



Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in India

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10125

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

Project Title

Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in India

Countries

India,

Agency(ies)

UNDP,

Other Executing Partner(s)	Executing Partner Type
Centre for Environment Education (CEE)	CSO

GEF Focal Area

Multi Focal Area**Taxonomy**

Focal Areas, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Land Degradation Neutrality, Biodiversity, Species, Biomes, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Mainstreaming, Climate Change, Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Change Adaptation, Influencing models, Stakeholders, Type of Engagement, Civil Society, Communications, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender results areas, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Learning, Knowledge Exchange, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Livelihoods, Threatened Species, Animal Genetic Resources, Climate resilience, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Sustainable Urban Systems and Transport, Energy Efficiency, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Productive Landscapes, Technology Transfer, Renewable Energy, Carbon stocks above or below ground, Land Cover and Land cover change, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Tropical Rain Forests, Mangroves, Rivers, Tourism, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Behavior change, Education, Awareness Raising, Partnership, Participation, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Local Communities, Community Based Organization, Academia, Non-Governmental Organization, Beneficiaries, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Access to benefits and services, Participation and leadership, Access and control over natural resources, Capacity Development, Field Visit, South-South, Innovation, Adaptive management, Plant Genetic Resources, Financing, Community-based adaptation, Livelihoods, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Income Generating Activities, Ecosystem Approach, Enabling Activities, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Rio Markers**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 1

Duration

48 In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

425,114

Submission Date

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
BD-1-1	GET	2,147,946	3,500,000
CCM-1-1	GET	1,476,712	4,250,000
LD-1-1	GET	850,228	3,250,000
	Total Project Cost (\$)	4,474,886	11,000,000

B. Indicative Project description summary**Project Objective**

To enable communities and organizations to take collective action for socio-ecological resilience and sustainable livelihoods for local and global environmental benefits in three key landscapes of globally significant ecosystems in India

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
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1.0. Resilient landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection	Technical Assistance	<p>1.1. Ecosystem services enhanced within targeted landscapes through improved community – led land-use practices and systems, in accordance with outcomes of the landscape strategies developed by this project</p> <p>1.2. Improved sustainability and productivity of agro-ecosystems through community-based initiatives, approved in accordance with outcomes of the landscape strategies developed by this project</p> <p>1.3. Appropriate low emission, efficient and clean technologies adopted at scale in the targeted landscapes</p>	<p>1.1.1. Community level small grant projects in the selected landscapes that conserve biodiversity and enhance ecosystem services through ICCAs, sustainable harvest of NTFPs, reforestation, management of human-wildlife conflict, managed natural regeneration of key habitats, or others</p> <p>1.2.1. Community level small grant projects in the selected landscapes that stimulate widespread adoption of sustainable agro-ecological practices and systems by small and marginal farmers, including agroforestry, integrated crop-livestock-tree systems, etc.</p> <p>1.2.2. Community level small grant projects that document and revive traditional agro-biodiversity knowledge through in-situ and on-farm crop genetic resource conservation, including seed selection and exchanges, participatory plant breeding and other measures, linked to food security, markets and relevant government schemes and programmes</p> <p>1.2.3. Initiatives that establish and implement certification, labelling/branding of organic and green products, and access to e-marketing facilities for community level products</p> <p>1.3.1. Broader adoption of successfully piloted community level renewable energy (RE) and energy efficient technologies through upscaling programs at landscape level</p> <p>1.3.2. Community level initiatives that apply integrated RE and energy efficient technology solutions for productive use, including mills, sewing machines, etc.</p> <p>1.3.3. Partnerships and business models established and demonstrated for RE and clean energy applications</p>	GET	3,398,783	8,500,000
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2.0. Capacity Building, Knowledge Management and Financial Sustainability	Technical Assistance	2.1. Community institutions strengthened for improved governance of selected landscapes to enhance socio-ecological resilience	2.1.1. Multi-stakeholder platforms set up for improved governance of each selected landscape	GET	863,013	1,976,190
			2.1.2. Participatory planning processes in place for comprehensive socio-ecological baseline assessments in the selected landscapes			
			2.1.3. Landscape based strategies for effective governance established through participatory processes			
		2.2. Enhanced organizational, technological, financial and entrepreneurial skills of communities and organizations through trainings and access to microcredit	2.2.1. Increased access of communities to hybrid grant/micro lending schemes through credit cooperatives and banks; revolving funds supported and made operational			
			2.2.2. Partnerships with relevant government programs and schemes at different levels established and resources leveraged for scale up and replication of good models/practices.			
		2.3. Capacities and systems strengthened to enable effective knowledge sharing and replication of successful resource management or technology application models	2.3.1. Communities learn-by-doing and share experiences and good practices on business models and technology adoption			
			2.3.2. Best practices on adaptive management for landscape resilience identified, systematized and disseminated			
			2.3.3. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) established and initiatives facilitated for replication and scaling up of good practices.			

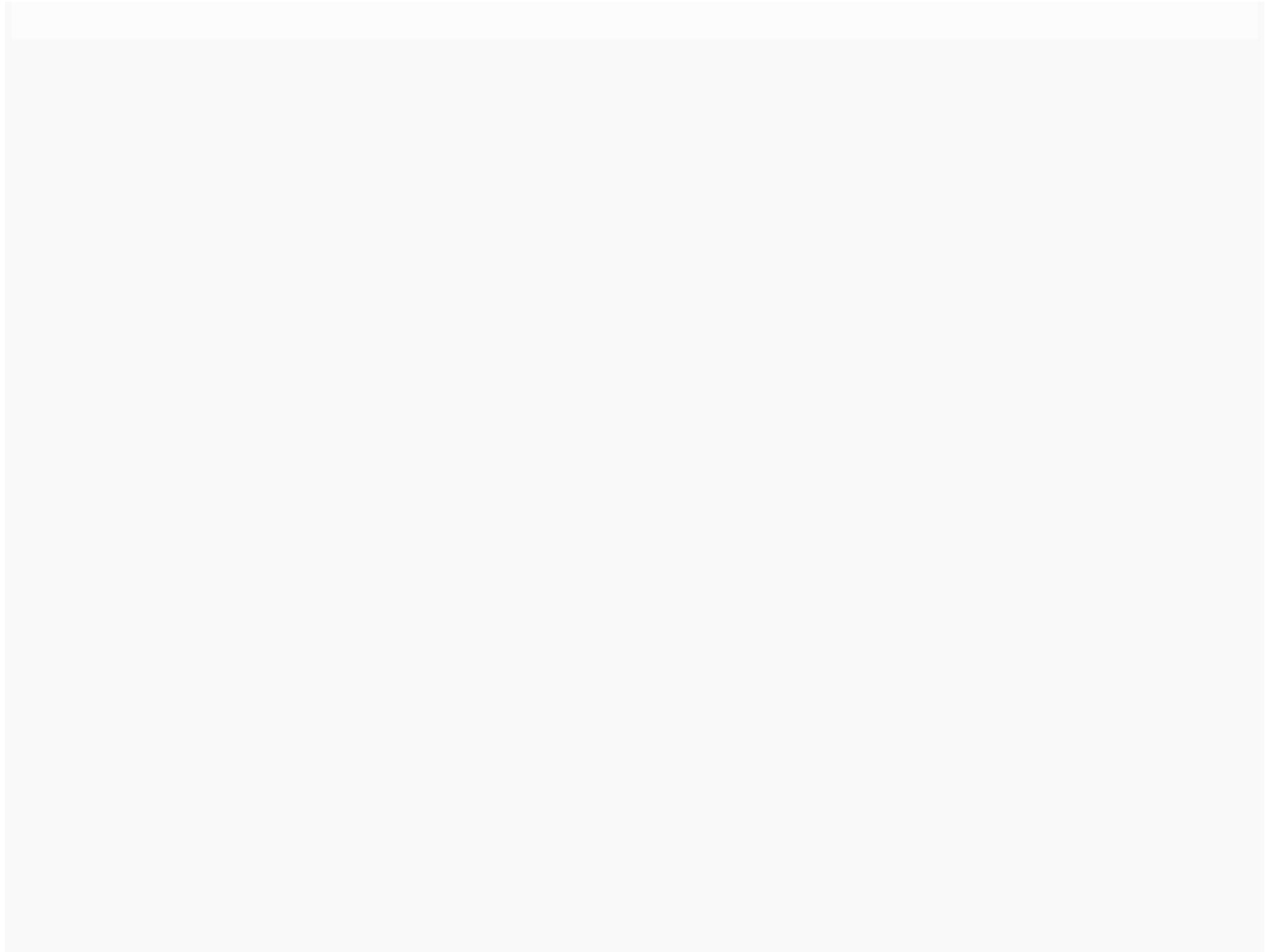
Sub Total (\$) 4,261,796 10,476,190

Project Management Cost (PMC)

GET 213,090 523,810

Sub Total(\$) 213,090 523,810

Total Project Cost(\$) 4,474,886 11,000,000



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	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,500,000
Government	Central and State Governments	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,200,000
Government	Central and State Governments	Grant	Investment mobilized	800,000
CSO	Grantees	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,500,000
CSO	Grantees	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,000,000
Others	NHI and Partners	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,000,000
Private Sector	Private Sector Partners	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,500,000
Others	Banks, others	Grant	Investment mobilized	500,000
			Total Project Cost(\$)	11,000,000

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Investment mobilized was identified through discussions with Ministerial staff, program management and NGO coordinators. The Investment Mobilized figure from the German Technical Cooperation is based on discussions with them and will be provided as a cash contribution to the objectives and outcomes of the Country Programme. This figure will be formally confirmed through a formal co-financing letter defining the contribution in cash. SGP global policy requests grant recipient CSOs to contribute to their projects in cash to the best of their abilities. The National Steering Committee will foster compliance with this policy as appropriate. These contributions will only be confirmed during project implementation as grant projects are approved. The SGP National Coordinators were instructed to differentiate cofinancing 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 to apply to project grants, as grantee contributions in kind and in cash, or mobilized 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	India	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	2,147,946	204,054	2,352,000
UNDP	GET	India	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	1,476,712	140,288	1,617,000
UNDP	GET	India	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	850,228	80,772	931,000
Total GEF Resources(\$)					4,474,886	425,114	4,900,000

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**PPG Amount (\$)**

91,324

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

8,676

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
UNDP	GET	India	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	43,835	4,165
UNDP	GET	India	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	30,137	2,863
UNDP	GET	India	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	17,352	1,648
Total Project Costs(\$)					91,324	8,676

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)
10,000.00			

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)

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored **i**

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 **i**

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

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
60000.00	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)
50,000.00			

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)

10,000.00

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)
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0.00

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

Title

Submitted

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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1,200.00

Indicator 5.1 Number of fisheries that meet national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations ⓘ

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
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Type/name of the third-party certification

Indicator 5.2 Number of Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) with reduced pollutions and hypoxia **i**

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (achieved at MTR)	Number (achieved at TE)
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0	0	0	0
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LME at PIF	LME at CEO Endorsement	LME at MTR	LME at TE
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Indicator 5.3 Amount of Marine Litter Avoided **i**

Metric Tons (expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated ⓘ

	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Total Target Benefit				
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	50000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	90000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Total Target Benefit				
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2038			
Duration of accounting				

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	50,000.00			
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	90,000.00			
Anticipated start year of accounting	2038			
Duration of accounting				

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

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

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

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment **i**

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	9,280			
Male	6,720			
Total	16000	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

Please note that the following corresponds to two footnotes in the PIF Word Document referring to targets for the indicators (first footnote) and expected beneficiaries (footnote #2). 1) Please note that while the indicators for this project are not expected to change, the targets will be carefully calculated during the PPG-financed Project Preparation Stage using the corresponding GEF-7 methodology. Any changes to GEF-7 indicators will be noted and subject to revision at CEO Endorsement. 2) To be confirmed during Project Preparation.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

The Seventh Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme, to be financed through this project, aims to enable communities and organizations in the most vulnerable and least developed areas of India 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.

a) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes, and barriers that need to be addressed

India accounts for 2.4% of the world's total surface area and 16.7% of the world's population. The country has diverse agro-climatic areas extending from the Himalayan peaks in the North, through the arid and semi-arid central region, to tropical rain forests in the South and a lengthy coastline of 7,517 km. Nearly 700 million rural people directly depend upon climate-sensitive sectors (agriculture, forests and fisheries) and natural resources for their sustenance and livelihoods.

India is rich in biodiversity and harbors 7-8% of all recorded species, including over 45,000 species of plants and 91,000 species of animals. Of the 34 global biodiversity hotspots, four are present in India. Forests are spread over an area of 7,01,673 km² covering 21.34% of the area of the country. Around 3 million hectares of forest and tree cover has been added over the last decade. India is one of the few countries that have a bio geographic classification, which has been designed to facilitate conservation planning. There are 732 Protected Areas covering 4.89% of the country's geographic area (1). As a centre of origin of cultivated plants, India has 15 agro-climatic zones. India is considered to be the primary centre of origin of rice. A total number of 811 cultivated plants and 902 of their wild relatives have been documented so far. India also has a vast repository of farm animals represented by a spectrum of native breeds of cattle, buffalo, goats, sheep and chickens. The diversity of traditional farming systems and practices in different parts of India contributes to the food security of hundreds of millions of people across the country.

India has established six National Bureaus dealing with genetic resources of plants, animals, insects, microorganisms, fish and soil sciences. These are the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), with a total of 4,08,186 plant genetic resource accessions; the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR), which has a total holding of 1,23,483 frozen semen doses from 276 breeding males representing 38 breeds of cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat, camel, yak and horse for ex situ conservation; the National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Microorganisms (NBAIM), with a repository of 4668 cultures, including 4644 indigenous and 24 exotic accessions; and the National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Insects (NBAII), with 593 insect germplasm holdings. The National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR), with a repository of 2553 native finfishes and Fish Barcode Information System were updated with 2570 microsatellite sequences. In terms of fish diversity, the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has also recorded 3022 species in India, constituting about 9.4% of the known fish species of the world.

The country's biodiversity, however, faces a variety of threats, ranging from land use changes in natural habitats to overexploitation of natural resources, proliferation of invasive species and climate change. An enabling policy framework, especially the National Environment Policy (NEP) 2006, Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Rules 2004 and National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) have been put in place to mainstream environment, including biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, in development planning processes (2). These are aligned with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Forests in India are spread over an area of 692,027 km, covering 21.05% of the geographical area of the country. While the forest cover has either remained static or has reduced in many developing countries, India has added around 3 million hectares of forest and tree cover over the last decade. The Ministry of Environment Forestry and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has been persistently working towards increasing the total forest cover in India by initiating targeted afforestation programmes such as the Green India Mission (GIM). The total tree cover in India is estimated to be 9.08 million hectares, accounting for about 3% of the total geographic area of the country. The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has prepared a biogeographic classification for the country, which has been designed to facilitate conservation planning, and to review the adequacy of existing protected areas to conserve the range of biological diversity in the country. From a network of 54 National Parks covering 21,003 km and 373 Sanctuaries covering 22,88,649 km, giving a combined coverage of 1,09,652 km or 3.34% of the country's geographical area in 1988, the network has grown steadily, and as of 2014 there are 690 Protected Areas (PAs; 102 National Parks, 527 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 572 Conservation Reserves and 4 Community Reserves) covering 1,66,851 km or 5.07% of the country's geographical area. The country has 23 marine Protected Areas (PAs) in peninsular India and 106 in the islands.

Addressing the challenges of land degradation is critical for biodiversity conservation and to ensure sustainability of agro-ecosystems to support current and future demands in crop and livestock production. Population growth is putting pressure to expand cultivated areas for food and feed production. However, there are limited options for new expansions. Sustaining and improving productivity of existing agricultural and grazing land is essential. Land degradation reduces the capacity of the soil to produce goods and services, such as providing nutrients for crops and livestock, safeguarding biodiversity, supporting water and nutrient cycles, and sequestering and storing carbon, which is important for addressing climate change. Severely degraded land ultimately becomes unproductive, and the economic cost of restoring such lands is often prohibitive. As a result, new areas are continuously opened up for agriculture and grazing to meet overall demand. This dynamic increases the vulnerability of local people, particularly the poor and women, to the impacts of climate change.

India is highly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climatic change owing to its diverse biogeographic conditions and dependence on climate sensitive sectors. Its per capita emissions are lower than the global average. A significant portion of the population does not have access to electricity. The country is taking significant action to address climate change as defined in the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), which identifies measures that promote development objectives while also yielding co-benefits from addressing climate change effectively. This plan has identified eight core National Missions, and the states have also developed state level action plans to take specific action in this regard. India's Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to the UNFCCC commits to a reduction in emissions intensity of its GDP of 33 to 35% by 2030 from 2005 levels, and creation of an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

Some additional initiatives at the national and sub national levels include climate change research, clean technology research and development, finance, energy efficiency, renewable energy policy and deployment, etc. The Energy Conservation Act, 2001 has been enacted to address all matters related to the efficient use of energy and its conservation. The Solar Mission has adopted ambitious targets for solar installations in India.

Another environmental challenge for India is effective waste management. In India especially in rural areas, improper disposal of waste is a severe threat to public health and hygiene. Close to 88% of the total disease load is due to lack of access to clean water and sanitation and improper solid and liquid waste management, which intensify disease occurrence (3). The untapped waste has a potential, however, of generating 439 MW of power from 32,890 TPD of combustible wastes including Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) (4), 1.3 million cubic meter of biogas per day or 72 MW of electricity from biogas and 5.4 million metric tonnes of compost annually to support agriculture. The issue is especially important in light of the focus on waste management under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Clean India Mission).

Project Focus

The proposed project is aligned with national priorities and contributes to national policy objectives by building capacities of communities and organizations at community and landscape levels in a participatory manner to enable collective action for sustainable livelihoods for enhanced social and ecological resilience.

Focus will be on the most vulnerable and least developed districts of three broad landscapes: (a) highlands of the North-East, (b) drylands of the central region and (c) coastal regions. Specific landscapes, i.e. one in each region, will be further selected for focused intervention. The selection of the three specific landscapes will be done during the PPG stage based on the following criteria: (a) high socio-economic vulnerabilities, with special emphasis on gender disparities (b) biodiversity wealth, and ecological and climatic vulnerabilities, and (c) limited access to natural and financial resources. An overarching landscape selection criteria will be areas with limited and weak governance mechanisms, where communities are responsive and cohesive, thus providing an enabling environment that can result in lasting transformational change. In addition, Niti Ayog' the planning department of the Government of India has come up with a list of 115 backward districts called aspirational districts for focused intervention. By analyzing the socio-economic and vulnerability indicators, approximately 13-18 districts from eight Indian states will be identified for the project operation.

Inhabitants of the lesser developed and vulnerable districts of India have low adaptive capacities, little technical know-how and few resources to deal with social, economic and ecological obstacles or barriers to their socio-economic development. Effective local governance is often weak. Delivery of basic public services, particularly those intended to benefit the poor and weaker populations, has functioned relatively ineffectively in these lesser developed districts, even when funds have not been a constraint. The percentage of agricultural labourers in the total rural working population is higher than the national average indicating the prevalence of large scale landlessness in these districts. This, combined with lack of employment opportunities in the non-agricultural sector, results in marginal incomes for a large section of the rural population. The socio-economic indicators of most of these districts are generally below the national average.

Description of project landscapes, rationale for selection and socio-economic profile

Landscape 1: North East Region of India

Northeast India is the homeland of a large number of tribes that constitute around 12 per cent of the total tribal population of India and 25.81 per cent of the total population of North East India. The Northeast region of India comprising of eight states – Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim – is poorly connected to the Indian mainland and shares an international border with Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh and China.

Northeast India lies in an ecologically fragile, biologically rich region with vulnerable ecosystem and biophysical characteristics. The region is one of the world's 18 biodiversity hotspots. In the whole NE region, agriculture system is predominantly traditional. The percentage of cultivable area over the geographical area in the region (24.69 %) is much less than the national average (59.22 %). There is no similar pattern among the states – Meghalaya has about 47% of its geographical area under cultivation, against merely 3.5% in Arunachal Pradesh. The percentage utilization of cultivable area in the NE region (62.04 %) is less than the national average (73.05 %). The utilization is lowest in Meghalaya (19.18 %) and highest in Tripura (89.35 %). Of all the NE States, Assam has the highest area both in terms of available cultivable land and net sown land. The soil and geographical peculiarities are conducive for horticulture products, plantation crops, vegetables, spices, and rare forest products. The region is blessed with vibrant source of energy, is rich in oil, natural gas, coal, limestone and water resources and optimal climatic conditions for cultivation of vegetables, fruits and spices. The region produces 1.5 % food grain, 3.5 % of vegetables, 15% of total spices, 54% ginger and 43% of pineapple.

The natural resources are being exploited and manipulated in different ways. The North East Region did not benefit much from the green revolution and other agri-promotional plans of the Government, which led to significant socio-economic upliftment to many other parts of the country. Approximately, 446,000 families in the region are dependent on shifting or slash and burn agriculture, locally referred to as jhum cultivation. The total area affected by jhum cultivation has been increasing, which makes ecosystem more complex leading to soil infertility, soil erosion, large scale land degradation and flash floods. Human poverty is vastly influenced by lack of skills and livelihood opportunities among the poor. Unemployment in the region is high amongst the youth that dominate with 40% of the total unemployment. Lack of opportunities is one of the key reasons for the unemployment.

According to the latest census, Assam has 11,640,000 persons living below the poverty line, Manipur 12,50,000, Meghalaya 490,000, Mizoram 230,000, Tripura 630,000, Nagaland 410,000 and Arunachal Pradesh 350,000.

Landscape 2: Indian Coast

Indian coasts are under threat due to multiple stressors like climate change and anthropogenic activities driving vulnerabilities such as sea level rise, coastal erosion, frequent extreme events, and saltwater encroachment. India is vulnerable, in varying degrees, to a large number of disasters. The Indian subcontinent with a long coastline of 8,041 kilometres is exposed to nearly 10 per cent of the world's tropical cyclones. An analysis of the frequency of cyclones on the East and West coasts of India between 1891 and 1990 shows that nearly 262 cyclones (92 of them severe) have occurred in the East coast affecting a 50 km wide coastal strip. More than 250 million people in India live within 50 km of the coastline; a majority of them consist of urban populations. According to Census (2011), 17% of the total population in India belongs to the 66 coastal districts of the 9 coastal states. Climate change issues are of major concern for coastal regions of India mainly because of the vulnerability of poor to climate change and because of large spatial and temporal variations in the climate. From 1990s, the coastal agrarian economy has encountered a range of problems brought on by a complex set of factors, the roots of which have frequently been located beyond the coast itself. In agriculture and fisheries, productivity has remained static or even declined. Fragmentation of landholdings, increased size and efficiency of fishing fleets, increasing urbanisation and growing population pressure reduced effective yields from the land and from the sea.

Thousands of hectares of mangroves forests in Indian coasts have been reclaimed for the purposes of agriculture, industry and urban development. Mangrove areas have been used for discharge of industrial effluents, sewage and garbage etc. As a result, the general productivity of the mangrove waters decreases. Urbanisation and coastal development have created significant pressures on the coastal areas. Degradation of coastal ecosystems has negative implications for coastal communities that are dependent on the ecosystems for their livelihoods. This coastal population is also particularly at risk to impacts of climate change.

Marine litter is also a growing challenge in Indian coasts especially in the East Coast Region. Marine litter (ML) includes any form of anthropogenic manufactured or processed materials discarded, disposed of, or abandoned in the marine environment, either deliberately or unintentionally, and may be transported to the ocean by rivers, drainage, sewage systems or by wind. ML comprises various material types, and can be classified into several distinct categories such as plastics, metal, glass, processed timber, rubber, clothing and textiles. At sea, plastic materials degrade slowly and do not readily mineralize; instead, they break down into ever-smaller fragments over time, which persist in the marine environment.

The communities of West and East Coast states of India are dependent on the natural resources like land, water and forest. The projected climate variability in climate-sensitive regions impacts both population and economy. Many communities/villages/cities in East Coast states are vulnerable due to low-lying exposed locations close to the shore or wetlands. These areas are now more prone to flooding and increasingly suffer from cyclones, coastal erosion and droughts. Many of these communities lack infrastructure, resources and knowledge to deal with the climate related challenges and additional stress is experienced in pursuing their local natural resource-based livelihoods. The region witnessed most number of cyclones and extreme weather events during the last one decade. Aberrations in weather and fluctuations in seasonal conditions have become a hallmark of Indian Coast states.

Landscape 3: The Central Indian Arid Region

The states of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh lie in the Central Indian arid zone. The region face serious challenges due to lack of food security and/or economic opportunity for the many people who live there. Low productivity of lands and small land holdings have led to unemployment, increasing the vulnerability of the region. Under current agricultural practices, many dryland farmers are unable to earn a year-round livelihood. For the pastoralists or the goat/cattle keepers water-scarcity, feed-scarcity, disease in animals, etc. are some of the major problems. Reducing pasturelands and common grazing lands create further pressure on the land. OP-7 SGP will focus on the most backwards districts from central Indian States. Among the all States, Chhattisgarh is considered as the most backward and vulnerable to climate challenges.

In rural Chhattisgarh people largely rely on a combination of rain-fed agriculture, livestock rearing and other income generating activities to sustain themselves. Families also create buffer stock of crops or liquid assets, and they use credit as means for survival during the lean times. Adverse weather, in the form of prolonged dry-spells or delayed have considerable negative effects on the harvest yield and impact the lives of the people much harder. These are shocks that affect everyone in the local environment and are therefore harder to diversify locally.

Bio-diversity and food security are directly related. An inter-cropped, traditional variety of crop has much more chances of surviving a bad and erratic monsoon and allows the farmer to be secure in basic food needs. Crop diversification and intercropping systems are a means to reduce the risk of crop failure due to adverse weather events, crop pest or insect attacks. Arid regions are expected to undergo significant climate changes, but there is considerable variability and uncertainty in these estimates between different scenarios. The complexities of precipitation changes, vegetation–climate feedbacks and direct physiological effects of CO₂ on vegetation present particular challenges for climate change modeling of arid regions

GEF SGP India has largely worked with vulnerable and poor communities across the country and ensured global environment benefits through local initiatives, complementing national priorities addressing sustainable development and poverty eradication. The strategy of the proposed project will be to work together with communities and organizations across selected districts at landscape level (rural as well as urban) to empower them to take collective action for socio-ecological resilience and sustainable livelihoods for local and global environmental benefits through a participatory landscape planning and management approach.

Barriers

Towards this goal a coordinated and concerted effort is required in community capacity building to overcome the following barriers:

Barrier 1: Community organizations have limited capacities and/or knowledge to plan, manage and coordinate their production landscapes with a long-term vision for the conservation of biodiversity, mitigation of and adaptation to climate change and increased sustainability and productivity of ecosystem goods and services. Communities are not adequately involved in decision-making for more sustainable land management practices. They have inadequate knowledge of ecosystem function and services, the value and loss of biodiversity, accumulating stresses on land and resources from unsustainable agricultural, livestock and forestry practices, as well as potential alternatives, including new economic activities. This weakness impedes consensus-based development of an agreed long term vision and integrated approach to sustainable development across the landscape as a foundation for social and ecological resilience in the lesser developed areas of India. Community organizations have weak organizational capacities. This often includes capacities for leadership, planning and coordination, including among organizations across the landscape.

Barrier 2: Community organizations lack technical know-how to improve productivity and sustainability of their agroecosystems, install and apply renewable energy technologies, or manage land and resources to optimize ecosystem services. Despite the existence of national programs promoting appropriate crop varieties, the adoption of good soil management practices, organic agricultural methods, etc., such efforts have been insufficient to reverse unsustainable production practices leading to the loss of important species and habitats as well as to increased emissions of CO₂, particularly in the vulnerable and lesser developed areas of India, and as a consequence food insecurity is a pervasive problem. Ecosystem services and biodiversity progressively degrade due to overharvesting of non-timber forest products, unsustainable livestock management systems and soil and water mismanagement, leading to declines in productivity and sustainability, as well as heightened risk from drought and other extreme

weather events. Provision of energy services is very weak in the lesser developed areas with significant negative repercussions on health, education and productivity – technological alternatives to grid extension exist but are poorly tested and distributed in the lesser developed areas. Low-cost technologies in general are not adequately demonstrated and are not available/accessible at the local levels. There is an inadequate interface between technology developers and local communities. The communities have limited skills and capacities to test, evaluate and adapt low carbon, agricultural or other technologies.

Barrier 3: Community organizations have weak capacities to innovate, diversify and commercialize their products and services while improving their livelihoods and landscape resilience. Unemployment and under-employment also affect rural landscapes, from where young family members migrate to urban centres because they are unable to generate sufficient income from their land and/or labor. Instead of abandoning their farms, alternative livelihoods should be developed to generate income and more job opportunities within the landscape. Innovation, scaling-up of previous experiences, identifying and securing financial incentives, and leveraging market opportunities for raw products that may have an added value for niche markets are other alternatives that are not being sufficiently promoted for rural communities. Demonstration of successful and viable models of technology linked with financial institutions is also inadequate especially in the remote areas. Small agricultural producers often practice biological control and protect water sources, which together generate greater benefits for biodiversity and ecosystem services, however, these producers are also more vulnerable economically because of obstacles to competing in the market, in light of issues related to volume and the chain of market intermediaries. Market intelligence capacities and coordination are weak in this regard. Communities lack access to new technologies, financial institutions and government schemes and programmes. Self-help groups and local organizations have weak capacities to access the resources needed to permit them to innovate production practices that generate local sustainable development and global environmental benefits.

Barrier 4: Community organizations have limited or weak representation and participation in formal inter-institutional governance structures at the landscape level. There are inadequate convergence, synergies and integration of government priorities, programmes and schemes at the landscape level with those of NGOs, the private sector and community-based organizations. Coordination between sectoral and other national institutions with representation from local governments and civil society is weak in the vulnerable and lesser developed areas of India. Some existing governance structures lack community participation or equitable representation of different community groups. Lack of coordination to reach goals and receive services by national institutions, in particular of those related with natural resource management, is an issue that limits the potential of specific initiatives to be scaled up, especially through a landscape approach. The private sector is not adequately sensitized, aware or motivated regarding the opportunities for investing in community-based sustainable production initiatives in the landscapes of the vulnerable and lesser developed areas of India.

Barrier 5: Community organizations lack the knowledge to manage and access microfinance schemes to improve their livelihoods and production landscapes. Restoration or improvement in ecosystem services, innovation and adaptation of new production practices, application of renewable energy to value-addition, and development of entrepreneurship all require availability of investment mechanisms. These are currently limited due to lack of knowledge and enabling conditions to access existing micro-finance schemes.

Barrier 6: Communities in the vulnerable and lesser developed areas of India have limited information on waste disposal facilities and cost-effective technologies that can be adopted sustainably. There is a lack of technical know-how for planning and developing integrated solid waste management plans at community level. Self-sustaining and replicable business models of waste management are inadequate. Though there is a good baseline of best practices in the area of community-led and institutionalized sustainable waste management systems, dissemination and replication of such practices is still missing at all levels. An impressive legislative framework on waste management also exists, but its implementation is yet to be adequately realized.

Barrier 7: Community organisations lack technical knowhow in addressing land degradation and desertification. With a rising middle class and more disposable income, the demand for food has multiplied over the years. This puts enormous pressure on agricultural land, which has already reached its optimal production capacity. This problem, coupled with poor and unsustainable land management, has led to an insurmountable increase in the area of degraded land in the country. This is particularly evident in the central parts of India as well as in North East India, where shifting cultivation is rampant. Large scale land degradation leads to poor agricultural yields and low food productivity, exposing the poor and marginalised communities to famine, hunger, migration and conflict, exacerbating their vulnerability to climate change.

b) The baseline scenario and associated baseline projects

The proposed project has a strong strategic focus on the lesser developed and vulnerable landscapes of the country. It will coordinate with similar initiatives in these areas that are being implemented by government ministries and line departments. Experiences from previous GEF Operational Phases will contribute significantly to the implementation of this project, as will strengthened knowledge management and peer-to-peer exchanges between SGP GEF-7 grant recipients and prior grantees.

The SGP approach has been to promote sustainable livelihoods as the means for communities to generate global environmental benefits, as well as the knowledge and capacities to sustain them. The sustainable livelihood strategy has allowed local communities and community institutions to achieve both global and local benefits in the GEF focal areas while improving their economic development. SGP has also increased public awareness of global and local environmental issues and has helped change and mold public opinions and practices. GEF-3 of the India SGP Country Program was a robust phase of learning-by-doing i.e. community-owned initiatives designed, implemented, and evaluated by grantees, of consolidation of participatory approaches involving local communities, ensuring democratic methods of arriving at a consensus on objectives and outputs of community initiatives, etc. In GEF-4, the emphasis was on geographically expanding the reach of the program to remote areas, thus providing access to the SGP by the more remote populations of the country and generating successful pilot experiences, whose lessons could later be mainstreamed into government programs. The community partners were encouraged to leverage more resources such as technical assistance, financial resources, innovative processes and technology options from government and other donors, including the private sector. As a result of the successful initiatives of GEF-4, SGP partners were recognized as having developed the capacities to design and implement community based initiatives and maintain strategic partnerships with government programs while helping in delivery of specific services. Innovative approaches for up-scaling, replication, or mainstreaming with international donors were explored. In GEF-5, SGP India introduced a focus on more integrated approaches and initiated mainstreaming as well as capacity building of the communities to tap local and distant markets. To date, SGP has linked nearly 300 different community products to markets. The Government of India has encouraged such initiatives through funding support to small, community led organisations. 'Boka Chaul' one of the traditional rice varieties conserved and promoted through SGP in GEF-5 was awarded Geographical Indication Tag (GI Tag) in July, 2018. SGP has supported the aggregation of producer and NGO networks around a wide variety of GEF priority themes, in particular in relation to biodiversity conservation and resource degradation. Under the climate change focal area, SGP India has supported development of models and approaches that have removed barriers to the application of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies at village level.

To date, 433 projects have been supported by SGP. A total of 85,000 tons of carbon dioxide have been reduced due to SGP interventions, while generating global benefits for biodiversity (BD), land degradation (LD) and climate change mitigation (CCM). Generation of approximately 13,277 tons of carbon dioxide has been avoided through the adoption of renewable energy technologies at the local level. 97,000 hectares of land have been brought under sustainable land management with enhanced vegetative cover improving management, functionality and cover of agro-ecosystems in Arid and Semi Arid Regions (ASAR). 1,255 women's self-help groups with over 17,000 beneficiaries have been financially strengthened through SGP interventions for sustainable management of natural resources.

A total of 31 projects have been scaled up with associated technologies replicated. Guidance/capacity building workshops have been organized for NGO partners on accessing new technologies, understanding complex global issues and GEF's priorities, measuring project impacts and aligning them with globally agreed M&E success indicators. These have benefitted over 1,200 NGO partners by helping them to learn and implement sustainable management practices, as well as build linkages with government schemes and programs, amongst others. Three NGO partners have used this knowledge to set up Producer Companies and link their products to market. Twenty two Panchayats have incorporated sustainable land management practices into village level planning for community managed landscapes, enhancing sustainable land uses and improving biodiversity conservation. Nineteen rare and threatened domestic cultivars/livestock varieties have been brought under focused conservation practices. Fifty six business models have been created based on successful interventions, and more than 200 natural resource-based products have been developed. Market linkages have been created for more than 90% of the aforementioned green products. Successful collaborations and linkages with more than 40 national and state-level

institutions have been established for efficient and effective implementation of project activities. NGO partners and Community Based Organisations were provided marketing facilitation through organising 'Green Haats'/expositions. GEF-5 project partners have been recognised by Government and Private Agencies by receiving awards such as State Biodiversity Awards, Earth Care Award and Earth Day Star Award.

During GEF-5, the India SGP Country Program joined the Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS) program, a unique global effort implemented by UNDP, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment of Japan (MOEJ), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) and the United Nations University (UNU-IAS). COMDEKS is designed to support local community initiatives that maintain and revitalize socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes, and to collect and disseminate knowledge and practical experiences from successful on-the ground actions so that, if feasible, they can be replicated or adapted by other communities in other parts of the world. COMDEKS aims to build the capacities of community organizations to take collective action for adaptive landscape management in pursuit of social and ecological resilience. Thus, the project proposed here for GEF-7 will build upon previous GEF phases and initiatives (GEF-5 and COMDEKS, in particular) to consolidate efforts to become more strategic and effective throughout GEF-7.

The observations and recommendations of both terminal and mid-term evaluations have been considered in the GEF-7 plan and strategies. The key observation from SGP GEF-5 Terminal Evaluation was that the SGP Country Programme has generated some outstanding and positive environmental initiatives throughout India. The impacts of Country Programme support for the communities have been significant, with several examples of community adoption of sustainable land management practices and low carbon technologies, increased agricultural and forestry yields from sustainable land and forest management practices, and water conservation. The recommendations from the mid-term review are also considered for GEF-7 planning. One recommendation was that while the SGP Country Program in GEF-5 gave appropriate emphasis to replication and upscaling, a clear strategy to support pilot and demonstration initiatives was lacking. This will be a key focus of the India Country Program in GEF-7 along with a concrete strategy for improved knowledge management and replication. The second recommendation was that the programme needed to have a clear thematic and geographic focus while designing projects to ensure achievement of significant impacts through greater synergies among community initiatives. In this regard, in GEF-7 in India, three priority landscapes will be focused on with strategic projects (e.g. markets for green products, solar installations and better waste management). Focus will also be on the lesser developed and vulnerable districts of the country as identified by the Government of India. The project will also coordinate with several government policies and programmes as well as other stakeholder initiatives that are being implemented in these vulnerable, lesser developed regions (as described in section 6 of the PIF: Consistency with National Priorities). The Terminal Evaluation has also given strong suggestions to strengthen M&E systems with clear baselines and realistic targets.

The Terminal Evaluation further recommended that project selections be based on a clustered or landscape approach with a focus on institutional partnerships in all future projects. For instance, by focusing on one agro-ecological zone (AEZ), common features of SGP projects can be implemented and improved upon effectively. By clustering them within an AEZ, learning between projects can be more easily facilitated and global benefits would be more easily generated and credibly claimed by the SGP. Accordingly a clustered approach will be adopted in GEF-7.

c) The proposed alternative scenario

With the project proposed here to finance the GEF Small Grants Program in GEF-7 in India, communities in key vulnerable and lesser developed areas of India will obtain the skills, capacities and resources required to enhance ecosystem services, improve the sustainability and productivity of agroecosystems, deploy efficient energy technologies and manage waste in a way that realizes multi-focal area benefits in the three target landscapes in three broad regions: (a) highlands of the North-East, (b) drylands of the central region and (c) coastal regions.

The three broad regions of focus cover a great deal of India's globally significant biodiversity. The exact location and dimensions of the landscapes to be addressed by SGP India in GEF-7 through this project will be defined as a result of consultations and analysis carried out during the proposed project preparation phase financed by the PPG. This analysis will include assessment of potential partners, including donors, government programs and institutions, NGOs and other entities.

Criteria for selection of the landscapes will include existence of biodiversity of global importance, trends and patterns regarding threats and degrees of threat, appropriate policy frameworks at local and state levels, supportive institutions with relevant expertise and programs, existence of civil society organizations, socio-economic status of stakeholders, and other factors. These criteria will be refined and confirmed at the outset of the project preparation phase. The landscapes to be selected will be discussed and confirmed at the start of project preparation and justified on strategic and operational grounds before further project development.

GEF support will be catalytic in mobilizing action at local levels to innovate new strategies and technologies to improve the management of vulnerable natural resources and ecosystems. More importantly, it will enhance the capacity of stakeholders in different sectors and at different levels (NGOs, CBOs, etc.) to promote participatory resource management, clean energy access and sustainable waste management systems. The lessons learnt from the community and landscape level initiatives will be analysed by multistakeholder groups at landscape and regional levels for potential policy inputs and disseminated to other landscapes and communities where they will be up-scaled, mainstreamed and replicated, as well as integrated into other local and national level programs.

The strategy adopted by the project gives priority to projects in under-served and very poor and vulnerable areas, including tribal areas and other areas that are not easily served by government programs and other initiatives. The GEF funds are expected to directly benefit approximately 16,000 people in more than 400 villages covering 16,000 households in 13-18 lesser developed/aspirational districts to be identified during the project development phase. This initial funding is expected to leverage additional funds from other sources, such as government schemes and programs, leading to an exponential increase in the number of beneficiaries. The project will result in better hygiene, nutrition and increased incomes of communities. The project is strongly aligned with government priorities, which will facilitate synergies with government programs. Another aspect of the project will be to strengthen SGP's pursuit of private sector and financial institutions for co-financing and collaboration. A significant focus will be to help projects and beneficiaries to make their products marketable through value addition, labelling and certification and to facilitate markets for those products. The India SGP Country Program will also provide technical assistance, support a group of barefoot practitioners, web based platforms, social networking, e-marketing, verification and networking with NGOs, etc.

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

A more focused approach will be adopted within three specific landscapes in the following three regions: (a) highlands of the North-East, (b) drylands of the central region and (c) coastal regions. An integrated landscape management approach to enhance social and ecological resilience will be followed through support to community initiatives that enhance the sustainability and productivity of agroecosystems, through innovation of practices that improve adaptive capacities, land use planning, value addition of products, development of market linkages and access to markets, e-marketing and branding. The project proposes to adopt this landscape approach around the focused and priority districts identified by the Government of India, especially in the remote tribal belts, to bring in a comprehensive integrated development approach in coherence with government programs and ensuring operational efficiencies.

The project's landscape approach provides an ecological and socio-economic framework for SGP support to biodiversity conservation, whether through ICCAs, formal PA buffer zones, sustainable harvest of NTFPs or sustainable use of agrobiodiversity. Multi-stakeholder groups will develop landscape strategies that identify priorities for biodiversity conservation, which are likely to include a mix of activities including management of ICCAs, production of NTFPs, management of human-wildlife conflict and other measures. Maintenance and enhancement of plant and animal genetic diversity is critical to long-term food security at local, national and international levels. Genetic diversity is one of the most significant economic resources for smallholders in the regions to be addressed by this project.

Previous support by SGP to crop genetic diversity conservation has generated important experience and knowledge regarding social, economic and cultural values underpinning sustained use of unique genetic resources. Food security and adaptation to climate change provide two important incentives for smallholders to conserve agrobiodiversity through ongoing sustainable use. A third incentive is dependent on the existence of fair markets for the specific crops and animals representing the diversity of genetic resources. Access to these markets may be helped through certification of different kinds e.g. fair trade, organic, etc. A key consideration in achieving market access of any significance is the scale of supply, as individual small farmers may not be able to meet the standards of consistency and timeliness required for sustained commercial marketing of a product, let alone a variety of products. Under the landscape approach, smallholder associations will be supported to build their capacities for production, storage and sale to markets at different levels (e.g. village, town, regional, international). Support must also be provided to the development of second level organizations i.e. groups of associations across the landscape to achieve the scale, consistency and timeliness required by markets. To distinguish products from the landscapes in this project, SGP will support value-addition processing, where feasible, and certification, as well as promotion of landscape identities for specific unique products. These activities complement and reinforce the first two incentives for conservation of crop and animal genetic diversity by providing a crucial economic incentive.

Although SGP has previously supported some certification and other activities in different areas and gained valuable experience, GEF-7 will provide an opportunity to focus efforts on a number of landscapes, build on the knowledge gained regarding markets, certification, and value addition, and work towards achieving sufficient scale of production to be self-sustaining.

There will be a focus on promotion of native and commonly grown species of the selected landscapes leading to increased income and conservation of these important crop species, which will also be documented in the People's Biodiversity Register, in consultation with the Biodiversity Management Committee. Some common crop varieties in the coastal landscapes of India include Rice (*Oryza sativa*), Coconut (*Cocos nucifera*), and Banana (*Musa sp.*). Aquaculture species commonly chosen in the coastal areas are giant tiger prawn (*Penaeus monodon*), the Indian white prawn (*Fenneropenaeus indicus*), catfish, murrels, etc. In the central Indian drylands, the common crops cultivated include Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* and *T. durum*), Millet (*Eleusinecoracana*), and Sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor*). Medicinal Plants, such as *Steculiaurens* (Kulu), *Holarrhenaantidysentrica* (Kutaj), *Tinosporacardifolia*(Gurch), *Buchananialanzan* (Chiraonji), *Helectrisisora* (Marorfali), *Asparagus recemosus* (Satavar), *Rauwolfia serpentine* (Sarpghandha), and *Withaniasomnifera* (Aashwagandha), are also found. In the highlands of north-east India, citrus species such as *Citruslimon*, *C. medica*, *C. jambhiri*, *C. ichangensis*, *C. latipes*, *C. macroptera*, *C. assamensis*, *C. indica* and *C. aurantium* are considered indigenous to this region. Maximum genetic variability of bananas (*Musa acuminata* and *M. balbisiana* and *M. flaviflora*) occurs in NE India. Some native mango species (*Mangifera spp.*) are found in Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram and South Assam. The varieties of chiles found here are *Capsicum annum L. var.*, *C. annum var. grossum*, *C. annum var. longum*, *C. chinense*, *C. frutescens* etc. Other native vegetables grown in the region include Cucumber, Luffa gourds, Momordica gourds, Trichosanthes gourd, etc. Improved soil management practices and integrated farming methods will be developed, demonstrated and replicated.

The focus on agrobiodiversity conservation described above will be further detailed and confirmed as part of project preparation activities financed under the PPG. The project will complement other ongoing bilateral/multilateral/ government programs in the area of sustainable agriculture and the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity by generating synergies with government programs and projects, thereby adding incremental value to these activities.

The geographic areas of intervention will focus on vulnerable and lesser developed districts, drought-prone districts and areas of significant agrobiodiversity. Nearly 60 grants are anticipated to be disbursed under the biodiversity conservation focus of this project covering nearly 500 villages (average eight villages per grant) and 50,000 households. Nearly 61,200 hectares of land are anticipated to be brought under sustainable agricultural practices and biodiversity conservation practices. In addition, capacity building will be done in the area of low cost energy efficient agro-technologies, land use planning, value addition, marketing, resource mobilization, etc. The component will focus on building adaptive capacities of smallholder farmer organizations (both men and women) by supporting them to innovate locally adaptive solutions.

An essential product of all projects will be the knowledge of what worked or didn't work and why. For unfamiliar practices where the adopting association's capacities are weak, smallholders will be organized to test specific practices or methods as pilots or demonstrations before proceeding to evaluation, adjustments, and broader adoption. Lessons learned will be codified and disseminated through networks of community organizations in each landscape and across landscapes. At the same time, barriers to broader adoption will be identified and analyzed in each landscape in multi-stakeholder forums involving government, NGO, academic and other participants. Conclusions from these discussions and the lessons from the experiences of the smallholder associations will be drafted as policy inputs for presentation to the respective relevant authorities, who will be invited to develop institutional responses and investment plans for broader adoption of selected systems and practices.

The approach described above will be further detailed and confirmed as part of project preparation activities financed under the PPG.

Other activities under this component will address climate change concerns through consultation and capacity building, improved access to and establishment of technologies for clean energy through integrated renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions focusing on renewable energy technologies for productive uses, and b) low emission, energy efficient waste management technologies. The project will focus on demonstrating innovative technologies in solar energy, including solar cookers, dryers, pumps, lighting systems, etc., as well as the broader adoption of successful technology applications that were developed and demonstrated in previous SGP supported projects. In addition, business models will be developed and demonstrated by linking self-help groups and community organisations with local banks and other financial institutions. Community-led low emission waste management systems will be established, and innovative partnerships for solid and liquid waste management systems strengthened in identified lesser developed villages and towns. The intervention will focus on creating awareness and mobilizing communities into action based projects (biogas units, oxidation ponds, dry waste collection units focused on marine litter management etc) to establish systems for reducing carbon emissions. The project will also develop institutional capacities and business models for effective and self-sufficient community-based waste management systems. Approximately 55 grants are expected under CCM and CCA covering nearly 385 villages (average eight villages per grant) and 34,600 households. Approximately 45,000 tons of CO₂ will be reduced by the end of the project.

Component 2: Capacity Building, Knowledge Management and Financial Sustainability

This component will focus on increased access to hybrid grant and micro lending schemes with credit cooperatives and banks and will support the operationalization of revolving funds to support replication, upscaling and sustainability of CSO activities. The project will not capitalize revolving funds, however. The India SGP Country Program in GEF-7 will focus on development and training of Self-Help Groups (SHGs)/Federations or other secondary institutions in alternate and skill-based livelihood options and in how to access credit and other financial instruments. Synergies with relevant government programs and schemes at different levels will be established to strengthen the integrated landscape approach. Systems will be established for communities to learn and share experiences and good practices on business models and technology adoption. Under this component, training and capacity building workshops will be designed and developed to build capacities of communities in the area of sustainable agriculture, livestock raising, value addition, market linkages, energy efficient technologies, RE-based (mainly solar) energy solutions, waste management practices, etc. Capacity development and establishing cooperative linkages with institutions on agricultural development, extension and research will also be an important aspect under this component. Leading technical institutes e.g. Agricultural Universities, Centres of Excellence of the Government of India in Agriculture, Livestock and Forestry, Indian Institutes of Technology and Indian Institutes of Management will be engaged to provide technical guidance to implement activities under the project. A Technical Advisory panel will be developed for biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation/adaptation to give guidance and inputs for SGP Country Programme implementation. Workshops will be organized at district/state level to scale up/replicate activities by matchmaking and building synergies with relevant government schemes. A similar approach will be explored to involve private sector partners. Financial sustainability of community organizations will be promoted through establishment of linkages with ongoing schemes, programmes and projects of the Government, bilateral/multilateral agencies, financial institutions etc. A SGP "partner community" will be created (e-platform for interaction and sharing of experiences) through the UNDP Solution Exchange or other relevant knowledge management platforms. Development of knowledge products, including brochures, tool kits, documentary films, website, and dissemination materials, will also be part of this component.

d). Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies

The SGP India Upgrading Country Programme (UCP) 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, and privilege no-regrets actions and initiatives. The SGP UCP will support community organizations in the most vulnerable and least developed areas of India 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, land degradation and climate change through strengthened community structures and institutions that lead to enhanced landscape governance for resilience and global environmental benefits. The programme focuses on food and livelihood security of the local community by promoting agro-ecological practices and cropping systems, participatory land use planning and forest conservation-based livelihoods of the local communities. The UCP will also promote innovative technologies and processes to reduce GHG emissions. By promoting low cost energy efficient cooking fuels and renewable energy measures, local communities will be able to contribute to pathways to low carbon local economy both directly and through channelling of evidence-based lessons to policy and decision makers.

The India 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 as well as landscapes and seascapes” and addresses the “direct drivers to protect habitats and species. The SGP Country Programme will also work with community organizations to “enhance on-the-ground Implementation of SLM” as well as provide policy makers with on-the-ground evidence from renewable energy and energy efficiency applications that can be used to “promote innovation and technology transfer for sustainable energy breakthroughs.”

The strategy for the India SGP UCP in GEF-7 is fully aligned with the strategy and spirit of the GEF Impact Program 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 (e.g. NDCs, LDN, Aichi targets for biodiversity conservation, Bonn Challenge); and delivering globally to the maintenance of biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and provision of food, fiber, and commercial commodities to international supply chains.”

During project preparation, SGP will liaise closely with the GEF Secretariat and GEF agencies on alignment with relevant programs and projects, including its Impact Programs and Programmatic Approaches, as well as Full-sized and Medium-sized projects, particularly in relation to local community-driven land and resource management.

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

GEF incremental funding and co-financing will be applied to overcome the barriers and further strengthen the positive experiences under the components mentioned above and to add value, where appropriate and possible, to existing initiatives by the government, the private sector or CSOs in the identified districts in the Indian Coast, Arid Region of Central India and North East India-Eastern Himalayan Region. The target landscapes will be further identified, studied and finalized during the project preparation.

GEF incremental funding and co-financing will contribute to the long-term solution of adaptive management of the targeted landscapes in India for social, economic and ecological resilience, human well-being, and strengthening community agency. GEF funding will provide small grants to NGOs and Community-based Organizations to develop climate resilient landscape management strategies and implement community projects in pursuit of strategic landscape level outcomes related to biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, 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 initiatives and test, evaluate and disseminate community level innovations. Resources will also be made available through the SGP strategic grant modality to upscale proven technologies, systems or practices based on knowledge from analysis of community innovations from experience gained during previous phases of the SGP India Country Programme.

Networking and convergence are identified as effective tools where Government and private agencies joined hands with other partners for further replication and upscaling of the piloted innovations through SGP. Formal multi-stakeholder groups will be consolidated in each landscape that will incorporate local government, national agencies and Ministries, CSOs, 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 and signed with communities as projects are identified and aligned with landscape level outcomes.

The financing arrangements for this project include grants from local organizations, and grants and in-kind contributions from governments and other agencies.

State of landscapes under the baseline	Summary of GEF scenario	Increment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various Programmes and schemes of the government provide for integrated interventions to improve socioecological conditions of vulnerable and lesser developed districts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecosystem services enhanced within targeted landscapes through community-led land-use planning and sustainable agriculture Appropriate low cost, efficient and clean technologies adopted by the communities to sustainably address concerns related to climate mitigation, adaptation and waste management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced ecosystem resilience and improved access to ecosystem services based on an integrated landscape management approach, community driven projects and linkages to relevant programs and schemes of GoI, leading to co-benefits like better adaptive capacity, food security and poverty reduction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability of successful technologies in areas of climate smart agriculture, low cost RE options and waste management 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in GHG emissions and improved access to energy from low cost green technologies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited capacities of local governance bodies and communities to access suitable technologies and financial resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacities and systems strengthened to enable effective knowledge sharing and replication of successful models Enhanced organizational, technological, financial and entrepreneurial skills of communities and organizations through training and access to microcredit facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-sustaining communities undertake eco-friendly measures for reduced GHG emissions and socio-ecological resilience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General absence of experience sharing platforms to disseminate and share lessons and experiences of good practices 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct outreach to communities and local government bodies for dissemination and experience sharing of technologies and good practices

f) Global environmental benefits

The global environmental benefits generated by the SGP India Upgraded Country Programme through community-based landscape management initiatives and actions in selected priority sites in India can be estimated simplistically over the short term as a result of potential aggregated impacts from hypothetical future individual grant projects. However, overall benefits over the longer term will be a function of the synergies created between projects through programmatic approaches, such as the landscape/seascape management approach proposed here.

Under this approach, community groups, local authorities, indigenous peoples, and NGOs form multi-stakeholder partnerships and develop and implement landscape and seascape resilience strategies based on outcomes linked to biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services, sustainable land management, and climate change mitigation, 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 local 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 potentially possible. At the same time, the project will support strategic projects to upscale successful SGP-supported technologies, practices or systems identified from previous phases of the SGP India Country Programme. Prospective Global Environment Benefits from these initiatives will be more precisely defined during project preparation and implementation.

Global environmental benefits (GEB) will be achieved, in particular for biodiversity and ecosystem services and climate change mitigation and adaptation. These will result from the synergistic implementation of community-based landscape/seascape management initiatives proposed here over the short term and the aggregated longer-term impacts of new and previously funded SGP initiatives. The design and implementation of landscape resilience strategies, 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, will be the basis to determine the overall environmental outcomes to be achieved in GEF-7. At the same time, the project's emphasis on multi-stakeholder partnerships involving government programs and projects will explicitly favor larger cross-cutting initiatives to upscale successful SGP-supported technologies, practices or systems tested and adapted in previous phases of the SGP Country Programme that enhance socio-ecological resiliency across landscapes.

Nearly 61,200 ha of land are tentatively targeted to be brought under sustainable agricultural practices and bio-diversity conservation. Sustainable practices based on agroecology will also have co-benefits of increasing plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Roughly 50,000 tons of avoided CO2 emissions are tentatively projected by the end of the project. The prospective GEB from the initiatives described under the Alternative will be more precisely defined during project preparation financed by the Project Preparation Grant (PPG). Communities' adaptive capacities will be developed through alternate livelihood options, increased access to markets and credits, establishment and access to clean and cost effective alternate energy solutions and improved ecological conditions. It is expected that greater food security and/or generation of employment and income for resource-dependent communities from sustainable management of ecosystems and marketing of biodiversity products and other goods and services 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. A central feature of this project is the development of landscape management strategies aimed at strengthening the socio-ecological resilience of landscapes and communities based on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, energy and ecosystem services. The vast majority, if not all, of small grant projects financed through GEF-7 will achieve global environmental benefits as a consequence of activities that also produce economic benefits related to food security, disaster risk reduction, and other goals. These landscape strategies will also include activities related to landscape governance, thus beginning to formalize development and poverty reduction as part of landscape management. On biodiversity, the project will seek to promote the conservation of globally significant biodiversity and the sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity and promote bio-diversity based livelihood. Project interventions will promote:

- Agro-biodiversity conservation through preservation and promotion of indigenous seeds, plant species and livestock
- Conserving endemic species and endangered and threatened species
- Conservation of animal species through conservation of protected areas, including Indigenous Community Conserved Areas
- Promoting and strengthening local community institutions such as Biodiversity Management Committees, Peoples Biodiversity Registers, etc.
- Conservation of Forest Areas through livelihood based eco-restoration activities
- Marine biodiversity conservation
- The project will contribute to the following Aichi targets:
 - 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 13: By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives is maintained.
 - Target 14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services are restored and safeguarded.
 - Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems.
 - Target 18: By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities and their customary use, are respected.

These six targets will be addressed through individual grant projects approved and implemented in alignment with and in pursuit of strategic landscape outcomes for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. The quantification of proposed landscape level targets and indicators will take place during the planning phases of each landscape strategy with the direct involvement of relevant stakeholders. A baseline assessment will be carried out in each landscape prior to outcome definition and target identification. Progress towards these landscape outcomes and targets will be tracked in annual landscape level stakeholder meetings. More precise definition of the contribution of this project to the Aichi targets will be developed during the PPG phase.

On land degradation, the project will address erosion, desertification and deforestation through:

- Improved provision of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem goods and services (through reforestation, dissemination of knowledge on improved grazing/livestock maintenance, planting of mangroves, indigenous resilient trees and nurseries)
- Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in productive landscapes (endangered flora and fauna and species)

On climate change, the project will seek the sustainable mitigation of the concentration of anthropogenic greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere. Project interventions will promote:

- Mitigation of GHG emissions (through energy efficient technologies introduced, adapted, piloted and disseminated)
- Increased use of renewable energy (alternatives to fuelwood, waste, coal)

- Improved energy efficiency (housing and lighting)
- Increased adoption of innovative technologies and management practices for GHG emission reduction

g) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

Innovativeness:

The project will develop and demonstrate innovative technological solutions as well as establish innovative mechanisms of generating or channeling financial resources at local levels to ensure sustainability. This will be demonstrated mainly in the area of low cost, energy efficient technologies for reduced GHG emissions, chemical and waste management, alternate and user-friendly value addition technologies, and agro-ecological practices, etc.

The project will have a strong focus on developing business models and market-based mechanisms for sustainable use of natural resources as well as enhanced livelihoods for marginalized communities in vulnerable and lesser developed districts of India. SGP India will work closely with its partners to ensure that promising innovations, successful pilots, and best practices are replicated and scaled up through joint or coordinated planning, financing, and implementation. A multistakeholder partnership strategy will be developed during the planning phase to meet these principles.

Sustainability

Sustainability of landscape planning and management processes, as well as value-chain development strategies, will be enhanced through the formation of multi-stakeholder, interdisciplinary, participatory and inclusive partnerships, involving local government, national agencies and institutions, NGOs, the private sector and others at the landscape level. 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.

Community ownership is a critical factor contributing to the sustainability of project benefits. SGP India will involve all community members (men, women, youth and elders) in all stages of the grant project cycle: design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Potential for scaling up

Successful interventions under each thematic area can be replicated/upscaled in other geographic regions of the country facing similar issues of development and environmental protection and management. Through improved financial capacities, grantees may ensure progressive innovation and broader adoption. Resources will be made available through the SGP strategic grant modality to finance key elements of the upscaling initiative to reduce the risk to other donors and investors. Multi-stakeholder partnerships will identify potential upscaling opportunities, analyze and plan upscaling processes, engage established microcredit and revolving fund mechanisms to finance upscaling components, design and implement the upscaling programme, and evaluate its performance and impacts for lessons learned for adaptive management, policy discussion and potential extension of the model to other areas of the country. Identification of specific potential upscaling initiatives will take place during project preparation.

FOOTNOTES:

- (1) Forest Survey of India, 2015
- (2) India's Fifth National report to the Convention of Biological Diversity, 2014

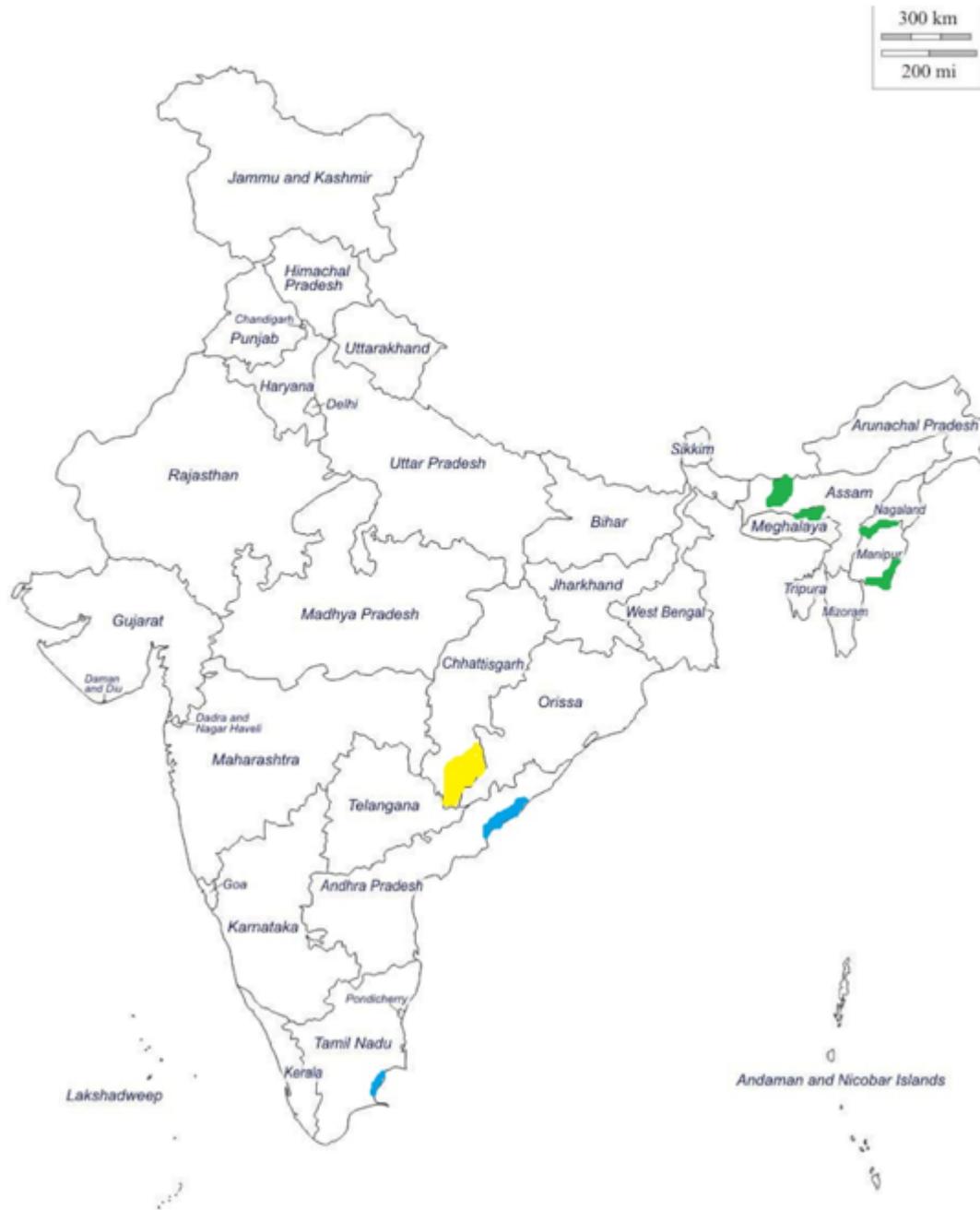
- (3) http://mdws.gov.in/sites/default/files/SLWM_2_0.pdf
- (4) Refuse-derived fuel (RDF) or solid recovered fuel / specified recovered fuel (SRF) is a fuel produced by shredding and dehydrating solid waste (MSW) with a Waste converter technology.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates ⓘ

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

Please see map of project landscapes below. Please note that as a result of project preparation, maps will be provided that denote the project landscapes more precisely.

Annex A: Project map and geographic coordinates



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: Yes

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 project design will include the participation of the range of community, government, NGO and other stakeholders as sound landscape and resource management requires multiple actions at all levels. Project preparation will be based on a proactive, transparent, participatory approach with the stakeholders through one-on-one meetings; joint meetings with multiple stakeholder groups; dialogues; analysis and negotiation of trade-offs; assessment of issues and options; co-constructed knowledge workshops, etc.

The primary stakeholders of the SGP Country Program in GEF-7 are the communities and indigenous tribal groups living and working in lesser developed and vulnerable areas. Relevant partners will include implementing NGOs/CBOs, as well as Line Ministries of Government of India (national, state, district levels); panchayats; academic institutions; centers of excellence of the line ministries/technology service providers both at government and private sector; fair trade and youth institutions; municipalities, and pollution control boards (state and national levels) etc.

SGP India has worked with tribal people in remote, lesser developed areas for over twenty years to build their capacities to participate in a variety of activities and partnerships aimed at conservation of biodiversity and sustainable land management, above all. Tribal groups have worked with government authorities to co-manage fragile protected areas, as well as mitigate degradation of production lands and forest areas through improved management for sustainable use. Tribal groups have carried out projects to recover traditional knowledge in relation to biodiversity, land management and appropriate resource use and have drafted biocultural protocols to ensure sustainability of these resources. Tribal groups have received training and technical assistance to produce artisanal products, including specialty crops and handicrafts, as well as to market them fairly.

SGP will, in GEF-7, continue to strengthen the capacities of indigenous tribal groups in the selected landscapes to participate in all activities related to landscape planning and management, including project identification, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Tribal groups will be invited to participate in baseline assessments of landscape resilience and sustainability, identify landscape level outcomes and potential projects, sign formal agreements formalizing their participation in landscape management, as well as participate in multi-stakeholder landscape groups that will discuss the experiences and lessons learned from the implementation of the landscape strategies and their different initiatives. These discussions will include local, state and other policy and decision makers to aid in establishing stronger linkages between government institutions and tribal groups. All knowledge generated by tribal groups will be codified and disseminated with their express permission and in a manner that is culturally sensitive.

Key stakeholders and their indicative roles and responsibilities in SGP

Key stakeholders and their indicative roles and responsibilities in SGP

Key stakeholders	Relevant Roles and Responsibilities (Indicative – to be confirmed during project preparation)
Community Based Organizations (CBOs)	Responsibilities include effective implementation of SGP projects, skills-building, and use of easy to handle technologies, including training and documentation of experiences. They also are the primary agents for accessing markets and micro-finance. CBOs participate in landscape planning and analysis of lessons learned, dissemination of knowledge gained through peer-to-peer exchanges, etc. Signatories to community level partnership agreements.
NGOs	NGOs lead and facilitate participatory baseline assessments and landscape planning processes; partners in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape; are signatories to community level partnership agreements; provide technical assistance to community organizations for implementation of their projects; and are potential participants on policy platforms. Potential NGO stakeholders will include those with experience in the specific areas of action for resilient landscape management.
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)	The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) chairs the National Steering Committee of SGP India and is the nodal ministry in the administrative structure of the Central Government for planning, promoting, coordinating and overseeing implementation of India's environmental, forestry, land degradation, climate change related policies and programmes.
SGP National Host Institution (NHI)	The Centre for Environment Education (CEE) is the SGP National Host Institution (NHI) and is responsible for implementation of the SGP India Programme. It is the Secretariat to the National Steering Committee and helps in mobilizing co-financing, organizing strategic partnerships and supports successful achievement of Country Programme objectives as described in the Project Document.
SGP National Steering Committee	Functions as the Project Steering Committee, chaired by MoEF&CC; reviews and approves SGP strategies; advises regarding multi-stakeholder partnership composition and ToRs; approves criteria for project eligibility based on proposal 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.
Technical Advisory Panel	Comprises a pool of experts that review project proposals in early stages. They are organized in Regional Committees (RCs) and provide advice to the Country Team on priority thematic issues or areas of intervention, and alignment with national priorities and international agenda.
Other Union Ministries	Other union ministries of GoI have a direct mandate and bearing on this project. They are the Ministry of Agriculture (National Agricultural Policy, 2000, Deep Sea Fishing Policy, 1991, Indian Fisheries Act, 1987); Ministry of Rural Development and Land Resources (for implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA); Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Schedule Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006); the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996); Ministry of Power, Ministry of Non-Renewable Energy (both on issues related to energy conservation and energy efficiency), the Ministry of Development of North East Region, and the Ministry of Tourism (National Tourism Policy, 2002). The programmes and initiatives of the relevant Ministries will be linked to the SGP program, and efforts will be made to mainstream lessons and best practices.
State Governments	Various State departments like the Environment, Forest and Climate Change, including the State Biodiversity Boards; Panchayat Raj, Energy and Power, Education, Planning, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Land and Water Resources, Waste Management State Watershed Missions, State Livelihoods Missions, Fodder & Forage

	Departments are particularly noteworthy and will be linked to the relevant activities of the SGP.
District and local administrations	These are headed by the District Collector/ Magistrate ³ , and include functionaries responsible for different aspects of district governance. Of relevance to this project are functionaries responsible for district planning (District Planning Officer), fisheries (Assistant Commissioner of Fisheries), agriculture (District Agriculture Officer), forests and wildlife (Deputy Conservator of Forests), livestock (District Animal Husbandry/Livestock Officer), soil and water engineers, officials of the Women and Child Department. At the taluka/block level there are Panchayat Samitis and the Block Development Officers (BDOs) and at the village level there are Gram Panchayats. The taluka-level Panchayat Samitis work for the villages within the taluka and are the link between the Gram Panchayat and the district government. Biodiversity Management Committees are also present at the local level to support implementation of the Biodiversity Act 2002.
Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State level Urban Development, Municipal Corporations (MCs) and Pollution Control Boards	These are statutory authorities entrusted to implement environmental laws and regulations within the jurisdiction of the center and state. National pollution control norms are set by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). State boards ensure proper implementation of the statutes, judicial and legislative pronouncements related to environmental protection within the State. State boards have the responsibility of implementing the following environmental acts and rules, either directly or indirectly: Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977, Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules and notifications made thereunder (including EIA notifications), Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989. Urban municipal bodies also facilitate and check the safe waste management practices under the Municipal Solid Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 2000, Plastics Wastes Rules, 1999, etc.
Agricultural Universities and other science, environment and educational universities and institutions	Various technical and academic institutes and universities will help build capacities at the grassroots level through low cost, easy-to-adopt technologies tested on farmers' fields as well as energy and waste management technologies. Links will be made between community practices, educational institutions and universities so as to develop the same into business models and approaches, source young men and women as interns for studies, analysis, documentation and local capacity building.
Private Sector, Chambers of commerce and industry	Collaboration between SGP partners and the private sector and industry are crucial for leveraging resources, knowledge, practices and skills to influence the corporate sector to adopt such technologies, processes, methodologies, systems, products for better sustainability and also for increased income for local communities. The SGP has developed links to the Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives of the private sector for wider resource mobilization for grantee partners and also for building more confidence and credibility of the program and its approach at the community level.
Banks and financial institutions	The SGP and communities are being linked at the local levels to access credit facilities through small kinship-based, women's self-help groups (SHGs), for book keeping, accounts trainings and capacity building. This extra financial access is not only helping in building local community institutions and trust at the community and project levels, but is also enhancing the adoption of technologies and skills by the local communities. Nearly 80% of the users/beneficiaries are women. Such links are also helping in building the skills in project planning, implementation, training, documentation, media management, networking, hosting workshops and business model approaches.
SHGs, Forest Protection Committees, Federations, Cooperatives, Fishermen's Associations, Youth Groups, etc.	These will encourage collective action for sustainable resource use through informal community based institutions in the implementation of SGP activities. As they are networked locally, they would also take on the role of peer sharing of innovative practices.
UNDP	UNDP, as GEF implementing agency, will oversee the successful design and implementation of the project providing oversight, technical coordination, monitoring, and assurance. UNDP is a senior member of the National Steering Committee and participates in all sessions, providing advice and information to maximize the effect of the Country Program on the vulnerable areas of India.

³District Collectors are officers of the Indian Administrative Service and in charge of the administration of the district. They are entrusted the task of handling law and order, revenue collection, taxation, the control of planning permission and the

FOOTNOTE:

- (5) District Collectors are officers of the Indian Administrative Service and in charge of the administration of the district. They are entrusted the task of handling law and order, revenue collection, taxation, the control of planning permission and the handling of natural and man-made emergencies.

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).

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

If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

- closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;
- improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or
- generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

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

Gender will be considered throughout this project's design and implementation. SGP has been a pioneer and highly recognized in mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment in every step of the program cycle. A gender focal point is designated within each SGP National Steering Committee to ensure review of gender considerations in project selection. The project will prioritize work with women's groups, particularly livelihood groups and public health volunteer groups. The Country Programme team, as part of project preparation, will undertake a gender analysis and gender action plan, and formulate a specific strategy to engage women/girls groups as primary actors in landscape/seascape management.

During project preparation, consultations with community groups and NGOs during landscape strategy formulation will take place in ways that ensure women's comfortable participation, depending on their preference for mixed or separate groups.

The Country Programme team will work with the gender focal point on the National Steering Committee to identify potential project ideas for initial discussions with women's and girls' groups. CSOs and NGOs that have relevant experience will be engaged to support women's/girls' groups in defining grant project objectives and designing grant project activities. Women's/girls' groups will evaluate their projects' performance to identify lessons and knowledge for adaptive management as well as gender specific policy recommendations.

SGP India has a significant history of pursuing gender equity and women's empowerment through different but complementary approaches, including assistance to the establishment and operation of women's Self Help Groups (SHGs), building capacities for financial and business management, enabling access to micro credit, developing technical capacities to increase the productivity and sustainability of smallholder production processes, improving organizational management capacities, and ensuring gender considerations are addressed of in all approved projects.

SGP India will build on this experience to apply best practice to strengthen gender equity in GEF-7. Women and women's groups will participate in the development of landscape strategies, the identification of resilience outcomes and the formulation of typologies of potentially eligible projects in each landscape, including criteria for project selection. As necessary, women's participation may be facilitated through gender-specific groups and events to ensure more freely informed discussions and decision making.

The effective operation and management of women's Self Help Groups will continue to be a priority in all landscapes, and they will receive ongoing technical assistance and training to enable them to achieve grant project objectives. In agriculture, in particular, women's groups will receive assistance in all aspects of farming, including seed selection, exchange and storage, micro credit access and management, value addition, marketing, and savings and investment, as well as training in methods for innovating on-farm as part of collective programs of action. Women and women's groups will participate fully in agro-ecosystem vulnerability assessments and the follow-on identification of potential innovations and best practice. In addressing gender considerations, in particular, women's participation in monitoring and evaluation of grant projects and landscape strategy implementation will be prioritized, as a prerequisite to adaptive management in pursuit of greater gender equity overall.

Consistent with the GEF Policy on Gender Mainstreaming and the GEF-7 approach on gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment, and learning from experiences of other organizations, a strategy for acknowledging gender differences and determining key actions to promote women's role in implementation of programs and projects will be drafted as part of project preparation. This will involve, for example, the use of gender analysis as part of the socio-economic assessment during project preparation, and the use of gender disaggregated project level indicators where relevant.

The Mid Term Review and Terminal Evaluation team for GEF-5 gave special recommendations for institutionalization of gender equality and conducting gender-sensitive community-based impact-oriented monitoring. The MTR also recommended ensuring that the proposed projects for SGP support should also effectively demonstrate intention and capacity to ensure gender equity. The recommendations of the MTR& TE (GEF-5) will be considered during design and implementation of the SGP program in GEF 7 and will be reflected in a SGP India Gender Strategy for GEF-7 to be formulated during project preparation, to be financed under the PPG requested here.

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.

The private sector engagement in GEF-5 defined a road map and strategies for sustainability projects at partner level. Projects with technological elements could further iterate their ideas with the guidance and financial support of private technical agencies and CSR organisations. In GEF-7, projects may be linked to private sector actors and agencies such as private Banks, marketing agencies, CSR organisations, research and communications experts so that innovations can be replicated and extended on a larger scale. Collaboration between SGP partners and the private sector and industry are crucial for leveraging resources, knowledge, practices and skills to influence the corporate sector to adopt such technologies, processes, methodologies, systems, products for better sustainability and also for increased income for local communities. SGP will continue to develop links to Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives of the private sector for wider resource mobilization for grantee partners and also for building more confidence and credibility of the programme and its approach at the community level.

5. Risks

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)

Identified risks	Potential consequence	Risk rating (L: Likelihood, I: Impact)	Mitigation measures	Risk category
Civil society organizations have a low level of technical and management capacity to implement grant projects	Low capacity and awareness of local NGOs and CBOs may decrease demand for community driven projects and influence the pace of implementation of grant projects once approved.	L: Low I: Medium	CBO and NGO performance will be enhanced through risk mitigation systems with tested methodologies from past phases, in particular capacity building processes that have been successful in improving CBO and NGO performance. The India SGP Country Programme works with all grantees and with dedicated groups to help enhance grantee capacities. This takes the form of close monitoring of activities, linking technical advisers to projects, and linking grantee partners to learn from each other (peer-to-peer). The National Steering Committee (NSC), with representation from civil society leaders, government institutions, and donors further provides guidance for effective design and implementation of SGP-financed projects. The SGP Country Programme also reduces risk by supporting replication of good practices that have proven to deliver on GEF strategic priorities at the community level.	Programmatic
Low capacities of the different components	Lack of coordination among the essential actors in the landscape will affect	L: Low	The implementation of projects in GEF-5 and under COMDEKS has enhanced group cohesion and collaboration amongst communities. The leading role of CEE as the NHI in the facilitation of coordination with the Ministries of Agriculture, Land Resources, Rural Development and Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Programmatic

<p>munity organizations to coordinate with each other and with different government levels.</p>	<p>ct landscape planning and management processes negatively, and results in low government support and recognition of integrated landscape strategies.</p>	<p>I: M e d i u m</p>	<p>nge, Renewable Energy, AYUSH, Development of North East Region(DONER) ensures participation of government entities at the regional and national level in the planning process as well as in the multi-stakeholder partnerships.</p>	<p>g r a m m a t i c</p>
<p>Difficulty for communities in accessing markets for goods and services produced with SGP support</p>	<p>Production projects will not succeed in accessing markets for their goods and services.</p>	<p>L: L o w I: M e d i u m</p>	<p>The NSC will appraise projects with sustainable livelihood components to assess their business feasibility. SGP will support e-marketing platforms and help communities to access expertise in business development and marketing from the project design stage. SGP will also encourage partnerships between the grantees and the private sector. SGP has been organizing market places, but now the effort will also be on creating specific branding and linking it to sustained markets</p>	<p>P r o g r a m m a t i c</p>
<p>Influence of climate change will undermine efforts to arrest biodiversity loss and land degradation</p>	<p>A progressively drier and warmer climate may affect the availability of water resources and production revenues</p>	<p>L: M e d i u m I: M e d i u m</p>	<p>The risk of climate change is one of several reasons that the project has chosen to emphasize landscape-level management and coordination in production landscapes. The SGP will also work towards enhancing adaptive capacities at the landscape and community levels.</p>	<p>P r o g r a m m a t i c</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.

The proposed project will collaborate with and build on the lessons of a range of related initiatives. The National Steering Committee of the SGP India Country Programme has consistently promoted the collaboration of the Country Programme with GEF and government financed projects and programmes for many years. SGP India 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, and ensure that experience and lessons learned are disseminated and absorbed by government programmes and institutions.

The National Steering Committee of the SGP Country Programme in India 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 and MSPs 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 as the adoption and dissemination of SGP-sponsored technologies, experiences and lessons learned by government programmes and institutions. The National Secretariat of the National Host Institution for India, i.e. Centre for Environment Education (CEE) under the oversight of UNDP acts as the coordinating unit through the Country Program Manager. The Regional teams, as the technical advisory members, are also the national inter-institutional mechanism that coordinates with national, regional and local initiatives.

As part of project preparation, the India Country Programme will analyze and confirm potential and/or continued cooperation with the following initiatives, programmes or institutions:

Initiative	Coordination potential
Various Government programme and schemes in the area of Agriculture, Climate change and Waste management	Various ministries and line departments of GoI have direct bearing on the project. In this regard linkages will be established with programmes and schemes of various government ministries and line departments in addition to MoEF&CC. This includes Ministry of Agriculture (National Agricultural Policy, 2000, Deep Sea Fishing Policy, 1991, Indian Fisheries Act, 1987); Ministry of Rural Development and Land Resources (for implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA); Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Schedule Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006); the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996); Ministry of Power, Ministry of Non-Renewable Energy (both on issues related to energy conservation and energy efficiency) and the Ministry of Tourism (National Tourism Policy, 2002). The SGP will link the program and individual grantee level through the ongoing FSPs and the MSPs of GEF to seek, leverage, and mainstream lessons and best practices for better local livelihoods and local/global environment benefits.
UNDP-India mainstreaming projects on	Lessons from the portfolio of relevant energy and environment projects will be incorporated into project design and implementation. Some of these are detailed below:

energy and environment

Market Development and Promotion of Solar Concentrators Based Process Heat Applications in India: The project, supported by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, aims to promote and develop a viable strong market for solar concentrators in India to reduce or replace use of conventional fuels that degrade the environment.

Strengthening Natural Resource Management: In India, close to 275 million rural people depend largely on natural resources for their livelihoods. However, conservation of the country's rich biological diversity is facing new challenges, such as the need to use land for multiple purposes, climate change and increased pressure by local communities to access resources. In partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, the project aims to develop capacities of key institutions, officials and other stakeholders to manage the emerging challenges related to conservation.

Mainstreaming Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Conservation into Production Sectors in Sindhudurg Coast in Maharashtra: The project, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, and financed by the Global Environment Facility, aims to mainstream biodiversity conservation into the production sectors of Sindhudurg district. It also seeks to generate awareness among local communities of biodiversity conservation amidst the threat of unsustainable fishing practices, rising pollution from fishing vessels and maritime traffic in the region.

Mainstreaming Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Conservation into Production Sectors in the East Godavari River Estuarine Ecosystem, Andhra Pradesh: The East Godavari River Estuarine Ecosystem (EGREE), encompassing Godavari mangroves, is the second largest mangrove area along the east coast of India. In recognition of its national and global biodiversity significance, a part of the EGREE is gazetted as Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary. The last few decades have witnessed rapid economic changes and emergence of large-scale production activities in EGREE. The project, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, aims to remove key barriers to mainstreaming environmental management considerations into major production activities with a special focus on the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary.

Rejuvenating the Ganga; Improving Rural Sanitation in Jharkhand: A two-and-a-half-year partnership between India's Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, and UNDP aims to improve the quality of water and rejuvenate the Ganga, one of India's most important rivers as it flows through the state of Jharkhand. Implemented in 78 villages located along the river, in areas where over 90 percent of the population defecates in the open, the project aims to reduce contamination of the river and improve the wellbeing of communities living in villages. It is expected that 45,000 households will benefit from improved health and quality of life through improved sanitation practices and quality of waste water, and storm runoff flowing from these villages in the river.

Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management in shifting cultivation areas of Nagaland: This GEF financed project aims to address land degradation and soil erosion caused by large scale shifting cultivation in three districts of Nagaland. The project interventions have led to improvement of women's income by 30 per cent. It has also institutionalised the concept of participatory land use planning in Nagaland as an effective tool for addressing land degradation and better planning. The same has been scaled up in nine districts of the state.

Other GEF IAs	The project will collaborate with other agencies like FAO, World Bank, UNEP, UNIDO et al., to share experiences and lessons and to complement activities at the local level.
SGP projects under previous Operational phases	The project will build upon the learning and experiences of successful interventions of SGP projects under previous operational phases in thematic areas of BD and CC.

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 proposed project is directly relevant to, supportive of, and consistent with India's national priorities and policies related to global environmental issues and sustainable development. The project will address the following key elements of the National Biodiversity Action Plan (2008): strengthening and integration of in situ and on-farm conservation; augmentation of natural resource base and its sustainable utilization; assessment of vulnerability and adaptation to climate change and desertification; integration of biodiversity concerns in economic and social development; building of national capacities for biodiversity conservation and appropriate use of new technologies; valuation of goods and services provided by biodiversity and use of economic instruments in decision making processes. Similarly, the National Action Plan on Climate Change (2008) provides multi-pronged, long-term and integrated strategies for addressing climate change. The project especially contributes to the Solar Mission under the NAPCC and in mainstreaming climate change concerns and building resilience of ecosystems at local levels. The project also contributes to the waste management policies and programmes, including Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016, among others.

The project is also strongly aligned to the National Livestock Mission and State Watershed Mission priorities. With its strong focus on building skills and capacities, the project is consistent with India's National Skill Development Mission, with its focus on creating convergence across sectors and states in terms of skill training activities, as well as the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), which aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms of the rural poor, enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services. The project will also be directly relevant to India's national priorities on developing agricultural marketing especially by organizing farmers into organized groups and through other marketing interventions. The project is also in alignment with the Central Sector Schemes for the all-round development of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as well as the comprehensive long term "Conservation-cum-Development (CCD) Plans" for PTGs that have been formulated under the eleventh plan period of the Government of India. The project is also relevant to the various mission of the Indian government such as Swachh Bharata Abhiyaan (Clean India Mission), Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan (mission to uplift rural India) among others.

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.

Each SGP grant project is designed to produce three things: global environmental and local sustainable development benefits (impacts); organizational capacities (technical, analytical, etc.) from learning by doing; and knowledge from evaluation of the innovation experience. Knowledge management, including the dissemination of best practices and lessons learned, will remain an essential element of the GEF-SGP India Country Programme during GEF-7. The Knowledge Management approach will have as a primary product a case study summarizing lessons learned and best practices from target landscapes based on evaluation of implementation results and their contributions to Global Environment Benefits (GEB), local development objectives and landscape level outcomes, including the development of social capital.

At the broader landscape level, the SGP India Country Programme will produce case studies, photos stories, and video documentaries of the landscape planning and management experience in each of the selected landscapes. These case studies 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 in regard to the generation of synergies between individual community projects around landscape level outcomes, lessons learned, and future efforts to strengthen the landscape planning and management processes. The results of these studies will be published and disseminated throughout the country through print and digital media and SGP's institutional partners, NGOs, SGP-supported CSO networks, universities and others.

In the case of knowledge, each strategic grant project will have as a primary product a case study, and each grant a summary of lessons learned based on evaluation of implementation results and their contributions to GEB, local development objectives and landscape level outcomes, including the development of social capital. This knowledge 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. The individual grant project case studies will be anticipated at project design and based on a participatory methodology, so that the production of the case studies strengthen the community organization's capacities for reflection and action through learning-by-doing.

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, knowledge platforms including the SGP website and Communities Connect (a platform to share knowledge from civil society organizations around the world) will continue to be updated.

The knowledge management component will also link with the Government of India Mission - Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan, which is inspired by the vision of transformational change in rural development processes by leveraging knowledge institutions to help build the architecture of an inclusive India. It will link to the 16 Indian Institutes of Technology which have been created to work in special clusters of villages and on special issues for better natural resource management. There will be scope to create exposure of communities to better economic productivity; entrepreneurship and skill development, frugal artisan technology for rural livelihood and employment and social and institutional infrastructural development, including the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Knowledge products (including multimedia recordings, peer-to-peer visits, systematization of best practices, media coverage, amongst other methods) will focus on sharing, particularly in areas vulnerable to climatic variability and climate change, information and knowledge related to: watershed restoration processes; know-how to convert and enhance productivity while contributing to sustainable landscape processes; how to strengthen community participation in governance schemes; water management practices; soil management practices; access to micro-credit in a community experience; scaling up innovative businesses etc.

This knowledge 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 Programs and UNDP's knowledge management system.

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
Nikunja K. Sundaray	Joint Secretary and GEF OPF India	Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change	9/25/2018

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

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

Annex A: Project map and geographic coordinates

