI-REDD+), adopted in 2019. - Reference Level of Forest Emissions, in 2019. - Country Program of the Green Climate Fund (PPFVC) in 2019. - all these Plans are aligned with the National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES), horizon 2035	- Multilateral and bilateral sources, often disbursed through regional projects - Pooled investments: GCF	- CEPF investment in the Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot since 2001.
Libya	- the country is a Party of and implements the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). In 2005 Libya developed a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), however, the Plan has not been updated yet. - No NAP or NC submitted - NDC under development[79][79] - Law No. 15 of 2003 on the protection and improvement of the environment - NBSAP - National Monitoring Programme for Biodiversity in Libya (2016) - National Strategy and Action Plan to combat desertification (2005) - Libya Renewable Energy Strategic Plan 2013-2025 - Since 2022 the country has been working on the new law for PAs, that will allow creating new PAs through a proposal of establishment that could be submitted	- Multilateral and bilateral sources, often disbursed through regional projects - Pooled investments: o GCF (limited)	- CEPF investment in the Mediterranean Biodiversity Hotspot since 2012, and ongoing.

	by a governmental or non-governmental entity to the National Council for Protected Areas for assessment and approval[80][80] - commitment to implementing the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development		
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	- NDC - NAP - Effluent Limitation Regulations and Standards approved in 2022 - The country is party to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions - GEF 7 focuses on strengthening marine and coastal ecosystems management using a participatory approach, including communities in its interventions. - The National Climate Change Policy of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) 2019 - NCC Strategy and implementation Plan, 2019 - National Adaptation Plan of Saint Vincent and Grenadines 2018-2030 - The National Economic and Social Development Plan (NESDP 2013-2025), - Revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2020) - National Ocean Policy and Strategic Action Plan (NOP-SAP) Revised December 2020 - Comprehensive Disaster Management Policy 2014 - Comprehensive National Disaster Management Plan - Draft Marine Tourism Policy 2005 - Draft National Forest Policy 1994 - Draft National Land Policy 2014 - Draft National Physical Development Plan 2001-2021 - Draft National Water Safety Plan 2013 - Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy 2017 - Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Action Plan 2014 - Maritime Action Plan 2005 - National Adaptation Plan 2018-2030 - National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2015-2020 - Environmental Management Strategy and Action Plan 2004-2006 - Draft Environmental Management Bill - National Disaster Plan, 2005 - National Energy Policy 2009 and National Energy Action Plan 2010 - National Environmental Management Strategy and Action Plan 2004-2006 - National Forest Resources Conservation Plan 1994-2003 - National Ocean Policy and Strategic Action Plan 2018 - National Parks and Protected Areas Policy 2010	- largely derived from multilateral and bilateral sources and often disbursed through regional projects[81][81] implemented mostly by international or regional agencies. Country components are determined by governments, with little direct funding to civil society. - Pooled investments: o GCF o Sandy Shorelines Project o Caribbean Biodiversity Fund since 2012) o Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Conservation Fund since 2015	- 30 years of CANARI work supporting community resource users - CEPF investments in the Caribbean Biodiversity Hotspot since 2010, and current investment for the period 2021-2026 - GEF SGP, GEF-IWECo[82][82] (2016-2024) - US Fish and Wildlife Service Caribbean Program Small Grants CANARI has developed a mechanism to improve coordination among the various small grants mechanisms in the region and sustainability of results

	- National Parks and Protected Areas System Plan 2009-2014 - National Tourism Policy 2003 - Policy Framework and Strategic Plan for Agricultural Development 2012-2018 - National Tourism Sector Strategic Plan 2002-2006 - St. Vincent and the Grenadines Building Regulations 2005 and Building Guidelines - National Disaster Plan 2005 - Strategic Plan for Health 2007-2012 - Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Draft 2009) - Environmental Management Act (Draft 2009) - Fisheries Act (No. 8 1986) and later amendments (No. 32 1986) and (No. 35 1989) - Forest Resource Conservation Act (No. 47 1992) - Natural Forest Resource Act (1947) - commitment to implementing the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development		
Sri Lanka	- NAP (2016) - The Updated Implementation Plan of the NDC[83] (2023) - **National Environmental Policy (NEP)[84]** - **National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP)[85]** - **National Policy on Disaster Risk Management[86]** - **Forest Policy and National Forest Policy Statement[87]** - **Coastal Zone Management Policy[88]** - **National Policy on Urban Development[89]** - **National Water Supply and Drainage Policy and Strategies[90]** - **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations[91]** - **National Environmental Act[92]** - Sustainable Sri Lanka 2030 Vision and Strategic Path (2019) - National Energy Policy and Strategies of Sri Lanka - commitment to implementing the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Predominantly derived from external funding - Pooled investments ○ GCF	

Turkmenistan	- NDC (2022), LDN report (2022), NBSAP (2002) - National Strategy of Turkmenistan on Climate Change (NSTCC, 2019) - National Program for the Socio-Economic Development of Turkmenistan 2022–2052 - National Strategy for the Development of Renewable Energy in Turkmenistan to 2030 - State Program on Energy Saving for 2018-2024 - President's Program for the Socio-Economic Development of Turkmenistan 2022–2028. - commitment to implementing the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Predominantly by domestic public sector Investments by Private sector and international donors is negligeable[93][93]	CEPF has been supporting CSOs through its investment in the Mountains of Central Asia Biodiversity Hotspot. Focus has been on supporting civil society projects support the following priority areas: Koytendag: Protection of endemic plants, birds of prey and ungulates. Species monitoring and awareness raising among the local population. Reducing pressures from over-grazing and illegal hunting. Tallymerjen: Wetland management focused on the conservation of threatened species. Species monitoring and awareness raising among the local population.

Barriers to implementing the preferred solution

Barrier 1: Alignment between local civil society actions and **national environmental policies** and action plans is often very limited. Government capacity at devolved levels is insufficient to follow up and engage with local CSOs. National CSOs are often overlooked in stakeholder consultations and in larger environmental and development project designs. With limited information channels available at local level, CSOs have limited insights and agency in influencing local and national policy processes. Women, youth, indigenous people and other marginalized groups have even less access to information and are underrepresented in decision making processes at all levels.

Barrier 2: Smaller CSOs have **limited access to funding.** When it is available (e.g through private donations), it is often limited and insufficient to effectively address larger environmental issues. Moreover, funding tends to be project-based, ad hoc and bound within short time frames. Analysis of activities conducted by Libyan CSOs for example, revealed that they rarely focus on one specific activity or thematic

area. Generally, they prefer to conduct cross-cutting activities or ad-hoc activities to provide support to beneficiaries based on actual needs and available funding[94].

Barrier 3: Local CSOs have **limited organizational capacity**, in particular in the areas of administrative, technical and financial management. As these organizations typically emerge out of concrete needs in communities, and as they are typically led by community members, these skills crucial for accessing funding, scaling operations or simply handing larger budgets and transparency requirements are often insufficient. Staff turnover in CSOs is another problem[95].

Barrier 4: Local CSOs in rural areas and underdeveloped urban areas have **limited technical skills** in terms of conservation, natural resource management, sustainable land management, waste management, or sustainable urban solutions. These CSOs and CBOs are often very well aware of the problems to be addressed but lack the practical know-how and materials to implement practices and techniques that, for example, restore degraded lands, separate or process waste streams, prevent soil erosion and landslides. In addition, CSOs often have limited influence in pushing for traditional techniques and practices vis a vis engineering solutions.

Barriers 5: Women, youth, indigenous people and minority groups face an intersection of challenges and CSOs led by them typically focus on development or social issues, rather than environmental or conservation issues. In some contexts, it is challenging for women and youth to lead organizations openly. In addition, the needs of local communities, indigenous peoples, women and youth are often poorly understood and therefore the immediate incentives for them to participate in sustainable natural resource management or conservation may be insufficient.

Barrier 6: Smaller CSOs have a **limited understanding of and capacity to demonstrate impacts** of activities and leverage either political influence or additional funding. Research from the UK, for example, found that grassroot charities were losing funding to better organized and larger charities, even if the grassroot charity's impact in the local community was evident and the larger charity lacked local experience. Indigenous peoples and their lands are facing increased pressure from development, mining and large-scale farming, but have limited capacity vis a vis large actors to demonstrate their needs and rights.

Barrier 7: Many smaller CSOs operate in a highly localized context, and if they are not located in larger urban or well-connected geographies, **knowledge exchange and peer-to-peer learning due to the physical distance is limited**[96]. In addition, resource-constrained CSOs typically have little resources to spare beyond dealing with the immediate issue at hand. The limited or missed opportunities for smaller CSOs to become part of a larger network or to form partnerships leads to limited new opportunities, cost sharing and impact.

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[96] This is illustrated well by the statement of the Sri Lankan Federation of Environmental Organisations: ‚In 2012, it was realised, as per the prevalent information of the time, that there were over 600 conservation / environmental groups registered for, and located throughout, the country. Apart from the major groups in Colombo, few knew what the other did, and this lack of cohesion was often used to disrupt conservation initiatives.' https://feosrilanka.org/about-us/

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project description

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the PIF guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

Working through CEPF as a delivery mechanism, CI will implement SGP 2.0 in at least 5 countries, building on the success, systems and networks of the seven previous phases of the SGP and of UNDP as the implementing agency during these phases, while piloting and testing new approaches informed by its own experience as a grant maker.

The **overarching objective of SGP 2.0** is to: "Catalyze and mobilize civil society actors and local actions needed to address major drivers of environmental degradation and help deliver multiple benefits across the GEF's mandated thematic dimensions, while promoting sustainable development and improved livelihoods".

The project's **Theory of Change** can be summarized as *'If civil society actors, and in particular women, youth and Indigenous and Local Communities, are strengthened and further enabled to take local action against environmental degradation, threats to biodiversity and human well-being, and adverse impacts and drivers of climate change, through the delivery of targeted grants and accompanying tailored capacity building and knowledge, advocacy and partnership management training and activities, then these actors can become major drivers of and contributors to achieving Global Environmental Benefits'.*

The project will support direct access to the SGP 2.0 by IP&LCs, community-based organizations and other CSOs for projects that focus on the following priorities: (i) community-based management of threatened ecosystems and species; (ii) sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security; and (iii) low-carbon energy access and co-benefits. CSOs will also be able to access the SGP 2.0 for projects that address local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management, and catalyzing sustainable urban solutions, provided that they adopt nature-based approaches.

The proposed project will adopt a strong gender, women, youth (15-35 years old) and indigenous peoples (where applicable) focused approach, to ensure those mostly vulnerable have their needs addressed. The fundamental aim is to address major drivers of local environmental degradation and threats to biodiversity, address climate change impacts, improve livelihoods and support and strengthen the agency of civil society in delivering Global Environmental Benefits in an inclusive and equitable way.

The project's **main objective** is *to support and foster the active leadership of Indigenous People (where applicable) and local communities in addressing critical environmental problems and improving their livelihoods in innovative, sustainable, and practical ways through a nature-based and socially inclusive*

grantmaking approach, and to contribute to the overall achievement of Global Environmental Benefits and poverty reduction.

To help lower the barriers to civil society-led environmental action and achieve the main objective, the project will implement a mix of interventions that will target: i) the enabling environment at global, national and local level; ii) the institutional, organizational and technical capacities of CSOs to apply for and obtain grants, manage and document projects successfully, and upscale their actions and impacts; and iii) the evidence base of the benefits of civil society-led action in delivering Global Environmental Benefits.

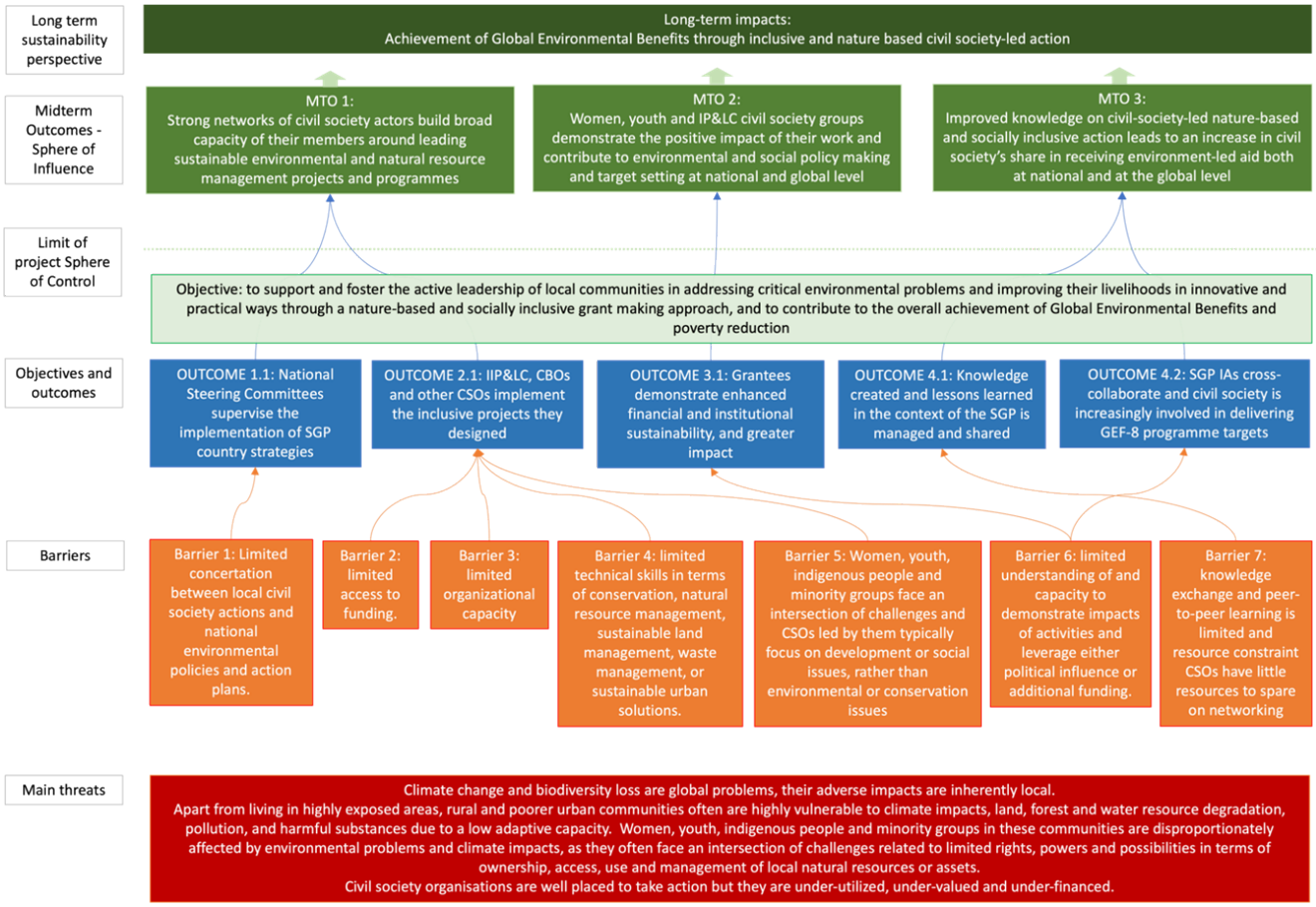
The project objective (Sphere of Control) will be achieved through **five (5) interlinked outcomes** defined below:

- **OUTCOME 1.1.:** National Steering Committees supervise the implementation of SGP country strategies
- **OUTCOME 2.1.:** IP&LC, CBOs and other CSOs deliver GEB through the inclusive projects they design and implement
- **OUTCOME 3.1.:** Grantees demonstrate enhanced financial and institutional sustainability, and greater impact
- **OUTCOME 4.1.:** Knowledge created and lessons learned in the context of the SGP are managed and shared
- **OUTCOME 4.2.:** SGP IAs cross-collaborate and civil society is increasingly involved in delivering GEF-8 programme targets

Subsequently, through both the project and other initiatives, **Medium-Term Outcomes** could be achieved (Sphere of Influence of the project). These Medium-Term Outcomes are defined as:

- **MTO 1:** Strong networks of civil society actors build broad capacity of their members around leading sustainable environmental and natural resource management projects and programmes
- **MTO 2:** Women, youth and IP&LC civil society groups demonstrate the positive impact of their work and contribute to environmental and social policy making and target setting at national and global level
- **MTO 3**: Improved knowledge on civil-society-led nature-based and socially inclusive action leads to an increase in civil society's share in receiving environment-led aid both at national and at the global level

Figure 1: Schematic overview of the project's Theory of Change



Component 1 will focus on establishing the enabling environment for civil society actors to participate in the SGP 2.0. The SGP Country Programme Strategy and the national-level governance structure will reflect and enable a demand-driven community-based grantmaking approach, adhering to principles of independent civil society leadership and independence in its grantmaking. As several of the target countries benefited from previous GEF SGP rounds, the project will take stock of the achievements, networks and lessons learned from these experiences so they can inform project approach and the design of the Country Programme Strategy in each country.

In each country, an SGP National Steering Committee (SGP-NSC) will be established. The SGP-NSC will, in alignment with the GEF-8 SGP 2.0 Operational Guidelines, strive to have a non-governmental majority membership of representatives from rights-holders, CSOs, CBOs, Indigenous Peoples, and Local Communities, Women and Youth groups and organizations, private sector and academia. These SGP-NSC typically operate on consensus, ensuring no party or group of parties can dominate. Further members will be the GEF OFP (or their designated representatives), and the GEF SGP Implementing Agencies and/or executing entities. The most appropriate structure and organization of the SGP-NSC, including terms of references, membership criteria, gender and age balance, cultural and context specifications and periodicity are to be determined at PPG phase, for each country.

Under the guidance of the SGP-NSC, a shared SGP Country Programme Strategy will be developed, aligned with the country's commitments under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MAEs) and in particular the NBSAP, through a participatory process. An approach similar to CEPF's existing approach for the development of the Ecosystem Profiles will be followed. The strategies will include explicit priorities related to community-based approaches, as well as explicit priorities for engaging and supporting IP&LCs, women and women's groups, and youth in addressing the five priorities identified in the GEF-8 SGP Strategy, namely: 1) Community-based management of threatened ecosystems and species, 2) Sustainable agriculture

and fisheries, and food security, 3) Low-carbon energy access and co-benefits, 4) Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management, and 5) Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions. At the overarching level, focus will be on actions under the first three priorities, and actions under the latter two priorities will be included only if they have a nature-based approach. During the PPG phase, the SGP priority foci for each participating country will be identified. Following the GEF-8 SGP Operational Guidelines, the process for the identification and formulation of the country program strategy will be undertaken in an inclusive, transparent, and consultative manner, including with the proactive participation of local representatives of rights holders, Indigenous peoples, local communities, civil society organizations and groups, women and youth leaders, groups and associations, as well as other marginalized or vulnerable groups and individuals. The SGP-NSC will ensure that the SGP Country Strategy presents an appropriate balance between civil society grantee needs, and alignment with national environmental and development priorities and policies.

Component 1 will be delivered through one outcome and two outputs:

Outcome 1.1. National Steering Committees supervise the implementation of SGP country strategies

- Output 1.1.1. A National Steering Committee is established in each participating country
- Output 1.1.2. An SGP country programme strategy, aligned with the NBSAP is developed in each participating country

Indicative activities include:

- Stocktaking of the lessons learned from previous rounds of the GEF SGP in each country through close interaction with UNDP and the country teams.
- Participatory establishment of the NSC informed through wide stakeholder consultations
- Organisation and facilitation of several workshops and wide stakeholder consultations to draft the Country Programme Strategy

Component 2 focusses on the granting process itself. Eligible grantees include national and local NGOs, CBOs and women, youth, Indigenous Peoples groups and associations, as well as primary producers' organizations and associations. They might also include organizations such as not-for-profit unions and cooperatives. The grantee is a legally registered organization, with full accountability for all aspects of programmatic performance, financial management and compliance with environmental and social safeguards. CSOs will be encouraged to design and implement projects in close collaboration with local communities, and public and private sector actors, in line with CEPF's policy on Stakeholder Engagement.

Addressing SGP 2.0 cross-cutting strategic priorities in grant selection, the project aims to dedicate 30% of grants to local communities (including Indigenous Peoples, as relevant in each country), 10-15% to women and girls, and 10-15% to youth, at the project level. Targets may differ between the participating countries and will be set more in detail at the PPG stage. Specific calls will be launched for each of these categories of actors.

The project will apply and build on key principles established by CEPF and CI with respect to granting of civil society:

- Capacity-building activities are integrated into or 'tied to' the grants, and targeted towards the grantee's specific capacity requirements, as determined through a capacity assessment conducted right after the grant has been awarded. Grantees typically will receive training on administrative, technical and financial management, on policy coherence and gender.

- Capacity building will also be provided to interested grantees during the application stages.

- Social inclusion is integrated into all of CI's work on conservation and natural resource management. CI has developed a robust Environmental and Social Safeguards System that is founded on Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI), emphasizes gender mainstreaming, protects the rights of IP&LCs, applies the principle of FPIC, and requires transparent and accessible accountability and grievance mechanisms.

- CEPF also applies an environmental and social management framework that meets the GEF's minimum standards, and has extensive experience working with IP&LCs and their organizations. CEPF's investment strategies explicitly prioritize engaging and building the capacity of IPOs, women's groups and youth groups.

- All CEPF grantees working in areas with Indigenous people present are required to (i) respect Indigenous people's rights, including their rights to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC); (ii) assess, avoid and minimize potential adverse impacts, through a participatory and consultative approach; and (iii) ensure that Indigenous people receive culturally appropriate benefits that are negotiated and agreed upon through meaningful consultations.

- CEPF grantmaking also integrates gender equality outcomes, recognizing that supporting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is the best way to build a more peaceful, more inclusive and more prosperous world. CEPF has developed a gender policy, as well as tools to help its grantees adopt a gender-responsive approach. These include a gender toolkit and training materials on empowering women in conservation. All of these materials are available in multiple languages. Awareness raising on the tools and policies will be an integral part of the call for proposals. In addition, CEPF and the national EA will provide capacity building in applying the tools, under component 3.

Dedicated grants will be awarded for capacity building, engaging the expertise of CSOs with a demonstrated track record of helping local and grassroots organizations to overcome barriers to their institutional development.

The project will, where possible, build on innovative approaches to nature conservation and naturel resource management with a successful track record, such as CI's Conservation Agreements[1][97], or Herding 4 Health approach[2][98].

The grant-making process will go through the following steps:

1. An open call for proposals is announced on CI, CEPF and RIT websites and circulated by newsletters, emails, social media, etc. A call identifies geographic priorities (priority sites and corridors), thematic priorities (strategic directions and investment priorities) and target group priorities (women, IP&LC, youth) for grantmaking. It also identifies the time boundaries, e.g. a duration of one to two years depending on their scope.
2. Applicants submit Letters of Inquiry (LOIs). Applicants can apply for a "small grant", contracted and overseen by the national Executing Partner (RIT or other), or a "large grant", overseen directly by CEPF Secretariat.
3. LOIs are screened for eligibility and then reviewed by the national executing partners, expert peer reviewers and (for large grants only) the CEPF Secretariat.
4. Shortlisted LOIs are then reviewed by the SGP-NSC. For large grants, shortlisted applicants may be invited to present their project concepts to the group and respond to members' questions. The SGP-NSC ensures that the selection and approval of strategically targeted grants adhere to the principles of objectivity, transparency, responsiveness, and inclusivity.

5. Based on the recommendations of the SGP-NSC, successful applicants are invited to develop a full proposal (in the case of large grants) or proceed directly to contracting (small grants). Targeted capacity building can be provided to support grantees during the application process.
6. Large grant applicants are invited to attend proposal development workshops ("masterclasses"), where they receive guidance and hands-on support with preparing their full proposals from CEPF and the national EA staff.
7. Additional due diligence of successful applicants is carried out, with a particular emphasis on financial management and management of environmental and social risks, which follows CEPF's Environmental and Social Management Framework.

While most grants will be awarded through open, competitive calls, other modalities, such as grants by invitation, are also used, for instance to fill long-standing gaps in a grant portfolio or to respond to an urgent need.

The granting process will build on and benefit from CEPF's existing online grants management system, ConservationGrants, and its full array of grantmaking tools and templates.

Aside from regular small grants (with an upper limit of US$75,000 as per SGP 2.0 Operational Guidance), under special circumstances, larger grants for scaling-up of country-level activities and results, and/or transboundary, regional or international activities may be considered as an option for financing CSO and CBO grantee initiatives. These grants would allow a maximum grant amount of US$150,000 per CSO or CBO. In line with the recommendation of the GEF-8 SGP Operational Guidelines, grants awarded under this modality will be limited to 20% of the total grant portfolio amount per country, per operational phase. Thematically, the larger strategic grant can be considered for:

- Replication and scaling up of tested approaches and on-going successful projects, including innovative technological and technical results, capacity building, network building, south-south exchanges, awareness raising, advocacy and public policy influence at local, national and global levels.
- Consolidation of successful results and best practices across landscapes and seascapes involving several CSO/CBOs.

Delivery will be done through three outputs under one outcome:

Outcome 2.1. IP&LC, CBOs and other CSOs deliver GEB through the inclusive projects they designed

- Output 2.1.1. Direct access to the SGP by IP&LCs, community-based organizations and other CSOs is facilitated for projects that focus on the following priorities: (i) community-based management of threatened ecosystems and species; (ii) sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security; (iii) low-carbon energy access and co-benefits; (iv) local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management; and (v) catalyzing sustainable urban solutions
- Output 2.1.2. Women, youth, IP&LCs and other marginalized or vulnerable groups access and benefit from grants in an equitable manner
- Output 2.1.3. Projects specifically designed and implemented by young people (15 to 35 years old) are granted and implemented

Indicative activities include:

- Wide awareness raising campaigns of the SGP and the opportunities it presents for women, IP&LC and youth
- Initial support and capacity building in setting up women led CBOs
- Initial support and capacity building during the application process

- Launching and accompanying specific calls and applying the granting process steps as described above
- Launching and accompanying a specific call for women-led organizations
- Launching and accompanying a specific call for youth
- Conducting an organisational and technical diagnosis of each successful grantee to identify technical and capacity gaps and how the RIT/CEPF SEC can best support in addressing these
- Conducting trainings and hands-on mentoring in
    - administrative, financial and technical skills
    - financial sustainability strategies
    - policy coherence and gender
- Engaging the expertise of CSOs with a demonstrated track record of helping local and grassroots organizations to overcome barriers to their institutional development, through dedicated grants

Component 3 is about **capacity building and mentoring of grantees and larger civil society to achieve larger scale impact**. Specific training on monitoring and evaluation and impact documentation will enable CSOs to document the impacts of their projects in ways meaningful to both local and national stakeholders, thereby generating recognition of their work, and facilitating a scaling up of these impacts. Capacity building around policy coherence will enable grantees to gain further insights and agency in influencing local and national policy processes. By combining grantmaking with targeted capacity building, financial and programmatic risk in the grant portfolio is mitigated, and the sustainability of global environmental benefits and sustainable development outcomes are enhanced. Capacity building impacts are monitored by means of a self-assessment scorecard – the Civil Society Tracking Tool developed and applied by CEPF will serve as a model and can be further applied or extended under the SGP project.

Coordinating SGP grantmaking with the CEPF grant portfolio in each country, will create opportunities for SGP grantees to "graduate" to larger, longer-term support from CEPF and other funders. Combining SGP and CEPF support will provide a pathway for the emergence of local actors whose work is rooted firmly in addressing environmental issues through actions designed and led by IP&LCs yet are able to catalyze change at scale. 'Champion' SGP grantees can be expected to "graduate" to become grantees of CEPF's regular grantmaking, giving them access to larger grants (average size: $120,000 over 2-3 years) and accompanying further training to build capacity, confidence and credibility, allowing some of them to go on to access larger and longer-term funding from international and local sources.

Business-oriented approaches and strengthening dialogues and partnerships with the private sector and exploring potential opportunities for finance and technical support will be explored, and their potential to help scale up SGP innovations leveraged.

Delivery of Outcome 3.1. Grantees demonstrate enhanced financial and institutional sustainability, and greater impact, will be through two complementary outputs:

- Output 3.1.1. Grantees monitor and document their impact
- Output 3.1.2. Champion SGP grantees access longer-term support from CEPF and other donors

Indicative activities include:

- Conduct trainings and hands-on mentoring in monitoring and evaluation and impact documentation
- Where applicable associate Indigenous peoples and local communities with CI's negotiations Program for IP&LCs, which offers a comprehensive training and mentoring program for community-level negotiators[3][99].

- Provide trainings on national and international policies related to climate change and biodiversity to CSOs
- Further develop and apply the CEPF self-assessment scorecard – the Civil Society Tracking Tool as well as the CEPF Gender Tracking Tool
- Coordinate SGP grantmaking with the CEPF grant portfolio in each country
- Identify champion SGP grantees to become grantees of CEPF's regular grantmaking, giving them access to larger grants and accompanied support that will further build their capacity, confidence and credibility.
- Explore business-oriented approaches and strengthen dialogues and partnerships with the private sector to identify opportunities for finance and technical support that can help scale up SGP innovations in each country

Component 4 focuses on **knowledge management and partnerships for upscaling and replication**. Networks and partnerships created or supported by CEPF grantees have been shown to make a huge difference in assuring the sustainability of conservation outcomes, by securing broad support for conservation actions, promoting inclusion among diverse stakeholders, and increasing the likelihood that conservation efforts and activities will be socially inclusive and financially sustainable. As mentioned above, under component 2, dedicated grants will be awarded for capacity building, engaging the expertise of CSOs with a demonstrated track record of helping local and grassroots organizations to overcome barriers to their institutional development. In addition, CEPF will organise trainings and mentoring programs, as well as workshops and events for grantees in the same geographies, focusing on networks and partnerships. A knowledge sharing platform will be set up so that grantees can share their experiences with each other. This can take the shape of CSO/CBO knowledge exchange fairs and grantee peer-to-peer learning opportunities in a particular geography or landscape. The platform will also enable sharing wider lessons at national events and workshops, that reach a broader audience and can create opportunities for engaging further actors in supporting or collaborating with civil society and actions led by them.

High quality, innovative knowledge products will be produced, in multiple languages and published on the project's, CEPF's and CI's websites. The knowledge products will be promoted among grantees, leading to the uptake of good practices[4][100]. Areas for increasing awareness, knowledge, capacity and collaboration among grantees, and with decision makers will be identified, so that each consecutive round of granting can encourage scaling-up of innovative solutions through funded initiatives. The knowledge products capturing best practices from the grant portfolio will also be used to facilitate replication by organizations in other countries and contexts[5][101]. Grantees and other stakeholders will be encouraged to participate in South-South multi-stakeholder platforms, where exchange, reflection and learning around challenges, limitations, and failures along with good practice, success stories, innovative approaches and opportunities for collaboration can be discussed and identified. The approach can build on practices under existing CI grantmaking programs, which incorporate platforms that convene stakeholders and partners for practical learning and exchange. For example, CSP maintains a global learning network for advancing best practices for community-based conservation.

More widely, the insights gained from the consecutive rounds of granting, will be used to inform and foster wider initiatives that for example can influence private sector business practices[6][102], or influence public policy and global environmental discourse. For example, the GEF-7 ICI regularly convenes Indigenous leaders and practitioners to advance Indigenous-led conservation in international fora. ICI seeks strategic opportunities to help systematize and strengthen IP&LC representation and engagement in environmental

policy fora, based on targeted representation with clear policy objectives, added value to existing initiatives, and defined communication goals. This includes promoting IP&LC voices in decision-making at the Rio Conventions and other relevant fora to strengthen their provisions on IP&LC rights and roles in relation to conservation, climate change and other environmental issues. The project will also pay attention to learnings in the area of climate risks and adaptation and mitigation solutions.

The project will actively contribute to knowledge and learning activities at GEF level, including aggregating lessons learned in reporting. CI will At the country-level, communication about the GEF SGP 2.0 funded grants will disseminate information about results, impact, and contributions to return on investment, where possible, and human-centered storytelling will be used to show the impact of GEF SGP-funded activities at the individual level.

The project will also focus on knowledge exchange and scaling up at SGP 2.0 programme level, by actively seeking collaboration with the other GEF SGP 2.0 Implementing Agencies. Multistakeholder platforms can be set up to exchange knowledge, understand incentives and pathways to behavioural change that will drive systems change, and facilitate collaboration and scale up. Additional resources for SGP 2.0 are mobilized at scale by leveraging existing networks of CI and CEPF (e.g. leveraging CI's established relationships with public and philanthropic donors and private business). Furthermore, CI and CEPF will facilitate the knowledge gained through the project, to further work with the GEF to engage civil society in the participating countries in GEF corporate activities, as well as in the delivery of other initiatives under GEF-8, in particular the Integrated Programs on the Amazon, Congo and Critical Forest Biomes, and Ecosystem Restoration.

Component 4 will be delivered through five outputs, under two outcomes:

Outcome 4.1.: Knowledge created and lessons learned in the context of the SGP are managed and shared

- Output 4.1.1. Knowledge is shared in national civil society networks and platforms
- Output 4.1.2. Knowledge is shared in South-South civil society networks and platforms

Outcome 4.2.: SGP IAs cross-collaborate and civil society is increasingly involved in delivering GEF-8 programme targets

- Output 4.2.1. Project knowledge contributes to overall GEF and IAs knowledge and capacity to support civil society-led action
- Output 4.2.2. Additional resources for SGP 2.0 are mobilized at scale
- Output 4.2.3. Civil society in the participating countries is engaged in GEF corporate activities, as well as in the delivery of other initiatives under GEF-8, in particular the Integrated Programs on the Amazon, Congo and Critical Forest Biomes, and Ecosystem Restoration.

Indicative activities include:

- Develop a communication strategy for dissemination of project results to key audiences
- Develop knowledge products
- Facilitate collaborative learning among SGP grantees, by sharing the knowledge products and organizing national and regional knowledge exchange events (CSO/CBO fairs, peer-to-peer learning)
- Organize trainings, mentoring programs and workshops for grantees in the same geographies, focusing on networks and partnerships
- Identify areas for increasing awareness, knowledge, capacity and collaboration among grantees, and with decision makers, so that consecutive round of granting can encourage scaling-up of innovative solutions through funded initiatives.

- Exchange, reflection and learning around challenges, limitations, and failures along with good practice, success stories, innovative approaches and opportunities through South-South Exchanges.
- Participate with other GEF SGP 2.0 IA's multistakeholder platforms to exchange knowledge, understand incentives and pathways to behavioral change that will drive systems change, and facilitate collaboration and scale up. The three SGP IAs take advantage of opportunities for synergy and share approaches and best practices
- Actively contribute to GEF knowledge and learning activities, including aggregating lessons learned in reporting

- Leverage CI's established relationships with public and philanthropic donors and private business.

Component 5 will focus on **Monitoring and Evaluation**.

The M&E plan includes:

- Inception Workshop and Report
- Progress reporting on GEF Core Indicators and Project Results
- Annual GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR) including information on implementation and disbursement progress, prepared by the IA. The PIR will provide the list of organizations to which grants were awarded, grant amounts, as well as the geographic locations of grant activities. This will allow geo-mapping of SGP initiatives by country, and type of organization.
- Monitoring of Project Safeguards Management Frameworks and Gender Action Plans
- Learning missions
- Independent Mid-term Review (MTR)
- Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE)

Approach to mainstreaming a focus on gender, youth and IP&LC

A cross-cutting focus on engaging, empowering and supporting decision making of women, youth and IPCLs will be enshrined in the implementation of the SGP 2.0. These groups will be involved in the preparation and update of the country program strategies, which will establish the overarching geographic and thematic priorities for grantmaking at the national level. Women, youth and, where relevant, Indigenous people will be presented on the SGP National Steering Committee in each country, to give voice to these groups in the selection of projects for support (Component 1). Grants will be made accessible to these and other marginalized and vulnerable groups, through targeted outreach, proposal writing workshops and use of local-language templates (Components 2 and 3). Particular efforts will be made to engage youth, including a dedicated funding window for projects designed and implemented by young people (Component 2), mentoring and internship programs (Component 3), and supporting young people to participate in national and regional workshops organized by CEPF and, where relevant, GEF corporate activities (Component 4). Finally, the project will develop appropriate environmental and social safeguards plans, a comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan and a gender action plan, following GEF-8 requirements, and in some cases going beyond, building on CI's and CEPF's own environmental and social frameworks and gender mainstreaming approaches

[1] Under CI's Conservation Stewards Program (CSP). CSP's model uses Conservation Agreements, developed through participatory processes that hinge on FPIC. Conservation agreements offer direct incentives for conservation through a negotiated benefit package, in return for verifiable conservation actions by IP&LCs. Thus, a conservation agreement links conservation funders to the people who own and use natural resources. Benefits typically include investments in social services, like health and education, as well as investments in livelihoods.

[2] The Herding 4 Health program, an ambitious partnership between CI and the Peace Parks Foundation, aims to improve the management of more than 1.5 million hectares of rangeland across five countries. Herding 4 Health uses a community-driven approach to address challenges faced by farmers living within and next to protected areas, including human-wildlife conflict and animal disease control. Market links between small-scale farmers and commercial meat buyers have been created through the creation of a local organization Meat Naturally.

[3] The program includes online and in-person workshops on negotiation strategies and best practices, a network of experienced community negotiators who act as mentors, a case study library, and an Indigenous Negotiations Resource Guide.

[4] For example, CEPF successfully share knowledge products and models for community-based approaches to freshwater fish conservation developed in Southeast Asia with local Indigenous communities Costa Rica and India.
[5] Under a recent GEF-funded project, CEPF produced six knowledge products and made them available through CEPF's online learning hub in multiple languages, including a guide to establishing community-managed fish conservation zones, a guide to facilitating community workshops for the introduction of sustainable practices, and a package of training materials on strengthening women's voices in conservation.
[6] For example, in 2021, together with the luxury fashion group Kering, CI launched the Regenerative Fund for Nature, which aims to transform 1 million hectares of crop and rangelands into regenerative agricultural spaces over five years. Learning from the projects supported by the fund is captured and used to inform the emergence of new responsible supply chain and sourcing approaches for leather, cotton, wool and cashmere used in the fashion industry.

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

Yes

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

The largest grantmaking initiative targeting IP&LCs and other civil society actors housed at CI is CEPF, which is proposed as CI's delivery mechanism for SGP 2.0. CEPF was created in 2000, with the aim of engaging and strengthening civil society to conserve the global biodiversity hotspots. Since this time, CEPF has supported more than 2,700 civil society partners in 112 countries and territories, awarding $290 million in grants.

In Libya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Turkmenistan, the project will be aligned with CEPF's investment strategy. This brings the following benefits:

- Operational costs will be kept to a minimum by making use of CEPF's existing systems and processes, and integrating the SGP grants into the wider CEPF grant portfolios in the biodiversity hotspots, which creates opportunities for cost sharing on capacity building, knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation, etc. In particular, where present, CEPF's Regional Implementation Teams may function as local Executing Agencies for SGP 2.0, creating economies of scale with administration of the small grantmaking process, including solicitation, review and due diligence of proposals.

- Using CEPF's online grants management system, ConservationGrants, and its full array of grantmaking tools and templates, all of which will be available in local languages[1][103], thereby facilitating access to the SGP by local and grassroots organizations.

- SGP grantees will be able to participate in trainings and mentoring programs organized by CEPF in the same geographies, to realize opportunities for networking and cost-sharing.

Grantees in SVG will benefit from the Blue Nature Alliance, a partnership between CI, the GEF, the Pew Charitable Trusts, Minderoo Foundation, the Rob Walton Foundation, and others, which supports projects focused on the creation, expansion or improved management of ocean conservation areas, from coastal ecosystems to the open ocean. The Alliance aims to catalyze the conservation of 18 million square kilometers of ocean in five years. To reach this goal, CI and its partners are working closely with IP&LCs, NGOs, government and scientists to support effective large-scale marine conservation. The Blue Nature Alliance provides a combination of technical expertise, access to a network of partners, and flexible financial resources

for on-the-ground partners. Equity is core to the Alliance's work, centered on IP&LCs' goals to protect their natural resources and enhance social and ecological outcomes.

Other initiatives to coordinate with could be:

Country	Initiatives
Equatorial Guinea	- US Public Diplomacy Small Grants Programme[2][104]
Libya	- GCF Readiness output: A guide on the GCF financing for CSOs[3][105].
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	- US Fish and Wildlife Service Caribbean Program Small Grants - Caribbean Consultative Working Group (CCWG)[4][106] - Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN)
Sri Lanka	- Federation of Environmental Organisations (Trust)
Turkmenistan	- The Canada Fund for Local Initiatives—Türkiye, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkmenistan - USAID Social Innovation in Central Asia project (2019–2024) - US Embassy in Turkmenistan operates a small grants program that makes funding available to CSOs

Designating an appropriate management structure through either/or: i) a dedicated in-country national project management team, where a SGP country program office may be physically located within or outside the SGP implementing agency´s premises; ii) a regional office, where the implementing agency provides oversight and support to one or more countries; and/or through a iii) executing agency that may be a recognized national NGO, CSO, environmental trust fund, or academic institution or equivalent.

Delivery of SGP 2.0 will draw on the experience, systems and capabilities of established grant-making mechanisms for IP&LCs and other civil society actors housed at CI, in particular CEPF.

CI will be the **Implementing Agency**

CI recognizes that civil society is a key agent of change that makes a vital contribution to all areas of sustainable development, including the twin challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change. To this end, CI has partnered with a range of public, private and community organizations to design and implement multiple programs that involve community-driven grantmaking related to management and restoration of threatened species and ecosystems, sustainable food production and food security, and low-carbon energy

access. CI will leverage its experience with external grantmaking with a wide range of partners, including IP&LCs, while managing financial and compliance risks of the SGP 2.0 project.

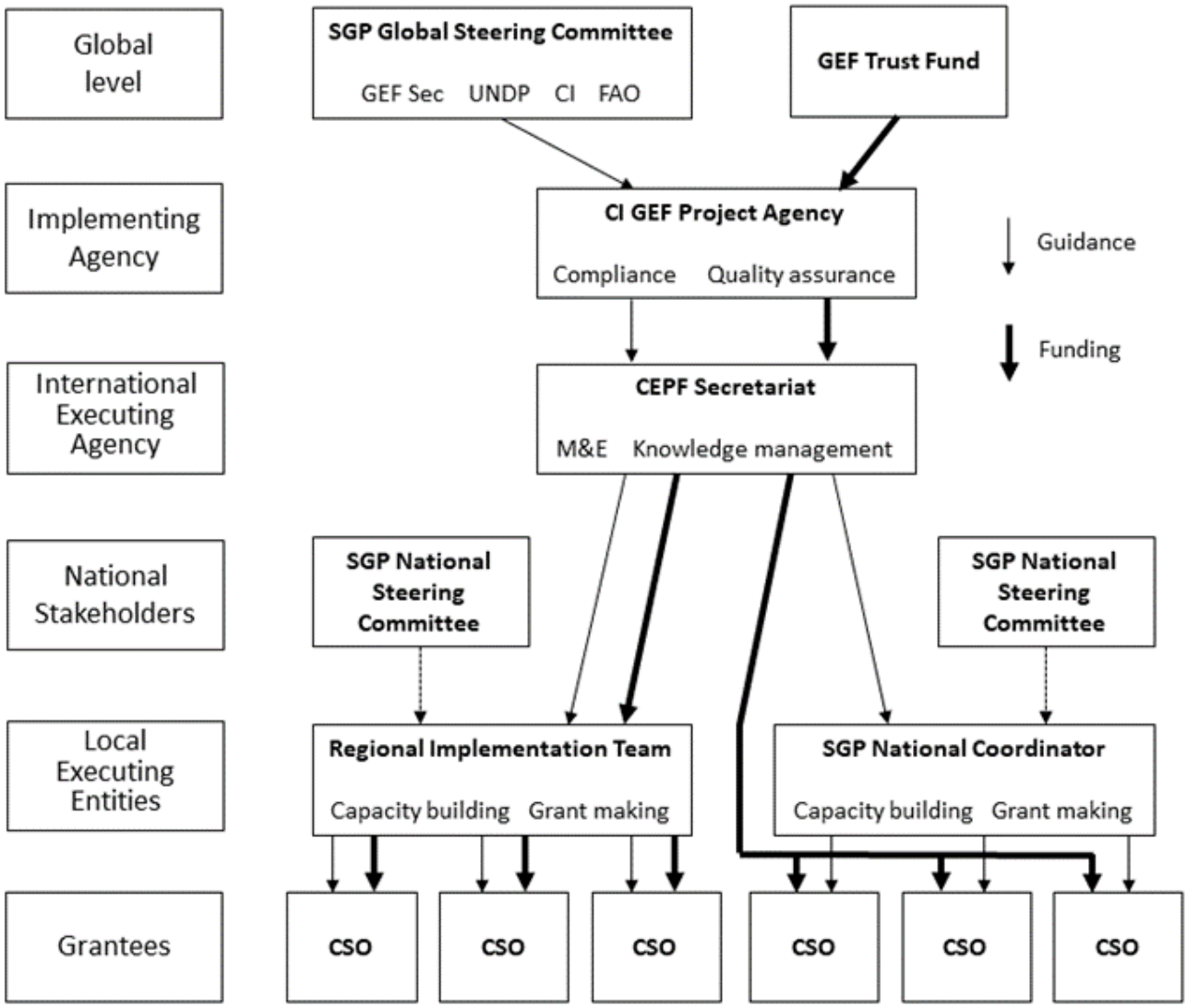
The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund will be the primary **Executing Agency.**

CEPF was established in 2000 as a mechanism to engage civil society in the conservation of critical ecosystems in the global biodiversity hotspots. CEPF is a joint initiative of CI and the GEF, in partnership with l'Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the European Union (EU), the Government of Japan and the World Bank. CEPF's strategic focus, its transparent, efficient, measurable and value-for-money grant-making model, and its track record of engaging women, youth, IP&LCs and other marginalized groups make it a stand-out candidate as a delivery partner for SGP 2.0.

At the global level, operational guidance and advice will be provided by the SGP Global Steering Committee, which CI will sit on, as one of the SGP IAs.

At the national level, the GEF Operational Focal Point will provide guidance, feedback and input on the country program strategy, and participate in the SGP National Steering Committee. This committee will comprise representatives from civil society (including, where relevant, Indigenous Peoples organizations (IPOs)), private sector and government, balanced participation of women and men, and at least one youth member (under 35).

Under the guidance of the SGP National Steering Committee, locally appropriate executing arrangements will be put in place to award, supervise and monitor GEF small grants. CEPF engages locally based structures - Regional Implementation Teams (RITs) - that work on the ground directly with CSOs to build local capacity and support implementation of grants. In countries where a CEPF RIT is in place, these may be engaged as local Executing Agencies. Otherwise, the CEPF Secretariat may directly execute SGP 2.0, by hiring a National Coordinator and hosting them at a CI country office or local CSO partner. The CEPF Secretariat will provide technical and financial backstopping to the local Executing Agencies, and deliver some monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management, and administrative functions centrally, for greater cost efficiency. A diagram of the proposed implementation arrangements is presented below:



[1] The tools are available in English, French, Spanish and Russian.

[2] https://gq.usembassy.gov/public-diplomacy-grants/

[3] GCF Readiness Proposal Enhancing institutional, human and technical capacity of Libya system for climate finance, 2019. Accessible from: https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/20211203-libya.pdf . Last accessed on 30 July 2024

GCF through Readiness Libya I, and now on-going Readiness II project, some workshops have been conducted to leveraging the Libyan Businessmen Council, private sector, CSOs for Climate Finance/climate investment and Sustainable Development in Libya. Also, preparing for a dialogue between private sector and public sector and agree on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Act. Also preparing 2 Concept Notes to be submitted to the GCF secretariate.

[4] multi-sectoral thematic grouping of civil society representatives from six Caribbean countries. conceived as a means for Caribbean civil society actors to learn from each other and share good practices on policy advocacy in the region

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
55000	0	0	0

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
55000	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
			55,000.00						

Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
1800	0	0	0

Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas Newly created

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 2.2 Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

1800	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
			1,800.00						

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
300	0	0	0

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
100.00			

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Woodlands	100.00			

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
100.00			

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
40000	0	0	0

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
40,000.00			

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
		10,000.00			

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 5 Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
1,300.00			

Indicator 5.1 Fisheries under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)

Type/name of the third-party certification

Indicator 5.2 Large Marine Ecosystems with reduced pollution and hypoxia

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)

LME at PIF	LME at CEO Endorsement	LME at MTR	LME at TE

Indicator 5.3 Marine OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	3,100			
Male	3,100			
Total	**6,200**	**0**	0	**0**

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

CEPF has 24 years' experience grantmaking to CSOs and monitoring and evaluating the impact of its investments. These are published each year in CEPF's Impact and Annual Report. At the global level, CEPF reports on 17 impact indicators, grouped under four pillars: biodiversity; civil society; human wellbeing; and enabling conditions. These indicators align with seven of the Core Indicators of the SGP, or can be disaggregated to align with them:

SGP Core Indicator

CEPF Global Indicator(s)

Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management (hectare)

Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded [terrestrial]

Number of protected areas with improved management [marine]

Marine protected areas created or under improved management (hectare)

Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded [terrestrial]

Number of protected areas with improved management [marine]

Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (hectare)

Number of hectares of terrestrial forest, terrestrial non-forest, freshwater and coastal marine areas brought under restoration

Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectare)

Number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity [terrestrial]

Area of marine habitat under improved practices (hectare)

Number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity [marine]

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO2e)

Amount of CO2e sequestered in CEPF-supported natural habitats

Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management (count)

No equivalent indicator

Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (metric ton)

No equivalent indicator

Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced (metric ton of toxic chemicals reduced)

No equivalent indicator

Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced (gram of toxic equivalent gTEQ)

No equivalent indicator

People benefiting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex (count)

Number of people receiving structured training [disaggregated by sex]

Number of people receiving non-cash benefits other than structured training [disaggregated by sex]

Number of people receiving cash benefits [disaggregated by sex]

To generate estimates for the targets, the total impact by CEPF grantees against each indicator was divided by the total value of the global grant portfolio (USD 294 million) and then multiplied by the grant budget under the SGP project (USD 7.8 million). The resulting figures were then discounted to reflect the range of grant sizes that will be supported under the project, the anticipated capabilities of the grantees, and the on-the-ground realities in the target countries. For four SGP core indicators, there is no equivalent indicator in the CEPF monitoring framework, so estimates will be set during the PPG phase.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	The project's main objective is to support and foster the active leadership of Indigenous People and local communities in addressing critical environmental problems and improving their livelihoods in innovative and practical ways through a nature-based and socially inclusive grantmaking approach. Therefore climate resilience will be indirectly addressed and strengthened through project activities.
Environmental and Social	Moderate	The project intends to work in indigenous people's territories and is a grant making mechanism. Therefore, project is required to develop a Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Framework which outlines how FPIC would be sought as well as how the project will avoid negative impacts on indigenous people. Additionally, the Environmental and Social Management Framework must be integrated into the grant-making process, ensuring each sub-grant is screened for compliance with Environmental and Social Safeguard standards, with mitigation measures monitored by CEPF.
Political and Governance	Moderate	The project will support several actions to improve governance and strengthen collaboration among partners institutions and stakeholders, strengthening the capacity of management authorities and other agencies. The involvement of Indigenous Peoples and Local communities as main actors in project implementation will ensure the integration of project activities into the local political context.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Moderate	Institutional and policy risks are mitigated by the role of the National Steering Committees that will supervise the implementation of SGP country strategies.
Technological	Low	The complexity of certain approaches will be overcome with adequate international and/or national expertise.
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	The project will focus on ensuring a grantmaking approach. The risk related to financial and business model will be mitigated by the role of grantees in monitoring and evaluating their projects, demonstrating their positive impact and access additional funding.
EXECUTION		

Capacity	Moderate	To facilitate the implementation process, Project Board/coordination groups meetings will be planned, so that involved stakeholders and institutions in charge will build on synergies and coordinate efforts. Implementation will be facilitated by clear planning and M&E tools. Any gap in terms of capacity of implementation will be identified during project implementation and will be filled with support and coaching mechanisms.
Fiduciary	Low	The partners capacities in accounting procedures will be strengthened, particularly in the separation of tasks, and carry out controls (Spot checks) to ensure the proper application of the knowledge acquired during the training. Capacity building and coaching on financial management and procurement will be implemented during project implementation, to mitigate as much as possible the identified risk.
Stakeholder	Substantial	The project will be implemented in several countries where relations between stakeholders are influenced by the local context. Therefore, the risk of exclusion of some stakeholders, such as marginalised groups or vulnerable people, could be substantial. The risk will be mitigated by the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan that will be customized for each country of implementation.
Other		
Overall Risk Rating	Substantial	Considering that the project has substantial risk related to the relations with Stakeholders, the project overall risk rating is Substantial. The main risk, that can affected project stakeholders, is related to the possible exclusion from project activities and benefits of marginalised or vulnerable groups.

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Describe how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

CI SGP 2.0 will deliver multiple global environmental benefits by fostering the engagement, capacities and leverage of CSOs and CBOs anchored in local communities, advancing the interests of Indigenous Peoples, women, youth and other marginalised groups to effectively tackle climate change impacts, land degradation, biodiversity loss, harmful polluted ecosystems and precarious urban environments. The specific calls under component 2 will be aligned with the five focal areas identified in the GEF-8 SGP Operational Guidelines.

The CI SGP 2.0 project is designed closely following the GEF SGP 2.0 Operational Guidelines, in themselves developed to guide GEF SGP Implementing Agencies to operationalize SGP 2.0 Implementation Arrangements in line with the GEF-8 Strategy and Programming Directions.

A specific output (4.2.3) of the project is dedicated to realizing opportunities to engage civil society in GEF corporate activities, as well as in the delivery of other initiatives under GEF-8, in particular the Integrated Programs on the Amazon, Congo and Critical Forest Biomes, and Ecosystem Restoration.

Also in line with the programming directions, Output 4.2.2 is dedicated to mobilizing additional resources for SGP 2.0 at scale, by providing in-kind support from CEPF's established local implementation structures and leveraging CI's established relationships with public and philanthropic donors and private business.

Interventions under CI SGP 2.0 will be implemented and closely aligned with relevant GEF-8 focal area strategies and Integrated Programs where possible, including but not limited to the Wildlife for Conservation Integrated Programme, the Blue-Green Island Integrated Program, Food Systems Integrated Program, the Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program, the Net-Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator Integrated Program, Sustainable Cities Integrated Program, the Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution, and the Elimination of Harmful Chemicals from Supply Chains Interventions.

CI SGP 2.0 will contribute to targets set under the three Rio conventions: the Paris Agreement (UNFCCC), the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (UNCBD), and the Land Degradation Neutrality targets (UNCCD). The results of C SGP 2.0 will contribute to the and be aligned with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and other relevant global agreements.

With respect to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), CO SGP 2.0 is expected to make contributions towards achievement of targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during PIF development as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes and plan to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan before CEO endorsement has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities:

Civil Society Organizations:

Private Sector:

Provide a brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations

(Please upload to the portal documents tab any stakeholder engagement plan or assessments that have been done during the PIF development phase.)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in the section B project description?

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program and any measures to address such risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex D).

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate			

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B)

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

Indicative Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant($)	Agency Fee($)	Total GEF Financing ($)
CI	GET	Equatorial Guinea	Multi Focal Area	Small Grant Program	Grant	860,092.00	77,408.00	937,500.00
CI	GET	Libya	Multi Focal Area	Small Grant Program	Grant	860,092.00	77,408.00	937,500.00

CI	GET	Sri Lanka	Multi Focal Area	Small Grant Program	Grant	860,092.00	77,408.00	937,500.00
CI	GET	St. Vincent and Grenadines	Multi Focal Area	Small Grant Program	Grant	860,092.00	77,408.00	937,500.00
CI	GET	Turkmenistan	Multi Focal Area	Small Grant Program	Grant	860,092.00	77,408.00	937,500.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**4,300,460.00**	**387,040.00**	**4,687,500.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

false

PPG Amount ($)

PPG Agency Fee ($)

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)
Total PPG Amount ($)						**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total($)
Total GEF Resources					**0.00**

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
SGP	GET	4,300,460.00	4300460
Total Project Cost		**4,300,460.00**	**4,300,460.00**

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
GEF Agency	CI		Recurrent expenditures	640300
Recipient Country Government	Saint Vincent and the Grenadine	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	732032
Recipient Country Government	Libya	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	732032
Recipient Country Government	Sri Lanka	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	732032
Recipient Country Government	Turkmenistan	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	732032
Recipient Country Government	Equatorial Guinea	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	732032
Total Co-financing				**4,300,460.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

NA

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Orissa Samaroo	9/18/2024	Free De Koning		fdekoning@conservation.org

Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Omar Ahmed Sharif	GEF Operational Focal Area	Ministry of Environment, Libya	6/6/2024
Janeel Miller	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Tourism, St Vincent	9/6/2024
B.K. Prabhath Chandrakeerthi	GEF Operational Focal Area	Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka	6/3/2024

Antonio Micha	GEF Focal point	Ministerio de Bosques y Medio ambiente, Equatorial Guinea	8/7/2024
Antonio Micha (translated in english)	GEF Focal point	Ministry of Forest and Environment, LoI_ Equatorial Guinea	8/7/2024
N. Jumashov	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan	4/17/2024

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place

ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

(PIF level) Attach agency safeguard screen form including rating of risk types and overall risk rating.

Title
_20240717ESSScreening form

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
☒ Influencing models			
	☐ Transform policy and regulatory environments		
	☒ Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making		
	☒ Convene multi-stakeholder alliances		
	☒ Demonstrate innovative approaches		
	☐ Deploy innovative financial instruments		
☒ Stakeholders			
	☒ Indigenous Peoples		
	☒ Private Sector		
		☐ Capital providers	
		☐ Financial intermediaries and market facilitators	
		☐ Large corporations	
		☒ SMEs	
		☒ Individuals/Entrepreneurs	
		☐ Non-Grant Pilot	
		☐ Project Reflow	
	☒ Beneficiaries		
	☒ Local Communities		
	☒ Civil Society		
		☒ Community Based Organization	
		☒ Non-Governmental Organization	
		☐ Academia	
		☐ Trade Unions and Workers Unions	
	☒ Type of Engagement		
		☒ Information Dissemination	
		☒ Partnership	
		☒ Consultation	
		☒ Participation	
	☒ Communications		
		☒ Awareness Raising	
		☒ Education	
		☒ Public Campaigns	
		☒ Behavior Change	
☒ Capacity, Knowledge and Research			
	☐ Enabling Activities		
	☒ Capacity Development		
	☒ Knowledge Generation and Exchange		
	☐ Targeted Research		
	☒ Learning		
		☒ Theory of Change	
		☒ Adaptive Management	
		☒ Indicators to Measure Change	
	☒ Innovation		
	☒ Knowledge and Learning		
		☒ Knowledge Management	
		☒ Innovation	
		☒ Capacity Development	

		☒ Learning	
	☒ Stakeholder Engagement Plan		
☒ Gender Equality			
	☒ Gender Mainstreaming		
		☒ Beneficiaries	
		☒ Women groups	
		☒ Sex-disaggregated indicators	
		☒ Gender-sensitive indicators	
	☒ Gender results areas		
		☒ Access and control over natural resources	
		☒ Participation and leadership	
		☒ Access to benefits and services	
		☒ Capacity development	
		☒ Awareness raising	
		☒ Knowledge generation	
☒ Focal Areas/Theme			
	☐ Integrated Programs		
		☐ Commodity Supply Chains ([1]Good Growth Partnership)	
			☐ Sustainable Commodities Production
			☐ Deforestation-free Sourcing
			☐ Financial Screening Tools
			☐ High Conservation Value Forests
			☐ High Carbon Stocks Forests
			☐ Soybean Supply Chain
			☐ Oil Palm Supply Chain
			☐ Beef Supply Chain
			☐ Smallholder Farmers
			☐ Adaptive Management
		☐ Food Security in Sub-Sahara Africa	
			☐ Resilience (climate and shocks)
			☐ Sustainable Production Systems
			☐ Agroecosystems
			☐ Land and Soil Health
			☐ Diversified Farming
			☐ Integrated Land and Water Management
			☐ Smallholder Farming
			☐ Small and Medium Enterprises
			☐ Crop Genetic Diversity
			☐ Food Value Chains
			☐ Gender Dimensions
			☐ Multi-stakeholder Platforms
		☐ Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration	
			☐ Sustainable Food Systems
			☐ Landscape Restoration
			☐ Sustainable Commodity Production
			☐ Comprehensive Land Use Planning
			☐ Integrated Landscapes
			☐ Food Value Chains
			☐ Deforestation-free Sourcing
			☐ Smallholder Farmers
		☐ Sustainable Cities	
			☐ Integrated urban planning

			☐ Urban sustainability framework
			☐ Transport and Mobility
			☐ Buildings
			☐ Municipal waste management
			☐ Green space
			☐ Urban Biodiversity
			☐ Urban Food Systems
			☐ Energy efficiency
			☐ Municipal Financing
			☐ Global Platform for Sustainable Cities
			☐ Urban Resilience
	☒ Biodiversity		
		☒ Protected Areas and Landscapes	
			☐ Terrestrial Protected Areas
			☒ Coastal and Marine Protected Areas
			☒ Productive Landscapes
			☒ Productive Seascapes
			☒ Community Based Natural Resource Management
		☒ Mainstreaming	
			☐ Extractive Industries (oil, gas, mining)
			☐ Forestry (Including HCVF and REDD+)
			☒ Tourism
			☒ Agriculture & agrobiodiversity
			☒ Fisheries
			☐ Infrastructure
			☐ Certification (National Standards)
			☐ Certification (International Standards)
		☒ Species	
			☐ Illegal Wildlife Trade
			☐ Threatened Species
			☐ Wildlife for Sustainable Development
			☒ Crop Wild Relatives
			☐ Plant Genetic Resources
			☐ Animal Genetic Resources
			☐ Livestock Wild Relatives
			☐ Invasive Alien Species (IAS)
		☒ Biomes	
			☒ Mangroves
			☒ Coral Reefs
			☒ Sea Grasses
			☒ Wetlands
			☒ Rivers
			☒ Lakes
			☒ Tropical Rain Forests
			☒ Tropical Dry Forests
			☒ Temperate Forests
			☒ Grasslands
			☐ Paramo
			☒ Desert
		☐ Financial and Accounting	
			☐ Payment for Ecosystem Services
			☐ Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting
			☐ Conservation Trust Funds
			☐ Conservation Finance

		☐ Supplementary Protocol to the CBD	
			☐ Biosafety
			☐ Access to Genetic Resources Benefit Sharing
	☐ **Forests**		
		☐ Forest and Landscape Restoration	
			☐ REDD/REDD+
		☐ Forest	
			☐ Amazon
			☐ Congo
			☐ Drylands
	☒ **Land Degradation**		
		☒ Sustainable Land Management	
			☒ Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands
			☒ Ecosystem Approach
			☒ Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach
			☒ Community-Based NRM
			☒ Sustainable Livelihoods
			☒ Income Generating Activities
			☒ Sustainable Agriculture
			☒ Sustainable Pasture Management
			☒ Sustainable Forest/Woodland Management
			☒ Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques
			☐ Sustainable Fire Management
			☒ Drought Mitigation/Early Warning
		☒ Land Degradation Neutrality	
			☒ Land Productivity
			☒ Land Cover and Land cover change
			☒ Carbon stocks above or below ground
		☒ Food Security	
	☐ **International Waters**		
		☐ Ship	
		☐ Coastal	
		☐ Freshwater	
			☐ Aquifer
			☐ River Basin
			☐ Lake Basin
		☐ Learning	
		☐ Fisheries	
		☐ Persistent toxic substances	
		☐ SIDS : Small Island Dev States	
		☐ Targeted Research	
		☐ Pollution	
			☐ Persistent toxic substances
			☐ Plastics
			☐ Nutrient pollution from all sectors except wastewater
			☐ Nutrient pollution from Wastewater
		☐ Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Plan preparation	
		☐ Strategic Action Plan Implementation	
		☐ Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction	
		☐ Large Marine Ecosystems	
		☐ Private Sector	

		☐ Aquaculture	
		☐ Marine Protected Area	
		☐ Biomes	
			☐ Mangrove
			☐ Coral Reefs
			☐ Seagrasses
			☐ Polar Ecosystems
			☐ Constructed Wetlands
	☒ **Chemicals and Waste**		
		☐ Mercury	
		☐ Artisanal and Scale Gold Mining	
		☐ Coal Fired Power Plants	
		☐ Coal Fired Industrial Boilers	
		☐ Cement	
		☐ Non-Ferrous Metals Production	
		☐ Ozone	
		☐ Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		☐ Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		☒ Sound Management of chemicals and Waste	
		☒ Waste Management	
			☐ Hazardous Waste Management
			☐ Industrial Waste
			☐ e-Waste
		☐ Emissions	
		☐ Disposal	
		☐ New Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		☐ Polychlorinated Biphenyls	
		☒ Plastics	
		☐ Eco-Efficiency	
		☐ Pesticides	
		☐ DDT - Vector Management	
		☐ DDT - Other	
		☐ Industrial Emissions	
		☐ Open Burning	
		☐ Best Available Technology / Best Environmental Practices	
		☐ Green Chemistry	
	☒ **Climate Change**		
		☒ **Climate Change Adaptation**	
			☐ Climate Finance
			☒ Least Developed Countries
			☒ Small Island Developing States
			☐ Disaster Risk Management
			☐ Sea-level rise
			☒ Climate Resilience
			☐ Climate information
			☐ Ecosystem-based Adaptation
			☐ Adaptation Tech Transfer
			☐ National Adaptation Programme of Action
			☐ National Adaptation Plan
			☐ Mainstreaming Adaptation
			☐ Private Sector
			☒ Innovation
			☐ Complementarity
			☒ Community-based Adaptation
			☒ Livelihoods
		☒ **Climate Change Mitigation**	
			☒ Agriculture, Forestry, and other Land Use
			☒ Energy Efficiency

			☒ Sustainable Urban Systems and Transport
			☐ Technology Transfer
			☒ Renewable Energy
			☐ Financing
			☐ Enabling Activities
		☐ **Technology Transfer**	
			☐ Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer
			☐ Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN)
			☐ Endogenous technology
			☐ Technology Needs Assessment
			☐ Adaptation Tech Transfer
		☐ **United Nations Framework on Climate Change**	
			☐ Nationally Determined Contribution