

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

☐ NGI

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

Rio Markers**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 0

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 1

Duration

48 In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

173,104.00

Submission Date

6/16/2020

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
BD-1-1	GET	911,073.00	2,100,000.00
LD-1-4	GET	227,769.00	525,000.00
LD-1-1	GET	227,768.00	525,000.00
LD-1-2	GET	227,768.00	525,000.00
LD-1-3	GET	227,768.00	525,000.00
Total Project Cost (\$)		1,822,146.00	4,200,000.00

B. Indicative Project description summary

Project Objective

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	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Resilient landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection	Technical Assistance	<p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>1.2.1 Community small grant projects enhance the sustainability and resilience of production systems, including soil and water conservation and agro-ecology practices.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>1.4.1. A sustainability plan developed in each landscape highlighting the processes,</p>	GET	1,356,496.00	3,200,000.00

through access to fair trade and new markets, and business model innovation.

obstacles to and opportunities for upscaling successful community initiatives into viable value chains

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

Landscape governance and adaptive management for upscaling and replication	Technical Assistance	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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</p> <p>2.1.2 Typology of community level projects developed and agreed by multi-stakeholder groups in each landscape together with eligibility criteria</p> <p>2.2.1 Knowledge generation through project monitoring and evaluation, with lessons compiled, codified, and disseminated to multiple audiences.</p> <p>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.</p>	GET	300,000.00	580,000.00
Sub Total (\$)					1,656,496.00	3,780,000.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
GET					165,650.00	420,000.00
Sub Total(\$)					165,650.00	420,000.00

Total Project Cost(\$)

1,822,146.00

4,200,000.00

C. Indicative 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	UNDP	Grant	Investment mobilized	100,000.00
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000.00
Others	British Council	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000.00
Donor Agency	IUCN	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000.00
Others	Lanka Social Ventures	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	300,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Sri Lanka Nature Forum	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	850,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Grantees	Grant	Investment mobilized	200,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Grantees	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,050,000.00
Total Project Cost(\$)				4,200,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The Investment Mobilized figures are based on discussions with the sources identified and will be formally confirmed through co-financing letters defining each contribution in cash or in kind. 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. Grantee contributions will only be confirmed during project implementation at the time of grant project approval. The SGP National Coordinator was instructed to differentiate co-financing commitments between those corresponding to recurrent costs e.g. salaries of NGO or government staff, costs of premises, etc., and Investment Mobilized, corresponding to new and additional funding either directly contributed to SGP for application to SGP project grants (e.g. as grantee contributions in kind and in cash), or mobilized investment to support project objectives, but not managed by SGP.

D. Indicative 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(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Sri Lanka	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	911,073	86,552	997,625.00
UNDP	GET	Sri Lanka	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	911,073	86,552	997,625.00
Total GEF Resources(\$)					1,822,146.00	173,104.00	1,995,250.00

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)
PPG Required



PPG Amount (\$)				PPG Agency Fee (\$)			
50,000				4,750			
Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Sri Lanka	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	25,000	2,375	27,375.00
UNDP	GET	Sri Lanka	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	25,000	2,375	27,375.00
Total Project Costs(\$)					50,000.00	4,750.00	54,750.00

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	0.00	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			

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			

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			

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	0.00	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			

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			

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 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			
Male	2,000			
Total	4000	0	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

The number of direct beneficiaries in Table F have been estimated based on accumulated knowledge of the three areas (population, communities, economic activities, demographic trends), as well as experience with SGP programming over the years (potentially amenable community organizations, NGOs and CSOs in the three areas and their perspectives, ongoing or previous contacts in the areas, etc.). Analysis and discussion of these factors with National Steering Committee members, the UNDP Country Office and others led the National Coordinator to assume a roughly estimated direct beneficiary population of 2,000 men and 2,000 women (@ 2500 beneficiaries in Knuckles; 500 in Colombo; 1000 in Mannar). These estimates will be refined or confirmed during project preparation

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

Background:

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.

The SGP Sri Lanka Country Programme will focus in OP7 on three key landscapes, building on the successes and lessons learned of the Country Programme of OP6. Please see page 18 for a summary table of landscape selection factors. The three landscapes are:

1. the Knuckles Conservation Forest (KCF) and its buffer zone,
2. the Coastal Region from Mannar Island to Jaffna
3. the Urban Wetlands of Colombo (a Ramsar-accredited "Wetland City")

The SGP Country Program will focus on building the social, ecological and economic resilience of the three landscapes by assisting community organizations to conserve biodiversity and manage their soil and water resources sustainably. By sustainably managing water, soil and biological diversity, communities will strengthen ecosystem function and the corresponding services it provides, 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 more willingly observe official restrictions on forest conversion to agricultural lands. Attacking 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. At the same time, SGP support to coastal and wetland communities will assist them to manage fisheries and harvest wetland, marine and coastal products sustainably.

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.

Landscape 1: Knuckles Conservation Forest (KCF) and Buffer zone

The Knuckles Conservation Forest (KCF) or the Dumbara Hills, extending over the Matale and Kandy Districts, covers an area of 21,000 ha.[2] It is well-known for its high biodiversity and endemism, both with flora and fauna species. Over 1,033 flora species (of which 15% endemic) and 247 vertebrate species (of which over a quarter are endemic) have been found here. It is part of the UNESCO Central Highlands World Natural Heritage Site (2012). The KCF comprises 30% of the forests of Mahaweli River's catchment area. Traditional human settlements within the Knuckles represents a unique blend of culture, nature and resources. In April 2000 it was declared a National Man and the Biosphere Reserve. In 2007, private lands within KCF were declared an Environmental Protection Area by the Central Environmental Authority, under the National Environmental Act No. 53 of 2000. Knuckles received legal conservation status under the Forest Conservation Ordinance Act No.65 of 2009.

Over the past several decades, the Knuckles range has been severely impacted by economic trends. During the colonial era, some parts of the forest within the range were cleared to cultivate coffee and subsequently to grow tea. Because the climate in the forest range is highly favourable for cardamom cultivation, several private sector plantations engage in removing the lower story of the natural forest and replacing it with cardamom. It is noted that 32% of national income stems from cardamom cultivation in the KCF. In addition, there is illegal logging and encroachment. There are 77 villages spread over the mountain range, some of which have been in existence since the reign of the Sinhala Kings. These villages lack minimum amenities such as electricity and access to health, roads and education facilities. The villagers depend on the KCF for non-timber forest products such as fuelwood, medicinal plants, bamboo and rattan, fruits, vegetables and honey. Pepper, introduced about 20 years ago after the banning of *chena* and subsequent cardamom cultivation, is the main home garden crop, and traditional rice is cultivated in paddy lands during the *maha* (wet) season. During the *yala* (dry) season, they also intensively cultivate vegetables (mainly beans) in paddy lands with the extensive use of agro-chemicals. Fish tail palm (*kitul* palm) (*Caryota urens*) treacle is produced using traditional knowledge, but this seems to be diminishing gradually. There are very few fruits trees in home gardens because of extensive pepper cultivation.

There is currently growth of eco-tourism in the area, which as an industry benefits not only communities but also biodiversity conservation. Homestays, hiking, providing food and refreshments, and selling products unique to the Knuckles range are some examples of the economic activities directly linked to the conservation of biodiverse habitats and landscapes. As well, there is high potential to develop production of certified organic products across the whole Knuckles range. Improving food and nutrition security of the community is also important. The SGP COVID-19 impact assessment will be used to assess how tourism in this area has been and is likely to be affected in the near future.

Climate change scenarios predict that the Matale district will become drier and more vulnerable to climate change. Given that 30% the Mahaweli River's watershed is the KCF, and the Mahaweli River (the longest in Sri Lanka) is the major source of water for agriculture in much of the dry zone, conserving KCF is important as it not only benefits the communities around it but also downstream communities in other districts of Sri Lanka.

Although the Forest Department and the peripheral communities agree on conserving the KCF, there is no effective mechanism yet established and implemented that includes communities in the conservation of the KCF. This argues for the initiation of a joint approach to the management of KCF inclusive of the buffer zone villagers, with the participation of all stakeholders, which must be launched and implemented for the conservation and sustainable use of KCF.

Landscape 2: Coastal region from Mannar Island to Jaffna

The coastal stretch from Mannar island to Jaffna is about 120 km in length and harbours biologically rich coastal ecosystems including coral reefs, seagrass meadows, inter-tidal flats, salt marshes, mangroves, lagoons and estuaries. In addition, there is a confluence of the mouths of several rivers south of the Pooneryn Peninsula that form a vast flood plain. Iconic flora such as Baobabs are found on Mannar Island and Globally Threatened species such as the Asian elephant, and the Sri Lankan leopard (*Panthera pardus kotiya* - a subspecies unique to Sri Lanka) have been recorded in this area. In addition, in Sri Lanka, the extremely rare Dugong is restricted to the waters around Mannar. Whales and dolphins are also reported in nearshore waters. Coastal wetlands are important feeding and nesting grounds for many water birds, including thousands of migrants. After the cessation of a three-decade internal conflict in 2009, the area is now undergoing rapid change, including resettlement schemes, that are detrimental to the well-being of its biological wealth and environmental resources. While the government plan in developing Mannar as a tourism hub (it is now termed "an emerging hub") is important, such development should ensure that sustainable tourism is promoted, minimizing environmental impacts. Other environmental concerns of rapid development are the potential threats of human-elephant conflict, the existing threat of the spread of invasive species and solid waste pollution, and rapid habitat destruction. These threats need to be addressed urgently, as first, they damage the range of ecosystem services provided by these coastal ecosystems, so essential for human well-being. Second, they diminish the aesthetic value of the area for tourism. The marine ecosystem is also being degraded by destructive fishing practices, including illegal trawling and dynamiting of coral reefs.

It has been reported that, in the past three decades, more than 50 % of Sri Lanka's wetlands have been destroyed through clear-cutting, land reclamation and overexploitation. Provisioning services are affected, resulting in reduced fish and shellfish catches, as well as the reduction of regulating services — for example, protection against extreme weather events such as flooding and storm surges.

Mangroves are one of the most valuable coastal ecosystems as not only are they permanent or temporary habitats for many aquatic animals, but they are also hatcheries and nurseries for many commercially important coastal fish and shellfish. Thus, they support the livelihoods of local communities. They also serve to reduce the effects of flooding, trap pollutants, and are important in carbon sequestration. Very importantly, they can provide protection from the impacts of climate change, including sea-level rise and coastal erosion caused by storm surges and extreme weather events. Because of their importance, several community-based mangrove restoration projects have been implemented in Sri Lanka aimed at protecting and rehabilitating this ecosystem. Sound mangrove management can assist in increasing resilience of the coastline and its inhabitants, as well as providing new livelihood options to local communities. Even though there are many awareness programmes on the importance of mangrove conservation in Sri Lanka, they are being destroyed at an alarming rate due to the construction of shrimp farms, agricultural expansion, urbanization, unregulated discharge of pollutants, waste disposal, illegal constructions and mass tourism. Unfortunately, many mangrove restoration projects have been established by destroying other coastal ecosystems — such as sand dunes, inter-tidal flats and salt marshes — so they do not survive, and the focus of restoration — that of biodiversity conservation — is lost.

In this landscape are several protected areas, including Vankalai Sanctuary (a Ramsar site — a Wetland of International Importance), Viddatalivu Nature Reserve, Giant's Tank Sanctuary (under the jurisdiction of the Department of Wildlife Conservation), as well as Chunnavil, Mandakadal, Kovikoduttavil and Madduvilandu Forest Reserves under the Forest Department.

Landscape 3: The Urban Wetlands of Colombo — a Ramsar-accredited Wetland City

The Urban Wetlands of Colombo are located in the Colombo administrative district extending across Homagama Maharagama, Kaduwela and Kolonnawa Divisional Secretariat Divisions. The total extent of these wetlands is about 20 km², or 2.9% of the total land area of Colombo District. A recent SGP-funded study has used old satellite images and found that the current extent of Colombo's wetland is only a small remnant of what it was in the past.

The ancient kingdom of Kotte (more than 500 ybp) had a fortress surrounded by lakes and marshes, known as Diyawanna Oya and Kolonnawa Oya. Much of this land has now been urbanized, and the site of the Sri Lankan Parliament is located on a reclaimed island of the Diyawanna Oya, in the now suburban Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte area. Currently, both natural and heavily modified wetlands are found amid urban, suburban and rural areas remaining within the Colombo Metropolitan area.

A total of 252 plant species including nine endemic and nine nationally threatened plant species have been found in the Colombo Wetlands. Among these plants, is a Critically Endangered creeper – *Aganope heptaphylla* – found only in three sites in Sri Lanka, two of which are found in Colombo's urban wetlands. A total of 209 species of vertebrate fauna, including 17 endemic species and 26 nationally threatened species are found in these wetlands. Among these animals are the elusive Eurasian Otter and the Fishing Cat. In Colombo, the Fishing Cat has been termed 'hyper-urban' as they are found not only in the wetlands, but they also traverse canals within the heart of the city.

The Urban Wetlands of Colombo have provided the basis for Ramsar accreditation of Colombo as a Wetland City. During COP13, the Ramsar Convention held in Dubai in 2018 introduced "Wetland City Accreditation", which recognizes 18 cities around the world, including Colombo, that have taken exceptional steps to safeguard their urban wetlands. Colombo is South Asia's only Wetland City as well as being the only capital city to be selected under this scheme. The Wetland City Accreditation scheme encourages cities in close proximity to and dependent on wetlands, especially Wetlands of International Importance, to highlight and strengthen a positive relationship with these valuable ecosystems, for example through increased public awareness of wetlands and participation in municipal planning and decision-making.

This accreditation brings an obligation to adhere to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to sustain wetlands and the ecosystem services they provide, and to continue to advocate their sustainable use and management. Colombo will have to justify retention of its accreditation in 2024. With concerted efforts from government, communities, and all affected stakeholders, this opens the way for Colombo to become a model for urban wetland conservation and to benefit from the many ecosystem services they offer.

The Urban Wetlands of Colombo have been termed 'significant green/blue infrastructure,' which provides a range of ecosystem services for the well-being of 3.7 million people living in the Colombo Metropolitan Area. These services include flood protection (soaking up excess run off water), managing water and air quality (filtering and breaking down pollutants), buffering noise pollution, making the city aesthetically pleasing, conservation education, as well as providing employment. They also assist in delivering food security for communities that live nearby. Rice cultivation in paddy lands is a well-established practice in the wetlands of the area. In addition to rice, there is cultivation of vegetables, poultry and dairy products and native plants that are used as forage.

The Urban Wetlands of Colombo are vital to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Estimates suggest that the wetland soils in the Colombo district contain approximately 1.43 million metric tons of carbon (almost 90% of the annual carbon emissions from the Colombo Metropolitan Region). Recognizing the value of these wetlands, the Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte area and the Thalangama Lake have been declared, by the Central Environmental Authority, as Environmental Protected Areas.

Unfortunately, wetlands in Colombo face a multitude of threats. The main driver of wetland loss has been land reclamation. While rates of loss vary across the district, in several areas the loss of wetlands since 1980s has been as high as 60%. Currently, the annual rate of wetland loss is estimated at 1.2%^[3]. Colombo has a population of 752,993 in an area of 37.31 km². Space for new housing is very scarce except in high-rises, and the city has been spreading southwards

into the suburbs. This urban sprawl is now spreading inland around the Colombo Urban Wetlands, and there is an urgent need to slow the rate of loss of wetlands to development and eventually stop it outright.

A wide array of point and non-point source pollutants — such as industrial pollutants and domestic wastewater — irreparably affect the water and soil in these wetlands; while vehicles entering and exiting the Colombo metropolitan area pollute the air. In addition, indiscriminate dumping of solid waste into canals and the wetlands themselves not only increases pollution but brings in a suite of pests. The spread of certain invasive alien species is also a major issue of concern. Without adequate action to address the drivers of losses, these wetlands could be reduced by one-third by 2038 and by half by 2070[4].

A) The problem 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.

The preferred solution is:

The solution to the problem of biodiversity loss and land degradation in the selected landscapes of Knuckles Conservation Forest (KCF) and buffer zone, the coastal region from Mannar Island to Jaffna and the urban wetlands of Colombo is for community organisations to develop and implement adaptive landscape/seascape management strategies that build social, economic and ecological resilience; these strategies build on the generation of global environmental benefits that also produce local sustainable development benefits. To pursue the outcomes of these adaptive landscape/seascape management strategies, community organizations will implement grant projects framed and supported by multi-stakeholder agreements, which involve local government, private sector, NGOs and other partners. Project proposals are reviewed and approved by the SGP National Steering Committee and evaluated as part of the broader collective process of adjusting landscape management strategies to new information, knowledge, capacities and conditions.

To ensure long-term conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services through sustainable natural resource management, local communities need appropriate incentives. One aspect of this is, therefore, to ensure that local stakeholders have sufficient capacities to access novel financing opportunities in order to scale out successful innovations. Financing makes sense in this context if the products produced can be sold at local or regional markets. Local

stakeholders are more likely to adopt and continue to implement biodiversity friendly and resilience-enhancing practices if there is, at a minimum, no net loss of income and more so if they lead to increased income and livelihood security.

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 GEF 6 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. In OP6, the Mannar Strategic Project is working in close collaboration with the GCF-funded project on reservoir restoration: *Strengthening the resilience of smallholder farmers in the Dry Zone to climate variability and extreme events through an integrated approach to water management*. In OP7 further collaborations will result in up-scaling of this Strategic Project.

In the Urban Wetlands of Colombo, seven important pilot projects were commenced under GEF 6, where enhancement of ecosystem services and sustainable use of natural resources to enhance human well-being were promoted. 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.

In all three landscapes, consolidation and upscaling will strengthen the resilience of these three landscapes.

Barriers to achieving this solution include

Barrier 1: 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 relation to 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 in regard to new communities receiving support from SGP for the first time.

Barrier 2: 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 must be supported and economic activities stabilized. The Country Programme has funded successful initiatives to develop a set of production systems and practices that have benefited both the global environment and local sustainable development, especially in rural areas. These include 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. These practices and systems need to be 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 3: Community organizations have limited ability to record and analyse systematically, innovation and experimentation of new practices, methods and systems from project experience nor to disseminate this with 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.

Barrier 4: 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.

B) The baseline scenario or any associated projects:

The projects listed in the table below have been, are or will be carried out in the three landscapes. Lessons learned from past projects will be studied to advise this project, while synergies with existing and proposed projects will be used to forge and implement partnerships that would strengthen outcomes.

Ongoing projects in the Landscape

The GEF Small Grants Programme 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, academic, 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.

Sri Lanka is an island with a wide variety of biologically diverse ecosystems ranging from tropical rainforests to coral reefs. It is part of a global biodiversity hotspot stretching from the Western Ghats of India, indicating that it not only has high levels of biodiversity but is also threatened by anthropogenic activities. Over the past decades, pressure has been mounting on this natural wealth from coastal and in land terrestrial habitat conversion and fragmentation because of the increasing demand for land for urban and industrial development; unsustainable practices of production; competition between invasive exotic species and indigenous species; and extreme weather events leading to prolonged droughts in some areas of the island and floods in others. These pressures are unmitigated in the absence of institutional coordination with regard to environmental conservation and a generally low level of understanding and capacities for scientific conservation and management.

Taking the above and other factors into consideration, the National Steering Committee decided that the geographic scope of the Country Programme in GEF 1 and 2 should cover the entire island, barring the districts suffering from civil conflict at the time. Hence, the Country Programme was spread across 20 of 25 districts in the country during this period. During this time, over 50% of the initiatives came under the focal area of biodiversity. Of these the majority were categorized as projects conserving agro-biodiversity through sustainable use, followed closely by the conservation of forest and aquatic ecosystems, as well as watershed protection for improved sustainability of ecosystem services.

The second largest category of projects was multi-focal, where proponents proposed a variety of activities in one project to address environmental problems through a holistic sustainable development approach. Projects to prevent or mitigate land degradation also increased over time, to address erosion and declining farmland productivity. Fewer projects were implemented in the focal area of climate change because of weaker knowledge and technical ability among the CSO community to address the relevant issues through project interventions. Continuous efforts were undertaken in capacity building, including awareness and knowledge dissemination workshops, extending across 20 districts to address the need for greater CSO capacities to better articulate and implement projects. Similar efforts were undertaken in the chemicals and international waters focal areas as these portfolios were perceived as being insufficient.

In GEF 3 and 4, the Country Programme changed its strategy to concentrate funding on selected geographical regions. The rationale for adapting this strategy was that while each individual project might produce results in isolated locations, a geographic focus was needed to ensure more sustainable ecological impacts and the development of synergistic linkages and cooperation among projects, their impacts and proponents. This focus would lead to increased capacities of SGP stakeholder partners to discuss and agree on verifiable indicators across the geographic area and to facilitate participatory monitoring, knowledge dissemination and the creation of networks of community organizations.

Accordingly, seven districts of the island, covering a contiguous area from 'ridge to reef', were selected in GEF 3. In GEF 4 the focus was similar but extending to districts newly freed from the civil conflict, comprising an area from the eastern coastal belt to the central highland districts for the primary focus of funding. The main efforts in Phases 3 and 4 were focused on working with buffer zone communities living around Protected Areas. Projects addressed sustainable use of natural resources; protection of threatened ecosystems and species; and benefit sharing. Biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and sustainable land management activities were integrated to improve PA performance. Livelihood development of communities formed part of all initiatives to ensure community buy-in and project sustainability.

In keeping with SGP policy and best practice, a small percentage of the total Country Programme allocation was permitted for projects in other districts of the country to address specific critical and pressing environmental problems. With this flexibility, a balance could be maintained that would allow for the generation of benefits of the geographic approach, as well as to address concerns brought by partner organizations from around the country. Country Programme strategies made sure that projects were aligned with and contributed to national priorities and GEF strategic priorities. They also ensured that projects, however small, addressed objectives of the relevant global conventions and other development priorities.

SGP Sri Lanka has invested, in particular, in building the awareness of partner organizations with regard to the GEF focal areas, the global environmental conventions signed and ratified by Sri Lanka, and global dialogues on sustainable development and the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. The Country Programme has also focused heavily on building the capacities of partners to relate this new knowledge to project goals and objectives and address them through activity implementation. Projects are also designed to address gender and social equity by integrating them into Country Programme focal area strategies and activities. Gender sensitive social and economic objectives are an important premise on which project guidelines, indicators and monitoring and evaluation have been built.

In GEF 5, the programme strengthened its emphasis on ensuring measurable results and impacts. As such, the Country Programme strategy supported close project monitoring and guidance to the partners through three full grants approved for capacity building, facilitating technical guidance for the projects and knowledge management. This has improved not only project monitoring, but it has also enhanced linkages among stakeholders and projects, in part by bringing technical expertise from universities, government and private sector institutes. This has led especially to an improvement in biodiversity products such as value-added home garden produce including sweetmeats and savouries made from traditional tuber varieties, fish tail palm products (*Caryota urens*) and traditional rice varieties.

The Country Programme in GEF 5 made a proportionally large number of grants to biodiversity conservation projects, in keeping with the proportionality of STAR funding, as well as underscoring support to Sri Lanka's implementation of international obligations on biodiversity within local contexts. The Country Programme addressed climate change by, among other things, keeping civil society abreast of negotiations and emerging issues, developing projections together with estimates of economic and environmental costs to the country and promoting energy efficiency. During this time the Country Programme participated in an SGP partnership with AusAID to support community-based climate change adaptation in communities exposed to extreme weather events. In both GEF 4 and 5 the Country programme addressed the vital issue of land and soil degradation by identifying key vulnerable areas and communities, using data and activities within the National Action Plan. Furthermore, grantee organizations supported by the SGP Country Programme have formed networks primarily along GEF thematic areas to share knowledge and technical know-how, resulting in synergies and better results. An overall network of partners formed in year 2003 facilitates activities such as celebrations for World Environment Day, Traditional Food Fairs and other public events.

Communities supported by SGP Sri Lanka can boast of many international and national awards among which are three Equator Initiative Awards, a World Water Day award, BBC award for Sustainable Tourism and Turtle Conservation, Merit Gold Award, recognition by International Inventions Geneva for biomass driers, various Presidential Awards and many others.

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.

The SGP Upgraded Country Programme in OP6 adopted the landscape approach first developed and implemented under the COMDEKS initiative. This novel 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 requires collaboration across communities around sustainable production systems that produce global environmental benefits. The production systems must be sustainable both economically and ecologically; this requires building 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. 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.

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. All of the above, will strengthen the resilience of these three landscapes.

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

The table below on ongoing projects in the Knuckles landscape shows that the IUCN Sri Lanka Country Office recently concluded an HSBC-funded project called **Watershed Conservation and Restoration in the Knuckles Conservation Forest and Environmental Protection Area** (in the mini watershed of Puwakpitiya) including engaging 120 families in eco-agriculture and reforesting two acres.(US\$ 45,000, 2015-2018)

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 by the Forest Department focused on this landscape: (i) development of nature-based tourism in Knuckles Conservation Forest – Matale District Range with a goal of the project 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; (ii) development of eco-tourism in Knuckles – Kandy Range with a goal of conserving the Knuckles forest as a world class nature-based tourism destination; (iii) ecosystem conservation and management in Knuckles Conservation Forest (Matale District range) 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%. (iv) ecosystem conservation and management in Knuckles Conservation Forest (Kandy District range) 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%; and (v) sustainable use of natural resources for livelihood enhancement of peripheral communities of Knuckles Conservation Forest. They note that management objectives of Knuckles forest must be in line with the objectives of National Forest Policy and legislations under which it was declared. In addition, it is an IUCN protected area and also a proposed Mixed Cultural and Natural World Heritage site. (US\$ 35m, 2017-2021)

Enhancing education and awareness on the Central Highlands IUCN, in close consultation and partnership with Ministry of Environment, the Forest Department and the Department of Wildlife Conservation has prepared resource, awareness and interpretation materials targeting local visitors, international visitors and other stakeholders. (US\$ 50,000, 2015-2018)

The Sri Lanka Tourism Strategic Plan 2017-2020 identifies Mannar as an emerging tourism hub. One of the plan's guiding principles is 'local community involvement. Tourism should respect the sociocultural authenticity of host communities, conserve their built and living cultural heritage and traditional values, and contribute to intercultural understanding and tolerance. Tourism development should involve local communities in a real, holistic capacity. Strong political leadership, including regional and local government, should foster informed, wide participation of all relevant stakeholders and support consensus building, while 'Mannar Improving Competitiveness in Tourism' (2018) – a joint venture of the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka and the World University Services of Canada (WUSC) – aimed to build the capacity of the hospitality and tourism sector in Mannar.

The **Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project (CRIWMP)**, 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 the coastal landscape from Mannar to Jaffna. (US\$ 38m, 2017-2024)

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. In addition, wetland parks have been and being constructed under this project, for conservation education. The Urban Fishing Cat Conservation Project (begun in 2014) works to understand the ecology and conservation of fishing cats in urban habitats and the urban wetlands in Colombo (US\$ 25,000, 2018-2020). The SGP UCP team works closely with the Sri Lanka Land Reclamation and Development Corporation and the Department of Wildlife Conservation to understand how they can be better protected in an ever-changing urban environment.

The Field Ornithology Group Sri Lanka (funded by the SGP) commenced a project to pilot test the conservation of urban wetlands by utilizing birds as an umbrella group and through the application of citizen science approach in five selected wetlands within the Colombo District. (US\$ 24,150, 2015-2017)

Component 2: Landscape governance and adaptive management for upscaling and replication

Under OP6 a multi-stakeholder working platform was formed in each landscape. They comprise the nominee of the District Secretary's office, academics, relevant government stakeholders and civil society. They were an important and integral part of the project and have been consulted, providing advisory services to the project. The three platforms have also been instrumental in advising on key socio-environmental challenges of the landscape. Under Operational Phase 6 of GEF/SGP 2, Knowledge Management Groups were formed in the landscapes of Knuckles and Colombo Wetlands. These two grantees are instrumental in providing training on baseline identification, proposal development, impact assessments, and ecological, biodiversity and land degradation, as well. Their main task is capacity building and knowledge management service to the landscape grantees as and when required. Sri Lanka Environment Exploration Society (US\$ 50,000, 2017-2020), Surakshi Women for Conservation (US\$ 50,000, 2017-2020)

Three Strategic Projects were established in the landscapes of Mannar, Knuckles and Colombo Wetlands. These strategic projects were small grant initiatives up-scaled with a higher funding allocation, which worked with the private sector and other stakeholders. Their aim was also to strategically align small grant projects in the landscapes, so that they work towards landscape management to enhance eco-system services. Ekabadda Praja Sanwardana Kantha Maha Sangamaya (US\$ 90,000, 2019-2020), Human Development Foundation of Sri Lanka (US\$ 90,000, 2019-2020)

An SGP private sector/ social enterprise platform was created that gives advice and guidance to grantees on social entrepreneurship regulations, product development and marketing and financial bookkeeping.

Landscape	Ongoing or just completed projects in the area
Landscape 1: Knuckles Conservation Forest and its buffer zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IUCN Sri Lanka Country Office: through the 'Watershed Conservation and Restoration in the Knuckles Conservation Forest and Environmental Protection Area - Mini Watershed of Puwakpitiya' <i>inter alia</i> engaged 120 families in eco-agriculture and reforested two acres. (HSBC funded) (US\$ 45,000, 2015-2018)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The World Bank financed Ecosystem Conservation and Management Project (ESCOMP) (US\$ 35m, 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Nature Based Tourism in Knuckles Conservation Forest – Matale Range (Forest Department) with a goal of the project is 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; 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 d

	<p>ving the Knuckles forest and sustainably developing it as a world class nature-based tourism destination.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <i>Pinus</i> 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) Management objectives of Knuckles forest must be in line with the objectives of National Forest Policy and Legislations under which it has declared. In addition, it is an IUCN protected area and also a proposed Mixed Cultural and Natural World Heritage site. Based on that, management goal, purpose and objectives for Knuckles forest were formulated through logical framework approach. <p>- Enhancing education and awareness on the Central Highlands IUCN, Country Sri Lanka, in close consultation and partnership with Ministry of Environment, the Forest Department and the Department of Wildlife Conservation has prepared resource, awareness and interpretation materials targeting local visitors, international visitors and other stakeholders. (US\$ 50,000, 2015-2018)</p>
<p>Landscape 2:</p> <p>Coastal region from Mannar Island to the Jaffna District</p>	<p>- IUCN and UNDP: The 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, Arippe, and Silavaturai, Pearl Banks of Mannar, Cheval Bank and the sea grass beds in shallow coastal seas.</p> <p>- 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 this coastal landscape. (US\$ 38m, 2017-2024)</p> <p>- Mannar Improving Competitiveness in Tourism' (MIC) (2018): A joint venture of the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka and the World University Services of Canada (WUSC) aimed to build the capacity of the hospitality and tourism sector in Mannar</p>

	<p>med to build the capacity of the hospitality and tourism sector in Mannar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Sri Lanka Tourism Strategic Plan 2017-2020 identifies Mannar as an emerging tourism hub. One of the plan's guiding principles is 'local community involvement. Tourism should respect the sociocultural authenticity of host communities, conserve their built and living cultural heritage and traditional values, and contribute to intercultural understanding and tolerance. Tourism development should involve local communities in a real, holistic capacity. strong political leadership, including regional and local government, should foster informed, wide participation of all relevant stakeholders and support consensus building.'
<p>Landscape 2:</p> <p>The Urban Wetlands of Colombo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 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. In addition, wetland parks have been and being constructed under this project, for conservation education. · The Urban Fishing Cat Conservation Project (begun in 2014) works to understand the ecology and conservation of fishing cats in urban habitats in Colombo Sri Lanka. Since its inception, the project has spread small wild cat awareness among the general public, school children and government authorities in Colombo. The team works closely with the Sri Lanka Land Reclamation and Development Corporation and the Department of Wildlife Conservation, to understand how they can be better protected in an ever-changing urban environment. (US\$ 25,000- 2018-2020) · The Field Ornithology Group Sri Lanka (funded by the SGP) commenced a project to pilot test the conservation of urban wetlands by utilizing birds as an umbrella group and through the application of citizen science approach in five selected wetlands within the Colombo District. (US\$ 24,150, 2015-2017)

C) The proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project

GEF incremental funding and co-financing will be applied to overcome the barriers mentioned in the previous section and to add value, where appropriate and possible, to existing initiatives by government, the private sector or CSOs in the Knuckles Conservation Forest and its buffer zone, the coastal region from Mannar Island to Jaffna, and the Urban Wetlands of Colombo. It will contribute to the long-term solution of collective action and adaptive management by community organizations of important landscapes for social, economic and ecological resilience. GEF funding will provide small grants to NGOs and community organizations to develop landscape management strategies and implement community projects in pursuit of strategic landscape level outcomes related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management, primarily, though with important co-benefits for climate change mitigation and adaptation and integrated water resources management. Funding will also be available for initiatives to 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 gained from analysis of community innovations from past experience during previous phases of the SGP Sri Lanka Country Programme. Identification of specific potential upscaling initiatives will take place during project preparation, but preliminary possibilities include expansion of programmes for sustainable use of biodiversity (value-addition, fish processing, eco/agrotourism); sustainable forest management (crop genetic resource conservation - tubers and grains); efficient cook stoves to diminish pressure on forests, among others.

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 (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 experiences will be systematized, and knowledge generated for discussion and dissemination to local policy makers and national/subnational advisors, as well as landscape level organizations, NGOs and other networks. This project component will be carried out in specific intervention landscapes of the Knuckles Conservation Forest and its buffer zone, the coastal region from Mannar Island to Jaffna, and the Urban Wetlands of Colombo, to be defined more precisely during the project preparation phase. These three landscapes have been selected based on the following factors in consultation with the SGP Sri Lanka National Steering Committee:

Factors that led to selection of three ecologically sensitive landscapes in OP6

Landscapes	Knuckles Conservation Forest and the Buffer Zone (KCF)	Urban Wetlands of Colombo	Coastal area from Mannar island up to Jaffna
	Includes approximately 21,000 ha, of which 17,830 ha of conservation forest and 1,880 ha of forest plantations. UNESCO World Heritage Site	Out of 22,680 ha of city area, 1,900 ha (more than 8%) are contiguous wetland areas such as Beddagna, Thalawatugoda, Kimbulawela, Madiwela, Kolonnawa, Crow Island, Talangama Lake, and Beira Lake. Colombo has been accredited by Ramsar as a Wetland City	Main forest types occupying the area are tropical dry mixed evergreen forest and dry thorny scrublands. Coastal types habitats such as mangroves, salt marsh, sand dunes and beaches as well as wetlands of international importance and numerous

Biodiversity Factors		y Ramsar as a Wetland City	globally significant species
	Harbors over 15% of the endemic flowering plants, and the genetic diversity of these and other indigenous species	Over 250 plant species, including nine endemic, nine nationally threatened and 11 nationally near threatened plant species of plants are present in the wetlands.	Comprised of a variety of marine and brackish water ecosystems. Inter tidal habitats including coral reef, algal communities and sea grass meadows.
	Richest in terms of faunal taxa as 92 vertebrate families, 231 genera and 338 species.	Almost 280 species of animals, including 32 endemic species, are present in these urban wetlands.	Harbor large number of migratory bird species that directly land from the Indian mainland during the winter migratory period.
Land Rehabilitation Factors	Lack of land for village expansion, grazing and chena cultivation leading to slash-and-burn of forests	Effective protector from flooding	Severe drought in the area affected agro-ecosystems.
	Soil erosion and land degradation resulting in reduced crop productivity	Colombo is South Asia's only Wetland City which received Wetland City Accreditation in 2018 at COP13 the Ramsar Convention	Alteration of the natural habitat, habitat loss and fragmentation
Socio-economic Factors	Community is heavily dependent on agriculture and forest resources for income and subsistence	Wetlands provide the citizens of Colombo with traditional medicines	The people displaced during the internal conflict are being resettled in the area
	Bee-honey, food/fruits, medicinal plants, fuel wood, binding material and wood for household and agriculture tools are collected from the forest	Wetlands assist in delivering food security as over 50% of its wetlands utilized for paddy cultivation and main sources of irrigation water for rice production in Colombo	Coastal pollution of these areas due to the mismanagement of solid waste is a growing
	Unrecognized local claims to traditional knowledge	Wetlands are fundamental to the well-being of the people of Colombo	Agriculture and fishing are the main source of income

	e, practices, resource use and livelihood sources	lombo	
	Lack of services, external linkages and market facilities	Wetlands ensures a supplementary household income.	Faced with seasonal unemployment and have very low incomes during the Yala season.
Vulnerability	Lack of access to forest resources—traditional source of kitul, cardamom, fuel wood and NTFP	Most wetlands in the Colombo district occur on state lands, but several are either wholly or partly under private ownership	Due to resettlement and new development activities, natural ecosystems in these regions are threatened by human activities
	Forest fire and wildlife threat	Wetland is degraded due to several anthropogenic factors The wetland faces threats from legal and illegal reclamation of its land for housing and urban development	Spread of Invasive Alien Species

The Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Sri Lanka 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.

GEF 7 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 merging 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 three strategic projects in the selected landscapes will involve the private sector and ensure an even broader base of participation in the project.

A theory of change that illustrates what each component will achieve is presented in Annex D.

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

The primary purpose of Component 1 is to build upon the successes of GEF 6, and address the challenges faced by strengthening the resilience of these three landscapes — one forested, one coastal and one urban — for sustainable development and global environmental protection. It will achieve this objective through community level projects that a) reduce the loss of biodiversity; support innovation in biodiversity conservation; optimise ecosystem services; b) strengthen the sustainability of production systems by enhancing ecosystem services, including through soil and water conservation and agro-ecology practices; and c) develop community enterprises to offset forest, wetland and coastal resource exploitation through access to fair trade, and new markets, increase effective distribution of community products, improve marketing strategies, business model innovation, new technologies and improved quality of community products.

The project will achieve the following Outcomes under Component 1:

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.

Under this outcome, participating community organizations in each landscape identify and design projects to enhance socio-ecological landscape resiliency through generation of global environmental benefits, primarily in relation to biodiversity conservation. The SGP Upgraded Country Programme will support capacity development for project implementation. M&E methodologies will be incorporated into each initiative to ensure generation of knowledge and lessons from the experience of project implementation. SGP will also pursue and engage potential partners, including the private sector to work with community organizations in terms of technical assistance, co-financing and potential marketing of products associated with biodiversity conservation. The following Outputs and Activities will be produced to achieve this Outcome:

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.

Each of these landscapes are under threat from human activities such as deforestation (Knuckles), clear-felling of mangroves (Mannar coast) and urbanization (Colombo).

Activity 1.1.1.1. Engage community organizations in developing and implementing proposals to support innovation in biodiversity conservation and optimization of ecosystem services (including restoration of biological corridors, water catchment protection, participatory monitoring of flagship species); these proposals are submitted to the SGP National Steering Committee for grant review and approval.

Activity 1.1.1.2. Community organization capacity building on project management, mapping, community protocol development, M&E of forest and other resources.

Activity 1.1.1.3. Engagement with government partners in recognizing community roles in biodiversity conservation, including adoption of community co-management models.

Activity 1.1.1.4. Participatory project monitoring and evaluation to assess performance and progress toward goals.

Activity 1.1.1.5. Provide technical support to the community and link community to government and private sector initiatives.

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.

Under this outcome, participating community organizations in each landscape identify and design projects to enhance socio-ecological landscape resiliency through generation of global environmental benefits, primarily in relation to sustainable land management, though with benefits to biodiversity conservation and co-benefits for climate mitigation and adaptation. The SGP UCP will support capacity development for project implementation. M&E methodologies will be incorporated into each initiative to ensure generation of knowledge and lessons from the experience of project implementation. SGP will also pursue and engage potential partners to work with community organizations in terms of technical assistance, co-financing and potential marketing of products to provide the economic incentive for sustainable land management. The following Outputs and Activities will be produced to achieve this Outcome:

Output 1.2.1 Community small grant projects strengthen the sustainability of production systems by enhancing ecosystem services, including through soil and water conservation and agro-ecology practices.

Activity 1.2.1.1.

Engage community organizations in developing and implementing proposals to support innovation in enhancing the sustainability and resilience of mosaic production landscapes through diversification of cropping systems, farmer-managed natural regeneration, reforestation and/or other activities that will intensify production on existing farm plots to avoid further habitat conversion for agriculture; these proposals are submitted to the SGP National Steering Committee for grant review and approval.

Activity 1.2.1.2.

Community organization capacity building on project management, simple experimentation methodology using Farmer Field School experience, farmer-to-farmer exchanges, and M&E of farmer fieldwork.

Activity 1.2.1.3.

Engage government partners to provide technical assistance, co-financing, and aid in achieving market access for resilience-enhancing production.

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.

The SGP Country Programme will assist community organizations or second level organizations of producers to identify and design initiatives that enable access to market for resilience-enhancing products through value-addition, quality assurance, market research, engagement with buyers, and organization of producers to achieve market weight in the market. The proposed sustainable livelihoods will serve to a) provide a method of earning that uses natural resources sustainably, and thus prevent overexploitation; b) provide alternative livelihoods to communities heavily reliant on natural resources, again preventing overexploitation. The following Output and Activities will be produced to achieve this Outcome:

Output 1.3.1 Community level small grant projects in the landscapes that develop community enterprises through access to fair trade and new markets, and business model innovation.

Activity 1.3.1.1. Engage community organizations, either individually or in producers' organizations, in identification of marketable resilience-enhancing products and the design and implementation of projects that improve quality and volume of production, add value and market products; these proposals are submitted to the SGP National Steering Committee for grant review and approval to ensure that natural resources used in products are harvested sustainably, or if agriculture based, sustainable agricultural practices are inbuilt.

Activity 1.3.1.2. Engage well-established social enterprises to develop marketing strategy for community products

Activity 1.3.1.3. Conduct feasibility study, capacity building and marketing for sites within the selected landscapes that have high potential for eco-tourism or agro-tourism development, guided by the SGP COVID-19 impact assessment.

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

SGP is 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) in 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 three strategic projects – one in each landscape – will be responsible 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 three strategic projects whilst being a catalyst to introduce social entrepreneurship to the three landscape they will also be instrumental to help the small-scale grant projects in the landscapes to be more sustainable by introducing social entrepreneurship models of sustainability

The following Output and Activities will be produced to achieve this Outcome:

Output 1.4.1. A sustainability plan is developed in each landscape highlighting the processes, obstacles to and opportunities for up-scaling community enterprise.

Activity 1.4.1.1. Engage three grantees who will provide technical support to the community and linkage with social enterprises.

Activity 1.4.1.2. 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.

Component 2: Landscape governance and adaptive management for upscaling and replication

The primary purpose of Component 2 is the strengthening of three multi-stakeholder governance platforms to discuss, analyze, guide and advocate collaboration for socio-ecological resilience of the communities and ecosystems of the three key landscapes. These platforms will ensure the widest possible buy-in, support and commitment to the landscape strategies' outcomes. They 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.

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

The three multi-stakeholder governance platforms formed by the SGP Country Programme in OP6 will be strengthened to achieve consensus on the geographic scope of the landscape, other potential partners, differing roles and contributions by the participants, and landscape level outcomes in regard to biodiversity conservation and enhancing ecosystem services, agro-ecosystem productivity and sustainability, alternative livelihoods (that develop and diversify livelihoods and income generation and landscape governance goals.

Output 2.1.1 Multi-stakeholder governance platforms in the target landscapes 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

Activity 2.1.1.1 Strengthen analytical, organizational and advocacy capacities of formal multi-stakeholder groups for each landscape

Activity 2.1.1.2 Engage stakeholders and potential new partners to gain their support to agree on long-term outcomes and willingness of government to support community-driven landscape management and planning.

Activity 2.1.1.3 Multi-stakeholder agreements on long-term outcomes that should be achieved in the landscape, including elements from relevant national action plans.

Output 2. 1. 2. Typology of community level projects developed and agreed by multi-stakeholder groups together with eligibility criteria

Activity 2.1.2.1 Based on the developed landscape strategies, develop expected results framework with specification on the expected project outcomes, result indicators, funding allocations and numbers of projects for each landscape.

Activity 2.1.2.2 Develop grant project selection criteria consonant with local priorities, GEF criteria and landscape strategies and agreed by landscape stakeholders

Activity 2.1.2.3 Identify the capacity gaps of each landscape community and plan for capacity development.

Outcome 2.2. Knowledge from community-level engagement and innovative conservation practices is 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.

Activity 2.2.1.1. Incorporate participatory M&E methodology into participatory project planning of each community grant project to support community reflection on project planning and implementation, monitoring and evaluation to assess performance and progress towards goals.

Activity 2.2.1.2. Develop simple case studies for each grant project highlighting lessons learned and potential adaptations for future development

Activity 2.2.1.3 Disseminate case studies to all communities in each landscape, including through knowledge fairs and other means

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.

Activity 2.2.2.1. Conduct *ex post* baseline assessment in each landscape to gauge overall impact and identify successful innovations.

Activity 2.2.2.2. Case studies of landscape planning/ management – analysis of strategy implementation and portfolio of grant projects (impacts, knowledge, capacities).

Activity 2.2.2.3. Compile lessons learned on specific successful lines of work (for potential upscaling, policy dialogue, etc.)

Activity 2.2.2.4. Produce policy briefs as inputs to regional and national policy dialogue for adoption of a landscape approach for community participation in local land use and natural resource management.

Activity 2.2.2.5 Organize multi-sectoral policy dialogue platforms for each landscape and project result feed decision-making.

D) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Programme strategies:

The SGP Sri Lanka Upgraded Country Programme will focus in GEF 7 on support to community-driven planning and management of critical selected landscapes aimed at achieving global environmental and local sustainable development benefits. Community organizations will enhance their adaptive management capacities, cultivate resilience by strengthening their capacities for innovation across the landscape and throughout the local economy. The Programme will support community organizations in the most vulnerable and least developed areas of Peru to take collective action through a participatory landscape planning and management approach aimed at enhancing socio-ecological resilience from innovative livelihoods producing local and global environmental benefits.

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:

- Reduce soil erosion of lands cultivated with annual and plantation crops.
- Restore degraded forests.
- Establish new forest plantations.
- Halt the cultivation of annual crops on steep lands and facilitate the conversion of such lands to perennial crops.
- Encourage 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.

The strategy for the SGP Sri Lanka Upgrading Country Programme in GEF-7 is fully aligned with the strategy and spirit of the GEF Impact Programme on Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration in that its core approach promotes "a sustainably integrated landscape that simultaneously meets a full range of local needs, including water availability, nutritious and profitable crops for families and local markets, and enhanced human health; while also contributing to national economic development and policy commitments (for example, the Aichi targets for biodiversity conservation, and selected SDGs.); and delivering globally to the maintenance of biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and provision of food, fibre, and commercial commodities to international supply chains." As well, the SGP proposed focus on Urban Wetlands of Colombo aligns with the GEF Impact Programme on Sustainable Cities with specific focus on improving biodiversity conservation – especially ecosystem services and reducing land degradation in the capital city of Colombo.

E) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, CBIT 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 governance platforms that have been forged in OP6 will be consolidated in each landscape. These multi-stakeholder platforms will incorporate the district secretary, the local government, district officers of national agencies and Ministries, CSOs, local communities, the private sector and other relevant actors. These partnerships will provide technical assistance, strategic guidance and financial support, where possible, to community-based organizations for individual community initiatives, as well as landscape level projects and strategic upgrading projects. Formal partnership agreements will be agreed upon and signed with communities as projects are identified and aligned with landscape level outcomes.

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.

F) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF)

Global environmental benefits (GEB) generated by the Sri Lanka SGP Upgrading Country Programme as a result 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 developed by the communities in each landscape, a more credible, detailed accounting of potential global environmental benefits will be possible. At the same time, 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. Prospective GEB from these initiatives will be more precisely defined during project preparation and the initial stages of implementation.

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 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” will be established to analyse lessons learned from project and programme performance and identify and discuss potential policy applications with local policy makers and national/subnational policy advisors.

During OP7, the SGP Sri Lanka Upgrading Country Programme will strengthen the linkages between 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 up-scale 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 through specific forums. 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: biodiversity conservation and land degradation. The project is designed to achieve global environmental benefits (GEBs) in land degradation and biodiversity. The project is designed to deliver multiple environmental benefits through its interventions, such as:

- On biodiversity, the project will promote the conservation of globally significant biodiversity and the sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity in forests and protected areas;
- Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in production landscapes, including agrobiodiversity and endangered flora and fauna and species;
- On land degradation, the project will address erosion and deforestation by improving provision of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem goods and services through reforestation, planting of mangroves, community-managed natural regeneration using indigenous trees and sustainable harvest of non-timber forest products.

Co-benefits generated by this project include:

- Mitigated and avoided greenhouse gas emissions and increased carbon sequestration in production landscapes (reforestation, increasing plant coverage)
- On 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)

Under OP7, the Sri Lanka SGP Upgraded Country Programme will contribute directly to the Land Degradation Neutrality targets as mentioned under Section D, above, by supporting on the ground implementation of SLM to achieve LDN and contributing to the creation of an enabling environment to support voluntary LDN target implementation.

Under OP7, the Sri Lanka SGP Upgraded Country Programme will also contribute directly to the Aichi targets as follows:

Target 1	By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.
Target 4	By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.
Target 5	By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced
Target 7	By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
Target 11	– By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape.
Target 14	By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities and the poor and vulnerable.
Target 15	By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks have been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.

The Sri Lanka SGP Upgraded Country Programme will also contribute directly to the Sustainable Development Goals as follows:

Goal 2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
Goal 15	Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss

G) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

Innovativeness

This project proposes to carry out participatory, multi-stakeholder, landscape management in three key areas of Sri Lanka – the Knuckles Conservation Forest and its buffer zone, the coastal region from Mannar Island to the Jaffna District, and the Urban Wetlands of Colombo – aimed at enhancing social and ecological resilience through community-based, community-driven projects to conserve biodiversity, optimize ecosystem services, manage land – particularly agro-ecosystems – and water sustainably. Using the knowledge and experience gained from global and national landscape level initiatives delivered by SGP, this project will pilot three distinct landscape planning and management processes in three selected areas of Sri Lanka and, building on experience and lessons learned from previous SGP operational phases, assist community organizations to carry out and coordinate projects in pursuit of outcomes they have identified in landscape plans and strategies. This will build community ownership of individual initiatives, introduce the understanding of a landscape as well as overall landscape management. Coordinated community projects in the landscape will generate ecological, economic and social synergies that will produce greater and potentially longer-lasting global environmental benefits, as well as increased natural and social capital and local sustainable development benefits. The capacities of community organizations will be strengthened through a learning-by-doing approach, in which the project itself is a vehicle for acquiring practical knowledge and organizational skills in a longer-term adaptive management process. The project will also take prior years' experience and identify and implement a number of potential upscaling opportunities during this project's lifetime.

Sustainability

The sustainability of landscape management processes and community initiatives are predicated on the principle – based on SGP experience – that global environmental benefits can be produced and maintained through community-based sustainable development projects. Previous phases of the SGP Sri Lanka Country Programme have identified and promoted clear win-win opportunities with community initiatives and clusters of initiatives in areas such as sustainable use of biodiversity (watershed protection, eco/agrotourism) and genetic resources (agro-biodiversity), agro-ecological production practices and systems, sustainable land and water management, and sustainable forest management.

From SGP experience supporting community initiatives in OP6 and before, it is clear that for a conservation project to be sustainable, it must also generate an economic benefit (increased income, increased or more stable yields, reduced costs, etc.). Therefore, SGP Sri Lanka assists communities to develop their initiatives as social enterprises to lay the foundation for sustainability. Through the three Strategic Projects proposed in the PIF, community initiatives will be linked across the landscape to develop value chains, achieve economies of scale and establish functional partnerships with private or public sector entities. Initiatives that produce environmental and sustainable development benefits must be supported for several years since these benefits are not necessarily sufficiently consolidated over the short-term given ecological and economic processes and timelines. This is also the underlying rationale for continuing to work in the same landscape from one OP to another – to build the capacities and establish the foundations for true sustainability of environmental benefits. The adoption rates of new practices are often slow as new practices are learned and tried, with the benefits accumulating progressively over time e.g. soil fertility growing from year to year with the establishment and management of agroforestry systems; fish stocks recuperating from closed off fishing areas, etc., and these are sustained over the long-term by development of landscape level value chains.

Sustainability of landscape planning and management processes will be enhanced through the formation of multi-stakeholder partnerships, involving local government, national agencies and institutions, NGOs, the private sector and others at the landscape level and the adoption of multi-stakeholder partnership agreements to pursue specific landscape level outcomes. NGO networks will be called upon for their support to community projects and landscape planning processes, and technical assistance will be engaged through government, NGOs, universities, academic institutes and other institutions.

The growing network of voluntary support, as a result of cooperation with more than 450 NGOs, CSOs and academics and government agencies, has made it possible for SGP Sri Lanka to forge a network. This network consists of communities, scientists, practitioners in community-based entrepreneurship, project cycle development facilitators, government officials and decision makers. Sustainability will be maintained further by aligning the programme with government policies, building the capacities of communities, and engaging the private sector, universities, and research institutes in providing services (including financial services, if available).

Potential for scaling up

An essential output of this project is the up-scaling of successful initiatives that have been piloted successfully during previous phases of the SGP Sri Lanka Country Programme. The premise of upscaling in this context is that the aggregate of community adopters of successful SGP-supported technologies, practices and systems from previous SGP phases have been slowly constituting a critical mass to reach a tipping point of adoption, more broadly by rural constituencies, of adaptive practice and innovation.

In GEF6 there were approximately 35 projects that worked on reforestation, land degradation, soil conservation, carbon sequestration, value-addition for various agricultural and non-agricultural products, ecological agriculture, wetland conservation, biodiversity enhancement and livelihood improvement of the landscapes. They were mainly two-year projects and in order to see long-term benefits and changes to the global environment, they require more time and effort. Therefore, community-led projects should be further engaged in the three landscapes.

There were number of issues addressed by these projects – such as eco-tourism, land degradation issues such as soil erosion, soil and water pollution because of the excessive use of agro-chemicals, and the loss of biodiversity. Several projects such as the improvement of pepper cultivation, leading to organic certification, diversifying home gardens, adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), and development of Kitul Palm production have been introduced and are promising but need more time for proper full-scale adoption. Multi-stakeholder governance platforms that include government agencies and other partnerships, have been forged, but these take a longer time to become functioning and effective groups. It was observed that more time is needed for these groups to take ownership of the projects, which will, in turn, lead to their sustainability.

The 35 community projects were two-year grants. To become social enterprises and earn profits that are re-directed to conservation efforts, more time is needed. Establishing private sector partnerships with the involvement of public, NGOs and communities are processes that take time, because more trust has to be forged among the different players. However, this type of partnership and involvement is essential for sustainable solutions. The Small Grants Programme can act as an initial catalyst to ensure that the outcomes of three strategic projects of GEF 7 are taken up to policy level and assure adequate scaling up to reach required landscape level ecosystem benefits. However, to ensure sustainability and private/public partnerships, collaborative social enterprise models have to be established for grantees. SGP Sri Lanka in GEF7 will aim to build a social enterprise system, where new markets are explored for goods and services both at the local and national levels that will benefit both social and environmental goals.

Projects have contributed to changing government policy. However, the consolidation process of these changes requires more than two years for expanded support from a wider base of grantees in the target area for impact and policy influence. More projects in the landscapes should showcase the best practices of SGP so that this would be a good evidence base for policy decisions. Best practices have been adopted and replicated in the three landscapes and again need support for longer-term adoption in the landscape. SGP Sri Lanka has already undertaken systematic outreach activities in an effort to promote scaling-up of community practices by involving government, research and technical support institutions, foundations, and NGOs.

Multi-stakeholder governance groups for this project have been established in the three landscapes and are used to promote sustainability of projects in the landscapes. However, in Sri Lanka, inter-sectoral and horizontal linkages need strengthening and the functioning of these groups must become routine in each landscape. Once consolidated, these groups can be up-scaled nationally as positive examples for inter-sectoral collaboration. The up-scaling and replication strategy will be conducted by SGP Sri Lanka through advocacy and publication of best practices targeted to relevant stakeholders.

SGP will also look at the wise use of wetlands in Colombo as a Wetland City, for which it has five strategic objectives – recognize, prevent, restore, engage and govern –to manage them. To achieve these objectives, inter alia, models of urban agriculture, research and education sites on wetlands, and wetland-based tourism will be developed. SGP will demonstrate how the Colombo Wetlands can be used wisely with different themes to provide benefits to local stakeholders as recognized in the WMS with the involvement of community participation.

There is also a need for the development of branding for products from projects of all three landscapes. There is need to create a local market for these branded products, for local and foreign visitors, establishing information panels and small information centres (roads, public places, airport, hotels), preparing publications (awareness materials, guides, brochures, issue monthly magazines), preparing mass media programmes and documentaries on the three landscapes for national and international audiences, training volunteers as wetland guides, and linking them to hotels and tour operating agencies.

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

[2] For further information please see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQPCK3dquhw&t=8s>

[3] Wetlands: Providing more than a billion livelihoods, 2016

[4] Ibid.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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



2. Stakeholders

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

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.

The primary stakeholders of the Sri Lanka GEF-SGP Upgrading 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, minority 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. Stakeholder organizations will be identified initially based on the experience of SGP of nearly 20 years, and next, with more precision through a participatory process of planning and consultation that will occur during the process of project formulation – financed by a Project Preparation Grant – and during implementation of the project itself. A detailed Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be also be produced during project preparation (PPG).

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. These NGOs will be identified during the process of project formulation and implementation to initiate with approval of this proposal.

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 Minister of Mahaweli, Agriculture, Irrigation and Rural Development, Minister of Small & Medium Business and Enterprise Development, Minister 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 organizations: 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, minority groups and youth. Existing organizations at the community level such as Farmer Organizations, Women's Savings and Credit Societies, Fisheries Committees and Community 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.

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. All 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.) will be consulted to provide policy inputs, technical assistance and implementation support.

Private sector: Partners in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape; signatories to community-level partnership agreements, as appropriate; potential participant on policy platforms.

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.

Please see the following summary of discussions with stakeholders that took place over the past 18 months. Discussions around future OP7 activities, approaches, partnerships, collaborations, etc., frequently took place in the context of OP6 workshops and other events, as the OP7 proposal represents a deepening and strengthening of OP6 activities and partnerships. During project preparation more formally, structured consultations will take place and be documented in full.

17 January 2019 - Multi Stakeholder Meeting for the Mannar Landscape at the District Secretariat, Mannar. 27 participants from District and Divisional Secretariats of Mannar, Divisional Secretariat, Poonarine, officials from MEPA, CCD, Sri Lanka NAVY, CSO representatives, consultants, members of grantee projects and the knowledge management project attended the meeting. Management strategies and issues in the landscape were discussed.

21 January 2019 - Multi Stakeholder Meeting for the Knuckles Landscape held at District Secretariat, Matale. The main stakeholders, Matale District Secretary, Laggala Divisional Secretary, UNDP, Forest Department, Department of Wildlife Conservation, CSO representatives and members of grantee projects and the Knowledge Management partner, SLEES participated. Project progress and future project interventions and issues were discussed.

28 January 2019 – at Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment: National Steering Committee members which include representation from civil society organizations and NGO Networks, Ministry officials (Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment) and private sector, academia and scientific advisers. GEF/SGP OP7 and the possibility of scaling up existing projects in OP6 landscapes was proposed and discussed. It was agreed to maintain the focus on all three landscapes, which includes the World Heritage Site, the Colombo wetlands and the coast from Mannar to Jaffna. Accordingly, the NSC requested development of the OP7 proposal with government facilitation and linking it with the social enterprise model and ensuring that it complement existing projects carried out in each landscape to avoid duplication.

28-29 January 2019 – “Think Social, Produce Social, Buy Social” 2nd International Conference on Social Enterprise and Social Finance held at Waters’ Edge, Battaramulla: It was organized by Lanka Social Ventures Ltd in partnership with British Council, Government institutions & private sector organizations. The conference was a platform to showcase inspiring stories, products & services of social enterprises emerging from community-based projects funded by the GEF-SGP. GEF-SGP grantee organizations, Human & Environment Link Progressive Organization (HELP-O), Community Development Centre (CDC), Human and Environment Development Organization (HEDO), People’s Livelihood Development Foundation (PILF) and the Committee for People’s Rights participated as exhibitors. Possibilities for future collaboration in OP7 Phase were discussed.

02 February 2019 - Colombo Wetland Fair held at Diyasaru Park, Thalawathugoda to commemorate World Wetlands Day (WWD) 2019: This was organized by the Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development in collaboration with SLLRDC. GEF-SGP was one of the co-organizers of the event. The theme for WWD 2019 was “Wetlands and Climate Change”, which highlighted the important role played by wetlands as natural solutions in adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change as well as the future possible community-based interventions in the wetland.

06 May 2019 – at Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment: following up to the previous 28 January NSC meeting, the Country Program team submitted the OP-7 Concept paper along with the support letter provided by UNDP RR.

6-7 June 2019 - Two Day Residential Workshop for Knuckles Landscape Grantees held at the Information Centre in Pitawala Pathana, Matale discuss and analyze the Knuckles landscape projects: The purpose of the workshop was to facilitate collaboration with the Ecosystem Conservation and Management Project (ESCAMP) of the Forest Department, which is also implemented in the Knuckles Conservation Forest. Activities related to reforestation, livelihood development and eco-tourism were presented and discussed. Moreover, the projects discussed the development of community products and value addition, etc., as well as potential collaboration for OP7.

11 June 2019 - National Conference on Colombo Wetlands: Centre for Environmental Justice (CEJ) (SRL/SGP/OP6/STAR/BD/2019/26) invited decision makers, state agency representatives (SLLRDC, CEA, DWC and UDA), CSO practitioners, academics, and developers, the general public and other interested parties to the National Conference on Colombo Wetlands. This event led to a multi-stakeholder initiative to safeguard Colombo wetlands. CEJ officially launched a mobile app CEJ e-Justice to report on issues related to wetlands and forests.

13 June 2019 - National GEF 7 stakeholder dialogue at the Centre for Banking Studies: Government/civil society/academia and private sector were present and discussed the GEF project concepts presented there.

17-18 June 2019 - Workshop on "Managing Your Social Enterprise - Governance and Legal & Regulatory Requirements": A workshop was organized by Lanka Social Ventures (LSV) at Renuka City Hotel, Colombo for the GEF-SGP projects involved in production and marketing of community products. The workshop consisted of sessions on governance of social enterprises, legal requirements, company registration, taxation & rules and regulations imposed by government institutions etc. The aim of LSV was to discuss with project staff the most effective way to facilitate and mobilize NGOs to become sustainable social enterprises in OP7.

11-12 July 2019 - Two Day Workshop on 'Branding & Marketing for Social Enterprises': A two-day workshop was conducted in Hotel Topaz, Kandy, for environmental and eco-related CSOs. The workshop was conducted by Lanka Social Ventures, in association with GEF-SGP, to discuss branding and marketing for social enterprises. This workshop was attended by several GEF-SGP grantees from the current and previous operational phases. This workshop was one of the series of workshops held for selected GEF-SGP grantees aimed at transforming civil society organizations into social Enterprises, an important focus of OP7 SGP work.

28 July 2019 - Workshop on Eco- Tourism for Knuckles Landscape at Oak Ray Regency, Kandy: grantee projects in the Knuckles landscape who had proposed eco-tourism-related activities participated. The workshop covered topics such as tourism in a global context, identifying unique experiences in the Knuckles region that could be offered to the tourists, good practices and standards of home stay operation etc. The grantees were advised on site specific suggestions, recommendations and best practices to both improve OP6 implementation and OP7 planning.

01 August 2019 - Second Multi Stakeholder Meeting for Knuckles Landscape at the Conference Hall, District Secretariat, Matale. All 13 Knuckles landscape projects, consultants and government officers from the District Secretariat, Divisional Secretariats & Forest Department participated while Mr.I.D.P. Wijethilaka, Additional District Secretary, Matale chaired the meeting. All grantees presented the progress of their projects and received individual comments. Project progress, integration, stakeholder collaboration, contributions and sustainability of project outputs were discussed in reference to OP7 planning.

26 September 2019 - Capacity Building on Mangrove Restoration and Climate Smart Agriculture at the Ahash Hotel in Mannar: Objective of this workshop was to build community leaders' capacities for mangrove restoration and climate smart agriculture. Professor K.B. Ranawana conducted a session on the importance of mangrove restoration, which also discussed potential activities for OP7.

A series of Zoom online meetings and webinars were conducted during the Covid-19 lockdown period, including inter alia: Discussion on Community Products produced by GEF-SGP Projects on 17/4/2020; Progress Review and COVID -19 Impact Assessment Meeting on 16/5/2020; A webinar on "Central Highlands World Heritage Site of Sri Lanka and Biodiversity" on 31/5/2020".

Key stakeholders and their responsibilities for the implementation of the proposed support mechanism are outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Relevant partners and stakeholders identified for engagement by project outcome/output

Outcome	Output	Oversight Responsibility	Key Partners	Targeted organizations and institutions	Key Responsibilities
<i>Component 1: Resilient landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection</i>					

<p>Outcome 1.1: Ecosystem services within targeted landscapes of 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.</p>	<p><i>Output 1.1.1:</i> Community level small grant projects in the selected landscapes that reduce the loss of biodiversity; support innovation in biodiversity conservation; and optimize ecosystem services.</p>	<p>NC, NSC; UNDP CO; UNDP RTA</p>	<p>Local governments; National agencies with conservation and regulatory functions; academic institutions, the private sector, national NGOs with biodiversity conservation missions.</p>	<p>Local NGOs, CBOs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Academics/NGOs lead and facilitate participatory baseline assessments regarding biodiversity, CBOs participate in training. · Academics/NGOs train and provide guidance to CBOs in projects related to reforestation, Local mangrove restoration etc. · CBOs responsible for implementation · Local governments aware of ongoing programme. · Local departments of national agencies (district officers) provide essential and technical support. · Private sector provides training if capable, otherwise participate in projects.
<p>Outcome 1.2</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><i>Output 1.2.1</i> Community small grant projects enhance the sustainability and resilience of production systems, including soil and water conservation and agro-ecology practices.</p>	<p>NC, NSC; UNDP CO; UNDP RTA</p>	<p>Local governments; National agencies with mandates to develop natural resource-based activities; Natural Resources Management Center (NRMC); academic institutions; the private sector, national NGOs with agro-ecology missions.</p>	<p>Local NGOs, CBOs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Academics/NGOs lead and facilitate participatory baseline assessments regarding baseline agro-biodiversity, CBOs participate in training; · NRMC/ Academics/ NGOs train and provide guidance to CBOs in projects related to soil and water conservation, organic gardening etc. · CBOs responsible for implementation; · Local governments aware of ongoing programme. · Local departments of national agencies (district officers) provide essential and technical support. · Private sector provides training if capable, otherwise participate in projects.

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.	<i>Output 1.3.1</i> 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.	NC, NSC; UNDP CO; UNDP RTA	Local governments; National Crafts Council; National Design Centre; Market product researchers and strategists (Private sector) government development agencies, NRCM; Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA)	Social enterprises; Supermarket chains; product marketing agencies; national and international consumers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Social enterprises to assist communities to access fair trade and new markets. · Product researchers assist communities to improve product quality. · Marketing strategists develop innovative business models for community products to enter the fair-trade market, or the market. · National Crafts council, NRCM, SLTDA, private sector to provide infrastructure, marketing platforms, licensing and logistic support.
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	NC, NSC; UNDP CO; UNDP RTA	Private sector	Product specialists; marketing strategists.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Grantee engages with communities and develop projects, in turn to develop community enterprise. · Communities implement the above. · Grantee develops community enterprise through access to fair trade and/or new markets, increase effective distribution of community products. · Grantee improve marketing strategies (business model innovation and new technologies) and improve quality of community products. · Grantee provide a template for successful social entrepreneurship.
Component 2: Landscape governance and adaptive management for upscaling and replication					

Outcome 2.1 Multi-stakeholder governance platform(s) strengthened/in place for improved governance of selected landscapes to enhance socio-ecological resilience/ for effective participatory decision-making to achieve landscape resiliency	<i>Output 2.1.1</i> 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	NC, NSC; UNDP CO; UNDP RTA	Lead NGO in each landscape; local governments in each landscape; district officers of relevant national agencies in each landscape	Local governments CBOs and their communities, academics, relevant government organizations, private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each NGO leads and facilitates participatory baseline assessments necessary for the landscape planning processes; As above for local government and local district officers and technically support CBOs in implementation. CBOs in each landscape participate in landscape planning and decision-making; implement small grant projects.
	<i>Output 2.1.2</i> Typology of community level projects developed and agreed by multi-stakeholder groups together with eligibility criteria	NC, NSC; UNDP CO; UNDP RTA	Lead NGO in each landscape; local governments in each landscape; district officers of relevant national agencies in each landscape	Local governments CBOs and their communities, academics, relevant government organizations,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each NGO leads and facilitates participatory discussions on organization and identification of the types of projects that will be pursued in the future by communities in each landscape; As above for local government and local district officers but participates. CBOs in each landscape use the results of their implemented projects to inform the discussions and decision-making;
Outcome 2.2. Knowledge from community level engagement and innovative conservation practices is synthesized	<i>Output 2.2.1</i> Knowledge generation through project monitoring and evaluation, with local	NC, NSC; UNDP CO; UNDP RTA	Lead NGO in each landscape; local governments in each landscape; district officers	CBOs, local government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each lead NGO, district officers of relevant agencies, engage in repeated capacity building during the planning and discussion phases;

stematically assessed and shared for replication and upscaling across the three landscapes, across the country and to the global SGP network	Lessons compiled, codified, and disseminated to multiple audiences.		s of relevant national agencies in each landscape		· CBOs participate
	<i>Output 2.2.2</i> 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.	NC, NSC; UNDP CO; UNDP RTA	Lead NGO in each landscape; local governments in each landscape; district officers of relevant national agencies in each landscape; National NGOs with specialization/experience in knowledge management	Relevant Ministries; communities from other landscapes; the general public.	· Each lead NGO disseminates and shares lessons to the relevant government ministries and departments, to other multiple audiences, in such a way as to ensure evidence-based inputs (generated by the projects in each landscape) are taken up into policies.

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).

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. Expansion beyond these roles is marked by cultural, physical, information and capacity barriers. Women are inhibited from being engaged actively in landscape management in decision-making roles, in particular, by community norms and standards that strongly limit women's leadership of mixed groups and activities and 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.

The gender responsiveness of SGP Sri Lanka will be ensured through specific attention to gender equity throughout the grant project cycle and landscape management processes. During project preparation, the project will review and evaluate the OP6 Gender Action Plan in consultation with women's groups in the three landscapes and revise it to strengthen the progress towards gender equality. The GAP will be monitored and evaluated through SGP M&E reports, as well as through grantee reports; these will include sex-disaggregated data that highlights quantitative and qualitative outcomes. The Country Programme team, as part of development of the gender analysis and gender action plan, will formulate a specific strategy to engage women's groups as primary actors in landscape management. To address the risks of low involvement of women and other marginalized groups, the participatory approach that the project adopts will ensure that equitable number of women and men are involved in project activities and that women are not further marginalized by project actions.

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 that will respond to women's expressed needs in regard to landscape or resource management.

During implementation, qualitative assessments will be conducted on the gender-specific benefits that can be directly associated with each grant project. Recognizing that women at project sites require particular care to build their self-confidence in order for them to take leadership roles and to participate in local level decision-making processes, special attention will be given to capacity building and alliance building with other women's groups.

The potential benefits to and impacts upon women will be considered throughout the process of grant project design and implementation, and their roles within implemented community-based initiatives will be monitored.

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; and/or Yes

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. Yes

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

Private sector engagement is intended in all three landscapes. A private sector engagement plan will be developed during project preparation to ensure full, constructive dialogue and collaboration with private sector entities, particularly in the development of landscape level value chain or commodity specific strategies.

In the Colombo Wetlands, private sector engagement is envisioned 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 GEF 6 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-tourism is planned, the Sri Lanka SGP Upgrading Programme will engage with private sector hoteliers who actively practice sustainability for guidance and support.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the Project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the Project design (table format acceptable)

Risks to the proposed project, potential consequences and proposed mitigation measures are detailed in Table 2 below. The overall risk rating for this project, based on the comments and analysis below, is "Moderate".

Table 2. Risks, rating and proposed mitigation measures.

<i>Risk Description</i>	<i>Impact and Probability (1-5)</i>	<i>Significance (Low, Moderate, High)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.</i>
Risk 1: Women's groups/leaders may raise gender equality concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process	I = 3 P = 2	Moderate	In the targeted landscapes women frequently suffer from unequal conditions, such as limited access to education and social security, among others. They are also frequently underrepresented in community assemblies, due to long-standing social and cultural norms.	One of the main strategies that will be promoted during OP7 will be empowering women, in order to generate conditions that allow full, real, active and effective participation of women. To ensure full participation of women/girls in projects and that gender is a conclusive eligibility criterion when awarding small grants, the aim will be to require that at least 40% of all proposals come from women's groups and are developed considering gender equality, social inclusion and women's empowerment criteria. Other indicators include at least 30% female participation of community members in activities for increased business development and management capacities, a minimum participation of 50% of women in training and that training should be led by both men and women. A gender analysis and action plan will be prepared during project preparation to include activities to mainstream gender in project activities. Additionally, the Stakeholder engagement plan will identify key entry points for articulating gender considerations in all project components from design to implementation.
Risk 2: Poor site selection within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environment	I = 2 P = 5	Moderate	Project interventions will purposefully be carried out to strengthen biodiversity conservation and sustainable use within the PAs.	The project will work in three landscapes: the Knuckles Conservation Forest (a World Heritage Site), the coastal region from Mannar Island to the Jaffna (which contains a Ramsar site and a Nature Reserve), and the Urban Wetlands of Colombo, a Ramsar accredited Wetland City. Further assessments will be undertaken prior to site selection, which will be done in consideration of SES requirements.

ally sensitive areas, including legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserves, national parks) may involve harvesting of natural resources and forests, plantation development or reforestation			Some project initiatives may include agro-forestry, or reforestation over relatively small areas.	<p>to site selection, which will be done in consideration of GED requirements.</p> <p>During project preparation, site inventory and analysis of biodiversity, land use, local livelihoods, climate conditions, impacts from climate change, local organizations, and needs of selected communities will be conducted in the landscapes to confirm project sites and outline strategies for socio-ecological production landscapes. After the identification of project sites, functional plans with participation of community stakeholders will then be created so that local stakeholders and planners will have the entire picture of communities and their needs.</p> <p>The National Steering Committee and multi-stakeholder groups will review all project proposals to ensure that there are no negative impacts on the critical habitats/ environmentally sensitive areas. The logframe developed during the ProDoc phase will ensure monitoring and evaluation.</p>
<p>Risk 3:</p> <p>The potential outcomes of the project could be sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change</p>	<p>I=3</p> <p>P=2</p>	Moderate	Sri Lanka is affected by a number of climatic hazards and extreme events, and these are projected to worsen with climate change. The most common are floods – both river (fluvial) floods and flash floods – and drought. Landslides occur in the central highlands triggered by heavy rainfall.	The project will develop and implement community level small grant projects that enhance productivity, sustainability, and resilience. The strategy of Sri Lanka UCP is to demonstrate better practices for improved resilience to the impacts of climate change. The logframe developed during the ProDoc phase will ensure monitoring and evaluation. All projects will include resilience-enhancing and disaster risk reduction measures, as appropriate.
<p>Risk 4:</p> <p>The Project may potentially affect the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods</p>	<p>I = 4</p> <p>P = 1</p>	Moderate	<p>Moderate risk due to potential effects on IP rights, lands, territories and traditional livelihoods</p> <p>No proposals are accepted or approved without thorough review by the NC and NSC of consultations and pa</p>	<p>In many of the landscape areas, most of the rural and vulnerable people are indigenous peoples and local communities, and the main beneficiaries of the SGP.</p> <p>A comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan will be prepared for the full project meeting Standard 6 on Indigenous Peoples, and in-depth consultations with IPs will be carried out in the PPG phase.</p>

s of indigenous communities.			rticipation of proponent organizations and communities.	Potential social impacts of small grants are assessed by the National Coordinator and the NSC and actions to mitigate risk are incorporated into each proposal prior to approval.
<p>Risk 5: COVID-19 or similar crises delay project implementation, affect health of beneficiaries, limit areas in which the project can be implemented, limit face-to-face consultations among stakeholders, further marginalize the disenfranchised that have limited access to resources and technology</p>	<p>I = 3 P = 3</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>COVID threats are prevalent during the project design and can have long-lasting impacts on people's health, security, safety and economic conditions.</p>	<p>During project design, pre-identified activities will be re-analyzed and discussed to confirm their future viability under COVID conditions of social distance, quarantine, etc. This will be particularly true for activities like eco-tourism that rely on travel and person-to-person engagement. All proposed activities will be evaluated in regard to their feasibility under pandemic conditions before confirming or changing them for the full MSP guided by the SGP COVID-19 guidance note (see annex E).</p> <p>Risk mitigation procedures will be developed during the PPG phase to address possible operational delays or pauses on an ongoing basis, to follow the latest guidance and advisories. Increased communication will be considered when consulting with local beneficiaries regarding possible impacts, and site-specific protocols will be followed. We anticipate that SGP OP7 Sri Lanka will support the recovery phase, in line with the SGP COVID-19 guidance note. Landscape/Seascape and community resilience are key elements of the OP7 strategy for SGP Upgraded Country Programmes (UCPs).</p>

6. Coordination

Outline the institutional structure of the project including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the project level. Describe possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

Management, monitoring and evaluation

The National Steering Committee of the Sri Lanka SGP Country Programme has consistently promoted the collaboration of the Country Programme with GEF and government financed projects and programmes for many years. The SGP Country Programme has provided technical assistance to community components of selected GEF FSPs to increase the efficiency of uptake by community stakeholders of project-promoted technologies and practices. Members of the National Steering Committee endorse collaborative arrangements and partnerships to maximize the efficiency of the GEF SGP investment, as well, with SGP-sponsored technologies, experience and lessons learned disseminated and absorbed by government programmes and institutions.

The National Steering Committee (NSC), comprised 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 determining the overall strategy of the SGP in the country as well as for grant evaluation, selection and approval. The NSC also contributes to bridging community-level experiences with national policy-making. The SGP Operational Guidelines guide overall project implementation in Sri Lanka consistent with past best practice. The UNDP Resident Representative appoints the National Steering Committee (NSC) members.

The SGP Country Programme team, comprised of a Country Programme Manager (National Coordinator) and a Programme Assistant, is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the programme. 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.

The SGP Upgraded Country Programme portfolio is managed by a UNDP-GEF Global Coordinator, who provides oversight by supporting and monitoring implementation and promoting the sharing of lessons learned and best practice among UCPs and between UCPs and the Global Programme. SGP's Central Programme Management Team (CPMT) will monitor this Country Programme project for its compliance with core policies and procedures of the SGP as a GEF Corporate Programme.

The UNDP Country Office is responsible for ensuring that the project meets its objective and delivers on its targets. The Resident Representative signs the grant agreements with beneficiary organizations on behalf of UNOPS. It also provides other types of support at the local level, as required. UNDP is represented on the NSC, and actively participates in grant monitoring activities. CBOs and NGOs will submit proposals in response to calls for proposals by the NSC, which will consider and approve the grants in specific thematic and geographic areas relevant to the SGP Sri Lanka strategy. Individual grantee projects are monitored and evaluated through monthly, interim and final reports, in addition to frequent field visits conducted by NSC members, UNDP CO team in addition to the Country Programme team.

Project results will be monitored annually and evaluated periodically during project implementation to ensure the project effectively achieves these results. Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the **UNDP POPP** and **UNDP Evaluation Policy**. The UNDP Country Office will ensure UNDP M&E requirements are met in a timely fashion and to high quality standards. Additional mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements (as outlined below) will be undertaken in accordance with the **GEF M&E policy** and other relevant GEF policies.

In addition to these mandatory UNDP and GEF M&E requirements, other M&E activities deemed necessary to support project-level adaptive management will be agreed during the Project Inception Workshop and will be detailed in the Inception Report. This will include the exact role of project target groups and other stakeholders in project M&E activities, including the GEF Operational Focal Point and others assigned to undertake project monitoring.

SGP Country Programme Manager: The Country Programme Manager (CPM) is responsible for day-to-day project management and regular monitoring of project results and risks, including social and environmental risks. The Country Programme Manager will ensure that all project staff maintain a high level of transparency, responsibility and accountability in M&E and reporting of project results. The CPM will inform the National Steering Committee, the UNDP

Country Office and the UNDP-GEF Global Coordinator of any delays or difficulties as they arise during implementation so that appropriate support and corrective measures can be adopted.

The CPM will develop annual work plans based on a multi-year work plan, including annual output targets to support the efficient implementation of the project. The CPM will ensure that the standard UNDP GEF and GEF M&E requirements are fulfilled to the highest quality. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring the results framework indicators are monitored annually in time for evidence-based reporting in the GEF PIR, and that the monitoring of risks and the various plans/strategies developed to support project implementation (e.g. ESMP, gender action plan, stakeholder engagement plan etc.) occur on a regular basis.

National Steering Committee: The National Steering Committee (NSC) will take corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results. The NSC will hold project reviews to assess the performance of the project and appraise the Annual Work Plan for the following year. In the project's final year, the NSC will hold an end-of-project review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to highlight project results and lessons learned with relevant audiences. This final review meeting will also discuss the findings outlined in the project terminal evaluation report and the management response.

UNOPS, as Project Implementing Partner, 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 periodic financial reports to UNDP.

UNDP Country Office: The UNDP Country Office will support the Country Programme Manager as needed, including through annual supervision missions. The annual supervision missions will take place according to the schedule outlined in the annual work plan. Supervision mission reports will be circulated to the project team and National Steering Committee within one month of the mission. The UNDP Country Office will initiate and organize key GEF M&E activities including the annual GEF PIR, the independent mid-term review and the independent terminal evaluation. The UNDP Country Office will also ensure that the standard UNDP and GEF M&E requirements are fulfilled to the highest quality.

Possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

As part of project preparation, the Sri Lanka Country Programme will analyse and confirm potential and/or continued cooperation with the initiatives listed under Baseline Scenario, above, the most important of which are described in more detail, below:

Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustenance of Ecosystem services in Environmentally Sensitive Areas (GEF financed): This project will assist the Government of Sri Lanka to safeguard biodiversity in multiple land use areas of special ecological significance (high biodiversity values) through the operationalization of a new land use governance framework called "Environmentally Sensitive Areas" (ESAs), which will be primarily outside protected areas. One of the main outcomes of this project – biodiversity-friendly ESA management for long-term integrity and resilience ensured at two sites and to manage effectively at least 200,000 ha of landscape and seascape for long term biodiversity conservation, and for the maintenance of environmental services – supports the premise of the proposed SGP project, which fosters biodiversity conservation and promotes landscape development.

Ecosystem Conservation and Management Project (ESCOMP): 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 ensuing 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.

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.

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.

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 Center (NRMC), Department of Agriculture: The Natural Resources Management Center (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. The CRIWMP will work within one of the proposed project's landscapes.

[1] See https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies_guidelines

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Is the Project consistent with the National Strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions

Yes

If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc

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 proposed project of SGP Sri Lanka fit well within these objectives.

The Third National Communication to the UNFCCC is currently ongoing. 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 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 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, 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 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 (component 2 of this PIF) are proposing to achieve.

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 losses; 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 approach to land resources management; proven low-cost soil improvement practices, vegetative conservation techniques, agronomic practices and agroforestry systems in degraded areas through demonstrations and awareness creation programmes, implement organic farming and other nutrient management activities have been identified for NGO/CBO involvement – these are aligned with proposed project activities.

Mainstreaming agro-biodiversity 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 and Wildlife Resources 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 of this initiative.

Through the **UNDP BIOFIN** (the Biodiversity Finance Initiative), Sri Lanka is developing a sustainable certification system for 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

Outline the Knowledge management approach for the Project, including, if any, plans for the Project to learn from other relevant Projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

The project will create a knowledge management platform 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).

Each small project will have, as a primary knowledge product, a case study, and each grant, a summary of lessons learned based on evaluation of implementation results and their contributions to local development objectives. A case study of the landscape planning and management experience in each selected landscape will highlight the processes of stakeholder participation, as well as the progress toward the targets selected during landscape planning, using the Satoyama Resilience Indicators. A detailed analysis will be produced of the successes and failures in each landscape with 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.

SGP's strategic projects will produce a case study highlighting the process, obstacles to and opportunities for up-scaling community enterprises. Each case study will be produced at the end of implementation of the strategic project, with the costs of external experts and participatory analysis workshops incorporated into each strategic project's budget.

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, community landscape management networks and multi-stakeholder partnerships, and 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 system.

Project funding will be set aside for potential "strategic projects", in line with SGP's global guidelines. Strategic projects aim to bring broader adoption of specific successful SGP-supported technologies, practices or systems to a tipping point in each landscape through engagement of potential financial partners, policy makers and their national/subnational advisors and institutions, as well as the private sector. Each of these strategic projects will produce a case study highlighting the process, obstacles to and opportunities for upscaling community enterprise. Each case study will be produced at the end of implementation of the strategic project, with the costs of external experts and participatory analysis workshops incorporated into each strategic project's budget.

9. 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			

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Provide preliminary information on the types and levels of risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and describe measures to address these risks during the project design.

UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure

Project Information

Project Information	
1. Project Title	Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Sri Lanka
2. Project Number	6522
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Sri Lanka

Part A. Integrating Overarching Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability

QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Overarching Principles in order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?

Briefly describe in the space below how the Project mainstreams the human-rights based approach

The project advances principles of participation and inclusion of all stakeholders, during the design, implementation, monitoring, and adaptive collaborative management of the project. Stakeholders will participate in capacity development activities, and the project will support the development of an enabling environment conducive to the active engagement of stakeholders in the management of natural resources. This approach is consistent with the participation and inclusion of human rights principles.

During the project formulation phase, consultation sessions and meetings will be undertaken with a diverse group of stakeholders to construct as holistic as possible an understanding of the challenges and barriers related to decision-making for the global environment, i.e. the project baseline in the three selected sites. The project design makes the assumption that the extensive consultations during project formulation strengthens the transparency and legitimacy of the proposed project activities, notwithstanding that during project implementation, activities can and should be adapted to ensure that the human rights of stakeholders are preserved and/or reinforced. The extensive stakeholder consultations, learning-by-doing activities, and awareness-raising dialogues are intended to engage as many people as possible to reduce the risks of stakeholders who are the most vulnerable and marginalized and incorporating diverse perspectives in as many project activities as possible. The National Steering Committee and multi-stakeholder landscape management groups will ensure the inclusion of women and youth.

These grant projects will be designed considering their needs, rights, obligations and knowledge, systematized through the monitoring and evaluation system and disseminated with a stakeholder-oriented communication strategy. This process will be monitored and evaluated periodically to comply with the proposed objectives of the overall Country Programme and individual projects and quality of implementation. The outputs and activities of the project allow for a multi-pronged approach that reaches a large cross section of the society and includes stakeholder engagement with not only the government and civil society but also the private sector and academics.

Briefly describe in the space below how the Project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment

Gender equality will be considered in the design and implementation of the project, including tracking key indicators, such as the balance of women participants in the capacity development activities and the extent to which gender issues inform workshop deliberations and recommendations.

The project will prioritize work with women's groups and youth for the development and implementation of grant projects. By empowering women, they become leaders with decision-making capabilities regarding community agreements. Their involvement contributes meaningfully to the family's economy, as they have a key role in agricultural activities. With SGP support, women have increased their incomes, been involved in activities of conservation and sustainable management, and involved other women in economic and ecological efforts.

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 identified actively with women's groups that will respond to women's expressed needs in regard to landscape or resource management.

Women's interests in regard to landscape resilience will be part of logical framework development during project preparation, and women will form a key constituency for community consultations designed to understand the links between environmental and development concerns and how best to address them together.

Briefly describe in the space below how the Project mainstreams environmental sustainability

The premise of the GEF Small Grants Programme is that communities will adopt environmentally sustainable production practices that produce local sustainable development and global environmental benefits, if the financial risk of innovation can be lowered with a small grant and technical assistance from SGP and its partners. The project will focus on the specific strategy of assisting communities to manage their landscapes adaptively to enhance socio-ecological resilience and to demonstrate that community action can maintain balance between human and ecosystem well-being.

The SGP finances community organizations to design and implement sustainable development projects using a participatory multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral landscape management approach that involves government, private sector and civil society. Lessons learned from projects and implementation of landscape management strategies are codified and presented to authorities for discussion and possible use in policy reform.

The mainstreaming of environmental sustainability will be further advanced by using lessons learned from pilot projects in GEF 6 to inform scaling up and policy innovations.

Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

<p>QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks?</p> <p><i>Note: Describe briefly potential social and environmental risks identified in Attachment 1 – Risk Screening Checklist (based on any “Yes” responses). If no risks have been identified in Attachment 1 then note “No Risks Identified” and skip to Question 4 and Select “Low Risk”. Questions 5 and 6 not required for Low Risk Projects.</i></p>	<p>QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks?</p> <p><i>Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 6</i></p>			<p>QUESTION 6: What social and environmental assessment and management measures have been conducted and/or are required to address potential risks (for Risks with Moderate and High Significance)?</p>
<i>Risk Description</i>	<i>Impact and Probability (1-5)</i>	<i>Significance (Low, Moderate, High)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.</i>
<p>Risk 1:</p> <p>Women’s groups/leaders may raise gender equality concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process</p>	<p>I = 3</p> <p>P = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>In the targeted landscapes women frequently suffer from unequal conditions, such as limited access to education and social security, among others. They are al</p>	<p>One of the main strategies that will be promoted during OP7 will be empowering women, in order to generate conditions that allow full, real, active and effective participation of women. To ensure full participation of women/girls in projects and that gender is a conclusive eligibility criterion when awarding small grants, the aim will be to require that at least 40% of all proposal</p>

			<p>ong others. They are also frequently underrepresented in community assemblies, due to long-standing social and cultural norms.</p>	<p>aim will be to require that at least 40% of all proposals come from women's groups and are developed considering gender equality, social inclusion and women's empowerment criteria. Other indicators include at least 30% female participation of community members in activities for increased business development and management capacities, a minimum participation of 50% of women in training and that training should be led by both men and women.</p> <p>A gender analysis and action plan will be prepared during project preparation to include activities to mainstream gender in project activities. Additionally, the Stakeholder engagement plan will identify key entry points for articulating gender considerations in all project components from design to implementation.</p>
<p>Risk 2:</p> <p>Poor site selection within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserves, national parks) may involve harvesting of natural resources and forests, plantation development or reforestation</p>	<p>I = 2</p> <p>P = 5</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Project interventions will purposefully be carried out to strengthen biodiversity conservation and sustainable use within the PAs.</p> <p>Some project initiatives may include agro-forestry, or reforestation over relatively small areas.</p>	<p>The project will work in three landscapes: the Knuckles Conservation Forest (a World Heritage Site), the coastal region from Mannar Island to the Jaffna (which contains a Ramsar site and a Nature Reserve), and the Urban Wetlands of Colombo, again a Ramsar site. Further assessments will be undertaken prior to site selection, which will be done in consideration of SES requirements.</p> <p>During project preparation, site inventory and analysis of biodiversity, land use, local livelihoods, climate conditions, impacts from climate change, local organizations, and needs of selected communities will be conducted in the landscapes to confirm project sites and outline strategies for socio-ecological production landscapes. After the identification of project sites, functional plans with participation of community stakeholders will then be created so that local stakeholders and planners will have the entire picture of communities and their needs.</p> <p>The National Steering Committee and multi-stakeholder groups will review all project proposals to ensure that there are no negative impacts on the critical habitats</p>

				ts/ environmentally sensitive areas. The logframe developed during the ProDoc phase will ensure monitoring and evaluation.
<p>Risk 3:</p> <p>The potential outcomes of the project could be sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change</p>	<p>I=3</p> <p>P=2</p>	Moderate	<p>Sri Lanka is affected by a number of climatic hazards and extreme events, and these are projected to worsen with climate change. The most common are floods – both river (fluvial) floods and flash floods – and drought. Landslides occur in the central highlands triggered by heavy rainfall.</p>	<p>The project will develop and implement community level small grant projects that enhance productivity, sustainability, and resilience. The strategy of Sri Lanka UCP is to demonstrate better practices for improved resilience to the impacts of climate change. The logframe developed during the ProDoc phase will ensure monitoring and evaluation. All projects will include resilience-enhancing and disaster risk reduction measures, as appropriate.</p>
<p>Risk 4:</p> <p>The Project may potentially affect the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous communities.</p>	<p>I = 4</p> <p>P = 1</p>	Moderate	<p>Moderate risk due to potential effects on IP rights, lands, territories and traditional livelihoods</p> <p>No proposals are accepted or approved without thorough review by the NC and NSC of consultations and participation of proponent organizations and communities.</p>	<p>In many of the landscape areas, most of the rural and vulnerable people are indigenous peoples and local communities, and the main beneficiaries of the SGP.</p> <p>A comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan will be prepared for the full project meeting Standard 6 on Indigenous Peoples, and in-depth consultations with IPs will be carried out in the PPG phase.</p> <p>Potential social impacts of small grants are assessed by the National Coordinator and the NSC and actions to mitigate risk are incorporated into each proposal prior to approval.</p>
	<p>I = 3</p> <p>- -</p>	Moderate	<p>COVID threats are prevalent during the project</p>	<p>During project design, pre-identified activities will be re-analyzed and discussed to confirm their future viability</p>

<p>Risk 5: COVID-19 or similar crises delay project implementation, affect health of beneficiaries, limit areas in which the project can be implemented, limit face-to-face consultations among stakeholders, further marginalize the disenfranchised that have limited access to resources and technology</p>	P = 3		<p>design and can have long-lasting impacts on people's health, security, safety and economic conditions.</p>	<p>lity under COVID conditions of social distance, quarantine, etc. This will be particularly true for activities like eco-tourism that rely on travel and person-to-person engagement. All proposed activities will be evaluated in regard to their feasibility under pandemic conditions before confirming or changing them for the full MSP guided by the SGP COVID-19 guidance note (see annex E).</p> <p>Risk mitigation procedures will be developed during the PPG phase to address possible operational delays or pauses on an ongoing basis, to follow the latest guidance and advisories. Increased communication will be considered when consulting with local beneficiaries regarding possible impacts, and site-specific protocols will be followed. We anticipate that SGP OP7 Sri Lanka will support the recovery phase, in line with the SGP COVID-19 guidance note. Landscape/Seascape and community resilience are key elements of the OP 7 strategy for SGP Upgraded Country Programmes (UCPs).</p>
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QUESTION 4: What is the overall Project risk categorization?		
Select one (see SESP for guidance)		Comments
<i>Low Risk</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Moderate Risk</i>	X	<p>The project includes activities with potential social and environmental risks. These risks are limited in scale and can be mitigated through best practices, mitigation measures incorporated into the project design, and stakeholder engagement. The project builds on more than 25 years of SGP experience in Sri Lanka and the established programming, governance and operational mechanisms of the Coun</p>

			try Program. UNDP sits on the National Steering Committee of the Country Programme, which reviews and approves the Project Document, landscape strategies, project eligibility criteria and proposals for approval. Other NSC members include government representatives, academic institutions, and civil society organizations, including women's groups and other stakeholders.
	<i>High Risk</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are relevant?		
	Check all that apply		Comments
	<i>Principle 1: Human Rights</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<i>Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</i>	X	A specific strategy will ensure equitable development and sustainability. The project will have a strong gender and generational strategy in place to ensure participation and strengthening of women and youth groups.
	<i>1. Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management</i>	X	The SGP expressly finances projects to conserve and use biodiversity sustainably. The SGP will select projects that ensure that none of the projects contravene national laws and will monitor progress through its own M&E system.
	<i>2. Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</i>	X	The SGP expressly finances projects that contribute to climate change adaptation to build resilience both at community and landscape levels. The SGP will select projects that ensure that projects are in line with the NAP a

			at projects are in line with the NAI and will monitor progress through its own M&E system.
	3. Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	4. Cultural Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	5. Displacement and Resettlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	6. Indigenous Peoples	X	
	7. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Final Sign Off

<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
QA Assessor		UNDP staff member responsible for the Project, typically a UNDP Programme Officer. Final signature confirms they have “checked” to ensure that the SESP is adequately conducted.
QA Approver		UNDP senior manager, typically the UNDP Deputy Country Director (DCD), Country Director (CD), Deputy Resident Representative (DRR), or Resident Representative (RR). The QA Approver cannot also be the QA Assessor. Final signature confirms they have “cleared” the SESP prior to submittal to the PAC.
PAC Chair		UNDP chair of the PAC. In some cases PAC Chair may also be the QA Approver. Final signature confirms that the SESP was considered as part of the project appraisal and considered in recommendations of the PAC.

SESP Attachment 1. Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist

Checklist Potential Social and Environmental <u>Risks</u>	
Principles 1: Human Rights	Answer (Yes/No)

1. Could the Project lead to adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups?	No
2. Is there a likelihood that the Project would have inequitable or discriminatory adverse impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups? [1]	No
3. Could the Project potentially restrict availability, quality of and access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups?	No
4. Is there a likelihood that the Project would exclude any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups, from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?	No
5. Is there a risk that duty-bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the Project?	No
6. Is there a risk that rights-holders do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	No
7. Have local communities or individuals, given the opportunity, raised human rights concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process?	No
8. Is there a risk that the Project would exacerbate conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to project-affected communities and individuals?	No
Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	
1. Is there a likelihood that the proposed Project would have adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?	No
2. Would the Project potentially reproduce discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	Yes
3. Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process and has this been included in the overall Project proposal and in the risk assessment?	No
4. Would the Project potentially limit women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services?	No
Principle 3: Environmental Sustainability: Screening questions regarding environmental risks are encompassed by the specific Standard-related questions below	

Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	
1.1 Would the Project potentially cause adverse impacts to habitats (e.g. modified, natural, and critical habitats) and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services?	No
1.2 Are any Project activities proposed within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park), areas proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or indigenous peoples or local communities?	Yes
1.3 Does the Project involve changes to the use of lands and resources that may have adverse impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and/or livelihoods?	No
1.4 Would Project activities pose risks to endangered species?	No
1.5 Would the Project pose a risk of introducing invasive alien species?	No
1.6 Does the Project involve harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation?	Yes
1.7 Does the Project involve the production and/or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species?	No
1.8 Does the Project involve significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or groundwater?	No
1.9 Does the Project involve utilization of genetic resources? (e.g. collection and/or harvesting, commercial development)	No
1.10 Would the Project generate potential adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?	No
1.11 Would the Project result in secondary or consequential development activities which could lead to adverse social and environmental effects, or would it generate cumulative impacts with other known existing or planned activities in the area?	No
Standard 2: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	
2.1 Will the proposed Project result in significant ^[2] greenhouse gas emissions or may exacerbate climate change?	No
2.2 Would the potential outcomes of the Project be sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change?	Yes

2.3	Is the proposed Project likely to directly or indirectly increase social and environmental vulnerability to climate change now or in the future (also known as maladaptive practices)?	No
Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions		
3.1	Would elements of Project construction, operation, or decommissioning pose potential safety risks to local communities?	No
3.2	Would the Project pose potential risks to community health and safety due to the transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?	No
3.3	Does the Project involve large-scale infrastructure development (e.g. dams, roads, buildings)?	No
3.4	Would failure of structural elements of the Project pose risks to communities? (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)	No
3.5	Would the proposed Project be susceptible to or lead to increased vulnerability to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme climatic conditions?	No
3.6	Would the Project result in potential increased health risks (e.g. from water-borne or other vector-borne diseases or communicable infections such as HIV/AIDS)?	No
3.7	Does the Project pose potential risks and vulnerabilities related to occupational health and safety due to physical, chemical, biological, and radiological hazards during Project construction, operation, or decommissioning?	No
3.8	Does the Project involve support for employment or livelihoods that may fail to comply with national and international labor standards (i.e. principles and standards of ILO fundamental conventions)?	No
3.9	Does the Project engage security personnel that may pose a potential risk to health and safety of communities and/or individuals (e.g. due to a lack of adequate training or accountability)?	No
Standard 4: Cultural Heritage		
4.1	Will the proposed Project result in interventions that would potentially adversely impact sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)?	No
4.2	Does the Project propose utilizing tangible and/or intangible forms of cultural heritage for commercial or other purposes?	No

Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement		
5.1	Would the Project potentially involve temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement?	No
5.2	Would the Project possibly result in economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to resources due to land acquisition or access restrictions – even in the absence of physical relocation)?	No
5.3	Is there a risk that the Project would lead to forced evictions? [3]	No
5.4	Would the proposed Project possibly affect land tenure arrangements and/or community based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	No
Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples		
6.1	Are indigenous peoples present in the Project area (including Project area of influence)?	Yes
6.2	Is it likely that the Project or portions of the Project will be located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	Yes
6.3	Would the proposed Project potentially affect the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples (regardless of whether indigenous peoples possess the legal titles to such areas, whether the Project is located within or outside of the lands and territories inhabited by the affected peoples, or whether the indigenous peoples are recognized as indigenous peoples by the country in question)?	Yes
6.4	Has there been an absence of culturally appropriate consultations carried out with the objective of achieving FPIC on matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, territories and traditional livelihoods of the indigenous peoples concerned?	No
6.5	Does the proposed Project involve the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	Yes
6.6	Is there a potential for forced eviction or the whole or partial physical or economic displacement of indigenous peoples, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, and resources?	No
6.7	Would the Project adversely affect the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	No
6.8	Would the Project potentially affect the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	No
6.9	Would the Project potentially affect the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices?	No

g through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices?		
Standard 7: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		
7.1	Would the Project potentially result in the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?	No
7.2	Would the proposed Project potentially result in the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	No
7.3	Will the proposed Project potentially involve the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous chemicals and/or materials? Does the Project propose use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs?	No
7.4	Will the proposed Project involve the application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health?	No
7.5	Does the Project include activities that require significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water?	No

Table 2. Rating the 'Impact' of a Risk

Score	Rating	Social and environmental impacts
5	Critical	Significant adverse impacts on human populations and/or environment. Adverse impacts high in magnitude and/or spatial extent (e.g. large geographic area, large number of people, transboundary impacts, cumulative impacts) and duration (e.g. long-term, permanent and/or irreversible); areas impacted include areas of high value and sensitivity (e.g. valuable ecosystems, critical habitats); adverse impacts to rights, lands, resources and territories of indigenous peoples; involve significant displacement or resettlement; generates significant quantities of greenhouse gas emissions; impacts may give rise to significant social conflict
4	Severe	Adverse impacts on people and/or environment of medium to large magnitude,

		spatial extent and duration more limited than critical (e.g. predictable, mostly temporary, reversible). te: The potential risk impacts of projects that may affect the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples are to be considered at a minimum potentially severe.
3	Moderate	Impacts of low magnitude, limited in scale (site-specific) and duration (temporary), can be avoided, managed and/or mitigated with relatively uncomplicated accepted measures
2	Minor	Very limited impacts in terms of magnitude (e.g. small affected area, very low number of people affected) and duration (short), may be easily avoided, managed, mitigated
1	Negligible	Negligible or no adverse impacts on communities, individuals, and/or environment

Table 3. Rating the 'Probability' of a Risk

Score	Rating
5	Expected
4	Highly Likely
3	Moderately likely
2	Not Likely
1	Slight

37. The combination of impact and probability is then used to determine the overall

significance of the risk (Low, Moderate or High) using Table 4 as a guideline.

Table 4. Determining 'Significance' of Risk

Impact	5					
	4					
	3					
	2					
	1					
		1	2	3	4	5
	Probability					
Green = Low, Yellow = Moderate, Red = High						

[1] Prohibited grounds of discrimination include race, ethnicity, gender, age, language, disability, sexual orientation, religion, political or other opinion, national or social or geographical origin, property, birth or other status including as an indigenous person or as a member of a minority. References to “women and men” or similar is understood to include women and men, boys and girls, and other groups discriminated against based on their gender identities, such as transgender people and transsexuals.

[2] In regards to CO₂, ‘significant emissions’ corresponds generally to more than 25,000 tons per year (from both direct and indirect sources).

[3] Forced evictions include acts and/or omissions involving the coerced or involuntary displacement of individuals, groups, or communities from homes and/or lands and common property resources that were occupied or depended upon, thus eliminating the ability of an individual, group, or community to reside or work in a particular dwelling, residence, or location without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protections.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Submitted
SGP Sri Lanka_SESP_OP7_preScreening_7	

Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And Gef Agency(ies)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).

Name	Position	Ministry	Date
A H S Wijesinghe	GEF Operational Focal Point	MINISTRY OF MAHAWELI DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT	5/13/2020

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place

