Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in Sri Lanka

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID
10617

Project Type
MSP

Type of Trust Fund
GET

CBIT/NGI
CBIT **No**
NGI **No**

Project Title
Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in Sri Lanka

Countries
Sri Lanka

Agency(ies)
UNDP

Other Executing Partner(s)
UNOPS

Executing Partner Type
Others

GEF Focal Area
Multi Focal Area

Taxonomy
Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Species, Crop Wild Relatives, Threatened Species, Wildlife for Sustainable Development, Mainstreaming, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Certification -National Standards, Tourism,

Biomes, Mangroves, Tropical Rain Forests, Wetlands, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Forest, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Ecosystem Approach, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Sustainable Livelihoods, Sustainable Agriculture, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Productivity, Land Cover and Land cover change, Food Security, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Community-based adaptation, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Climate resilience, Livelihoods, Innovation, Climate Change Mitigation, Influencing models, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Demonstrate innovative approache, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Local Communities, Communications, Awareness Raising, Education, Behavior change, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Participation, Partnership, Consultation, Civil Society, Academia, Non-Governmental Organization, Community Based Organization, Private Sector, Large corporations, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Beneficiaries, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access to benefits and services, Participation and leadership, Capacity Development, Access and control over natural resources, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Learning, Adaptive management, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change, Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Exchange

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 0

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 0

Submission Date

5/12/2021

Expected Implementation Start

10/1/2021

Expected Completion Date

9/30/2025

Duration

48In Months

Agency Fee($)

173,104.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
BD-1-1	BD 1-1 Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors	GET	911,073.00	2,530,000.00
LD-1-1	LD 1-1 Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management (SLM)	GET	227,769.00	635,000.00
LD-1-2	LD 1-2 Maintain or improve flow of ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest-dependent people through Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)	GET	227,768.00	635,000.00
LD-1-3	LD 1-3 Maintain or improve flows of ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest-dependent people through Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR)	GET	227,768.00	635,000.00
LD-1-4	LD 1-4 Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape	GET	227,768.00	635,000.00
		Total Project Cost($)	**1,822,146.00**	**5,070,000.00**

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To build social, economic, and socio-ecological resilience in Sri Lanka of Knuckles Conservation Forest and its buffer zone, the coastal region from Mannar Island to Jaffna, and the Colombo urban wetlands through community-based activities for global environmental benefits and sustainable development

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 1: Resilient landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection	Technical Assistance	**Outcome 1.1**: Participatory conservation and restoration models strengthened. **Outcome 1.2**: Management of production landscapes strengthened for generation of sustainable community livelihoods and benefits to biodiversity and ecosystem functionality.	**Output 1.1.1**: Community level small grant projects on strengthening participatory conservation and restoration **Output 1.1.2:** Capacities of CBOs for participatory conservation and restoration and nature-based livelihood initiatives developed through learning-by-doing, skills training, and financial management mentoring. **Output 1.2.1**: Community level small grant projects on strengthening management of production landscapes for generation of sustainable community livelihoods and benefits to biodiversity and ecosystem functionality. **Output 1.2.2**: Capacities of CBOs developed for improved social entrepreneurship and increased access to green value chains.	GET	1,109,000.00	3,070,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 2: Durable landscape resilience through participatory governance, partnership building, and knowledge management	Technical Assistance	**Outcome 2.1:** Landscape resilience enhanced through multi-stakeholder governance and strengthened partnerships. **Outcome 2.2**: Enabling environment for upscaling and replication strengthened through effective knowledge management of best practices and approaches.	**Output 2.1.1**: Multi-stakeholder platforms strengthened for improved governance of target landscapes **Output 2.1.2**: Landscape strategies for effective governance updated based on results of participatory socio-ecological resilience baseline assessments of project landscapes **Output 2.1.3**: Partnership building and policy advocacy among governmental stakeholders, civil society, financial institutions, and private sector for facilitating broader adoption of participatory approaches **Output 2.2.1**: Knowledge from innovative project interventions compiled, systemized, and disseminated across the landscapes, across the country, and to the global SGP	GET	464,796.00	1,290,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 3: Monitoring and evaluation	Technical Assistance	**Outcome 3.1**: Sustainability of project results enhanced through participatory monitoring and evaluation	**Output 3.1.1:** Project implementation effectively monitored and evaluated	GET	82,700.00	250,000.00
				Sub Total ($)	**1,656,496.00**	**4,610,000.00**
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
				GET	165,650.00	460,000.00
				Sub Total($)	**165,650.00**	**460,000.00**
				Total Project Cost($)	**1,822,146.00**	**5,070,000.00**

C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
GEF Agency	United Nations Development Programme	Grant	Investment mobilized	80,000.00
GEF Agency	United Nations Development Programme	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Department of Agriculture	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	750,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Department of Export Agriculture	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	700,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Marine Environment Protection Authority	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Conservation	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	300,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	500,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Provincial Department of Agriculture - Central Province	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	300,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Lanka Social Ventures	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	300,000.00
Other	University of Colombo, Department of Zoology	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	20,000.00

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Other	International Water Management Institute	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	20,000.00
Civil Society Organization	CSO grantees	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,000,000.00
Civil Society Organization	CSO grantees	Grant	Investment mobilized	200,000.00
			Total Co-Financing($)	**5,070,000.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Civil society: SGP global policy requests grant recipient CSOs to contribute to their projects in cash to the best of their abilities. The National Steering Committee will foster compliance with this policy as appropriate. These contributions will only be confirmed during project implementation as grant projects are approved. Investment mobilized by the CSOs correspond to new and additional funding for the approved interventions. Apart from the CSO grantees, co-financing contributions have also been confirmed from Lanka Social Ventures, in the form of recurrent expenditures (in-kind), e.g., staff salaries, logistical support, hosting costs, etc., and complementary initiatives. Recipient Country Government: Seven different recipient country government co-financing partners have confirmed contributions. The Ministry of Environment?s contributions are in the form of recurrent expenditures (in-kind) of the ministry, specifically the Biodiversity Secretariat & Land Resource Division. Staff salaries, logistical support, hosting costs, etc. Complementary synergies with ministry programmes and scheme. The Department of Agriculture has committed Recurrent expenditures (in-kind), including training and technical advice on soil conservation, good agricultural practices, organic agriculture, compost making, post-harvest, value addition, etc., and allowing certain facilities of the DOA for the project activities. The Department of Export Agriculture has contributed recurrent expenditures (in-kind), including provision of technology and other expert services, such as laboratory and post-harvest technologies. The Marine Environment Protection Authority?s contributions are in the form of Recurrent expenditures (in-kind) of the authority, e.g., staff salaries, logistical support, hosting costs, etc. Complementary synergies with programmes and schemes. The Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Conservation has committed Recurrent expenditures (in-kind) of the ministry, e.g., staff salaries, logistical support, hosting costs, etc., facilitating complementary synergies the ESCAMP (2021-2022 budget), including Component 2(a) Livelihood Improvement, 3(a) Habitat Enhancement, and 3(b) Nature-based Tourism. The Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation?s contributions are in the form of public investments, mobilised for complementary programmes engaging local communities in connection with sustainable use of wetlands, prevention and control of pollution, and conservation of critical biodiversity and important ecosystems. The Provincial Department of Agriculture - Central Province has confirmed contributions in the form of Recurrent expenditures (in-kind) of the

Department, e.g., staff salaries, logistical support, hosting costs, including agricultural extension programmes in terms of technical support, training, and provision of institutional facilities on soil conservation, good agricultural practices, and post-harvest technologies. Other: Co-financing has been mobilized during the project preparation phase from the University of Colombo?s Department of Zoology and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI). The contributions from the University of Colombo represent recurrent expenditures (in-kind), in regard to formulating and conducting training workshops for stakeholder groups to raise awareness on biodiversity and ecosystem services rendered by wetlands. And IWMI?s contribution correspond to recurrent expenditures (in-kind), in regard to IWMI?s complementary project ?Increasing the resilience of biodiversity and livelihoods in Colombo?s wetlands?. UNDP: Contributions from the UNDP include grant (investment mobilized) and in-kind (recurrent expenditures) co-financing. The grant co-financing from TRAC resources are earmarked for providing technical and strategic support related to mainstreaming the landscape approach, strengthening enabling partnerships, and enhancing knowledge management. The in-kind contributions correspond to staff salaries, logistical services and other support to the OP 7 project, fostering synergies with the priorities of the UNDP Country Programme Document, capacitating marginalized communities in promoting the sustainable management of natural resources to advance the Sustainable Development Goals in Sri Lanka. Difference between confirmed co-financing at CEO Endorsement Request and the indicative co-financing in the PIF: The total confirmed co-financing at the time of submission of the CEO Endorsement Request is USD 5.07 million. The indicative co-financing outlined in the PIF was USD 4.2 million. Confirmed co-financing include contributions from seven different recipient country government partners; the indicative co-financing in the PIF included only one governmental co-financing partner, the Ministry of Environment.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)
UNDP	GET	Sri Lanka	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	911,073	86,552
UNDP	GET	Sri Lanka	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	911,073	86,552
				Total Grant Resources($)	**1,822,146.00**	**173,104.00**

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount ($)

50,000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

4,750

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)
UNDP	GET	Sri Lanka	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	25,000	2,375
UNDP	GET	Sri Lanka	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	25,000	2,375
				Total Project Costs($)	**50,000.00**	**4,750.00**

Core Indicators

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
10000.00	10000.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
1,000.00	1,000.00		

Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
1,000.00	1,000.00		

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored

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

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (incl. estuaries, mangroves) restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
8,000.00	8,000.00		

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)
18000.00	18000.00	0.00	0.00

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)
16,000.00	16,000.00		

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00			

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)
2,000.00	2,000.00		

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided

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

Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)	0	470000	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)		470,000		

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting		2022		
Duration of accounting		20		

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	2,000	2,000		
Male	2,000	2,000		
Total	4000	4000	0	0

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

There are no significant changes in alignment with the project design of the original PIF. A few of the indicative outcomes and outputs outlined in the PIF were revised and merged through the process of refining the project design during the project preparation phase. These changes are described below in Section 1a.3.

1) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description)

Sri Lanka is a country with significant biodiversity in a wide range of ecosystems, and within them, many species which are endemic to the island. About 22% of the flora is endemic to the country, while more than 65% of flora found in the wet zone is found nowhere else in the world. Among Sri Lanka?s fauna, astoundingly, 88% of species of land snails, 98% of freshwater crabs, 57% of freshwater fish, 89% of amphibians and 62% of reptiles are found nowhere else in the world. Most of these endemic species are found in the wet zone[1]. Sri Lanka, along with the Western Ghats of India, has been classed as one of the 35 ?Biodiversity Hotspots? by Conservation International. Designation of a biodiversity hotspot is based on two criteria: the presence of 0.5% or 1,500 species of vascular plants as endemics, and the reduction of forest cover by 70% or more, causing many of the species to become threatened with extinction. Prime among the drivers of biodiversity loss are habitat destruction and degradation. Overexploitation of natural resources, pollution, invasive alien species and climate change are other threats to the island?s natural wealth. There is an urgent need to conserve this rich biodiversity, while ensuring adequate livelihoods for communities living in and depending on these natural ecosystems.

In supporting the efforts of government for long term sustainable development, enhanced governance will facilitate the shift towards sustainable growth and enable better natural resource management. The seventh Operational Phase (OP7) of the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) in Sri Lanka has been conceived to engage non-governmental organisations and community organisations in three regions of the country to take collective actions for adaptive landscape management through participatory landscape planning and project management by communities aimed at enhancing socio-ecological resilience producing local and global environmental benefits.

The SGP has extensive experience and is broadly recognised in Sri Lanka, with respect to strengthening the capacities of local communities to deliver mutually beneficial conservation and socioeconomic outcomes. The SGP has developed strong multi-stakeholder partnerships with local governments, national agencies and ministries, NGOs, the private sector and others. SGP interventions have been implemented in alignment with government priorities and programmes and supporting Sri Lanka in meeting international commitments. The view of national stakeholders shared during PPG phase consultations is that the SGP is a successful and visible programme that continues to generate

positive environmental and development benefits, with strong buy-in and ownership at local and national levels.

Starting in the GEF?s sixth Operational Phase (OP6), Sri Lanka was included in the Upgraded Country Programmes (UCP) of the SGP. With the aim of achieving impacts at scale and ensuring sustainability of results achieved, the programme level strategy of the UCP is based on a landscape approach, following the UNDP approach of community-driven planning and management of socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS).[2] Expanding upon the achievements initiated during OP6, the OP7 project focuses on the three landscapes listed below and shown on the country map in *Annex E*.

i. Knuckles Conservation Forest, comprising 66,869 ha

ii. Coastal region from Mannar Island up to Jaffna, comprising 188,570 ha

iii. Urban Wetlands of Colombo, comprising 29,200 ha

The SGP Country Programme will focus on building the social, ecological and economic resilience of the three landscapes by assisting community organizations to conserve biodiversity and sustainably manage their soil and water resources. By sustainably managing water, soil and biological diversity, communities will strengthen ecosystem functionality and the corresponding services ecosystems provide, thereby building the overall resilience of the landscape. The project will seek solutions to minimize land degradation across the landscape through adoption and application across the landscape of agroecological practices and cropping systems, including crop diversification, multi-cropping and soil, water and crop genetic resource conservation. With the anticipated corresponding increases in yields and incomes, smallholder farmers are expected to be more willing to observe official restrictions on forest conversion to agricultural lands. Addressing the root causes of the poverty that drives forest conversion will sustain conservation of biologically diverse forests; SGP will support projects that generate biodiversity or land degradation benefits while also assisting community stakeholders to increase their incomes and livelihood security. Community-driven projects will include sustainable harvest of non-timber forest products, ecotourism development, and other activities.

In OP7, SGP will provide seed grants to community organizations for the above-mentioned activities, while assisting them to integrate social enterprise principles and practices into each initiative. Prospects for sustainability of these activities will be enhanced through private sector collaboration, crowd-funding platforms and impact-funding collaborations, extending beyond completion of the SGP grant. These projects will also link closely with government strategies and programmes already in place in the three landscapes, so that they are mutually supportive and aligned with national policies for sustainable and holistic economic development.

Description of project landscapes:

The project landscapes are described below. More detailed descriptions are provided in the *Project Document*, namely the *Baseline Report on Biodiversity* in **Annex 12**, *Baseline Report on Land*

Degradation in **Annex 13**, and *Socioeconomic Context of Project Landscapes* in **Annex 14**). The references cited in the descriptions below are provided in these annexes.

Landscape 1: Knuckles Conservation Forest

The Knuckles Conservation Forest (KCF) (31,278.38 ha), surrounded by a buffer zone of 35,580.65 ha, is under the jurisdiction of the Forest Department. The total area of 66,869.03 ha defines this landscape. KCF is in Sri Lanka?s Central Province, straddling both the districts of Matale and Kandy. Within these districts there are administrative divisions called divisional secretariat divisions (DSD), and there are five DSDs in Matale (Rattota, Laggala, Naula, Wilgomuwa and Ambanganga Korale) and four DSDs in Kandy (Minipe, Uda Dumbara, Meda Dumbara and Panvila) in this landscape (see *Figure 2* of the *Project Document* below).

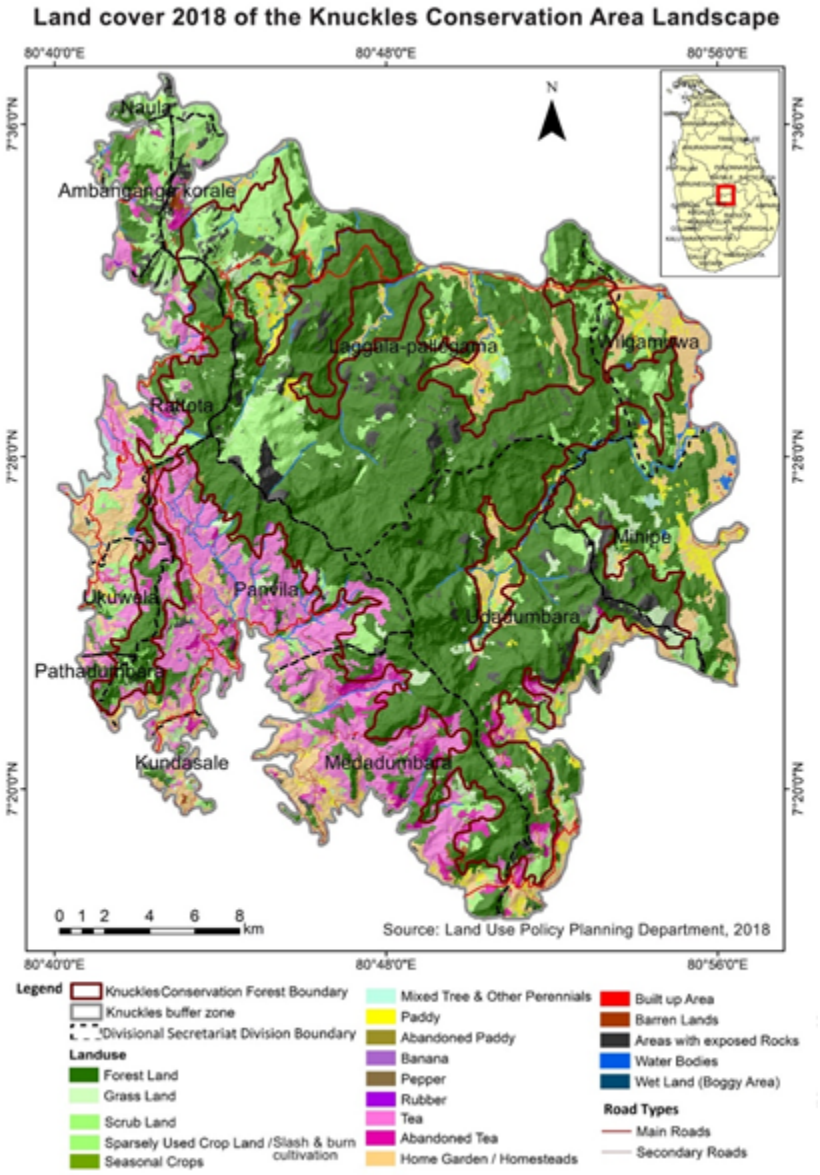

Figure 2 of the Project Document: Map of the Knuckles Conservation Forest landscape

Biodiversity values:

The combination of topography (a series of ridges and valleys) and a range in climate (warm/cold; wet/dry) has given rise to a range of ecosystems, including montane evergreen forests, mid-elevation evergreen forests (on the wetter slopes), moist-mixed evergreen forests, riverine evergreen forests, rock outcrop forests (on the drier slopes), upland savannas and intermediate upper *patanas* (grasslands) (Perera et al., 2018).

Within these ecosystems is a high level of species richness[3]. There are 3,103+ flowering plants in Sri Lanka, of which about one-third (1,033) is found in this landscape, which is an area less than 5% of the land mass (Perera et al., 2018). There are 118 species of butterflies of the total 245 species found in Sri Lanka; 42 species of dragonflies of 130 in Sri Lanka; 35 species of freshwater fish of 109 in Sri Lanka; 32 species of amphibians of 121 in Sri Lanka; 88 species of reptiles of 245 in Sri Lanka; 175 species of birds of 510 found in Sri Lanka; and 61 species of mammals of 95 species in Sri Lanka (Perera et al., 2018; IUCN, 2020a); indicating not only high ecosystem diversity but also high species diversity. In short, this is a *highly* biodiverse landscape.

During the sixth operational phase (OP6) of SGP, one of the grantees for the landscape ? the Herpetological Foundation of Sri Lanka ? amazingly, confirmed the discovery of 14 species of range-restricted endemics, new to science, in this landscape: nine species of snakes (*Aspidura desilvai*, *Rhinophis gunasekarai, Rhinophis cf. melanogaster 1; Rhinophis cf. melanogaster 2; Rhinophis cf. Philippines; Rhinophis cf. gunasekarai; Indotyphlops cf. leucomelas; Gerrhopilus cf. ceylonicus; and Hypnale cf. nepa)*, one species of skink (*Lankascincus cf. taylori*) and four species of amphibians (*Pseudophilautus cf. simba; Pseudophilautus sp. 1; Pseudophilautus sp. 2* and *Ichthyophis cf. glutinosus* (Mendis Wickremasinghe, person. communication).

In 1873, the mountains above 1,500 in this mountain range were declared a climate reserve (Bambaradeniya and Ekanayake, 2003). Knuckles received legal conservation status under the Forest Conservation Ordinance Act No.65 of 2009 as a conservation forest (Perera et al., 2018). In 2007, private lands within KCF were declared an Environmental Protection Area by the Central Environmental Authority (CEA), under the National Environmental Act No. 53 of 2000.

Internationally, in 2000, KCF was declared an International Man and the Biosphere Reserve. KCF, along with two other protected areas ? Peak Wilderness Nature Reserve and Horton Plains National Park ? form the Central Highlands of Sri Lanka, a World Heritage Site, declared in 2010, for its exceptional biodiversity. Knuckles is also identified as a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) (Key Biodiversity Areas, 2020; UN Biodiversity Lab, 2021) which is listed as ?a site contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity.? It is also Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA 26) recognised by BirdLife International (2021) as a ?place of international significance for the conservation of birds and other biodiversity.?

Ecosystem services:

One the of the most important services of KCF is one of provisioning: montane evergreen forests (found above 1,300 m) in the area capture moisture from the air (termed fog interception) and this moisture drips into the soil and replenishes the watersheds that drain from this mountain range into Sri Lanka?s largest river, the Mahaweli River. This river, in turn, feeds large irrigation reservoirs such as Victoria, Randenigala, Rantambe, Moragahakanda and Kalu Ganga (Perera et al., 2018). Thus, KCF is critical for water security. Other provisioning services include extraction of non-timber forest products and a range of livelihoods, that for centuries, communities have been engaged in, sustainably using the natural resources of this landscape.

All the forest ecosystems of the KCF also provide regulating services, such ameliorating the climate; sequestering carbon; regulating floods and preventing erosion. These ecosystems of KCF also provide supporting services, such as production of community biomass[4] and cycling of nutrients, in turn supporting livelihoods and provisioning services. This landscape provides an aesthetic service as it has the most spectacular vistas of mist-laden peaks, streams and waterfalls; educational services for those studying its extraordinary diversity; and recreational services to many people who visit the area.

Threats and Root Causes:

Habitat destruction and degradation. The productivity of cultivation in the buffer zone is not consistent for an array of reasons ? such as landscape degradation (from unsustainable agriculture practices for rice, cardamom as well as slash and burn cultivation; and abandoned tea plantations) ? including soil erosion; and the lack of technical knowledge and marketing capabilities (EFL, 2018). This has profound impacts on food security in the region, as well as economic status, as it marginalises farming communities (EFL, 2018).

In addition, there are illegal encroachment activities, such as clearing forests for cardamom and tea cultivation. Cardamom cultivation requires the removal of the understory of forests, and trees are also felled to construct barns for drying harvested cardamom. The former prevents forest regeneration, and the latter reduces the diversity of the forest, damaging its structure, function and complexity (Bamabaradeniya and Ekanayake, 2003). This, in turn, has significant impacts of species, such as range-restricted endemics adapted to these forest conditions. In addition, the suite of ecosystems services provided by intact forests is degraded (EFL, 2018). Also among illegal activities is large-scale gem mining that damages the rivers and streams that flow through this landscape, not only destroying the aquatic species found in these rivers, but also threatening water security (EFL, 2018).

The deliberate setting of forest fires is a major issue in this landscape. The causes of these actions are not known precisely, but it is said that fires are set a) for slash and burn and then become unmanageable, as the winds in the area are strong; b) to obtain new grass as pastures for cattle and c) as retaliatory actions for disputes related to land ownership (Perera, personal communication). As above, because of this activity, ecosystem services are degraded.

The encroachment of human habitation is resulting in the loss of habitat for wildlife and the impact of this is an increase in human-wildlife conflict, for example, with toque macaques (*Macaca sinica*)(EFL, 2018).

Overexploitation. As in other forests in other parts of the island, there is unsustainable extraction of non-timber forest products (NTFPs), as well as unsustainable cutting of stakes for vegetable cultivation, leaving slopes bare and at risk from erosion, with the result that the habitats of endemic species are degraded and, in addition, water sources dry up, threatening water security (EFL, 2018).

Water is also overexploited for agriculture and for sale as bottled mineral water (EFL, 2018). The impact of this, again, is on water security.

Over-visitation by tourists is also a form of over-use. In recent years, Knuckles has become rapidly popular with local tourists, but this popularity has been unmanaged, with increasing infrastructure (a quick count on Google maps showed 13 tourist hotels/campsites, and some within the KCF) and associated irresponsible behaviour of visitors (EFL, 2018). Such irresponsibility includes walking in the streams in Pitawala *Patana* (a popular grassland), moving rocks, polluting the water, and destroying the very restricted habitat of the endemic Kirthisinghe?s rock frog (*Nannophrys marmorata*), which lives in a thin layer of water in shallow streams of the Knuckles area (IUCN, 2011).

It is only in the last three years that the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) has started providing statistics for tourists to KCF, but the increase in 2019 shows the trend. There is a thrust to promote Knuckles as an eco-tourism destination (Siriwardana, 2019; Bandara, 2105) but unless this promotion is combined with a planned and rigorous management of tourism infrastructure construction and targeted creation of awareness for tourists, the aesthetic value of the mist-laden vistas, the area?s exceptional biodiversity, and the numerous life-sustaining ecosystem services provided by the KCF will be degraded.

Pollution. Excessive use of agrochemicals coupled with unsustainable cultivation practices will damage aquatic habitats in which endemic species are found and degrade the quality of water reaching the Mahaweli River. EFL (2018) has raised the concern of community health in relation to Chronic Kidney Disease of unknown aetiology (CKDu) because of this water pollution.

In addition, there is no management of solid waste, and although tourist numbers are increasing in the area, there is a lack of sanitation facilities (EFL, 2018).

Invasive alien species (IAS). Spreading in the montane evergreen and mid-elevation evergreen forests of KCF is Austroeupatorium (*Austroeupatorium inulifolium*), a native of South America, whose pathway and date of introduction are unknown (MMDE, 2015). It is listed in Sri Lanka?s national priority list of invasive alien plants (Ranwala et al., 2011). If this IAS replaces native endemics and changes the structure of these ecosystems, then the impact on the services provided by these ecosystems will be severe.

Climate change. Montane evergreen forests (also called cloud forests) are extremely vulnerable to climate change because, with temperature and rainfall changes and increasing carbon dioxide levels, there will be altitudinal shifts of hundreds of metres (Foster, 2001). Therefore, species in these montane forest ecosystems needing a particular temperature and a rainfall regimen; they will not be able to survive and will be replaced by ecosystems (of lower altitudes) that can adapt to these changing conditions (Bubb et al., 2004).

In Sri Lanka, montane evergreen forests have already been identified as ecosystems vulnerable to climate change (Iqbal et al., 2014), as it is in the montane zone that night-time temperatures have already increased (Basnayake, 2007), and the highest declines in rainfall have occurred (de Costa, 2008) (both in Nuwara Eliya). The impacts of losing the fog interception of these forests will have significant impacts on water security, among a range of other losses.

Threats identified in the OP6 Landscape Strategy.

? Knuckles forest traditionally has had, for generations, communities living and farming within its boundaries. With the declaration of the KCF, this traditional farming inside the World Heritage Site has been stopped. Aside from the conflict which has arisen between communities and the officers of the Forest Department, there is a loss of traditional knowledge and traditional varieties.

? There are different forms of land ownership and division of lands, with the consequence of mushrooming small businesses that are unplanned, unmanaged, and unsustainable.

? Boundary demarcation has led to encroachment, particularly by those who have lived in the landscape for centuries but have no formal legal rights. They have not been provided with alternative living spaces. In addition, there is now conflict among small holders, and one reason for the deliberate setting of fires is such clashes.

? There is no demand nor market value for small-scale, niche crops from the area.

? Even though KCF was declared in 2000, to date, there is no formal, legal status to the buffer zone (some 35,074 ha) and no overall policy to manage it.

Landscape 2: Coastal Region of Mannar

The coastal region from Mannar island to Jaffna is located along the north-western coastline of Sri Lanka, in the districts of Mannar and Kilinochchi. The landscape is defined by the coastal line and the inland boundaries of five DSDs (Musali, Nanandan, Mannar Town, and Mantai West in the Mannar district and Poonakary in the Kilinochchi district). The area is about 120 km long and with Mannar Island, is roughly 58 km wide (see *Figure 3* of the *Project Document* below).

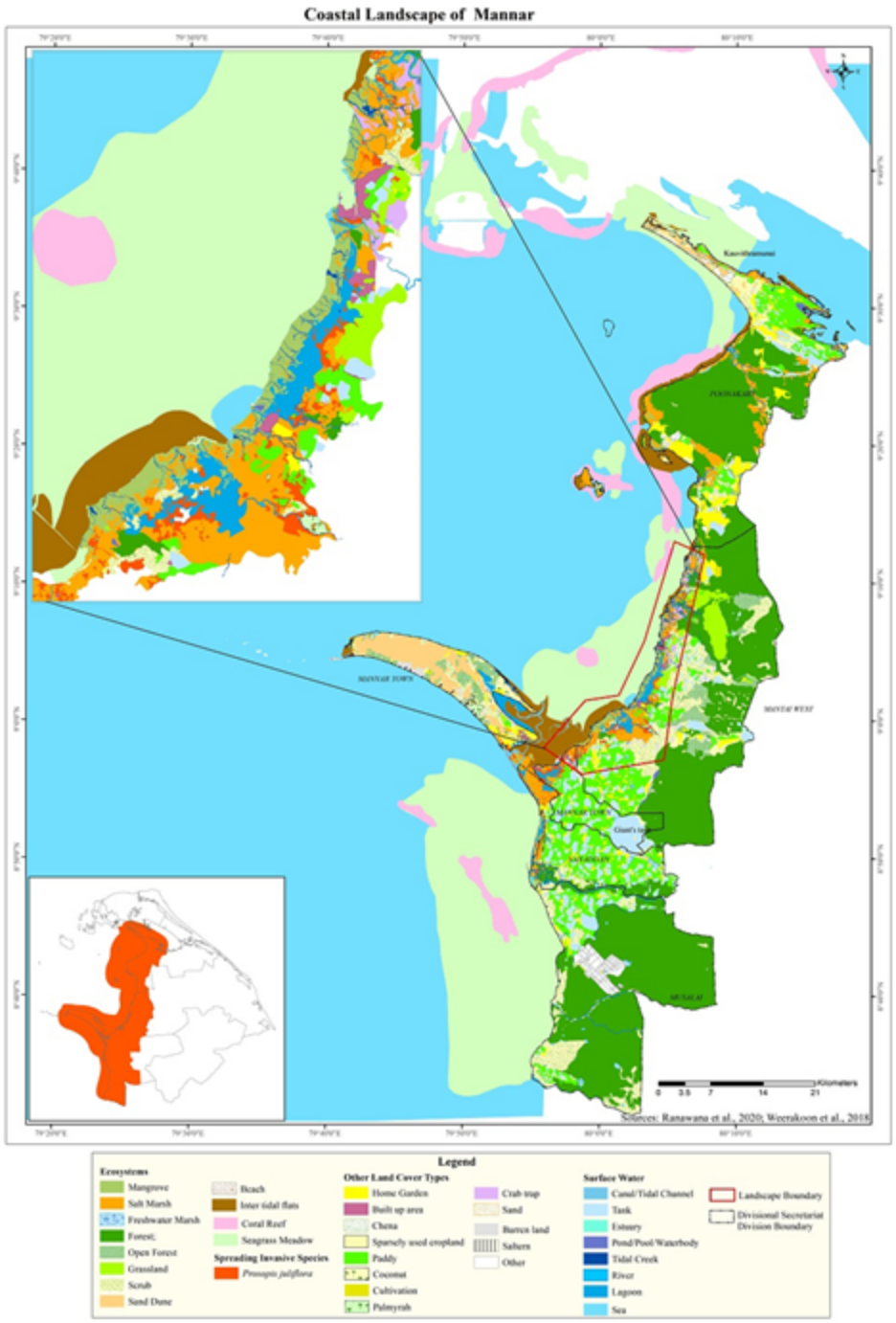

Figure 3 of the Project Document: Map of the Coastal Region of Mannar landscape

Biodiversity values:

The continental shelf in this area is very large (Wijeynanda, 2007), water depths are shallow, and fishing is, therefore, an important livelihood (Center for Environmental Studies, 2018). This landscape

is remarkably diverse in terms of coastal ecosystems, and critical as feeding grounds for migratory birds.

The waters near this coast have the most extensive areas of seagrass meadows found in Sri Lanka, as well of small patches of reefs (Weerakoon et al., 2018). In the coastal plain are 10,700 ha of salt marshes, 6,508 ha of sand dunes and 15,670 ha of mangroves, as 45%, 62% and about 19% respectively of the total extent of these coastal ecosystems in Sri Lanka are found here (Ranawana et al., 2020). The sand dunes are found only in Mannar Island and the Pooneryn Peninsula at the northernmost part of this landscape (Ranawana et al., 2020). There are also tidal flats and (Ranawana et al., 2020). Along the western coastline in the Kilinochchi District up to the Pooneryn Peninsula are dry mixed-evergreen forests (Ranawana et al., 2020).

During OP6, one grantee ? the Ecological Society of Sri Lanka (ESSL) ? not only mapped the salt marshes, sand dunes and mangroves of the target landscape but also found, for the first time in Sri Lanka, a patch of dwarf mangroves (comprising *Sonneratia alba* and *Avicennia marina*), in the delta of the Malwathu Oya (Aravi Aru), just south of Vankalai, growing on sandy soil, likely unique in Sri Lanka (Ranawana et al., 2020).

This preponderance of birds in the landscape is because this area is at the end of the Central Asian Flyway for migratory birds, and Adam?s Bridge and Mannar Island are often their first feeding stop and is, therefore, one of four of the richest waterbird regions in Sri Lanka (Wijesundara et al., 2017). Therefore, during the migratory season the area, particularly Mannar Island, Vankalai and Viddattaltivu, attract a vast number of birds (a million individuals in 2010, in Viddattaltivu alone), including the popular greater flamingo, and locally restricted (to this landscape and the wetlands of the Jaffna peninsula) breeding residents such as spot-billed ducks, Indian coursers, sooty terns and brown noddies (Wijesundara et al., 2017).

Although birds are the dominant faunal group (205 species), there are also freshwater fish, amphibians, reptiles and mammals, all totalling 372 vertebrate species (IUCN, 2011 in litt. Ranawana et al., 2020). In addition, there are 98 species of butterflies and dragonflies. There are also 583 flowering plant species in the area (IUCN, 2011 in litt. Ranawana et al., 2020). In the shallow seas along this coastline, are 81 species of commercially important finfish and ten species of shellfish; 22 species of reef fish, 52 species of corals and 17 species of sea cucumber, including 11 commercially important species (University of Ruhuna, 2010).

Within this stretch are some important protected areas: Vankalai Sanctuary (4,839 ha), and Viddattaltivu Nature Reserve (29,180 ha), both under the jurisdiction of the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC, 2020); as well as many mangrove stands (6,500 ha in extent), under the management of the Forest Department, as proposed forest reserves, many of which are in the process of being demarcated or gazetted (Ranawana et al., 2020). Vankalai is important as a migratory bird sanctuary, and Viddattaltivu Reserve encompasses one of the only two stands of shoreline mangroves in the island.

Internationally, Vankalai Sanctuary is a Wetland of International Importance (a Ramsar site) (Ramsar, 2014). This landscape has been identified as a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) (Key Biodiversity Areas,

2020; UN Biodiversity Lab, 2021), and also contains two Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA 4 and 5) (BirdLife International, 2021).

Ecosystem services:

The mangroves, seagrasses and salt marshes of this landscape are critical as nursery grounds for many commercially important fish and shellfish species, supporting fisheries that are a major livelihood in these shallow seas. In inter-tidal flats are microscopic cyanobacteria that form a velvety mat visible on the surface of inter-tidal flats. Like plants, they harness the energy from the sun and convert it into food that can be used by other organisms and therefore, provides the food for the rest of the food web in this ecosystem (Miththapala, 2013). Here too, there are larval stages of commercially important species, as well as mussels and oysters harvested for food (Miththapala, 2013a).

Reefs, sand dunes and mangroves weaken the impact of waves, regulating storm surges and cyclones and protecting inland communities from weather-related hazards. Vidattaltivu, in this landscape, is one of only two shoreline mangroves in Sri Lanka, as most others are fringing mangroves in lagoons and estuaries. Seagrass meadows, mangroves, salt marshes, tidal flats are carbon sinks ? they absorb more carbon than they release. In fact, these are now called blue carbon ecosystems because they sequester carbon at two to four times that of tropical forests and are critical in climate change mitigation (Conservation International, 2019). Yet another regulatory service provided by mangroves, salt marshes and tidal flats is the attenuation of floods, as they soak up flood waters into their soils and while doing so, they trap soil, preventing land erosion. Seagrass meadows, mangroves, salt marshes and tidal flats purify polluted water brought by rivers.

The area is also an emerging hub for bird-based tourism or avi-tourism, also with many sites of archaeological value (MTDCRA, 2017), providing recreational and educational services.

Threats and root causes:

Habitat destruction and degradation. In this landscape, mangroves are degraded by extraction of firewood and poles for fisheries (such as *kraals*and other fish traps) and construction, as well as by encroachment for human habitation (Center for Environmental Studies, 2017). The dry mixed-evergreen forests of the coastline of the Kilinochchi District are also degraded for the same reasons (Center for Environmental Studies, 2017).

The land use plan for the Kilinochchi District states that the sand dunes of Kavutharimunai in the Pooneryn Peninsula should be protected as an environmentally sensitive area (Land Use Policy Planning Department, 2016 in litt. Ranawana et al., 2020). However, sand dunes in this very area are being degraded by the extraction of sand.

Salt marshes are being degraded by 3,540 cattle grazing in them (Ranawana et al., 2020), as there is a lack of adequate space for grazing (Center for Environmental Studies, 2018).

There is also a focused investment under development for the area, after the cessation of the civil war. A domestic airport is planned on Mannar Island area (NPPD, 2017), and a wind park generating

renewable energy has been commenced. Both airports and wind farms are known to cause massive fatalities among migratory birds (Erickson et al., 2014; Smallwood, 2013). Mineral sand extraction along the northern border of Mannar island is already being tested (Titanium Sands Ltd., 2021).

In both the districts of Mannar and Kilinochchi, 1,828 ha of land have been identified for coastal aquaculture projects (Gazette extraordinary No. 2009/20 of 08.03.2017 in litt. Ranawana et al., 2020). Mangroves and salt marshes in this area are targeted for aquaculture, and alarmingly, of this proposed land use change, 1,300 ha is within Viddattaltivu Reserve (Ranawana et al., 2020).

Overexploitation. In the Mannar coastal regional, fisheries, especially in lagoons, is unsustainable because of the rampant use of illegal fishing methods such as blast fishing, stake nets (*kraals*) and small net sizes (Center for Environmental Studies, 2018). Blast fishing uses dynamite to stun fish so that they are caught easily. This method is common in both the Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar (Weerakoon et al., 2018). Stake nets are long poles with nets in between, set permanently on ecosystems, such as reef and seagrasses, not only degrading them but also trapping fish continuously. This method is also common in both the Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar (Weerakoon et al., 2018). Nylon monofilament nets have a small-sized mesh, and catch not only target species, but also juveniles, affecting natural population growth (Weerakoon et al., 2018). There is also threat from about 2,500 South Indian bottom trawlers who annually catch an estimated 1,557.7 tonnes of shrimp (Madanayaka, 2015 in litt. Weerakoon et al., 2018), valued to be over 750 million USD annually (Madanayaka, 2015 in litt. Weerakoon et al., 2018). Unsustainable fishing will not only destroy these livelihoods but also threaten food security.

Pollution. In this landscape, the many small tanks in the areas become polluted because of agrochemical-based cultivation on tank beds, during the dry season (Center for Environmental Studies, 2018), with serious implications for water security. As in Knuckles, solid waste is not disposed of responsibly (Center for Environmental Studies, 2018).

Invasive alien species (IAS). In this landscape, the spread of mesquite (*Prosopis juliflora*) has been identified an issue of concern (Center for Environmental Studies, 2018) as the coastal area from Puttalam to Mannar has been identified as highly vulnerable to its spread (Ranawana et al., 2020). It is extending into salt marshes and other inter-tidal areas, and it is estimated that about 1,963 ha of natural ecosystems have been replaced by this IAS (Ranawana et al., 2020).

Climate change. Climate change has been identified as a primary issue in Mannar, as there are years when rainfall from the north-east monsoon is so little that inter-tidal ecosystems dry up, and water security ? already a major issue in the area ? becomes critical. Lack of a source of predictable water leads to decreased crop production and poor productivity of farming systems, especially for paddy cultivation (Center for Environmental Studies, 2018). Lack of water also drives migrating birds to areas where there is perennial water (such as the Jaffna Lagoon), and this will affect the emerging avi-tourism in the area (Ranawana et al., 2020).

Threats identified in the OP6 Landscape Strategy.

? There are no alternative livelihood options to agriculture and fishing, because of the lack of investors and lack of technical knowledge.

? Although ecotourism is growing, there is no overall plan for its development in the region. There is a lack of infrastructure and a lack of trained personnel and knowledge of ecotourism. Many sites are polluted, and others are not easily accessible, as they are under the management of the Sri Lankan Navy.

? Similarly, the palmyra palm (*Borassus flabellifer*), found in the area, is underutilised because of the lack of trained personnel, as well as technical and marketing knowledge.

Landscape 3: Urban Wetlands of Colombo

The urban wetlands of Colombo are located in the south-western part of Sri Lanka, in the district of Colombo. This landscape is defined encompassing five DSDs ? Kolonnawa, Kaduwela, Sri Jayawardenapura-Kotte, Maharagama and Homagama (totalling 29,200 ha) . However, the actual study area is defined functionally by the left bank catchment of the Kelani River (with wetlands extending across ~ 2,955 ha)[6] (see *Figure 4* of the *Project Document* below). Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka, is intertwined indistinguishably with wetlands, being built on and around wetlands (Signes, 2016; University of Colombo, 2017). Within the Colombo Metropolitan Region (CMR) is a range of natural and heavily modified wetlands found in the densely populated urban, peri-urban and rural area of the CMR (University of Colombo, 2017).

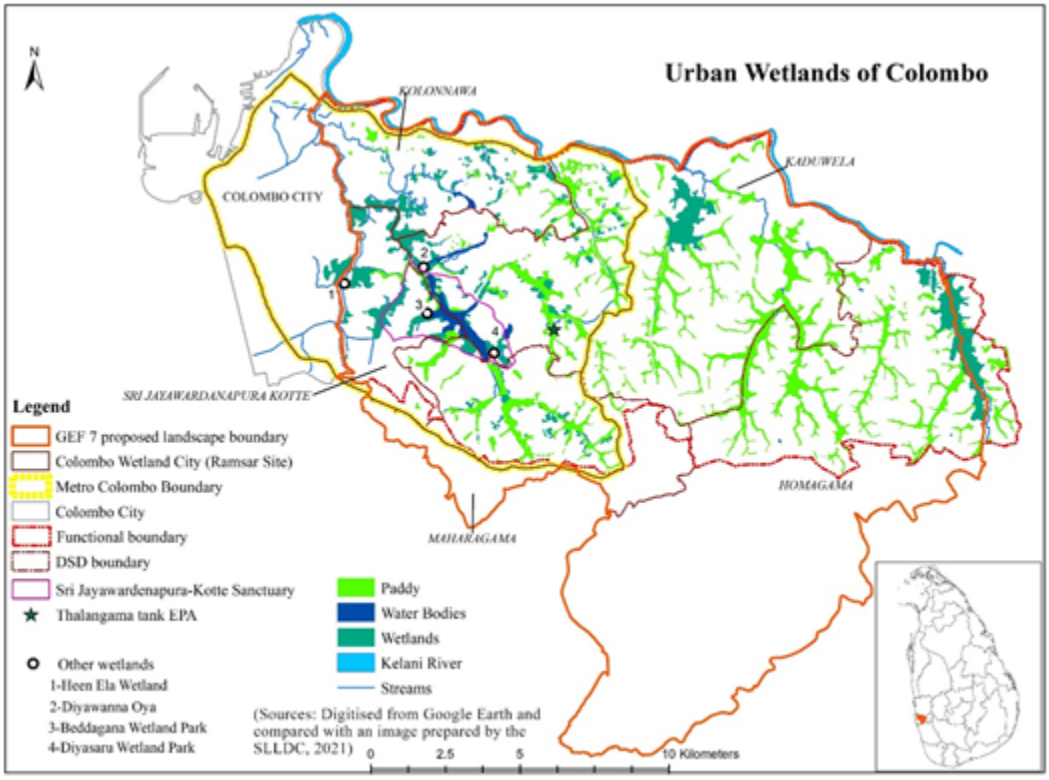

Figure 4 of the Project Document: Map of the Urban Wetlands of Colombo landscape

Biodiversity values:

In this heavily modified landscape, there still is a range of wetland ecosystems that support an array of species. Of the wetlands in the area, 85% are freshwater wetlands (University of Colombo, 2017). There is also a large area of active and abandoned paddy lands. About one third of all Colombo?s wetlands consist of open water areas such as reservoirs, artificial lakes and canals, as well as woodlands, and herbaceous cover. There are seven categories of vegetation: marshes, flora partially or completely submerged in standing water, shrublands, reed swamps, grasslands, stream banks and mangroves (University of Colombo, 2017).

Two hundred and fifty-two plant species, of which 30% are exotics, have been recorded in the area. Among those recorded, is a Critically Endangered plant, a climber named *Agano peheptaphylla*, which has been recorded only in three sites in Sri Lanka ? two of which are Beddagana Biodiversity Park and Kolonnawa Marsh ? found within the urban wetlands of Colombo (University of Colombo, 2017).

Two hundred and nine vertebrate species, including 17 endemic species and two threatened species ? the Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*) and the fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*) have been recorded in these wetlands (University of Colombo, 2017). The Urban Fishing Cat Conservation Project (2020) has shown these cats are hyper-urban in Sri Lanka, and that ?Colombo is the only known large city in the world where wild fishing cats have been recorded, not only in urban wetlands, but also within the heart of the city? (SCAR, 2020). A grantee under OP6 ? Small Cat Advocacy and Research (SCAR) worked to protect 110 ha from human-animal conflict, as well as to improve 110 ha for community conservation areas at the Diyasaru Park and Baddegana Wetland Park in the urban wetlands of Colombo (SCAR, 2020).

Two of the wetlands in the Colombo Metropolitan Region are under legal protection: the Thalangama Lake Environmental Protection Area (under the jurisdiction of the Central Environmental Authority) and Sri Jayewardenepura-Kotte Sanctuary (under the Department of Wildlife Conservation). Currently, the DWC is in the process of gazetting a larger area of wetlands within the immediate area to include as part of this sanctuary (DWC, person. comm.). Colombo was declared one of 18 Ramsar Wetland Cities in the world, and the only city from South Asia (EFL, 2018; extent~ 12,205 corresponding to the Metro Colombo area).

Under OP6, one of the grantees ? the Public Interest Law Foundation ? has worked towards obtaining legal protection for the Mattegoda wewa and Olupattawa wewa and their adjacent wetlands as an Environmental Protection Area under the CEA.

There are also two wetland parks ? Diyasaru Uyana (under the jurisdiction of the SLLDC) and Baddegana [part of the DWC sanctuary but managed by the Urban Development Authority (UDA)], both constructed as a larger plan of the World Bank funded Metro Colombo Development Project.

Ecosystem services:

The primary ecosystem service provided by the urban wetlands of Colombo is of flood regulation. According to Metro Colombo Wetland Management Strategy (Signes, 2016), during heavy monsoonal rains, the Colombo wetlands ?are able to store several tens of million cubic meters of water (up to 68 Mm3 for the 100-year return period flood or the equivalent of more than 27,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools)? (Signes, 2016).

Cities are known to be urban heat islands ? they are much hotter than rural areas nearby, because of overcrowding, dense concrete and asphalt infrastructure (which have the capacity to absorb and re-emit heat), as well as the impacts of vehicles and industries. Plants cool the atmosphere around them because of evapotranspiration[7] and wetlands, therefore, can reduce the air temperature up to 100 m away (Signes, 2016). This means that over an extent of 6,500 ha (or 50% of Colombo city) is cooled naturally, in this way (Signes, 2016).

Wetlands are important in carbon sequestration. The Colombo Wetland Management Strategy states that wetland soils in the Colombo Metropolitan Area (CMR) have about 1.43 Million metric tons of carbon, which they estimate to be nearly 90% of its annual emissions (Signes, 2016).

More than 87% of the urban wetlands of Colombo provide food to a range of its residents, as rice has long been cultivated in the area, in addition to vegetables and other non-timber forest products, contributing to food security (Signes, 2016). Communities living around the wetlands are considerably poorer than much of the CMR and about 60% directly benefit from food taken from wetlands (Signes, 2016).

Many of the wetlands in this landscape absorb/ trap air and water pollutants and maintain water quality (University of Colombo, 2017). They absorb noise pollution as well (SIGNES, 2016).

These urban wetlands of Colombo are accessed easily for recreational, educational and aesthetic purposes (University of Colombo, 2017).

Threats and root causes:

Habitat destruction and degradation. The current rate of loss of wetland in the Colombo Metropolitan Area (CMA) is estimated at 1.2% per year (Signes, 2016). Urbanisation is the underlying cause for this loss (University of Colombo, 2017). Land use change between 1992 and 2014 showed that built-up areas in the CMA increased by 24,711 ha (221%) during this period, and these land changes were quicker in the 2000s (Subasinghe et al., 2016). Predictive modelling showed that by 2030, built up land in the CMA will increase to 42,500 ha and by 2050, to 56,000 ha (Subasinghe et al., 2016).

Analyses by the University of Colombo (2017) showed that many wetland areas are vulnerable to such an expansion. If these wetlands are lost, the many regulatory ecosystem services that they provide will be foregone.

Pollution. Despite decades of the creation of awareness, wetlands are still, unfortunately, considered wastelands. Therefore, the urban wetlands of Colombo serve as the dumping ground for a whole range of point[8] and nonpoint[9] source pollutants such as domestic sewage, industrial effluents, solid waste and agrochemicals, polluting water and soil (University of Colombo, 2017), impacting both water and food security for communities living around and depending on the wetlands. In 64% of the urban wetlands of Colombo, the water quality is considered to be ?bad or very bad? (Signes, 2016).

Meanwhile, according to a news report, 450,000 vehicles daily enter Colombo city, emitting carbon dioxide and other gases into the air, affecting the respiratory health of its residents.

Invasive alien species (IAS). In this landscape as well, IAS have been identified as a considerable threat (Signes, 2016). There are 11 known IAS plants, including water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) and *Salvinia molesta* (both on the national priority list of IAS), which are widespread in standing water and spread rapidly across the surface of the water, preventing sunlight and oxygen from reaching submerged plants and animals with the consequence of a reduction of aquatic biodiversity. These dense surface mats choke waterways and canals and prevent fishing (Miththapala et al., 2011).

Pond apple (*Annona glabra*) has extended almost all over the wetland and poses a considerable threat, as it invades mangrove areas and river/canal banks and replaces the natural vegetation (Signes, 2016).

Climate change. Colombo has already shifted from being in the wet zone to the intermediate zone (Muthuwatta and Liyanage, 2013). Also, with the predicted urbanisation, there will be more concrete creating more heat and what is known as the heat island effect[10] will increase. Meanwhile, wetlands, which ameliorate the climate, are disappearing.

Threats identified in the OP6 Landscape Strategy.

? Lack of coordination among government agencies and among agencies and communities, leading to weak implementation of regulations and policies.

? Lack of a ?clear understanding about what wetlands are, what purpose they serve and how they should be managed?. Providing priority attention to Colombo?s wetlands by placing them under the jurisdiction of an independent governing body is identified as critical.

? There is a high risk from unplanned expansions.

? Lack of awareness of the importance of small patches of wetlands ? such as abandoned paddy fields ? which are then used for unsustainable development activities.

? Lack of coordination amongst stakeholders to support wetland rehabilitation.

? The need ?for practical and real ground collaborations for blending local and community traditional knowledge and practices with modern technological inputs that will yield considerable synergies.? For example, there is a conflict in the cultivation of traditional rice varieties that blend in wetland conservation and cultivation of state-promoted rice varieties that do not.

? Lack of documentation of the traditional knowledge that is found in this landscape for use in the future.

? The need for a marketing strategy for local varieties of food to popularise their value and improve livelihoods.

? Lack of implementation of existing rules and regulations that has caused deep distrust among communities.

? Lack of understanding between NGOs and communities. The latter feel that promised outcomes of various projects have not been delivered.

? Lack of monitoring and results reporting amongst NGOs.

? The younger generation is not interested in traditional practices and wetland-based living, leading to labour shortages.

Problems to be addressed:

The essential problem to be addressed by this project is that the necessary collective action for adaptive management of soil, water, and biological resources for sustainable provision of ecosystem services is hindered by the organizational weaknesses of the communities living and working in the selected landscapes. These weaknesses do not allow them to act strategically and collectively to build long-term social and ecological landscape resilience through biodiversity conservation and sustainable land, water and vegetation management.

Community organizations often lack essential adaptive management capabilities such as the technical know-how, planning skills, innovation and experimentation capacities, and organizational abilities to become effective agents for the coordinated, long-term development and maintenance of landscape resilience. Community organizations lack the financial capacities to assume the risks of innovation, that is, of trying something new for which the potential consequences of failure can be economically devastating.

Rural communities currently draw on their experience, traditional knowledge, and social capital to cope with climate change. They also recognize the crucial importance of sustainably using natural resources within ecosystems that provide them with a suite of life and livelihood-sustaining services. These resources include globally important species and habitats, as well as land, water and soil; thus, biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use, together with sustainable land management through agroecology, sustainable forest management, and integrated water resources management, are crucial components to building and maintaining ecological, social and economic resilience.

Socio-ecological landscape resilience can only be fostered and sustained by smallholder organizations and networks with the financial resources, motivation, commitment and capacities to implement continuing, long-term innovation processes and adaptive management. To enhance resilience in a meaningful way, these community actions must be adopted and implemented by communities across the landscape. Within each landscape, smallholder organizations must act within a common, agreed

strategic framework that integrates ecological, social and economic outcomes with the goal of reaching a tipping point of adoption and implementation of individual and collective management innovations that enhance landscape resilience.

SGP grants have enabled community organizations and networks to act collectively. This strategy has worked well to build their capacities through an adaptive management methodology of participatory analysis of their priorities and problems; identification of potential innovations to address them; design, implementation, and monitoring of community-led projects; evaluation of results and performance; and adaptation of the tested innovations to new or emerging circumstances and information. By awarding grants to over 378 initiatives over the past decades, SGP Sri Lanka has supported organizational capacity building through hands-on, learning-by-doing by communities to address adaptive management of soil, water and biological resources. SGP has organized partner groups into networks for broader sharing and exchange of information and knowledge. Partners include local governments, national organizations and Ministries, NGOs, the private sector, academics and others, who provide support, such as technical assistance, strategic guidance, and/or co-financing to community level initiatives.

Success with different lines of work (e.g. ecotourism, agroforestry, wetland management) provide the basis for upscaling specific tested approaches, technologies, and practices. The Sri Lanka Country Programme has built extensive portfolios in the GEF thematic areas, testing and adapting a variety of approaches in successful project implementation with community organizations that have different levels of capacity. As part of its continual development of thematic and geographic lines of work based on lessons learned over time, the Country Programme has been working to consolidate its more successful community approaches, with a focus on upscaling to achieve economic, social and ecological sustainability.

Even experienced community organizations often still labour under significant difficulties including under-developed strategic vision, weak planning and organizational skills, lack of adaptive management capabilities, limited capacities for sustained and systematic innovation, and ineffective linkages with other organizations for collective action across sectors and landscapes. The lack of financial capacities to assume the risk of innovation is a continual, fundamental problem.

Long-term vision of the project:

The long-term vision of the OP7 project is to generate multiple benefits for biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, and the well-being of local communities through participatory, integrated land and resource management approaches implemented across socio-ecological production landscapes.

Barriers analysis:

The following barriers are currently impeding the achievement of this vision:

Barrier 1: At the level of individual communities, community organizations have insufficient capacities to plan their initiatives, implement and evaluate them effectively, and systematically derive practical lessons from their experiences. At present the capacity of individual community organizations to address ecological concerns and manage their finances is lacking. The SGP has contributed towards strengthening capacities of local community organizations with respect to organic agriculture; promotion of traditional rice varieties and seed production; livelihood development for buffer zone communities living around protected areas; non-timber forest products; medicinal plant production and craft making; and addressing animal-human conflict. However, substantive capacity shortcomings remain, and the practical lessons and experiences gained have not yet been effectively codified and disseminated and adapted by other smallholder communities throughout the landscape to create a critical mass of practitioners that will tip production in the landscape to a new standard of sustainable use of biodiversity (including agrobiodiversity), soil carbon, biomass, water, and other ecosystem components. For this to happen, it will be necessary to strengthen the capacities of community organizations to innovate, experiment, evaluate results, identify lessons and best practice, and use this knowledge to adapt to changing circumstances and information.

Barrier 2: At a landscape level, community organizations are unable to take coordinated collective action at scale in planning and managing their rural production landscapes for the conservation of biodiversity, improving connectivity and increasing the productivity of ecosystems to provide sustainable ecosystem services. Communities have uneven knowledge of ecosystem function and services, ecosystem stresses from land and resource degradation and the loss of biodiversity. This, specifically, is the reality for the communities in the three selected landscapes i.e. in the coastal region from Mannar to Jaffna, as well as the Knuckles Conservation Forest (KCF) and its buffer zone, and the vital wetlands located in fast urbanizing sites in the western province. Land conversion, fragmentation, and unsustainable use of biodiversity, diminishing returns from farm plots, severe erosion and land degradation, and extreme climate variability are affecting these landscapes. The Colombo wetlands pay a heavy price for land reclamation for housing and industries, dumping of domestic and industrial pollutants and solid waste - all of which are major drivers of biodiversity loss, which, in turn diminishes ecosystem services. The communities? lack of knowledge of the threats and benefits to be gained from potential new economic activities that take advantage of tangible and intangible ecosystem assets, impedes joint development of a strategic, integrated long-term vision and an agreed strategic framework for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development across the landscapes, as a foundation for ecosystem resilience.

To achieve meaningful impacts on ecosystem processes and functions that enhance landscape resilience, it is indispensable that community organizations act collectively and in synergy across their shared landscapes. This requires coordination among communities, within an agreed strategic framework, as well as a recognition of the importance of developing social capital through organizational interactions within networks and with external agents. In the Knuckles Conservation Forest and its buffer zone, communities are faced with declining agricultural productivity and income, which drives them to exploit forest resources unsustainably. In such a scenario, creating an alternative, enabling environment for community-driven, landscape management must be stimulated by inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships across sectors, involving community organizations and networks, local governments, the private sector, NGOs and others. Currently, multi-stakeholder partnerships in the

critical landscapes addressed by this project, require further strengthening, particularly regarding new communities receiving support from SGP for the first time.

Barrier 3: Community organizations lack the financial resources that would permit them to lower their risk of innovation, motivate them to experiment with and adopt novel land and resource management practices, and help to cover the up-scaling costs of multi-community enterprises. Community organizations rarely, if ever, have sufficient financial capital to take risks with innovations of untested technologies, methods or practices. At initial stages of familiarization and limited testing of new methods, grant funding is sufficient to overcome most of the perceived risk, especially when accompanied by targeted technical assistance. Once risk is perceived to have diminished sufficiently, and with a concomitant rise in capacities, community organizations may feel comfortable accepting low-interest loans. At the same time, there are onerous additional costs to be covered in organizing and developing inter-community or multi-community initiatives that may be inherently risky, for example, scale production of specific products or services e.g. ecotourism circuits, etc.

Barrier 4: Community organizations have limited ability to record and analyse systematically project experience with innovation and experimentation of new practices, methods and systems nor to disseminate this to a wider audience. Limitations in assessing their experience in an objective and systematic way, means that community organizations are deprived of an agreed common analytical framework with which to test and evaluate experiences with a sense of confidence in regard to the validity of results. Community organizations and their members may experiment, but the knowledge gained may not be acknowledged universally nor are their analytical capacities strengthened in regard to understanding and trusting the causality between innovations, actions and outcomes.

The conclusions generated from analyses of project experience by communities are disseminated rarely to other communities or to policy makers or opinion leaders. As a result, evidence-based policy development related to ecosystem function and landscape management issues is weak.

These barriers result in poor coordination among stakeholders within the landscape, inadequate training and skills, lack of awareness and information, inadequate funding and incentives, and poor implementation of projects and other initiatives.

2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

Baseline scenario

The results achieved during earlier SGP operational phases, and from investments of the Government of Sri Lanka and funding from other donors provide a solid foundation upon which the OP7 project will build. The Government of Sri Lanka is committed to improving biodiversity conservation, restoring degraded lands, and fostering sustainable livelihoods for local communities. These environmental objectives are underpinned by the government?s priority to increase the well-being of citizens across the country, particularly those in marginalized and under-developed communities. The SGP has a strong track record in Sri Lanka, developing capacities among the civil society sector for genuine participation in sustainable development initiatives throughout the country.

Through the focused investment of GEF resources, together with strong co-financing, the OP7 project will bring together and build on baseline investments, demonstrating the multiple benefits associated with integrated landscape approaches, where landscape management is based on consensus among multiple stakeholders. Driven by bottom-up approaches in accordance with the SGP mandate of empowering local communities, the project will bring together multiple actors to collectively generate global environmental benefits and strengthen socio-ecological resilience.

Baseline - SGP in Sri Lanka:

The Sri Lanka GEF Small Grants Programme was launched as a pilot initiative in 1995, with 15 projects led by community-based organizations testing out the modality. In the period covering five subsequent GEF operational phases from 1997 ? 2014, the Sri Lanka SGP Country Programme funded 378 community led initiatives. A primary focus of the programme has been to support initiatives in biodiversity conservation, in particular, buffer zone management of nature reserves, watershed protection, and sustainable agriculture with the aim of developing successful models for replication and upscaling through multiple stakeholder groups. In each phase the Country Programme Strategies were adapted based on the outcomes of the previous phase, thus, building a storehouse of incrementally accumulating knowledge and experience.

The priorities and focal areas of the Sri Lanka SGP Country Programme have been determined through a consultative process involving community-based partner organizations, the National Steering Committee and others (NGOs, academics, etc.) with expertise in local sustainable development and the GEF focal areas. In selecting grantee projects, the criteria for consideration include a fit with the GEF focal areas to ensure that global environmental benefits are generated, while sustaining local level development benefits, especially enhanced incomes, food security and disaster risk reduction. In addition, proposed activities needed to be aligned with and/or contribute to national priorities as outlined in national policy documents. The capacities of civil society organizations to implement the projects - i.e., technical competence, provision of co-financing and rapport in working with all stakeholders - were also necessary requirements.

Over the years, the Country Programme has developed distinct series of projects with similar objectives, methods, and impacts. These groups of projects have begun to acquire a critical mass of practitioner organizations and their initiatives that provide fertile ground for ecological and economic synergies. The adaptation of the practice of a geographic focus from GEF 3 ? 5 has enabled the synergistic approach, which has not only achieved planned outcomes ? such as alternative income and employment for communities ? but has also led to the evolution of empowered, self-confident communities, who are capable of voicing concerns on ecological and land management matters.

In GEF 6, SGP Sri Lanka built on the experiences and lessons learned in GEF 5 and focused on three landscapes in three different parts of the island to provide small grants that promoted biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, and sustainable agricultural practices to prevent land degradation. It forged multi-stakeholder governance groups in the three landscapes comprising local government, academics, relevant government stakeholders and civil society. They were an important and integral part of the project and have been providing advisory services to the project, as well as advising on key socio-environmental challenges of the landscape the landscape approach.

OP6 Experiences and Lessons Learned:

The SGP Upgraded Country Programme in OP6 adopted the landscape approach first developed and implemented under the COMDEKS initiative. Multi-stakeholder governance groups were forged in the three landscapes comprising local government, academics, relevant government stakeholders and civil society. These groups were an important and integral part of the project and have been providing advisory services to the project, as well as advising on key socio-environmental challenges in the landscape approach. This novel landscape approach encouraged grantees to work together for socio-ecological resilience of a shared landscape, whereas previously, grantees focused exclusively on their community lands and resources without fully considering synergies and connections to other communities and ecosystem elements in the surrounding landscape. It has been a challenge for all grantees to work towards a common goal through coordinated individual grant projects. To achieve a desirable level of landscape resilience through this approach, collaboration across communities around sustainable production systems that produce global environmental benefits is required. The production systems must be sustainable both economically and ecologically; this requires considerable building of the capacities of community organizations to plan and manage sustainable resource use, often with unfamiliar practices and inputs, develop value chains and social enterprises that will reinforce sustainable management practices, and coordinate production and services among communities across the landscape to achieve the economic benefits that incentivize application of conservation practices. This is a process that takes longer than a few years, as it takes time for agro-ecosystems to accrue the ecological benefits of new practices and businesses to develop efficient processes and practices.

Changing individual community projects to coordinated multi-community initiatives, where a critical mass of producers can achieve economies of scale and weight in the market still requires support, as the growth in capacities of the community organizations involved proceeds from year to year with ecological and biological seasonality, analysis of experience and identification of lessons learned, and the ensuing adaptive management measures. To take the three most developed lines of work of SGP Sri Lanka to a larger scale and sustainability requires expansion in the numbers of participating producer organizations, enhanced productivity, better post-harvest storage, processing and value-addition, improved market access and commercialization, and stronger organizational skills for producers? groups and networks. Consolidation, strengthening and continued implementation of the multi-stakeholder governance groups is critical for all of the above. Even experienced community organizations often still labour under significant difficulties including under-developed strategic vision, weak planning and organizational skills, lack of adaptive management capabilities, limited capacities for sustained and systematic innovation, and ineffective linkages with other organizations for collective action across sectors and landscapes. The lack of financial capacities to assume the risk of innovation is a continual, fundamental problem.

Success with different lines of work (e.g. ecotourism, agroforestry, wetland management) provide the basis for upscaling specific tested approaches, technologies, and practices. The Sri Lanka Country Programme has built extensive portfolios in the GEF thematic areas, testing and adapting a variety of approaches in successful project implementation with community organizations that have different levels of capacity. As part of its continual development of thematic and geographic lines of work based on lessons learned over time, the Country Programme has been working to consolidate its more

successful community approaches, with a focus on upscaling to achieve economic, social and ecological sustainability.

During OP6, 28 organizations have started on-the-ground activities with 25 projects promoting biodiversity conservation on over 27,660 ha in the three landscapes, exceeding the target of 17,500 ha. Reforestation activities were carried out by 18 organizations on 2,114 ha in the 3 landscapes. 18 projects worked on degraded wetland rehabilitation activities on 6,864 ha. Thirteen (13) projects have covered land rehabilitation activities on 2,000 ha. Sixteen (16) projects contributed towards 2,500 ha of agro-ecological practices; systems that increase sustainability and productivity, and conservation of crop genetic resources. These targets on reforestation, wetland rehabilitation, agro-ecological practices, and improved agricultural sustainability and productivity are expected to be achieved by the end of the project period through the Mannar Strategic Project. The main aim of the Colombo Strategic Project was to convert abandoned paddy lands to farmland covering 500 hectares. This project will be the marketing hub for all other small grants projects in the landscape. The Knuckles landscape project was mainly working on 1,000 hectares of soil conservation and agro-ecology. This project aimed to open small micro credit facilities with all five community organizations paving the way for the sustainability of the project. The two Strategic Projects have been serving 952 community members. Over 800 community members benefitted across the three landscapes from projects promoting alternative livelihood options and increase in productivity. Livelihood options mainly focused on farming, and eco-tourism related occupations and increase in productivity consists mainly of agricultural produce. Product development from the landscape is highlighted especially in the Knuckles landscape; products such as Knuckles pepper, turmeric and Kithul Treacle (Jaggery) will be promoted. Non-chemical paddy and recycling and reuse products was promoted in the Colombo landscape. SGP also supported farmers to obtain the GAP (Good Agricultural Practice) certifications for these products. SGP conducted trainings for grantees in Colombo, Knuckles and the SGP Women?s Entrepreneur platform on Participatory Guarantee System to obtain organic certification. To ensure sustainability of the SGP projects, business sustainability plans have been developed for 15 grantees.

Landscape synergies have been identified in all three landscapes. In Knuckles, a map has been created connecting all 13 projects and showcasing how they are connected by way of hiking trails, for example, as well as demarcating the landscape connectivity and the nature of the inter-connected trails. In the landscape of Colombo, a study has been conducted on how all the projects contribute towards wetland conservation and rehabilitation. A study on how the projects are linked to the Colombo Strategic Project has been completed and this will be used for policy decision making in the wetlands. In Mannar, the importance of the landscape in terms of bird diversity and the importance of the conservation of mangroves and water will be established.

The Colombo Policy Platform is part of the National Wetland Forum of the Ministry of Environment. SGP is part of this platform and informs of the SGP progress and possible policy interventions in the future. This is headed by the Ministry of Environment. In the Knuckles and Mannar landscape Policy platforms were initiated in March 2021. The policy platforms consist of the GA of the landscape, Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and key stakeholders. In order to showcase policy-level SGP work in the Mannar landscape, the survey and GIS maps established by the Ecological Association of Sri Lanka will be shared with the relevant government authorities and it is hoped it will be gazetted as a

sensitive area. In the Knuckles landscape, the new species discovered by the Herpetological Foundation of Sri Lanka will be documented in the Red-List, and information will be spread widely on the importance of protecting the Knuckles Range amongst policy makers. In the Colombo landscape, the importance of conservation of the wetlands through the ?wise use? of natural resources has been completed and was highlighted by SGP projects documented and shared with policy makers.

All projects approved for funding have secured co-financing in terms of cash and in-kind from different stakeholders. Nine projects in Colombo, seven projects in Mannar and 12 projects in Knuckles have all secured co-financing by other stakeholders in the landscape. Moreover, SGP and the Sri Lanka Nature Forum completed a workshop on SGP and SDGs, based on which a publication will be finalized. SGP has also been pitching the completed 15 business plans to the private sector for future sustainability initiatives. Additionally, the Ministry of Environment has collaborated with SGP in the Knuckles and Colombo Landscape to establish the Haritha Gamanaya (or the Eco Village concept) in SGP projects. SGP is also looking at collaborating with the MAS, Ceylon Biscuits Limited to pitch the business plans of grantees for project sustainability. Commercial Bank has been approached for co-financing in supporting EPSKMS? Women?s Knowledge Bank and disseminating information generated by Herpetological Association while also working on air quality monitoring. One Tree Planted has also signed a MoA for reforestation activities with grantee partners VOVCoD and EPSKMS.

SGP is working with Knowledge Management groups that work on Knowledge Management products for OP6. A case study for each OP6 project is being developed together with each grantee and Knowledge Management group. These case studies will be published, and a symposium will be held to showcase the results. Moreover, the Knowledge Management Grantees in the landscapes will work on documenting all the results of the projects in each landscape and see how they contribute towards the landscape approach, based on which the landscape case studies will be developed in collaboration with the UCP Global Coordinator and Technical Advisor and Knowledge Management Consultant. A Newsletter called ?What?s Up? has been launched in June 2018, a bi-monthly edition to provide updates on SGP Sri Lanka. A comprehensive communication and Knowledge Management strategy has been developed and SGP is working closely with the communications expert in the UNDP Team. The UNDP Communication Team is working closely with SGP Sri Lanka to communicate lessons learnt to stakeholders such as NGOs, private sector and government and policy makers.

Building on lessons learned in OP6, in OP7 formal selection criteria will be strictly followed and published to increase transparency and avoid challenges to project selection. As such a thorough desk review prior to evaluation by the National Steering Committee will be undertaken to investigate the authenticity of registration of an organization, i.e., if an office is maintained while also requesting two recommendations. For reapplicants, prior project work will be assessed to identify if previous project work was sustainable. Applicants applying outside of the landscape will also be assessed to ascertain if operational costs are practical within budget restrictions. At the call for proposal stage, to ensure target achievement, methodology for indicator achievement and required hectarage will be clearly advertised. The three strategic projects will be selected first so these projects may assist during the proposal call in setting indicators and developing sustainability through social enterprise models. As such the strategic projects will play a key role in ensuring sustainability of projects through key deliverables of creating sustainability plans, online platforms and improving market linkages. The creation of social enterprises

will be encouraged through the programme and co-financing partners will be requested to provide letters pledging commitments and to provide updates to the GEF-SGP Secretariat. In monitoring achievement of the end targets, the methodology to track and verify hectarage for biodiversity and land degradation is under development. Additionally, operation and maintenance plans need to be incorporated into the project proposals to help facilitate sustainability. Furthermore, in ensuring smooth functioning of the programme, a field coordinator for each of the landscapes and a technical expert will be contracted at the initial stages of the programme. A grievance mechanism will be also established at the village and provincial level to resolve project related issues while updates of project work will be regularly presented at the multi-stakeholder meetings.

For community organizations in the Knuckles Conservation Forest landscape a priority is capacity building for the development of responsible tourism to ensure that any tourism-related livelihood activities safeguard the conservation of the area?s rich species diversity and endemism. Lesson learned from OP6 reveal that there is an urgent need to engage youth and provide sustainable livelihoods in this landscape, as they otherwise seek employment in urban areas. For the reforestation projects conducted under GEF 6, two years were insufficient to see tangible results, and there is a need to widen the grantee base and engage it in collective maintenance and up-scaling of reforestation to enhance ecosystem services. For soil conservation activities in OP6, given their incipient positive impacts on ecosystem services, further conservation efforts should be supported in OP7. Furthermore, SGP products produced in OP6 should be branded as community forest products and sold as part of a social enterprise together with the eco-tourism initiatives in the landscape. At the same time, new species in the Knuckles Conservation forest were discovered in OP6 through community initiatives. To document, verify and analyse this new information, further studies and research are required, as well as to disseminate this information both locally, nationally and internationally.

In the Mannar landscape, concerted capacity building and developing and diversifying livelihoods and income generation are all needed, given that these communities are still emerging from a 30-year conflict. Mannar Island has been identified in the Sri Lanka Tourism Strategy as an emerging tourism hub, especially for avian-tourism, and targeted training in tandem with community consultations and local planning are needed and should be evaluated as part of the broader collective process of adjusting management strategies to new information, knowledge, capacities and conditions. Prior to opening a call for proposals in OP7, it would be necessary to divert some funding towards developing the capacity of organizations by providing proposal writing guidance and building awareness on the landscape approach particularly in the Mannar landscape.

In the Urban Wetlands of Colombo, using the ?wise use? approach as a guidance mechanism, seven pilot projects were initiated to enhance ecosystem services and sustainable use of natural resources to develop human well-being. In this landscape, there is intense competition for land, and wetland reclamation for varied development projects is common. One of the grantees has been working with the Central Environmental Authority and the community to protect a part of this urban wetland, which is a process requiring time for consolidation and formalization. The presence of SGP Sri Lanka in this landscape is critical to support a collective voice for the conservation and sustainable use of this green/blue infrastructure. Without this voice, the wetlands will slowly be lost to unsustainable development. This is also a landscape in which there are many players. Ensuring the support of these

players in achieving SGPs objectives will be essential. The policy dialogues, which have been already commenced, are an informal means of achieving this but given that officers of government departments change for extraneous reasons, a more formal signing of memoranda of agreements with the SGP and each government entity may ensure continuity of support.

With regards to gender mainstreaming, SGP has been pioneering and is highly recognized in mainstreaming gender equality and women?s empowerment in every step of the program cycle. A gender focal point is designated within the SGP National Steering Committee to ensure review of gender considerations in project selection. Two women-led grantees won First and Second place in the Social Entrepreneurship Conference held in December 2019, highlighting the importance women play in the development field. Another grantee also received the ?vanitha abimani? award under the social enterprises category at an event organized by NDB and Sirasa TV on International Women's Day 2021. Gender equality and women?s empowerment is a critical element of SGP efforts in Sri Lanka. The project has room for further improvement of gender consideration in project implementation, especially in terms of providing entrepreneurial/marketing support to women in beneficiary communities. This can be linked with the proposed private sector engagement with potential partners. Following the RTA recommendation from the 2019 PIR, a landscape-wide gender analysis for the programme was completed in February 2019, and action plans were developed in each landscape based on integration of gender issues in landscape baseline assessments. These action plans, currently under implementation, facilitate incorporation of gender aspects within all SGP projects during SGP6, lessons learned and results from OP6 were used to inform the OP7 *Gender Analysis and Action Plan* (see **Annex 10**). Further efforts include having a minimum number of women led and women focussed projects in each landscape thus encouraging proposals by women-led organizations, and having a gender focus as a specific selection criterion for NGOs applying for SGP grants in OP7.

Baseline activities in the project landscapes:

The OP7 project will collaborate and build upon baseline programmes and initiatives that are currently ongoing or have been completed in the target landscapes, as described below in *Table 1* of the *Project Document*.

Table 1 of the Project Document: Baseline projects and initiatives in the target landscapes

Ongoing or proposed projects in the area
Knuckles Conservation Forest

Ongoing or proposed projects in the area	
Internationally funded projects	? The World Bank financed **Ecosystem Conservation and Management Project (ESCAMP) (2017-2021)** has a component called ?sustainable use of natural resources and human-elephant co-existence? and this has five projects focused on this landscape: o Development of Nature Based Tourism in Knuckles Conservation Forest ? Matale Range (Forest Department) with a goal to increase the income of the villagers living around Knuckles forest range by 50% within a 5-year period and reduce the peripheral communities? dependency on the forest range, by improving the recreational capacity of Knuckles Conservation Forest and promote ecotourism activities; o Development of eco-tourism in Knuckles ? Kandy (Forest Department) with a goal of conserving the Knuckles Forest and sustainably developing it as a world class nature-based tourism destination. o Ecosystem Conservation and Management in Knuckles Conservation Forest (Matale) (Forest Department) with the main objectives of enhancing forest cover of the KCF by 10% within 5 years, increasing the species diversity of the degraded area and *Pinus* planted areas by 5 % and reducing forest offences by 90%. o As above for the Kandy range. o Sustainable Use of Natural Resources for Livelihood Enhancement of Peripheral Communities of Knuckles Conservation Forest (Forest Department) The management objectives of Knuckles forest must be in line with the objectives of National Forest Policy and legislation under which it was declared. In addition, it is an IUCN protected area and also a proposed Mixed Cultural and Natural World Heritage site. Based on that, the management goal, purpose and objectives for Knuckles Forest were formulated through a logical framework approach. This will likely finish before the GEF OP 7 commences, but there will be elements useful for sustainability.

Ongoing or proposed projects in the area	
	? The GCF-funded IUCN implemented **Strengthening Climate Resilience of Subsistence Farmers and Agricultural Plantation Communities residing in the vulnerable river basins, watershed areas and downstream of the Knuckles Mountain Range Catchment of Sri Lanka** will commence shortly and plans to ?enhance the ability of smallholder subsistence farmers to address climate induced shortages of irrigation and drinking water by improving the resilience of farm and land management practices and climate proofing the underlying ecosystems in the Knuckles / Amban Ganga highlands and lowlands. In achieving its objectives, the project will mitigate the risks related to increased temperatures, changes in the frequency and intensity of rainfall, and the impacts of extreme events that cause extended droughts, frequent floods, severe landslides, and silting of reservoirs and tanks, contributing to different aspects of water supply and demand in the project area which increase the vulnerabilities of small-scale farmers, plantation operations and the natural ecosystems on which they depend. Project activities will comprise o participatory governance and adaptive planning, o establishment of climate adaptation information portals and advisory services, o improved access to agricultural water supply o improved access to affordable renewable energy, o participatory selection and implementation of best-fit climate-adaptive land management options to suit ecosystems, and o value chain upgrading?to include product development, value-adding processes, farm business enterprises and standards and market access. The six-year project aims to induce transformative change and develop replicable financial models, electronic transaction systems and incorporate ecosystem payments into planning as a resilience model. The project will also facilitate the development of a participatory exit strategy to build the local capacity to sustain project achievements and subsequent progress in the post-project period. Primary measurable benefits will include: i) 1.3 million people (51.4 % women) who will benefit from the adoption of diversified, climate-resilient livelihood options; ii) 346,000 hectares of upland and lowland agro-ecosystems and natural ecosystems protected and strengthened in response to climate variability and change?. Many of the proposed SGP GEF OP7 project activities will align with the above aims and can contribute to this larger project.
Provincial/District/ Urban plans or national focus	? The plan for the Matale district has three foci related to the GEF 7 cycle, namely agriculture, tourism and ?environment?. Provisional OP7 activities that align with this plan are highlighted in Annex 15 to the Project Document (?Provisional site-based interventions?). ? The plan for the Kandy district is still being prepared and unavailable for review.

Ongoing or proposed projects in the area	
Private sector /NGO/ other organisations	? The CSR project of **Noritake Lanka Porcelain (Pvt) Limited** ?Save the Next Generation? in collaboration with the University of Peradeniya, Forest Department and the local villagers, aims to restore the sub montane forests in KCF. One thousand two hundred seedlings were transplanted into degraded grasslands at Knuckles Forest Reserve and four months post transplanting, there was a 93% survival rate. The project conducts awareness programmes for local communities and its aim is to increase forest cover by 50% by 2050. For this project, Noritake won the Green Leadership Asia Responsible Enterprise Award for 2020. (Private Sector.) Support could be obtained from this organisation.
	? **Sri Lanka Telecom** carried out a ?Planting for Water? reforestation project in the Knuckles forest area in ~ 0.2 ha of land the montane forest of KCF. ? Suggestions for action in the Knuckles Range have been forwarded by the **Grami Adiwardi Foundation for Environmental Conservation (GAFTEC)** in 2019. Many of the suggestions made align with proposed actions in cycle 7.
Universities	? Academic staff from the Department of Botany, University of Peradeniya have been engaged in ecological restoration in the KCF.
Coastal region from Mannar Island to the Jaffna District	
Internationally funded projects	? The GEF funded IUCN and UNDP implemented proposed project **Managing together: Integrating community-centred, ecosystem-based approaches into forestry, agriculture and tourism sectors** will aim to establish a holistic landscape approach to incorporating biodiversity conservation into planning and implementation in agriculture, tourism and forestry in the Malwathu Oya Basin of north-west Sri Lanka. One of three trial landscapes include the land bordering the Malwathu Oya Estuary, and the adjacent seascape, including coral reefs of Vankalai, Arippu, and Silavaturai, Pearl Banks of Mannar, Cheval Bank and the sea grass beds in shallow coastal seas. ? The delta of this river falls within the project landscape and is an area where mangrove destruction is rampant. . The GEF-funded (GEF-7), IUCN-implemented project (GEF project ID 10552) ?Natural Capital Values of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in Sri Lanka Integrated into Sustainable Development Planning?. This project plans to have interventions in the South East Palk Bay part of the Mannar landscape. There SGP OP7 project will coordinate with the GEF-IUCN project during implementation.

Ongoing or proposed projects in the area	
	? The GCF funded **Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project (CRIWMP):** This is a GCF-funded project which aims to improve irrigation by introducing climate-resilient agricultural practices; improve access to potable water by enhancing community-managed drinking water infrastructure; and protect farmers and other vulnerable groups from climate related impacts by strengthening early warning systems and climate advisories. By accomplishing these outputs, the project aims to achieve enhanced levels of food, livelihood and water security of approximately 770,500 climate vulnerable communities living in three river basins. The CRIWMP will work within one of the selected landscapes. ? Mannar is one of districts in which hydro-meteorological centres have been established. One of the river basins identified for this project is the Malwathu Oya and there are two tank cascades from this river in this landscape, which will benefit from these interventions as it is expected that renovating some of the feeder canals to these tanks will be a focus in GEF 7 cycle.
	? The proposed GEF cycle 7 (to be implemented by UNDP) **Strengthening trans-boundary cooperation for improved marine ecosystem management through promotion of blue economy in the Western Bay of Bengal countries (BlueBOB)** will aim to o Restore and conserve critical coastal and marine habitats to increase opportunities for Blue Economy in three countries, focusing on developing a common management framework for collaboration on the conservation of critical habitats in transboundary protected areas including strengthening the core objectives of UNESCO World Heritage and Biosphere Reserves in Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar (with India). o Carry out capacity building and knowledge management to advance transboundary coastal and marine management through Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), for the transboundary area shared by India and Sri Lanka in this area. If funded this be an excellent follow up to the multi-country Dugong Conservation Project (2015- 2018) and provide for south-south collaboration, strengthen capacities in the area, the lack of which is identified as a site-specific issue.
	? **Phase 2 of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME) The BOBLME Strategic Action Plan** is built around four priority themes identified in consultation with all BOBLME countries: marine living resources; critical habitats; water quality; and social and economic considerations. This is a large project that involves eight countries associated with the Bay of Bengal, including Sri Lanka. The implementation of the BOBLME Strategic Action Plan will provide opportunities with which the SGP projects can align to strengthen activities.

Ongoing or proposed projects in the area	
Provincial/District/ Urban plans or national focus	? The **Five-year Development plan for the Mannar District (2017-2021)** funded by the European Union Support to District Development Programme (EU-SDDP) and implemented by the UNDP, will likely finish before the GEF SGP cycle 7 commences, but its focus on improving agricultural practices through crop diversification, sustained reduction of unproductive land, and increased soil fertility, increased use of climate resistant crop varieties, parallels the approach taken in GEF 6 and 7 to reduce land degradation. ? **Mannar Island Development plan** (Urban Development Authority): This focuses on the island only, but has a section on ?Environmentally Sustainable Strategies?, that includes conservation of sand dunes; development of sustainable tourism in certain zones and responsible solid waste management, all of which have been identified as areas of possible focus for SGP GEF 7. ? **The Land Use Plan (2016) for the Kilinochchi District** provides for protection (as Environmentally Sensitive Areas) of the main sand dunes in the Pooneryn peninsula, and also mangroves and marshes (likely salt marshes) in the rest of the Poonakary DS division which is within the landscape and one of the focal areas of cycle 7 is biodiversity conservation. ? In the **Sri Lanka Tourism Strategic Plan (2017-2020)**, the Sri Tourism Development Authority identified Mannar as an emerging tourism hub, as it is very popular with local tourists for migratory bird watching (MoTDCRA, 2017). However, their post-COVID-19 strategy focuses on recovery for the industry rather than on specific areas.
Private sector/ NGOs /other organisations	? The **Field Ornithology Group of Sri Lanka** is using satellite tracking of migratory birds to understand their migratory pathways. FOGSL has established a station in Urumale and in Vankalai. One of the identified areas for actions has been the capacity building for the development of responsible ecotourism in this landscape.(Organisation). ? The **Palmyrah House**, Serendipity Retreats promotes and supports avi-tourism and avi-tourism-based projects.
Universities	? Under GEF 6 the **Ecological Association of Sri Lanka (EASL)** prepared the first map atlas of the sand dunes, salt marshes and mangroves of the coastal plain of the area. They also mapped the spread of the IAS *Prosopis juliflora*.
The Urban Wetlands of Colombo	
Internationally funded projects	? The ongoing **Metro Colombo Urban Development Project** funded by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) of the World Bank Group uses social and environmental screening for all its subprojects. It is also the overarching development plan for the Colombo metropolitan area. Its aims are to conserve 100% of the blue green components of wetland areas for mitigation of floods (it will create seven water catchment zones), to conserve biodiversity for ecosystem stability (by establishing wetland parks) by 2030. The GEF 7 cycle projects will contribute to the conservation of these wetlands through identified activities.

Ongoing or proposed projects in the area	
Provincial/District/ Urban plans or national focus	? The **Metro Colombo Wetland Strategy (2016)** funded by the Japan Policy and Human Resources Development Fund and directly supervised by the Wetland Management Division of the Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation (SLLDC), was formulated as a complementary initiative to the above, providing protection from flooding and promoting the principle that ?wetlands are fundamental to the well?being of the people of Colombo.?

3) The proposed alternative scenario with a description of outcomes and components of the project

The project objective is ?to build social, economic, and socio-ecological resilience in Sri Lanka of the Knuckles Conservation Forest and its buffer zone, the coastal region from Mannar Island to Jaffna, and the Colombo urban wetlands through community-based activities for global environmental benefits and sustainable development?. The project strategy as the GEF alternative aims at removing the barriers outlined above in the Development Challenge section through achievement of the following mutually supportive outcomes:

Component 1: Resilient landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection

Outcome 1.1: Participatory conservation and restoration strengthened

Outcome 1.2: Management of production landscapes strengthened for generation of sustainable community livelihoods and benefits to biodiversity and ecosystem functionality

Component 2: Durable landscape resilience through participatory governance, partnership building, and knowledge management

Outcome 2.1: Landscape resilience enhanced through multi-stakeholder governance and strengthened partnerships

Outcome 2.2: Enabling environment for upscaling and replication strengthened through effective knowledge management of best practices and approaches

Component 3: Monitoring and evaluation

Outcome 3.1: Sustainability of project results enhanced through participatory monitoring and evaluation

<u>Overview of project strategy</u>:

The OP7 project will mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources; promote sustainable land management through the strengthening of viable agro-forestry and sustainable agriculture practices and systems, which will improve soil and water conservation, and improve the management of urban wetland biodiversity and enhance ecosystem services in the Colombo cityscape. Through the conservation of biodiversity and the strengthening of agro-ecosystem services and sustainable land management to maintain and strengthen food production and livelihood development, the project will produce co-benefits in increased carbon storage and greater adaptability to climate

change. In turn, all of these efforts will enhance the food and nutrition security of communities in the selected landscapes.

The key approaches adopted from the GEF SGP Global Programme are: (i) **empowering local communities**: The SGP will increasingly strengthen social inclusion by effectively reaching out to local communities with a focus on women, youth and persons with disabilities in the three landscapes, in particular Mannar; (ii) **supporting community innovation on emerging issues:** SGP Sri Lanka seeks to maximize local knowledge and capacity by providing greater flexibility and enhancing project adaptability and in the urban wetlands the concept of ?wise use? is introduced and practiced. A demand-driven approach, combined with flexibility, accessibility and risk taking constitute the foundation for SGP Sri Lanka as an incubator of innovation; (iii) **promoting partnerships and broader adoption - scaling up and replication of results:** SGP Sri Lanka provides a network of local ideas and approaches that contribute to and influence policies and strategies at all levels through CSO-Government-private sector dialogue and SGP?s global knowledge platform.

The strategic projects in the selected landscapes will involve the private sector and ensure an even broader base of participation in the project.

Component 1. Community projects will be supported according to the relevant GEF focal areas, including biodiversity (BD) and land degradation (LD). The landscape strategies and multi-stakeholder platforms updated under Component 2 will provide guidance to the selection and prioritization of actions to be addressed by the community-level projects. The project?s landscape approach provides an ecological and socio-economic framework for participatory biodiversity conservation and restoration initiatives, sustainable agroecological practices, and restoration of degraded land and forest ecosystems. Capacity building is an important aspect covered in Component 1. Training will be delivered for CBOs technical skills, as well as on financial management and business development, with a particular emphasis placed on developing capacities of women micro-entrepreneurs.

Component 2 focuses on facilitating participatory, multi-stakeholder governance across the target landscapes. Participatory landscape strategies will be developed based upon the results obtained through participatory socio-ecological resilience baseline assessments. The strategies will include landscape-level priorities, complementary initiatives and co-financing opportunities, and also highlight social inclusiveness, including promotion of gender equality and women?s empowerment. Through the multi-stakeholder governance platforms, successful interventions and approaches will be mainstreamed through linking up with local and national initiatives, as well as complementing COVID-19 recovery efforts.

The durability of the project results will be further enhanced by facilitating new and strengthened partnerships with governmental departments and agencies, civil society, private sector, donor, and academic-research institutes. The OP7 project will build upon the knowledge management approaches that are a hallmark of the SGP, not only in Sri Lanka but globally, recording best practices and lessons learned and sharing with the multiple stakeholder groups.

Under **Component 3**, participatory monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will be implemented to ensure the envisaged project results are achieved and social and environmental safeguards are in place. And

the M&E inputs from the individual grant projects will be consolidated, interpreted, and reported towards achievement of the end targets specified in the project results framework.

Strategic projects facilitating durable impacts:

Resources have been allocated in the OP7 budget for strategic grants, to help facilitate durable impacts. The strategic grants are envisaged to be awarded prior to small grants to experienced NGOs for delivering technical and strategic support, guiding local stakeholders in the implementation of landscape approaches and delivering advocacy for policy reform and upscaling.

The SGP Country Programme in OP7 will support communities in the landscapes ? using Strategic Project resources - to adopt new production practices, plan and manage their production with a business approach and slowly acquire a critical mass of producers that can achieve access to and weight in the market. Terms of reference will be developed during project implementation for the strategic grants in consultation with the SGP National Steering Committee (NSC), Country Programme Management Unit (CPMU), the UCP Global Coordinator, and the UNDP Country Office (CO), and then awarded through competitive procurement and agreed by the NSC.

Theory of Change:

The proposed GEF alternative to overcoming the barriers hindering achievement of genuine sustainable development in the project landscapes is predicated on a participatory and integrated landscape management approach, as outlined in the project theory of change (see *Figure 5* of the *Project Document* below). As shown in this diagram, the theory of change for the project is broken down into the following three causal pathways.

Causal Pathway 1: Enhancing landscape resilience

Implementation of participatory models of conservation and restoration of ecosystems assumes that stakeholders are open to building the requisite governance conditions. Over the longer term, ecosystem functions and services will be ensured through participatory models, including sustainable use of natural resources within production landscapes, with co-benefits generated for local communities. The effectiveness of these models will depend on enabling policies and incentives that are assumed will adapt to changing circumstances over time. The theory of change is also driven by mainstreaming agroecological practices and other biodiversity-focused approaches into production sectors. Furthermore, there need to be clear linkages between conservation goals and social outcomes, e.g., diversification of livelihoods through sustainable use of natural resources, genuine participatory conservation and restoration arrangements that involve local communities into decision-making ? including women and other marginalised groups, and the protection and respect of traditional knowledge.

Causal Pathway 2: Mainstreaming the landscape approach

One of the key assumptions outlined in the project theory of change for advancing from project level outcomes to longer-term outcomes and ultimately to durable impacts is that the landscape approach is

mainstreamed, e.g., through integrating the landscape strategies and priority action plans into local development planning and budgetary frameworks. Sustaining the multi-stakeholder landscape governance platforms is also important in ensuring the landscape strategies are maintained. The project will endeavour to strengthen existing governance platforms, and advocating for broader representation, including women and other marginalized groups. The role of ?change agents? in facilitating the requisite stakeholder engagement is critical. Such change agents could be local government officials, members of local NGOs or CBOs, or other individuals or groups. Identifying and strengthening the capacity of change agents will be a part of the landscape approach in each of the project landscapes.

Further development of enabling partnerships is an important impact driver, supporting upscaling across the project landscapes. Durable partnerships will help ensure alternative livelihood models are sustained, and unsustainable approaches, such as poor agricultural practices and inefficient use of water resources, will be reduced.

Causal Pathway 3: Enabling adaptive management

Achieving durable changes in attitudes and practices depends on ensuring CBOs attain and keep abreast of knowledge and best practices and models. One of the enduring strengths of the SGP is the transfer of knowledge to and between local communities, including women and marginalized groups. The project will implement an inclusive knowledge management strategy that is also linked with the UCP and SGP knowledge management priorities, facilitating collaborative interactions across local, national, regional, and global levels. The receptiveness of stakeholders to knowledge inputs is an important impact driver in this regard, and it is assumed that human resources and institutional frameworks remain stable. Another important assumption that is imperative to ensure is that the causal linkage on this pathway is achieved in a macro-policy context that remains stable, i.e., committed to sustainably managing the globally significant biodiversity and important natural resources in Sri Lanka. The coordination, collaboration, and knowledge management strengthened on the project will foster systemic change and replication, thus maximising the effectiveness, durability, and scale of socio-ecological resilience.

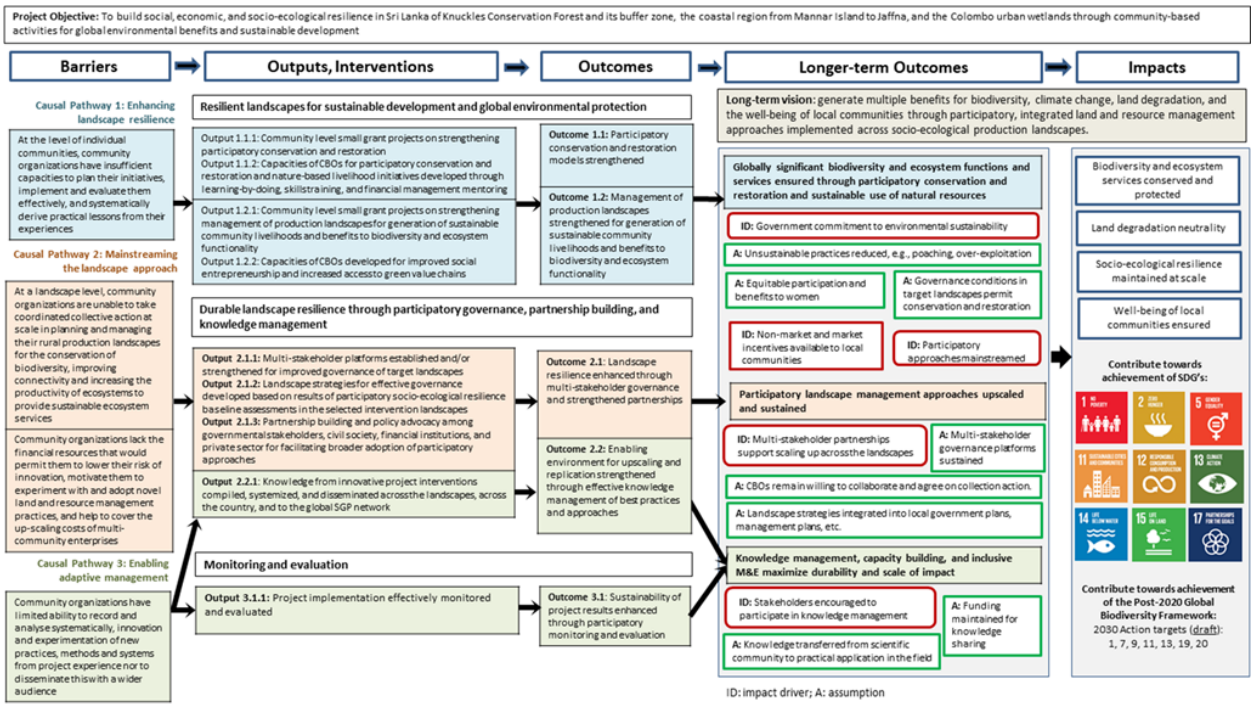

Figure 5 of the Project Document: Theory of Change

Changes in Alignment with the Project Design with the Original PIF

The following adjustments were made to some of the indicative outputs and outcomes outlined in the PIF.

Original PIF	Change at CEO Endorsement
Component 1: Resilient landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection	No change
Outcome 1.1 Ecosystem services within targeted landscapes ? Knuckles Conservation Forest and its buffer zone; the coastal region from Mannar Island to Jaffna and the Urban Wetlands of Colombo ? are enhanced through multi-functional land-use systems **Output 1.1.1** Community level small grant projects in the selected landscapes that reduce the loss of biodiversity; support innovation in biodiversity conservation; and optimize ecosystem services **Outcome 1.2.** The sustainability of production systems in the target landscapes is strengthened through integrated agro-ecological practices that strengthen ecosystem function and socio-ecological landscape resiliency **Output 1.2.1**. Community small grant projects enhance the sustainability and resilience of production systems, including soil and water conservation and agro-ecology practices **Outcome 1.3.** Livelihoods of communities in the target landscapes are improved and consolidated by developing sustainable, small-scale community enterprises to offset forest, wetland and coastal resource exploitation through access to fair trade and new markets, and business model innovation **Output 1.3.1.** Community level small grant projects that develop community enterprises through access to fair trade, and new markets, certification, increase effective distribution of community products, improve marketing strategies, business model innovation, new technologies and improved quality of community products	**Outcome 1.1**: Participatory conservation and restoration strengthened **Output 1.1.1**: Community level small grant projects on strengthening participatory conservation and restoration **Output 1.1.2:** Capacities of CBOs for participatory conservation and restoration and nature-based livelihood initiatives developed through learning-by-doing, skills training, and financial management mentoring **Outcome 1.2**: Management of production landscapes strengthened for generation of sustainable community livelihoods and benefits to biodiversity and ecosystem functionality **Output 1.2.1**: Community level small grant projects on strengthening management of production landscapes for generation of sustainable community livelihoods and benefits to biodiversity and ecosystem functionality **Output 1.2.2**: Capacities of CBOs developed for improved social entrepreneurship and increased access to green value chains

Original PIF	Change at CEO Endorsement
Outcomes 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 in the PIF were consolidated into the two outcomes 1.1 and 1.2 in the CEO ER. With respect to Output 1.1.1, the types of community projects will focus on reducing loss of biodiversity, supporting innovation in conservation, and protection of ecosystem services. Consistent with Barrier No. 1 described in the problem analysis, an integral focus of the SGP grants is on building and strengthening capacities of local CBOs in participatory conservation and restoration in order to deliver the envisaged global environmental benefits.	
Component 2. Landscape governance and adaptive management for upscaling and replication	**Component 2: Durable landscape resilience through participatory governance, partnership building, and knowledge management**
The phrasing of Component 2 was revised to emphasize the aim to enhance sustainability through participatory governance and upscaling of best practices.	
Outcome 2.1. Multi-stakeholder governance platforms strengthened/in place for improved governance of selected landscapes to enhance socio-ecological resilience/ for effective participatory decision-making to achieve landscape resiliency **Output 2.1.1.** A multi-stakeholder governance platform strengthened in each target landscape of Knuckles Conservation Forest and its buffer zone; the coastal region from Mannar Island to Jaffna and the Urban Wetlands of Colombo develop and execute multi-stakeholder landscape agreements, adaptive landscape management plans and policies **Output 2.1.2.** Typology of community level projects developed and agreed by multi-stakeholder groups in each landscape together with eligibility criteria **Outcome 1.4.** Strategic projects to develop social entrepreneurship, including value-chain strategies at landscape level or up-scaling of successful lines of work developed during previous operational phases **Output 1.4.1.** A sustainability plan developed in each landscape highlighting the processes, obstacles to and opportunities for upscaling successful community initiatives into viable value chains	**Outcome 2.1:** Landscape resilience enhanced through multi-stakeholder governance and strengthened partnerships **Output 2.1.1**: Multi-stakeholder platforms strengthened for improved governance of target landscapes **Output 2.1.2**: Landscape strategies for effective governance updated based on results of participatory socio-ecological resilience baseline assessments of project landscapes **Output 2.1.3**: Partnership building and policy advocacy among governmental stakeholders, civil society, financial institutions, and private sector for facilitating broader adoption of participatory approaches

Original PIF	Change at CEO Endorsement
The phrasing of Outcome 2.2 and the outputs under this outcome was rephrased. Also, Outcome 1.4 from the PIF (strategic projects) was merged into Outcome 2.1 in the CEO ER, capturing partnership building for durable landscape resilience. Outcome 2.1 focuses on enhancing landscape resilience through multi-stakeholder governance and strengthened partnerships. The strategic projects will directly contribute towards achievement of this outcome, e.g., through facilitating upscaling by linking CBOs with enabling private sector partners or larger NGOs, or through advocating for policy reform through coordinating with governmental entities. Under this context, the strategic grants are more appropriately positioned under Outcome 2.1. ***Output 2.1.2 described in the PIF is included into Output 2.1.2 in the CEO ER. The typology of community level projects are included in the landscape strategies. The landscape strategies will be updated under OP7 through close interaction with the multi-stakeholder landscape platforms. The actual funded grants depend upon the quality of the proposals that local CBOs develop in line with the landscape strategies.*** ***The updated landscape strategies, under Output 2.1.2, are important outputs of the project, contributing towards achievement of enhanced resilience of the project landscapes (Outcome 2.1). Policy advocacy, as well as partnership building, is one of the potential aims of the strategic projects, depending upon the priorities identified in the updated landscape strategies and deliberations among the multi-stakeholder landscape platforms.***	
Outcome 2.2: Knowledge from community level engagement and innovative conservation practices are systematically assessed and shared for replication and upscaling across the three landscapes, across the country and to the global SGP network Output 2.2.1. Knowledge generation through project monitoring and evaluation, with lessons compiled, codified, and disseminated to multiple audiences Output 2.2.2. Detailed analysis of successful grant project portfolios in each landscape, lessons learned/best practices and market opportunities documented to provide policy inputs at regional and national level	**Outcome 2.2:** Enabling environment for upscaling and replication strengthened through effective knowledge management of best practices and approaches **Output 2.2.1:** Knowledge from innovative project interventions compiled, systemized, and disseminated across the landscapes, across the country, and to the global SGP network
Indicative Outputs 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 described in the PIF were consolidated into Output 2.2.1 in the CEO ER, aimed at strengthening the enabling environment for upscaling through capacity building and knowledge management. Phrasing of the outcome was revised to better reflect the intended result.	
	Component 3: Monitoring and evaluation **Outcome 3.1:** Sustainability of project results enhanced through participatory monitoring and evaluation **Output 3.1.1**: Project implementation effectively monitored and evaluated

Original PIF	Change at CEO Endorsement
A separate component (3) was established on monitoring and evaluation. Consistent with the GEF budget template, having a separate component on M&E enables separation of M&E costs. Moreover, the over-arching function of M&E on the project is better represented through having a dedicated component on M&E.	

Component 1: Resilient landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection

Under this component, landscape resilience will be strengthened through community-level small grant interventions aimed at achieving the mutually beneficial outcomes of sustainable socioeconomic development and conservation and protection of the ecosystem services that many local communities rely upon. The small grant projects will cover the GEF focal areas of biodiversity and land degradation.

Outcome 1.1: Participatory conservation and restoration strengthened

The target landscapes each contain rich terrestrial habitats harbouring globally significant biodiversity, while many of the local communities in these areas are dependent upon natural resources for sustaining their livelihoods and well-being. They are increasingly vulnerable to threats to these natural resources from unsustainable exploitation and the impacts of climate change. Through the landscape approach and in collaboration with the governance structures and strategic planning completed under Component 2, this outcome aims to strengthen participatory models of conservation, restoration, and sustainable use. In line with the COVID-19 green recovery efforts, the project is in a good position to promote sustainable natural resource management, including limiting encroachment into forest ecosystems, thereby safeguarding critical habitats and reducing human-wildlife interactions.

Output 1.1.1: Community level small grant projects on strengthening participatory conservation and restoration

Under this output, community projects will be implemented on participatory conservation, restoration-rehabilitation and managed regeneration of degraded terrestrial ecosystems, ecotourism and other conservation and land degradation interventions. The actual interventions will be developed by local CBOs, based on the socio-ecological resilience baseline assessments of the target landscapes and in line with the priorities outlined in the landscape strategies.

Indicative activities under Output 1.1.1 include:

1.1.1.1.	In accordance with the priority actions identified in the landscape strategies produced under Component 2, provide assistance, e.g., through preparation grants, to CBOs for developing concepts and proposals for community projects on participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood interventions, with a particular emphasis on engaging women?s groups and including youth and other marginalized groups.
1.1.1.2.	Engage government, private sector, donor agencies, NGOs, and other partners to provide technical assistance and co-financing for community interventions.

1.1.1.3.	Award and implement community level conservation, restoration, management of human-wildlife conflicts, ecotourism, and sustainable livelihood projects, with an emphasis on ones run by women and other marginalised groups.
1.1.1.4.	Assist the CBO grantees in monitoring and evaluating the results of the participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood interventions.

Output 1.1.2: Capacities of CBOs for participatory conservation and restoration and nature-based livelihood initiatives developed through learning-by-doing, skills training, and financial management mentoring

Under this output, project resources will support capacity building of CBOs in participatory conservation, restoration, and nature-based livelihood initiatives. In collaboration with the strategic projects planned under Output 2.1.3, local CBOs will be connected with experienced NGOs, protected area management agencies, and other strategic partners for learning-by-doing capacity building on participatory conservation and restoration interventions. Skills training will also be facilitated through linkages with extension services, academic and research institutes, NGOs, and other enabling stakeholders.

Indicative activities under Output 1.1.2 include:

1.1.2.1.	Facilitate learning-by-doing capacity building to local CBOs through linking up with experienced NGOs, protected area management entities, and other strategic partners, on participatory conservation and restoration techniques, and advocate for women and youth champions in biodiversity conservation.
1.1.2.2.	Deliver capacity building on good agroecological practices and systems to CBOs, in partnership with local extension services, government departments, academic-research institutions and the private sector.
1.1.2.3.	Provide capacity building to CBOs (specifically women?s groups) on nature-based livelihoods, e.g., ecotourism.
1.1.2.4.	Deliver capacity building on documenting traditional biodiversity knowledge among local communities.

Outcome 1.2: Management of production landscapes strengthened for generation of sustainable community livelihoods and benefits to biodiversity and ecosystem functionality

Agroecological practices and systems contribute to the transition of food and agricultural systems to environmental sustainability, economical fairness, viability and social equity. Adoption of agroecological practices and systems by farmers, fishers and other users of terrestrial, coastal and marine resources will contribute directly to a number of development objectives, including ensuring secure and safe food supplies, achieving gender equality, increasing water-use efficiency, ensuring sustainable consumption and production, building climate resilience and halting the loss of biodiversity.

Output 1.2.1: Community-level small grant projects on strengthening management of production landscapes for generation of sustainable community livelihoods and benefits to biodiversity and ecosystem functionality

Under this output, community projects are planned that promote transformation to agroecological practices and systems, in coastal and inland landscapes. The types of interventions envisaged include on-farm improvements, such as improved soil conservation, non-chemical pest control, water conservation, sustainable production of fodder for livestock. The project interventions under this output will contribute towards the COVID-19 recovery efforts, e.g., building capacity of farm and non-farm social associations to enable aggregation of produce and linkages to market opportunities.

There is increasing market demand for indigenous varieties of crops, based on nutritional benefits, as well as food safety concerns. However, shortcomings among CBOs in financial management, quality control and marketing capabilities are hindering the viability of many community level initiatives. The project will promote community small grant projects that build capacity of CBOs for insertion into green value chains, e.g., strengthening quality control, marketing, financial management skills, etc. Apart from generating livelihood benefits, supporting sustainable use of indigenous varieties and promoting traditional knowledge will help also strengthen the coping capacities of local communities to the impacts of climate change and socioeconomic disruptions, e.g., as experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Traditional knowledge will be promoted in the project landscapes, as part of efforts aimed at broader uptake of agroecological practices. Traditional knowledge will be described in the landscape baseline assessments, as well as the landscape strategies.

Indicative activities under Output 1.2.1 include:

1.2.1.1.	In accordance with the priority actions identified in the landscape strategies produced under Component 2, provide assistance, e.g., through preparation grants, to CBOs for developing concepts and proposals for community projects on strengthening management of production landscapes, with a particular emphasis on engaging women?s groups and including youth and other marginalized groups.
1.2.1.2.	Engage government, private sector, donor agencies, NGOs, and other partners to provide technical assistance and co-financing for community interventions.
1.2.1.3.	Implement community projects applying agroecological practices and systems, promoting increased access to green supply chains, fair trade partnerships, new markets, including those led and implemented by women?s groups.
1.2.1.4.	Promote projects targeting women and other marginalized groups for sustainable income-generating interventions
1.2.1.5.	Support the CBO grantees in monitoring and evaluating the results of the community interventions.

Output 1.2.2: Capacities of CBOs developed for improved social entrepreneurship and increased access to green value chains

Under this output, training will be delivered to CBOs on financial management and business development. The project will build upon the market assessments conducted during OP6. Feasibility and partnership arrangements will also be considered in the individual grant proposals. Building capacities of women micro-entrepreneurs and training on accessing digital financial services will also contribute towards the COVID-19 recovery efforts in lesser developed communities. Partners involved in grant funding and microlending will be invited to participate in the training sessions, describing opportunities and terms and conditions for accessing available schemes.

Synergies with complementary government programs, private sector initiatives and other schemes will be facilitated by delivering training to CBOs to increase their understanding and awareness of such programs. Moreover, leading research technical institutes and civil society partners will be engaged to provide technical guidance and capacity building to CBO partners.

Indicative activities under Output 1.2.2 include:

1.2.2.1.	Provide capacity building to CBOs (including women and other marginalised groups) on quality control, marketing, eco-labelling, promoting linkages for agricultural products, etc.
1.2.2.2.	Build understanding of CBOs (including women and other marginalised groups) to enable their participation in government programmes and schemes, as well as other initiatives sponsored by private sector or other stakeholders.
1.2.2.3.	Provide training to CBOs on financial management and access to microcredit opportunities, specifically targeting women and other marginalised groups.
1.2.2.4.	Engage with research and academic institutes, delivering skills training to CBOs on innovative approaches and techniques.

Component 2: Durable landscape resilience through participatory governance, partnership building, and knowledge management

Component 2 focuses on facilitating participatory, multi-stakeholder governance across the target landscapes. This process includes strengthening multi-stakeholder landscape governance platforms, carrying out updated participatory baseline assessments, and developing updated landscape strategies that outline priority issues and actions on which to focus.

Project resources are also earmarked for potential ?strategic projects?, in line with SGP?s operational guidelines. Strategic projects aim to bring broader adoption of specific successful SGP-supported technologies, practices or systems through engagement of potential policy makers, donor agencies, experienced NGOs, financial partners, private sector enterprises and associations, and academic-research institutes, to develop social enterprise among communities.

Knowledge and lessons learned will be documented for evaluation, systematized and codified for dissemination at the landscape level; at the national level through the National Steering Committee,

strategic partnerships and their networks, and national knowledge fairs where appropriate; and globally through the SGP global network of SGP Country Programmes and UNDP?s knowledge management system.

Outcome 2.1: Landscape resilience enhanced through multi-stakeholder governance and strengthened partnerships

The landscape approach requires engagement by multiple stakeholders, having cross-sectoral representation and from government, civil society, private sector, and academia. Multi-stakeholder collaboration will help leverage resources and facilitate impact at scale, strengthen mainstreaming of participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood initiatives into local planning frameworks.

Development of landscape strategies will be participatory and multi-stakeholder to ensure the widest possible buy-in, support and commitment to the strategic outcomes. Multi-stakeholder landscape governance platforms will serve to establish ties between communities in the landscape, socialize information and learn about global environmental values and their relationship to socio-ecological resilience, and agree on actions or outputs to achieve the desirable future outcomes.

Output 2.1.1: Multi-stakeholder platforms strengthened for improved governance of target landscapes

An integral aspect of the project?s landscape approach is strengthening the multi-stakeholder landscape governance platforms, providing local communities enhanced opportunities to participate in development planning. Building upon the analyses carried out during the PPG phase on existing and potential governance mechanisms (see the following annexes to the *Project Document*: *Baseline Report on Biodiversity* in **Annex 12**, *Baseline Report on Land Degradation* in **Annex 13**, and *Socioeconomic Context of Project Landscapes* in **Annex 14**), the project will facilitate multi-stakeholder platforms in the project landscapes, with representation by local civil society organisations, national and local government departments, private sector enterprises and/or associations, women?s groups, and others.

Building capacity of the landscape governance mechanisms will also contribute towards COVID-19 recovery efforts, e.g., providing practical platforms for increasing awareness and outreach, particularly for lesser developed communities that are vulnerable to the health and safety and economic impacts of the pandemic and similar social disruptions.

Indicative activities under Output 2.1.1 include:

2.1.1.1.	Engage with key stakeholders in the project landscapes, identifying key gaps to address for strengthening the multi-stakeholder landscape governance platforms and prepare updated terms of reference for the platforms, promoting equitable representation and participation by women and other marginalized groups.

2.1.1.2.	Convene regular meetings of the multi-stakeholder landscape governance platforms, discussing landscape strategies, linking with complementary initiatives, facilitating capacity building, organising awareness campaigns strategic,include women champions/advocates in convening strategic planning workshops, etc.
2.1.1.3.	Sensitise and build capacity of stakeholders on gender mainstreaming and inclusion of other marginalised groups.
2.1.1.4.	Advocate and assist local government units in mainstreaming the multi-stakeholder platforms into local governance structures.

Output 2.1.2: Landscape strategies for effective governance updated based on results of participatory socio-ecological resilience baseline assessments of the project landscapes

Building upon the information gathered during the project preparation phase for OP7 and the initial assessments made under OP6, updated socio-ecological resilience baseline assessments will be carried out for the three project landscapes. The assessments will include participatory stakeholder mapping, discussions of socio-ecological resilience, scoring of resilience, deliberation of key issues in the landscapes and discussions of potential actions. A wide range of local stakeholders, including local communities, local government officials and community leaders will be invited to participate in the assessments. The types of information to gather during the baseline assessment consultations include:

? Community priorities, key environmental threats, socioeconomic conditions.

? Existing and planned projects and programmes in the target landscapes, and opportunities for collaboration.

? Capacities of the CBOs and other stakeholders.

? Potential local champions who could represent the interests of the communities and help facilitate the project interventions.

The results of the updated baseline assessments will be used to develop updated landscape strategies, based on the socio-economic recovery post COVID-19, while maintaining the aim of enhancing the socio-ecological resilience of the project landscapes based on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, energy, and ecosystem services. The terms of reference for the call for proposals for small grants under Component 1 will be updated according to the priority actions agreed upon in the landscape strategies. To ensure sustainability of the landscape approach initiated under the OP7 project, the multi-stakeholder landscape governance platforms will provide an interface for mainstreaming the landscape strategies into local development plans and advocacy initiatives.

Updating the landscape strategies will be carried out through participatory processes, to ensure the widest possible buy-in, support and commitment to the strategic outcomes. The process of developing the strategies will also serve to establish ties between communities in the landscape, socialize information and learn about global environmental values and their relationship to socio-ecological resilience, and agree on actions or outputs to achieve the desirable future outcomes.

Indicative activities under Output 2.1.2 include:

2.1.2.1.	Deliver training to the selected NGOs on the socio-ecological resilience assessment process.
2.1.2.2.	Carry out updated participatory baseline assessments of socio-ecological resilience for each of the target landscapes, ensuring equitable participation of women and other marginalized groups.
2.1.2.3.	Prepare updated baseline assessment reports for the target landscapes, including updated information on priority areas for biodiversity conservation, rehabilitation of degraded land, opportunities for introducing or enhancing alternative livelihoods for local people, and incorporating gender-responsive processes.
2.1.2.4.	Prepare updated landscape strategies for the target landscapes using the results of the baseline assessments and follow-up consultations with local stakeholders (government officials, NGOs/CBOs, women groups, and private sector), and including a gender mainstreaming and social inclusion action plan for ensuring representation and participation of women and other marginalised groups.
2.1.2.5.	Present the landscape strategies and action plans to the multi-stakeholder platforms and the SGP National Steering Committee for endorsement.
2.1.2.6.	Identify and train local champions in the target landscapes, with emphasis on inclusion of women and youth, for helping to facilitate the implementation of the landscape strategies.
2.1.2.7.	Prepare and disseminate information on the landscape strategies to stakeholders within the target landscapes, through print media, social media and local media outlets, taking into consideration interests and culturally appropriate communication approaches for women and other marginalised groups.
2.1.2.8.	Engage with local government officials and other key landscape partners, advocating for mainstreaming the priority actions of the landscape strategies into local development planning and budgeting frameworks.

Output 2.1.3: Partnership building and policy advocacy among governmental stakeholders, civil society, financial institutions, and private sector for facilitating broader adoption of participatory approaches

The durability and upscaling potential of the interventions implemented by the project will largely depend on enabling partnerships and successful advocacy for strengthening policy and incentive frameworks for sustaining and expanding participatory approaches. Under this output, resources are allocated to strategic projects aimed at building and strengthening partnerships and leading advocacy initiatives with local, state, and national, regional, and international level stakeholders. A business development consultant will support the trainings and also help facilitate linkages with enabling partners from local and national governmental agencies, civil society, and private sector.

Building upon foundational activities initiated under OP6, there are strategic opportunities in the sustainable agricultural sector. SGP has been working with the Department of Agriculture to assist community producers to obtain organic certification for pepper. In addition, there is huge potential to adopt Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for commercial vegetable cultivation. There is an ongoing project called ?Establishment of a mechanism to ensure quality and safety of agricultural commodities

to local and export markets through GAP? that is being implemented through Division of Agribusiness Counselling (DoAgbiz) of the Training and Extension Department of the Department of Agriculture. Officers of DoAgbiz instruct, inspect, and monitor the whole value chain from the field ? soil and seed ? up to the retail markets to assure the quality of products. DoAgbiz assisted the Department of Agriculture to develop Sri Lanka Good Agricultural Practices SL-GAP standard which have been published as the ?Sri Lanka Standard 1523 part 1:2016, UDC 631.57:634?. There is a growing market for GAP products, and the Department of Agriculture is expanding its GAP programme. At present, GAP production is insufficient to meet the demand.

Some products are unique to a particular landscape and/or community; SGP supports access to market for these products with community branding. The GAP programme has already been introduced to several communities, and the programme can be expanded in OP7 with greater potential to energize and expand value chains and their ecological and economic benefits. The importance of GAP practices is that sustainable practices are used that do not degrade the elements (soil, water, biota) of ecosystems that contribute to their effective functioning and the delivery of ecosystem services. Producers are supported to manage or eliminate pesticides to reduce decline in pollinator populations or, from improper disposal, damage to amphibian or other populations. This valuable information will feed into the strategic projects for developing social entrepreneurship, including value-chain strategies at landscape level for upscaling of successful lines of work developed during previous operational phases. These strategic projects will work at landscape level to assist community organizations or second level organizations of producers to identify and design initiatives that will upscale initiatives proven successful at individual community level. The strategic projects whilst being a catalyst to introduce social entrepreneurship to the three landscape, will also be instrumental in helping the small-scale grant projects in the landscapes to be more sustainable by introducing social entrepreneurship models of sustainability.

Indicative activities under Output 2.1.3 include:

2.1.3.1.	Through support from strategic partners, facilitate CBOs/NGOs in identify and foster potential partnerships to upscale successful interventions, considering various models and learning from earlier SGP interventions.
2.1.3.2.	Develop community enterprises in the selected landscapes by linking community level small grant projects and enabling their collective access to fair trade and/or new markets, increasing effective distribution of community products, improving marketing strategies (business model innovation and new technologies) and improving quality of community products and attain Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) or GAP certification, wherever possible.
2.1.3.3.	Based on evaluations portfolio results and lessons, prepare policy briefs to advance the enabling environment for incentivising participatory approaches.
2.1.3.4.	Advocate for policy reform through liaising with key stakeholders and convening stakeholder workshops, inviting local and national government officials, financial institutions, donor agencies, civil society, private sector, and research-academic institutes.

Outcome 2.2: Enabling environment for upscaling and replication strengthened through effective knowledge management of best practices and approaches

Recording and disseminating the knowledge gained through the implementation of the community small grants is an important aspect of the SGP, as the GEF funding is primarily intended to catalyse investments for upscaling and replication.

Output 2.2.1: Knowledge from innovative project interventions compiled, systemized, and disseminated across the landscapes, across the country, and to the global SGP network

Under this output, CBOs will be trained on collecting, recording and documenting knowledge and experiences from community development initiatives. Resources are allocated for development of case studies and other knowledge products and disseminating them among relevant stakeholders groups, using print media, social media, radio, or other communication approaches. At least one of the knowledge products is envisaged to highlight women?s role in ensuring socio-ecological resilience.

Indicative activities under Output 2.2.1 include:

2.2.1.1.	Update the Knowledge Management Strategy and Communications Strategy for the SGP in Sri Lanka.
2.2.1.2.	Train CBOs (including women and other marginalised groups) on collecting and documenting information gained through implementation of community projects.
2.2.1.3.	Distil information from the individual case studies produced by the grantees in Component 1 into consolidated knowledge products, highlighting best practices on adaptive management for landscape resilience, capturing learning from other complementary initiatives, and including at least one case study highlighting the role of women.
2.2.1.4.	Disseminate the case studies and other knowledge products among relevant stakeholder groups through appropriate communication techniques, including print media, social media and other local media outlets, and stakeholder gatherings, and exchanging good practice and lessons regarding gender-responsive community projects, partnership building, etc.
2.2.1.5.	Participate in one SGP-UCP global workshop for sharing experiences and best practices, learning approaches implemented in other countries that could be replicated in Sri Lanka and fostering international and regional partnerships.

Component 3: Monitoring and Evaluation

The activities under this output are designed to put in place enabling procedures and protocols to facilitate effective monitoring & evaluation (M&E), as outlined in *Section VI: Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan* of the Project Document.

Outcome 3.1: Sustainability of project results enhanced through participatory monitoring and evaluation

Outcome 3.1 focuses on delivering participatory and timely M&E feedback, consolidating inputs from the individual grantees and evaluating progress towards achievement of the overall project objective. The findings of the M&E activities will inform adaptive management measures, aimed at ensuring the durability of project results.

Output 3.1.1: Project implementation and results effectively monitored and evaluated

The project inception workshop is a critical M&E milestone on the implementation timeline, providing an opportunity to validate the project document, confirming governance implementation arrangements, including agreements with responsible parties; assessing changes in relevant circumstances and making adjustments to the project results framework accordingly; verifying stakeholder roles and responsibilities; updating the project risk assessment and agreeing to mitigation measures and responsibilities; and agreeing to the multi-year work plan. An inception workshop report will be prepared and disseminated among the NSC members.

The SGP National Steering Committee (NSC) will be the main platform for high-level and strategic decisions (see **Section VIII: Governance and Management Arrangements**).

The Country Management Unit (CMPU) will oversee monitoring achievement of the performance metrics included in the project results framework, with direct input from the CBO grantees from M&E feedback from the individual projects. In addition, carrying out M&E of the implementation of the project safeguard plans, specifically the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Gender Action Plan, is included among the activities under this output.

According to GEF requirements for medium-sized projects, an independent terminal evaluation will be carried out of the project. At least one month before terminal evaluation (TE), the project will contract a local institute, local consultant or other service provider to carry out assessments of the GEF core indicators and other results requiring verification/analysis.

This output also includes preparation and implementation of a sustainability plan for the project, providing guidance on ensuring the durability of the multi-stakeholder platforms, e.g., through advocating for ?champions? in the project landscapes, facilitating mainstreaming of the landscape strategies into local planning and budgetary frameworks, and promoting continued collective action among CBOs through participation on the multi-stakeholder platforms and networking with other enabling partners.

Indicative activities under Output 3.1.1 include:

3.1.1.1.	Organise the project inception workshop, including review of multi-year work plan, project results framework, gender analysis and Gender Action Plan, stakeholder engagement plan, social and environmental screening procedure, etc., and prepare an inception report to provide guidance for initiating the implementation of the project.
3.1.1.2.	Organise NSC meetings, providing strategic guidance to the country programme management unit and approving project grants.
3.1.1.3.	Monitor and evaluate the project progress, risks and results, facilitating adaptive management, and prepare annual PIR reports and other project progress reports.
3.1.1.4.	Monitor the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
3.1.1.5.	Monitor the implementation of the Gender Action Plan, review annually and regularly update the SESP, with the support of a Gender-Safeguards Consultant.
3.1.1.6.	Assess end-of-project achievement of GEF core indicator targets and other project results.

3.1.1.7.	Procure and support an independent terminal evaluation of the project, according to UNDP and GEF guidelines.
3.1.1.8.	Prepare and initiate the implementation of a project sustainability plan.

*4) Alignment with GEF focal **area** and/or impact program strategies*

The project is aligned with the following GEF-7 focal area objectives:

? **BD-1-1**: Mainstream biodiversity across sectors, as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors

? **LD-1-1**: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management (SLM).

? **LD-1-2**: Maintain or improve flow of ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest-dependent people through Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

? **LD-1-3**: Maintain or improve flows of ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest-dependent people through Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR)

? **LD-1-4**: Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape.

The SGP UCP aims to address challenges to biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation through strengthened community and multi-stakeholder organizations that lead to enhanced landscape governance for resilience and global environmental benefits. The Sri Lanka SGP UCP in GEF-7 is aligned with the Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy as it engages communities in landscape strategies that mainstream biodiversity across sectors and landscapes, while also addressing the protection of habitats and species. The strategies involve activities such as technical capacity building in key sectors such as agriculture and eco/agrotourism to incentivize and reduce the risk to stakeholders of changing current practices that affect biodiversity, as well as their livelihoods, at species, habitat and landscape level. The aim of multi-stakeholder platforms at landscape level is to halt the loss, fragmentation, and degradation of significant natural habitats and improve and sustain the conservation of known threatened species, including through monitoring, spatial landscape planning, incentives, restoration, and strategic establishment of protected areas and other measures.

The SGP UCP will promote sustainable land management through the practice of agroecology, strengthening viable agro-forestry and resilience-enhancing agricultural practices and systems, and ensuring soil and water conservation in all three landscapes. The SGP UCP is aligned with the GEF-7 Land Degradation Focal Area strategy and LDN concept and will support community organizations to implement voluntary LDN targets in the three selected landscapes. As such, the UCP will support community stakeholders to contribute to Sri Lanka?s official LDN targets:

? Halt the conversion of forests and wetlands to other land cover classes.

? Restore and improve degraded forest (80% in the dry zone and 20% in the wet zone).

? Increase forest cover from 29% to 32%.

? Reduce rate of soil degradation to improve land productivity and Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) stocks.

Specific LDN measures to be promoted by the landscape strategies and likely to be adopted by community organizations include:

? Reducing soil erosion of lands cultivated with annual and plantation crops.

? Restoring degraded forests.

? Establishing new forest plantations.

? Halting the cultivation of annual crops on steep lands and facilitating the conversion of such lands to perennial crops.

? Encouraging the adoption of sustainable land management practices through incentives.

As a result of activities to conserve biodiversity and manage land sustainably, the project will produce co-benefits in climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as enhance the food and nutrition security of communities in the selected landscapes.

5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF and co-financing

GEF incremental funding and co-financing will be applied to overcome the barriers mentioned above and to add value, where appropriate and possible, to existing government sectoral initiatives in the three specific landscapes in rural and urban communities of Sri Lanka. It will contribute to the long-term solution of adaptive management in these landscapes for social, economic and ecological resilience and human well-being. GEF funding will provide small grants to NGOs and Community-based Organizations to develop three landscape management strategies and implement community projects in pursuit of strategic landscape level outcomes promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management. Funding will also be available for initiatives that build the organizational capacities of specific community groups, as well as landscape-level organizations to plan and manage complex conservation initiatives and test, evaluate and disseminate community level innovations. Resources will also be made available through the SGP strategic grant modality to up-scale proven technologies, systems or practices based on knowledge from analysis of community innovations from past experience gained during previous phases of the SGP Sri Lanka Country Programme.

Formal multi-stakeholder groups will be consolidated in each selected landscape that will incorporate local government, national agencies and Ministries, NGOs, the private sector and other relevant actors. These partnerships will provide technical assistance, strategic guidance and financial support, where possible, to community organizations for individual community initiatives, as well as landscape level

projects and strategic upgrading projects. Partnership agreements will be agreed upon and signed with communities as projects are identified and aligned with landscape level outcomes. It is promising to note that amendments to the Forest Conservation Ordinance (Act No.65 of 2009), the Coast Conservation Act (No.49 of 2011), Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act (Act No 64 of 1988), provide a legal foundation for inter-sectoral (multi-stakeholder) platforms to promote resource management and biodiversity conservation.

Project activities will be carried out in specific landscapes of Knuckles Conservation Forest and buffer zone, the coastal region from Mannar Island to Jaffna, and the Urban Wetlands of Colombo, applying an integrated approach to enhance resilience in socio-ecological production landscapes by harmonizing human-nature activities that can sustain biodiversity and ecosystem services, while also supporting human well-being and production activities.

6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF)

Global environmental benefits (GEB) generated by the Sri Lanka SGP Upgrading Country Programme because of the project proposed here can be estimated simplistically over the short-term as a result of potential aggregated impacts from hypothetical future individual grant projects. However, overall benefits sustained over the longer-term will be a function of the synergies created between projects through programmatic approaches such as the landscape management approach proposed here. Under this approach, community groups, local authorities and NGOs form multi-stakeholder partnerships and develop and implement landscape resilience strategies based on outcomes linked to biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services, sustainable land management, and climate change adaptation, all of which are shaped and defined by their relation to local priorities for food security, income generation and the development of social capital for the global environment and socio-ecological resilience. These strategies will define the types and numbers of community projects required to meet the selected outcomes; at that point, once the strategies have been updated by the communities in each landscape, a more credible, detailed accounting of potential global environmental benefits will be possible. The project?s multi-stakeholder partnerships will explicitly develop strategic projects (defined by SGP as up to USD 150,000) to up-scale successful SGP-supported technologies, practices or systems identified from previous phases of the SGP Sri Lanka Country Programme.

The Sri Lanka SGP Upgraded Country Programme will focus on the specific strategy of assisting communities to manage their landscapes adaptively to enhance socio-ecological resilience. This line of work is expected to result in landscapes under adaptive management for global environmental benefits and local sustainable development. A reasonably precise measure of the areas (in hectares) to be brought under adaptive management for global environmental benefits will be made as a result of grant project preparation. Greater food security and/or generation of employment and income for resource-dependent communities from sustainable management of ecosystem processes and marketing of biodiversity and other resources will provide the primary economic incentive to these communities, individually and collectively, to conserve biodiversity and optimize ecosystem services. Community organizations will build their capacities to plan and manage resources adaptively and in synergy with each other, thus contributing to the sustainability of biodiversity conservation, land management and climate mitigation. The knowledge obtained from analysis of project experiences and lessons learned will be socialized through SGP's well-established national network of stakeholders ? from NGOs,

academia, government, private sector, media and the international development community and used in upscaling successful initiatives. Successful initiatives from previous phases of SGP Sri Lanka will be identified and up-scaled; prospective candidates thus far for upscaling include conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, particularly crop genetic resources, agro-ecological production and sustainable forest management. Multi-stakeholder landscape level ?policy platforms? have been already established to analyse lessons learned from project and programme performance and to identify and discuss potential policy applications with local policy makers and national/subnational policy advisors. The policy dialogues are also important for the uptake of landscape level interventions into regional or national levels.

During OP7, the SGP Sri Lanka Upgrading Country Programme will strengthen the linkages among NGOs and CBOs and already existing networks working in the field of environment and sustainable development, to facilitate exchange of experience, engage technical support and disseminate successful experiences and knowledge, which will help to replicate or scale-up successful lessons in different areas. It will also establish new networks for CSOs implementing projects in the same focal and/or geographic area to strengthen means of cooperation, coordination and networking through a strategic approach. In GEF7, the direct exchange of experiences between smallholders and community organizations will be strengthened and improved. At the same time, fairs to promote seed exchange and biodiversity products will be carried out, as will the dissemination of lessons learned. Capacity development of community organizations will continue to be a high priority, particularly in relation to project management, monitoring, evaluation and redesign of follow-on actions.

The Sri Lanka Upgraded Country Programme will generate the expected outcomes through two main strategic components. The project is designed to achieve global environmental benefits (GEBs) in land degradation and biodiversity. The provisional types of interventions envisaged under OP7 are described in detail in **Annex 15** (*Provisional site-based interventions*); these interventions are based on stakeholder consultations made during the project preparation phase, recommendations made in the OP6 landscape strategies, results achieved in OP6, and the professional judgement of the PPG team of consultants. It is important to note that the provisional descriptions are indicative. Consistent with the bottom-up approach of the SGP, the actual types and numbers of projects will depend on the demand, the priorities identified by the communities through participatory baseline assessments, and the quality of the proposals submitted.

Provisional site-based interventions in the **Knuckles Conservation Forest landscape**, will be based **entirely in the buffer zone area** and include the following:

? Ecological reforestation of scrublands.

? Sustainable land management techniques, including good agricultural practices, climate smart agriculture, ecological farming in home gardens.

? Sustainable land management and protection and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity through on-farm diversification, including cultivation of niche/indigenous crops.

? Restoration of abandoned tea plantations, through sustainable cultivation of fruits, cardamon, tea, etc., and intermixed with improved livestock management.

? Collaborate with the Ecosystem Conservation and Management Project (ESCAMP) of the Forest Department (which will cease operations at the end of 2021) to work with CBOs established under their project to reduce threats to forest resources from unsustainable and unauthorized cattle grazing.

? Develop eco-tourism locations (green village concept), promoting traditional values.

? Protecting important habitats and conserving globally significant biodiversity by strengthening local capacities in community-based fire prevention and control.

? Improve direct market linkages for local producers, facilitating insertion into green value chains.

? Creating awareness and delivering environmental education on the importance of biodiversity.

Provisional site-based interventions in the **Mannar Coastal landscape**, include the following:

? Protecting important habitats and conserving globally significant biodiversity by controlling invasive alien species (IAS) such as *Prosopis*, e.g., utilizing non-chemical approaches such as targeted livestock grazing.

? Restore of mangrove ecosystems, preventing further destruction, and creating awareness.

? Build capacities of local fishers for participatory restoration of mangrove ecosystems.

? Participatory restoration of irrigation canals servicing paddy fields using grey/green methods.

? Conserve coastal biodiversity and ecosystems through increasing awareness of unauthorized sand mining.

? Promote participatory biodiversity conservation through building capacity of local women?s and youth groups as biodiversity champions and local bird-watching guides.

? Strengthen soil and water conservation, reducing salinity of paddy lands.

? Participatory restoration of production landscapes, e.g., reducing wind erosion of paddy lands.

Provisional site-based interventions in the **Urban Wetlands of Colombo landscape**, include the following:

? Participatory conservation of the wetland biodiversity in partnerships with the Department of Wildlife Conservation and other enabling stakeholders in part of the Ramsar Wetland City .

? Participatory restoration of wetland ecosystems in partnership with the Department of Wildlife Conservation in part of the Ramsar Wetland City.

? Protecting habitats and conserving globally significant biodiversity by reducing pollution in urban wetlands and increasing awareness.
? Participatory restoration of abandoned paddy lands in the wetland landscape.

The restoration interventions will generate mitigation co-benefits, i.e., avoided greenhouse gas emissions and increased carbon sequestration. Estimations of mitigation benefits were made using the FAO EX-Ante Carbon-balance Tool (EX-ACT), compiled in *Annex 24* to the *Project Document*.

7) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up. ?

Innovativeness: The project expects to carry out programmes in all landscapes, aiming to enhance social, ecological and climate resilience through community-based and community-driven projects to conserve biodiversity, optimize ecosystem services, reduce land degradation through the conservation of agro-ecosystems and water resources, restore landscape ecosystem functions on degraded sloping tea lands using sustainable land management (SLM) technologies, as well as mitigate the impacts of climate change. The project will use national landscape level initiatives delivered by SGP in OP6 ? through its COMDEKS initiatives to identify priority topic areas for project activities.

The main strategy is to build on the experience and lessons learned from OP6, where the landscape approach was first implemented, and assist community organizations to carry out and coordinate projects in pursuit of the outcomes they have identified in landscape strategies. The project will form new Community-Based Organizations (CBO) and strengthen the existing CBOs that have already been formed under OP6, as well as enhance their participation within existing inter-institutional governance mechanisms in landscape planning and management processes. Their capacities in relation to community development, environmental protection, social enterprise development and financial management will be strengthened. New innovative approaches such as farmer field schools (FFS), user-pays systems for ecosystem services, micro-financing approaches and income generation from waste management will be implemented in project locations depending on community and landscape priorities. All these three landscapes are important for both local and foreign tourism and novel methods will be used to attract and promote eco-tourism in all three landscapes.

There is a critical need to embrace new technologies and approaches in the proposed project. With the support of academic institutions, scientific studies will be promoted in all three landscapes, so that new knowledge and information is generated and feeds into conservation planning and landscape management, as well as community and sector development. Of particular importance is engaging youth in the use of social media and development of apps for landscape planning and management. Geographical Information Systems will be used to identify problems and carry out spatial analyses in the landscapes. The project also proposes the implementation of a strategic project for all three landscapes for knowledge management, creating a portfolio of potential solutions for uptake at regional and national levels.

Sustainability: Sustainability of project interventions is critical, as it has been observed on many occasions that interventions collapse after project funding is over. A proposed key intervention of the project is the formation of CBOs and strengthening of the CBOs already formed under OP6, along with development of income-generating activities of individuals and organizations. Hence, social enterprise development programmes will be carried out with the communities, with the provision of technical

knowledge to improve existing available products and the establishment of linkages to local and international markets, so that additional income will flow to the community. This process was initiated in OP6 and needs to be strengthened in OP7. Also, opportunities will be created for communities and individuals who have been successful with their projects, so that they will continue to engage in project activities. Further, project components are aligned with national programmes and priorities, therefore synergistic effects can be anticipated from these local development programmes and project activities, which will be gradually developing into regional development programmes. The Divisional Secretariat (DS) is the local administrative and coordinating body, and development programmes for each village have already been identified by the DS. The project is expected to work closely with relevant government agencies to ensure sustainability of community-based landscape management initiatives. Private sector engagement is also a key factor for the sustainability of the grant projects, particularly in the development of marketing channels for community products. The previous operational phase of the SGP programme has identified and promoted clear win-win opportunities with community initiatives and clusters of initiatives in focal areas such as sustainable use of biodiversity (medicinal plants, forest products, beekeeping, ecotourism), conservation of crop genetic resources, sustainable agro-ecological production practices and systems such as agro-ecological farming, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) etc., sustainable land and water management, and value-addition to crops and certification process such as GAP, Participatory Guaranty System (PGS) and the community product concept.

Community ownership is a critical factor contributing to the sustainability of project benefits. The individual proposals are written/developed in consultation with local community organizations, based on what they want to achieve. As such, communities are more likely to exhibit ownership over the outcomes of the projects (but make sure these proposals are in line with the development programmes already identified by the DS). The project will be managed so that the grantees will be required to provide a sustainability plan when they are forwarding project proposals for evaluation and funding. The individual sustainability plans will feed into the overall sustainability plan for the project, which will focus on ensuring structures are in place to sustain the landscape approach, including the multi-stakeholder landscape platforms, integration of the landscape strategies into local development planning, and encouraging collective action among CBOs to deliver multiple benefits.

Participation of women and youth are key to the success and sustainability of the project. The project is planning to fully engage them in all aspects of training, landscape planning, community development and income-generating schemes and as such, the project is expected to involve the design of specific strategies and actions to achieve greater participation from these sectors of the population.

Sustainability of landscape planning and management processes will be enhanced through the strengthening of multi-stakeholder partnerships - involving local government, national agencies and institutions, NGOs, the private sector, universities, research institutions and others at the landscape level - and the adoption of multi-stakeholder partnership agreements to pursue specific landscape level outcomes. The multi-stakeholder platforms were formed during OP6. NGO networks will be called upon for their support to community projects and landscape planning processes, and technical assistance will be engaged through the support of the government, NGOs, universities, academic institutes and other organizations. Sustainability will be further maintained by aligning projects with government policies and programmes and building the capacities of communities.

Financial dimension of sustainability: The majority of the community projects are envisaged to include livelihood-related activities, such as capacity building, skills development, and market linkages. Experience gained through the SGP interventions will strengthen the capabilities of CBOs to develop proposals and raise funds. The 1:1 co-financing requirement for each of the community projects will help promote enabling partnerships with governmental, civil society, donor, and private sector stakeholders. Moreover, the multi-stakeholder landscape platforms will provide direct linkages with local government development planning mechanisms and opportunities for funding upscaling and replication.

Socioeconomic dimension of sustainability: The landscape approach integrated into the project strategy is predicated on strengthening socio-ecological resilience. Involving multiple stakeholders in the landscapes-seascape in identifying priority issues and developing strategies for addressing these increases the overall social capital of the local communities. Contributing towards the COVID-19 recovery efforts, the project interventions, such as diversifying local food production, strengthens the resilience of the local communities.

Institutional framework and governance dimension of sustainability: Building capacities of local governance mechanisms and involving multiple stakeholders in the landscape platforms will enhance the likelihood that project results will be sustained after GEF funding ceases. Representatives of local government entities are important members of the multi-stakeholder landscape platforms, helping to foster linkages with complementary government programmes and to identify incentives for upscaling project interventions. These institutional level stakeholders will also have the opportunity to participate in capacity building activities under the project, providing them with an expanded knowledge base of innovative approaches and a broadened network of stakeholder alliances, including with civil society, the private sector, and other governmental partners, both at the national level and with counterparts in the other project landscapes. Mainstreaming the priority actions outlined in the landscape strategies into local development planning frameworks will further strengthen the durability of the institutional framework and governance dimensions requisite for effective landscape management approaches.

Environmental dimension of sustainability: A substantial number of the envisaged community projects involve activities that conserve biodiversity and protect and restore ecosystem services, e.g., improved sustainable land management, collaborative community management of natural resources, adopting sustainable agricultural practices, restoration-rehabilitation of degraded agricultural land and forest ecosystems. As outlined in the *Social and Environmental Screening Procedure* (**Annex 5** to the *Project Document*), small grants will be primarily carried out in partnership with expert organizations, e.g., conservation agencies, NGOs, and local government entities, thus building capacities and partnerships will help ensure sustainability of the implemented interventions.

Moreover, the overall strategy is focused on enhancing the socio-ecological resilience of local communities. These efforts will strengthen coping capacities in response to long-term climate change and related increased risks associated with climate and disaster hazards. For instance, climate-smart agricultural practices will enhance resilience. Grant proposals will be required to include provisions for managing climate and geophysical hazards, which will help build capacities of local CBOs and ensure more durable landscape management practices.

Potential for Scaling Up: Scaling up of successful initiatives is an essential output of this project. Scaling up has been done successfully during previous projects and programmes of the SGP Country Programme. The principle of scaling up is that lessons and best practices from successful interventions are captured and made operational at a larger scale. There will be continued collaboration with multi stakeholders including government administrative, regulatory, technical and research institutes, private sector and NGOs. Therefore, there is a high potential of scaling up successful outputs. A similar experience has been observed in OP6. In addition, there are several governmental and non-governmental regional projects operating or proposed in the landscapes. Working in collaboration with them for similar outputs, will enhance the potential for scaling up. The project will work closely with its partners to ensure that promising innovations, successful pilots, and best practices are replicated and scaled up through joint or coordinated planning, financing, and implementation, including other full-sized projects.

Multi-stakeholder partnership mechanisms for this project in the three targeted areas will be applied taking into account the following elements: (1) understanding the potential core values of each actor and their resources, such as specific technologies, practices or systems; (2) identifying potential scaling-up opportunities, analysing and planning the scaling up process; and (3) implementing the scaling up program and evaluating its performance and impacts as a lesson learned or case study for adaptive management, policy discussion and potential replication of the model in other areas of the country. Successful interventions under each thematic area can be replicated/upscaled in other geographic regions of the country facing similar issues of development and environmental protection and management. Through improved financial capacities, grantees may ensure progressive innovation and broader adoption.

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[1] The pattern of life in Sri Lanka depends directly on the availability of rainwater. The much of the mountains and the southwestern part of the country, known as the "wet zone," receive ample rainfall (an annual average of 2500 millimeters, evenly spread throughout the year). Most of the southeast, east, and northern parts of the country comprise the "dry zone, which receives between 1200 and 1900 mm of sharply seasonal rain annually.

[2] Socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes are commonly characterized as dynamic bio-cultural mosaics of habitats and land and sea uses where the interaction between people and the landscape maintains or enhances biodiversity while providing humans with goods and services needed for their well-being (UNU-IAS, Bioversity International, IGES and UNDP (2014) Toolkit for the Indicators of Resilience in Socio-ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes (SEPLS).

[3] A count of species in an area (Pimm, 2020)

[4] This is ?the weight or total quantity of all the species in a community commonly referred to a unit area or volume of habitat (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2020).

[5] *Kraals* are un-baited fishing traps constructed in shallow parts of lagoons. These traps are merely fenced enclosure, where animals swim inside the enclosure and are trapped (Maitipe & Silva, 1986).

[6] The map was derived from an image of another map and checked with Google Earth, and thus, the numbers must be taken as approximate. This map show a wetland complex of ~1038.43 ha; woods and wetlands ~264.91 ha; water bodies ~173.39 and paddy ~2368.3 ha.

[7] The process of water movement through a plant and its evaporation from above-ground parts, such as leaves, stems and flowers.

[8] ?Point source pollution is a contamination that occurs at a particular location, immediately at or near the source of the pollution. A toxic waste spill site at a location is point source pollution? (Loage and Corwin, 2005 in litt. Miththapala, 2013b).

[9] ?Non-point source pollution, as its name implies, enters these ecosystems not from a single or a couple of clearly-defined locations but in a diffuse way through an infinity of small sources spatially distributed in the environment. Examples of non-point pollution are agricultural, urban and industrial runoff from inland that is carried along rivers into estuaries or with surface run off to lagoons (Loage and Corwin, 2005 in litt. Miththapala, 2013b).

[10] Heat islands are urban areas that are about 7-13?C hotter than outlying rural areas. Built infrastructure (such as buildings, bridges and roads) absorb the heat from the sun and re-emit it more than natural infrastructure (EPA, undated).

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

See map and geo-coordinates included in *Annex E*.

1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Stakeholder Engagement. A stakeholder analysis was undertaken during project preparation to identify key stakeholders, consult with them regarding their interests in the project and define their roles and responsibilities during project implementation.

The primary stakeholders of the Sri Lanka GEF-SGP Upgraded Country Programme are the community-based organizations and local communities who will receive grants to produce benefits to local sustainable development and the global environment. Women, marginalized groups and youth will be invited specially to participate in the landscape planning and management processes, as well as to submit project proposals for specific initiatives. Primary stakeholders are located in the rural areas of the Knuckles Conservation Forest and its buffer zone, the coastal region from Mannar Island to Jaffna, and the Urban Wetlands of Colombo.

NGOs, whose work has been to support CBOs and communities in pursuing local sustainable development, are also important stakeholders. These will include those NGOs who have the interest and capacities to provide key support services to community-based projects ? including technical assistance and capacity development.

Key supporting actors in this SGP Upgraded Country Programme project will include relevant agencies of the Ministries of Environment and Wildlife Resources (including the Forest Department, Department of Wildlife Conservation, the Coast Conservation and Coastal Resources Management Department) the Ministry of Mahaweli, Agriculture, Irrigation and Rural Development, Ministry of Small & Medium Business and Enterprise Development, Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation, local governments, academic institutions, the private sector the National Steering Committee and the UNDP Country Office. Key stakeholders and their indicative responsibilities for the implementation of the proposed project are outlined as follows:

? **Community based organizations (CBOs)**: Principal participants in landscape planning exercises; first-order partners in the multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape; signatories to community level partnership agreements; implementing agents of community and landscape level projects. The project will pay special attention to organizations run by and for women, marginalized groups and youth. Existing organizations at the community level such as Farmer Organizations, Women?s Savings and Credit Societies, and Fisheries Committees.

? **Coordinating Committees and Rural Development Committees**, in addition to NGOs ? at the local and national level ? will be considered for consultations.

? **Second level organizations ? landscape level**: Primary participants in landscape planning exercises; first-order partners in the multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape; implementing agents of landscape level projects; participants in landscape level policy platforms.

? **SGP National Steering Committee**: Functions as Project Steering Committee; reviews and approves landscape strategies; advises regarding multi-stakeholder partnership composition and TORs; approves criteria for project eligibility for each landscape based on proposals by multi-stakeholder partnership and SGP Operational Guidelines; reviews and approves projects submitted by SGP Country

Programme Manager; reviews annual project progress reports and recommends revisions and course corrections, as appropriate, representative participant on policy platforms.

? **Country Programme Management Unit (CMPU)** - SGP Country Programme Manager (National Coordinator), and team: responsible for the overall implementation and operations of the SGP Sri Lanka Country Programme, acting as secretary to the National Steering Committee, mobilizing co-financing, organizing strategic partnerships with government and non-governmental organizations, and in general, for managing the successful achievement of Country Programme Objectives, as described in the Project Document.

? **NGOs**: Lead and facilitate participatory baseline assessments and landscape planning processes; partners in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape; signatories to community level partnership agreements; provide technical assistance to community organizations for implementation of their projects; potential participant on policy platforms.

? **Local governments**: Participant in baseline assessments and landscape planning processes; partners in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape; signatories to community level partnership agreements; primary participant on policy platforms. Local government agencies in Sri Lanka would be the Divisional Secretariats, Pradeshiya Sabha, Municipal Councils and Urban Councils, as stakeholder agencies in multi-stakeholder partnerships and for policy making.

? **National agencies**: Partners in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape; selected members of National Steering Committee; as relevant or appropriate, provide technical assistance to community organizations for implementation of their projects; primary participants on policy platform. Several national agencies with mandates to develop natural resource-based activities (Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Irrigation, Water, and Tourism among others) and those with conservation and regulatory functions (Department of Wildlife Conservation, the Central Environment Authority, Coast Conservation and Coastal Resources Management, Department of Agriculture, Marine Environment Protection Agency etc.) have committed to provide policy inputs, technical assistance and implementation support.

? **Academic institutions**: Assist in participatory baseline assessments and landscape planning processes; partners in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape; signatories to community level partnership agreements, as appropriate; provide technical assistance to community organizations for implementation of their projects; potential participants on policy platforms.

Effective and inclusive stakeholder engagement will be essential not only for achieving the project outcomes, but also sustaining and replicating the best practices and innovative approaches implemented on the project. A *Stakeholder Engagement Plan* (*Annex 8* to the *Project Document*) has been developed to guide the implementation team. Specific stakeholder engagement at the project output level is described below in *Table 4* of the *Project Document*.

Table 4 of the *Project Document*: Planned stakeholder engagement across the project outputs

Output	Stakeholder roles
Component 1: Resilient landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection	
Outcome 1.1: Participatory conservation and restoration strengthened	
Output 1.1.1: Community level small grant projects on strengthening participatory conservation and restoration **Output 1.1.2:** Capacities of CBOs for participatory conservation and restoration and nature-based livelihood initiatives developed through learning-by-doing, skills training, and financial management mentoring	? **Local CBOs**: developing and implementing project interventions. ? **NGOs**: providing technical assistance in project development and introduction of innovative approaches, policy reform and advocacy. ? **National ministries and departments**: advocating for policy reform regarding participatory conservation and restoration. ? **PA management entities**: cooperating on participatory conservation and restoration initiatives with local CBOs and communities. ? **Local government units**: facilitating community development and conservation initiatives, sustainable livelihood initiatives, gender mainstreaming, social inclusion, etc. ? **Academic and research agencies**: providing technical assistance. ? **Private sector**: strengthening or establishing new partnerships with CBOs, e.g., eco-tourism operators. ? **UNDP (and other bilateral and multilateral agencies)**: exploring synergies, sharing experiences and lessons learned.
Outcome 1.2: Management of production landscapes strengthened for generation of sustainable community livelihoods and benefits to biodiversity and ecosystem functionality	

Output	Stakeholder roles
Output 1.2.1: Community level small grant projects on strengthening management of production landscapes for generation of sustainable community livelihoods and benefits to biodiversity and ecosystem functionality **Output 1.2.2**: Capacities of CBOs developed for improved social entrepreneurship and increased access to green value chains	? **Local CBOs**: developing and implementing project interventions. ? **NGOs**: providing technical assistance in project development and introduction of innovative approaches, policy reform and advocacy. ? **National ministries and departments**: advocating for policy reform, facilitating linkages on complementary programmes. ? **Local government units**: facilitating community-level development, gender mainstreaming, social inclusion, etc. ? **Academic and research institutes**: providing technical assistance. ? **Private sector**: strengthening or establishing new partnerships. ? **UNDP (and other bilateral and multilateral agencies)**: exploring synergies, sharing experiences and lessons learned.
Component 2: Durable landscape resilience through participatory governance, partnership building, and knowledge management	
Outcome 2.1: Landscape resilience enhanced through multi-stakeholder governance and strengthened partnerships	
Output 2.1.1: Multi-stakeholder platforms strengthened for improved governance of target landscapes **Output 2.1.2**: Landscape strategies for effective governance updated based on results of participatory socio-ecological resilience baseline assessments of project landscapes **Output 2.1.3**: Partnership building and policy advocacy among governmental stakeholders, civil society, financial institutions, and private sector for facilitating broader adoption of participatory approaches	? **Local CBOs:** participating in the landscape baseline assessments and development of landscape strategies, representing the interests and concerns of local communities. ? **NGOs:** providing technical assistance in the landscape baseline assessments and development of landscape strategies. ? **Local government units:** participating in the landscape baseline assessments and mainstreaming the landscape strategies into local development plans; promoting and assisting in ensuring equitable participation and generation of benefits for women and other vulnerable groups. ? **PA management entities:** participating in the landscape approaches, promoting participatory conservation and restoration initiatives. ? Private sector enterprises and associations: participating in the landscape approaches.
Outcome 2.2: Enabling environment for upscaling and replication strengthened through effective knowledge management of best practices and approaches	

Output	Stakeholder roles
Output 2.2.1: Knowledge from innovative project interventions compiled, systemized, and disseminated across the landscapes, across the country, and to the global SGP network	? **Local CBOs:** receiving capacity building support and participating in skills training, financial management mentoring, and networking with enabling stakeholders. ? **NGOs:** delivering training and other capacity building support services. ? **National ministries and departments, local governments:** facilitating policy reform and knowledge sharing for strengthening community involvement in sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, etc. ? **UNDP Country Office and Global SGP UCP**: facilitating knowledge management and replication through linkages with other projects and initiatives; promoting knowledge management across the global portfolio, sharing best practices, lessons learned, and innovative approaches.

Safeguards have been designed for implementing adaptive stakeholder engagement measures if the COVID-19 pandemic is prolonged or recurrent during the project implementation phase (see *Annex 17***:** *COVID-19 Analysis and Action Framework*). Local NGO partners have important roles in facilitating integrated landscape approaches, such as the participatory baseline assessments, development of landscape strategies, and convening multi-stakeholder landscape platforms. The Country Programme Management team will provide strategic guidance to the local partners through a variety of in-person and virtual techniques accordingly. Travel to and within the project landscapes will be made consistent with the requisite protocols according to relevant national, state, and UNDP directives.

South-South Cooperation. The project will also link up with the South-South Community Innovation Exchange Platform launched by SGP Global during its Sixth Operational Phase (OP6). During OP7 this tool will be used to share information and to replicate the knowledge and innovation created, promoted, and/or tested by civil society and communities on the ground that could fill critical gaps in national action plans and produce timely and significant results. The goal of the South-South cooperation initiative is to support communities in mobilising and taking advantage of development solutions and technical expertise available in the South. In this regard, learning opportunities and technology transfer from peer countries will be further explored during project implementation.

The project will facilitate dissemination through global ongoing South-South and global platforms, such as the UN South-South Galaxy knowledge sharing platform and PANORAMA. To bring the voice of Sri Lanka to global and regional fora, the project will explore opportunities for meaningful participation in specific events where UNDP could support engagement with the global development discourse on socio-ecological resilience at the landscape level. The project will furthermore provide opportunities for regional cooperation with countries, e.g., India, that are implementing community initiatives in geopolitical, social and environmental contexts relevant to the proposed project in Sri Lanka.

[1] https://panorama.solutions/en

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier; Yes

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body; Yes

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain) Yes

Participants in the multi-stakeholder landscape governance platforms.

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

SGP Sri Lanka is widely recognized in the country for the programme?s focus on mainstreaming gender equality and women?s empowerment. During the project preparation phase of OP7, a *Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan* (see *Annex 10* to the *Project Document*) were prepared, building upon the gender action plan developed for OP6 and based on the experiences and lessons of the programme over the years. The Gender Action Plan for the project was developed in accordance with the SGP OP7 Technical Guidance Note on Gender, the UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2021[1], and the GEF Policy on Gender Mainstreaming.

Women in the project landscapes are key players in managing basic household resources, as care takers, as well as participants in income generating activities. Expansion beyond these roles is marked by cultural, physical, information and capacity barriers. Women are inhibited from being actively engaged in landscape management in decision making roles in particular by community norms and standards that strongly limit women?s leadership and activities that inhibit their more active participation in mixed groups. Women?s control of income-generating assets like land is also weak,

and decisions regarding family-related expenditures and other financial matters are rarely under their sole control.

In Sri Lanka, despite high levels of female literacy and progress in female education, gender discrimination persists, as dominant values of society are male-oriented in social, economic and political spheres. This is particularly true for rural areas of the country. In most instances, men are considered the formal 'head' though they may not play a significant role in supporting the household. This leads to discrimination against women in terms of land rights, ownership, and inheritance and limits their access to employment, resources or loans, as well as in decision-making related to local development.

The gender responsiveness of the SGP is ensured through specific attention to context specific gender issues throughout the grant project cycle and landscape management processes. The potential benefits to and impacts upon women are considered throughout the process of grant project design and implementation, and their roles within implemented community-based initiatives are monitored. The SGP will continue to ensure the equitable participation of women and other vulnerable groups in all landscape management discussions and activities by ensuring that their voices can be heard, where relevant in separate groups from men. Specific project ideas will be actively identified with women?s groups and will respond to women?s expressed needs in regard to landscape or resource management.

A description of the gender situation in Sri Lanka, along with separate discussions for each of the target landscapes, is presented in the gender analysis presented in *Annex 10* to the *Project Document.* The gender action plan for the project recognizes the differences between labour, knowledge, needs, and priorities of men and women, and calls for:

a. Consultation with women groups on needs and requirements associated with project interventions.

b. Promotion of equitable representation of women and men in project activities and groups established and/or strengthened, including the landscape level multi-stakeholder governance platforms.

c. Development of strategic and planning documents in consultation with women.

d. Targeted budgeting of activities promoting active involvement of women and monitoring and evaluation of such activities.

e. Participation, training and skills building of women identified and budgeted in relevant project outcomes.

f. Encouragement of women?s participation in the recruitment of project implementation staff, including consultancies and other service providers.

g. When applicable, equal payment of women and men.

Specific gender equality and mainstreaming actions include ensuring equitable representation of women in project decision-making bodies; ensuring equitable proportion of benefits realized from the

project will be delivered to women; ensuring gender considerations are integrated into landscape strategies; promoting gender awareness throughout the project implementation phase and promoting equal opportunity for employment for positions within the project management office, consultancies and other service providers.

The CPMU will work with the gender focal point on the NSC to help ensure gender sensitivity in all projects for approval, and to identify lessons learned and knowledge attained for adaptive management and gender-specific policy recommendations.

The project will track the following gender indicators, enabling assessment of progress towards the GEF Gender Policy and to the UNDP Gender Equality Strategy (2018-2021):

? Number of participating community members (sex disaggregated)

? Number of women-led projects supported

? Number of projects that are contributing to equal access to and control of natural resources of women and men

? Number of projects that improve the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance

? Number of projects that target socioeconomic benefits and services for women

These indicators are incorporated into the project results framework and the monitoring plan (see *Annex 4* to the *Project Document*). Progress will be monitored and evaluated during project implementation, with results reported in project progress reports, and adaptive management measures implemented as needed. Resources have been allocated in the project budget for of a part-time Gender-Safeguards Consultant, to support development of landscape strategies, guidance in the preparation of proposals for community grants and monitoring and evaluation of implementation of community projects and achievement of the gender mainstreaming targets outlined in the Gender Action Plan.

During implementation, qualitative assessments will be conducted on the gender-specific benefits that can be directly associated with each grant project. These assessments will be incorporated in periodic M&E progress reports as well as in the Terminal Evaluation. The gender responsiveness of knowledge products generated through SGP initiatives will also be a key criterion in their design and development, and dissemination strategies will be adopted that ensure that project information reaches as many women as possible.

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[2] UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2021

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?

Yes

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

Does the project?s results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

The private sector will be engaged in multiple ways in this project. For example, as partners in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape; signatories to community-level partnership agreements, as appropriate; potential participant on policy platforms. In the Colombo Wetlands, private sector engagement is envisaged in the protection of urban wetlands, for example, in species protection, as well as for buy-back from abandoned paddy lands that have been converted into non-chemical farming through OP6 activities. In the Mannar coastal landscape, concerted capacity building that will support the development and diversification of livelihoods and income generation is needed, with private sector support. In the Knuckles landscape, private sector engagement will be invaluable for value-chain development in developing community enterprise and providing business model innovation and new technologies for making social entrepreneurship sustainable. It is also needed to ensure the sustainability of the reforestation and soil conservation practices in this landscape. Where eco/agro-tourism is planned, the Sri Lanka SGP Upgraded Country Programme will engage with private sector hoteliers, who actively practice sustainability for guidance and support.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

The key risks that could threaten the achievement of results through the chosen strategy are described in the risk register in *Annex 6* to the *Project Document*, along with proposed mitigation measures and recommended risk owners who would be responsible to manage the risks during the project implementation phase. A few of the identified risks are operational, including the low level of technical and management capacity of some CBOs to implement grant projects. These risks will be mitigated through capacity building and qualified guidance delivered by the NSC, the SGP Country Programme Management Unit (CPMU), the UNDP Country Office, the multi-stakeholder landscape platforms, and other partners, including those engaged through strategic project modalities.

The social and environmental risks that were assessed as part of the social and environmental screening procedure (see *Annex 5* to the *Project*) are also consolidated into the risk register. The overall risk-rating

for the project is ?Moderate?. Eight (8) of the identified nine (9) social and environmental project risks described through the SESP have been assessed as Moderate and one was rated as Low. To meet the SES requirements, the following safeguard plans (annexed to the *Project Document*) have been prepared: (i) *Stakeholder Engagement Plan* (see *Annex 8*); (ii) *Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan* (see *Annex 10*); (iii) Climate and Disaster Risk Screening (see *Annex 16*); and (iv) COVID-19 Analysis and Action Framework (see *Annex 17*).

The project will institute adaptive management measures, building upon SGP?s unique position in facilitating socio-ecological resilience and delivering global environmental benefits through community-driven initiatives. The project design is predicated on enhancing socio-ecological resilience. Facilitated by multi-stakeholder collaborative processes, the project strategy promotes landscape approaches for achieving sustainable management of natural resources. Bringing together cross-sectoral and multiple stakeholders into participatory processes will help enhance the knowledge of the risks associated with zoonotic diseases like COVID-19 and how landscape management approaches can help mitigate the risks and build social and ecological resilience of local communities. The project will also promote on-farm diversification and improved agroecological farming practices, which will contribute to increased food and income security of local communities, strengthening their coping capacities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other socioeconomic disruptions.

Individual grant proposals will include specific safeguard management plans, including social inclusion, gender mainstreaming, biodiversity conservation, climate risk, natural hazards and disaster risk, labour, and pollution, in accordance with UNDP Social and Environmental Standards and national laws and regulations. Standard M&E and adaptive management procedures will be applied during project implementation.

Pre-screening of risks carried out during the project concept phase had identified the potential presence of Indigenous Peoples in the project areas. The Veddas people are generally considered indigenous to Sri Lanka, and there are approx. 2,500 Veddas peoples inhabiting some regions of the country. Based on due diligence through stakeholder consultations and baseline studies carried out during the project preparation phase, the PPG team demonstrated that the Veddas peoples and no other indigenous peoples are present in the project landscapes or area of influence. The population in the Mannar landscape are predominantly comprised of Sri Lankan Tamil people, who are a minority in Sri Lanka but do not fulfil the definition of Indigenous Peoples as described in Standard 6 (Indigenous Peoples) of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES). The SGP in Sri Lanka has extensive experience in engaging with Tamil peoples, e.g., language interpretation is provided for stakeholder meetings, local CBOs can submit proposals in Tamil language, etc.

The risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, which coincided with their project preparation phase, are relevant with respect to operational, financial, and community safety aspects. Safeguards have been designed for implementing adaptive stakeholder engagement measures if the COVID-19 pandemic is prolonged or recurrent during the project implementation phase (see *Annex 17***:** *COVID-19 Analysis and Action Framework*). For example, virtual meetings will be held where feasible, and as needed, developing Internet skills of women and disabled people and facilitating Internet access through local NGOs, etc. SGP Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be reviewed and updated to address risk of virus exposure. Hazard assessments will be required for project proposals involving gatherings of multiple people, and

mitigation measures will be implemented accordingly, e.g., ensuring physical distancing, providing personal protective equipment, avoiding non-essential travel, delivering training on risks and recognition of symptoms, etc.

As outlined in the *Climate and Disaster Risk Screening* (see *Annex 16* to the *Project Document*), hazard levels associated with flooding and extreme weather conditions are high in some of the project landscapes and potential short-term incidents and long-term consequences would likely affect vulnerable communities the most, such as the poor, the elderly, women, and children. In severe cases leading to physical destruction, loss of lives, and migration, it would have impactful effect on the livelihoods and access to education for project beneficiaries. There are also risks to the restoration-rehabilitation of degraded lands and forest areas. These risks could be mitigated by proper siting, selection of durable materials, installation of equipment on impermeable layers/platform, use of protective structures, integrating erosion control measures into the planned interventions, etc.

Community-based organisations will be required to assess in the project proposal documents the risks of climate and geophysical hazards on proposed infrastructure and assets and describe what measures are proposed to reduce and manage the risks. Climate and geophysical hazards will also be addressed in the project SESP, which will be reviewed annually. Moreover, the design and implementation of project interventions will be guided the CPMU and the NSC and supported by the multi-stakeholder landscape platforms.

Extracted from Project Document Annex 5: UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP)

Risk Description	***Impact and Likelihood (1-5)***	***Significance*** ***(Low, Moderate Substantial, High)***	***Comments***	***Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High***

Risk Description	*Impact and Likelihood (1-5)*	*Significance (Low, Moderate Substantial, High)*	*Comments*	*Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High*
Risk 1: Marginalised groups, including the resource poor, women, and persons with disabilities might be excluded from fully participating in planning and decision making in the activities that may collectively involve and impact them, and in accessing resources and services provided and generated through the project.	I = 3 L = 2	**Moderate**	Capacities of CBOs in the project landscapes-seascape are generally low, particularly with respect to marginalised groups.	**Assessment**: The socioeconomic baseline analysis documented in the landscapes-seascape profiles annexed to the Project Document include assessment of the communities, with specific attention to the marginalised groups. The assessment was informed by Landscape-seascape based consultations, discussions with District and Divisional Secretariat Offices, and with some of the local communities and representative CBO s during PPG phase. Focus Group Discussions were held during the PPG phase with the community groups engaged in the OP-6 of the SGP to understand the priorities and good practices, challenges and limitations in community inclusion and accessing benefits. Experiences and ideas were explored on potential livelihoods and cash income generation options within the bio diversity conservation scope of the project that can be aligned with the skills and interests of the local communities, and how best the local resource bases can be utilised for this purpose. The Gender Analysis, annexed to the Project Document, contain issues facing women and girls in the project landscapes-seascape, including those related to the ethnic minority groups. **Management**: Approaches and methodologies of involvement of marginalised groups are addressed in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The Stakeholder Engagement

Risk Description	*Impact and Likelihood (1-5)*	*Significance (Low, Moderate Substantial, High)*	*Comments*	*Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High*
Risk 2: Project approaches, design and activities might not fully incorporate or reflect views, priorities and constraints of women and girls and might not ensure equitable opportunities for their involvement in implementation and accessing opportunities and benefits.	I = 3 L = 4	**Moderate**	While considerable progress has been achieved in the areas of education and health, as noted in indicators such as adult literacy, secondary and tertiary education, maternal mortality and adolescent birth rates, globally, Sri Lanka has the 14th-largest gender gap in labour force participation. There are disparities in access to land, water and production inputs, access to markets and to skills training. These disparities are often concealed at the District and Divisional levels, due to limitations in sex-based disaggregation of data and information. Women are also under-represented in political and public decision-making bodies.	**Assessment:** A gender analysis was conducted during the PPG phase to identify the main gender issues within the context of the country and those specific to the landscapes-seascape. The Gender Action Plan (GAP) is informed by secondary sources of information, including the mid-term reviews of the OP-6 of the SGP, consultations with the CBO s and women?s and community groups in the landscapes-seascape. **Management:** The GAP includes proposed approaches and activities to ensure the project is gender responsive and focus on gender equality and women?s empowerment, annexed to the project document is an integral part of the Project Document and the project implementation process. In addition, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan includes key entry points for articulating and addressing gender considerations in all project components from design to implementation. To meet the gender equality and women?s empowerment considerations, the GAP recommends considering women as primary producers/actors in conservation and production systems in all assessments and planning processes. The project will promote proposals from women?s groups with the aim that at least 40% of all proposals awarded are women led. All awarded projects must include a gender analysis and an action plan for gender responsive implementation of the individual projects.

Risk Description	*Impact and Likelihood (1-5)*	*Significance (Low, Moderate Substantial, High)*	*Comments*	*Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High*
Risk 3: Project activities in the KCF, Colombo Wetlands, Mannar/Jaffna Seascape involve ecological reforestation, replacement of pine plantations with native plants, harvesting of non-timber forest products (NTFPs), harvesting of fish and Good Agricultural Practices to build climate resilience, which might pose some risks to biodiversity and ecosystem services.	I = 3 L = 4	**Moderate**	There are globally significant biodiversity and critical ecosystems situated within the project landscapes-seascapes which require careful consideration in the project design and implementation.	**Assessment**: Updated participatory landscape baseline assessments will be completed at project inception. These assessments will build upon the results of OP6 of the SGP, as well as the landscape profiles developed as part of the OP7 project preparation phase. The baseline assessments will include site inventories and analyses of biodiversity, land use, local livelihoods, climate conditions, climate change issues in the landscapes to confirm project sites and outline strategies for socio-ecological production landscapes. Principles, obligations, and recommendations of the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan Sri Lanka 2016-2022 and the National Action Program for Combating Land Degradation in Sri Lanka 2015-2024 will be considered in the baseline assessments[1]. In the grant proposals, applicants will be required to ensure that UNDP Social and Environmental Standards as well as national environmental protection laws and derivative legislation are followed in the execution of project activities. No invasive alien species will be used; preference will be given to native species. Potential environmental risks associated with ecotourism development will be assessed in grant proposals including such interventions, and mitigation measures will be required in the formulation of the grant proposal. And

Risk Description	*Impact and Likelihood (1-5)*	*Significance (Low, Moderate Substantial, High)*	*Comments*	*Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High*
Risk 4: Periodic droughts, floods, changes in rainfall distribution, cyclonic winds, tsunamis, extreme weather events such as prolonged drought periods and flash floods occur in the landscapes-seascapes. These climate and disaster hazards can impact the project beneficiaries, project activities and the implementation processes, and the expected results.	I = 3 L = 4	**Moderate**	Impact of climate risks and disasters have been on the increase in the recent years, similarly the exposure to disaster risks. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction recommends all development investments and activities to be ?risk informed?.	**Assessment:** A Climate and Disaster Risk Screening was prepared during the project preparation phase and annexed to the Project Document. As part of the updated participatory landscape-seascape baseline assessments, hazard assessments for landscape-seascape areas will be conducted in partnership with the District/Divisional Disaster Management officers of the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) using the available secondary information, to provide additional details with respect to potential disaster and climate risks to inform the activity plans of the grant projects, and to incorporate appropriate preparedness measures. CBOs will be required to include an assessment in the project proposal documents on the risks of climate and geophysical hazards on proposed infrastructure and assets, and describe what measures are proposed to reduce and manage the risks. The NSC, technical advisory consultant(s), and multi-stakeholder landscape platforms will review the climate and disaster risk assessments and provide guidance to the proposed mitigation measures. Moreover, CBOs have the opportunity to apply for a SGP preparation grant, e.g., to obtain specialist assistance for assessing climate and disaster risks and developing mitigation measures. This information would then be incorporated into the SGP grant proposal for the intervention.

Risk Description	*Impact and Likelihood (1-5)*	*Significance (Low, Moderate Substantial, High)*	*Comments*	*Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High*
Risk 5: There may be a heightened vulnerability due to a prolonged or recurrent outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic or similar crisis. Members of the project implementing team, local community members involved in project activities may be at a heightened risk of exposure to COVID 19 through the stakeholder consultation meetings, workshops and field visits, etc. There is also potential economic decline, disruptions in product supply-demand as a result of prolonged or recurrent pandemic situations, implicating on the project implementation plans, expected results and coping capacities of local communities.	I = 3 L = 4	**Moderate**	The landscape approach promoted on the project is predicated on participatory processes, including multi-stakeholder meetings, trainings, learning exchanges, seminars, etc. Ongoing COVID-19 vaccination programme may lead to a change in the context and in the regulations. This is to be observed during project implementation.	**Assessment**: A COVID-19 Analysis was undertaken during the PPG phase and is annexed to the Project document. **Management**: Adaptive management measures will be implemented to reduce the risk of virus exposure during a potential prolonged or recurrent COVID-19 pandemic, or similar crisis. A COVID-19 Analysis and Action Framework has been prepared and is annexed to the Project Document. Mitigation measures will be implemented accordingly, e.g., ensuring physical distancing, providing personal protective equipment, avoiding non-essential travel, delivering training on risks and recognition of symptoms, etc. Virtual meetings will be held where feasible. The project Knowledge Management and Communications Strategy, to be completed during project implementation, will include specific considerations for communication, public awareness and exchange of information under these circumstances. As COVID-19 is an evolving situation and could potentially exacerbate other vulnerabilities and risks, it will be important to remain abreast of the situation during project implementation and regularly review the risk and update mitigation measures as needed. The project?s COVID-19 Action Framework also includes measures that address opportunities, including promoting sustainable forest

Risk Description	*Impact and Likelihood (1-5)*	*Significance* *(Low, Moderate Substantial, High)*	*Comments*	*Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High*
Risk 6: Traditional knowledge is used for commercial or other purposes without acknowledgement of local communities	I=2 L=2	**Low**	Traditional knowledge will be promoted in the project landscapes, as part of efforts aimed at broader uptake of agroecological practices. Traditional knowledge will be described in the landscape baseline assessments, as well as the landscape strategies. Community groups develop the grant proposal documents, thus there is a low risk that their traditional knowledge will not be acknowledged.	

Risk Description	*Impact and Likelihood (1-5)*	*Significance* *(Low, Moderate Substantial, High)*	*Comments*	*Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High*
Risk 7: There is the possibility that CSOs which manage their grants, may use funds to finance employment-livelihood activities that do not meet national and international labour standards.	I = 3 L =3	**Moderate**		**Assessment**: Consistent with UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, the grant applicants will be required to conduct due diligence as part of the proposal development process to ascertain that third parties who engage project workers are legitimate and reliable entities and have in place appropriate policies, processes and systems that allow them to operate in accordance with the minimum requirements in the UNDP Standard 7 on Labour and Working Conditions, as well as relevant national laws?. The NSC will ensure compliance in the review of the grant proposals. **Management**: Procedures for managing the performance of such third parties in relation to minimum requirements in the UNDP Standards will be incorporated into the grant agreements, including relevant noncompliance remedies. Contractor works will have access to the grievance mechanisms, described in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The Field Coordinators in each of the three landscapes will support site level monitoring, and the Country Programme Management Team will carry out periodic spot checks to reinforce UNDP standards.

Risk Description	*Impact and Likelihood (1-5)*	*Significance* *(Low, Moderate Substantial, High)*	*Comments*	*Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High*
Risk 8: Workers involved in restoration-rehabilitation and agro-ecological production activities might be exposed to hazards in their use and handling of agrochemicals without adequate personal protective equipment, training and safeguards, or which might be subject to international bans.	I = 3 L = 4	**Moderate**	The landscape strategies will promote reduction and minimization of the use of agrochemicals. In some cases, non-chemical options might not be feasible, e.g., herbicides could be used in some of the restoration activities, e.g., clearing of invasive alien species. There are approved, safe agrochemicals available. But obsolete stocks are common in many countries. And workers could be ill-informed about the hazards of agrochemicals, including approved ones, and correct health and safety procedures.	**Assessment**: In the grant proposals, applicants will be required to ensure that UNDP Social and Environmental Standards as well as national occupational safety and health laws and derivative legislation are followed in the execution of project activities. **Management**: Restoration-rehabilitation and agro-ecological production activities are expected to be carried out in collaboration with or under the supervision of responsible governmental entities, or professional partners, such as experienced NGOs. Project proposals will be required to provide details that outline standard operating procedures including but not limited to the following: 1) internationally or nationally agrochemicals will not be used, 2) workers working with agrochemical inputs will be trained and equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment, and 3) national, provincial, and local guidelines and regulations on use and handling of agrochemical inputs will be followed.

Risk Description	*Impact and Likelihood (1-5)*	*Significance (Low, Moderate Substantial, High)*	*Comments*	*Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High*
Risk 9: Project interventions involving agrochemicals may result in release of pollutants to the environment and in the generation of hazardous waste.	I = 3 L = 2	**Moderate**	Unsafe use and handling of agrochemicals and associated hazardous wastes generated (e.g., used containers) may release harmful pollutants to the environment.	**Assessment**: In the grant proposals, applicants will be required to ensure that UNDP Social and Environmental Standards as well as national environmental protection laws and derivative legislation are followed in the execution of project activities. **Management**: Non-chemical options will be promoted. In cases where agrochemicals are used, workers involved in the restoration and other activities will be trained in the safe use and management of agrochemicals inputs. The Field Coordinators in each of the three landscapes will provide site level training as well as monitoring of safe use and management of agrochemicals and generated wastes.

[3] The National Environmental Action Plan 2021-2030 and the Nationally Determined Contributions for Climate Change which are being currently developed will provide guidance for the GEF 7 implementation process.

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

?

Institutional arrangements

Implementing Partner (Executing Agency): The Implementing Partner for this project is **United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)**.

The Implementing Partner is the entity to which the UNDP Administrator has entrusted the implementation of UNDP assistance specified in this signed project document along with the assumption of full responsibility and accountability for the effective use of UNDP resources and the delivery of outputs, as set forth in this document.

The Implementing Partner is responsible for executing this project. Specific tasks include:

? Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. This includes providing all required information and data necessary for timely, comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary. The Implementing Partner will strive to ensure project-level M&E is undertaken by national institutes and is aligned with national systems so that the data used and generated by the project supports national systems.

? Risk management as outlined in this Project Document.

? Procurement of goods and services, including human resources.

? Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets.

? Approving and signing the multiyear workplan.

? Approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the year.

? Signing the financial report or the funding authorization and certificate of expenditures.

Project beneficiary Groups: CBOs, CSOs and NGOs in the target landscapes: These stakeholders, with support of the multi-stakeholder governance platforms in each of the four landscapes, as well as technical and strategic assistance from the SGP, will design and implement the projects to generate global environmental benefits and community livelihood benefits.

UNDP: UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes oversight of project execution to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with agreed standards and provisions. UNDP is responsible for delivering GEF project cycle management services comprising project approval and start-up, project supervision and oversight, and project completion and evaluation. UNDP is also responsible for the Project Assurance role of the SGP National Steering Committee.

Project organisation structure: The roles and responsibilities of the various parties to the project are illustrated in the organogram shown below in *Figure 6* of the *Project Document* and described in the SGP Operational Guidelines (see *Annex 18 to the Project Document*).

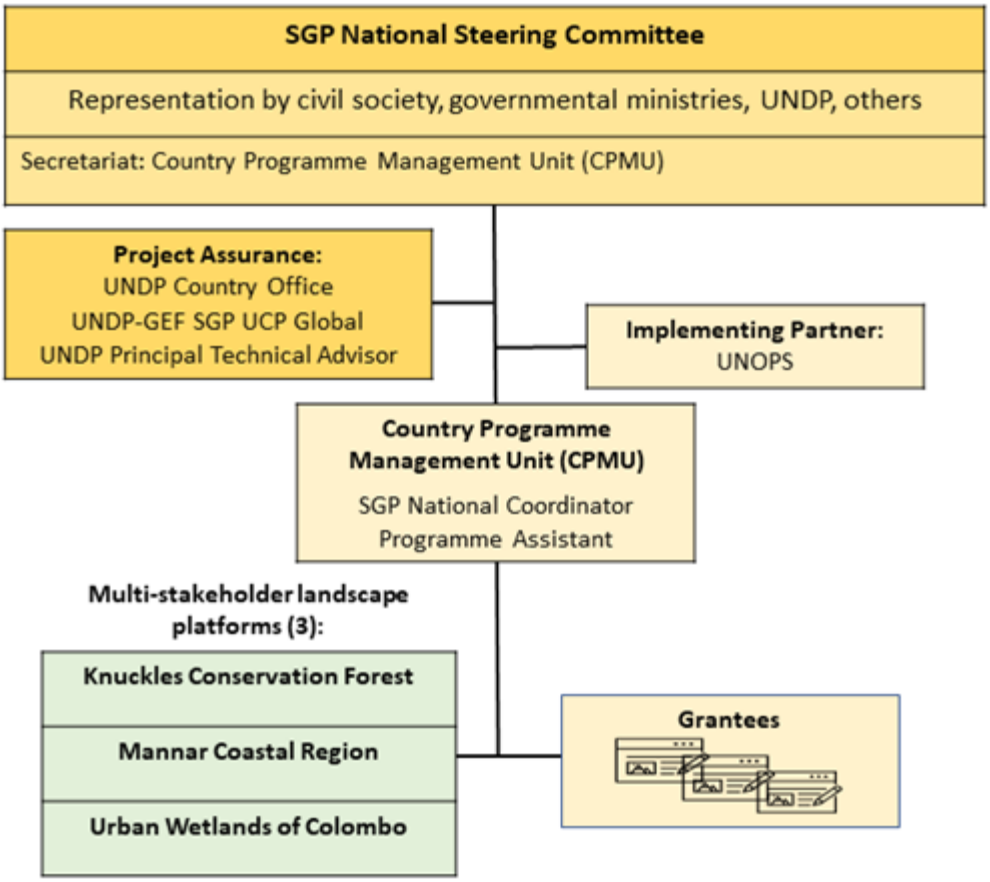

Figure 6 of the Project Document: Project organization

Project Board: The Project Board (called SGP National Steering Committee, NSC) is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results. In order to ensure UNDP?s ultimate accountability, NSC decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition. Establishment and operations of SGP National Steering Committees are carried out in accordance with the SGP Operational Guidelines (see *Annex 20* to the *Project Document*).

In case consensus cannot be reached within the NSC, the UNDP Resident Representative (or their designate) will mediate to find consensus and, if this cannot be found, he/she will take the final decision to ensure project implementation is not unduly delayed.

Specific responsibilities of the NSC include:

? Provide overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints.

? Address project issues as raised by the project manager (also called SGP National Coordinator).

? Provide guidance on new project risks and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks.

? Agree on project manager?s tolerances as required, within the parameters set by UNDP-GEF, and provide direction and advice for exceptional situations when the project manager?s tolerances are exceeded.

? Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP-GEF.

- ? Ensure coordination between various donor and government-funded projects and programmes.
- ? Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities.
- ? Track and monitor co-financing for this project.
- ? Review the project progress, assess performance, and appraise the Annual Work Plan for the following year.
- ? Appraise the annual project implementation report, including the quality assessment rating report.
- ? Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project.

? Provide direction and recommendations to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily according to plans.

? Address project-level grievances.

? Approve the project Inception Report and Terminal Evaluation report and corresponding management response.

? Review the final project report package during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lesson learned and opportunities for scaling up.

? Ensure highest levels of transparency and take all measures to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest.

Project Assurance: UNDP performs the quality assurance role and supports the NSC and Country Programme Management Unit by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. This role ensures appropriate project management milestones are managed and completed, and conflict of interest issues are monitored and addressed. The SGP-NSC cannot delegate any of its quality assurance responsibilities to the SGP National Coordinator. UNDP provides a three ? tier oversight services involving the UNDP Country Offices and UNDP at regional and headquarters levels. Project assurance is totally independent of project execution.

Project extensions: The UNDP Resident Representative and the UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator must approve all project extensions. All extensions incur costs, and the GEF project budget cannot be increased. A single extension may be granted on an exceptional basis only if the following conditions are met: one extension only for a project for a maximum of six months; the project management costs during the extension period must remain within the originally approved amount, and any increase in PMC costs will

be covered by non-GEF resources; the UNDP Country Office oversight costs in excess of the CO?s Agency fee specified in the DOA during the extension period must be covered by non-GEF resources.

UNDP will provide overall Programme oversight and take responsibility for standard GEF project cycle management services beyond assistance and oversight of project design and negotiation, including project monitoring, periodic evaluations, troubleshooting, and reporting to the GEF. UNDP will also provide high level technical and managerial support from the UNDP GEF Global Coordinator for the SGP Upgrading Country Programmes, who is responsible for project oversight for all SGP Upgraded Country Programme projects.[1] The SGP Central Programme Management Team (CPMT) will monitor Upgraded Country Programmes for compliance with GEF SGP core policies and procedures.

In accordance with the global SGP Operational Guidelines (see *Annex* 20 to the *Project Document*) that will guide overall project implementation in Sri Lanka, and in keeping with past best practice, the UNDP Resident Representative will appoint the National Steering Committee (NSC) members in consultation with the GEF Operational Focal Point. The NSC, composed of government and non-government organizations with a non-government majority, a UNDP representative, and individuals with expertise in the GEF Focal Areas, is responsible for grant selection and approval and for determining the overall strategy of the SGP in the country. NSC members serve without remuneration and rotate periodically in accordance with its rules of procedure. The Government is usually represented by the GEF Operational Focal Point or by another high-level representative of relevant ministries or institutions. The NSC assesses the performance of the SGP National Coordinator with input from the UNDP RR, the SGP UCP Global Coordinator, and UNOPS. The NSC also contributes to bridging community-level experiences with national policymaking.

On an as-needed basis, the NSC can invite specialists having specific technical expertise to provide guidance on subjects being deliberated by the NSC or to deliver technical feedback as part of the NSC decision-making processes, e.g., evaluation of project proposals.

The UNDP Country Office is the business unit in UNDP for the SGP project and is responsible for ensuring the project meets its objective and delivers on its targets. The Country Office will make available its expertise in various environment and development fields as shown below. UNDP will be represented in the NSC and will actively participate in grant monitoring activities. The CO will participate in NSC meetings, promoting synergies with other relevant Programmes, and support the design and implementation of the SGP strategy, among other things.

The Country Programme Management Unit (CPMU) composed of an SGP National Coordinator and a Programme Assistant, appointed by the Implementing Partner, is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Programme. This includes supporting NSC strategic work and grant selection by developing technical papers, undertaking ex-ante technical reviews of project proposals; taking responsibility for monitoring the grant portfolio and for providing technical assistance to grantees during project design and implementation; mobilizing cash and in-kind resources; preparing reports for UNDP, GEF and other donors; implementing a capacity development Programme for communities, CBOs and NGOs, as well as a communications and knowledge management strategy to ensure adequate visibility of GEF investments, and disseminating good practices and lessons learnt. The terms of reference for the members of the CPMU are included in the overview of technical consultancies/subcontracts in *Annex 7 to the Project Document*.

Grants will be selected by the NSC from proposals submitted by CBOs and NGOs through calls for proposals in specific thematic and geographic areas relevant to the SGP Country Programme strategy, as embodied in this document. Although government organizations cannot receive SGP grants, every effort will be made to coordinate grant implementation with relevant line ministries, decentralized institutions, universities and local government authorities to ensure their support, create opportunities for co-financing, and provide feedback on policy implementation on the ground. Contributions from and cooperation with the private sector will also be sought.

UNOPS will provide Country Programme implementation services, including human resources management, budgeting, accounting, grant disbursement, auditing, and procurement. UNOPS is responsible for SGP?s financial management and provides monthly financial reports to UNDP. The UNOPS SGP Standard Operating Procedures guide the financial and administrative management of the project. UNOPS will provide a certified expenditure report as of 31 December of each year of implementation.

A key service of UNOPS is the contracting of SGP staff as needed and required by the Programme, and once contracted, UNOPS provides guidance and supervision, together with the UNDP CO acting on behalf of UNOPS, to the SGP country staff in their administrative and finance related work. UNOPS also provides other important services (as specified in the GEF Council document C.36/4) that include (1) oversight and quality assurance: (i) coordinate with the Upgrading Country Programme (UCP) Global Coordinator on annual work plan activities and (ii) undertake trouble-shooting and problem-solving missions; (2) project financial management: (i) review and authorize operating budgets; (ii) review and authorize disbursement, (iii) monitor and oversee all financial transactions, (iv) prepare semi-annual and annual financial progress reports and (v) prepare periodic status reports on grant allocations and expenditures; (3) project procurement management: (i) undertake procurement activities and (ii) management of contracts; (4) project assets management: (i) maintain an inventory of all capitalized assets; (5) project risks management: (i) prepare and implement an annual audit plan and (ii) follow up on all audit recommendations; and (6) Grants management: (i) administer all grants, (ii) financial grant monitoring and (iii) legal advice.

Under its legal advice role, UNOPS takes the lead in investigations of UNOPS-contracted SGP staff. UNOPS services also include transactional services: (1) personnel administration, benefits and entitlements of project personnel contracted by UNOPS; (2) processing payroll of project personnel contracted by UNOPS, (3) input transaction instruction and automated processing of project personnel official mission travel and DSA; (4) input transaction instruction and automated processing of financial transactions such as Purchase Order, Receipts, Payment Vouchers and Vendor Approval and (5) procurement in UN Web Buy.

UNOPS will continue with a number of areas for enhancing execution services started during the fifth Operational Phase, including: inclusion of co-financing below $500,000; technical assistance to high risk/low performing countries; developing a risk-based management approach; strengthening the central structure to make it more suitable for an expanded Programme; resolving grant disbursement delays; enhancing country Programme oversight; improving monitoring & evaluation; increasing the audit volume and quality assurance work; and optimizing Programme cost-effectiveness. To facilitate global coherence

in execution of services, guidance and operating procedures, UNOPS through a central management team and NSC, coordinates primarily with UNDP/GEF HQ respectively.

UNOPS will not make any financial commitments or incur any expenses that would exceed the budget for implementing the project as set forth in this Project Document. UNOPS shall regularly consult with UNDP concerning the status and use of funds and shall promptly advise UNDP any time when UNOPS is aware that the budget to carry out these services is insufficient to fully implement the project in the manner set out in the Project Document. UNDP shall have no obligation to provide UNOPS with any funds or to make any reimbursement for expenses incurred by UNOPS in excess of the total budget as set forth in the Project Document.

UNOPS will submit a cumulative financial report each quarter (31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December). The report will be submitted to UNDP through the ATLAS Project Delivery Report (PDR) system and follow the established ATLAS formats and PDR timelines. The level of detail in relation to the reporting requirement is indicated in the Project Document budget which will be translated into the ATLAS budgets. UNDP will include the expenditure reported by UNOPS in its reconciliation of the project financial report.

Upon completion or termination of activities, UNOPS shall furnish a financial closure report, including a list of non-expendable equipment purchased by UNOPS, and all relevant audited or certified financial statements and records related to such activities, as appropriate, pursuant to its Financial Regulations and Rules.

Title to any equipment and supplies that may be furnished by UNDP or procured through UNDP funds shall rest with UNDP until such time as ownership thereof is transferred. Equipment and supplies that may be furnished by UNDP or procured through UNDP funds will be disposed as agreed, in writing, between UNDP and UNOPS. UNDP shall provide UNOPS with instructions on the disposal of such equipment and supplies within 90 days of the end of the Project.

The arrangements described in this Project Document will remain in effect until the end of the project, or until terminated in writing (with 30 days? notice) by either party. The schedule of activities specified in the Project Document remains in effect based on continued performance by UNOPS unless it receives written indication to the contrary from UNDP. The arrangements described in this Agreement, including the structure of implementation and responsibility for results, shall be revisited on an annual basis and may result in the amendment of this Project Document.

If this Agreement is terminated or suspended, UNDP shall reimburse UNOPS for all costs directly incurred by UNOPS in the amounts specified in the project budget or as otherwise agreed in writing by UNDP and UNOPS.

All further correspondence regarding this Agreement, other than signed letters of agreement or amendments thereto should be addressed to the UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator and the UNDP Resident Coordinator.

UNOPS shall keep UNDP fully informed of all actions undertaken by them in carrying out this Agreement.

Any changes to the Project Document that would affect the work being performed by UNOPS shall be recommended only after consultation between the parties. Any amendment to this Project Document shall be affected by mutual agreement, in writing.

If UNOPS is prevented by force majeure from fulfilling its obligations under this Agreement, it shall not be deemed in breach of such obligations. UNOPS shall use all reasonable efforts to mitigate the consequences of force majeure. Force majeure is defined as natural catastrophes such as but not limited to earthquakes, floods, cyclonic or volcanic activity; war (whether declared or not), invasion, rebellion, terrorism, revolution, insurrection, civil war, riot, radiation or contaminations by radioactivity; other acts of a similar nature or force. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, UNOPS shall in no event be liable as a result or consequence of any act or omission on the part of UNDP, the government and/or any provincial and/or municipal authorities, including its agents, servants and employees.

UNDP and UNOPS shall use their best efforts to promptly settle through direct negotiations any dispute, controversy or claim which is not settled within sixty (60) days from the date either party has notified the other party of the dispute, controversy or claim and of measures which should be taken to rectify it, shall be referred to the UNDP Administrator and the UNOPS Executive Director for resolution.

This project will be implemented by UNOPS in accordance with UNOPS? Financial Rules and Regulations provided these do not contravene the principles established in UNDP?s Financial Regulations and Rules.

UNOPS as the Implementing Partner shall comply with the policies, procedures and practices of the United Nations security management system

Planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives

The project strategy has a strong emphasis on building upon baseline activities implemented by project partners, as well as on establishing new and strengthening existing partnerships to ensure the sustainability of the results achieved. The project will collaborate with and build on the lessons of a range of related initiatives. The NSC has consistently promoted the collaboration of the Country Programme with government initiatives, as well as with GEF-financed and other donor funded projects and programmes. Members of the NSC endorse collaborative arrangements and partnerships to maximize the efficiency of the GEF SGP investment, as well, with SGP-sponsored technologies, and ensure that experience and lessons learned are disseminated and absorbed by government programmes and institutions. Opportunities for establishing new and strengthening existing partnerships are described below.

Ecosystem Conservation and Management Project (ESCAMP): The World Bank financed ESCAMP (2017-2021) has the main objective of improving the management of ecosystems in selected locations in Sri Lanka for conservation and community benefits. It acknowledges the challenge of environmental and natural resources degradation and aims to enhance the management and sustainable use of ecosystems in selected priority locations in Sri Lanka through a series of complementary and synergistic components. ESCAMP emphasizes biodiversity protection with integrated planning that would align and balance development programmes within protected areas based on environmental and social priorities, by enabling the participation of local communities and other relevant stakeholders and by ensuring benefits for them. Two of its three components *viz* pilot landscape planning and management and sustainable use of natural

resources and human-elephant co-existence have synergies with the proposed project components. In fact, five projects of the ESCAP are sited within of the proposed project landscapes. There will be several lessons to be learned from the ESCAMP.

GEF/FAO, GEF ID 5677, Rehabilitation of Degraded Agricultural Lands in Kandy, Badulla and Nuwara Eliya Districts in the Central Highlands (CH): A portion of the Knuckles landscape lies in Kandy district, and the Knuckles region as a whole is part of the Central Highlands. As such, a great many lessons from the GEF/FAO GEF ID 5677 project can be potentially replicated in the Knuckles landscape. For example, Farmer Field Schools (FFS), introduced by the project, have been successfully implemented in all the districts, and this methodology can be used in GEF/SGP initiatives. FFS are recognized at the national level as useful in engaging communities to combat land degradation and has been introduced and tested in couple of SGP initiatives in the Knuckles region. FFS can be used in OP7 by communities to address LD issues. At the same time, several sites demonstrating sustainable land management were established under the above project, and SGP can support field visits to these sites by community organizations. Extensionists, farmer leaders and others trained by the GEF/FAO project can be engaged in projects in the Knuckles landscape.

GEF/UNDP, GEF ID 9372, Managing Together: Integrating Community-centered, Ecosystem-based Approaches into Forestry, Agriculture and Tourism Sectors. Reforestation and ecological agriculture (agroecology) are part of SGP Sri Lanka?s landscape approach. Several SGP grantee organizations are working on developing community-based ecotourism. Knowledge, recommendations and lessons learned from this project can be shared with GEF/SGP OP6 and OP7 and vice versa. This project has just commenced, in 2021.

Forest Department Community Forestry: Sri Lanka Community Forestry Programme (SLCFP) was a four-year programme expected to improve the quality of 23,000 ha of forests under the community forestry approach in 18 districts. The Forest Conservation Ordinance (as amended in 2009) provides a legal foundation for inter-sectoral (multi-stakeholder) platforms to promote resource management and biodiversity conservation. The proposed SGP project will cooperate with SLCFP in its activities in particular in improving the livelihood options available for the households and build the capacity of communities to participate in sustainable community forestry management activities.

GEF ID 10537, UNDP, Partnerships and Innovative Financing to Mainstream Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Management in the Wet and Intermediate Climatic Zones. Approved in the June 2020 work program the project will work in an adjacent landscape to the Knuckles range with specific activities that could be synergistic (Private-Public-Community partnerships in biodiversity, certification, community home gardens). The proposed SGP project will look for synergies and/or coordination directly with Project management through the UNDP Country Office.

GEF-7 project ID 10552 (under development), Natural Capital Values of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in Sri Lanka Integrated into Sustainable Development Planning. The SGP OP7 project will coordinate with this IUCN-GEF project in the Mannar landscape.

United Nations Readiness Program for Reducing Emissions through Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UNREDD) (Financing from the UNREDD Multi Party Trust Fund): This program is

now complete, but SGP partnered with UNREDD specifically through the Community-Based REDD+ program (CBR+) which piloted ground-level initiatives that are then fed into the UNREDD process as demonstrations of best practice, sharing experiences and lessons. It is hoped that another phase will also be developed so that more lessons learned can inform SGP projects.

Rehabilitation of degraded agricultural lands in Kandy, Badulla and Nuwara Eliya Districts in the Central Highlands (GEF financed): Land Degradation has emerged as a serious problem in Sri Lanka. It has been estimated that nearly one third of the land in the country is subject to soil erosion. Eroded land area ranges from less than 10 percent in some districts to over 50 percent in others. The population has been expanding rapidly and this has led to an increased demand for land for economic purposes and social services. Nationwide, the major contributors to land degradation are soil erosion and soil fertility degradation. However, chemical degradation, such as acidification of soils affects many areas under plantation crops, especially the tea sector, while fertilizer overuse can be a problem in areas under annual crops. Land degradation in the Central Highlands has been threatening the ability of agro-ecosystems in the area to provide global environmental benefits and to sustain economic activities and livelihoods of people depending on ecosystem goods and services. SGP will partner with this LD project through community-based initiatives to demonstrate feasible projects and best practices as indeed it has done over the past two decades. The initiatives will arrest erosion and fertility degradation and provide livelihoods for communities with enhanced incomes.

The GCF-funded, IUCN implemented **Strengthening Climate Resilience of Subsistence Farmers and Agricultural Plantation Communities residing in the vulnerable river basins, watershed areas and downstream of the Knuckles Mountain Range Catchment of Sri Lanka** will commence shortly and plans to ?enhance the ability of smallholder subsistence farmers to address climate induced shortages of irrigation and drinking water by improving the resilience of farm and land management practices and climate proofing the underlying ecosystems in the Knuckles / Amban Ganga highlands and lowlands. In achieving its objectives, the project will mitigate the risks related to increased temperatures, changes in the frequency and intensity of rainfall, and the impacts of extreme events that cause extended droughts, frequent floods, severe landslides, and silting of reservoirs and tanks, contributing to different aspects of water supply and demand in the project area which increase the vulnerabilities of small-scale farmers, plantation operations and the natural ecosystems on which they depend. Project activities will comprise:

? Participatory governance and adaptive planning,

? Establishment of climate adaptation information portals and advisory services,

? Improved access to agricultural water supply

? Improved access to affordable renewable energy,

? Participatory selection and implementation of best-fit climate-adaptive land management options to suit ecosystems, and

? Value chain upgrading?to include product development, value-adding processes, farm business enterprises and standards and market access.

The six-year GCF project aims to induce transformative change and develop replicable financial models, electronic transaction systems and incorporate ecosystem payments into planning as a resilience model. The project will also facilitate the development of a participatory exit strategy to build the local capacity to sustain project achievements and subsequent progress in the post-project period. Primary measurable benefits will include: i) 1.3 million people (51.4 % women) who will benefit from the adoption of diversified, climate-resilient livelihood options; ii) 346,000 hectares of upland and lowland agro-ecosystems and natural ecosystems protected and strengthened in response to climate variability and change?. Many of the proposed SGP GEF 7 project activities will align with the above aims and can contribute to this larger project.

Promoting Sustainable Biomass Energy Production and Modern Bio-Energy Technologies (GEF financed): Due to constant price escalations and the gradual withdrawal of the government subsidy for fossil fuel, fuel wood demand in industry has seen a steady increase. Even larger industries, traditionally reliant on furnace oil, diesel or LPG are converting their processes to use wood. The goal of the project is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the use of fossil fuel for thermal energy generation in the industrial sector, by removing barriers to establish biomass plantations, increase market share of biomass energy generation mix and adoption of biomass-based energy technologies. The project consists of institutional support for effective implementation; barrier removal for sustainable fuel wood production; enabling environment for fuel wood suppliers; wood-based energy technology development with the aim of improving operations and maintenance for industries to switch from fossil fuel to fuel wood, improvement of wood-burning thermal boilers and small gasification units. SGP Partner NGOs have been involved in this project from project planning stage to establishing supply chains, and even launched biomass energy units of their own to produce energy which is sold to the national grid. Through this project SGP partners have built their capacities and knowledge on biomass energy supply and use.

Natural Resources Management Centre (NRMC), Department of Agriculture: The Natural Resources Management Centre (NRMC) implements activities including research on soil conservation and watershed management, land suitability evaluation, crop monitoring and forecasting, agro-meteorological and climate change, productivity enhancement, soil and water quality and on-farm irrigation management. The Centre is also vested with the responsibility of ensuring the minimization of land degradation to increase resilience to climate change and conservation of biodiversity of the country. SGP works in cooperation with NRMC on project implementation which has ensured excellent results and impacts for the projects as well as for long term benefits for the communities. SGP will continue this partnership with NRMC through community-based initiatives in the three proposed sites of the project adapting a multi stakeholder approach to engage all relevant partners to achieve expected results.

Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project (CRIWMP): This is a GCF-funded project which aims to improve irrigation by introducing climate-resilient agricultural practices; improve access to potable water by enhancing community-managed drinking water infrastructure; and protect farmers and other vulnerable groups from climate related impacts by strengthening early warning systems and climate advisories. Through accomplishing these outputs, the project aims to achieve enhanced levels of food, livelihood and water security of approximately 770,500 climate vulnerable communities living in three river basins. CRIWMP will work in the Mannar landscape, offering opportunities for close collaboration

during the implementation of the OP7 project.

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[15] GEF/C.54/05/Rev.01 *GEF Small Grants Programme: Implementation Arrangements for GEF-7*, approved by GEF Council.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assesments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

- National Action Plan for Adaptation (NAPA) under LDCF/UNFCCC

- National Action Program (NAP) under UNCCD

- ASGM NAP (Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining) under Mercury

- Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) under Minamata Convention

- National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under UNCBD

- National Communications (NC) under UNFCCC

- Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) under UNFCCC

- National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) under UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD

- National Implementation Plan (NIP) under POPs

- Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)

- National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) under GEFSEC

- Biennial Update Report (BUR) under UNFCCC

- Others

The Sri Lanka SGP Country Programme will continue to support national priorities under OP7 and work in full partnership with relevant government policies, plans, and programmes.

The SGP Sri Lanka proposed project aligns perfectly with Sri Lanka?s **National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan 2016-2022** (NBSAP) concepts of conserving biodiversity; sustainably using biological resources; conserving and efficiently using agro-biodiversity; promoting human well-being through the ecosystem approach; and multi-stakeholder consultation and engagement.

The **National Red List of Sri Lanka ? Conserving Fauna and Flora (2012)** evaluates ? using standard Red List? criteria ? most of the known species of flora and fauna and provides objective listing of the threat status of each species, thereby highlighting those species most at risk from extinction, in turn, underscoring priority areas for research and conservation. The process of Red Listing is currently ongoing and project activities related to biodiversity conservation will support this.

In two of the three landscapes selected for activities under this project are Wetlands recognized under the **Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) (1971**). The Vankalai Sanctuary under the jurisdiction of the Department of Wildlife Conservation is in the coastal stretch from Mannar island to Jaffna was designated a Ramsar Site in 2010. In 2018, Colombo was accredited as a Ramsar Wetland City in recognition of the important urban wetlands there. Proposed activities for the SGP Sri Lanka project fully support one of the three pillars of the Convention ? ?Ensuring the conservation and wise use of wetlands it has designated as Wetlands of International Importance?, as well as the urban wetlands recognized by Ramsar.

The third landscape ? the Knuckles Conservation Forest ? is part of a World Heritage Site (the Central Highlands), declared under the **United Nations Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972).** By signing this Convention, each country is encouraged to undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community. Component 1 of the proposed SGP Sri Lanka aligns perfectly with this statement.

Mannar Island, with the coastal stretch from Mannar Island to Jaffna is an important feeding grounds of many migratory water birds. In 1990, Sri Lanka ratified the **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species** (also known as CMS or Bonn Convention) (1979). The CMS Convention provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats. Project activities that relate to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, including eco-tourism, not only align with the Convention but will be also extremely important for this area, especially Mannar Island, which is becoming an emerging tourism hub for avi-tourism in Sri Lanka.

The project will contribute towards achievement of the national **Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Targets for Sri Lanka (December 2017), which include** halting the conversion of forests and wetlands to other land cover classes, restoring and improving degraded forests, increasing forest cover, and reducing the rate of soil degradation to improve land productivity and soil organic carbon stocks.

The National Action Programme for Combating Land Degradation in Sri Lanka 2015-2024 addresses land degradation which has emerged as a serious problem in Sri Lanka. The population has been expanding rapidly and this has led to an increased demand for land for economic and domestic purposes. Evidence of this degradation can be seen in heavy soil loses; high sediment yields; decline in soil fertility, salinization and the marginalization of agricultural land. The objective of the plan is to reduce land degradation and mitigate the effect of drought with the participation of affected communities, Public Sector Agencies, CBOs, NGOs, and the Private Sector. Activities such as promoting on-farm and off-farm soil and water conservation measures; participatory approaches to land and resource management; proven low-cost soil improvement practices, vegetation conservation techniques, agronomic practices and agroforestry systems in degraded areas through demonstrations and awareness creation programmes, implementation of organic

farming and other nutrient management activities have been identified for NGO/CBO involvement ? these are aligned with proposed project activities.

Mainstreaming Agrobiodiversity Conservation and Use in Sri Lankan Agro-ecosystems for Livelihoods and Adaptation to Climate Change is a GEF-funded project implemented by the Sri Lanka Ministry of Environment jointly with the Plant Genetic Resource Centre, Department of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture. Its aim is to ensure that agro-biodiversity is conserved and used to meet the challenges of climate change and improve rural livelihoods. The project explores the role of agro-biodiversity in helping farmers and rural communities to adapt to climate change and to improve their livelihoods. The proposed outcomes and activities in this project support this aim.

The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for Climate Change Impacts in Sri Lanka: 2016 ? 2025 lists as two of its objectives (i) ?To build the capacity of communities, economic sectors and ecosystems to adjust more readily to unfolding changes of climate through supportive investments on adaptive actions and increased awareness and (ii) To increase the skills and knowledge on successful practices of adaptation through well designed education, training and awareness programmes?. The proposed outcomes, outputs and activities of the OP7 project fit well within these objectives.

The Third National Communication to the UNFCCC (under development). The Second National Report, among its components has one on vulnerability and adaptation. Under this component, it recommends adaptation in the water sector for agriculture and ecosystem-based adaptation, which is a holistic approach that requires intersectoral collaboration. The proposed outcomes of the SGP Sri Lanka project exemplifies these recommendations.

The National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) under UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD (2007) lists among its objectives ?enhance capacity for communication, education and public awareness on conservation and sustainable use of resources to mobilize commitment and participation of all stakeholders; and enhance capacity to integrate (mainstream) environment concerns into sectoral and cross-sectoral policies and programmes of public agencies.? These are, fundamentally, what multi-stakeholder governance platforms under Component 2 of the OP7 project are envisaging to achieve.

Through the **UNDP BIOFIN** (the Biodiversity Finance Initiative), Sri Lanka is developing a sustainable certification system for the Sri Lankan tourism industry. Eco-tourism is planned in all three proposed landscapes, and guidance on sustainable tourism would be beneficial to the project.

Sri Lanka is also party to regional agreements such as the **Dhaka Declaration** and **SAARC Action Plan on Climate Change**, **Male Declaration** on transboundary air pollution, and the **South Asia Seas Action Plan** all of which are strongly supportive of the objectives of the project.

8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

Resources have been allocated in the OP7 project budget to further develop the Knowledge Management Strategy and Communications Strategy for the SGP in Sri Lanka. It will be important to address issues

associated with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, including specific considerations for communication, public awareness and exchange of information under these circumstances. As COVID-19 is an evolving situation and could potentially exacerbate other vulnerabilities and risks, it will be important to remain abreast of the situation during project implementation and regularly review the risk and update mitigation measures as needed.

The Knowledge Management Strategy and Communications Strategy will also describe specific actions for encouraging learning from other initiatives, e.g., participating in the multi-stakeholder platforms, knowledge fairs, networking with civil society, governmental stakeholders, and the donor community, etc.

Each SGP grant project is designed to produce three things: global environmental and local sustainable development benefits (impacts); organizational capacities (technical, analytical, etc.) from learning by doing; and knowledge from evaluation of the innovation experience. Knowledge management, including the dissemination of best practices and lessons learned, will remain an essential element of the SGP Sri Lanka Country Programme during OP7. The knowledge management approach involves assessing and sharing lessons learned and best practices from target landscapes based on evaluation of implementation results and their contributions to Global Environment Benefits (GEB), local development objectives and landscape level outcomes, including the development of social capital, and capturing learning from other complementary initiatives.

Each small grant project will have as a primary product a case study which will be further systematized and codified for dissemination at the landscape level through policy dialogue platforms, and interaction with other complementary initiatives through participation incommunity landscape management networks and multi-stakeholder partnerships, as well as knowledge fairs and other exchanges; at the national level through the National Steering Committee, strategic partnerships and their networks, and national knowledge fairs where appropriate; and globally through the SGP global network of SGP Country Programmes and UNDP?s knowledge management systems.

The project will strengthen knowledge management platforms to facilitate links among communities, promote information sharing, and provide access to knowledge resources that are relevant to their individual projects. The knowledge obtained from project experiences and lessons learned will be socialized through SGP?s well-established national network of stakeholders and SGP?s global platform, and it will be used in upscaling successful initiatives. The increased capacity of community-level stakeholders to generate, access and use information and knowledge is expected to increase the sustainability of project activities beyond the life of the grant funding. Knowledge sharing and replication will help ensure that the impacts of the project are sustained and expanded, generating additional environmental benefits over the longer-term. At the global level, the project will contribute to knowledge platforms, including the SGP website and Communities Connect (a platform to share knowledge from civil society organizations around the world).

A case study of the landscape planning and management experience in each of the selected landscapes will highlight the processes of stakeholder participation, as well as the progress toward the targets selected during landscape planning, using the Satoyama Resilience Indicators.[1] A detailed analysis will be produced of the successes and failures in each landscape in regard to the generation of synergies between individual community projects around landscape level outcomes, lessons learned, and future efforts to

strengthen the landscape planning and management processes. The results of these studies will be published and disseminated throughout the country through print and digital media and SGP?s institutional partners, NGOs, SGP-supported CSO networks, universities and others.

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[16] UNU-IAS, Bioversity International, IGES and UNDP. 2014. Toolkit for the Indicators of Resilience in Socio-ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes (SEPLS).

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

The project?s monitoring and evaluation is provided in *Section VII Monitoring and Evaluation Plan* of the Project Document, summarized below.

Table 5 of the Project Document: Monitoring and evaluation plan and budget

GEF M&E requirements	Indicative costs (US$)	Time frame
Inception Workshop	10,000	Within 60 days of CEO endorsement of this project.
Inception Report	None	Within 90 days of CEO endorsement of this project.
M&E of GEF core indicators and project results framework	22,200	Annually and at mid-point and closure.
GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)[1]	None	Annually typically between June-August
Monitoring of gender action plan, SESP, stakeholder engagement plan	25,500	On-going
Supervision missions	None	Annually
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE)	25,000	June 2025
TOTAL indicative COST	**82,700**	5% of GEF project grant

Certain adaptive management measures are envisaged during project implementation in case of a prolonged or recurrent pandemic. Through implementation of possible adaptive management measures, project implementation is expected to be carried out without major impacts to the budget over the four-year duration. For example, local NGO partners have important roles in facilitating integrated landscape approaches, such as the participatory baseline assessments, development of landscape strategies, convening multi-stakeholder landscape platforms, and carrying out site-level monitoring and evaluation tasks. CPMU will provide strategic guidance to the local partners through a variety of in-person and virtual techniques accordingly.

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[17] The costs of UNDP CO and UNDP-GEF Unit?s participation and time are charged to the GEF Agency Fee.

[18] The costs of UNDP CO and UNDP-GEF Unit?s participation and time are charged to the GEF Agency Fee.

10. Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

The durability of the multiple global environmental benefits generated through the community-driven interventions in the project landscapes will largely depend upon sustained socioeconomic benefits for local communities.

Introduction and adoption of income generating measures. At the local level, increased income generating measures and economic incentives will be promoted that give local communities reason to adopt them, and these measures will generate economic benefits to the communities in the short as well as longer term in order to be considered sustainable. The technologies and approaches promoted are expected to increase land productivity and enhance food security.

Support community development, particularly those initiatives that contribute towards generating environmental benefits. There are 36 villages within Knuckles conserved forest and its buffer zone. Access to most of these villages is difficult, and there are very few opportunities for income generation avenues in those villages. Large numbers of men, especially the younger generations, leave villages to find other income generating means, mostly as unskilled labour. Similar situations have been observed in the communities of Mannar landscape, as well. This situation leads to a fragile family structure, with only women with children and elderly people remaining in the villages. The project will address this issue by targeting income generating programmes, e.g., eco-tourism, small scale social entrepreneurship, green agro-business etc., especially for women, youth, elderly, people with disabilities, and other marginalized groups.

Increased access and adoption of new technologies for sustainable livelihoods. The communities in all three landscapes are lacking in new knowledge and technologies for farming and other non-agricultural

activities leading to poor productivity and inferior quality. Inappropriate technologies are low in efficiency and harmful to the sustainability of production systems and the environment. Providing communities with new knowledge and suitable technologies will improve productivity while strengthening sustainability. This will lead to adoption of new income generating avenues.

Enhanced access to micro finance facilities to women entrepreneurs. Poor access to financial facilities is another drawbacks identified especially in the development of small-scale entrepreneurship in green, agro-based industries. Securing a loan from commercial banks is a herculean task for these communities, as they do not possess required knowledge and are unfamiliar with the processes. Therefore, most of the community members ? particularly women ? use unauthorized micro credit facilities or pawn their valuables to obtain their financial needs. Facilitating partnerships through the multi-stakeholder landscape platforms, delivering capacity building on improving financial management skills, and disseminating information on available financing options for local community organizations will help enhance small-scale entrepreneurship.

Capacity development and women?s empowerment. Capacity building is one of the pillars of the SGP. Capacity building activities will be implemented based on a training-of-trainers approach through farmer field schools, etc., which are considered more sustainable. Once the new technologies are adopted it is expected that farmers will continue to innovate and apply them, achieving greater profitability while at the same time generating environmental benefits.

New entrepreneurships and access to new markets. Project interventions will improve the community products and services which are already available in the landscape and will assist in developing small-scale entrepreneurship with improved market channels, including local and international markets. This intervention aims at removing interference by intermediaries in the value chain, so that the benefits will be directly transferred.

Eco-tourism. Each of the project landscapes has been identified by the government as eco-tourism destinations. The project will capture the potential for ecotourism, which will assist communities to increase their income in this sector. The project will also work with government line agencies as well as the private sector to develop ecotourism, so that the communities receive benefits directly.

Improved well-being. Home gardening and good agricultural practices (GAP) are the two main aspects related to agroecosystems. These two approaches will be promoted to produce healthy and safe foods. Under these programmes, new water saving technologies will be introduced to the farming communities, so that the communities and their agricultural production are more resilient to climate change. Both these programmes will reduce the use of agro-chemicals, resulting in production of safe food for the home community as well as for the market.

Improved land productivity through SLM and availability of quality green products. The project will promote sustainable land management (SLM) practices in all landscapes using farmer Field Schools. It was also revealed during discussions with the farmers that the majority of them do not pay much attention to land levelling and good tillage practices due to financial constraints. Inadequate land levelling leads to inefficient use of irrigation water, fertilizers and pesticides. The impact of drought and floods too can be severe in improperly levelled paddy fields.

The project is relevant with respect to several of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),** most notably SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals, as outlined below in *Table 2 of the Project Document*.

Table 2 of the Project Document: Project contributions towards Sustainable Development Goals

SDG	Project Contribution:
	4,000 estimated direct beneficiaries, participating and benefitting in interventions on strengthening access to natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services. (aligned with SDG 1.1) Landscape strategies provide pro-poor and gender-responsive frameworks for accelerating development in poverty-stricken areas. Aligned with SDG 1.b.
	The project will promote sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production and help maintain ecosystems and strengthen resilience to climate change, as well as improve nutrition. Aligned with SDG 2.4.
	50% of the envisaged direct beneficiaries are estimated to be female (2,000 individuals). Women empowerment is expected to be strengthened through increased autonomy on agricultural production systems and energy use, enhanced decision-making regarding credit, increased leadership through active participation in women's groups, and reduction in workload. Aligned with SDG 5.a.
	The landscape strategies will contribute to local development planning with respect to social inclusion, resource efficiency, adaptation to climate change, and resilience to disasters. Aligned with SDG 11.b.
	An estimated 18,000 ha of landscapes will be brought under improved management practices, through implementation of sustainable land management, participatory management of natural resources, and participatory restoration-rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems. Aligned with SDG 12.2.
	Co-benefits generated on mitigated and avoided greenhouse gas emissions and increased carbon sequestration in production landscapes (reforestation, increasing plant coverage). With respect to climate change adaptation, the project will seek the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks in agriculture, forest and other land use (reforestation, re-vegetation and rehabilitation of degraded soils). Aligned with SDG 13.1.
	4,000 estimated direct beneficiaries, participating and benefitting in interventions on strengthening access to natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services. (aligned with SDG 1.1) Landscape strategies provide pro-poor and gender-responsive frameworks for accelerating development in poverty-stricken areas. Aligned with SDG 1.b.
	Community projects planned in the Mannar landscape, leading to coastal habitats under improved practices to benefit biodiversity. Interventions are also envisaged to include restoration of mangroves, wetlands, sustainable utilization of coastal resources, etc. Aligned with SDG 14.2.
	The project aims to improve management practices across 18,000 ha (aligned with SDG 15.2) and facilitate restoration-rehabilitation of 10,000 ha of degraded ecosystems (aligned with SDG 15.3). Biodiversity values will be integrated into the landscape strategies (aligned with 15.9), and co-financing from government, private sector and civil society will be mobilised to support conservation and restoration interventions (aligned with SDG 15.b).
	Enhancing South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to best management approaches, specifically participatory models strengthening socio-ecological resilience of production landscapes. Aligned with SDG 17.6.

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate	Medium/Moderate		

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

Risk Description	*Impact and Likelihood (1-5)*	*Significance (Low, Moderate Substantial, High)*	*Comments*	*Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High*

Risk Description	*Impact and Likelihood (1-5)*	*Significance (Low, Moderate Substantial, High)*	*Comments*	*Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High*
Risk 1: Marginalised groups, including the resource poor, women, and persons with disabilities might be excluded from fully participating in planning and decision making in the activities that may collectively involve and impact them, and in accessing resources and services provided and generated through the project.	I = 3 L = 2	**Moderate**	Capacities of CBOs in the project landscapes-seascape are generally low, particularly with respect to marginalised groups.	**Assessment**: The socioeconomic baseline analysis documented in the landscapes-seascape profiles annexed to the Project Document include assessment of the communities, with specific attention to the marginalised groups. The assessment was informed by Landscape-seascape based consultations, discussions with District and Divisional Secretariat Offices, and with some of the local communities and representative CBO s during PPG phase. Focus Group Discussions were held during the PPG phase with the community groups engaged in the OP-6 of the SGP to understand the priorities and good practices, challenges and limitations in community inclusion and accessing benefits. Experiences and ideas were explored on potential livelihoods and cash income generation options within the bio diversity conservation scope of the project that can be aligned with the skills and interests of the local communities, and how best the local resource bases can be utilised for this purpose. The Gender Analysis, annexed to the Project Document, contain issues facing women and girls in the project landscapes-seascape, including those related to the ethnic minority groups. **Management**: Approaches and methodologies of involvement of marginalised groups are addressed in the

Risk Description	*Impact and Likelihood (1-5)*	*Significance (Low, Moderate Substantial, High)*	*Comments*	*Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High*
Risk 2: Project approaches, design and activities might not fully incorporate or reflect views, priorities and constraints of women and girls and might not ensure equitable opportunities for their involvement in implementation and accessing opportunities and benefits.	I = 3 L = 4	**Moderate**	While considerable progress has been achieved in the areas of education and health, as noted in indicators such as adult literacy, secondary and tertiary education, maternal mortality and adolescent birth rates, globally, Sri Lanka has the 14th-largest gender gap in labour force participation. There are disparities in access to land, water and production inputs, access to markets and to skills training. These disparities are often concealed at the District and Divisional levels, due to limitations in sex-based disaggregation of data and information. Women are also under-represented in political and public decision-making bodies.	**Assessment:** A gender analysis was conducted during the PPG phase to identify the main gender issues within the context of the country and those specific to the landscapes-seascape. The Gender Action Plan (GAP) is informed by secondary sources of information, including the mid-term reviews of the OP-6 of the SGP, consultations with the CBO s and women?s and community groups in the landscapes-seascape. **Management:** The GAP includes proposed approaches and activities to ensure the project is gender responsive and focus on gender equality and women?s empowerment, annexed to the project document is an integral part of the Project Document and the project implementation process. In addition, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan includes key entry points for articulating and addressing gender considerations in all project components from design to implementation. To meet the gender equality and women?s empowerment considerations, the GAP recommends considering women as primary producers/actors in conservation and production systems in all assessments and planning processes. The project will promote proposals from women?s groups with the aim that at least 40% of all proposals awarded are women led. All awarded projects must include a gender analysis and an action plan for

Risk Description	*Impact and Likelihood (1-5)*	*Significance (Low, Moderate Substantial, High)*	*Comments*	*Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High*
Risk 3: Project activities in the KCF, Colombo Wetlands, Mannar/Jaffna Seascape involve ecological reforestation, replacement of pine plantations with native plants, harvesting of non-timber forest products (NTFPs), harvesting of fish and Good Agricultural Practices to build climate resilience, which might pose some risks to biodiversity and ecosystem services.	I = 3 L = 4	**Moderate**	There are globally significant biodiversity and critical ecosystems situated within the project landscapes-seascapes which require careful consideration in the project design and implementation.	**Assessment**: Updated participatory landscape baseline assessments will be completed at project inception. These assessments will build upon the results of OP6 of the SGP, as well as the landscape profiles developed as part of the OP7 project preparation phase. The baseline assessments will include site inventories and analyses of biodiversity, land use, local livelihoods, climate conditions, climate change issues in the landscapes to confirm project sites and outline strategies for socio-ecological production landscapes. Principles, obligations, and recommendations of the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan Sri Lanka 2016-2022 and the National Action Program for Combating Land Degradation in Sri Lanka 2015-2024 will be considered in the baseline assessments[1]. In the grant proposals, applicants will be required to ensure that UNDP Social and Environmental Standards as well as national environmental protection laws and derivative legislation are followed in the execution of project activities. No invasive alien species will be used; preference will be given to native species. Potential environmental risks associated with ecotourism development will be assessed in grant proposals

Risk Description	*Impact and Likelihood (1-5)*	*Significance (Low, Moderate Substantial, High)*	*Comments*	*Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High*
Risk 4: Periodic droughts, floods, changes in rainfall distribution, cyclonic winds, tsunamis, extreme weather events such as prolonged drought periods and flash floods occur in the landscapes-seascapes. These climate and disaster hazards can impact the project beneficiaries, project activities and the implementation processes, and the expected results.	I = 3 L = 4	**Moderate**	Impact of climate risks and disasters have been on the increase in the recent years, similarly the exposure to disaster risks. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction recommends all development investments and activities to be ?risk informed?.	**Assessment:** A Climate and Disaster Risk Screening was prepared during the project preparation phase and annexed to the Project Document. As part of the updated participatory landscape-seascape baseline assessments, hazard assessments for landscape-seascape areas will be conducted in partnership with the District/Divisional Disaster Management officers of the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) using the available secondary information, to provide additional details with respect to potential disaster and climate risks to inform the activity plans of the grant projects, and to incorporate appropriate preparedness measures. CBOs will be required to include an assessment in the project proposal documents on the risks of climate and geophysical hazards on proposed infrastructure and assets, and describe what measures are proposed to reduce and manage the risks. The NSC, technical advisory consultant(s), and multi-stakeholder landscape platforms will review the climate and disaster risk assessments and provide guidance to the proposed mitigation measures. Moreover, CBOs have the opportunity to apply for a SGP preparation grant, e.g., to obtain specialist assistance for assessing climate and disaster risks and developing mitigation measures. This information would then be incorporated into the SGP grant proposal for the intervention.

Risk Description	*Impact and Likelihood (1-5)*	*Significance (Low, Moderate Substantial, High)*	*Comments*	*Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High*
Risk 5: There may be a heightened vulnerability due to a prolonged or recurrent outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic or similar crisis. Members of the project implementing team, local community members involved in project activities may be at a heightened risk of exposure to COVID 19 through the stakeholder consultation meetings, workshops and field visits, etc. There is also potential economic decline, disruptions in product supply-demand as a result of prolonged or recurrent pandemic situations, implicating on the project implementation plans, expected results and coping capacities of local communities.	I = 3 L = 4	**Moderate**	The landscape approach promoted on the project is predicated on participatory processes, including multi-stakeholder meetings, trainings, learning exchanges, seminars, etc. Ongoing COVID-19 vaccination programme may lead to a change in the context and in the regulations. This is to be observed during project implementation.	**Assessment**: A COVID-19 Analysis was undertaken during the PPG phase and is annexed to the Project document. **Management**: Adaptive management measures will be implemented to reduce the risk of virus exposure during a potential prolonged or recurrent COVID-19 pandemic, or similar crisis. A COVID-19 Analysis and Action Framework has been prepared and is annexed to the Project Document. Mitigation measures will be implemented accordingly, e.g., ensuring physical distancing, providing personal protective equipment, avoiding non-essential travel, delivering training on risks and recognition of symptoms, etc. Virtual meetings will be held where feasible. The project Knowledge Management and Communications Strategy, to be completed during project implementation, will include specific considerations for communication, public awareness and exchange of information under these circumstances. As COVID-19 is an evolving situation and could potentially exacerbate other vulnerabilities and risks, it will be important to remain abreast of the situation during project implementation and regularly review the risk and update mitigation measures as needed. The project?s COVID-19 Action Framework also includes measures that address opportunities,

Risk Description	*Impact and Likelihood (1-5)*	*Significance (Low, Moderate Substantial, High)*	*Comments*	*Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High*
Risk 6: Traditional knowledge is used for commercial or other purposes without acknowledgement of local communities	I=2 L=2	**Low**	Traditional knowledge will be promoted in the project landscapes, as part of efforts aimed at broader uptake of agroecological practices. Traditional knowledge will be described in the landscape baseline assessments, as well as the landscape strategies. Community groups develop the grant proposal documents, thus there is a low risk that their traditional knowledge will not be acknowledged.	

Risk Description	*Impact and Likelihood (1-5)*	*Significance (Low, Moderate Substantial, High)*	*Comments*	*Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High*
Risk 7: There is the possibility that CSOs which manage their grants, may use funds to finance employment-livelihood activities that do not meet national and international labour standards.	I = 3 L =3	**Moderate**		**Assessment**: Consistent with UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, the grant applicants will be required to conduct due diligence as part of the proposal development process to ascertain that third parties who engage project workers are legitimate and reliable entities and have in place appropriate policies, processes and systems that allow them to operate in accordance with the minimum requirements in the UNDP Standard 7 on Labour and Working Conditions, as well as relevant national laws?. The NSC will ensure compliance in the review of the grant proposals. **Management**: Procedures for managing the performance of such third parties in relation to minimum requirements in the UNDP Standards will be incorporated into the grant agreements, including relevant noncompliance remedies. Contractor works will have access to the grievance mechanisms, described in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The Field Coordinators in each of the three landscapes will support site level monitoring, and the Country Programme Management Team will carry out periodic spot checks to reinforce UNDP standards.

Risk Description	*Impact and Likelihood (1-5)*	*Significance (Low, Moderate Substantial, High)*	*Comments*	*Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High*
Risk 8: Workers involved in restoration-rehabilitation and agro-ecological production activities might be exposed to hazards in their use and handling of agrochemicals without adequate personal protective equipment, training and safeguards, or which might be subject to international bans.	I = 3 L = 4	**Moderate**	The landscape strategies will promote reduction and minimization of the use of agrochemicals. In some cases, non-chemical options might not be feasible, e.g., herbicides could be used in some of the restoration activities, e.g., clearing of invasive alien species. There are approved, safe agrochemicals available. But obsolete stocks are common in many countries. And workers could be ill-informed about the hazards of agrochemicals, including approved ones, and correct health and safety procedures.	**Assessment**: In the grant proposals, applicants will be required to ensure that UNDP Social and Environmental Standards as well as national occupational safety and health laws and derivative legislation are followed in the execution of project activities. **Management**: Restoration-rehabilitation and agro-ecological production activities are expected to be carried out in collaboration with or under the supervision of responsible governmental entities, or professional partners, such as experienced NGOs. Project proposals will be required to provide details that outline standard operating procedures including but not limited to the following: 1) internationally or nationally agrochemicals will not be used, 2) workers working with agrochemical inputs will be trained and equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment, and 3) national, provincial, and local guidelines and regulations on use and handling of agrochemical inputs will be followed.

Risk Description	*Impact and Likelihood (1-5)*	*Significance (Low, Moderate Substantial, High)*	*Comments*	*Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High*
Risk 9: Project interventions involving agrochemicals may result in release of pollutants to the environment and in the generation of hazardous waste.	I = 3 L = 2	**Moderate**	Unsafe use and handling of agrochemicals and associated hazardous wastes generated (e.g., used containers) may release harmful pollutants to the environment.	**Assessment**: In the grant proposals, applicants will be required to ensure that UNDP Social and Environmental Standards as well as national environmental protection laws and derivative legislation are followed in the execution of project activities. **Management**: Non-chemical options will be promoted. In cases where agrochemicals are used, workers involved in the restoration and other activities will be trained in the safe use and management of agrochemicals inputs. The Field Coordinators in each of the three landscapes will provide site level training as well as monitoring of safe use and management of agrochemicals and generated wastes.

[19] The National Environmental Action Plan 2021-2030 and the Nationally Determined Contributions for Climate Change which are being currently developed will provide guidance for the GEF 7 implementation process.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted

Title	Module	Submitted
6522_Annex 05_SESP_04May2021_clean and clearedR1	CEO Endorsement ESS	
SGP Sri Lanka_SESP_OP7_preScreening_7	Project PIF ESS	

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

The project results framework can be found in *Section V of the Project Document*.

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

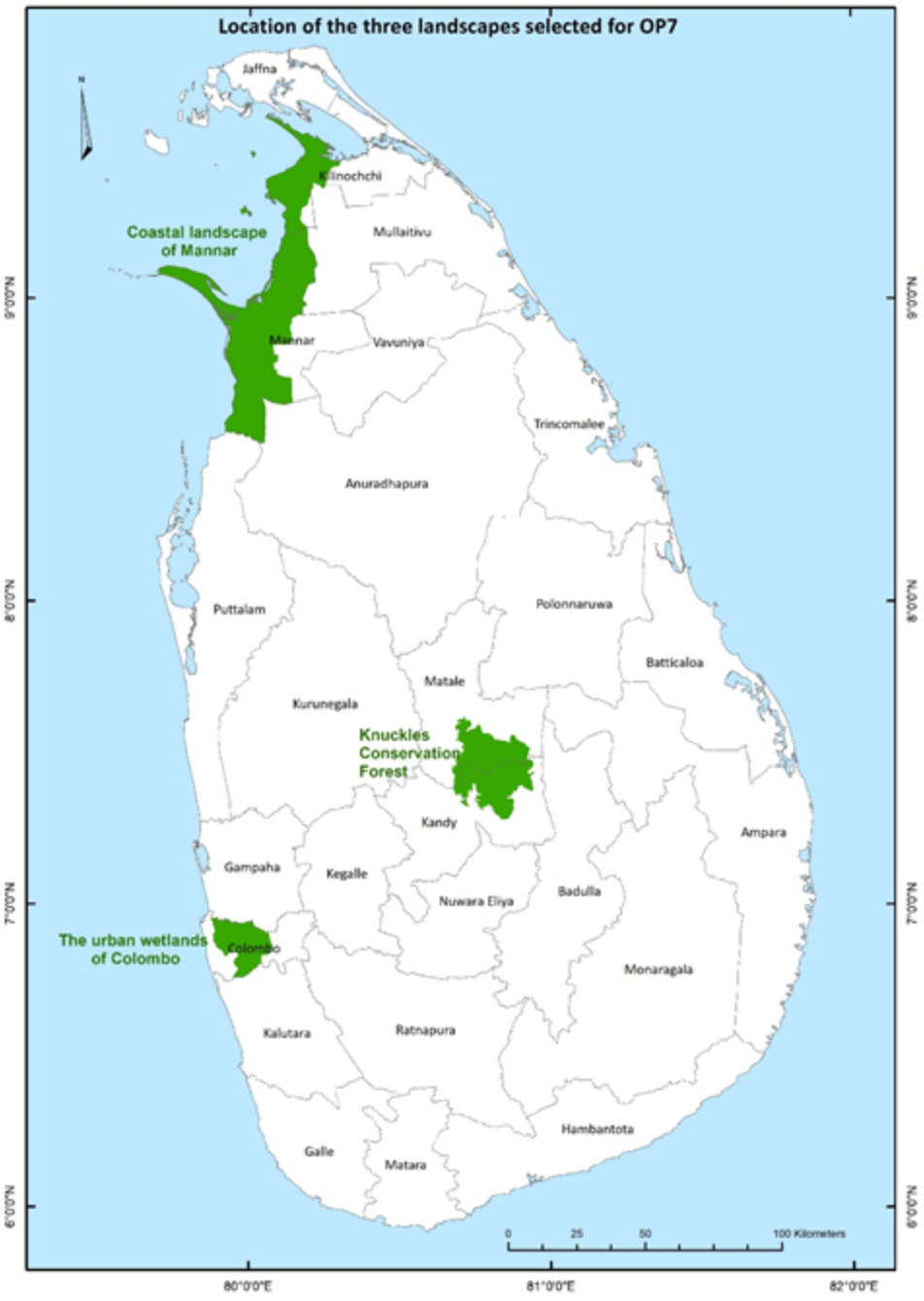
N/A

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: **USD 50,000**			
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	***GEF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)***		
	Budgeted Amount	***Amount Spent To date***	***Amount Committed***
Component A: Preparatory Technical Studies & Reviews.	12,500.00	7,500.00	6,000.00
Component B: Formulation of the UNDP-GEF Project Document, CEO Endorsement Request, and Mandatory and Project Specific Annexes.	29,900.00	6,939.43	29,234.05
Component C: Validation Workshop and Report	7,600.00	326.52	-
Total	**50,000.00**	**14,765.95**	**35,234.05**

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.



Country map showing target landscapes

Landscape	Midpoint geospatial coordinates	
	Latitude	Longitude
Knuckles Conservation Forest	7.448913 N	80.804011 E

Landscape	Midpoint geospatial coordinates	
	Latitude	Longitude
Coastal landscape of Mannar	9.009768 N	80.065015 E
Urban Wetlands of Colombo	6.869935 N	79.97769 E

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Annex 1: GEF budget

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)							Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity [Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency][1]
		Component 1		Component 2		Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
		Outcome 1.1	Outcome 1.2	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 2.2					
Works						0			0	
Goods	Computer/IT equipment					0		4,150	4,150	UNOPS
Vehicles						0			0	
Grants/ Sub-grants	Small grants (max. US$50k)	477,000	477,000			954,000			954,000	UNOPS
	Strategic grants (max. US$150k)			318,000		318,000			318,000	UNOPS
Revolving funds/ Seed funds / Equity						0			0	
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity						0			0	
Contractual Services – Individual	National Coordinator	22,500	22,500	12,500	12,500	70,000	5,000	45,000	120,000	UNOPS
	Programme Assistant	10,000	10,000	3,750	3,750	27,500	2,500	30,000	60,000	UNOPS
Contractual Services – Company						0			0	
International Consultants	Terminal Evaluator, International					0	16,000		16,000	UNOPS
Local Consultants	Field Coordinators (3)	21,600	21,600	8,100	5,400	56,700	8,100		64,800	UNOPS
	Transport and Logistics Officer	7,200	7,200	6,000	2,400	22,800	6,000		28,800	UNOPS
	Technical Advisory Consultant	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	9,000	0		9,000	UNOPS
	Intern	2,700	2,700	900	900	7,200			7,200	UNOPS
	Gender-Safeguards Consultant	4,500	4,500			9,000	7,500		16,500	UNOPS
	Business Development Consultant			7,500		7,500			7,500	UNOPS
	KM/Communications Consultant				6,000	6,000			6,000	UNOPS
	M&E Specialist					0	7,500		7,500	UNOPS
	Terminal Evaluator, National					0	4,500		4,500	UNOPS
Salary and benefits / Staff costs						0			0	
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Trainings, trade fairs, seminars	2,000	2,000	3,600	24,000	31,600			31,600	UNOPS
	Inception workshops					0	2,000		2,000	UNOPS
	NSC meetings					0	2,500		2,500	UNOPS
Travel	Travel costs, technical components	4,000	4,000	8,000	15,200	31,200			31,200	UNOPS
	Travel costs, inception workshops					0	3,600		3,600	UNOPS
	Travel costs, NSC meetings					0	5,000		5,000	UNOPS
	Travel costs M&E visits					0	8,000		8,000	UNOPS
	Travel costs for TE					0	4,500		4,500	UNOPS
Office Supplies						0			0	
Other Operating Costs	Rental-maintenance - premises					0		50,000	50,000	UNOPS
	Miscellaneous Expenses	0	0	1,200	2,000	3,200		6,000	9,200	UNOPS
	Audiovisual-Print Production Costs				20,096	20,096			20,096	UNOPS
	Financial audit(s)					0		26,500	26,500	UNOPS
	Office Supplies					0		4,000	4,000	UNOPS
Grand Total		554,500	554,500	372,550	92,286	1,573,796	82,700	165,650	1,822,146	

[1] In exceptional cases where GEF Agency receives funds for execution, Terms of Reference for specific activities are reviewed by GEF Secretariat

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agencys is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant

instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies? capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).